

May Outing

Saturday, May 19, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Big Run State Park, MD

For our May outing, we will be gathering at **Big Run State Park** in Maryland. Big Run is due south of Somerset over the Maryland-Pennsylvania border. Mark and Ruth Zalonis have scoped out the facilities for us. Ruth has provided the following information.

Driving Directions

- ⊕ From Interstate 68, take Exit 22.
- ⊕ Follow Chestnut Rd. south 2 miles and pass a small lake.

- ⊕ At Reflecting Heaven Stables at a T, turn left onto New Germany Rd.
- ⊕ Continue approximately 5 miles and make a left onto Big Run Rd. (Sign on right says Big Run State Park.)
- ⊕ Go down a long hill 4 ¾ miles, passing Monroe Run pavilion on your right.
- ⊕ You will arrive in front of the campground at the intersection of Big Run Rd. and Savage River Rd. Drive straight into the campground.

Arrival

Meet at the campground put-in at 10:30 AM. Canoe wheels may prove useful if you have them.

Put-In and Picnic Information

We will put in from the campground. Go past the bathrooms and proceed to near Campsite 83. The put-in is just past the campsite. You can print a campground map if you do an internet search for "Big Run State Park, MD".

We have rented the pavilion near the campground. There is plenty of parking there. We will park our cars at the pavilion after unloading them. We will have lunch at the pavilion after our paddle.

Facilities at Big Run

- ⊕ **Vault toilets only**, and they are near the pavilion.
- ⊕ **No potable water**; we will provide bottled and other potable water.
- ⊕ **No cell phone service.**
- ⊕ **Electricity** at the pavilion.

Contact Information

- ⊕ Park Office 301-895-5453 (New Germany State Park)
- ⊕ GPS address: 10368 Savage River Rd, Swanton, MD 21561 ⊕



Our crew gathered at Salt Fork last month.



Salt Fork: A Great Start to Our Active Season

by Craig Johnson, Chapter Head

We finally opened the paddling season with our event at Salt Fork State Park on April 21. Diane and I rented a cabin on the lake shore with easy access to the water. It was also close to the boat launch for those who prefer to launch from a dock.

Brother Scott joined us on Friday evening to help prepare for Saturday's gathering. Fred Capenos and Lee Grubish had a room at the lodge, and new member Lou Rebensdorf also stayed there. We all got together at the lodge for a nice dinner on Friday evening.

Scott and I got up for an early-morning paddle to scope out the area ahead of the group paddle. It was quite chilly, but the wind was dead calm so there

was no wind chill factor. We had a nice paddle and took lots of photos.

Other members started arriving around 9:00 a.m., and we ended up with 15 participants.

We sat around the fire while everyone assembled and then actually got on the water around 10:00. The temperature had risen a bit by then, and with sunny skies and no wind to speak of, it turned into a gorgeous day for a paddle.

New member Lou Rebensdorf brought his 1915 Old Town 17-ft. Ideal canoe that he had just recently finished restoring. The red paint with mahogany trim was a handsome combination. Lou is in his 80s, and he did a remarkable job—especially in light of the fact that he'd never worked on a canoe before.

We were supposed to be joined by another couple, Virginia Woodrow and Tony Donisi of Athens Ohio. Virginia had recently finished her first restoration on an old home-built or kit canoe. During the day, we



Lou in the bow of his 1915 Old Town Ideal.

The temperature had risen a bit by then, and with sunny skies and no wind to speak of it turned into a gorgeous day for a paddle.



Gigi christens her first and unassisted restoration.

received several texts chronicling slow and often interrupted progress toward Salt Fork. There were apparently a number of stops to resecure the canoe and find alternate routes.



Ruth and Mark Zalonis in their Traveler

The rest of us had our scheduled morning paddle without them and then returned to the cabin for a cookout of burgers and hot dogs, with plenty of side dishes and desserts.

