Lowcountry Paddler's Club Newsletter

February 2011

#### Message from the Prez

# Is It Spring Yet?



Here we are in the midst of a cold winter season and I can honestly tell you that I am certainly looking forward to Spring! Although it's been unseasonably cold these past couple of months, it has not deterred some brave souls in the Lowcountry Paddlers

from venturing out on the frigid waters. Our monthly club paddles and show-n-go trips have gone on without any cancellations (or incidents) to date.

With the cold weather comes a LCP club eveiunt that we all look forward to every year (at least I know I do!), and that's our annual Lowcountry Paddlers Oyster Roast which will take place on Saturday, February 26th. The location for the oyster roast will again be held out at the Citadel Boat

House (thanks to Ralph Earhart who apparently still has some clout there even though he is retired!). We will be forthcoming with all the details regarding this annual event in the next week or two, so be sure to read your e-mails and check our website for the latest info!

Also, please note that Rick Carter (one of our own club members) is in the process of organizing a kayak "race/paddle" called the "Patriot Challenge" with the inaugural event scheduled for Sunday, April 10th. We will also keep you abreast regarding this new event in the weeks to come. Again, be sure to check out our website and e-mails.

With this, I leave you all with warm thoughts... stay safe, stay warm and stay dry!

See you all soon!

Todd

### **GOING GREEN!**

It was announced at the January LCP meeting that the February newsletter would be the last one that would be mailed to all members, because we are going green. If green is not your favorite color, you can still request that a newsletter be mailed to you each month.

Anyone who would still like to receive a hard copy may contact Dave Bearse by email (<u>dave.bearse@gmail.com</u>), phone (843-216-3793), or letter (3300 Barkla Ave., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466). so that we can keep the good news coming to them.









#### LOWCOUNTRY PADDLERS

We are a socially and economically diverse organization with one common link...a love of paddling. Whether kayak or canoe, expert or beginner, we all enjoy the camaraderie and the beauty of South Carolina's waterways.

Our meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except December), with club paddles scheduled throughout the year. Please join us and share in the fun!

Lowcountry Paddlers meet at: Providence Baptist Church 294 Seven Farms Drive Daniel Island

Join us at our next meeting February 21st at 7 p.m.



LCP Club Officers

President Todd Beach

Vice-President Dan Hoke

Treasurer David Bearse

Secretary Carol Smith

# Once Upon a Time

by Herman Jacob

In our daily trips on the local waterways it would be amazing if we could go back in time. In March of 2009 I took Emmaleigh, my 8 year old daughter, on a kayak trip on the back side of Edisto Island. The weather was cool and sunny, and the tide was dead low. The mud flats were abundant and a perfect playground for an 8 year old. Emmaleigh begged to stop to play on one.



The Young Explorer

Being a dad who's wrapped around her pinky finger, we pulled up to the one she had picked out. It was quite nice, the mud was about 6" deep and on top of a sand bar. After a while of exploring she came up to me with what she thought was a neat rock. I didn't pay much attention to it, but told her to go wash it off. She returned a few minutes later with what she said was an arrowhead. Still not paying attention to her, she asked, "Dad, did Indians bunt buffalo with

these?" I laughed under my breath and said sure baby.

When I finally turned and looked at what she had found, I was shocked. The term arrowhead was an understatement. A week later I went to repair a refrigerator for a customer in Goose Creek. In telling him my story he notified me that he was an antique artifacts dealer. I showed him a picture and we located it in a catalog. To my amazement it wasn't an arrowhead it was a spearhead estimated to be 4500 years old. I didn't know people existed here then, but evidently they did. I could only imagine what they hunted in that time period, with a weapon that large. The tip of this spear head is broken off but would be around 8" long in complete form.



Prize Spearhead

It would be amazing if the waterways we paddle could only talk. The stories they could tell would blow our minds. The next time you're out on a paddle just think about those who were here long before you -4500 years ago!

<sup>\*</sup> This month's cover photo courtesy of Andy Anderson's Christmas in Hawaii photo album. Links to all LCP photo albums are available on the Lowcountrypaddlers.net website.

### January 17, 2011 - Minutes

President Todd Beach opened the meeting by welcoming the 43 attendees, including seven guests. He invited them to introduce themselves, and he then introduced the club officers.

