# The Chesapeake **Paddler**



Publication of The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

Volume 28 Issue XI January/February 2018

# Adirondacks paddle at summer's end is full of delights

Owls, coyotes, and loons, plus waterfalls and portages, keep things interesting in the ADKs

### By Ralph Heimlich

y annual trip to the Adirondacks (ADK) this year was the last week in September, later than usual. Greg Welker reminded us that winter comes early to the ADK by sending a photo of a hammock camper caught in a mid-August snow flurry. Accordingly, I packed a down sleeping bag and coldweather clothing. We enjoyed warm, sunny, nearly windless days in the 80s, nights in the 60s, and low humidity for nearly the whole



Photo/Dave Isbell

week, even swimming in the coolish waters most days, until the penultimate night when temps plunged to the high 30s and we then pulled out the cold weather gear.

The ADK has a wide variety of waters, from large lakes best suited to long sea kayaks (Tupper, Cranberry, the Saranacs), to smaller lakes and ponds suited to a variety of craft (the Saint Regis Canoe Area, Little Tupper, the Fish Ponds), to a series of shortish flatwater rivers connecting them (parts of the Raquette and Saranac rivers). For this trip, we opted for canoes to paddle some rivers and small lakes. Dave Isbell had his solo Wenonah Wilderness; Greg, his Vernon Kruger Sea Wind sea canoe; and I, my 12 foot Old Town Pack Canoe.

Our rendezvous was the Fish Ponds Campground off Rt 30 just west of Upper Saranac Lake. Because of the long drive, over 500 miles and 8.5 hours, we reserved a campsite for that night. Early our first morning, we launched at the ominously named "Crusher" landing on the eastern branch of the Raquette River, which flows from its source at Long Lake over the upper and lower Raquette Falls, to a junction with Simon Pond, Raquette Pond and Tupper Lake at the town of Tupper Lake. Crusher is just off the road about half way between the falls and the town. We loaded and paddled vigorously upstream as the cool air

and warm sun pulled minitornados of steam from the warm water.

We passed several campsites before selecting #14, typical in having a small sandy beach, a steep bank with gnarled roots as steps up which to haul gear, a few almost-flat places among the towering white pines to pitch tents, and an exposed "thunder box" of a privy up the hill screened only by the dense undergrowth. After lunch, we

paddled empty boats against the current, aiming for the falls. We looped around numerous bends and cut-off ox bows through low, swampy areas past Axton Landing, once the site of a lumber camp called Axe Town, and past the mouth of Stony Creek on our left. A curious little cable car strung across the river serves to ferry the private landowners over to the south bank.

According to Jamieson, this section of the Raquette has returned to something like what it was before loggers built Setting Pole Dam to drown Setting Pole Rapids and flood Raquette Pond and 28 miles of the river up to the falls. The dam was lowered in 1885 which returned the river level to something akin to what Ralph Waldo Emerson described in his poem "Adirondacks" as:

"...a small tortuous pass Winding through grassy shallows in and out, Two creeping miles of rushes, pads and sponge."

After several hours beating against an increasingly strong current, we heard the gentle buzz of the lower falls. Rounding a bend, we were brought up short by white water cascading over a gentle slope of large rocks, so we paddled left to a sandy landing beach. Dave opted to stay with the boats while Greg and I took the portage trail, up

# THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The mission of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association is to provide a way for people to enjoy sea kayaking within the Chesapeake Bay area and to promote safe sea kayaking practices through educating the local sea kayaking community.and the interested public.

