

## **THE PALMETTO PADDLER**

October 2001

<http://www.midnet.sc.edu/paddler>

### **OFFICERS for 2001:**

**Karen Kustafik:** President  
**Steve Soltys:** Vice President  
**Dianne Mullis:** Treasurer  
**Rembert Milligan:** Secretary  
**Dave Mullis:** Cruisemaster  
**Lesley Drucker:** Member-At-Large  
**Laura Hancock:** Member-At-Large  
**Ernie Stogner:** Membership  
**Parkin Hunter:** Newsletter Editor/Webmaster  
**Charlene Thompson:** Safety and Instruction

Email the web master (<mailto:t.hunter@sbar.org>) and correspondence to the officers will be forwarded.

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. (Map: <http://www.midnet.sc.edu/paddler/meeting.html>). See us on the Web at <http://www.midnet.sc.edu/paddler>. Download a membership application at <http://www.midnet.sc.edu/paddler/webapp.pdf>. Check the web site for changes.

**Please pay your dues (\$15 for individuals, \$20 for families) if you have not. Mail to The Palmetto Paddlers, Inc., P.O. Box 984, Columbia, SC 29202-0984. You need a membership card to take advantage of the great discounts listed below.**

### **\$\$\$\$ MEMBERSHIP PAYS \$\$\$\$**

Show your membership card and receive 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.

## Christmas Party

NOTE: Due to a scheduling conflict, the December meeting/ Christmas Party will be Wednesday Dec. 12, 7 pm to 9 pm at the Gamecock Room. Guests and newcomers are always welcome. Bring a covered dish.

## Upcoming Meetings

**October 30:** Gerrit Jobsis from the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (<http://www.scccl.org>) /American Rivers (<http://www.amrivers.org/>) will talk about upcoming river issues and the FERC relicensing of Lake Murray. The current license for Lake Murray expires August 31, 2007. See Lake Murray Relicensing in the Conservation Issues section below.

**November 27:** Bill Marshall with SCDNR will speak on the work of the Lower Saluda Scenic River Advisory Council (<http://water.dnr.state.sc.us/water/envaff/river/projects/lowersa.html#advis>) and water quality issues on the Lower Saluda. Bill used to be a Palmetto Paddler officer.

**December 12:** Christmas party, 7 pm to 9 pm at the Gamecock Room. Bring a friend and a covered dish.

## Upcoming Trips

**October 13th** - Capers Island - 4 miles of Intracoastal and Marsh with the tides. Possible overnight if shuttle arrangements can be made. Overnight inland in the Francis Marion National Forest likely if shuttle cannot be arranged. Contact the web master.

**November 10 and 11:** Jon Harrison will lead a French Broad trip. This is a whitewater trip for experienced whitewater kayakers and canoers only. Contact the web master if you are interested. We will probably camp at Hot Springs (<http://www.hotspringsnc.org/>). See the web site (<http://www.midnet.sc.edu/paddler/reports.html>) for a description of a previous French Broad trip.

**December 1:** Rembert Milligan will lead a Sparkleberry Swamp day trip --hope there'll be enough water this year!! Contact the web master if you are interested. We will put in at Sparkleberry Landing, which is off of Highway 51 in Sumter County. The turn is about 4.5 miles south of the junction of Road 51 and Road 261, approximately 2.5 miles south of Poinsett State Park. The turn to the landing is a right turn on a dirt road if you are heading south on Road 51. There is a boat landing and good parking. See the trip reports on the web site for details about a previous trip and a map. The largest alligator ever reported in South Carolina was killed at Sparkleberry Swamp. Good trip for novices. Map: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=33.7104&lon=-80.5221&s=25&size=s>. See <http://www.midnet.sc.edu/paddler/reports.html> for a description of a previous trip.

## TRIP PARTICIPATION POLICY

Trip participation requires a signed release. Participants must contact the trip leader or sign up at a regularly scheduled meeting. 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.

## Officer Elections

Officer elections are coming up. If you are interesting in being an officer, please contact Karen or any of the other officers and let them know. No experience necessary. Some of us have been around quite a while and some new blood would certainly be welcome.

