



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

WANTED: Someone to fill Vice President position. No experience necessary. Seasoned members will help. Contact a board member if you are interested in helping out!!

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.



Upcoming Trips

August 17 Combahee River, Sandy Harris Oceanpaddler@aol.com , 803-408-8676

Plan to run a section between Highway 17A and 17. Details on meet time and place to be provided but we will start early in the morning to go with the tide. This should be a trip for Novice.

After this trip those that are interested are welcome at my family house on Fripp Island for Sat. night. Plan to do a Frogmore Stew with the group (pitch in \$5) and bring your own beverages. We will do a quick 2 hour trip through the marsh at Fripp before heading back on Sunday. Some bedrooms are spoken for from early participants, but we have one or two available and a number of couches, as well as room for sleeping bags.

September 28 Nantahala River Rembert Milligan 803-787-7999 rembert.milligan@worldnet.att.net
Details to be announced but put this one on your calendar.

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

August 27 meeting – Paddling (details to be provided)

September 24 meeting – 7:00 Gamecock Room – Program TBD

Safety tip or paddling humor???

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft it sank -- proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

Reports



March 23 Stumphole Swamp

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. On this day, the weather was perfect, the water was beginning to warm, and the lack of any wind of note made the open water section fairly easy.

We have seen many Anhinga, Great Cormorant, Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Pileated Woodpeckers, and a Bald Eagle or two (couldn't be sure if there was one bird seen twice, or two separate birds) Alligators can be found when the water temperature is up. One of the best parts of the Stumphole trip is 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. In the early spring, the birds should be nesting and the blooms will be opening, so this can be a very pretty trip. This day we paddled for a several hours toward the west side of the forest, following the bird sightings more than anything else. There are no defined paddle ways, so you are free to venture wherever you feel the urge to go. After several hours on the lake, some of the group began to tire and were taken back to the put-in area where they called it a day while the rest continued to the east side of the forest. On the East side, the trees begin to get much closer together and the wildlife is more visible. We eventually made it all the way through the forest and emerged on the river cut to the north of the forest and followed that stream bed around to the put-in. After discovering there was a slight headwind, this might have proved to be a poor decision, but all made it without incident. In all, a quite successful day, with all paddlers arriving safely home. Steve Kelsay

Steve's Stumphole page with photos is at http://www.aquafrolic.com/stumphole_landing.htm
Mike Boone's description of the trip (and pictures) can be found at
<http://boonedocks.net/travel/scarolina/stumphole2002.html>

March 30 Bates Old River

I went along on a trip in early April. The Bates Old River is a wide, slow flowing offshoot of the Congaree River, bordered by the Congaree Swamp to the west and the Fork Swamp to the east. We had perfect weather and it was easy paddling for the most part.

The put-in is next to the Highway 601 bridge, about a mile south of Wateree, SC. You follow a bumpy dirt road down the hill next to the bridge. By the time you're there, you're well below the bridge. We had a good turnout of 7 paddlers, all in single kayaks. Myself, Steve Kelsays and his son Sean, Kate Whitaker, Dennis Catoe and his fiancée (now wife) Nicole. Brian O'Cain led the trip, and knew the waters from john-boat fishing with his dad.

As soon as we hit the water, Sean was looking for snakes. He had spent last summer learning the local snakes while clearing out the . Within 30 feet of the landing he'd found a brown water snake and plucked him from his perch in a tree branch above the water. It was the first of eight snakes we'd see that day, all non-venomous brown water snakes.

After a short detour to a little nook, we started paddling the river. The northern section was very wide and easy, except for the occasional gust of wind in your face. Trees line the banks nearly everywhere, so landing areas were far between. The surrounding land is privately owned by a hunting club, so it's just as well we stayed in the boats!

As we curled around to the south, the river began to narrow. The river makes a half-loop and at the south end, we once again came upon the Highway 601 bridge, about 1.5 miles south of the put-in. As soon as we crossed under the bridge, the waters became more creek-like with lots of deadfalls around. We passed a couple and finally found a semi-dry and shady spot on the shore to stop for lunch.

After lunch we decided to venture down the creek some more, working our way past the fallen trees. There were lots of them to get around, but none were terribly difficult. It helped that there was almost no current. Eventually it became apparent that the creek wasn't getting any less crowded with deadfalls, so we turned around and headed back.

