



# The Paddle

Late Spring 2016

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



## President's corner: A recap of 2015 Mason Dixon Canoe Cruiser's Paddling Season

In 2015 we found that MDCC has a very active group of paddlers. We started off the year with the traditional New Year's Day paddle, on the Shenandoah River's Millville to Wayside section, and from that New Year's Day paddle onward there was trips planned and carried out just about every weekend throughout the year.

The Bloomington releases remain a club favorite bringing together some of the club's class-II paddlers with those who regularly paddle the class IV runs. We did several class III trips on rivers such as the lower Yough and the Stonycreek River. We got in some Cheat canyon runs and we made our way to Valley Falls State park a couple of times to spend the day plopping over water falls, what a great way to find and improve that boof stroke. A group of us made the October 3,400 cfs "Mega" release on the Lehigh where we paddled 21.5 miles in just under 4-1/2 hours, bouncing down big wave trains and dodging huge holes.

Events; MDCC was well represented at several paddling events in 2015 such as Cheat Fest, the Stonycreek rendezvous, the Harpers Ferry outdoor festival, the Carolina Week of Rivers, the New River Rendezvous, and Gaully Fest.

Overnight MDCC trips; MDCC did a few overnight trips in 2015. The Stonycreek Rendezvous where MDCC members played their way down through the Stonycreek canyon on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The Carolina Week of Rivers has become a club favorite with more than 15 MDCC members making the trek south for an exciting week of paddling adventure in Tennessee and North Carolina. The annual MDCC Lehigh trip drew 14 MDCC members to Northern PA for two days of paddling through the scenic Lehigh Gorge. And finally.....after years of disappointment because of broken Dam valves and bridge construction which halted releases, the 2015 November Tohickon release went off and a group of MDCC paddlers was there for two days of class III fun making multiple runs both Saturday and Sunday.

In 2015 we had unfortunate "walk offs," more than a few distressing swims, and sadly a couple of injuries. We witnessed many personal first and triumphs. We saw people take a step up and a few who were regrettably forced to take a step back. In 2015 many of us grew stronger and more confident as paddlers and closer as friends. Thanks to all of you who put in the effort to make this Canoe Club work and to those who participate in our activities.

## 2016 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.

Your 2016 Officers:

President: Earl Baer

Vice President: Bobby Miller

Sheila Chapelle: Secretary

Bonnie Watson Wisdom: Treasurer

Your 2016 Board of Directors:

Merrill Pearson      Vitas Eidukevicius

Beth Zeilinski

Ron Shanholtz

Chuck Davis

Your 2016 Volunteers (*excluding trip coordinators, instructors, etc*):

Pool Session Coordinator: Nancy Kell

Web Master: Vitas Eidukevicius and Chuck Davis

Newsletter: Dan Eigenbrode

## 2015 Banquet

Earl Baer

A change of Venue and Date but generally the same result, a bit of seriousness, a bit of hilarity, great videos, good food, and good companionship. I feel confident that everyone in attendance walked away from the banquet with a smile on their face.

Some of the awards were serious expressions of appreciation, some were recognition of achievement, and some were offered in jest, all were very much deserved. Thanks to Vitas for stepping up and once again crafting the banquet awards.

The videos once again impressed. We were treated to a newly produced Thomas Weakley video, some old school video and slide show, and some videos that highlighted the exploits of Bobby Miller. Thomas Weakley's video can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1k\\_j85SjYw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1k_j85SjYw)

Carabiners, whistles, tie-down straps, gift certificates..... Door prizes galore. I believe just about everyone in attendance received a very useful door prize.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Bonnie wisdom, Nancy Kell, Susan Reynolds, Dan Eigenbrode, John Enagonio, and Vitas for all of their effort pulling together the 2015 Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers annual banquet. Thank you for all that you did to make this event the success that it was and all that you do to make this club work.

From the Archives



2005 photo of Ron Shanholtz surfing at Cucumber Rapid on the Lower Yough.

2016 Pool Session



JD Pearl helps instruct at the pool roll session. Sessions were held in March and very well attended.