### Officers

Coordinator coordinator@cpakayaker.com **Bill Smith** 407-489-7191 Membership, subscriptions Sue Stevens c/o CPA, P.O. Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768

Secretary—Sue Stevens Treasurer—Rich Stevens **Steering Committee** Jacyln Gilbert Greg Hollingsworth Tim Dole **Ralph Heimlich** Paula Hubbard Chip Walsh

membership@cpakayaker.com 410-531-5641 secretary@cpakayaker.com treasurer@cpakayaker.com

Librarian - John Gibbs

**Gear Volunteer** 

Marla Aron

Webmaster/E-Mail List Administrators Paula Hubbard, Catriona Miller

Newsletter Team:

Co-Editors --- Elizabeth Boyd & Lois Wyatt Paddler Profiles - Bob Browning 410-661-6725 Mailing and Distribution

steering\_committee@cpakayaker.com 301-412-4785 301-498-0722 407-619-2896

703-922-7686 nanteet@aol.com Library

**Gear Page** 

webmaster@cpakayaker.com news\_editor@cpakayaker.com Sue Stevens (digital) Jenny Plummer-Welker (hardcopy)

### **CLASSIFIEDS**

### Advertising Rates:

We accept display advertising that relates to the interest of our readers. Monthly rates are as follows:

size	cost	dimensions	(col)
1/8 page	\$20	2.4" x 3.5"	(1)
1/4 page	\$32	4.9″ x 4.7″	(2)
1/2 page	\$50	7.5″ x 4.7″	(3)
Full page	\$80	7.5″ x 9.75″	(3)

A 5% discount will be given for ads supplied as electronic files in acceptable formats (i.e., .tif, .gif, .jpeg, bit-map). Email or call for more information and for 10month discount. See advertising contact in masthead.

Public service announcements and personal ads to sell kayaks/ accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for 3 months. Ads dated three months before the date of this issue will be pulled unless a new request is received by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. And if it has sold...tell us!

### **Pirate Groups**

**Pirates of Algonkian** James Higgins **Pirates of Arundell Committee Rich Stevens** Béla Máriássy Greg Welker Sue Stevens **Pirates of Baltimore** Marla Aron Ed Cogswell **Pirates of the Eastern Shore** Paula Hubbard Pirates of Georgetown Jesse Aronson **Tom Heneghan Rob Pearlman** Larry Ichter Pirates of the North **Bob Shakeshaft** Gary Foster Joan Sweet Jerry Sweet Pirates of Occoquan Jeff Walaszek Jim Zawlocki Pirates of Patuxent Jenny Plummer-Welker Don Polakovics Pirates of Potomac Dick Rock Pirates of Sugarloaf Liz Marancik **Rita Scherping** Lise Soukup

### pirates\_algonkian@cpakayaker.com 571-659-3319 pirates\_pier7@cpakayaker.com

410-507-4972 301-249-4895 410-531-5641 pirates\_baltimore@cpakayaker.com 301-395-6822 443-636-0387 pirates easternshore@cpakayaker.com 407-619-2896 pirates georgetown@cpakayaker.com 571-969-1539 571-969-1866 240-688-6340

pirates\_north@cpakayaker.com 410-939-0269

pirates\_occoquan@cpakayaker.com 703-868-1765 703-378-7536 pirates patuxent@cpakayaker.com 301-249-4895 301-247-8133 pirates potomac@cpakayaker.com 703-780-6605 pirates sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com 301-221-0572 240-731-9987 240-205-4341

### THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLER

The Chesapeake Paddler is published 10 times a year, with combination issues in Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb. The deadline for submitting copy is the 15th of the preceding month. Have an idea for an article, or is there information you would like to see in the newsletter? Contact news\_editor@cpakayaker.com

The newsletter may be reprinted whole or in part if credit is given to this newsletter and any identified author (unless an article is specifically copyrighted), and a courtesy copy is sent to the Editor. The download link or file for the electronic version of this newsletter may not be posted or forwarded to non-members without the express consent of the Coordinator or Editor.

# **News From the CPA Coordinator - Bill Smith**

f the 38 campers who originally signed on, 29 hardy souls decided to brave the frigid weather to participate in the annual end-of-season Chickahominy River camp trip.