## SOME LEGAL STUFF

The Palmetto Paddler is a publication of The Palmetto Paddlers, Inc. Views and opinions expressed in articles and editorials are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the official views and policies of the Palmetto Paddlers, Inc. The Palmetto Paddler is not copyrighted, and all material published herein and not individually designated as copyrighted may freely be copied, reprinted, republished or otherwise disseminated to any other paddling organization. Credit is appreciated. **CAUTION: Paddling is dangerous and rivers vary on every trip. You are responsible for your own trip decisions. Trip summaries are for your convenience and cannot be relied upon to be accurate on any given day or for purposes of determining safety on a river. Trip leaders are not trip guides and do not have responsibility for safety of others. All trip participants are individually responsible for their own decisions about participation and safety. Participants provide their own equipment and are expected to know their abilities.**

## CLUB TRIP REPORTS

**Broad River trip** (Steve Soltys): On June 30 a small group of two kayaks and a touring canoe went for a trip on a lovely part of the Broad River. We put in at the US Forest Service South Sandy boat ramp <http://svinet2.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/rec/broadriver.htm>. The road to the boat ramp is about 0.5 miles east of the SC 121 Bridge over the Broad and well marked by Forest Service signs. The river gauge for the Broad River near Carlise <http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/hydro/owa/river.dataform?stnid=02156500> was at 2.54 and this is probably the lowest I would run it. The Broad from the South Sandy put-in to the SC 34 takeout is a 12 to 13 mile trip. (The canoe guide we had said 16 miles but one of our group checked the distance from put-in to take-out with a geo-positioning device and

said it was more in the order of 12-13 miles. We spent about 6 hours with slow paddling so this seems about right.)

I was very impressed with this part of the Broad. There are easy shoals with numerous possible routes through about every quarter mile. The rapids that were present were Class I all the way and if you got stuck on a rock, getting out and pushing the boat free was not difficult. One of our kayaks was a sea kayak and it negotiated the riffles without difficulty. In between the shoals were pools with moving water. The scenery was excellent. There is only one house on the entire stretch and one of our group was surprised by the lack of trash.

I saw more eagles and osprey on this section of river than any other that I have done in South Carolina. At least 3 or 4 bald eagles and 3 pairs of osprey were noted, along with the usual kingfishers, herons, ducks, turtles and an occasional snake. It is our opinion that this section is probably very lightly fished because the shoals present a barrier to bass boats when the water is low.

An important feature of this section is the big islands. After about three miles you pass a 0.25-mile island followed by 2.5 mile Sheldon island. Right after Sheldon Island you will see a train trestle and the railroad will run along the east bank down to the takeout but it is usually well camouflaged by trees. After you pass the train trestle keep a sharp lookout over the next mile on the right for the only good place to camp on this stretch, a place where an old forest service road comes to the river. You will then come to another fork in the river, marking your entrance into the Broad River-Henderson Island Scenic Area filled with old growth timber. We took the left fork with the water low. With higher water you might want to go down the right fork that will pass by the intersection of the Tyger River and the Broad.

After about a mile the two forks come back together and you go through a long but easy set of shoals. At the end of the shoals, you will find the current has stopped and you are now on the Parr Shoals Reservoir and have a 4-mile flatwater paddle to the takeout, with the Enoree River entering about half the way down on the right.

**Nantahala:** Rembert led another great trip to the Nantahala over the weekend of June 15. Camped at Lost Mine and dined at Relia's Garden as usual. Reservations, as usual, were a problem. Have decided that we will go prepared to drink assorted beverages on the grass while we wait next time. Also, tell the waitperson ahead of time if you want the crème brulee. This makes two trips in a row when they have run out. Richard Creed brought his daughter and his home-constructed Kevlar OC-1. It looked like a sweet boat. His daughter made us all look bad in that boat. The group picture is at Surfer's.

