



Officers for 2002

Acting Pres. - Ken Oswald

Vice Pres. - OPEN

Secretary - Rembert Milligan

Treasurer - Dianne Mullis

Cruisemaster - Kyle Altman

Newsletter - Sandy Harris

Webmaster - Parkin Hunter

Membership - Dave Mullis

Member at large - Lesley Drucker

Member at large - Jennifer Rabon

Safety and Instruction - Charlene Thompson/Karen Kusifik

The Palmetto Paddlers, Inc. is a non-profit corporation. Its purposes are to

- (1) encourage exploration of recreational waterways,
- (2) encourage preservation of waterways, i.e., conservation of forests, parks, wildlife,
- (3) promote enjoyment and appreciation of wilderness cruising and whitewater sports,
- (4) promote safety/proficiency in rescue/self-rescue, and
- (5) publish and demonstrate developments in all aspects of paddling.

Meetings are generally on the last Tuesday of each month in the Gamecock Room of the Luther Lee Building, corner of Lincoln and Lady Streets in the Vista, Columbia, SC at 7:00 P.M.

Dues are (\$15 for individuals, \$20 for families). You need a membership card to take advantage of the following discounts:

10% discounts on non-sale merchandise at **Adventure Carolina** (<http://www.adventurecarolina.com>), **The Backpacker**, **The Nantahala Outdoor Center** (<http://www.noc.com>), and **The River Runner**. **Bike to Nature** also gives a 10% discount on merchandise other than bikes.

PALMETTO PADDLERS ON THE INTERNET

To increase efficiency for communicating information to club members, Palmetto Paddlers has set up these internet resources. We need to be able to communicate meeting programs, trip plans, and schedule changes quickly and efficiently. Given the nature of what we do, plans are always changing because of the weather and the water. The Club web site is (<http://www.palmettopaddlers.org>) We will try to keep trip plans and schedules up to date on this site. For a more general means to communicate, please join Palmetto Paddlers at Yahoo Groups (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Palmetto_Paddlers) . A calendar of trips is maintained here. However, the most valuable reason for joining is ease of communication. The Group will send out automatic reminders of trips scheduled and could be invaluable for communicating changes in plans. Any member may post a message. To subscribe, go to go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Palmetto_Paddlers.

USED GEAR - For Sale or Wanted to buy



Garmin map 12 GPS for sale \$150.00. Contact Steve Kelsays
kelsays@mindspring.com (Steve) or call 749-9023.

*Have any old, stinky gear you don't use anymore, or need something but don't want to pay full price? Send it in to Sandy Harris to go in the next newsletter!!



Send a description and contact information to oceanpaddler@aol.com.

!!!Welcome New Members!!!

Joe and Sherry Whittaker

Upcoming Trips



November 9 to November 10 - Coastal Sea Kayaking. **Kyle Altman.** Fishesfortrout@webtv.net

November 16-17 2002 Primitive Camping on the Lumber River!!! **Dave and Dianne Mullis**
359-4002 djm@sc.rr.com

Mark your calendars and let me know.

This will be one of two things:

Camping out of our canoes at Piney Island in Lumber River State Park or Camping at Princess Anne in Lumber River State Park and putting in upriver with a paddle down to the campsite. The first option is most likely and will depend on levels and weather. If we camp at Piney Island there are NO FACILITIES so you will need to pack as though you were backpacking. If we camp at Princess Anne there are bathrooms and water, but no showers. Check out the trip report on our website from our last trip down this river for links to more info and let me know if you're coming. <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/luri/do.html> <http://www.amrivers.org/wildscenic/wildlumber.htm>

December 7 - Wateree River. This is a flatwater trip. **Dennis Catoe 731-2999**
riverrunnersc@aol.com Novice.

December 14 - Congaree and Santee Rivers. This is a flatwater trip. **Brian O'cain 782-1654**
ocainb@msn.com Novice.

TRIP PLANNERS NEEDED!!

Been wanting to try a new run? Think about signing up for a trip.

Trip Planners

When planning a trip, please use the following to determine the level of proficiency needed for your trip.

N = Novice	Beginning paddler who is proficient in flat water, knows basic strokes and can maneuver the boat in Class 1-2 moving water.
I = Intermediate	Experienced paddler who is comfortable in the water as well as on it, is proficient in class 2-3 moving water and heavy water, knows eddy turns, and can help in rescues. A decked boater who has learned to roll in current.
A = Advanced	A paddler who has been paddling several years and frequently enough to maneuver in all types of rapids, including technical or heavy water in class 4-5. Someone who has a bomb-proof self-rescue or roll in heavy water, but who rarely has to use it because of excellent boat control and judgement. Good at performing rescues in difficult water.
E = Expert	The ultimate level of skill, knowledge and judgement. This level is acquired by years of paddling highly challenging and diverse rivers. Makes class 4 look easy, rarely makes mistakes in class 5 and above. Can tell the difference between impossible runs and those which are merely extremely difficult.

