



The Yakker

Lowcountry Paddlers Club Newsletter

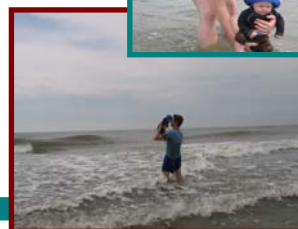
July 2009

From the Editor

Unfortunately, this is my final edition of *The Yakker*. Shawn and I are relocating to Maryland, leaving behind comfortable year-round paddling, black water swamps, the wonders of the Ace Basin, and the plethora of activities and events made possible by the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission. CCPRC is a resource that too many of us take for granted, and we will certainly miss having such a well organized and community-oriented park system. I'd like to thank Todd Beach, Andy Anderson, and Bill Guifre for contributing to the newsletter on a consistent basis; I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with you on *The Yakker*. As a final parting note, I would like to implore the rest of you to take advantage of the opportunities that abound in the Lowcountry. LCP paddles happen almost every weekend, and there are so many other organizations and businesses that allow for safe, fun, exploration of the abundant natural beauty for which South Carolina is known. I work with a woman who has lived here for twenty years, and last weekend was the first time she'd ever gone to one of the plantations. Hearing that almost made me cry. There are so many beautiful, fascinating things to see and do in this area. There's just no excuse not to get out and do them, especially as you are members in a very active recreational group. Get involved, get out of the house, take a class, meet up for a show 'n go, get away from your stresses for a day or an afternoon or an hour! Don't let life get in the way of LIVING!

Thanks for the good times on the water!

Wishing you all the very best,
Jenelle Kiernan



LOW COUNTRY PADDLERS
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2009

President Todd Beach called the meeting to order and welcomed the 36 club members and guests who were in attendance.

Guest Speaker: Mary Crockett, South Carolina Scenic River Program Manager, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). Ms. Crockett has spent 10 years working with river conservation and is now Chair of the DNR Scenic Rivers Program that was established by the South Carolina Scenic River Act in 1989. Mary said her personal goal was to paddle all the rivers in South Carolina. She only has 4 rivers left on her list. There are 30,000 miles of river waters in South Carolina and Ms. Crockett presented photographs of many familiar rivers and some not so familiar. Periodically she would ask if anyone could identify an area or a river. Correct answers were rewarded with, "leave no trace" toilet items. Mary emphasized that "leave no trace" practices are very important to the health of our wild places.

The Scenic Rivers Program is designed to protect South Carolina's unique river resources. This is accomplished by voluntary cooperative management programs that involve land owners and community interest groups and the SCDNR. These groups work together to achieve common river conservation goals. She said South Carolina has only one nationally designated Wild and Scenic River, and that is the Chattooga River. The State of South Carolina has designated 10 Scenic Rivers in the State. They are the Lynchies, Broad, Little Pee Dee, Lower Saluda, Middle Saluda, Ashley, Black, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee at Dillon, and Catawba Rivers.

Mary talked about the challenges that SCDNR has to manage. There are issues such as water quality, water supply, issues involving social values and societal needs, all these things have to be considered with river management. As an example, Mary talked about dams. She said we have many old dams that were once needed for industrial purposes. Those industries no longer exist so should we un-dam those rivers? In some cases that would be an easy question but in others there could be big problems. She gave an example of one dam that has collected silt at the base. The silt was badly contaminated with pollution from upstream effluents. Although the water itself was clean, opening the dam and releasing the contaminated silt would be too hazardous to people and wildlife down stream.

Because our rivers are dynamic they present many challenges. Water levels rise and fall with rain and with the seasons and because of that there are many supply and demand challenges. Recently we have had lots of rain and our lakes and rivers are full again, but the aquifers are not. We have challenges in the form of conservation of wildlife species, flora and fauna. Mary mentioned that twice a year there are organized river clean-up events. One in September and one in May, and of course when ever you see trash, pick it up.

Mary talked about the new scenic river water trail guide for the Lynchies River that SCDNR has just published and said she plans to write one for the South Carolina Coast. In order to create the coastal river trail she will need to paddle the coastal area. This presents a small problem since she paddles a canoe and doesn't sea kayak. This is a work in progress and she will most likely need a little help. Mary concluded her presentation by inviting each of us to take home a copy of her newest trail guide.

