

# The Yakker

Lowcountry Paddler's Club Newsletter

September 2011



From the President,

I sent out an email to several adventure seeking friends suggesting we do a white water class put on by Charleston County Parks. I had taken this class about 4 years ago, and I had a lot of fun and, I learned a lot. Mike Struve, Bill Guiffre, Leslie Maples,

and Tara Harney join me and 5 other students for this fun day on the Saluda. Josh Hall and Diana Beltnap were the instructors.

We were not told until the ride up there that the water was about 50 degrees. Mike suggested it would have been good to know that beforehand. The first drill Josh had us do was a wet exit. Though the water was very cold, as soon as I got out of the water and into the 90 degree air temperature I was quite comfortable. The next drill was to swim – well sort of. In whitewater you swim feet first and bottom down so that your feet don't get entrapped in anything and that if anything does get hit it is your well padded area. After this exercise Mike and Bill agreed that all my emails would be going into their spam folder from now on.



As sea kayakers we were all use to edging away from our turns but in whitewater boats you are suppose to edge into the turn. You are also supposed to always edge downstream. If you don't edge or edge up stream the current can grab your boat and flip you over.

Some of us learned this lesson the hard way with several capsizes while practicing a maneuver called an eddy peel outs.

After lunch we then did a short trip down the river to run a couple of rapids. The first rapid we ran seemed huge to me. I could have sworn it was a class 4 but it was just a class 2. Diana led the pack down. I was in the middle and was behind a fellow named Will Smith. Will got off the line and ended up stuck on the big rock. I passed him by as I went by and asked him if he was okay.

On the next rapid I was the one that got stuck on a rock. Bill passed me by while I was trying to wiggle off the rock. He later said it was surreal seeing me stuck on that rock.

Both Mike and Bill surfed a standing wave that formed at the last rapid. It looked like a lot of fun but I was wiped out. Leslie had a big smile on her face all day and said she had a blast. We all had a great time and learned a lot. If there are other people interested in something like this CCPRC would be willing to do some kind of contract program for us. If we can get enough people I am thinking of setting something up for next year.

**Helon Everett**



CLUB PADDLES

- Sun, Sept 24 Edisto River**, ~15 miles.  
\*\* Weeks Landing to Marsoldfield Landing.  
andrewburgess8@comcast.net
- Sat, Oct 1 Black River**, ~10 miles.  
\*\* Ervin Landing to Pump house Landing  
Bill: [mc181racer@yahoo.com](mailto:mc181racer@yahoo.com)
- Sat, Oct 8 Ashley River**, ~12 miles.  
\*\* Ervin Landing to Pump house Landing  
Michael: [mmstruve@gmail.com](mailto:mmstruve@gmail.com)
- Sat, Oct 16 Filbin Creek**, ~10 miles.  
\*\* Ervin Landing to Pump house Landing  
Bill: [mc181racer@yahoo.com](mailto:mc181racer@yahoo.com)

Meet at turn off to Marsoldfield Landing at 9 am, double up boats, and leave for Weeks Landing at 9:15.

Meet at Jamestown gas station at 8:30 am, double up boats and leave at 8:45.

Low tide is a little after noon. Meet at Pierpont Landing at 9:30 and launch at 9:45..

High tide is about 1PM. Meet at Filbin Creek Landing at 9 and launch at 9:30.

*"Making the most of our beautiful coast!"*



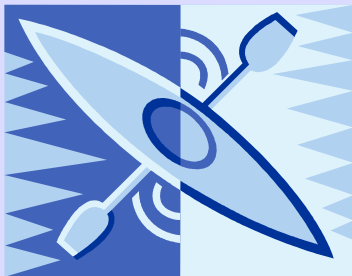
### LOWCOUNTRY PADDLERS

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  
September 19th at 7 p.m.**



### LCP Club Officers

**President  
Helon Everett**



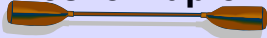
**Vice-President  
Michele Powell**



**Treasurer  
David Bearse**



**Secretary  
Leslie Maple**



## A Kayaker—Defined

by Andy Anderson

In my (not so) humble opinion a kayaker can only be defined as someone belonging to one of two distinct species: Those who pilot touring kayaks and those who pilot white water kayaks. There may also be a couple of subspecies, which I'll get to later. No one else, driving anything else, is a kayaker!

