



Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, Ltd.

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

July 28, 2018

Hello Canoers!

It's been quite a while since I wrote to you, hope you are all well and enjoying a very warm and wet summer!

There is no trip report for the June trip because it was canceled at the last minute. The plan had been to visit with Jim & Jeanne Clearwater, camp on their farm, visit the canoeing exhibit at the New York Museum of Natural History on Friday and paddle some local areas on Saturday and Sunday. However just before the weekend Jeanne got tripped up by the family dog and the resulting injury caused them to be unable to host the weekend. Hopefully they will be able to reschedule this sometime in future as it looked like a wonderful agenda!

We did successfully have the Longest Day paddle. It was a very sunny and warm evening which saw 12 paddlers in 6 boats enjoy the river. It was fairly high water due to rains earlier in the week. When we got to Frenchtown we found that those same rains had made the usually sandy take-out a muddy mess. Not to be deterred, we pulled our shoes out of the mud and walked into town to get our ice cream. We were treated to a spectacular sunset on the final leg of the trip as you can see from the picture below. I believe this is from Betsy Wilson. As always, a fun way to start the summer paddling season!



Up next, the weekend of Aug 11th and 12th we will be paddling the Upper Delaware River. Jim Wilson's sister, Pat, will be our host for the weekend, Jim will be the contact point. The general location is the Upper Delaware River near the New York border. Note: **it's very important to let Jim know if you're going to be joining us for any or all of this weekend.**

We will probably be paddling the West Branch on Saturday. Sunday we have the opportunity to display our craft, and promote our organization, at the local historical society. We've done this in the past and gotten a lot of interest. There is also the option to go paddling again on Sunday as well. Feel free to attend only one day or the other if your schedule dictates.

Note – if you have a canoe of special interest we would love to have you display it Sunday. Our goal is to educate any who attend about all the different varieties of wooden canoes, so the more examples we have the better. Let Jim know what you might have so he can coordinate.

Here's the info Jim sent me about the weekend...

Paddlers can stay at my sister Pat's house in Equinunk on the Friday night, Saturday night or both. Be prepared to find a spot on the floor, if need be, with a pad and sleeping bag. You may also camp on the property, if you prefer.

We will be preparing our own food. There are two charcoal grills, and a stove in the house that we can use, but you can also bring a camp stove and cook outdoors.

The plan is to meet at Pat's at 9:30AM Saturday and drive from there to set up a shuttle and put in. Bring the usual stuff on the river. Lunch, water, sunscreen, etc.

On Sunday we will meet again at Pat's at 10 AM. From there, we will run shuttles for whoever is going to paddle and also go to the museum to set up that display.

I will be arriving at Pat's on Friday mid-afternoon, and people can arrive any time from then on.

Pat's address is 667 Pine Mill Rd, Equinunk, PA 18417. If you prefer GPS co-ordinates, they are: N41d46.244' W075d 15.129'. Pat's phone is 570-224-0223. Please, keep in mind that cell phone service in this area is anywhere from sketchy to non-existent. Mostly non-existent.

Please, contact Jim Wilson if you are planning to join us, either one day or both. Pat would like to know how many to expect. paddlejim48@gmail.com Cell: 610-937-6947

Directions to Pat Wilson's house:

NOTE – this is the weekend of the county fair, which takes place in Honesdale, so you may want to avoid that Friday night!

From northern NJ:

***Cross the Delaware at Milford, PA and get on Rte 6 W
Follow Rte 6 past Lake Wallenpaupack, thru Hawley and into Honesdale.
(about 35 miles)
In Honesdale, turn right onto Rte 191 N.
Travel about 10 miles. Turn left onto 371
Travel 2.1 miles. Right onto Pine Mill Rd.
Travel 3.7 miles through State Game Lands.
Pat's is the first house on the left after exiting the Game Lands.
Look for the WCHA burgee on the mailbox***

From southeastern PA:

***From Plymouth Meeting area, get on the Northeast extension of the PA Turnpike.
Take the Lehigh Valley exit to Rte 22 E.***

**Travel about 16 miles. Exit onto Rte 33 N.
In 20 miles or so, bear right onto 209 N and follow to Rte 80 E.
Travel just a few miles into Stroudsburg and exit for Rte 191 N.
Follow 191N about 50 miles into Honesdale.
In Honesdale, stay on 191N and travel another 10 miles.
Turn left onto 371N
Travel 2.1 miles. Right onto Pine Mill Rd
Travel 3.7 miles through State Game Lands.
Pat's is the first house on the left after exiting the Game Lands.
Look for the WCHA burgee on the mailbox.**