Old Business: Todd Beach asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as they were printed in the June Newsletter. The minutes were accepted and approved as printed. Michael Condon read the treasurer's report. The report was accepted and approved as read: previous balance - \$2,324.13, disbursements - \$76.54, receipts - \$40.00, new balance - \$ 2,287.59

New Business: Todd announced the club members that it is time to start thinking about nominations for a slate of new club officers. Nominations will be accepted now until the meeting in July. Elections will be held in August. Please feel free to nominate yourself or someone you think would be a good candidate for the position of President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary. Contact one of the current officers and submit your candidate!

Todd reminded everyone that the LCP Annual Club Picnic will be held on June 20th at Lake Marion on Church Island. Boats will be launching from Spires landing. The club will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers. Club members are asked to bring a side dish to share. Todd also asked for someone to volunteer to camp out on the island so we will be sure to have a place for our picnic. The island is a favorite spot and it fills up fast.

Committee Chairs: Ralph Earhart gave a run down of the up coming paddles for July.

Sunday, July 5th - Combahee River. Steele Bridge Landing to Cuckhold Creek, 18 miles Ralph says it is a REALLY, REALLY good trip. Meet in Jacksonboro at the BP gas station at 8:15.

Sunday, July 12th - Good beginner trip. Wamba Creek to McConnells landing, 9 miles.

Saturday, July 18th - Intermediate trip, Beaufort, Port Royal landing to Brickyard landing on Lady Island. 12 miles.

Saturday, July 25th - Dennis's Pasture; 8-mile loop. Meet in Bonneau at the BP gas station at 9:00. This is a good beginner trip.

For more detailed information about each of these paddles please check out the Club Paddle Schedule 2009 on our website.

www.lowcountrypaddlers.net

Door Prizes were distributed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lestie Maple

Solidarity or Crazyiness?

by Andy Anderson

As most of you know, the articles I normally submit to the Yakker deal directly with paddling adventures or misadventures on various water courses of South Carolina and beyond. This submission will be more than a little different.

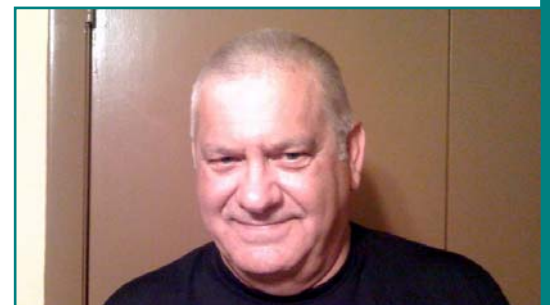
As 2009 began I noticed a bit of misery in my shoulder. It was somewhat bothersome, but little more. Due to the rough and tumble life style I've led, the odd gurr is not overly surprising nor something I would worry about. But as time progressed it became more and more problematic. I could still paddle but I became more and more concerned with my capabilities. For me, being towed just wasn't a viable option. During this timeframe I was bouncing from doctor to doctor as each tried to determine what was up with me. It might be my heart, said one doctor, so I had a nuclear stress test. The heart guy pointed out that my heart isn't connected to my shoulder, so that was ruled out. Then I went to the bone and joint guy who pronounced that I obviously had a rotator cuff tear. He gave me a shot in the shoulder and a large rubber band to play with. But in short order it became apparent that wasn't the problem either. So he ordered an MRI. When the MRI results came in things rapidly began to move in an unexpected direction. 'Ah, er, ah', said the good doctor, 'we need to get you to an oncologist soonest'. 'Yikes' I wasn't expecting THAT', thought I. But in short order Carol and I were off to Charlotte to visit a bone, joint AND cancer guy. There, I was subjected to more body, bone and muscle scans than I've ever even heard of. All of them, unfortunately, indicated the same thing. I was in pretty sorry shape. Then, I was referred to an Oncology clinic here in Columbia to begin chemo....and various other forms of unpleasantness. One of those unpleasant things that I knew was coming down the pike was the loss of my hair. So in a preemptive move, I simply had Carol shave my head. I knew from here on out there was little I would be in control of, but I could control the when and where of that! I'm not going to make light of these things nor am I going to dwell on 'em. There are the cards I was dealt and I'll play 'em, regardless. Now that you know what's been going on, it's time to address the subject line of this missive.

I think all of you know Michael Cadoret. A super guy who is always willing to offer good cheer, fellowship and his own brand of flare on all of our outings. As I recall, the first time I noticed him was on a club paddle out to one of the sea island off Charleston. He had brought Sally a bouquet of flowers to present with lunch. (Class act!) The second time I met him was during a camping trip to Poinsett State Park. I walked back into camp from the shower and discover he and Sally had taken up residence in my camp chairs. I did think they were nice enough folks, but I do have my limits. But in short order the situation was resolved and proper decorum was restored. Since then we've all become closer and have shared many an adventure. We've enjoyed each others company and (generally) accepted each others weirdness and idiosyncrasies. And, we invited others to join us so that they might share in the good times we were having. What I'm trying to convey is that Michael's one of the good guys and I consider him a close friend and confidant.

