

March/April 2008



Cruiser

Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington, DC, Inc.

The Chair's Cockpit

By Lee Tucker, CCA Chair

By the time you read this column, the days will be getting a bit warmer, slowly, even as they grow longer. Many will likely have already begun their 2008 paddling-season. A goodly number, of course, have paddled throughout the winter. The rest will soon find a bit of paddling increasingly tempting. Don't forget, the water will be devastatingly cold for quite a while, so take appropriate precautions.

We're already fast approaching one of the annual highlights of CCA's calendar -- I refer, of course, to the club's annual downriver race from Rocky Island to Sycamore Island, now well into its second half-century. Mark your calendars. The date, water-level permitting, is Saturday, May 17th. The race is open to all, young and old (boats as well as paddlers). Just remember your PFD, and flotation for your boat. It's always a great experience, with plenty of classes, so you needn't compete with people too unlike yourself in skill and endurance. And, it always winds-up with a tremendous awards-ceremony, and need I say, picnic at Sycamore Island.

For the past several years, Star Mitchell has moved heaven and earth to assemble a sterling crew of volunteers to register racers, act as timers, serve as safety boats at key locations along the course, and perform innumerable other invisible, but essential, tasks. Please, don't wait for Star to contact you about volunteering to help, though I wouldn't be surprised if she did -- take the initiative, contact her first, she'll be overjoyed to put you to work.

One last thing this month -- those of you who know me, know I'm no "web-junky", quite the opposite -- but, I think there'll be no disagreement when I say that the club's Website could stand a bit of sprucing-up, maybe more than a bit. So, I'm issuing a call, an appeal, for a few web-savvy club members to step forward. I'd like to set-up a taskforce to work with Susan Sherrod,

(continued on page 3)



A new day begins on the Altamaha River in Georgia. Read Ed Gertler's trip report about this beautiful place on page 5. *(Photo by Carol Pamer.)*

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Canoe Cruisers Association
11301 Rockville Pike
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Website: www.canoecruisers.org

Chair: Lee Tucker, chairman@canoecruisers.org
Secretary: Jeff Fox, secretary@canoecruisers.org
Treasurer: Brinton Bohling/Sarah Smiley, treasurer@canoecruisers.org
Membership: Ginny DeSeau/Susan Sherrod, membership@canoecruisers.org
Address Corrections: membership@canoecruisers.org
Conservation: Courtney Caldwell, conservation@canoecruisers.org
Newsletter: Laura Breeden, newsletter@canoecruisers.org

Instruction: Bob Kimmel, instruction@canoecruisers.org
Safety: Tim Bromelkamp, safety@canoecruisers.org

Web Site: Susan Sherrod, webmaster@canoecruisers.org

Upcoming CCA Programs

By Ed Gertler, Program Chair

CCA meetings are normally held at the Clara Barton Community Center, 75th and MacArthur Blvd in Cabin John, MD, at 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, April 30

"Back to the Balkans." Last summer, Michael Hoon and Diana Rodum visited the coast of Croatia and had the good sense to experience it not only by land, but by sea -- sea kayak that is. This evening, they will show and tell us what they experienced. These two always go to the most beautiful of destinations. Come join us and hear the rest of the story.

If you have ideas for a program or would like to host a program yourself, please contact Ed Gertler at e_gertler@yahoo.com or (301) 585-4381.

CCA Weekday Outings

During the summer months, CCA hosts recurring weekly trips and classes. This is a great opportunity to get out on the river, perfect paddling skills, and meet new friends. CCA also has a number of weekend trips for paddlers of all abilities. Check out the trips and events schedule on the last page of this newsletter for details, and plan on joining us this summer for a paddling adventure.

Tuesday Evening Canoe Instruction/Picnic at Fletcher's Boathouse—Join Jim Finucane and friends for a free canoe lesson and potluck picnic every Tuesday evening during the summer. Contact Jim at (301) 365-3485 (before 9 pm, please) or jim.finucane@yahoo.com. First lesson and picnic are on June 3rd.

Wednesday Evening Potomac Paddle—Join trip leader Mike Baummer or John Stapko every Wednesday starting April 2nd through September for an evening paddle on the Potomac.

Thursday Paddlers Dealer's Choice—Join Steve Ettinger on Thursday mornings for a Potomac paddle or an exploratory run down an obscure creek. Trips are decided at the last minute. Send an e-mail to ettingersj@aol.com to get on Steve's mailing list. First trip on March 20, 2008.