A touring kayak can be configured in many ways but in general terms it's; long, narrow, has one or more hatches for storing gear, bulkheads or floatation, a small cockpit, bungees for holding other gear, and deck lines around its circumference. Inside is all of the gear required for our safety and comfort. A white water boat is configured for stability and maneuverability in white water conditions and has internal floatation to keep it from becoming a permanent water hazard. Stored inside is generally a water bottle and you. Any other water craft is NOT a true kayak!

Having said all of that I will concede that those who drive surf skis are an elite sub-species that are a class unto themselves. There is another subspecies I'm forced recognize, simply because they exist in large numbers. Those who insist on paddling their ungainly Pungos. Our Croc footed, book writing, paddling brother Ralph seems to do well in them and can paddle most of us into submission.

But lately there has been a proliferation of plastic pointy 'thingies' being sold to folks who buy them and now think they'll be kayakers. They hot foot down to their local big box store, plunk down two or three hundred dollars for one, pick out a plastic paddle and a 12 buck 'life preserver' and now they're in business. They head for their local water course, neatly tuck their life preserver behind their seat and off they go with their legs hanging out on the foredeck. They now think they are....kayakers. Being the politically correct kind of guy I am, I will call them trans-vesseled paddlers (e.g: They are really one thing but truly believe they're something else). I talked with one a few weeks ago and was informed that no instruction or classes were required for flat water paddling. Anyone, I was told, could be a kayaker. No skills are needed. Of course these folks continue to make all manner of ill-advised on-water decisions and tend to fall out of their boats on a regular basis. Disaster is lurking in wait for these waterborne miscreants, and one day it will gobble them up.

Something to think about – if I were to duct tape some folded cardboard to the front and back of an inner tube (assuming I could find the front and back), would this contraption be a kayak? If I sat inside would I then be a kayaker? I don't think so! Being a kayaker REQUIRES certain skill sets. Some are better than others at acquiring those skills. Sadly most of you are better at them than....me.

Those of us who are, in fact, kayakers know we don't know everything about the sport and we are always eager to learn more. We practice new skills. We take classes, we read, we borrow and even (on occasion) buy instructional DVDs. And we learn from each other. (Who among you hasn't envied Helon's effortless forward stroke?) We have the gear on hand to rescue ourselves as well as and others. We know what to do when conditions unexpectedly go to seed on us.

By way of example, a bunch of us were paddling at the mouth of the Edisto River one

*(Continued on page 7)*

*\* This month's cover photo courtesy of Michael Condon @ Horseshoe Creek July '11*

## August 15th, 2011 - Minutes

President Helon Everett opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

36 members and 4 non-members were in attendance. Helon introduced the Vice President, Michele Powell and the Secretary, Leslie Maple. The Treasurer, Dave Bearse was not in attendance. She welcomed non-members and visitors

Helon introduced guest speaker Josh Hall who is the Outdoor Programs Director of the Charleston Country Parks and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) on James Island and Diana Belknap CCPRC Water Sport Coordinator.

Josh talked about the relationship between the Low Country Paddlers Club and the CCPRC. He explained the club's evolution from its beginning as part of the County Park system to its separate entity today.

Josh talked about new programs introduced into the water sport program, such as Stand- Up Paddle Boarding, and a new annual 3-day Power Paddle Camp. Next year the Power Paddle Camp will be held April 13-16th. CCPRC has pro bono programs in support of Anchors Away and Special Olympics that offer opportunities for the disabled to take part in water sport activities.

Josh showed photos of LCP members who took part in a recent white water kayak training class on the Saluda River and slides of the East Coast Kayak Festival 2011. The 2012 festival will be held April 20-22. Josh took questions from the members after his presentation.

### OLD BUSINESS

Helon asked for a motion to approve the July 2011 minutes as they were published in the newsletter and on the web site. A motion was recognized and the minutes approved as published.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Not available since Dave Bearse was out of town.

### TRIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chairman Ralph Earhart asked Andy Burgess, Mike Struve and Julie Feely to talk about the trips that are coming up in August and September.

Please check the web site and the newsletter for detailed trip information.

Mike Struve spoke about camping and kayaking trips in Florida that he is planning. He welcomed everyone to keep an eye out for some of the trips he is working on such as a paddle with Manatees in February near the Crystal River. He has other camping trips in the works and will post them. Mike said to "keep an eye out" for more information.

### NEW BUSINESS

Suzette Urick has accepted the position as the LCP Safety and Training Officer. Mike Struve will be the club's camping coordinator.