**Augusta Canal:** (Dave and Dianne Mullis) On August 25, Dave and Dianne Mullis led the Augusta Canal Trip <http://www.augustacanal.com>. The trip went very well with no unintentional swims, but a couple of intentional ones to cool off. One pleasant swim was in Lake Olmstead and the other was under an overpass shaded from the good ole Georgia sun (below the Augusta water intake). The flow in the canal was at a nice pace and required no paddling beyond needing to keep our craft on line. The flora and fauna were

spectacular and the historic views were worth the trip alone. Lunch was a hoot with a floating dock for take out and a short jaunt to a grassy field with a portalet, a trash can, and a beautiful view of the Savannah River and some of it's many shoals. Members were thirteen in number with twelve boats. Some folks just haven't caught on to the advantages of canoes. Join us next year and much thanks to Steve for introducing us to this float. Consult the trip reports on the web site <http://www.midnet.sc.edu/paddler/reports.html> for more details about the Augusta Canal and a link to some photos.

**WARNING!:** Steve Kelsay reports that he had a car destroyed with a baseball bat and shoved into the Wateree River at the US 1 boat ramp near Camden. He also reports broken windows and his glove box ripped open at 2:00 PM on a Saturday at the Gervais Street landing about two months ago. This is the second act of vandalism in the last several months at Gervias Street of which I am aware. Suggest parking in the lot that faces on Gervais Street. We need to add these to the Copahee Sound access in Charleston County as places not to leave vehicles.



Columbia Canal



Nantahala

**Riversweep September 15, 2001:** A cheery group of Palmetto Paddlers participated in River Sweep on September 15. This really is fun and we need more turnout for these events. We paddled across and cleaned up the riverfront on the Zoo side of the Saluda River. I am happy to say that I do not believe the river was as littered this year as last year.



## CONSERVATION ISSUES

**Lake Murray Dam Re-Licensing:** The current license for Lake Murray expires August 31, 2007. Proceedings typically start five years prior to the expiration of the license. It will be very important for all river users and lake users to be informed on these issues and to work together with the goal of creating license conditions that we can all live with imposed on South Carolina Electric & Gas. Issues to be resolved at the relicensing will include lakeshore management, lake water levels, minimum river releases, scheduled releases for paddling events, water quality, and fisheries issues. For information on how to monitor issues with regard to Lake Murray and the FERC relicensing, see [http://parkinhunter.tripod.com/lake\\_murray\\_page.html](http://parkinhunter.tripod.com/lake_murray_page.html).

**Important Meeting About Lake Murray and the Lower Saluda River:** A presentation about the relicensing of the Saluda Hydroelectric Project will be made at the USC Law School Auditorium from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM on Monday, November 5, 2001. Speakers will be Gerrit Jöbsis of the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League/American Rivers and Steve Gilbert of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Participation in the relicensing process by the paddling community will be crucial to future management of the Lower Saluda River and Lake Murray. We are trying to build a coalition of all users of the Lake Murray/Lower Saluda to develop common ground to pursue in the relicensing process so that we may direct our efforts towards FERC and SCE&G and minimize conflict among ourselves.

**Help Needed to Oppose Land Sales on Lake Murray:** Palmetto Paddlers has filed a comment in opposition to proposed fringe land sales by SCE&G on Lake Murray. The Columbia Audubon Society, Lake Watch, Hawleek Creek Homeowners Association, Trout Unlimited, and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation have filed motions to intervene in opposition. SCDHEC has also filed comments in opposition. All of these can be read on the FERC site at <http://rimsweb1.ferc.fed.us/rims.q?rp2~DockNumIni>. Put P-516 in the space for the docket entry and adjust the date. This is the place to monitor what is going on at Lake Murray and the Lower Saluda as far as FERC is concerned. The Saluda Hydro Project (P-516) boundary extends down the Lower Saluda until almost Mill Race Rapid. You may also read the Palmetto Paddlers comment on the

Palmetto Paddler's web site. Land sales are taking place in spite of SCE&G's failure to present and have approved a shoreline management plan that was due in 1999. These sales also impact the amount of land available for public recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality. With the relicensing coming up in 2007, there is real concern that continued land sales will adversely impact the results of lake management planning that will be implemented as the result of the relicensing process.