On the way back, Sean found another brown water snake and I got a chance to hold it. The snake was pretty calm, but determined to keep moving, so I had to provide him a treadmill of sorts by swapping my hands. My kayak started to drift as I held the snake, and I couldn't paddle, so I let the snake swim back to the tree. *Mike Boone*



April 13 N. Edisto

The day began with a threat of showers, but in effect, the cooler weather made for a wonderful day on the river. Paddlers from as far away as Florence ran the trip in two solo canoes, one tandem, and several "normal" kayaks. departing from Carson's Park, slightly south of North (figure that one out) South Carolina. The river was at a reasonable water level, which led to a very nice day on the water. Not much in the way of white sand beaches to swim from, but we did see a range of wildlife, including more butterflies than I have seen before on any stretch of the river before. There was a bit of deadfall, which we opened up a bit. This stretch of the river does not lend itself to a leisurely drift where it is possible to stay in place and watch for wildlife to approach the river, instead, you are constantly watching the river for the next switchback and sweeper, resulting in a great learning experience in boat control. The trip is one in which rec boats and even whitewater kayaks can be effectively used to maneuver through the various vegetation which seems to grow overnight to cover the deadfall. *Steve Kelsay*

May 19 **AUGUSTA CANAL**

Day started freezing cold and cloudy with winds around 15 mph. Members attending were Tammy and Jake (the wild man) Brewer, Dennis and Nicole Catoe, Brian Ocain and Dave and Dianne Mullis. Everyone layered on just about everything they had, ran shuttle and then toured the area at the put in. The view of the diversion dam and fish ladder was impressive. Flow was great and the only paddling necessary was for direction. Blue herons, hawks and turtles pretty much summed up the fauna and no otters or beavers were sighted. The weather steadily improved and the wind was insignificant on the canal. A number of trees were down due to a recent strong storm, but were no impedence to the paddlers. The water level was up from last year and Lake Warren took on an entirely different look and was beautiful. Pickerel Weed and Water Hyacinth were in bloom. We spent very little time at Lake Olmstead as it was too cool to swim. Lunch was taken at the usual clean and well-maintained picnic area on the Savannah River where a number of Canadian Geese and their goslings were seen amongst the shoals and Daddy Long Legs joined us at our table. A Confederate flag was draped on the Old Confederate Powderworks smokestack and the Christmas lights are still hanging on the Butt Memorial Bridge. The float took about five hours including lunch, but no swimming cut the trip time. Wild man Jake Brewer did test out his life jacket at the take-out after much coaxing from Mom. It was a pleasant float that I would recommend to anyone at about anytime of year. It is an hour's drive from Lexington.

Dave Mullis

OTHER EVENTS to report on:

July 13 **Introduction to basic Canoeing and Kayaking.**

The club wanted to offer instruction to people wanting to try this sport. Flyers were printed up and posted but we didn't communicate well within the club. There were some club trouperers that turned out to support the effort at Dreher Island State Park. Dave and Diane's son Greg taught Diane how to roll in his kayak.



June 2 Lake Monticello

Lake Monticello was the scene; Spring Fling was the theme. The purpose of this day at the lake was to share our knowledge about and to practice small boat safety and rescues.

After a brief (?) chat about rescues and some cautionary tales, it was everybody in the water to test our PFDs and boats for floatation. (Some of the rec boats came up short, or not at all, especially those without bulkheads and hatches. Check yours out!) Then came the fun part and everybody was soon merrily capsizing their boats like pros. The trick, of course, was emptying the canoes/sea kayaks of water and climbing back in. And, by the end of the afternoon, everyone had accomplished this – if not like pros, at least with some success.

I fell prey to vanity and requested no cameras during the practice rescues – so no pictures with this article. But re-entry is often NOT an elegant process – though Brian O’Cain and Mike Boone made it look quick and easy – even graceful. (And I have never seen anyone enter a canoe from the water as fast as Diane and Dave – they must get lots of practice???)

Everyone was eager to learn how to rescue a small boat and its passengers (sure that they would probably be the ones to rescue and not the ones needing to be rescued!) using the boat-over-boat (or T) rescue, a “new” side rescue for sea kayakers and various sling systems. It can be harder than it looks but usually easier than you’d expect – especially in such friendly waters as our practice environment. Steve provided rescue slings for everyone and knot tying class ensued, using instructions he thoughtfully provided, on tying a fisherman’s knot. Ask Sandy – it’s easy! I’m sure she’ll be glad to show you how.

