



The Paddle

(end of) Summer 2012

<http://www.masondixoncanoecclub.com/>

Where did the summer go?

2012 MDCC BOD and Officers

Your 2012 Officers:

President: John Enagonio

Secretary: Sheila Chapelle

Vice President: Ericka Hoffmann

Treasurer/Membership: Fred Dalauro

Your 2012 Volunteers (excluding trip coordinators, instructors, etc):

Newsletter Editor and Membership chair: Dan Eigenbrode

Conservation Chair: Chuck Davis

Safety Chair: Jim Norton

Pool Session Coordinator: Dave Russo

Web Master: Vitas Eidukevicius and Chuck Davis

Your 2012 Board of Directors:

Merrill Pearson

Bobby Miller

Jim Norton

Jamie Geraghty

Vitas Eidukevicius

Dave Russo

Ron Shanholtz

John Navarro

2012 MDCC Picnic

Was held Sunday August 19th at Outdoor Excursions. An Antietam paddle followed by a cookout in the Pavilion. Rain threatened the day, but not the spirit. Thanks to JD Pearl for leading the paddle. A little over 30 members, family and guests enjoyed a cookout under the pavilion or some smores by the fire ring. Thanks to Scott again for letting us have our event at his place.

MDCC's Got Talent!

Paddlers Increase Their Skills on Lower Youghiogheny

John Enagonio

One of the goals MDCC officers and board had for this year was a greater number of organized trips with greater attendance. In other words, have trips announced further ahead of time rather than just a handful of friends pulling together trips on short notice. This would help boaters experienced on the local runs try new rivers and progress in their skills.

Trip coordinators came together for numerous Lower Yough trips over the summer. As a club we can be proud that several first-timers ran the Lower Yough, and some who had run it before got to a much greater comfort level on it.

The Lower Yough is definitely more difficult and intimidating than the North Branch Potomac or Shenandoah Staircase, the rivers on which most of us progress from practiced novice skill level to intermediate skill level. If you go there before you are ready, rapids such as Cucumber, Dimple and Rivers End can cause a serious spanking. All told, this makes the Lower Yough the perfect river to rocket your skills into the advanced intermediate level.

“Yes it’s harder than the Shenandoah, but in some ways it’s also just like any other river,” said club secretary Sheila Chapelle, who coordinated several Lower Yough trips over the summer. “If you paddle it more frequently you start to build up your familiarity and your confidence. When you reach that threshold you just start to isolate the couple of rapids where you might have a particular problem and get someone to give you pointers to overcome those hurdles.”

Club member Earl Baer ran the Lower Yough for the first time in July, and has returned and had several clean runs since then. “I’m fine running it with someone else who has run it before but I sure wouldn’t be the one to take a first-timer down,” he said. “When you get to Dimple you sort of have to expect the unexpected.”

Dimple and Rivers End make most paddlers’ list for the hardest rapids on the run. Both rate III+ or IV because both involve powerful water, a technical move and danger. Dimple involves a tricky move past a foam pile at Dimple Rock which is undercut and has killed several boaters. The danger is actually higher for rafters or ducky paddlers because they can be ejected to a vulnerable place more quickly, while a kayaker who gets in trouble is likely to be swept past the undercut before he or she ends up swimming. The technical move at Rivers End is intimidating because you are entering between two huge rocks that block your view of the sharp left turn you must make while entering to avoid pinning rocks in the run-out.

While these and several other challenging rapids are on the second half of the run, Entrance and Cucumber are the first two rapids and will get your heart pumping. Entrance has three separate segments of powerful wave trains; none of them are particularly difficult but you want to have a good line and catch eddies between them to get lined up properly for the next segment. Cucumber is the steepest rapid on the entire run; again it is not super difficult if you are following someone who knows the line but you can get bruised up pretty bad if you are off line and flip.

“That river was a bugaboo for me for the past four years,” said Susan Reynolds. “It feels great to overcome that and finally feel comfortable on it. Just do it over and over, and you will eventually reach this point too. An occasional bumpy swim your first few times – it’s worth it.”

