



The Paddle

Winter 2013

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

**Happy New Year
and
Happy 40th Anniversary MDCC!**

Mason-Dixon Canoe Cruisers was founded in February 1973 and Bylaws written in November, 1981. The club was incorporated in July 1986. Original founders were Dr. John Clark (1st president)(deceased), Dr. Larry Clopper(deceased), Barbara Shellenberger, Randy Burns(deceased), Bob Vanderlyn, and Ron Shanholtz, and about 5 others sources can't recall. The first board of Directors after incorporation consisted of Rich Bryson, John Drummond, Donna Pearson, Doris Burick, Ron Shanholtz, Bob Lizer, Mike Dreisbach, David Collins and Warren Therien.



Dave Collins 1970s Bull Falls



Warren Therien Sidling Hill 1981



Ron Shanholtz in the stern, Mike Fuss on the Antietam in 1977. Both were instructors for MDCC.



Ron Shanholtz. Sleepy Creek 1973. Ron is the only active paddler of the original founders.

Up until about the year 2000, the only way to find out if a trip was going was to call a answering machine that had the recorded details. You had to actually call the gauges and get a recorded message. The internet has made things easier and opened up more options since then. Club meetings were held monthly in the basement at the Zion Lutheran Church in Williamsport, MD. The club had its banquet at this church until 2005ish when the basement was renovated and proved too small for our 40-60 attendees. We now have one annual meeting and one banquet. Now a WEB site, paid for with club dues, allows us to remain in touch every day.

Yes, there were truck inner tubes in canoes for flotation and "paneled" PFDs, but the club had a Red Cross certified instruction class in both Canoe and Kayak. And like today, the local play and learning grounds were the Antietam , Needles of the Potomac and the Staircase of the Shenandoah.

The paddling stories remain endless, the friendships forever, and the rivers' memories never forgotten.

In memory of and thanks to all that came before us to make MDCC a great local club to discover the joys of paddling. And a big cheer to current members, carrying on tradition, and continuing to create endless stories of many great paddles and memories. Happy Anniversary MDCC !

2013 MDCC BOD and Officers

Congratulations to officers and board members of MDCC for your election / reelection to serve for the upcoming year. Your commitment helps make for a stronger club that keeps paddling enthusiasts connected to each other, encourages safety and skills advancement, and acts as a resource to protect the Harpers Ferry area as a recreational resource. In addition to those listed here, Dan Eigenbrode will head up newsletter / membership, and Chuck Davis will chair Stewardship.

Your 2013 Officers:

John Enagonio, President
Merrill Pearson, Vice President
Sheila Chapelle, Secretary
Keith Unger, Treasurer

Your 2013 Board of Directors:

Earl Baer	Vitas Eidukevicius	Bonnie Watson Wisdom
Bobby Miller	Jim Norton	
Dave Russo	Ron Shanholtz	

Your 2013 Volunteers: (excluding trip coordinators, instructors, etc):

Safety Class: Sheila, Pete Chapelle and Merrill Pearson
Pool Session Coordinator: Dave Russo
Web Master: Vitas Eidukevicius and Chuck Davis



MDCC trip at Smokehole 1983

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. Photo taken by Dan E from the river right. Paddler is Jamie Geraghty.

Mark your Calendar !

MDCC Banquet

Saturday, February 23, 2013

6:00 pm (church open at 5:30)

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
64 South Main Street, Boonsboro, MD 21713

Pot Luck. Bring a dish to share. MDCC will supply soda, ice, cups, plates, plastic/paper ware.

Enter from the rear parking lot. Door prizes for most everyone and great food. A couple of short videos will be shown with MDCC members as the stars. Refer to the message board for more details.

Awards will be given....please submit your awardees' name to John E soon and be prepared to present it.

Contact: John Enagonio enagonio@yahoo.com

MDCC Pool Sessions

Sunday mornings **March 3, 10, 17, and 24**

9:00am to 11:00am

Hagerstown YMCA 1100 Eastern Blvd N

Free volunteer instruction. Equipment not provided by MDCC, but members can provide extra gear with prior notification. Arrive as early as 8:30.

No pre-registration required. Must be a MDCC member. Annual membership fee \$10. \$15 per member per session. See last page of newsletter on how to join. Please fill out application in advance and bring with your fee to the banquet or first pool session.

Refer to message board for updates. Or contact Dave Russo drusso48@aol.com

Trips 2013

Need trip coordinators for the 2013 schedule. Contact Merrill Pearson to schedule your trip! You don't necessarily have to be the leader, just wanting to paddle. Pick your day, your river, and the rest will come together. You can also just pick a date and make the trip a Dealers Choice based on what is running closer to the time. Merrill Pearson mpearsonlcc@yahoo.com

A one-day introductory safety class, open to all members, date TBD but probably in July is being planned. Contact Pete, Sheila or Merrill if interested. Look for dates on the message board or the spring newsletter.

[Check the message board and schedule for updates on all MDCC events and trips.](#)

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



Dreisbach family. 1978 Burnside on the Antietam

Trip Report (Miller Time)

Legendary Waterfalls- Crazy Creek Falls, Harpers Ferry, WV by Bobby "The Dogg" Miller

Crazy Creek (actually called Piney Run) drains the valley nestled between Blue Ridge Mountain and Short Hill Mountain. Native Americans and early colonial settlers occupied the land and this area was used as a pathway for troops during the Civil War. Some of the first structures in the area were inhabited by the Demory and Derry families. Of course, Mahlon Demory and Philip Derry would probably be spinning in their graves if they knew that some kayakers were intentionally paddling over the falls! What? Is that really how a corpse demonstrates its disapproval over something? Who came up with that anyway?

Every paddling area seems to have its own legendary spot, a drop so heinous that regular paddlers shake their heads while a chosen few intrepids dream about the possibilities. Crazy Creek Falls is that legendary drop in the Harpers Ferry area. It is the takeout for the hundreds of raft trips that occur each summer. People walk by the falls all the time. Some look at it and admire its beauty while others find refreshment under the cool cascading waters. It is right here where Crazy Creek empties into the Potomac River that the creek tumbles over a 25-30 foot cascading waterfall onto a jagged rock pile that has more nooks and crannies than your mom's cellulite. On the mank scale, if it's not a 10, it's at least a 9.9! During periods of flooding, the Potomac backs up to the falls and fills in a pool to create a reasonable landing zone. It was during the flood of 1996 when the river hit an incredible 29 feet on the gauge that the falls was first run. With the landing nice and full, Kevin O'Neil made the first descent of the falls followed by Tim Gavin and Mike Moore. It wasn't until the spring of 1998 when I first laid eyes on the falls at a runnable level. The Potomac was at a typical spring play level and offered no assistance to pad out the landing zone. I opted to try a right to left line near the lip but didn't make it far enough left. I got hung up on some rocks at the lip and fell straight down, pitoning and crushing the bow of my boat like an aluminum can. I did not own a video camera back at the point in time but I decided to reenact the event one day when I was bored.

During the spring of 2003, there was a major flash flood event that brought the tiniest of creeks up to runnable levels. Crazy Creek was running out of its banks and I decided that I would run the falls. This time, I stayed left and launched a huge boof falling almost 30 feet flat into the chaotic landing zone. With such a perfect run, I made a promise to myself that I was content to leave it at that and I didn't need to run that falls ever again.

However, as the years rolled by, I thought more and more about running the falls again. I knew that it would be unlikely to catch the creek at the flooded level that I had before. I started to scout out and think about a lower water line down the right. About halfway down the falls, a sharp, tooth-shaped shelf sticks out. I felt that the right water level would create a scenario where you could use the tooth rock to raise your bow and land with a clapper on the rocks below. There also was the potential that the tooth was too sharp and would never provide the friendly ramp needed to get the launch.

On September 18, 2012, after a long period of drought, we finally got a period of torrential downpours. I got on the phone with the Chapelles, trying to talk them into going to the Catoctin mountains, where every creek was running bank full. However, Seth needed to go to work that evening so we had to stay local. Plus, they had been driving around for an hour or so looking for a runnable creek and weren't going to spend another red cent on gas money! What does that mean? I have never seen any legal currency that was red! The rain didn't hit the Harpers Ferry area as hard and none of the small streams had enough flow. Luckily, Crazy Creek is a little larger of a stream and holds its water fairly well. Since it was the only horse available, our choices were to ride it or eat it. Speaking of eating, I had an Unreal 5 candy bar on the way to the creek and, let me tell you reader, after tasting that chocolate, caramel, and nougat, I felt unreal times 5! But I digress.

The Paddle

MDCC Winter 2013

We put on a couple miles upstream and enjoyed the continuous Class 3 rapids through a pretty gorge. Once we reached the takeout bridge above the falls, Sean and I decided to go scout. There was a good amount of flow going down the right and this flume created a fairly padded ramp off the tooth rock. Upon first scout, things looked ugly but the more I looked at it, the better it looked. I had a choice: I could be content to run a pretty Class 3 run or I could step it up, run the falls, and make it a marshall day! I think you know what choice I made! The idea of skipping this legendary falls didn't do P Turkey for me. If there is a SIK drop out there to be run, it is my duty to go out there and drop it. I don't read the script, the script reads me! I like to live on the edge, the edge, the EDGE! I risk my life to go into the hood to buy my lottery tickets because I know that that the states target lower income areas for big winners! You can't win if you don't play!



I walked across the highway and got in my boat, ready for battle. The stadium bleachers that we had flown in for this event were filled to capacity with the MILLIONS.... AND MILLIONS of the Dogg's fans. There were no seats available, all the way up to the nosebleed section. What? How can you get a nosebleed watching a sporting event from far away? I don't get it! With such a large crowd, the pressure was on to give the performance of my life. I knew that any mistake could result in a huge beating (from my wife). The rocks are very exposed at the bottom and the lip is so junky! I was basically floating and counting on a well timed stroke on the tooth rock to raise my bow. A mistiming of this maneuver would result in a crash that would deliver more pain and agony than that time that a caddis fly crawled up my pee hole. I sailed through the darkness of the tunnel, a calm adjournment before the pandemonium that lies on the other side. Oh yes, I was as cool as a cucumber. What? What makes a cucumber so cool? It would seem to me that a cucumber is susceptible to the same temperatures as any other vegetable. I emerged on the other side of the bridge with a short distance to the edge. I slowed my speed and, using a curler in the center and the rocks on the right bank as navigational beacons, I lined up in the correct spot. I floated down with some angle to the left so that I would land on the slide and shoot out away from the rock pile. However, the tooth rock caught my stern a little weird and turned my bow slightly so that I ended up pointing straight downstream. I landed at the 45 degree angle that I was planning, which saved both my ankles and my back. The landing was softer than expected and I skidded sideways down the slide below into the pool. I was so proud that I was busting my vest! All 17 muscles for smiling were frozen in a grin so wide I could have eaten a banana sideways! Who says stuff like that!



Sean and I discussed the line and he decided to go for it. He decided, based on my strange kick off the tooth, that it might be better to come at it with a straight on approach. Soon, he was in his boat and heading for the lip. He floated over the edge and lined up straight, catching the tooth nicely and landing smoothly on the slide. He cascaded down the exit slide and celebrated his perfect run! That falls certainly is a drop worth crossing the Atlantic for! After some high fives and chest bumps, we downed a couple 40's of King Cobra and headed to Longshots for some celebratory karaoke action. If you weren't there, you missed Sean's best Steve Perry impersonation with an emotional performance of Don't Stop Believing. But that is another story.



For more photos, video and the original article, go here:
<http://www.exploringelements.com/legendary-waterfalls-crazy-creek-falls-by-the-dogg/>

Editor's Notes

Thanks to Ron Shanholtz for loaning me his paddling photo albums. If you have an old photo to share, please send to me. I would like to include older (and new) photos in the newsletter. dankayakbike@yahoo.com

Welcome !

Joe Schultze

JOIN ! RENEW !

MDCC annual dues have always been \$10.00 per household !!!

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

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

See you on the river in 2013!



Ron at Whitehorse in 1988

Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers



Melius vivit qui remigat

Who paddles lives better