Sean and Kate demonstrated the various rescue techniques. Then everyone helped everyone, and eventually we all “got it” and everyone ended up, upright in their own boat (a lot of sharing was happening), the boats washed clean inside and out by the friendly waters. After all the hard work and a pot luck lunch (sharing still the watchword – we saw some startling boarding-house reachers) those that still had some energy left, paddled over to a cove to find the Bald Eagles while others (we’re not naming names) lolled about in the warm waters and relaxed. Then we all helped pack up everything - ask Steve how to load five boats on one car!! A Fun and Informative Experience for all. *Kate Whitaker*



WEEK OF RIVERS

Three members of the club spent a wonderful week with the Carolina Canoe Club on their annual Fourth of July Week of Rivers gathering. Kyle Altman and Dave and Dianne Mullis had a total blast running different rivers each day leading or led by those who seem to know the lines. We would love to see a group of Palmetto Paddlers join us next year to share in this enlightening event. The CCC has 700 plus members from all over and over 200 attend this event. The days are full of rapture and the nights are quiet by campfires sharing your day’s events. You can choose your level of skill each morning and paddle a river to match or slightly challenge it, or you can just lay back, mountain bike or hike the hills around the mountains. Hope to see you next summer.

<http://carolinacanooclub.com/>

D&D

Conservation Issues:



WHAT IS FERC AND WHY SHOULD PADDLERS CARE?

Lesley M. Drucker, Board Member-At-Large*

There actually IS something Midlands paddlers can do to get in our 2-cents worth on behalf of the Saluda River ... and this one's a biggie. Here it is, folks, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all but the very youngest of us. We have the next 2 years to **help set the terms and conditions** for use of the **Saluda River and Lake Murray** that will be in effect for the **next 40 or 50 years**.

I recently attended an all-day Saluda Dam Relicensing Workshop on May 4, 2002 at Congaree Swamp's new facility, hosted by SC Coastal Conservation League (SCCCL) and American Rivers. A most informative and worthwhile way to spend a rainy Saturday, this workshop was well attended by individuals representing SCE&G and state agencies (SCDNR, SC-DHEC), as well as property owners (Lake Murray and Saluda River), club reps and news reporters (Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, Palmetto Paddlers, Lexington newspaper), and other interested individuals, including USC's John Grego, who helped drown Green Diamond. Gerritt Jobsis of SCCCL and his guest speakers from across the southeastern US did a great job of educating the audience about issues, and giving us an overview of what will be involved in the relicensing process.

I was particularly impressed by how effective public input has been in other states of the Midwest and Northeast for using relicensing to protect rivers and lakes from further degrading.

The Saluda (Lake Murray) Dam relicensing process will begin this summer and end in 2007, when the present license expires. See, it works like this: Dam licenses are long-term (30 – 50 years) critters. FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) licenses non-federal hydropower projects, and the relicensing process itself takes 5 years. That means SCE&G will begin its pre-application relicensing process for Lake Murray dam this summer some time. The license sets the terms and condition for all foreseeable uses of both the lake and the river. No matter what the expiring license terms were, the relicensing will apply current standards and laws to future usage conditions. That's how come these things get so awkwardly "out of date" down the road a few years, but hey, that's the process.

Briefly, there are two relicensing processes, and we don't yet know which one SCE&G will opt for: **Traditional** (less work for the utility and less public input until later in the process) or **Alternate** (more flexible with more up-front

public input). The SCE&G representative seemed to think that the Traditional process would be the one chosen (not surprisingly), but perhaps some public comments now might convince these folks to follow the Alternate process.

Major water usage issues for Lake Murray include:

- Shoreline management & forest lands
- Recreation
- Fisheries
- Hydropower
- Water quality

Major water usage issues for the Saluda River include:

- Buffer zone development
- Recreation
- Fisheries
- Water quality
- Water flows
- Safety

Workshop leaders stressed that all issues should get equal consideration during the relicensing process, not just one or two.

The major objective for public participation during the relicensing process is to “restore and enhance the lake and the river, and to mitigate the effects of hydroproject operations” on them. By participating in the relicensing process, we can coordinate with other citizens, make recommendations about the terms and conditions of the new license, review the licensing plan as it develops, and intervene in the licensing process as necessary. SC Coastal Conservation League, American Rivers, and Trout Unlimited will probably be taking lead (and perhaps applying as intervenors) on soliciting recommendations and plan reviews during the 2-year public comment period of the relicensing process.

Although it only scratched the surface, this workshop provided a good basis for delving deeper into FERC relicensings across the country and how those lessons can best be applied to South Carolina. I found out more than you (or I) probably want to know about “Relicensing 101”! If you would like to get further involved in the relicensing process for Lake Murray dam and want to find out more about the whole thing, please check out the packet of very useful info and contacts that I will make available at our next few meetings.

** THE VIEWS AND STATEMENTS IN THIS ARTICLE REFLECT THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND IN NO WAY REPRESENT A POSITION BY PALMETTO PADDLERS.*

HAPPY PADDLING!!