**Chattooga River and Sumter National Forest Plans.** For American Whitewater Affiliation's position on the Chattooga River planning process please visit their web site at <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/230/>. AWA is concerned about the failure to address access in the headwaters when conditions warrant and setting access numbers lower than appropriate. Headwaters access is perceived to create a conflict with the trout fisherman. The argument presented by the paddling community with regard to headwaters access is that access for paddling would only be practical at high water levels when the river is too high for trout fishing. Other concerns are the accuracy of the data that constitute the basis for the use restrictions. The use data is based on voluntary registrations. **Did you register every time you used the Chattooga?** If not, you may have contributed to an underestimate of the current use levels. The reality is that there will probably be restrictions on use. The issue is what the numbers should be. The AWA site gives information for corresponding with the Forest Service. The comment period for the Chattooga use has officially closed. However, you may want to comment any way and get on the mailing list for the planning for the Sumter National Forest. There are other planning issues that impact water quality, land use, motorized access, and forest management that are vitally important. Go to <http://svinet2.fs.fed.us/r8/fms> and select "REVISIONS" for the planning information and request to be put on the mailing list. The Sumter National Forest plan impacts Turkey Creek, Stevens Creek, the Tyger, and the Enoree as well as the Chattooga. Also consider joining the Chattooga River Private Boaters Association at <http://www.chattoogariver.net>.

You may want to take a look at the preliminary Watershed Analysis for the Sumter National Forest at this site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/LMP/watersjed.pdf>.

The forest planning process is more than paddle access to the Chattooga. All aspects of the management of the Sumter Forest are addressed. Take a look at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/LMP/revision2.htm> and review the proposed prescriptions and Alternative I, the Forest Service's recommended alternative. The proposal emphasizes water quality, healthy ecosystems, diverse species, protection for inventoried roadless areas, the minimum transportation system necessary while protecting forest resources, outstandingly remarkable river values, and high quality scenic areas. In this editor's opinion, we should support the Forest Service's implementation of this alternative.

**Sewage in the Lower Saluda:** Carolina Water Service, Inc., the Town of Lexington, and the Central Midlands Council of Governments have appealed the actions of the staff of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in refusing to certify an amendment to the Areawide 208 Water Quality Management Plan that was approved by the COG. If the Amendment is allowed to stand, Lexington will be allowed

to keep its Coventry Woods wastewater treatment facility open for an additional five years and Carolina Water Service will be allowed a permanent discharge into the Saluda River.