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Part of the reward of the Lower Yough is that, once you reach a certain level of confidence you have years of happy paddling ahead of you. That's because the river is relatively close to home, runs all summer and has lots of variations once you get comfortable with the standard lines. While there basically are recovery pools after most of the rapids, several rapids are long and complex enough to practice aggressive eddy turns, peel-outs and ferries which are necessary skills on the next harder set of rivers like the Cheat Canyon or the Savage.

Here are a few details your party should know about:

- 1) The first section of the river bends back on itself and is known as "The Loop." At a steep 45 feet per mile gradient, it has a well-marked takeout after Railroad Rapid, about 1.5 miles into the run. Basically you are running the steepest set of rapids with some of the best playboating possibilities without the need to set shuttle because you can hike and carry back to the beginning.
- 2) The Lower Yough has a permit system for Saturday and Sunday runs to limit river traffic, although on a weekday you can just show up and paddle.
- 3) There is a internet-accessible gauge at Ohiopyle, Pa., the beginning of the run. The typical summertime levels of 1.5' to 2.5' are great for first-timers. Above 3' the run gets pushy and you should probably have several clean runs on the Lower Yough under your belt before trying this level.



Lindsey picks up a friendly Butterfly on the North Branch

Name that Rapid !



First to post the correct answers on the designated thread for this (thread titled "Name that rapid" started by DanE) wins something at the banquet. This is rapid is so scary you must run it _____ !

Trip Reports (3 of them!)

North Branch of the Potomac 09/03/2012

JD Pearl

Participants- JD, Brent, Bonnie, Noah, Earl, Susan, Jean, Keith and Lindsay

After meeting at the usual spot and stuffing two cars to the gills, we headed to the take out of the “North Branch”. A bunch of river stories were swapped in the car on the way up and Noah brought up Jackson Kayaks as he currently knows them which led to a discussion of the history of boat designs and designers from the Perception Corsica years through modern day. It wasn’t a detailed documentary mind you but a very neat exchange all the same. I think Noah was shocked to hear that- THE Eric Jackson designed boats for Wavesport. I had a lot of fun walking down memory lane as I recounted a few cool boats I have owned and some I watched come on line and go by the wayside. There were tales of Cheat Fest, the Gauley and the Nescopeck and Tohickon Creeks. And isn’t that what it’s all about? Giving a young up and coming paddler some things to think about and some things to look forward to?

We drove through heavy rains at times on the way out. The forecast for that area was for scattered thunderstorms and we felt as though we may very well be paddling in the rain all day. Truth be told, I don't think it rained while we were on the river at all. Indeed, Keith reported that they got no rain while camping the night before. Days like this are always tough to dress for. The group who went the day before told tales of freezing on the river making it easy for the rest of us to dress heavier rather than lighter. So on went the wetsuit and a light layer or two and a dry top. I was hot at times and just right at other times so I guess we got it close enough.

The play holes at the put in were a lot of fun and Noah and Lindsay and I made our best attempts to play it well. Brent worked on some practice rolls. He says he was shocked at the coldness of the water. It took his breath and he almost flubbed the first roll. Brent had 2 of 3 swims this day. I know he went there with all intentions of evolving his picture perfect flat water roll into a combat roll. Sadly, the river gods were not with him on this and conspired against him.

With a broach on a mid river rock in a really trashy rapid, he was stuck solid like a fly on fly paper , tilting upstream and unable to move. Eventually he tipped upstream and bailed out of the boat. It's tough if not impossible to roll in those shallow, pummeling conditions. The next was at Robins Nest where we all decided to run the right line avoiding the easy left hand sneak route. When Brent arrived at the small eddy between the hole and the final drop and it was already full of boats he hesitated and the eddy line got him. Knowing where he was and that it was not a good place to flip, he opted to eject. It's actually a good thing we went right. While sitting in the eddy, I observed tree branch extending fully into the sneak line so it wasn't an option.

Not to be outdone, Bonnie got caught by the shallow boulders above the lunch stop and flipped and found that rolling in that shallow of water may not be an idea that your shoulders will appreciate. She did the best job of self rescue that I have seen in a while and we had her and her boat and paddle in the eddy next to the lunch stop hole on river right.

"The kids" tore the river up playing like crazy all the way down the river. Lindsay was heard saying "I'm going right down the middle" at Robins Nest which led to a backender but a successful completion of the rapid. Noah rolled 25 times if he rolled once. He is on that fast, steep learning curve that we all have seen and he has no fear. He is putting the bow and stern into every feature he can find.