Most campers arrived on Thursday and were ready to paddle Friday morning despite the raging wind and chilly temperatures. Most paddlers sought out an area that was at least semi-protected from the wind, so one group paddled across the Chickahominy River and up Morris Creek. During the lunch stop, Carolyn Sanford decided it was a good time to find a secluded spot. While there, a falling branch clobbered her. She received a knot on her head, a broken ulna bone, and a swollen hand. She received an ice pack and splint at the landing, and a person nearby agreed to

drive the injured Carolyn back to the campground. Once there, Leigh Mariassy and Suzanne Farace provided her a Sam's Splint to support her arm. Leigh then drove her to the hospital ER.

Reflecting on the incident, I realized it was lucky that someone with a vehicle was nearby to drive Carolyn to the campground, and she wasn't a serial killer. Many times we stop for a lunch break nowhere near a road or other persons outside our group. Trying to evacuate Carolyn from the area by kayak would have been very painful for her and challenging for us. The fact that her head injury turned out to be minor was also fortunate.

The fact that others were at the campground to assist was another stroke of luck; some of the group had decided to stay on dry land due to the high winds. Each of us has been in the position to seek out a

private semi-secluded spot to use the bathroom. But do any of us look up when we are just trying to find a wide full bush or tree to hide behind? Carolyn was expecting a fun long weekend of camping and paddling, but it ended almost as soon as it started. Let's all hope she is now fully recovered from her injuries.

### Upcoming Events

The annual CPA steering committee and planning meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Manhattan Beach Clubhouse in Severna Park, MD. The planning meeting is open to all, so if you have a few trips you want to get on the calendar or you just want to socialize and find out the planned events for

the season, please stop by. All attendees are encouraged to bring a snack or something to share. The planning meeting will commence at noon. ♦

### And, FYI...

The CPA navigation class will also be held at the same facility on April 7<sup>th</sup> and will be taught by Paula Hubbard.

Manhattan Beach Club House 742 Dividing Road Severna Park, MD 21146

### Chesapeake Paddlers Association - Introduction to Sea Kayaking

### Saturday, March 10, 2018, 8:30am-4pm

### West River Center, 5100 Chalk Point Road, West River, MD 20778

For preregistration and information visit http://cpa\_sk101\_2018.eventbee.com

**\$30 fee per person** includes a light breakfast and lunch. Program includes 12 featured instructors and 14 two-minute highlights from some of the area's top kayakers. Registrations must be received by March 1, 2018. Questions can be directed to Rick Leader at rleader@goeaston.net or 410-310-6541

Kayak Design and Selection ● Paddle Types and Pointers on the all-important Forward Stroke ● Kayaking Gear ● Kayaking Safety ● Going on a CPA trip ● Places to Paddle ● Transporting and Storing Your Kayak

Display tables will feature kayak resources, take-a-way handouts from a wide selection of kayaking organizations and CPA-branded gear sales. A diverse variety of kayaks will be available for inspection

CPA\_SK101\_2018.Eventbee.com Preregistration Required



### The Chesapeake Paddler

#### January/February 2018

## **Paddler Profile: Al Larsen**

at Pohick Bay), and Wye Island Circumnavigation. I like the vast variety in a single outing at Wye Island—sheltered channels and big-water surfing coming across a long fetch by the main bay.

Interview by Bob Browning

Lives in: Arlington, VA

**Real job**: Leads Office of Counsel and Office of Congressional and Public Affairs for EPA Inspector General

**Do you regularly attend a Piracy?** PoGs (Pirates of Georgetown)

Number of years paddling: Kayak, 10; Canoe, 50.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking?

For years, I was an officer in my crosscountry ski club, the Ski Touring Section of the PATC. One year at the officers' planning meeting at my house at the end of summer, Ralph Heimlich, who was the editor of our newsletter, showed up with a kayak on top of his car. I asked him all about it, and of course he told me about CPA. I thought my wife and I need to try this sometime, but I didn't act then as it was the end of summer. Next June, we went to Mathews County, VA with our canoe and bikes. While there, we



decided to rent kayaks for an afternoon. We were hooked. Bought our kayaks down there at Mathews.

