



Officers for 2002:

Pres. - Lynn Hackett

VP - Ken Oswald

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.

*****Membership Dues – April 15th deadline*****

Please pay your dues (\$15 for individuals, \$20 for families) if you have not. You need a membership card to take advantage of the following discounts (updated list going out to outfitters soon)!!

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.



Upcoming Trips

March 23 Stumphole Swamp, Steve Kelsay 803-749-9023, kelsays@mindspring.com

Canoe/Sea Kayak Stumphole Landing is near Santee State park, and the trip takes us from Stumphole landing onto Lake Marion and into the submerged forest in the center of the lake, similar to Sparkleberry, but more open. The first ten minutes of the trip are across open water, and can be a strain for canoers if there is a heavy wind, but it is quickly passed. Once into the swampland, there is little current or wave action. Pretty much a beginner skill level.

We have seen many Cormorants, Ospreys, Great blues, Pileated Woodpeckers, and a Bald Eagle or two (couldn't be sure if there were one bird seen twice, or two separate birds) Alligators can be found if the water temperature is up, but I doubt they will be out in March. One of the best part of the Stumphole trip if that it is open ended in that the trip can be as long or as short as each person wants it to be. The trip starts and ends at the same place so no shuttle is required. At this time of year, the birds should be nesting and the blooms should be opening, so this can be a very pretty trip.

Kate and I are planning to paddle again on Sunday, so there is the possibility of others joining us. We can work out the details if anyone is interested.

March 30 Bates Old River, Brian O'Cain 803-782-8722, ocainb@msn.com

March 30: Bates Old River. Contact Brian O'Cain-ocainb@msn.com- Bates Old River is an old river channel, or Oxbow lake near the Congaree River. It is located on highway 601 about 1 and 1/2 miles south of the junction with Highway 48(Bluff Road).The water access is a primitive landing located down a short dirt road on the left side of Highway 601 if you are heading south. The wide, "lake" portion of the old river channel is approximately 2 miles long. A creek connects the channel at both ends to the Congaree River, but is only navigable during high water. It is an easy flatwater day trip, well suited for beginners. This is a link to a map of the area:

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3737193&e=533532&s=50&size=m>

April 13 N. Edisto, Steve Kelsay 803-749-9023, kelsays@mindspring.com

Start will be near North SC. For canoes and long boats. We will be doing a leisurely all day trip of about 6 miles from Carson's Park (Hwy 321) to Slab Landing (SR 73). The river here is fairly narrow, with lots of strainers to dodge and fast turns to make, requiring an advanced beginner to intermediate proficiency in boat handling. There is little time for drifting aimlessly on this stretch. Though not difficult, this is not generally a beginner trip. Depending on water level, the current can be anywhere from mild to strong, but always to be reckoned with! It's a good trip to increase your boat handling skills! We will stop for a picnic along the way, and by this time of year, swimming from the white sandbars is a distinct possibility. The north Edisto is very different from the lower Edisto. Very primitive and remote, with little evidence of human contact.

May 4 Nantahala and Tuckasegee, Alice Potter 256-5009 silverflash@sc.rr.com

May 18 Augusta Canal , Dave and Dianne Mullis djm@sc.rr.com

June 8 Broad River day trip Brian O'Cain 782-8722 ocainb@msn.com

June 15 Chatooga Section III, Karen 803-920-3898 kakayaks@aol.com
 Progressive Paddlers

June 22 Nantahala Rembert Milligan 787-7999 Rembert.Milligan@worldnet.att.net

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

March 26 meeting

TBD

April 30 meeting

Backpacker

May 28 meeting – Used Gear Sale at the Zoo

Meet in the Zoo parking lot (enter and turn right) and bring your used equipment you no longer use and pick up some deals at the same time. Whitewater Kids Club spring session will be celebrating their finale with a trip downriver to Gervais Street landing that evening. We will all depart around 6 and return around 8.