## Nancy's 2016 Trip Log...so far

River (2016)	Date	Level	Comments	Miles
Shenandoah Millville	1/9	3.5	Very pretty. Foggy. One swimmer.	9
Wills Creek	1/10	2.9	Nice level. More challenging than I remembered.	3.5
Shenandoah Millville	1/16	4	Nearly 20 paddlers came out! Wow. In January!	9
Shenandoah B to B	1/26	3.5	Fresh and deep snow. Very pretty. My favorite time.	2
Shenandoah Millville	1/31	3.5	Nice level with pretty snow.	9
Little Sandy, UBS, LBS	2/6	6.1	SWAM TWICE and TODD SWAM. No excuses. Lost my nerve...	15
Shenandoah Millville	2/7	7	Lots of fun at this level but stay away from the holes.	9
Shenandoah B to B	2/14	4	Quite cold. About 20 degrees. Very pretty.	2
Shenandoah Millville	2/20	7	Big water. Large holes. No swimmers.	9
Maury	2/21	1440 cfs	SWAM. Devil's Kitchen is like Triple Drop at this level. Looped it .	8
Shenandoah Millville	2/26	8	Lots of fun at this level but stay away from the holes.	9
Shenandoah Millville	3/2	4.6	Forgot to put this trip in so can't recall good comments. Same on 3/3.	9
Cheat Canyon	3/9	2.57	Great trip. Very nervous due to roll issue. Best lines ever.	9.5
Shenandoah Millville	3/10	3.5	Pretty as always and nice group of paddlers.	9
Shenandoah B to B	3/17	3.45	First b to b for the season. Yay!	2
Top Yough	3/19	315 cfs	Challenging day. Multiple rolls and a bow. But... SNOW PADDLE!	3
Antietam	3/20	3.1	Newbie run for after last pool session. Found a lot of ducks.	8
Shenandoah B to B	3/24	3.3	Beautiful evening. Full moon but didn't see it due to clouds.	2
Cheat Canyon	3/26	2.3	Beautiful day but 2 awful SWIMS. I have lost my roll.	9.5
Shenandoah B to B	3/28	3.5	Pulled a stellar bow stall. Sadly, had to get a bow rescue. Can't roll.	2
Shenandoah B to B	3/31	3.2	Feeling a little more confident. Hit Little Swimmers.	2
Lower Big Sandy	4/2	5.3	Almost bailed. Earl's PDF though so couldn't miss that. He did great.	5.8
Lower Big Sandy	4/8	5.7	Worse swim ever. Head down pin. That said, beautiful run...	5.8
Cheat Dry Fork	4/9	Unsure	Went on this because we were snowed out for Middle Fork...	?
Top Yough	4/10	420	Should have bailed. Swam Suck Hole. Darn... Time to step it back.	3
Middle Fork Into Tygart	4/16	3.5 , 4.5	Awesome level. Very pretty. Bonnie conquered her fears.	6.6
Lower Big Sandy	4/17	5.1	Scared to bits. Did well but only because I was with my crew	5.8
Tygart Arden Section	4/18	1250 cfs	Absolutely awesome. Great level. Big water with big fun.	8
Lower Big Sandy	4/23	5.5	Very nervous but my great crew got through. Prettiest run.	5.8
Cheat Canyon	4/24	2.4	Nice level. Had to pick most our own lines because lost our lead.	9.5
Shenandoah B to B	4/28	2.5	Nice level. Cloudy but pretty as always. Just Earl and me.	2
Cheat Canyon	4/30	3.5	Big! Susan's pfd! Great group. Great day!	9.5
Little Sandy into Upper Big	5/1	6.4	Beautiful day. PFD for Earl and Timothy. Should have done it twice.	7
Shenandoah B to B	5/5	6.5	Big a pushy. Made for short run. Sadly swam on a practice roll...	2
Wills Creek	5/7	2.75	Ran it twice. Swam once again but at least a keeper hole reason...	7
Wills Creek	5/8	2.65	Huge crew of 13 Charlie Duffy. He made me lead. Was awesome.	3.5
Shenandoah B to B	5/11	5.25	Fluffy. Whitehorse was a lot of fun. The rest went too quickly.	2
Shenandoah B to B	5/12	4.56	Very nice level. Good surfing and good company.	2
Potomac Moorefield Gorge	5/14	300 cfs	Very pretty. Lots of boof rocks. Would like to see a higher level.	12
Kitzmiller	5/15	4.2	Actually great at this level. Brian's first go. We started with snow!	13
Stonycreek	5/21	5.3	Stony Rendezvous. Great time. No swims for a change.	4.6
Stony into Kitzmiller	5/22	750cfs, 5.2	Stony was more challenging than before. Great level on Kitz.	15

# Mark your Calendar !

## Trips and Events 2016

**Below are some dates for upcoming paddling activities and events to keep in mind for 2016. Check the MDCC Message Board, Facebook page, and Calendar for further details.**

The spring releases have started.

The Potomac River North Branch and Savage River Release dates can be found at this site: <http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/northBranch.html>

The Stonycreek River Releases dates; <http://benscreekcanoeclub.com/quemahoning-releases/>

For those so inclined to make the trek north, the Lehigh release dates:

<http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/FrancisEWalterDam/FlowManagementPlanSchedule.aspx>

**June 10-11**, the Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival. MDCC Plans to have a booth space at the festival to distribute MDCC information and Membership application. Look on the MDCC message board and facebook page for further details about the MDCC booth. Further information about the festival can be found here: <http://harpersferryoutdoorfestival.org/>

**July 2-10**, The Carolina Week of Rivers. This event has become a club favorite. More information can be found here: <https://www.carolinacanoecub.org/content/2016-week-rivers>

**August 6-7** MDCC Lehigh camping trip. Paddle the Rockport to Glen Onoko section Saturday, camp at Hickory Run State Park Saturday night, paddle the White Haven to Rockport section Sunday. Details will be posted on the MDCC message board and facebook page closer to the trip date.

**August 20-21** MDCC Valley Falls/ Lower Yough Camping trip. The plan is to do Valley Falls Saturday, camp in the Ohiopyle area Saturday night, and paddle the Lower Yough Sunday. A solid roll and class-III skills is required for this trip. Details will be posted on the MDCC message board and facebook page once firmed up.

**August 27** MDCC Picnic. Location for the picnic is the River Side Park in Blue Ridge Acres. This site will provide both flat water and white water paddling opportunities on the Shenandoah River. Further details will be posted on the MDCC Message board and Facebook page closer to the date of the picnic.

**September 15-18** Gauley Fest

**November 5-6** Tohickon Creek camping trip. Paddle the Tohickon creek both Saturday and Sunday. Camp at Tohickon Valley Park Saturday night. Details will be posted on the MDCC message board and facebook page closer to the trip date.

Check the message board, schedule, or Facebook for updates on all MDCC events and trips.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/masondixoncanoeclub/>

**JOIN ! RENEW !**

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

Send in your membership dues and forms soon! Go here for the info to do so:

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

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

See you on the river in 2016!



Nancy Kell at Valley Falls

### Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers



*Melius vivit qui remigat*

*Who paddles lives better*