Now then, as I was getting my gear ready for my next chemo treatment, an e-mail from Michael came zipping into my computer. Before getting into the content of that e-mail please allow me to regress. Going for chemo isn't like going to a doctor's office for a shot. It takes the better part of the flippin' day. So you'd best bring everything you need (lunch, drinks, reading materials, warm clothes etc etc) with ya. So Carol & I were gathering up all of this stuff when Michael's e-mail arrived. His message decreed that in an act of solidarity, he'd done gone and shaved his head too. And, he sent a photo which captured the deed. Now there are (at least) two of us who look like we are recently released prisoners of war. Michael Rains had previously mentioned he'd thought about doing it as well, but low and behold, Michael Cadoret actually did do it. Who would have thunk? Do we think this is a common trait among guys named Michael? But regardless of what your interpretation of his action is, you have to admit he didn't shy away from its obvious ramifications. 'Boy, you is goin' to look like that for a long time'.

This is written to acknowledge one paddling brother's solidarity with another, during a time of need. Of course one could also wonder if he might have been nipping a bit prior to his decision to shave it all off. Regardless, he did it and he did it with honorable intentions. It just don't get much better than that. Of course, Sally may still kill him.

The jury is still out on that one.





Lowcountry Paddlers from near and far, in canoes and kayaks of all shapes and sizes, at all skill levels, share the enjoyment found in getting together to appreciate all the abundant natural beauty that surrounds us in South Carolina.

Our meetings, usually held on the third Monday of each month, are informal, open to non-members and guests, and provide a great way to learn about the club and to meet our members. Meetings normally include a guest speaker from 7:00 to 8:00 followed by a short session of club business.

Meetings generally conclude by 8:30 p.m.

LCP meetings are held at:
Providence Baptist Church
294 Seven Farms Drive
Daniel Island

**Join us at our next meeting:
July 20th.**

Contact us by mail:
Lowcountry Paddlers
P.O. Box 13242
Charleston, S.C. 29422

or visit our website:
www.lowcountrypaddlers.net



Safari Day at the Cypress Gardens Saturday, August 15, 2009 10 am until 4 pm

There will be two live bands, a bluegrass/gospel and Ukulele/Hawaiian/Tin Pan Alley, food and other outdoor activities.

For information on volunteer activities, feel free to contact:



photo courtesy of www.cypressgardens.com/info

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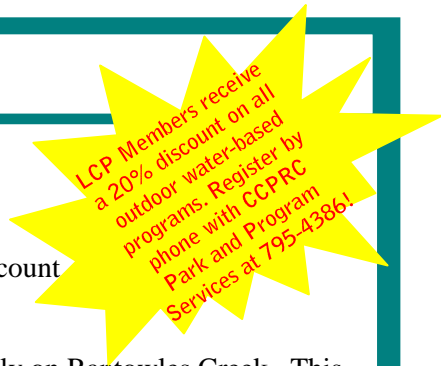
Nights 761-4859

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

**Robin Lee
Judy S. Norton**

WELCOME!

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Parent & Child Trips

Bring Mom or Dad and join us for a day of fun on the Edisto River. Learn basic canoe strokes before embarking on your float downriver.

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters Age: 8 & up Fee: \$34/\$28 CCR Discount
Course # 20653 Sat Aug 1 9:00am-5:00pm

Take a break from work and school and come take a tandem sea kayak trip with the family on Rantowles Creek. This beautiful and quiet creek is the perfect location for beginner paddlers looking to have some fun and build on their kayaking skills.

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters Age: 8 & up Fee: \$34/\$28 CCR Discount
Course # 20655 Sat Aug 22 10:00am-5:00pm

Canoeing At Caw Caw

Heritage to Habitat Canoe Tour

Enjoy an interpretive canoe trip and travel back to the age of rice as we paddle through rice fields and canals that now serve as one of the richest wildlife habitats in the Lowcountry.

Meets at: Caw Caw Interpretive Center Age: 9 & up Fee: \$15/\$12 CCR Discount
Course # 20531 Sat Aug 1 9:00am-11:30am

Caw Caw Sunset/Moonrise Paddle

Enjoy an interpretive paddle at dusk. Witness the sun as it slips below the trees of Caw Caw Swamp and watch the moonrise over Tea Farm Creek.