Helon and Michele presented Mike Struve with a framed picture of a Sea Ray as a thank you gift for being an exceptional trip leader.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Helon asked that members only respond back to the entire group on emails when it is something that pertains to the group. For example, if someone sends out a Show and Go email the only person that needs to know you are going is the original sender. The entire group does not need to know. She said that she has had several people complain about this and so would like to limit the number of emails that go to the entire group that don't need to know. Also, the email list is not to be used for commercial purposes – either business or individual. Our message board should not be used for those purposes.

Door Prizes were drawn

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.**

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## *IGNORANCE OF THE PFD LAW*

*By Jerry Storrs*

Well, here we go again. Recently, Brian Ericson and Ed Joy were out sustaining training trauma when they were stopped by a Florida Conservation officer who warned them (pending further action) for not having PFD's on board. Brian had remembered my FCPA article from 1995, and informed the officer that race boats were not required to carry PFD's. Brian and Ed called me to provide the legal cites for the officer, who was unusually open minded in agreeing to investigate before writing a citation. Brian felt it would be a service to update the newsletter.

The short of it is, Federal law exempts "racing shells, rowing sculls, racing canoes and racing kayaks..." from requirements for personal floatation devices, period! The Federal law pre-empts any state laws to the contrary. No, you do NOT have to be in a race to be exempt.

I first ran into this with a citation from the Coast Guard in 1992. Got a letter of surrender from a full Commander. Next, in 1994, came a citation from a Michigan DNR officer. I provided all written support to the District Attorney who pushed it into court anyway. I called Steve Kelly of USC&KT; he was totally disinterested. Called ACA and David Jenkins (bless you, Dave) who blew his stack. Dave called the DA and told him that the ACA and Coast Guard Washington office would intervene if the case wasn't dropped. Bingo!

Next came harassment from the Muskegon County Sheriff's Marine Patrol which included threats of prosecution by an off duty deputy. Got them housebroken too. The last episode was in 1999 with the Florida Marine Patrol. That guy (a sea kayaker, by the way) interrupted a time trial and ordered me to paddle ahead of him the two miles back to my put-in. I gave him the legal cites and he called the Coasties to verify. Coasties said, "That's bull, write him up!" The officer's victory lasted about half a minute. His lieutenant came on the radio, "I heard your traffic with the Coasties. Your paddler is correct. Apologize and turn him loose!" Historical moment. First time I'd found an officer NOT ignorant of the law. This problem is certainly worsened by so many "officers" out there. We have the City Police Marine Patrol, Conservation Officers, Florida Marine Patrol, Coast Guard and County Sheriff's Marine Patrol to deal with. Most of them are clueless about our sport. (of course, so is the rest of the population)

The real point of all this history is legal precedent. I have proven the case against state opposition from both Michigan and Florida, and the Feds themselves. Ignorance of the law is no excuse for us. How about the law enforcers?

Here are the legal cites. Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations, part 175 is the key. This is often just called 33 CFR or 33 USC (for US Code)

175.15 Spells out basic PFD requirements

175.17 Spells out the racing craft exemption

175.3 Identifies racing craft as those defined by a National or International sanctioning body (ICF for kayaks)

175.5 Shows the limits of State vs. Federal pre-exemption

You might also refer to this: “The Congressional Record of August 1993, Part III, Department of Transportation, Coast Guard 33 CFR parts 175 and 181, 46 CFR part 160, Recreational Boating Safety Rule.” That’s a long title for an eight page folder! This discusses the most recent review of the law. It concludes with statistical proof, that race boats are NOT a safety problem. It’s not written in the usual Federalese, but is straight ahead understandable. (That’s a plug. Some of the more brilliant paragraphs were lifted from the letter I submitted to the inquiry. The pen is faster than the paddle, at least in my case)

Having spent six years as a beach lifeguard and all my life messing around the water, I am very much concerned with boating safety. I am NOT opposed to PFD’s in a fashion parallel to the anti-helmet bikers. What I do oppose are restrictions which accomplish nothing. The 1993 inquiry was triggered by about 900 small craft fatalities in one year. Race boats were specifically singled out because we tend to be in “secluded” areas. I requested that the figures be broken down to prove that. They found ONE of the 900 involved a racing craft!

That’s it guys. If you’d like a copy of any of the references let me know, maybe bribe me with a beer, and I’ll turn on the copy machine.