What boats do you paddle? Eddyline Fathom LV (16') and Eddlyline Nighthawk (16'). Fun fact: We stopped in at the Eddyline "factory" in Burlington WA on our way to Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands. It's a small operation, with everything made by hand on-site. Talked to the guys making the boats, and observed all the different steps in creating one. I'm happy to support such a business.

### Rudder or skeg? Skeg.

**Type paddle used?** Werner Camano. Interestingly, this summer we saw Camano Island, the namesake for the paddle, which is near Whidby Island in Puget Sound. Also, Greenland paddle, made at the CPA workshop. Little experience but great instructors/helpers yielded a very fine paddle.

**Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking**? Canoe—Old Town Penobscot, which is a Royalex canoe, a material that optimized tradeoff between durability and weight. While I kayak more than canoe these days, I still think canoes just feel right for outings on the rivers and lakes in Maine and in the ADK. Other paddling: big-water whitewater rafting in the West.

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities**? Bicycling (I used to bike to work every day when I lived in Portland, OR); still do here but not so often (when I do, it's via the C&O canal). Also, road biking and mountain biking, xc skiing, and hiking. When we lived in the West, I did mountain climbing, but given the size of the peaks here, what I do now would be called hiking.

#### How often on average do you paddle between May and October? Weekly.

**Do any winter paddling?** Nope—see above. To me, winter is for xc skiing. When water turns to crystals, I like to glide on top of it.

**Favorite local paddling location**? Potomac River is about a half mile from our house, as the crow flies, so Potomac between Stubblefield Rapids and Little Falls (Lock 10 put-in) and Fletchers Cove for the stretch below Little Falls. Also Pohick Bay, Bull Run, and the Piscataway. Stretching the definition of "local," we love Mathews, VA. There are so many options and such variety. We go for 3 or 4 days, and can go out on the unprotected main bay, the well-protected interior rivers, Winter Harbor, Gwynns Island, Horn Harbor, the lighthouse.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? Toss up—the multiday kayak camping trips, such as Pax River and Potomac (with paddle-in overnight

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? Solo kayak camping trip in the St. Regis Wilderness in the Adirondacks. I counted it as 9 ponds with 8 portages. It was mid-week, and I saw virtually no one else. I had a campsite with a huge, flat tilted rock that gradually went right into the lake. It was my spot for morning tea, meditation and watching the sun rise, my evening pipe tobacco, wine and contemplation. It was my kayak ingress and egress and swimming jump off. Paddling around silently was wondrous. That, to me, is the magic of the ADK—the scenery is great, the water wonderful, but living in the DC area, I am most of all in awe of the silence.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? It wasn't in a kayak; it was in a canoe. I paddled the St. John River in Maine, going down just after ice-out, which is the only time there is enough water to run it. So, the water was very cold, and we ran it in open canoes, through Class III and IV rapids, which are at the edge of my

ability in an open canoe. No spills, but plenty of rock dodging at high speed with no room for error.

**Future bucket list trip**(s): Milford Sound, New Zealand; Baja California; Quirimba Archipelago, Mozambique.

Three things you like most about paddling? Nature, nature, and nature. Kayaking provides access to places most people never see or enjoy. You see water in many forms—peaceful, challenging; big, small; fresh, salt, brackish; ocean, pond, bay, river, creek; group or solitary. I find it very meditative—in the moment, in the rhythm of the body of water I'm on. I have a Native American art piece that says, "Like the salmon, I need the river to take me home." That's me. My CPA forum tag line is a quotation from Siddhartha (i.e., Buddha) by Herman Hesse: "The water flowed and flowed, and yet it was always there. It was always the same and yet every moment it was new."