In the Works—Weekday evening safety skills development.

Take a Paddling Class with CCA

CCA will be offering the following courses this summer: basic canoeing, beginner whitewater kayak, and introduction to sea kayaking. All courses are taught by ACA-certified instructors. Dates, fees, and registration form will appear in the May/June *Cruiser*.

2008 Swiftwater Rescue Classes

The schedule of CCA swiftwater rescue classes for 2008 is June 7-8, July 26-27, August 16-17.

To register for one of these classes, interested individuals should contact Tim Bromelkamp by email at tbromel@hotmail.com or call (202) 255-4986.

CCA Board Plans Many Changes for 2008

By Jeff Fox, Secretary

The recently reconstituted CCA Board met for the first time late in February to review ongoing programs and to begin planning a series of changes. High on Chair Lee Tucker's agenda is an effort to revamp CCA website as well as to reinstate pool-rolling sessions, if a suitable pool can be found for sessions during March to May this spring.

Tucker was elected CCA Chair in December, replacing Jennifer Plyler who held the post for several years. One of the Board's duties was to review ongoing programs and to begin formulating plans for the forthcoming 2008 paddling season. Here are highlights:

Co-Treasurer Brinton Bohling reports that the CCA budget for 2008 is likely to remain in positive territory in large part because membership has rebounded from a period in which it was falling several years ago. Overall, membership is about 240, and revenue from dues is about \$8,000 per year.

CCA dues are determined in part whether members choose to receive issues of the club newsletter, the *Cruiser*, by e-mail or mail. Board members are reviewing expenses associated with publishing a paper version of the newsletter, and whether to convert to an electronic newsletter. Some board members argue that an electronic format would be a mistake and that CCA should continue mailing at least the final issue of the *Cruiser* for each calendar year to expedite membership renewals. An alternative would be to mail postcards to encourage renewals.

Safety Chair Tim Bromelkamp reports that 2008 dates for the three CCA whitewater safety classes are now set for June 7-8, July 26-27, and August 16-17. Participants will be asked to enroll via e-mail and are urged to do so early because classes fill quickly. As part of these classes last year, Tim also trained instructors who are rebuilding a corps of volunteers who can help to teach such classes in the future. Beth Kohler plans to help design a t-shirt for class participants. Tim plans to step down from his CCA post at the end of 2008.

Instruction Chair Bob Kimmel reports that 2007 was a dismal year for CCA paddling classes. However, an ad hoc paddling instruction session that convened at Fletcher's boathouse on Tuesday evenings last summer was very well attended, according to Star Mitchell. Board members agreed that CCA could boost this program if the CCA website featured paddling classes, particularly those aimed at recreational paddlers and families with young children.

Beth Kohler of the activities committee described efforts to compile an extensive list of paddling trips and other related opportunities for 2008 that is to be updated at least twice monthly. Other plans call for helping trip leaders organize trips, present trip summaries, and bring along leader apprentices.

Downriver Race Co-Chair Star Mitchell said the 2008 race is slated for May 17; Beth Kohler hopes to set up photographers along the course, while Courtney Caldwell will arrange for safety boaters.

Conservation Chair Courtney Caldwell says that work supported by the 2007 CCA grant to improve access for

(Board changes continued on page 3)

53TH RUNNING OF CCA POTOMAC DOWNRIVER RACE SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2008

By V. Star Mitchell, Race Co-Chair

What race do you know of that has lasted consecutively for 53 years? The 53rd running of the CCA Potomac Downriver Race hosted by Sycamore Island will be Saturday, May 17th. **COME AND BE A PART OF MORE THAN A HALF-CENTURY OF LIVING HISTORY AND PADDLE THE RACE! JOIN THE FUN!**

The pre-registration fee is only \$15 if received by May 10th! Obtain a registration form from www.sycamoreisland.org or www.canoecruisers.org or page 4 of this newsletter. Follow the instructions for mailing. At registration the fee is \$25. Tandem teams pay as individuals UNLESS they are a parent and child. A parent and child (under age 18) go for \$15 a boat pre-registered and \$25 a boat at the sign-in. Liability forms must be signed on race day.