## *Paddlefest 2011*

*By Wyndy Amerson*

Augusta, Georgia once had the nickname “DisGusta” for its run down areas of town. Over the last twenty years, it has gone through a major renovation of the downtown area and the revitalization along the river area into the “Riverwalk”. There are probably some areas of Augusta that are still in need of major urban reclamation efforts – especially those motels located near I-20 and Washington Road. It’s amazing that during the prestigious Masters Golf Tournament that motels that go for \$39.00 night will charge over \$100? There are many things to see in Augusta from the quaint downtown storefronts to the golfing home of legends – Augusta National.

For the past five years, the Savannah Riverkeepers has hosted the Savannah River Paddlefest. We found out that the Savannah River is one of the most polluted rivers in Georgia. Hard to believe if you have ever seen the amount of runoff into the Chattahoochee River! The Savannah Riverkeepers are trying to publicize the beauty and importance of the river waters to the community by hosting events like the Paddlefest.

The Augusta Paddlefest is a little bit of everything – from serious racers to casual paddlers, from rocky rapids to long stretches to flat water – it ends after 9 miles of paddling. Racers and casual paddlers meet at the Pavilion – a lovely area near the historic locks near the head waters of the river. The Pavilion and miles of running/biking trails line the river. The local volunteers from Fort Gordon located in Augusta are there to help unload kayaks and canoes. The “open” or racing class are first to go into the water. Richard Carter and Wyndy Amerson, both of the LCP, registered in the “open class”. Two other LCP members, Michael Cadoret and Sally Stroud, registered for the recreational class.

*(Continued on page 9)*

bright and sunny day. Suddenly, we all saw a very large storm approaching. Like a huge pepper shaker in the sky, dumping its contents across the countryside. Without saying a word, all in our party nosed their boats into shore, donned foul weather gear and we paddled on. Those folks were prepared and knowledgeable kayakers! No drama, just doing what was necessary to be safe.

In all likelihood, I'm preaching to the choir by writing this. YOU already know these things. What I ask of you, dear choir, is to try to save these poor souls from themselves. When you see one of them paddling along in their two yard long and one yard wide 'boats', PFD-less, and their paddle upside down and legs hanging outside of their craft, be gentle but firm. Talk with them and show them your equipment. Suggest some safety tips or gear they might want to try. If you're so inclined, let them try your stuff and then tell them where they can get their own. Bring these trans-vested paddlers out of their delusional state and into enlightenment. You might even make a true kayaker out of them.

NOTE: The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not (necessarily) represent the views of the officers or members of Lowcountry Paddlers.



## There's always next year – and it's coming!

By Wyndy Amerson

The inaugural Charleston Patriot Challenge was a huge success due to the support provided by many members of the Low Country Paddlers. From the safety committee headed by Helon Everett to the wonderful coordination of the registration area provided by Michael Cadoret, Ed Deal, Sally Stroud, Jill Barnes, Nancy McCollum and Carol Smith. There were countless members who found donations for the post-paddle drawing and for the schwag bags from Harris Teeters rounded up by Michael Condon. The Charleston Patriot Challenge put more than 120 paddlers in the Ashley River last April to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project. All of this without a major sponsor!

The next Patriot Challenge will take place once again along the banks of the Ashley River on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 1 PM. Due to the launch facility at Brittlebank; our paddle sport event must take place as close as possible to high tide.

A lot has changed between last year's event and the **Patriot Challenge event of 2012**. There is now a Board for the Patriot Challenge to direct and plan the event. The members come from the rolls of the Low Country Paddlers. It is now a 501c3 – Charitable Event. The proceeds at this time are targeted to support the Wounded Warrior Project. All the required paperwork has been filed thanks to the contribution of time and expertise of the Wolf LLC of downtown Charleston. Board members of the Patriot Challenge consist of David Bearse, Elizabeth Prout, Mark Smith, Michael Cadoret, Nancy McCollum, Richard Carter and Wyndy Amerson. These seven board members have taken on the responsibility of leading this major paddling event to promote kayaking in the area and to raise funds to serve the needs of veterans injured in warfare.

They can't do it alone. The Board of the Charleston Patriot Challenge once again will look towards the generous and spirited contributions of the Low Country Paddlers to serve on various committees for this event. The CPC is already the largest one-day paddle sport event in South Carolina. It showcases the Low Country Paddlers and encourages participation in our club by introducing others to the joy of paddling these beautiful waters.

The board members of the CPC wish to express our appreciation for your successful efforts. We look forward to your invaluable support again this year. Some of the work can begin now as we look for committee chairs to coordinate various activities, develop corporate sponsorship, acquire schwag bag donations and prizes for the drawing. We also welcome new ideas for the event and community outreach strategies to encourage novice paddlers and adaptive paddle sport athletes. Our goal of 250 paddlers is within reach. In five years you will be proud to know you established the largest kayak event on the East Coast!