What do you like about CPA? First of all, starting as an absolute neophyte, I learned from longer-time paddlers in CPA about safety, technique, venues, and equipment, all of which made paddling more fun and safer. Next, the folks in CPA are my kind of folks. I enjoy being with them because we all tend to have that love of nature I mentioned and tend to be interesting people, but not full of ourselves. When we moved here from Oregon, my wife urged me to find a group for paddling and a group for xc skiing. As I said, I had been canoeing forever, but not kayaking. First I went to the annual gathering of the Canoe Cruisers Association, a group based relatively close to us. Let's just say it was a very different crowd, not at all welcoming. A guy I talked to told me that the cliques were set, and those folks basically just paddled with their set groups. Not what I needed as a new guy in town. CPA is the opposite— reaching out and welcoming. I consider CPAers to be among my best friends.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? When I turned 40, instead of buying that car of my teenage dreams, I bought the Hammond B-3 organ I never had. That's the organ that rockers, bluesmen, and jazz artists all had—think, Booker T, Greg Alman, Jimmie Smith. I play that thing a lot, and it knows me. It knows when to launch a fullout joyous jam, or a quiet reflective number, Green Onions, Truckin', Season of the Witch, Just Like a Woman or Summertime. ◆

Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile? Contact Bob Browning at: <u>BBBrowning43@verizon.net</u>

#### The Chesapeake Paddler

### January/February 2018

# Batten Down the Hatches!

It sounds so...swashbuckling. But however mundane, the lowly hatch is a crucial piece of equipment. Here is the lowdown on lids.

### By Chip Walsh

Every kayak has hatches. We need them. When everything is right with them, we hardly give them a thought, but if they become a problem, it can really take the fun out of kayaking.

I recently bought a Current Designs Solstice with strap-down, composite hatch lids, which, it turns out, is one of the better systems, but hatch type was not among my decision criteria. Every time I fumble with the strap system of the Solstice hatches, however, I find myself thinking back to the relative simplicity of the rubber hatches on my previous kayak which has led me ponder hatches. This article shares my pondering.

What are we looking for? Dry interior, easy on/off, economical, and smooth deck profile. The first three are self-evident, but why a smooth deck profile? That last one I didn't think about until I was crawling across the deck while practicing rescues.

There are several types of hatches on composite, fiberglass, and plastic kayaks. I know little about wood boats but suspect hatches on wood boats would make a whole separate article.

I've identified four basic hatch types:

1. Hard hatch and gasket, or on older kayaks, hard hatch over neoprene covers

### 2. Rubber hatches

3. Screw-in hatches, now obsolete and only found on older kayaks

4. Latched and hinged hard hatches.

On a recent afternoon, I stopped by Annapolis Canoe and Kayak to talk hatches with CPA-member and ACK manager Dave Isbell. I learned that for sea kayaks currently on the market, there are really only two options: hard hatches and rubber hatches. There are almost no sea kayaks with screw-in hatches and the latched and hinged hatches are mostly confined to recreational and fishing kayaks.

A number of rec boat manufacturers are now making sea-kayak-like boats with latched and hinged hatches, and if they sell well, we may see latch-and-hinge hatches spread to sea kayaks, but that's just my speculation. These hatches have latch systems incorporated into the

hatch cover. Opening and closing the hatch is accomplished with a quick rotation of the latch. Then the paddler raises the hatch along a hinged side. These are very easy to use, and so far users are reporting the systems keep the water out, but I wonder how often those users roll or plow through waves that come onto the deck. Some of the latches are embedded in the hatch while others have raised latches, and I would worry about inadvertently opening a latch during a rescue. Attached to the boat at the hinge, the cover will not be lost, but the hinged hatch will make it hard to load gear into the hull from



the side of the kayak on which the hatch is hinged, and I'd worry about breaking or bending the hatch while it is in the upright, open position. Since this type of hatch cover is presently seldom fitted onto sea kayaks, however, we don't need to give that style much discussion.