The race begins at Rocky Island on the Potomac River just above Wet Bottom Rapid and goes for 7.5 miles to Sycamore Island. At the end of the race, a free T-shirt and a free lunch will be given to all workers and racers, and there will be a ceremony with awards and prizes for the winners. (If you DO NOT attend the ceremony, **do not** expect to receive the above! No awards will be mailed!)

Sign-in begins at 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Great Falls Inn (Maryland) followed by a mandatory meeting for all racers. If the river is over 5 feet, the race will start at Old Anglers Inn. This is a race for **anyone** from the pros to parent/child tandem teams, but this is **NOT A NOVICE** race. All participants should have experience in and be comfortable on up to **Class III rapids**. Any kind of a boat can enter provided it is properly outfitted with adequate floatation (air bags) and the paddlers (and all occupants of the boat) are wearing a helmet and a PFD (life jacket).

If you plan to paddle the race, **PLEASE PRE-REGISTER** to help with our head-count for the number of T-shirts and lunches we need to order. Please DO NOT bring two cars to the race. Parking is a problem. A **shuttle** will be provided.

VOLUNTEER helpers are needed for **safety boats** and for helping at the registration at Great Falls and at the finish at Sycamore Island. Volunteers will receive the gratitude of the racers, a sense of participating in an important annual river event, a race T-shirt, and lunch. Anyone interested in helping out with this year's race should call Star Mitchell at (301) 530-3252 or e-mail starmitchell@verizon.net. **DO JOIN THE FUN!!**

CCA Membership Update

By Ginny DeSeau, Membership Co-Chair

When we sent out the CCA survey in 2005 (can you believe that was so long ago!), we learned from past and then-current members that what the members really wanted from CCA was more trips. Most were satisfied with our classes, our meetings, even our Website; but many wished that we had more trips to offer.

Well, now we have a robust and creative trip coordinating team and our schedule is so full of a variety of trips that we should be expecting lots more participation in the club. When you join the CCA, it will be easier to get to know whose trips you enjoy the most and what is appropriate to your skill level. Make sure that you bring along friends to join in the fun with CCA (and join the club).

If you are a current member, check your mailing label to make sure of when you need to renew. If you are planning on becoming a member, check out www.canoecruisers.org to get a membership form OR call Ginny at (301) 251-2978. The more, the merrier!

(Chair's Cockpit, continued from page 1)

who's taken-on website administration for me, and develop some concrete proposals to improve the Canoe Cruisers Association's public-face on the web. Let's hear from you. Happy Paddling, Lee Tucker

(Board changes continued from page 2)

paddlers of Big Sandy River is nearly complete. Separately, a DC-area group might seek support for a project to improve the ramp at the Potomac River put-in below Anglers Inn. CCA also supports grassroots groups seeking to improve water quality in local rivers and streams.

CCA Webmaster Susan Sherrod is developing plans to improve the CCA Website. In the short term, the focus is on changing the message board to a user name-password format to reduce spam, trolling, and other abuses. The longer-term goal is to redesign the site. The Board voted a budget of \$3,000.00 for these purposes.

Beth Kohler has identified two area pools, one in Takoma, DC, and the other in Landover, MD, that are near-term prospects for pool-rolling sessions.

Passings...

Donna Miller, wife of Glen Miller, passed away on February 21. She was instrumental in keeping the Glen Miller Shuttle on the Cheat running after Glen's accident several years ago. If you would like to send condolences, Glen's address is RD#1, Albright, WV 26519.

Submissions to the Cruiser—Should be made via e-mail to newsletter@canoecruisers.org. No special formatting is required, but plain, block style is preferred. Photos are strongly encouraged and can be e-mailed. Color photos are preferred.

Advertisements

Classified Ads—The first 3 lines are free. Each additional line is 75 cents per line. Send classified ads to newsletter@canoecruisers.org.

Lost & Found and Give-Aways—No charge.

Display Ads—\$5 per column inch, Quarter page \$40, half page \$75, full page \$150, insert \$300-\$450. Display ads can be submitted via e-mail to chairman@canoecruisers.org. Payment must be received prior to publication.

Mailing Address—Lee Tucker, 11301 Rockville Pike, PO Box 2523, Kensington, MD 20891, chairman@canoecruisers.org

For use by Race Committee Only

BIB NUMBER: _____

CLASS: _____

53rd CCA POTOMAC DOWNRIVER RACE - MAY 17, 2008 2008 RACER REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out a form for *EACH* racer. Make sure to COMPLETE and PRINT all fields.

