



Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, Ltd.

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

July 31, 2017

Hello Canoers!

Longest Day – rain came before the paddle, then it got nice and 7 boats, 13 people.

July saw many of us attending the annual Assembly in Paul Smiths, NY. If my count was correct, including kids and grandkids there were 25 chapter members there. As usual our chapter donated \$100 to the kids program and Mary Gauld sent me the following thank you to the chapter and recap of all the things they did.

Thanks to the Delaware Valley chapter for their continued support.

2017 report from the Children's Program at WCHA Symposium.

Over the past 10 years, Lillie Welych and I have been coordinating the children's program. We tend to have 10 to 15 campers each year between the ages 2 to 11 – teenagers tend to do their own thing or pop in and out of the activities as they feel inspired. (many people still come to do tie-dye, including the adults). We very much enjoy the opportunity to meet and play with the parents and children at each assembly. We are fortunate to have a talented group of volunteers who contribute their time and talents for the activities, preparing kits to assemble camp chairs, tool boxes, sail boats, etc. Time is set aside each day for 'formal' activities but there is plenty of time each day for the kids to spend time with each other, with their families and just generally play on the Paul Smith's campus. In the evening, weather permitting, we may play games or have a campfire with s'mores (of course).

This year, there were 13 kids between the ages of 2 ½ and 12. They all participated in the activities and seemed to enjoy themselves. 10 of these children were brought to the WCHA by their grandparents. The remaining 3 kids were fortunate enough to be accompanied by both their parents and grandparents.

This year's agenda included:

Wednesday – in the morning we painted on canvas for seat backs and in the afternoon, we assembled kits prepared by Laird Smith to create a folding camp chair for each child. 14 were assembled. The chairs were then used by the children at the evening campfire. Kids' hands were painted and applied to the teepee for the hands on the teepee annual event. This was done early as rain was predicted for much of the week.

Thursday – The morning activity was reverse tie dye. Shirts were either brought by the child or provided to them. Templates or designs were prepared and bleach applied to the shirts. These were very popular with the kids and turned out very well. In the afternoon, Susan Christie led the construction of a small sailboat for each child. Upon completion, the sailboats were taken to the beach and set afloat.

Friday morning, some of the kids gathered at the beach for Canoeing Basics led by Lynn Barsevskis. Tie dye was done on the porch of the games room.

Campfires were held on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. Blueberry muffins, s'mores and hot dogs were prepared at the campfires. The paddleby took place on Friday evening and a movie was played in the Pine Room instead of a campfire due to inclement weather. A canoe piñata was whacked by the kids during the evening festivities.

Children were well supervised by parents/grandparents and other WCHA adults. Paul Smith's staff were also very helpful in responding to our requests throughout the week.

In consultation with the kids participating in the 2017 program – there was 100% agreement that they enjoyed making the camp chair and the sailboat the most. In addition, the reverse tie dye (bleach and coloured shirts) was also well-received. Learning Canoe Basics and practicing their skills made a big splash, and playing cheese head on the green was a real hoot for all involved. Everyone left Paul Smith's feeling content and looking forward to next year – seeing old friends and ready to make new ones.

Looking forward... The weekend of Aug 12th and 13th 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.**

We will probably be paddling the East Branch on Saturday and either the West Branch or Duck Harbor Pond on Sunday. We can decide when we are all there. Feel free to attend only one day or the other if your schedule dictates.

Here's the info Jim sent me...

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 to whichever paddle we decide to do.

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 18th, which is a Friday night, we're going to do 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.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/nockamixon/> 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. 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.

Keep your calendars marked for our September trip, a camping weekend at Promised Land State Park in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. The weekend is the 9th-10th, though many of us will arrive on Friday afternoon. There will be more information to follow in the next newsletter.

Also, our annual 4-chapter gathering is set for October 7th-8th. 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. The chapter covered dish supper last year was a hit, so we will repeat that again for sure. If you need ideas for a program or help setting something up just ask.

That's all for now, hope to see you soon!

Jean Bratton

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