Jean was working the river like a professional slalom boater catching eddies everywhere and cutting the rapids up into little bite sized pieces. Her form in the boat is as graceful as it can be. I think Keith, Earl and Susan were content to watch the kids honing their skills, watching all the fun and helping pick up the pieces.

We ran into the Chapelle raft trip at the Lunch spot and caught up on the latest in their busy lives. Seth is in the middle of the world freestyle championships and is doing quite well. Some of us remember him in a Dagger Blast C-1 when he was about 10 years old coming down the very river we stood next to. Go Seth!



Brent at the lunch stop



Kayaks rest after a days work

Lower Yough Intro Turns Into Casselman Trip

John Enagonio

A weekender planned as an introduction to the Lower Yough morphed July 28 into a trip on the nearby Casselman River after locally heavy rainfall kicked the LY level up to about 3.5' on the Ohiopyle gauge. With one group camping and another driving out for the day, trip coordinators decided to play it safe and go for an alternate run. Experienced Lower Yough paddlers will typically be out there up to about 4' but the recommended range for first timers is 1.5 to 2.5.

It ended up being a beautiful day on the Casselman at a perfect level with a few technical moves and surf spots available on a scenic run. This river, classified as II-III, is a free-flowing stream that can be hard to catch in summer which made it all the more fun to be there with a large club group. There were 15 on the trip and we completed the trip, retrieved the put-in vehicles and drove away before a late afternoon thundershower brought in another half an inch of local rainfall. Thanks to Dan Eigenbrode for organizing the trip and for rallying two of us to do an early a.m. run the next morning on the Lower Yough Loop. Dan had posted the intro trip several months ahead of time and that helped to generate lots of interest in running the Lower Yough, in turn raising interest in other LY pickup trips. Others helping to coordinate trips and shepherd less-experienced paddlers on the Lower Yough at various times this summer include Sheila and Pete Chapelle, Ron Shanholtz and Shawn D.

I'm a relative newcomer to whitewater kayaking, this being my third year, so I head into each paddling season looking forward to taking on exciting new paddling adventures. Going into this, the 2012 paddling season, I included three Pennsylvania Rivers, the Casselman, the Lower Yough, and Stonycreek River, on my paddling to-do list.

Stonycreek River

Earl Baer

After reading river descriptions on American Whitewater and other paddling sites that describe the Stony as "great play all over it...It primarily consists of ledges coming at you from all directions, though there are a few boulders thrown in as well"..."There are 15 rapids within the four-mile Stonycreek Canyon – all Class III or IV rapids- making this one of the longest continuous sets of rapids in the East"..."What a great creek! Like the Tohockon, but bigger, like the Yough, but more continuous and playful", the Stony shot to the top of my to-do list. The task would be to find someone who had knowledge of the Stony and would be willing to lead a first timer.

The Dogg, AKA Bobby Miller, posted a proposed June 2nd Stonycreek River trip, on the MDCC board, so I enthusiastically added my name to the list of club members who planned to venture into the wilds of Pennsylvania for the trip. I was very excited to be heading for the river that has rapids with rousing names like Showers, Surf Lab, Locomotive, Three Ugly Sisters, Rooster Tail, Hydro, Beast, Pipeline, and Dislocation.

On the morning of June 2nd the trip participants would meet at the Route 65 Park & Ride to find the weather dreary but improving. After a lengthy discussion about suitable flow levels and the weather conditions Ron Shanholtz, Susan Reynolds, Vitas, Chuck, Dan Eigenbrode, Rob, Dan Gore and his son Ethan, and I loaded into

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our vehicles and headed northwest for the Stony. Once there a couple from Michigan joined us at the put-in giving us a group of 11 paddlers. Unfortunately Bobby couldn't make the trip that morning, due to an illness in his family, so he elected to paddle swollen local creeks keeping him closer to his home.

We arrived at the Stony to find the water stained brown. Soaking rains the day before and overnight had the Stony flowing at about 750 CFS, just over 3.5' gauge height, so the scheduled dam release was not necessary to make the river runnable. It was fortunate the rains came; a Stony release was not possible because a log had become jammed in the valve used to release water from the Quemahoning dam.