Racer's Name: _____ Male/Female: _____ Age on race day: _____

Address, City, State & Zip: _____ E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____ Emergency Contact (Name/Phone): _____

Parent's Name (if Entrant is under 18): _____ Signature: _____

Please CHECK your Boat Class AND Age Class:

- Boat Class #1: Wildwater Kayak (WWK1) (e.g., Zastera K1s, No Limit, Savage, Match II)
- Boat Class #2: Wildwater Canoe (WWC1) (e.g., Zastera C1s, Bala)
- Boat Class #3: Long Kayak (K1) over 9 feet (e.g., Slalom, Cascade, Isere, Dancer, Outburst, RPM Max)
- Boat Class #4: Short Kayak (K1) under 9 feet (e.g., Fun, All-Star, Godzilla, X, RPM, Fly, Solo, Flirt)
- Boat Class #5: Closed/Decked Canoe Solo (C1)
- Boat Class #6: Open Canoe Solo (OC1)
- Boat Class #7: Canoe Tandem* (OC2 / C2 / Raft) Name of Partner: _____
- Boat Class #8: Mixed Canoe Tandem* (OC2 / C2 / Raft) Name of Partner: _____
- Boat Class #9: Any Kayak Tandem* (K2 / IK) Name of Partner: _____
- Boat Class #10: Parent & Child Class** (Any boat & child under 17) Partner: _____

Make, Model, & Length of boat: ----- _____

- Age Class #1: Junior -> 17 and under
- Age Class #2: Open -> 18 - 29
- Age Class #3: Senior -> 30 - 54
- Age Class #4: Master -> 55 - 69
- Age Class #5: Legend -> 70 and over

**Tandem Boats must use oldest paddler for Age Class*

*** Parent & Child Class does not need to mark an Age Class.*

BCE Overall Winner Awards

- * Fastest Overall*
- * Fastest Kayak (not wildwater)*
- * Fastest Canoe (not wildwater)*
- * Fastest Female*
- * Fastest Tandem*

- ▶ *All paddlers must wear helmets and life vests. Each boat must have proper flotation*
- ▶ *Race Officials at the mandatory check-in (9-10:30am) will confirm boat class and safety equipment*
- ▶ *There will be separate classes for male and female paddlers in each boat class*
- ▶ *Race Officials reserve the right to combine classes when numbers registered for a class are under three*

Entry Fee for Pre-Registration: \$15 (must be received by May 10).

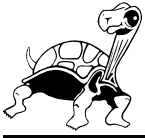
Enclosed \$ _____ Check No. _____

Entry Fee for Race Day Registration: \$25 (9am - 10:30am only).

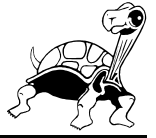
Attached \$ _____

Please enclose your check payable to the "CCA" and mail to:

Star Mitchell, Co-Race Chair, 8705 Hempstead Ave., Bethesda, MD 20817



Canoe Cruisers Association Membership Form



Visit our Web Site! www.canoeclub.org

Please print legibly. Check if Renewal Check if New Member Note: Your age will not be printed in the roster. It is for demographic purposes only.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Other Adult: _____
 Address: _____ Work Phone: _____
 City: _____ E-Mail: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____ Children: Please sign waiver for minors who paddle with CCA.
 Home Phone: _____ Age: _____ Age: _____
 Work Phone: _____ Age: _____ Age: _____
 E-Mail: _____ Age: _____ Age: _____

Occasionally, CCA allows a few carefully selected outfitters to use our mailing list in exchange for a discount for club members. If you wish to be removed from this distribution list please check one or more of the following: No Mail No E-Mail

If you do not wish to be listed in the club roster, which is available only to club members, please check one or more of the following: No Roster No Web Roster

1. The boats I paddle are:
 Please indicate priority: 1 = most often
 K1 (Kayak) _____
 C1 (Decked canoe-1 person) _____
 C2 (Decked canoe-2 person) _____
 OC1 (Open canoe-1 person) _____
 OC2 (Open canoe-2 person) _____
 SK (Sea kayak) _____
 IKR (Inflatable kayak or raft) _____

2. I prefer to paddle class _____ - _____ water.
 Enter A, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
 (A = easiest flatwater; 5 = most difficult)

3. I paddle about _____ days per year.

4. I have been paddling for _____ years.

5. I am interested in: (check all that apply)
 (C) Canoe camping/extended trips
 (W) Weekday paddling (9-5)
 (R) Racing *(See note below.)
 (F) Flatwater paddling
 (P) Poling
 (X) Cross-country skiing
 (S) Sea kayaking
 (M) Family paddling
 (K) Cold-weather paddling

6. I volunteer to help:
 (T) Coordinate a CCA trip
 (E) Teach a CCA class
 (C) Conservation
 (S) Safety
 (A) Social activities
 (P) Publications (newsletter/roster)
 (M) Membership
 (R) Racing H(See note below.)
 (I) Certified Instructor:
 Canoe Kayak Safety

Volunteering is a great way to make new friends!

Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington, DC Member's Release and Waiver of Liability

- I declare that I fully understand and voluntarily **assume the following risks**. Boating on whitewater rivers exposes me to various life threatening dangers, known and unknown, for example: boulders or other obstacles, strainers, ledges, undercut or entrapping formations, holes and hydraulics, high water, cold conditions, and changing conditions, mostly in remote locations.
- Intending to be legally bound for all time, I hereby **release and waive**, for myself, family and heirs, **any right to sue or claim against the Canoe Cruisers Association** (the "Club"), its members, officers, trip coordinators, or any of my fellow paddlers, for any injuries to myself or my equipment which may occur during a club trip or activity. **The release and waiver applies to any negligent act or omission and to any intentional act or omission intended to promote my safety or well-being.** I understand that, generally speaking, negligence means a failure to do an act which a reasonably careful person would do, or the doing of an act which a reasonably careful person would not do, under the same or similar circumstances, to protect himself or herself, or others, from accident, injury or death.
- I agree to be solely responsible for my own safety** and to take every reasonable precaution to provide for my own safety and well-being while participating in a trip or activity sponsored or conducted by the Club. This **release and waiver** is given in the interest of permitting the Club to exist and to serve the paddling community, and to enable myself and my fellow paddlers to feel free to donate our services and help each other without fear of liability. My **release** is given in exchange for similar **wavers** to be granted on my behalf by other members of the Club. My **waiver** has no expiration date.

Signature Date Signature of other adult paddler(s) in the family Date

Parents or Guardians of Minors: I am the parent or guardian of _____,
and I consent to the terms of this **release and waiver** on behalf of the named minor participants, and I further agree to **indemnify the Club**, its members, officers and trip coordinators for any claims arising from the participation of the named minor participant.

Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

Make your check payable to CCA

CCA dues: \$25 by mail, \$15 via email \$ _____

Optional contributions: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Allocation of optional contributions:
 Skills Instruction: \$ _____
 Safety: \$ _____
 Conservation: \$ _____
 CCA General Fund: \$ _____

Mail to: CCA Membership
 11301 Rockville Pike
 P.O. Box 2523
 Kensington, MD 20891
membership@canoeclub.org

* CCA Members interested in racing may also wish to join the Bethesda Center of Excellence. Write to: BCE, PO Box 54, Cabin John, MD 20818

Optional Family-Members Survey

If your family members paddle different kinds of boats or run different types of rivers, we'd like to know.

We've provided these additional "paddler-profile" spaces so that families with diverse paddling interests can, if they choose, give us a better picture of themselves. Of course, we'll never release information about individuals to any outside parties.

Paddler's Name: _____

1. The boats I paddle are:

Please indicate priority: 1 = most often

- K1 (Kayak) _____
- C1 (Decked canoe-1 person) _____
- C2 (Decked canoe-2 person) _____
- OC1 (Open canoe-1 person) _____
- OC2 (Open canoe-2 person) _____
- SK (Sea kayak) _____
- IKR (Inflatable kayak or raft) _____

2. I prefer to paddle class ____ - ____ water.

Enter A, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

(A = easiest flatwater; 5 = most difficult)

3. I paddle about _____ days per year.

4. I have been paddling for _____ years.

5. I am interested in: (check all that apply)

- (C) Canoe camping/extended trips
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- (S) Safety
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- (M) Membership
- (R) Racing H(See note below.)
- (I) Certified Instructor:
 - Canoe
 - Kayak
 - Safety

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- OC2 (Open canoe-2 person) _____
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 - Kayak
 - Safety

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Trip Report: Paddling the Altamaha River in Winter

By Ed Gertler

Global warming just may have a good side. Year-round paddling. Rolling sessions at Maryland chute in February. Hundreds of possible first descents as melting icecaps in Greenland and Antarctica expose new rivers and steep creeks. And no more traffic jams at the Bay Bridge (Delmarva will be under water, so they will have converted the bridge into the mother of all fishing piers). But until all that transpires, the best way to shake the mid-winter blues would be to go south.

