



The Paddle

Summer 2009

www.masondixoncanoecclub.org

Message from the President (Picnic !)

Greetings my boating buddies,

MDCC Annual Picnic & Paddle

Description: MDCC Annual Picnic & Paddle

Sunday August 30th

4:00 PM - Picnic (set-up at 3:00 PM)

12:00 noon - Antietam Creek Pre-Picnic Paddle from Devil's Backbone Park to the picnic location.

- Burgers, dogs, buns and sodas (Coke, Diet coke, Root Beer, Sprite) will be provided.
- Please bring a dish to share
- BYOB
- Volunteers to help set up and clean up afterward are much appreciated!

Location (same as the past few years) at Outdoor Excursions' headquarters near Boonsboro, MD.

DIRECTIONS:

From Boonsboro, MD, take Rt. 34 toward Sharpsburg.

Turn Right on Wheeler Rd.

Turn Left on Girl Scout Rd.

Make a right turn, then bear to the left on Osage Rd. (not the other driveway!) Follow Osage to the end to Scott's property. Look for the pavilion and other cars. Park along the creek side of the property.

See you there!

John Navarro karate1953@yahoo.com

Trip Report !

The MDCC 2009 annual Lower Yough day was on August 1st. We had 3 first timers in hard boats and all did fantastic! Jonathan Russo, Lisa Kara and Bill Rogers. We had about 20 MDCCers having a blast on a great day with levels around 2 feet. Here are some highlights and a trip report by Lisa.



Lisa Kara preparing to plant the paddle

The weather was perfect, meaning it was sunny and the water wasn't too cold. I had been really excited for the LY trip all week until Saturday morning when my excitement turned to something between mild apprehension and heart-pounding fear. While it was my first run in a hardboat, I had been down the LY the previous summer: once in a raft and twice in a ducky. I think what worried me most is that, last summer I swam at Cucumber--TWICE in a ducky. Was I insane thinking I could make it through in my kayak? To my good fortune, Sylvia offered to lead me down the river. Bill Rogers, another first timer, was under Mike's careful watch. Bill and I had been on the local Potomac several times over the past few weeks getting ready for this run, ferrying across Whitehorse and spotting each others' rolls. Yet, just a glance at the LY Falls dwarfed our Potomac at summer levels. Bill and I exchanged nervous "good lucks" then we were off.

I watched Sylvia paddle through Entrance Rapid gracefully--she even made it look enjoyable! With her excellent guidance, I made it through this first rapid. Then, just as I was starting to enjoy my success, I floated into a hidden rock and flipped. Being upside down in the water is exactly what I hoped NOT to do! Thankfully, I had been practicing my roll, so I set up and, gladly, was upright again. Okay, onto my nemesis, Cucumber. Sylvia explained the line to me. I had thought about it many times since swimming there last year--paddle left to the eddy, and avoid the dreaded hole! I was really glad Mike was behind me *just in case* I swam. The last thing that went through my mind was *be aggressive*. As I paddled, I saw the hole on my right.

That was a good thing because it meant that I must be to the left of the hole which was where I wanted to be. As I got closer to the eddy on river left, I was head deep in whitewater, but still upright. Then, before I knew it, I was actually in the eddy, and I finally realized that I was having fun.

We continued down the river and even played a bit, but Dimple was looming ahead. I knew I could sneak or portage this monster, but that seemed like cheating, and I really wanted to do the whole LY. Sylvia asked me if I wanted to get out and scout Dimple. I declined the offer. Seeing the warning sign before the rock was bad enough--I really did not want to see what I was getting myself into. I trusted Sylvia and had discussed the line there with Mike many times before the trip. I watched Mike paddle through with Bill following. I lost sight of Bill's boat, but his helmet remained in view, meaning that he made it through Dimple without flipping. This was very encouraging for me. Sylvia's final words of advice were, "whatever happens, stay in your boat." Then, she ventured into the LY's scariest rapid. I followed, trying to stay on Sylvia's exact line with Dimple Rock on the left, angled right and toward the eddy on the right. I refused to look at Dimple, concentrating on Mike's blue helmet in the eddy where I was really hoping to end up. I heard someone yell, "paddle hard!" and I gave it all I had. Within a few seconds, I felt the calm water of the eddy beneath my boat, and Dimple was behind me. I could see Bill downstream, looking relieved, in another eddy. We made it!

Making it through Cucumber and Dimple gave me confidence for the rest of the run. My fear was replaced with the same joy and excitement I have found on other rivers. I watched Chuck play in his new Pyranah and was so happy that he encouraged me to take up kayaking. Thanks to everyone for a fabulous first run on the LY.



Bill seal launching at jump rock



Dave Russo gettin some air



Jonathan at Cucumber



Brek prepared for the rafts at Swimmers



Mike Moore with perfect form



Jim Norton works it



J salutes



Ben shows how to walk on water at Swimmers



Ron Shanholz surfing it up



Chuck getting his face washed



Rob thinking of home brew



Brenda wondering if paddles come in pink



Chris in the shortest boat



Sylvia relaxing in the foam



Some low water humor.

2009 Officers

President: John Navarro
Vice President: Ericka Hoffmann
Secretary: Sheila Chapelle
Treasurer/Membership: Sylvia DuRant

2009 BOD

Merrill Pearson
Vitas Eidukevicius
Jamie Geraghty
Jim Norton
Dan Eigenbrode
Dave Russo
Ron Shanholz

2009 MDCC Schedule

The club has decided to go to a “working” online schedule at the link below. This schedule will constantly be updated and anyone that desires can add a trip or change the details at their leisure.

If you would like to add a trip contact Ericka: speleofire@yahoo.com

If you would like to have privileges to change or add your own trips, contact Vitas:
vas@frontiernet.net

<http://www.masondixoncanoecub.org/trips.html>

Now is the best time for beginners. Look to the message board for Thursday night paddles in Harpers Ferry!