#### **SPEAKER #1**

Our first speaker this evening is Kelly Thorvalson. Kelly is the Sea Turtle Rescue Program Coordinator and the Sea Turtle Hospital Manager at the South Carolina Aquarium. The turtle hospital began when the Aquarium was built in 2000, and has been growing and expanding ever since. In 2005 the hospital received its first grant, and since then, has been able to hire two full time staff persons, one full time veterinarian. purchase medical testing equipment, provide tours, and do outreach programs at local schools. Tours of the hospital are available for an additional charge, which is not included in the Aquarium admission. This extra fee helps the hospital's bottom line. The hospital is currently treating 54 patients who don't heal quickly.

There are seven species of sea turtles worldwide. Six species can be found in the US, and all six have been designated as threatened or endangered. We have four species living off our coast, the loggerhead (most common), Kemps ridley, green, and leatherback. Leatherback turtles can grow as large as 2000 lbs., and their diet consists of jellyfish! That's a whole lot of jellyfish, so we definitely want to have them around! Some common dangers faced by the turtles are injuries from boat propellers; getting tangled in fishing nets; baited fish hooks which can cause infection; and trash that can cause intestinal blockages if ingested. Mass balloon releases contribute to the trash in our oceans, and there is a bill to outlaw them which will be voted on soon. Support is needed to get the bill passed, so please go to the sea turtle hospital blog on their website at scaquarium.org, to find out how you can help get this bill passed.

If you see a sick or injured turtle, please report it to the SCDNR hotline at 1-800-922-5431, or contact your local police department. Please, don't leave it alone before help arrives.

#### SPEAKER#2

LCP's own Richard Carter is organizing the First Annual 'Patriot Challenge' Kayak Race and Charity Paddle. This event will be held on April 10, 2011, at Brittlebank Park. Just as the Cooper River Bridge Run attracts both runners and walkers, the Patriot Challenge hopes to attract both racers and paddlers. The participation fee is \$25 for LCP Members, and \$30, plus a \$5 ACA insurance fee for all others. All proceeds will go to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Participants will choose to race/ paddle either a 3 or 6 mile course. Both courses will begin and end at Brittlebank Park. Cash prizes will be awarded to the overall winners, and awards will be given to the first three finishers in each category. Everyone who crosses the finish line will receive the very coveted Patriot Challenge tee-shirt! There will also be a prize give-away, including a carbon paddle donated by Gregg Barton. Richard is also hoping to add a kayak to the list of prizes. Each participant will wear a bib number, and this will be their raffle# for the prize drawings. Volunteers are needed! To lend your support, please contact Richard at: generaljeb2@embarqmail.com, or 803-

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

492-1871.

The November LCP Club minutes were approved as published on the web and in The Yakker.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

LCP Club dues are to be renewed in January of each year. The ACA will bill you for their dues annually, according to the month you joined in. To date, approximately 80 LCP members have paid their dues. In order to be eligible for the kayak raffle, both LCP & ACA membership dues must be current.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$1824.90
Receipts	\$1023.00
Disbursements	(\$661.38)
Outstanding Checks	\$0.00
Bank Balance	\$2186.52

In an effort to be more responsible with our environment, The Yakker newsletter is going green. The February issue will be the last one that is actually mailed out to the membership. It will continue to be available on line at our website each month. We will either send out a monthly e-mail reminder to check out The Yakker on the web-site, or send it to you as an e-mail attachment. If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of The Yakker via US mail, that's not a problem, just be sure to let Dave know at 216-3793 or <a href="mailto:dave.bearse@gmail.com">dave.bearse@gmail.com</a>.

#### **OYSTER ROAST:**

Our annual oyster roast and pot-luck will once again be held at the Citadel Boat House. The exact date has not yet been determined, but it will be in February. Todd will send an e-mail just as soon as he finds out.

#### TRIP LEADER REPORT:

Michael Condon will lead our One Star February paddle in the Frances Marion Forest, on Wambaw Creek. We will launch from Wambaw Bridge, paddle to Still Landing and return - approximately 4 miles each way. The trip will be on Saturday, February 5, with a weather date of Saturday, February 19. Michael spoke about how pretty this particular black water paddle is, and said that if you go, you will see Cypress trees that are app. 1000 years old, and quite possibly you will also see owls; wild turkeys and white orchids.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Todd stressed the need for a replacement newsletter editor; there is also a need for articles and trip reports.