From the Delaware Water Gap area:

**From Rte 80, get onto Rte 191 N in Stroudsburg.
Follow 191N about 50 miles into Honesdale.
In Honesdale, stay on 191N and travel another 10 miles.
Turn left onto 371.
Travel 2.1 miles. Right onto Pine Mill Rd
Travel 3.7 miles through State Game Lands.
Pat's is the first house on the left after exiting the Game Lands.
Look for the WCHA burgee on the mailbox**

Then on Aug 24th, which is a Friday night, we're going repeat what has become a favorite outing, an evening picnic/paddle at Nockamixon State Park (Bucks County, PA). Plan to meet at Haycock Launch area at the northeast end of the lake at 5:30 PM, though that's not a "gotta be there time". We'll be at the picnic area for an hour or so enjoying dinner, and we'll launch right from the picnic area, so even if you can't quite make 5:30 feel free to come when you can. Let me know if you're planning to join us and we'll be sure to wait until we know everyone is there.

Nockamixon State Park is along PA 563, just off PA 313, five miles east of Quakertown and nine miles west of Doylestown. The main entrances are along PA 563 and can be reached from PA 309 and PA 313, or from the north from PA 611 and PA 412. Address and contact information for the park are:

1542 Mountain View Dr.
Quakertown, PA 18951-5732
215-529-7300

<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/NockamixonStatePark/Pages/default.aspx> is the website for the park. You can download a map of the park from that site so you can see where the meeting place is. There's also lots of other information about the park.

The lake is beautiful, and we'll be in the less highly used area. We've seen lots of bird life on earlier visits. We've not exactly mapped out a "plan" for this paddle; we'll figure out where we want to paddle and for how long based on what we all feel like doing that evening. So, bring along a picnic dinner, your paddling gear and come join the fun. It would be wise to bring a lantern or light in case we're out after dark. It's a lovely lake for paddling late!

Since this is a state park, you will need to have some sort of registration. Here is what is required...

"Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration; launching permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks, available at most state park offices; launching permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission." You can get a launching permit at the park's office, though they close at 4 I think (hours are not listed on the website). They are also available at the Marina visitor's center, which is open later, but I'm not sure how late. The map available on the website will show you where these are located.

September's trip is one we've not done for many years. On Sept 8th we'll paddle up the Delaware Raritan canal, then portage over to the river and paddle back down to the put-in. Afterwards we'll travel to Chuck Kindt's home for a picnic to complete the day. I'll have more information on this in the next newsletter but for now make sure you have it marked on your calendar.

Also, our annual 4-chapter gathering is set for October 13th & 14th. We will again hold it at Gifford Pinchot State Park. Note that it is a little later than we've held it in past years in order to not be the same weekend as the small craft festival in St. Michael's, MD. Some folks like to do both, so this will allow for that. For those new to the group, this weekend we join folks from the Three Rivers (western PA and Ohio), Susquehanna (central PA) and Upper Chesapeake (Maryland) chapters for a weekend of paddling, fun, demonstrations of all things related in any way to canoeing, hiking, campfires, etc. Please consider what boats you will bring to display and what you might contribute to our demonstrations. You can do something that's ongoing during the weekend, or something that just involves a short demonstration, anything is welcome, just let me know so we can make sure everyone is aware of the opportunities. For the last few years we've had a chapter covered dish supper Saturday evening, so bring along a dish to share and make sure you're hungry! If you need ideas for a program or help setting something up just ask. Most folks camp, though there are other accommodation options nearby. (Look for a site along the water in the 300 loop to be near others from the group.) The website of the park is <http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/GiffordPinchotStatePark/Pages/default.aspx>

And lastly, but certainly not least, we welcome new member Neysa Garrett. Those who were on the Longest Day paddle got to meet her and to see her very unusual "new" canoe. While she waits for that canoe to be refurbished she's interested in finding an inexpensive wooden canoe she can handle herself. If you happen to know of such please let me know and I'll get the information to her.

That's it for now, hope to see you soon...

Jean Bratton

Chapter officers

Al Bratton, Pres.
CanoeAl@aol.com
610-326-9282

Jim Wilson, V.P.
PaddleJim48@gmail.com
610-827-9761

Jean Bratton, Sec/Treas
jeanbratton123@aol.com
610-326-9282
1818 Swamp Pike
Gilbertsville, PA 19525