TRIP PARTICIPATION POLICY

Trip participation requires a signed release. Participants must contact the trip leader or sign up at a regularly scheduled meeting (the sign up sheet will include a copy of the release which is agreed to upon sign up). Participants are required to know their abilities and make their own decisions with regard to the trips taken. These are not “guided” or “outfitted” trips. Participants must be properly equipped for the trip chosen. PFD’s must be worn on all trips. On whitewater trips, participants must furnish properly outfitted (with flotation) whitewater craft and helmets must be worn. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent at all times unless the trip leader makes an exception in the leader’s sole discretion.

EVENTS TO TAKE NOTE OF!!

Monthly Meetings

October 29 meeting – 7:00 Gamecock Room (Luther Lee) – program by Riverbanks Zoo

November meeting – 7:00 Gamecock Room – Program TBD

December 17 meeting – Christmas Party Pot Luck – 7:00 Gamecock Room.

Reports

August Ocoee

Back in August, a group of about 11 Palmetto Paddlers decided to paddle the mighty Ocoee. Well, we were in rafts, but that is still exciting!

Careful planning allowed us to camp at our favorite luxury campground at the Chatooga. We drove to the Ocoee Sat. morning for an afternoon trip with NOC. What we couldn't know in advance was that some little N. Georgia town was having a parade down their main (and only) street. After a lengthy detour, we barely made our trip.

So driving back Sat. night we decided to try an alternate route by the Nantahala – under the mistaken impression that it couldn't be any longer!

Driving marathons aside, everyone had such a great time paddling, we hope to make it an annual trip.

Dave



August 17 Combahee River

This summer's day run in the Ace Basin started at the obscure boat landing between Yemassee and Highway 17 called Sugar Hill. A small group led by Kate Whitaker consisting of Susan Yates, her son Sam, myself and my nephew Bill. The grass, reeds and gnarly trees along the narrow start were interesting, and we hit the main river after about 15-20 minutes of paddling. Old man-made rice gates were all along the river, which were used to flood the rice fields. Because this is a tide driven river, we tried to time it just right, and came up just an hour short with major paddling at the end. We were entertained by a porpoise about halfway down the river, rolling on the shore. He hit the deeper water as we got closer but surfaced a couple of times close enough to hear the loud "whoosh" from his blow hole. There were a number of osprey nests high in old trees along the way (picture below). Quite a few boats were crabbing, which surprised us since they were so far up the river. Later we found out that the crabs had been moving up stream due to the drought. After the trip we headed over to Fripp Island and treated ourselves to a great seafood dinner at "Johnson Creek". Kate, Susan and I took in the beach for the last hour of light while the guys headed to the pier for fishing. This would be a great winter trip, but again time it with the tides. *Sandy Harris*



GAF Weekend at NOC

The annual Guest Appreciation Festival was held the weekend of Oct. 18-20. Quite a few club members enjoyed shopping (especially Nicole) and eating good food. While buying paddling gear and sitting by the fire seemed to be our primary activities, Malcolm even took time out to paddle! As did Sara with some of her Columbia friends. And Malcolm and Ernie had a good ride at Tsali. We especially enjoyed having Malcolm with us because he left for Kuwait 3 days later. But he should be back for spring paddling season.

By the way, Rock, hang on to that venison sausage for the next trip!

Rembert

September 28 Nantahala River

This Fall's first trip to the Nanty started on an ominous note when we arrived at Lost Mine Campground just prior to a downpour to learn that the power was out due to earlier storms thus no showers and only totally necessary toilet use. The Best Western was looking good at this point, but we persevered with promises of early morning restoration of all amenities. All rivers in the area were smokin' and there was some regret that we hadn't aimed for rivers not under dam control which have been virtually unpaddlable most of the summer. The Chatooga at 4.5 and rising was probably a bit beyond most of our abilities, so following dinner at Riverside Cafe we opted to stick to our plan. The Nanty was running at 3.65 and had plenty of flow. It was also relatively WARM due to the run off. Eleven year old Sarah Hunter demonstrated her outstanding control all of the way down and Dennis Catoe was able to exercise some of his rescue skills when his bride, Nicole, managed to take the left fork below Patton's Run, not a good way to go. Those of us who chose to run the Falls discovered the really funky currents at the bottom and all received the much needed baths we had missed at the campground. A few of us did a quicky paddle on Sunday morning from Faraday to the take out and Shawn, a visitor with our group, took another little bath at the Falls, but recovered with a fine roll. Relia's was closed and the group dined Sat. nite at Nantahala Village which now has a liquor license and the food was a nice variety from Relia's normal menu. Riverside only served a buffet breakfast for \$7 which was a bit unreasonable considering that the coffee and juice were extra, but I guess they had to make up for a slow dry season. All in all, it was a great trip and it was a true pleasure to get to paddle with Parkin and Sarah who we have sorely missed since their move up North. Set your calenders for the GAF Festival coming up the weekend before Halloween and contact *Rembert* for reservations and details.

< 787-7999 rembert.milligan@worldnet.att.net >

Conservation Issues:

River Sweep

Thanks to all in the club that participated in this event!!

Nature Valley has been a proud supporter of The Nature Conservancy since 1998.... Help Nature Valley support this and other Conservancy freshwater initiatives. Go to the Nature Conservancy's website, nature.org , and participate in Nature Valley's Rescue the Rivers campaign. For every click registered, Nature Valley will donate \$1. (up to \$125,000.) to the Conservancy.

HAPPY PADDLING!!