Once on the water, Ron took the point, leading Susan, Chuck, and myself down the river, with Vitas following, while Dan and Rob and the others took advantage of the many play opportunities the Stony has to offer. Ron headed into the first rapid "Johnson's Hole", which is also known as the "Surf Laboratory", with Susan and me closely in tow. Ron and Susan had a great line, skirting the edge of a river right pour over boulder, past a munchy hole, and on into a river left eddy. As for my line, well, was not so good. I didn't paddle assertively enough and dropped over the pour over rock, with my kayak pointing in a left to right angle, into the hole, and I found myself up-side down. Instinctively I got into a setup position, a quick roll, and all was well. After my flip and roll I joined Ron and Susan in the eddy, where we waited for Chuck and Vitas.

After my roll the remainder of the run on the seemingly continuous series of class III rapids was without incident. Following Johnson's Hole is the rapid "Test Tube Hole". Test Tube Hole is the beginning of a stretch of river, down to an overhead railroad bridge, that offers more than 10 great play spots. The next rapid is Lower Railroad Rapid which starts just below the railroad bridge. It begins with a long slide followed by a tall haystack wave that is immediately followed by "Locomotive" Rapid. Locomotive is a nearly river wide ledge that is run on river right. Then we were on to the rapid known as "The Wall". The Wall is comprised of a hard drop to the right and a shear slope is on the left. Next comes a series of rapids called "Three Ugly Sisters". The Sisters is a sequence of three separate rapids with great surfing and play opportunities. Following the Sisters the river bottlenecks down into a hole on river right called "Scout". After Scout comes one of the two manmade hazards, the "Boarder dam", an un-runnable hazard which must be portaged on river left.

After Boarder Dam the Stony calms down a bit but stay alert, there are still plenty of features that make the lower section interesting. Pipeline, the second manmade hazard on the Stony, is a nearly river wide hole with a tongue down the left side. Then comes "Hermit" followed by "Dislocation" a river right hole that is easily avoided on river left.

Following my June 2nd first descent of the Stony I've paddled the Casselman River twice and the Lower Yough on four occasions, and very much enjoy both of those rivers, but The Stonycreek River, Foustwell to Carpenters Park, known as Stony Canyon, has become my favorite river to paddle. Because of the regular dam releases, early in the season, I've had the opportunity to run the Stony 5 times at levels from 3.2' to just over 4' and have had a blast each time.

JOIN ! RENEW !

Send in your membership dues and forms soon! 2013 banquet and pool sessions just around the corner! Go here for the info to do so:

<http://www.masondixoncanoecclub.com/MDCC/Join.html>

Ron Shanholz surfs it up on the Casselman



John Enagonio navigates down stream

Earl Baer manages the creek feeding Casselman at the putin



Susan Reynolds side surfing

Mark your Calendar !

MDCC Board of Director Meeting

TBD. Look for the date and place on the schedule and message board. Everyone too busy paddling to get this together in time for this newsletter. There are several spots opening up on the BOD and the Officer slots. Time for new blood! This meeting is the only “official” meeting the club does and is open to all members for their ideas and input. Decisions will be made involving finances, banquet, picnics and more.

Contact: John Enagonio enagonio@yahoo.com

Trips 2012

Lots of them happened! More to come in the remaining time for 2012. Most releases and TNP will be over soon.

Check the message board and schedule for updates on all MDCC events and trips.

<http://www.masondixoncanooclub.com/viewforum.php?f=3>

<http://www.masondixoncanooclub.com/viewforum.php?f=3#TripCalendar>

Editor's Notes

Thanks and Congrats

To all the 2012 TNPer! Thursday nights rocked in Harpers Ferry. Thanks to the leaders and the up and coming ones. Great stuff. Hats off to Dave Russo for being the man!

River Access issues at Sandy Hook

Threats and signage have once again threatened the access point we have all used for many years. Many years! There are alternatives that may require longer flat water trips or paying a commercial outfitter. This issue is being discussed on the message board with President John Enagonio taking the lead.

<http://www.masondixoncanooclub.com/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=421>

See you on the river !!

Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers



Melius vivit qui remigat

Who paddles lives better