A few days after Christmas, Carol and I did just that. We had Georgia on our minds. Our destination was a 105-mile reach of the Altamaha River, with a week set aside to cover those miles.

Some of you may ask, Georgia? Ain't Georgia in a terrible drought? Why indeed it is, and that is why we chose to paddle the Altamaha -- the state's biggest river. Nothing else was up. But some positive points were that low water would make even that big river seem small. And the low water would expose lots of wonderful sand bars for camping.

So for a week, all our worldly possessions and nourishment were packed between the gunnels of my battered old Grumman. Home was either sand bars or the leafy floor of woods that with a few more feet of water in the river would be swamp. As long as you remember not to trip over cypress knees in the swamp and avoid stepping on fire ant nests on the high ground (particularly when getting up to pee during the night), the camping here is pure joy.

Dang! Is there anywhere in the world not ruled by Murphy's Law? On the very first day out, no sooner had we decided to inspect a potential campsite, that the skies opened up and relentlessly dumped heavy rain upon our world for over six hours. But the site was in the woods where we could set up a lean-to tarp over a cooking area. And the air and rain were warm. So we were more inconvenienced than suffering. Then on the second night, a line of thunderstorms rolled through and dumped a lot more rain. Six months of drought, and wouldn't you know it, it rains on our picnic.

Should we have feared flash floods? Elsewhere maybe, but the hydrographs of Georgia lowland rivers are an exercise in slow motion. Every day following those rains, the river rose a bit -- as much as a foot one night. It was still rising three or four days after we finished.

Then the cold front came through, with roaring winds to boot. Fortunately, they were almost always tailwinds, and the warm, intense sun compensated for the un-Georgia-like chill in the air. But come nighttime, it got nippy enough to freeze the water in our bottles and seemingly Carol's toes too.

Initially, sandbars and high wooded banks lined the river. Farther down, swamp forest was more common, occasionally interrupted by high sandy bluffs. Southern ambiance was provided by the curtains of Spanish moss in the trees, the perpetual green of water oaks and live oaks, the bald cypress, some of which were still in their fall-color mode, and the tropical profiles of saw palmetto in the woods. At times the banks were insulted by swaths of summer homes. There was a big power plant at the put-in. And part way down, a huge paper mill put stink in the air that tormented us for several miles. But outside of that, all was wild, natural, and as far as we could discern, remote.

Perhaps the biggest, most pleasant surprise of the trip came as we neared the end. Here the river forms a delta. We



Carol enjoys the morning while she waits to depart. (Photo by Ed Gertler.)

learned that there are dozens of miles of interconnecting channels and did our best to explore them. Many are but twisting, little creeks, while all take you back into a vast cypress-tupelo swamp that, though all logged at one time, still hide some magnificent, old-growth cypress specimens. Though swampy, there are still some chunks of high ground on which to camp. At one such site, we learned the tradition of camping goes back way before the arrival of Europeans, as evidenced by the mounds of oyster shells salted by shards of primitive pottery. If I have sold you on the virtue of such a modest winter escape, I offer one last bit of advice. We have concluded that jumping from the tranquility of such a canoe trip back to the madness of life in DC can result in metal shock and trauma. So to decompress, we like to finish each such excursion with a trip out to nearby Cumberland Island National Seashore. A day of hiking on an empty beach or in the haunted live-oak forests behind the dunes feels very good after a week of sitting and kneeling. I take particular delight in stalking oblivious, foraging armadillos and pulling their tails. And finally, just to break the long slog back home, a few hours early morning stroll around the historic district of Savannah keeps it a vacation almost to the very end. We look forward to reading your trip report in next year's *Cruiser*.



A camp along the Altamaha. (Photo by Carol Pamer.)

2008 CCA Trips and Events Schedule

N=Novice **HI**=High Intermediate **PN**=Practiced Novice **AI**=Advanced Intermediate **LI**=Low Intermediate **A**=Advanced **I**=Intermediate **E**=Expert
Check the online calendar for updates and the message board for last minute trips. To coordinate a trip, contact Gus Anderson at (703) 903-9738 or boatingus@aol.com.