Other Events

April 19-21 East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival

Classes, demos, lectures, workshops, etc. www.ccprc.com to register



May 4 Riverfest at Riverfront Park featuring celebrity raft race. Also information on conservation

May 11 Raft o Rama to benefit Canoeing for Kids. Raft trips at 1 and 4, followed by cookout. This is the ideal trip for the in-laws, etc. and a great way to support Jay Alley's mission-he's taken thousands of kids down the Saluda at no charge. Call 791-1727 for information or visit the web at www.canoeingforkids.net/raftarama.htm

April 16 through May 28- Spring session of Whitewater Kids Club Meeting from 6-8. Open to children 10-18 who are swimmers. Cost \$65, some scholarships available. Call Columbia Parks and Recreation: 733-8331 or Karen at 920-3898.

May 22 and 29, then Tuesday evenings in June: Introduction to Whitewater Kayaking. First two Wednesdays in the swimming pool, followed by Tuesdays on the Saluda at the Zoo. Learn the basics of paddling and safety. Contact Charlene Thompson: cheetahtrk@hotmail.com or Karen Kustafik: KAKayaks@aol.com

June 1 tentative date for Adventure Carolina's demo day at Rosewood Landing, try all the latest boats and gear from Perception and Dagger. \$5 fee benefits CFK and WWKC. Safety boaters needed. Contact Cory Ruth at 796-4505.

June 2 Flatwater Safety Clinic at Lake Monticello

July 13 Introduction to basic canoeing and kayaking. Details to be provided.

SPRING FLING: SAVE YOURSELF PRACTICE AND PICNIC
(A PARTICIPATION EVENT FOR FLATWATER PADDLING)
SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND, 11:00 AM, LAKE MONTICELLO

Total Immersion therapy for you, your paddler friends and your canoe, sea kayak and/or recreational boat.

It's time for our Spring Fling (ie. 'fling' yourself - out of your boat!). Not a Roll Clinic or a Demonstration, but a chance to join fellow paddlers to practice those safety techniques you've read about (I hope). We're not experts – except maybe at falling over – we just believe: “It is not a skill of yours until you've done it!” So, we “do it” in a safe, fun environment when the water warms up.

Know what it feels like to swamp your boat. If you wear a spray skirt, be sure you can WET EXIT – practice. See if you can empty a swamped boat and re-enter, with help from others or by yourself. Practice climbing back in using brawn, agility, your buddy, paddle float or slings. Get that pump wet! Do your annual field test of PFD and other safety equipment. How much flotation does your boat have? Will it sink if flooded? (That would be BAD – but correctible. Find out BEFORE it's needed!)

We can also run some relays for fun – how efficiently can you perform a T-rescue (when it's cold it DOES make a difference.) Can you paddle a kayak with a rescuee on the back deck? Take turns being the rescuee and the rescuer. Paddle a swamped boat to shore – it's a lot harder that it looks. How accurately can you throw that throw rope while sitting in your boat? How fast can you “re-load” it?

The goal for this practice is to give us all the experience to better evaluate and realistically assess options in the event of a real paddling emergency. And all skills need to be practiced occasionally to stay viable.

What To Bring:

You – in a bathing suit or your immersible paddle clothes. Paddling shoes are recommended.

Your Boats & Paddles – Whatever you paddle (sea kayak, rec. boat or canoe)

And Everyone's Favorite – your safety gear (whatever you have)

PFD, spray skirt, sun hat and lotion, paddle float, slings, throw rope, whistle, pump, first aid kit, drinks (non-alcoholic during water practice), tow system and etc. Recommend you put your name on everything as a lot of sharing happens. No need to buy anything for this practice; everyone shares. Learn first what is useful to you.

A Picnic lunch - and maybe food to share.

Plenty of energy , a sense of humor, and a willingness to try. Learn the limits of you and your boat. AND understand that this practice can extend those limits – making you a safer paddler.