LCP members get a 10% discount at most

# The Patriot Challenge

by Rick Carter

This is not a solicitation. It is an opportunity. A chance to take one single day out of 365, and devote it to a cause greater than yourself. It will cost less than a manicure or a round of golf, and it involves doing something you already love to do... paddling. You might also discover the satisfaction of helping out those who have already made a huge sacrifice on your behalf. I know this because I met Jonathan. If happiness is nothing more than sharpening one's capacity for genuine gratitude, prepare to be thrilled.

After a frustrating day of too many miles, expensive gasoline and one failed rendezvous after another, I found myself with my groceries in the

checkout line at Wal-Mart. It was eight -thirty at night and home was still another forty miles up the road. The line was long and I was cranky. The woman in front of me stared at the cashier like a cow eyeing the barn as she watched the man ring up \$150 worth of stuff. When he finally announced the total, she blinked and suddenly realized that this

time she would actually have to pay for her purchase, at which point she began pawing through her purse to find her checkbook. I'm not sure if I began to twitch but it did seem as though my eyesight was beginning to blur as I struggled mightily to resist the urge beat her to death with the nearest blunt instrument.

The cashier and I exchanged glances as she slowly searched for her pen because only that pen would do. He advised me that I would be his last customer and handed me the sign to place on the counter behind my items. When at last she lumbered away, he cheerfully greeted me with a smile and asked, "How are you today, sir? It was disarming. I finally laughed and confessed that I was a grumpy old man, but by virtue of my involvement with the wounded warrior project I was acutely aware that in fact I had

no problems whatsoever. Life was in fact quite good. He asserted that the WWP was an excellent organization and held up his forearm to show his scar from getting zipped by an enemy round. After a tour in Iraq and a tour in Afghanistan he had returned home to an economy in the dumpster, and had been ringing up items at Wal-Mart for three years now. He shrugged, smiled and said "It's a living. My buddy came back without a hand." Jonathan had perspective.

On the long ride home I thought about Jonathan. While he was far away, executing his sworn duty, greedy investment bankers went to the Casino (derivatives market) and destroyed the economy.

The taxpayers bailed them out. They responded by awarding themselves with bonuses totaling millions and millions of dollars. Jonathan had every right to be bitter, yet he was not. Maybe he was just happy to have both hands. As for me, perspective was restored and my petty concerns quickly evaporated in the harsh glare of reality. Without my involvement

in the WWP this would not have happened. It has the potential to do the same for you.

This is not a referendum on the legitimacy or wisdom of our current conflict. The Patriot Challenge is about nothing more than recognition and support of those who have made a sacrifice for their country and now face lifelong consequences. These individuals were simply honoring an oath to defend the prosperity and freedom we enjoy as citizens of this country. Upholding that oath illustrates the clear distinction between patriotism and politics. I hope you will join us in this cause. For more information you may Google charlestonpatriotchallenge.org. The site is still under construction, but it should help to explain more about what we can do to express our gratitude.

#### October Minutes - cont'd

local sporting goods vendors. Most vendors don't want us to publicize this info on our website, because anyone who sees it could try to say that they are a member just for the discount. A discussion followed about the possible need for membership cards. We debated about how a vendor would know if a person's membership was current, or if you were the actual person on the card, etc. We ended up deciding that cards were only a marginal need, at best. Todd asked us to support our local vendors as they support us.

The Photo Directory is still a work in progress. Michael Condon will be available after the meeting to take your photo.

Todd has DNR Tide Charts to distribute – pick one up on your way out.

Dan said to be sure to check out <a href="www.tidespy.com">www.tidespy.com</a>. He highly recommends it. There is a link to it on our homepage. He also spoke about proper dress for the dangerously cold water temps. Door prizes were distributed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Carol Smith, Secretary



# WELCOME.

**NEW MEMBERS!** 

Jim Brown Phil Jordan Herman Jacob



LCP Parade of Boats Paddlers - 2011
Photo by Sue Chadwick

### My First Paddle



I have been paddling now for about 6 years. It was a sport that I decided to take up as I was turning 40. I was getting too old to play softball anymore, and seemed to be injuring myself every time I played. I had the mentality that just

because I was getting old, it didn't mean I shouldn't dive or slide or play hard.