Hard hatch and gasket

type are used by Current Designs, mostly on composite boats, but CD also offers a slightly different system on their plastic boats. Both feature a solid, detachable hatch cover made of the same material as used for the hull. The hatches are tethered to the boat with a small line and clip, which is good, because I'm pretty sure they would sink. On composite boats, the hatches are fastened down by three sets of

> webbing straps that are joined over the hatch and tightened by neat little toggles. The key to the dryness of the hatch is that, as the straps are tightened, the hatch compresses a gasket all the way around the hatch. Ideally, the gasket seals in a molded groove around the hatch opening.

> On the plastic boats, there are only two sets of straps fastening the hatch, and rather than a gasket, there is a rubber hatch cover under the plastic hatch cover.

CPA member Greg Welker tells an anecdote about taking his hatch cover to the camping store when he was shopping for cookware. He wanted to make sure the pot would fit through

the hatch. Not such a great plan because the actual hatch opening is several inches smaller than the size of the hard hatch. Moral? Don't judge the hard hatch opening by the cover.

After a year's use, I'm pleased with the performance of the hatches on my Solstice. They have stayed totally dry. The three-strap-system frustrates me when I fumble with the straps and toggles, but it doesn't take me much longer to fasten than a rubber hatch. I haven't had the boat long enough to address maintenance, but I can't help wondering what would happen if, in the future, I have to replace a hatch, and my

#### Page 6

The Chesapeake Paddler

### January/February 2018

### Continued from previous page

kayak is no longer made. Will I be able to get another hatch? I have heard complaints of toggles being unfastened during practices and of breaking or catching on paddlers doing reentry, but I have not experienced these problems.

While touring, paddlers sometimes report their rubber hatches were chewed and damaged by animals wanting to get at food stored in the boat. Supposedly the hard hatches are more resistant to "chew-

throughs." In-hatch food storage is not recommended in bear country, but many campers routinely store food under their hard hatch covers.

### **Rubber Hatches**

"Rubber" hatches are probably not true rubber but a modern, usually black,

rubber-like material. I call them "Valley-style" because the first ones I saw were made by Valley. Other makers of rubber hatches include Sea-Lect and Kajak Sport. By far, this style is the most common seen on sea kayaks.

Rubber hatches snap over a raised rim at the hatch opening, almost like a Tupperware top snaps on. Often there is a smooth, flat depression about an inch wide that runs below the raised lip of the hatch, which I am going to call the race. The hatches are put in place like a spray skirt. Start by getting one side on and then work your hands around pressing the cover down and into place. The raised rim of the kayak has a flared lip. The hatch cover needs to be firmly seated on this lip, and the edges need to be pressed down into the race. Failure to seat the hatch properly results in leakage.

On my tour of sea kayaks at ACK, I noted a number of different sealing systems are used by the different makers of rubber-hatched boats. Due to the wide variety, I don't think one can make a blanket statement about the ability of rubber hatches to keep the hatch dry. Thus, when considering a boat with rubber hatches, I recommend checking on performance by talking with other paddlers who are using the specific hatch type on the boat you are considering.

Most of the rubber hatches now come with a tab along the circumference of the hatch. The tab provides a handle-like spot to grab when removing the hatch. My older rubber hatches lacked this feature and it could be difficult to begin prying the hatch off, especially when the hatch and my fingers were cold. This feature is a real improvement. Most rubber hatches also have some sort of lanyard attaching them to the boat.

A knock on the rubber hatches is that they decompose over time and are pricey to replace, costing over \$100 each. Life expectancy of the hatches varies, but I think if you have these hatches, you will replace them within five to ten years. A number of factors affect the rate of decomposition. Some makers have now incorporated a hard, plastic center in their rubber hatches. The edge of the hatches where they seal to the rim on the hatch opening is still the rubber material, but it seems that the mixed material hatches may hold up longer than the all-rubber type. In any case, frequent and liberal application of a plastic-protectant like 303 is recommended to make it easier to put on the hatch cover and extend the life of rubber covers.