# Upcoming CCPRC Events!



## Canoeing At Caw Caw

### Heritage to Habitat Canoe Tour

Sep 3 Sat 9:00am-11:30am Course # 26106  
Oct 1 Sat 9:00am-11:30am Course # 26107  
Meets at: Caw Caw Interpretive Center  
Fee: \$18/\$15 CCR Discount Age: 9 & Up

### Caw Caw Sunset/Moonrise Paddle

Oct 13 Thu 4:30pm-7:00pm Course # 26109  
Meets at: Caw Caw Interpretive Center  
Fee: \$18/\$15 CCR Discount Age: 9 & Up

## After Work Paddling Tours

### Full Moon Kayak Tour On the Folly River

Sep 12 Thu 5:30pm-8:30pm Course # 25525  
Meets at: Off-Site Location  
Fee: \$36/\$30 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

## Local Canoe Trips

### Francis Marion Chicken Creek Exploration

Oct 2 Sun 8:00am-5:00pm Course # 25855  
Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters  
Fee: \$66/\$55 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

### Rice Fields to the Strono

Oct 8 Sat 9:00am-3:00pm Course # 25527  
Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters  
Fee: \$58/\$48 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

## Local Sea Kayak Trips

### Sandy Point Kayak to Kiawah Island

Sep 25 Sun 8:30am-5:00pm Course # 25856  
Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters  
Fee: \$66/\$55 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

### Coburg Creek Kayak

Oct 23 Sun 2:00pm-6:00pm Course # 25858  
Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters  
Fee: \$42/\$35 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

## After Work Paddling Tours

### Shem Creek After Work

Sep 26 Thu 5:30pm-8:30pm Course # 26123  
Meets at: Off-Site Location  
Fee: \$36/\$30 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

### Charleston Harbor Full Moon Paddle

Oct 12 Wed 5:30pm-8:30pm Course # 26121  
Meets at: Off-Site Location  
Fee: \$36/\$30 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

## Kayak Rolling and Rescues

### Introduction To Kayak Rolling

Oct 17-21 Mon,Wed 7:00pm-9:00pm Course # 26122  
Fri 6:00pm-8:00pm Course # 25526  
Meets at: Off-Site Location  
Fee: \$58/\$48 CCR Discount Age: 13 & up

## Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) Trips

### Ashley River SUP Trip

Sep 18 Sun 12:00pm-4:00pm Course # 26067  
Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters  
Fee: \$36/\$30 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

### James Island SUP'ER Marsh Tour

Oct 8 Sat 1:30pm-4:30pm Course # 26068  
Meets at: James Island County Park  
Fee: \$36/\$30 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

## Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) Classes

### Intro To SUP

Sep 10 Sat 11:30am-12:30pm Course # 26065  
Sep 15 Thu 5:30pm-7:00pm Course # 26062  
Sep 24 Sat 10:30am-12:00pm Course # 26063  
Sep 26 Mon 5:30pm-7:00pm Course # 26060  
Oct 5 Wed 5:30pm-7:00pm Course # 26061  
Oct 8 Sat 11:30am-12:30pm Course # 26064  
Meets at: James Island County Park  
Fee: \$18/\$15 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

LCP members receive a 20% discount on all water-based programs when registering by phone with CCPRC Park and Program Services. Please call (843) 795-4FUN or visit [www.ccprc.com](http://www.ccprc.com).

## ACA Sea Kayak Instructional Classes

### Introduction to Kayaking—Level 1

Sep 3 Sat 10:00am-2:00pm Course # 25046

Oct 9 Sun 12:00pm-4:00pm Course # 26051

Meets at: James Island County Park

Fee: \$42/\$35 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

### Essentials of Kayak Touring — Level 2

Sep 17 Sat 9:00am-4:00pm Course # 25049

Meets at: James Island County Park

Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

### Fundamentals of Coastal Kayaking — Level 3

Sep 22,24,25 Thu 7:00pm-9:00pm Course # 25050

Sat & Sun 9:00am-5:00pm

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters

Fee: \$108/\$90 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

### Paddling in Tidal Currents — Level 4

Oct 1 Sat 12:00pm-5:00pm

Course # 25045

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters

Fee: \$48/\$40 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

*(Continued from page 6)*

The minute you start to paddle just below the locks on the Savannah, you encounter the rocks. Due to the low water level, it is easy to get stuck on these granite outcroppings. Some people are able to scoot over the rocks by leaning forward and others had to get out of their kayaks or canoes and push off the rocks. The white waters rapids are the first part of the Paddlefest. Once you begin to hear motor boats on the water, you know you are approaching the flat water stretch. Then you have to paddle and avoid the long water grass on the sides of the river that weigh down your paddle with every stroke while avoiding the motor boats in the main channel.