REMEMBER - PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT. . . . SENSE

Please let us know by May 20th if you plan to come. RSVP to Kate Whitaker (803-787-0926 or katewhitaker@msn.com) or Steve Kelsay (803-749-9023 or Kelsays@mindspring.com)

Reports



SPARKLEBERRY SWAMP DECEMBER TRIP

Much fun and camaraderie was shared by a nice size group of club members on the recent December trip to Sparkleberry Swamp organized and lead by Rembert Milligan. Initially actually getting to float involved dragging our boats for a healthy little distance, but the drag was highlighted by many of us trying to find our feet, and in some cases, the sandals which were on them. Paddling through the swamp was kind of like whitewater in slow motion as we avoided tipping or breaching on hidden Cyprus knees and stealthy logs. Luckily we only took one wrong turn and did not get lost as did some of our more adventurous members on a trip a couple of weeks prior. As low as the water was we were surprised not to find some poor fisherman's bones poking out of the lovely smelling mud along the way. Honestly, this is one of the more beautiful areas in our state and the flora and fauna abound. Lunch was a treat, not for the food, but for the entertainment of our crew getting in and out of their boats. Mike Boone acquired a quite attractive pair of knee socks upon his exit to higher ground. Another source of entertainment was betting on whether Steve Soltys would make it out in his somewhat aged Coleman without sinking from it's numerous leaks. We were all elated that Rock only brought one hat and therefore avoided swimming this trip. As a final treat, which I'm sure Rembert arranged, we were treated to some awesome good old boy rock and roll at a high decibel level at the landing to aid in our loading and mud removal. To sum it up, if you ain't been there then you're missing a real treat and pray for rain before you go. Dave

National Girls and Women in Sports Day

Thanks go out to Karen Kustifik for getting the club a free booth at the first annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day Event, which was held at the Cantey Building at the Fairgrounds. It gave the club the opportunity to gain a little more public exposure. Thanks to all who sacrificed their free time to help run the booth.



French Broad

A number of the more bold members braved the frigid temperatures and paddled the French Broad this past November. It was a trip well worth taking despite the cold. The trip was led by Jon Harrison and attended by Anne Miller, Ken Oswald, Parkin Hunter and Dave and Dianne Mullis. The campsite was riverside and as sheltered from the screeching RR tracks as possible. Luckily there was very little traffic on the rails. We put in at Barnard and paddled down to Stackhouse getting off just at dark. One member demonstrated their skills at kayaking with a canoe paddle for most of the trip and the Mullises decided to take a little dip to cool off at Pillow Rapid. Some of the wiser members portaged this rapid. The

highlight of the trip was the dining experience. Breakfast was had at a cafe at the end of the town of Hot Springs and was a delight. Our table was beside the fireplace, which was more than welcome and the servings were large and delicious. For dinner we were also happily surprised at the Paddle In Restaurant in the middle of Hot Springs. As always the campfires raged as did the rehashing of previous paddle and outdoor experiences. The showers at Hot Springs Campground were hot and the firewood priced reasonably. The camp store there carries a wide variety of items and serves food, but the staff pointed us to the better dining spots. Unlike the Nantahala this campground is not located in a dry county and therefore the store offered adult beverages, both domestic and imported. For info and reservations at the campground visit <http://www.hotspringsspa-nc.com/intro/intro.html>

SPARKLEBERRY SWAMP FEBRUARY TRIP

This time there was a little more water. No wading through knee-deep mud! We paddled the usual route, turning right at the post.

After lunch, however, we became more adventurous and decided to explore the elephant ear creek area. I don't mean paddle elephant ear creek. I mean explore! How could we not find our way back with all those sharp minds making a note of every turn? And anyway, Ernie had his GPS.

The vegetation was beautiful, even though it was winter. And there were a few small elephant ears left.

After a couple of turns to the right and a few more to the left, we became really interested in where we might be going. Some fisherman told Richard and Bobo the last right turn (the one by the sawed off trees, remember?) led to the river. We weren't quite sure which river but figured it must be the Congaree. Sure enough, in about 10 minutes we were out on the Congaree.

The day was complete when, after we set up camp, Richard let us to Country Fixin's restaurant. It's a few miles out of Paxville on Hwy. 15. Ask Rock about the homemade pecan pie!

For the whimps who chose not to camp – we had a big fire that kept us quite warm. And the next morning we were treated to Ernie's coffee and Dave's 2 pounds of bacon. Maybe next time we can paddle to the river and camp on the bank. There was a lot of high ground.