### Conclusions

Most paddlers are not going to base kayak buying decisions on the boat's hatches, but it is certainly worth thinking about while shopping. For those who will tour with their boats, the size of the hatch opening is relevant and bigger is better.

Hard hatches have the benefit of minimal extra futzing around with the straps, but the challenge of reduced hatch opening size. Long term, there is no guarantee paddlers will be able to buy replacement hatches.

There are many systems of rubber hatches and most work well, but I think I'd scrutinize any individual system before I bought. Also, buyers should talk to sellers about the life expectancy of the rubber hatch since most fail at some point and are expensive to replace. Paddlers facing rubber hatch replacement should consider alternative, mixed-material hatches that have longer life or lower cost. Because so many boats use rubber hatches and so many companies make them, replacement rubber hatches will probably always be available.

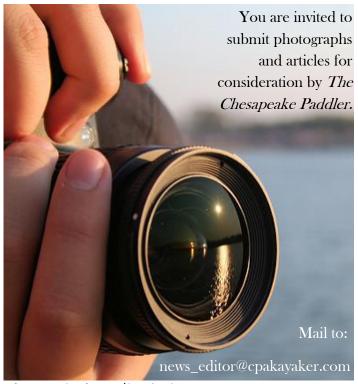


Photo: Ben Stephenson/Creative Commons



### Continued from page 1

nearly a mile to the take out above the upper falls. I suppose in the higher water of spring runs, or in the long-ago days of wooden boats and iron men, some brave pathfinders ran the nearly one-mile rapids that constitute Raquette Falls, but the remains of a busted-up canoe hanging on the warning sign were mute evidence that potential disaster awaits those foolhardy enough to eschew the portage trail.

After a brief look around, we hiked back, skirting the cliff edge to glimpse the white water far below. Back to Dave and our boats, we enjoyed a much faster passage WITH the current to our campsite. The onset of darkness brought out the well-mannered mosquitoes of the

ADK, present only briefly at dusk and dawn. Later in the night, owls called across the swamp and a pack of coyotes howled in the distance to the crescent moon. Though close to the highway, we couldn't hear road noise at all.

Next morning, we retraced our route on the Raquette past Axton Landing but then turned into Stony Creek heading to the Stony Creek Ponds. The first few miles were all sand bank meandering through swampy ground with



At the Falls. Photo/Ralph Heimlich

nary a stone. We then debouched onto lower Stony Creek Ponds and the summer colony of Coreys. While developed on the western shore, much of the east side and northern shoreline of the ponds is wild.

Of particular interest on Stony Ponds is Indian Carry on the upper pond. A low divide of glacial drift separates by a mile the northflowing Raquette drainage from the east-flowing Saranac drainage and may have captured Upper Saranac Lake from the Raquette drainage at the end of the ice age. Indian Carry has been a "Times Square" of the woods for a thousand years. Jamieson says:

"Jesse Corey, the first white settler, who ran Rustic Lodge at the N end of the carry, reputedly gathered a large collection of arrowheads and Indian pottery in this vicinity. For white trappers and later tourists, Indian Carry was still the hub of travel."

With a 1.1 mile woodland path crossing at Rt 3 to continue to the south end of Upper Saranac Lake, it is still a hub; instead, we retraced our route to camp 14.

Next a moving day, so back to Crusher. It was hot and humid as we landed, loaded the gear and drove to Little Tupper Lake. We reorganized there, sorting clean from dirty clothes, packing food for the next few days, eating lunch and filling water containers. We had thought that we might be the only paddlers mid-week in late September, but the parking lot was full with boats coming and going. We gawked at different boats and carts and wondered at the mounds of gear these paddlers were hauling into the wilderness. A 4-burner stove and camp kitchen in one pair's gear made my food barrel and portage pack look positively light weight.