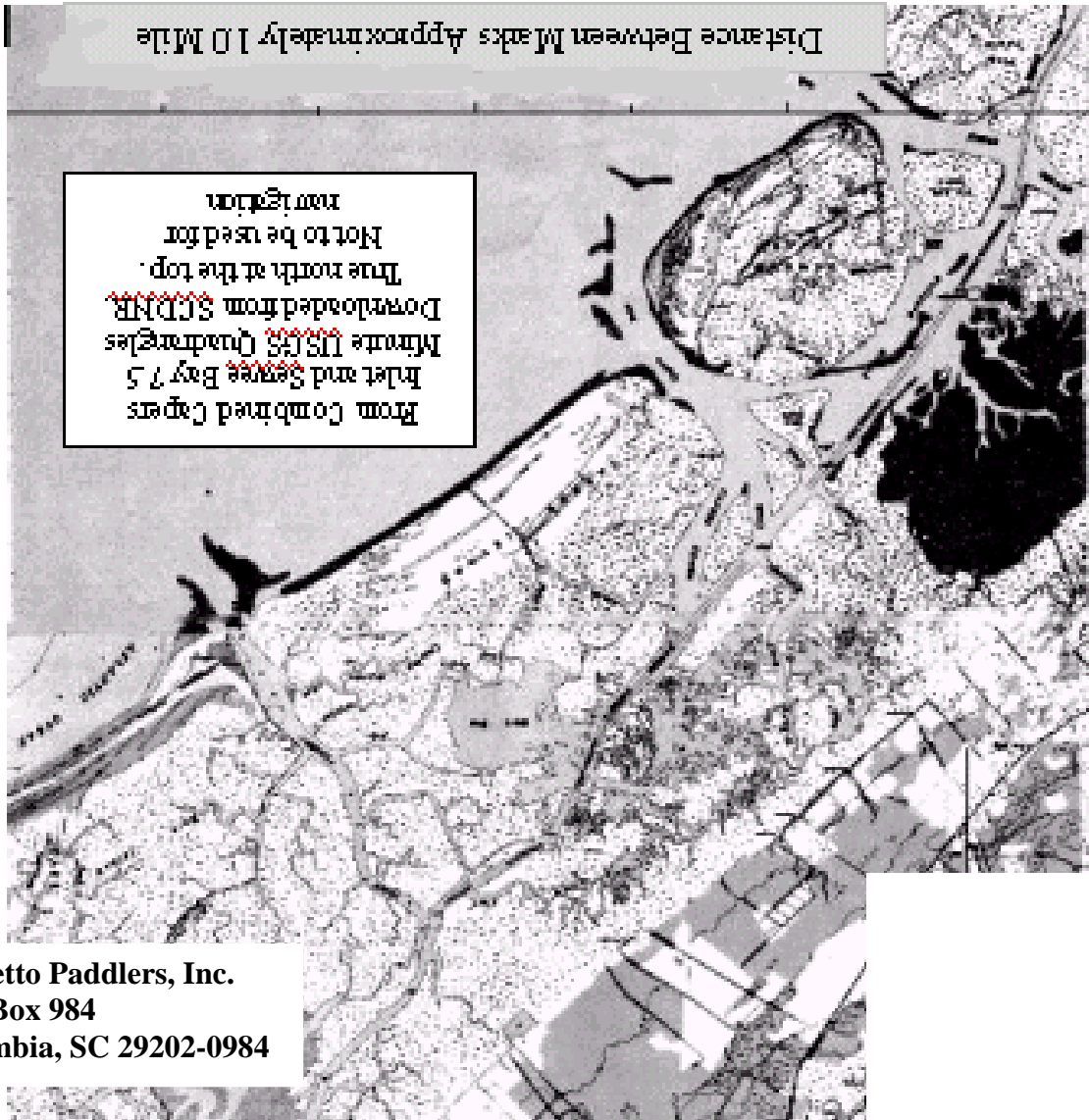
Allowing discharges to continue contravenes the 1993 Update to the Central Midlands Water Quality Management Plan for the Lower Saluda River/ 12 Mile Creek/14 Mile Creek basin which had a goal of eliminating all domestic discharges into the Lower Saluda River. Rumors are that Governor Hodges is being pressured to support the 208 Plan Amendment as approved by the Central Midlands Council of Governments. Email your views to Governor Hodges (<mailto:Governor@govoep.state.sc.us>) and his environmental coordinator, Hank Stallworth (<mailto:hstallwo@gov.state.sc.us>) (803-734-0423). For more information, see <http://parkinhunter.tripod.com/sewer.html>.

The Lexington County Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission (the “Commission”) has intervened and asked the administrative law judge to uphold DHEC’s denial of the amendment. In their motion to intervene, the Commission states:

[T]he proposed Section 208 Plan amendment would compromise the water and wastewater treatment services of Lexington County and surrounding counties as well as the health, safety and welfare of its residents and will have a detrimental effect on the economic development of these counties. The Commission also would show that the adoption of the proposed 208 Plan amendment would result in damage to both the environment and the natural resources of the Lower Saluda Watershed Region. Such damage will adversely impact the wildlife and human recreational enjoyment of the Lower Saluda River.

Unless we want to continue to paddle in a Lower Saluda loaded with sewage, we need to support the Commission, and DHEC to keep the amendment from being adopted.





Distance Between Marks Approximately 1.0 Mile

From Combined Capers  
Inlet and Serge Bay 7.5  
Mile USGS Quadrangles  
Downloaded from SCDB  
True north at the top.  
Not to be used for  
navigation

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