Meets at: Caw Caw Interpretive Center Age: 9 & up Fee: \$18/\$15 CCR Discount
Course # 20534 Wed Aug 5 6:15pm-8:45pm

Local Sea Kayak Trips:

Intermediate Capers Island Kayak Trip

Join us for an intermediate sea kayak adventure to see the beauty and wildlife of Capers Island. Paddling experience is strongly recommended as this is a 12-mile trip with potentially difficult conditions.

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters Age: 16 & up Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount
Course # 20514 Sun Aug 2 8:00am-6:00pm

Sunset Harbor Kayak Tour

Close out your workday with a relaxing tour and a watery view of the Charleston skyline. We'll paddle from Sunrise Park on James Island, past the Battery, to our home port at the Wappoo Cut boat landing.

Meets at: Off-Site Location Age: 16 & up Fee: \$36/\$30 CCR Discount
Course # 20519 Wed Aug 5 5:30pm-8:30pm

Lighthouse Inlet Sea Kayak & Interpretive History Tour

Join us on this unique kayak tour as we paddle on the Folly River to Morris Island Lighthouse. Here's your chance to see this historic treasure from a kayak.

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters Age: 16 & up Fee: \$66/\$55 CCR Discount
Course # 20515 Sat Aug 8 9:00am-5:00pm

Lower ACE Basin Kayak Tour

Paddling the lower ACE Basin is an adventure you're sure to enjoy. We'll kayak from Brickyard Ferry to Bennett's Point on the Ashepoo River and look for birds, dolphins, and other wildlife.

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters Age: 16 & up Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount
Course # 20512 Sat Aug 22 9:00am-5:00pm

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Sea Kayak Instructional Classes:

ACA Essentials of Kayak Touring

This course is designed to teach beginners to paddle sea kayaks safely and enjoyably on lakes, calm protected ocean environments, and other flat-water settings. Boats, equipment, safety, and basic strokes and rescues will be covered.

Meets at: James Island County Park Age: 16 & up Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount
Course # 20560 Sat Aug 8 9:00am-4:00pm

Introduction to Kayak Rolling Class

The greatest self-rescue tool a kayaker has, rolling also sharpens other boating skills. Small pool classes ensure your comfort throughout the process. Participants ages 13-15 can register for this course, but must be accompanied by an adult chaperone.

Meets at: Splash Zone Age: 13 & up Fee: \$48/\$40 CCR Discount
Course # 20499 Mon, Wed, Fri Aug 10-14 6:30pm-8:30pm

Sea Kayak Rescue Clinic

Can you recover from an unplanned capsize in rough water? If your answer is uncertain, you need this class! Certified instructors will cover self and assisted rescues and the strokes that make the rescues efficient.

Meets at: James Island County Park Age: 16 & up Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount
Course # 20549 Sun Aug 9 9:00am-4:00pm

ACA Open Water Clinic

The goal of this intermediate-paddler course is to get you comfortable in coastal open water. We'll take your basic skills of strokes, maneuvers, rescues, and towing and fine tune them at the next level.

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters Age: 16 & up Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount
Course # 20561 Sat Aug 15 9:00am-5:00pm

Kayak Quickstart

Come learn about the fun-filled sport of kayaking. During this 2-hour hands-on informal program, our experienced instructors will show you how you can safely enjoy kayaking on protected waters.

Meets at: James Island County Park Age: 16 & up Fee: \$12/\$10 CCR Discount
Course # 20555 Tue Aug 18 6:00pm-8:00pm

ACA Fundamentals of Coastal Kayaking

ACA certified instructors will cover basic strokes and maneuvers, rescues, navigation, wind, waves, tides, and currents. After an evening of classroom instruction and a day on the water practicing strokes and rescues, you'll plan a short trip.

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters Age: 16 & up Fee: \$108/\$90 CCR Discount
Course # 20557 Thu, Sat-Sun Aug 27-30 7:00pm-9:00pm (Thu)
9:00am-5:00pm (Sat & Sun)

Beginner Short Boat Surf Kayaking

Come enjoy the sport of kayak surfing! Our experienced instructors will guide you through fun and exciting times in the surf of our beloved Folly Beach. We'll provide whitewater and sit-on-top kayaks and show you how to catch waves in the surf zone.

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters Age: 16 & up Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount
Course # 20503 Sat Aug 29 9:00am-2:00pm



Pre-registration is required for all programs and some special events.
Please call (843) 795-4FUN or visit www.ccprc.com to register.