APRIL

- 2—Wed. Evening Potomac Paddle, Mike Baumer
- 4-6—Webster Springs Festival, Elk River, Peter Bross
- 5—Potomac Watershed Cleanup, Kathleen Sengstock
- 6—Rappahannock Watershed, Henrik Van Oss
- 13—Dealer’s Choice, class II/II+, Henrik Van Oss
- 18-27—WV Week of Rivers, class III-V, Reservations req’d., ronald.a.ray@verizon.net. Trip is rated I/A.
- 18-20—Smokehole Camper w/ Boy Scout Troup 167, class I/II, \$15/person for camping, breakfast, dinner. Campers bring lunch. Mark Wray, (703) 222-4842 or redshoestwo@juno.com. Trip is rated N.
- 19—Violette’s Lock, Bill Bransom
- 19-20—Stoneycreek Rendezvous-need trip leader
- 19-20—TBD - Janes Island or Stoneycreek Rendezvous, Lunar Lunacy, class I-III, Chip Walsh, (410) 562-3466 or chipwalsh@comcast.net. Trip is rated N/I. See Jan/Feb *Cruiser* for Lunar Lunacy schedule, details.
- 19—Bloomington, class II, Jennifer Plyler, (301) 445-4815 (before 8 pm). Trip is rated LI.
- 26—Staircase, Ginny DeSeau
- 30—CCA meeting, see details on pg. 2

MAY

- 3-4—Cheatfest, www.cheat.org
- 3—Swiftwater Rescue Exercise, Cheat River, conducted with Parsons VFD and ACA, Charlie Duffy
- 3—Potomac above Great Falls to Heron Rookery, Frank Daspit
- 3—Bloomington, David Cottingham
- 3—Staircase w/ Boy Scout Troup 167, Mark Wray
- 4—Bloomington, “Vanity, vanity boater is thy name”. Boaters must be willing to paddle towards the photographer. Limit 7. Beth Koller.
- 17—53rd Potomac Downriver Race, see pgs. 3-4

Weekly paddle trips/classes are located on page 2!!

MAY

- 17-18—Jug Bay, MD, Lunar Lunacy, Chip Walsh
- 17-18—Bloomington, Steve Burstein (K1) and Ginny DeSeau (OC1)
- 17-18—Intro to Dragon Boat Racing, Thompson’s Boat House, Tom Prunier
- 24-26—Weekend of Rivers at Teeter’s, Courtney Caldwell, Daryl Hall, and Mike Martin
- 24-25—Sea Kayaking-Eastern Shore, Michael Hoon
- 31—Seneca Creek Cleanup, Pt. 1, bring chainsaw, Jim Finucane, (301) 365-3485 (before 9 pm) or jim.finucane@yahoo.com.
- 31—NB Potomac—Keyser -Pinto, class I/II, Ed Gertler, (301) 585-4381 or e_gertler@yahoo.com. Trip is rated N.
- 31—Dealer’s Choice, Intermediate, Andrew Petukov

JUNE

- 1—Bloomington, Larry Lempert
- 7—Lower Yough, class III, Jennifer Plyler, call before Thurs. for permit, (301) 445-4815 (before 8 pm). Trip is rated I.
- 7—Seneca Creek Cleanup, Pt. 2, see May 31 details.
- 8—Staircase, Barb Brown
- 14—10th Annual Tim Gavin Race
- 14—Seneca Creek Cleanup, Pt.3, see May 31 details.
- 14—Potomac, kids, dogs welcomed, Jean McAulay
- 14-15—James River, Lunar Lunacy, Chip Walsh
- 15—Lower Yough, Dave Stoesz
- 21—Lower Yough, Jennifer Plyler, see Jun. 7 details.
- 21—MD Chute, attainment race, boating games, and evening picnic, families welcomed, Gus Anderson
- 21—Potomac, tandem boating, Tom Prunier
- 21—Back Creek, WV class I, Jim Riley
- 22—Violette’s Lock, Kathleen Sengstock
- 28-29—Novice canoe trip, Michael Hoon

JULY

- 4th—Enjoy Fireworks on the Potomac, Star Mitchell

FOR SALE: Necky Looksha touring kayak, yellow, exc. cond., Fredericksburg, VA, \$750/obo, contact Wayne Mathis at MATHISW@si.edu.

Canoe Cruisers Association



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