I took a Sea Kayak Basics class at CCPRC with a work friend, Julie Feeley. We both had wanted to do it for a while. We got to talking at work one day, and decided to just do it. Women don't like to make fools out of ourselves alone and we would prefer to have someone there for support just in case. Tom Nichols taught the class and we both enjoyed ourselves, and next wanted to try a trip.

Julie and I signed up for a CCPRC trip called ACE Basin. The trip was on the Ashepoo from Bennett's Point to Brick-yard Plantation. Tom again was the trip leader and had Cheryl Quam and Beth Harrison as assistants. Tom exudes confidence and, to say the least, we needed him on that trip.

My first real launch went smoothly. We paddled over to the other side of the river and waited for everybody to launch. I noticed a little bit of a wind but nothing too bad. However, once we started paddling and took the first right turn, we had 1- to 2-foot waves and a nasty head wind in our faces. Tom never lost any confidence that we had the ability to do it, and he encouraged us on as we paddled hard to battle the wind. Our forward movement was very slow, but going over those waves on my first trip in a kayak was exciting, which may be what drives me into the surf even today.

We stopped for a much needed rest and lunch on Hutchinson Island. After lunch we paddled on. Though, on the second half of our trip we were able to hide from the wind a bit. We did see a bald eagle soaring high up and we saw several alligators.

It was a hard (funny to say this now) six mile paddle. I had never been so exhausted in my life. I had a feeling of accomplishment, and I was absolutely hooked on kayaking.

I can't say whether I knew then that it would become my passion in life, but I knew I couldn't wait to get out again. It's funny that I can remember so much of that trip so long ago, but that day, and Tom Nichol's leadership, left an indelible impression on me.

#### Helon Everett

ACA Kayak Instructor LCP Safety and Training



#### 2010 Parade of Boats

Sue Chadwick - Photographer

# WANTED

#### - Newsletter Submissions -

If you have an article or announcement for us to include in the March issue, please e-mail it to lowcountrypaddlers@yahoo.com before February 18. Also be aware that copyright laws prevent us from printing published items without permission.

NOTE: Articles submitted anonymously will not be accepted for publication.

#### - From the Editors -

Well, it's time to pass the reigns once again. The last time I gave up newsletter duties, I was working in Michigan. This time, I have started a new job in Florida. I think Florida is a little more kayak-friendly, though Carol and I are both born-and-bred Michiganders.

Originally, work took our whole family out of Michigan in 1994, and landed us in Slidell, Louisiana. After ten years in the sub-tropics, we had little desire to head back north.

It was a new employment opportunity that brought us to South Carolina in 1994. Working for a startup defense contractor, my job was to build a department that would help support unique military vehicles that were the foreruner to what became known as MRAPs, Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected vehicles.

Part of that support included technical manuals that would help the troops operate, maintain, and sustain the vehicles long after we delivered them. I could handle a lot of the writing duties, as I've been doing that for 20 years already. But, I couldn't create the illustrations that were needed to support all of the "how-to" procedures. This led me to hire one of the best illustrators in the Charleston area, Mr. Lee Walker.

For those who may not know Lee, he is a longtime LCP club member, and it was Lee who introduced me to kayaking and the LCP club. And now, "you know the rest of the story." It is also important to note that Lee designed the LCP logo. Speaking of the logo, be sure to pick up your LCP decal from Dave Bearse at the next meeting. They are only \$2 each.

I believe that Lee also introduced Michael Condon to the club. They are "outlaws" (have children who are husband and wife). Anyway, that's the long story of how Carol and I came to be part of this great club. We are still officially members through 2011, since we've paid up our dues. How 'bout you, have you paid your LCP dues? I personally think that it's a great value. We get discounts on CCPRC programs, and also at some of the local vendors.

By the way, did I mention that we have a new NL editor starting with next month's issue? Beth Bradshaw has graciously volunteered to take on the duties of putting out this monthly publication. I hope that everyone will help out by writing their stories, anecdotes, advice, etc., to make her task an easy one. I may even submit an occasional roaming kayaker report from Florida.