Rembert

TYGER MARCH TRIP

The Mullises led a last minute trip down the N. Tyger on March 16 due to cancellation of the French Broad trip because of rain. The gauge at Delta <http://sc.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/current/?type=flow&format=pre> was a little above 1000 cfs and this is generally an indicator that upriver is at a fairly comfortable level. Soil saturation also can be a factor as to how

fast the N. Tyger drops and this should be considered before one races off for a run. We have raced up there only to discover that we could walk down the river. We always consult locals before departing now. The trip was attended by Parkin Hunter, Dennis Catoe and Alice Potter. The flow was easy but adequate and very little scraping ensued. Showers were called for but it turned out to be sunny and in the eighties. Lunch was taken on the South Tyger at Stingem Dog rapid (one of the only rapids on the South) and everyone was too lazy to drag their boats up to run it. The North Tyger

requires good control of your craft, eddy catching and comfort with Class 2+ water. It is full of fun spots to play and ledges to negotiate. This is not a river to paddle without someone who knows the lines. There is one set of ledges with some really nasty rebar in the middle. Upriver is virtually undeveloped but this is going to be short lived. We see changes on every trip and the land at the put in has been clear cut and is up for sale. Anyone with some spare cash would be wise to invest in this land. I keep a short notice list of club members who have shown interest in paddling the Tyger when it's running, so if you're interested and did not hear from me on this trip then you're not on the list and should let me know. Dave



Conservation Issues:

First Annual Friends of the Edisto Stewardship Day -- April 20, 2002

Sweeping Litter and Trash from the Edisto River Watershed

The First Annual Friends of the Edisto (FRED) Stewardship Day will be a massive litter cleanup of the entire Edisto River watershed extending from Batesburg-Leesville to Edisto Island and from Aiken to Santee.

The cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2002. The morning and early afternoon will be spent picking up trash along the river, on the boat landings, and along the highways. The purpose is not only to cleanup communities of the Edisto but to educate citizens about watersheds and to foster a sense of pride in the Edisto River and its watershed. A cookout for all participants will be held at Colleton State Park following the cleanup.

Site Captains and volunteers are being recruited. Site Captains organize groups to cleanup specific areas and they receive a great t-shirt for free.

To participate in Lexington County, contact Bill Marshall at (803) 734-9096 or by e-mail at marshall@water.dnr.state.sc.us.

To participate in one of the other counties along the Edisto River (Aiken, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Bamberg, Colleton, Dorchester, Charleston) call Philip Rand, Stewardship Day Chairman, at (803) 534-0752.

Come out and help with a spring-cleaning of the Edisto.

Where to Cleanup?? You can choose any areas you want to cleanup in Lexington County that are near to or south of Swansea, Pelion, Gilbert, and Batesburg-Leesville. You can call Bill Marshall for suggestions about cleanup areas. We are urging groups to focus on areas that access the Edisto River, the major highways that lead into your towns, or public areas, like parks or town squares, that may need attention. These areas include the following options:

Gateways to Edisto River Basin Towns (Lexington County)

- * In Batesburg-Leesville: along highways (in town and south) US-1, US-178, SC-391
- * In Gilbert: along any roads south that need a cleanup
- * In Pelion: along highways US-178, SC-302;
- * In Swansea: along highways US-321, SC-6, SC-692

Crossings of the North Fork Edisto River (Lexington County)

- * SR-19 at Steedman
- * SR-242
- * SR-75

- * SC-113
- * SR-99
- * SC-302

Major Roads of the Edisto River Basin (Lexington County)

- * US-178
- * SC-302/215
- * SC-3
- * US-321
- * SC-6

What is Friends of the Edisto?? Friends of the Edisto (FRED) is a private non-profit organization created to promote conservation and sustainable development in the Edisto River Basin. The mission of the FRED is to protect and enhance the natural and cultural character and resources of the Edisto River basin through conservation and responsible use. Membership in FRED is open to anyone who wishes to join. For more information on FRED and upcoming activities, visit the FRED website at www.EdistoFriends.org
<http://www.edistofriends.org/>

HAPPY PADDLING!!