Tony and Virginia (Gigi) finally arrived about 3:00 in the afternoon. They were very brave to have Gigi's first and unassisted restoration perused by a group of wooden canoe aficionados who were in a bit of a food stupor. Gigi had done a very nice job on what turned out to be a nice mahogany skin-on-frame kit canoe. Gigi and Lou both were thrilled to christen their new canoes, and we are glad to gain three new chapter members.

As evening approached, folks drifted off toward home after a nice start to the paddling season. ✚



Craig Johnson paddles his Chestnut Mermaid.



Lee Grubish and Fred Capenos paddling their newly restored Fifty Pounder.

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but the hull was still fairly
disreputable looking*

The floor rack was missing, as are the seats. Thanks to an old Walter Walker video found on YouTube, the exact dimensions of the floor rack were discovered. It has now been installed. There is still a ton of work to be done, but it's starting to look a lot like its former self. With a good tail wind, it is hoped that it will be ready to go before the Assembly in July. ⚓

Relaunchings

Last June, Andy Hutyera picked up a post-1938 all-wood Lakefield from fellow chapter member Ritchie Orris. Because Andy does not have a heated shop, it's been an on-again, off-again project depending upon the weather.

Over the summer, the inside and outside stripping was done outside the shop. By fall, new decks were fabricated, but the hull was still fairly disreputable looking and needed treatment with a wood bleach—a project that had to wait for warmer weather. After the final arrival of this year's reluctant spring, the bleaching was finally accomplished using a two-part bleach that is marketed for use on teak. With the advent of warmer weather, new gunwales were fabricated and installed.



“Before” and “during” of Andy’s Lakefield restoration.

Three Rivers Chapter 2018 Schedule of Events

- ⊕ **Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m.:** An outing at Big Run State Park in Maryland (due south of Somerset and just below the Pennsylvania/ Maryland border) will be organized by Mark and Ruth Zalonis. More information will be available as plans are solidified.
- ⊕ **June 1–3:** Western PA Solo Rendezvous at Coopers Lake Campground near Portersville, Pa. Many of our members enjoy this annual event.
- ⊕ **Friday through Sunday, June 22–24:** Allegheny River trip headed by Richard Seman. This trip is planned to encourage young people to get involved in canoeing. Please make an effort to invite young folks to join us on this trip. It will be set up so it can either be two nights out starting on Friday or one night

out starting on Saturday morning. Richard will provide details as the time approaches.

- ⊕ **Tuesday through Sunday, July 17–22:** Annual WCHA Assembly at Trent University, Peterborough, Ont. The theme this year is Chestnut canoes. Our chapter plans to have our project canoe completed for the annual auction. Have your passport ready and travel to Peterborough for this always enjoyable event.
- ⊕ **Saturday, August 25, 10 a.m.:** We will be meeting at the Sylvan Canoe Club in Verona, Pa. for a day trip on the Allegheny. Sylvan member and Three Rivers board member Bob Ball will be making the arrangements.
- ⊕ **September outing:** Date and details TBA. Scott Johnson is going to try to put together a trip on Ohio's Muskingum River. We will be inviting the folks from Cleveland Amateur Boating and Boat Building Society to join us.

Chapter Information

- ⊕ **Head:** Craig Johnson
- ⊕ **Treasurer:** Fred Capenos
- ⊕ **At large:** Bob Ball, Millie Sass, and Richard Seman
- ⊕ **Newsletter:** Andy Hutyera and Ann Mertz
- ⊕ **Librarian:** Mark Zalonis

National WCHA Information

- ⊕ <http://www.wcha.org/>
- ⊕ **Friday through Sunday, October 12–14:** Mini-Assembly at Gifford Pinchot State Park near Harrisburg, Pa. Please note that this is the week **after** Columbus Day weekend. Those planning to attend are advised to reserve a campsite as soon as possible.
- ⊕ **Date TBA:** We will finish our year with our annual business meeting and election at Sylvan Canoe Club. ⊕



Visiting around the campfire at Salt Fork.