As you approach the finish, you begin to see a fleet of Stand Up Paddleboard participants and the rafts. Rafters create floating vessels with themes to float down the Savannah. The costumes are a sight. The fact that some of their creations can actually float is a miracle!

The end of the race finishes at the Boathouse where the 1996 Olympic paddling team practiced. Tents are set up for racers and visitors to enjoy a picnic lunch along the river. Tonya Bonitatibus, the head of the Savannah Riverkeepers met the group of paddlers to present awards.

Larry Castillo of Kennesaw, GA won for the fifth time in the open canoe class. “Cirrhosis of the River” won the Raft Award. The members of this raft with their Viking Horned Helmets were humbled when they accepted their award. It was a fun day on the Savannah River. The proceeds go to a good cause to clean up a river of major importance. For people involved in racing or just those who want a fun day out to paddle for a noble cause, The Augusta Paddlefest on the Savannah River is good a day out on the water.

*Newsletter Submissions*  
by Andy Anderson

If one reads our club's newsletter they would come away with the impression all we did was enter races and travel to far off distant destinations to paddle. As we know, that isn't the case for the vast majority of the club's membership. Most weekends, and on the odd Tuesday, members are paddling our local waters, having a ball and practicing new skills while doing so. Beautiful estuaries, coastal waters and our creeks and rivers are explored and enjoyed. Folks come from far and wide to visit and paddle upon our waters, as evidenced by the number of local kayak outfitters. As a matter of fact, I just read a blurb in 'Canoe & Kayak' magazine regarding how great it was to paddle in the Fort Sumter, Morris and Sullivan's Island area. You already know all of that, right? So, what's my point?

My point is – why aren't YOU telling others what you're doing and seeing while out there? Where is your newsletter article? Mike Struve rose to the occasion in last month's issue with his trip report detailing his day while enjoyed paddling out to Botany Bay Island. His is the kind of story that well might entice others to join-in our sport and maybe even to join...us. We see an endless array of wonders while paddling, each and every time we venture out on the water. Our paddling companions on these trips do many things during our paddling adventures. Sometimes noteworthy accomplishments, other times they may add a bit of humor to our day. We see wildlife galore. We see nature at its best, and worst. We watch the seasons change around us. Wouldn't it be nice if those not on a particular trip could enjoy your adventures vicariously?

Sure some of us race. Sure some of us travel to distant locations to ply our sport. But the majority of our shared adventures are paddling right here in good ole South Carolina. Our newsletter should be a reflection of what most of our membership is engaged in. And that my friends, is where our club needs you. Write that story about what you saw and did on the water today. Tell us a funny story. (What Bill did today is always fodder for a good story.) Let us visualize your day on the water. All of us will be much richer because of your efforts.

**DISCLAIMER:** The racing folks will (hopefully) continue to write racing stories. Their exploits are enlightening because it's something most of us know little of. And I'll occasionally write trip reports from far off distant lands. Maybe, they might inspire someone to venture outward to visit some of the locations I've written about. If we didn't believe our stories might spark your interest in seeing or doing new things, we wouldn't bother to write them.

However, it's up to you to tell the ongoing local story. It's up to you to tell, the Lowcountry Paddlers Story. Write your story. Submit it. Tell all of us what you saw and did today while "making the most of our beautiful coast". (Thanks for that excellent one-liner, Jill!) All of us will appreciate your efforts.

# WELCOME

## New Members:

Jan Beagle  
Mark Hynueh

## Prefer hardcopy of the newsletter?

Please contact Dave Bearse.

Email: [dave.bearse@gmail.com](mailto:dave.bearse@gmail.com)

Phone: 843-216-3793

Mail: 3300 Barkla Ave.,  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466



# WANTED

## - Newsletter Submissions -

If you have an article or announcement for us to include in the next issue, please e-mail it to [lowcountrypaddlers@yahoo.com](mailto:lowcountrypaddlers@yahoo.com) before **Sept. Sept 25**.

Also be aware that copyright laws prevent us from printing published items without permission.

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



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