You can always find something interesting to write about. I think that we have some great examples of that in this month's newsletter. Herman and his daughter, Emmaleigh, will forever have that memento of a daddy-daughter kayak trip that took place in 2009.

So, what can you write about? There are a lot of activities of interest coming up, as we thaw from this record cold winter. The LCP Oyster Roast is always a good get together with great dishes from our members. A critique of the food, and/or publishing some recipes

#### Win A Kayak!!!

Don't Forget!!

ECP will be giving away a kayak.

Drawing will be held at our June picnic.

(Collect your entry tickets by being an active member in club paddles and meetings)

might be a good column for future NL editions.

Then in April is the ever popular East Coast Canoe and Kayak Festival. It's an excellent opportunity to sharpen your skills by taking a variety of kayak-related classes, from paddling and rescues, to navigating and camping. There is always something to do (or buy) at this special event. It is definitely a good source for articles to pass on to fellow club members.

Also, if you might have missed it, our own Rick Carter is heading up the daunting task of creating a new annual event which will serve as a fundraiser activity for the Wounded Warrior Project. Let's pitch in and help Rick get this off the ground. It would be a good thing for LCP to be supportive of, and to communicate to everyone we know.

There is also a new meetup group for you ladies, started by Kathy Livingston. You can check out the group at http://www.meetup.com/Charleston-Kayak-Adventure-Womens-Meetup-Group/?gj=ej4&a=ti1\_lm1.

I've written more than I normally do, but there is still space to fill. Time to dip into some of the great photography files of our club members.

It's hard to say goodbye, but there is no need to. Florida is not that far away. In fact, I made it back in under six hours on my last drive home. So, until we meet again, happy (water) trails to you. (Yes Helon, for some of the older folks who remember Mr. Ed, they might also recognize that word play on Roy Rogers TV theme.)

Take care everyone! Randy (& Carol)



# 🖈 THE PATRIOT CHALLENGE 🖈



# RACE AND CHARITY PADDLE

All Proceeds to Benefit The Wounded Warrior Project



#### CASH PRIZES!!!

APRIL 10th, 2011- Charleston, SC

12:00 Noon - Captain's Meeting 1:00 PM Launch from Brittlebank Park

All classes of Kayaks, Canoes and Stand Up Paddleboards

### Assault on the Ashley

The three mile course begins at Brittlebank Park and runs up the Ashley River for one and onehalf miles, making a left turn around the buoy marker and returning down the river to the finish line.

### Barrage of the Battery

The six mile course begins at Brittlebank Park and runs down the Ashley River towards the harbor, around historic Charleston Battery, turning around at Charleston Yacht Club on the Cooper River and racing to the finish line at Brittlebank Park. Cash prizes awarded to first three finishers.

> Awards - First Three Places - Each Category - Male and Female Divisions Masters Division - All participants over 50 years of age

All participants eligible for valuable prizes! Drawing by bib number at the Closing Party

Visit our website for more info: charlestonpatriotchallenge.org



# Upcoming CCPRC Events!



Caw Caw Self Guided Canoe Tours. 10 am– 4 pm. Meets at: Caw Caw Interpretive Center. Relax and enjoy a day paddling historic rice fields. Our knowledgeable staff will update you on wildlife activity and share the unique history of the site. A chaperone is required for participants ages 15 and under. On-site registration only. For more information call (843) 889-8898 Fee: \$10 per canoe.

Saturday, February 5 - Course # 24180 Sunday, February 6 - Course # 24181 Saturday, February 12 - Course # 24182 Sunday, February 13 - Course # 24183 Saturday, February 19 - Course # 24184 Sunday, February 20 - Course # 24185 Saturday, February 26 - Course # 24186 Sunday, February 27 - Course # 24185

Coastal Navigation Clinic - Coastal Navigation - Level 1 Tuesday, Feb 15, 6:00-8:00 pm. First of a two-part series introducing all aspects of coastal navigation. This first session covers the basics of maps and charts, compasses, declination/variation, aids to navigation, and rules of the nautical road. Meets at CCPRC Headquarters. Ages 16 & up. Pre-registration required. Course# 23911. Fee: \$18/\$15 CCR Discount

Canoeing At Caw Caw - Sunset Canoe Tour. Thursday, Feb 17, 4:00-6:30 pm. Sunset at Caw Caw in the winter is a great Lowcountry experience. Join our tour guides as we listen and watch for Wood Ducks, eagles, and other wildlife from historic rice field canals. Meets at Caw Caw Interpretive Center. Ages 9 & up. A registered and paid chaperone is required for participants ages 15 and under. Pre-registration required. Fee: \$18/\$15 CCR Discount.

# For those who want to take a more *ACTIVE* role in kayaking, check out these future events:

Winter Challenge	Feb 12,	7 mile run, 6 mile paddle, 10
Off-Road Triathlon	2011	mile mountain bike trail
Santee State Park	Feb 26,	3 mile trail run, 3 mile kayak,
Off-Road Triathlon	2011	8.1 mile mountain bike trail
Hunting Island	Mar 12,	6 mile paddle followed by
Biathlon	2011	4.5 mile trail run
Clemson Off-Road	Mar 26,	4 mile trail run, 3 mile pad-
Triathlon	2011	dle, 10 mile mountain bike

#### Details to all events can be found here:

http://winterchallenge.eventbrite.com/?utm\_source=Master+Conta cts+List&utm\_campaign=7086b05bff-MC-Calender+list+10\_14\_2010&utm\_medium=email



P.O. Box 13242 Charleston, S.C. 29422 Coastal Navigation Clinic - Coastal Navigation - Level 2. Feb 17, 6:00-8:00 pm. This second of a two-part series will introduce more advanced navigational skills such as dead reckoning, range lines, fixes, taking and following bearings, triangulation, and compensating for current. Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters. Ages 16 & up Pre-registration required. Fee: \$18/\$15 CCR Discount. Course # 23912

Local Canoe Trips - Caw Caw Canoe to Long Savannah. Saturday, Feb 19, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. On this exciting canoe adventure, we will start at Caw Caw Interpretive Center amongst the old rice fields that are now managed for wildlife habitat. We'll work our way to the Wallace River and continue to Rantowles Creek and on towards CCPRC's new Long Savannah property. Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters Ages 16 & up. Pre-registration required. Fee: \$60/\$50 CCR Discount. Course # 23920

Kayak Rolling and Rescues - Intro to Kayak Rescues - 2-day. Feb 21 & 23, Mon & Wed, 7pm-9pm. Rolling is not the only rescue trick found up the sleeve of a kayaker's paddling jacket. This two-part class series will allow you to practice a variety of self and assisted rescues (paddle float, T-rescue, re-enter, and roll, etc.). We'll utilize standard size sea kayaks for the practice session in a warm pool and get you ready for the upcoming spring paddling season. Participants ages 13-15 can register for this course, but must be accompanied by an adult chaperone. Preregistration required. Course# 23918. Meets at: Off-Site Location. Ages 13 & up. Fee: \$48/\$40 CCR Discount

Paddling Clinics - Local Paddling Destinations. Monday, Feb 28, 6pm-8pm. Charleston is known for its salt marshes, cypress swamps, and inland waterways. Come learn about the special places in the area that are great destinations for paddlers. We'll provide information on where to go and how to get there. Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters. Ages 16 & up. Pre-registration required. Course# 23915. Fee: \$18/\$15 CCR Discount.

The above listed events are just a sampling of the great activities provided by CCPRC. For a complete listing of CCPR Canoe, Kayak & Paddle Board events, call 795-4386 or visit: http://www.ccprc.org. Remember, LCP members get a 20% discount!!



# Upcoming Club Paddles!

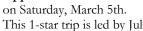


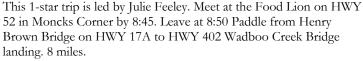
**Francis Marion Forest/Wambaw Creek** on Saturday, February 5th. This 1-star trip is led by Michael Condon. Meet at Shell station in

McClellanville by 8:30. Leave at 8:35 to go to the landing. Paddle from Wambaw Bridge to Still Landing and back. 8 miles. High tide at Still Landing about noon.

about noon.

# Upper Wadboo Creek





Don't forget to check out the LCP website for Show-N-Go trips.



Visit us on the Web! www.lowcountrypaddlers.net