We paddled west on Little Tupper past a section of private land excluded from the transfer of the 31,000-acre William C. Whitney-Round Lake Wilderness in 1997 when most of the land was given to NY State, and settled for campsite #2 on the north shore. After another quiet night, the cool air created a foggy enchantment that made it feel as if our little corner of the ADK had drifted off the planet on a cloud, along with a trio of loons seeking a fish breakfast. When the sun burned off the mist, we ventured out toward Rock Pond. We

> passed early morning paddlers out fishing who hadn't consulted the resident experts. Half a dozen loons were clustered at the west end of the lake where they had cornered all the best fish.

We turned into the inlet from Rock Pond, a narrow, swampy channel choked by lily pads and water weed with little current (a portent). After paddling a few miles, we came to the first beaver dam. Our procedure was to have one of us ram the dam near one side, jump out onto the dam, then

haul the other boats up and over before reembarking on the upstream side. After three or four of these damn dams, we got pretty good at it. Eventually we came to a portage around what had been a dirt road bridge where some past flood had demolished the bridge and dislodged the two large iron culverts conducting the stream underneath. From the high vantage point of the bridge, we could see at least a half-dozen more beaver dams ahead. We decided Rock Pond held its solitude too dear for us and turned back. Returning to Little Tupper, we crossed to Short Island and climbed the steep trail to the campsite at its center for lunch.

Next day, we paddled east on the south shore to reach Round Lake. We passed another in-holding at Eagle Point and the small dam that enlarges Little Tupper Lake to the channel running into Round Lake. There are nice campsites on Round Lake, so we paddled to one on the northern corner, adjacent to where the lake spills out as a branch of the Bog River. After one night, we broke camp, paddled out and drove to our next destination, the Fish Creek Ponds. We launched onto Follensby Clear Pond, part of a complex of ponds (Green, Polliwog, Horseshoe, Copperas, Little Square, Floodwater, and Rollins) that make up the Fish Creek Ponds. Our camp was at the narrows between the two parts of Follensby Clear Pond. After a leisurely day and night, we stopped one more time at Lake Eaton Public Campground for showers and a meal on the town. With the wintery turn for our last day, we appreciated the hot showers. Perfect timing to depart from mountains turning crimson and gold, we bid adieu to the ADK for another year.

### Page 7

Page 8

### **Upcoming Events**

Sun, Jan 28	IMake Your ()wn Spravskirt #1	10:00-3:00, workshop in 2 sessions, 1st to make forms, cut pieces, & learn to sew on bungie. Advance payment re-
Sun, Feb 11	Pool rolling session	2:00-5:00, RF Wilkinson YMCA, Williamsburg, VA
Sat. Feb 24	Make Your Own Sprayskirt #2	10:00-4:00, workshop in 2 sessions, 2nd to glue tunnel to deck you sewed on your own. Must have attended first session.
Sun, Feb 25	Trip Planning & Potluck	11:30-2:00, potluck lunch, trip planning & event coordination
Sun, Feb 25	Pool rolling session	2:00-5:00, RF Wilkinson YMCA, Williamsburg, VA
Sun, Mar 4	Pool rolling session	2:00-5:00, RF Wilkinson YMCA, Williamsburg, VA
Sat, Mar 10		8:00 am, West River, MD, 12 presenters for classroom-style workshop re buying first sea kayak and info for beginners, \$30 fee, registration ends Mar 1
Sat, Apr 7		9:00am-7:00pm, Severna Park, inclu charts, rules, tides & currents, weather
Sun, Apr 8	Pool rolling session	2:00-5:00, RF Wilkinson YMCA, Williamsburg, VA

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. P.O. Box 341 Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341

REMINDER: Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date. If you receive the newsletter electronically, you will receive an e-mail reminder prior to your membership expiring; please notify the Secretary for changes to your email address. If your CPA membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues. SEE BOX ON PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS.