



# The Paddle

Winter 2015

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

## Happy New Year !

Some of the coldest weather we have had in decades (since last year) and the MDCC message board still fills with pickup trip posts. Kudos to the "brave" few to make this a year round sport. The rest of us are on the ski slopes or just plain waiting for spring to arrive.

This is the first newsletter of the upcoming 2015 season and is short, but sweet with upcoming MDCC events. We will continue to provide a electronic newsletter in order to reach those that do not follow the social media (Facebook) or the MDCC message board, or just need a friendly reminder that the banquet, pool sessions, and the new season is just around the corner.

## 2015 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 2015 Officers:

Bonnie Watson Wisdom, President  
Earl Baer, Vice President  
Sheila Chapelle, Secretary  
Keith Unger, Treasurer

### Your 2015 Board of Directors:

Merrill Pearson	Vitas Eidukevicius	Beth Zeilinski	Ron Shanholtz
Chuck Davis	Bobby Miller	Cathy Boyd	John Enagonio.

### Your 2015 Volunteers *(excluding trip coordinators, instructors, etc)*:

Thursday Night Paddle (TNP) Tsar: Bonnie Watson Wisdom  
Pool Session Coordinator: Cathy Boyd  
Web Master: Vitas Eidukevicius and Chuck Davis

## **Oldie but goodie**



Replacing the "Name that River" entry is a Oldie but Goodie photo. This one is a photo of Tim Potter at Squirt Land taken by Dan E in 2003ish. Tim was the originator of the Thursday Night Paddle (TNP).

## **Harpers Ferry River Access**

by John Enagonio.

Longtime efforts by MDCC to achieve better river access to the Shenandoah and Potomac in the tri-state area have led to direct involvement by American Whitewater. The AW Journal named "securing a river access plan for Harpers Ferry" one of the top ten stewardship issues for 2015.

AW's national access director Kevin Colburn began working with us and soliciting the support of the National Park Service's River / Trail Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) in 2013. Last summer we helped connect Kevin with multiple clubs in applying for an RTCA grant to study access solutions. That led to a January meeting in town where Colburn and Anne O'Neil from RTCA facilitated a discussion among about 30 paddlers.

In addition to asking paddlers for input about possible solutions, AW and RTCA have met with other parties and begun mapping and gathering photos. The effort perfectly fits the RTCA mission, which is to work with local communities nationwide to enhance recreational opportunities around National Parks.

AW and RTCA will encourage local paddlers to reach out to the broader public for support since solutions will potentially require shifting the management plan of the Park Service for the HF area. For example, we want to identify allies who enjoy fishing, work for commercial outfitters, or otherwise understand recreational access issues.

While everything is on the table, it seems likely AW will initially focus on better access and parking at or near the Potomac Wayside takeout. Individual paddlers and clubs hopefully will continue to work on other aspects of the access problem, such as securing better arrangements at the Millville and Bakerton put-ins; continued use of the Park Service access at the upper 340 bridge; pressuring the railroad to fund a safer Sandy Hook access; and improving the Weverton access.

Harpers Ferry access has been a club-wide effort, and the contributions of dozens of individual members have helped to get us to this point. As frustrating as the last few years have been, with widespread threats of ticketing and towing just for using the available access points, we hope that the involvement of AW, the RTCA, and a broad coalition of paddling clubs and other river users will finally lead to lasting arrangements for better access.

### **Bakerton Parking Arrangement**

Bobby Miller organized a deal with River Riders on behalf of MDCC for the Bakerton campground access parking for MDCC members. (Needles WV side put-in) Currently they will verify membership with a 2014 roster of paid members. They will be provided an updated 2015 roster after the banquet and pool sessions. Inform the campground attendant you are a paid member and park. If there are non-members in the party, they have to pay the daily fee. (\$5)

This is per member, so make sure you put down all house hold members names when paying your 2015 dues. More information will be given at the banquet.

River Riders would like us to observe the following rules:

- 1) River Riders vehicles have the right of way.
- 2) Daytime use only. Camping reservations must be made separate.
- 3) Non MDCC members need to pay the per person put-in fee, regardless of what vehicle they ride in.
- 4) River Riders is not liable for loss or injuries.
- 5) Remove all trash.

# Mark your Calendar !

## MDCC Banquet

**Saturday, March 7, 2015**

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 Bonnie Wisdom soon and be prepared to present it. Contact: Bonnie [bonniewisdom.np@gmail.com](mailto:bonniewisdom.np@gmail.com)



**Over 50 door prizes !!**

## **MDCC Pool Sessions**

Sunday Evenings **March 1, 8, 15, and 22**

**5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

First 4 Sundays of March. **Note new evening hours!** Yeah!

Hagerstown YMCA  
1100 Eastern Blvd N  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

No pre-registration required. Must be an 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.

Beginners welcome and encouraged! Volunteer free instruction available. Gear not provided by MDCC, but members usually are able to assist you with loaners if you ask in advance.

The doors will be open before 5:00 and a hose ready so boaters can clean their boats. Enter in rear of the YMCA.

Clean boats a must. Remove flotation when cleaning. No glass of any kind, food, or sugar drinks allowed in pool area. No cotton swimwear or T-shirts, please.

Refer to message board for updates. Or contact Cathy Boyd [cboydcdm@msn.com](mailto:cboydcdm@msn.com)

## **Cleanup April 11, 2015**

MDCC is not registering a site with AFF this year, but many are. There will be a cleanup site along route 340 by the Doah. Check the MDCC message board for details closer to date or go to AFF site to find another option to help out.

<http://fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup/>

## **Trips 2015**

Need trip coordinators for the 2015 schedule. Contact any officer 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.

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

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



**Bonnie attains Baby Falls, Upper Tellico, Tennessee :)**

**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.masondixoncanooclub.com/MDCC/Join.html>

**NOTE: We now accept Paypal (\$1 surcharge....a stamp is almost 50 cents)**

See you on the river in 2015!

*Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers*



Melius vivit qui remigat

*Who paddles lives better*