



# MAPA Newsletter

Mid-Atlantic Paddler's Association



## Fun at Bennett's Creek Bash

The 21st Annual Bennett's Creek Bash was delayed by one week due to weather conditions on April 8th. The

15th turned out to be a beautiful day for paddling. Several new members joined us for this race! We had six surf ski paddlers, four C-1's, one OC-2; and this was the first year for having two OC-6's at Bennett's Creek. Murray Kirk finished first with a time of 44:44. Memorable events included Murray retrieving Charlie's paddle for him soon after the start and Mike recovering with speed after getting mowed down by one of the OC-6s. This race was also an important send off to our great friend Irene who is moving. She contributed so much to our club as an experienced outrigger paddler, race organizer, and Board member.

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### MAPA Events



#### Paddle for the Bay

Saturday, Aug 4



#### Chickahominy Challenge

Saturday, Sep 1



#### Seaford Challenge

Saturday, Oct 7

Register via  
[PaddleGuru.com](http://PaddleGuru.com)

MAPA web-site  
[mapa1.net](http://mapa1.net)

## Summer Practices

Tuesday: 5:30 pm *OC-6 and single boats, Hampton University*

Wednesday: 3:30 pm *Bennett's Creek and 4:30 pm Huntington Beach*

Sunday: 7:30 am *Bennett's Creek and 10:00 am OC-6 and single boats, Hampton University*

**Be sure to check FB & web-site for changes**



## COMING UP in JUNE:

- **Monumental OC-6 (DC race) — Saturday, June 16**
- **MAPA KIS Race & Work Day - Saturday, June 23**

Location: Jim Perry's Farm, Lanexa, Virginia

Time: KIS Race starts on the water at 10:00 am

Potluck lunch after the race. Bring dish to share. BYOC - bring your own chair.

Workday activities: make plaques for MAPA race awards and Commodore-lead boat repair if needed.



## **Kayak Trader Oyster City Challenge - April 2018**

### **by Mike Malone**

There are 3 races; a 15 mile down river, a 10K loop (2 laps) and a 5K loop (1 lap). This year due to inclement weather (thunderstorms) the race director wisely changed things by dropping the 15 mile option and added a 15K loop (3 laps) option. Normally I'm not a fan of multiple loops but this was a blast. Racers had an opportunity to see and cheer on other paddlers/friends along the course. The other benefit was the chance to see how different watercraft performed on up-wind and down-wind legs with varying differences in chop. Participants: 51, Cost: \$50, Swag: T-shirt, post-race dinner (highlighting boiled shrimp and freshly shucked oysters), a post-race beer or wine, and awards (medals and really unique custom trophies from local vendors). Parking at the start / finish was plentiful and the race launch / take-out (which was a protected boat launch) was no further than 100 meters at its furthest point. Participants had access to indoor bathroom facilities and an indoor rec hall that was used for the awards ceremony. The town of Apalachicola is "old school" Florida and unless staying on the outskirts of town, everything is within walking distance. There are some great restaurants, pubs, ice cream / chocolate parlors, gift and artsy shops. Lodging is plentiful with choices ranging from quaint B&Bs to very affordable hotels/motels. Notable observations: the race director arranged for a free surf clinic held the day prior to the event. It focused on beach launches, recoveries and paddling / surfing in open-water conditions. Bruce Poacher, from Epic, provided the instruction and took folks for demos in the Epic V8 Pro double. I've also noticed a phenomenon that regions have a prevalence of the same kind of boats which I can only attribute this to the dealers in that geographic area. At this race, the majority of the surfskis were Epics, accompanied by a few THINKs, Stellars, OC-1 and -2s, a C1, a lone Vajd Hawx, a few SUPs and our couple of Spirit PRSs. If you are up for fun and want a destination race this one is well worth it; there was actually a couple from California traveling in their RV who put this race on their cross-country odyssey. Cheers, Mike



## Blazing Blue Herons Girl Scout Canoe Team at General Clinton Canoe Regatta 2018



**Elyse and Reagan near Switch Bridge**

The Blazing Blue Herons Canoe Team from the Girl Scout Colonial Coast Council sent 11 girls up to the General Clinton Canoe Regatta scout races on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The team with adult support members, left the Hampton Roads area Thursday afternoon to make the long trek up to New York by Friday. Friday was a very busy day where the team finished the last two hours of their journey to Bainbridge, NY where each team of girls were geared up and ran down the section of river their race would take place upon. All this before some much-needed carb loading at the pizza place. Friday evening the girls participated in the annual Girl Scout canoe team get-together, where they meet the other teams, hand out swaps, perform skits, sing their team's song and have a generally good time before Saturdays' competition.

Saturday was a bit like herding cats (ok, not as bad as that because our girls are pretty good-but you try getting 11 tween to teen girls up early in the morning to start getting ready). Everyone made it to their scheduled race starts (which range over a variety of locations) and made it down the river safely. We had one canoe in the 4-person 10-mile relay where one girl lost her shoe at the switch, bent down and pulled it out of the mud underwater and flung it in the boat. She began paddling with one shoe on and when they thought they may need to portage and she went to put the shoe back on... well there was a fishing still living and

swimming around in it! Needless to say, no fish were harmed in the making of that 5th place relay- she emptied the fish back into the river before putting the shoe back on.

In all, the girls did an awesome job and had a great time making memories. They finished 2nd in the 15-mile relay, 2nd in the 4-person 10-mile relay, 3rd in the Division II 5-mile sprint, and 5th in the 4-person 10-mile relay.

Big thanks to MAPA members who assisted the girls during their preparations for the race during practice on April 22nd at Bennett's Creek Park.

Girl Scout Blazing Blue Herons Canoe Team begins practicing at the beginning of September through May (time off November through February) during the school year on Sundays 12-4. They compete in local races as well as the General Clinton. Girls are typically 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. For more information please contact [winnie.gonzalez@verizon.net](mailto:winnie.gonzalez@verizon.net). And see [http://www.gsccc.org/en/events-repository/2017/blazing\\_blue\\_herons\\_.html](http://www.gsccc.org/en/events-repository/2017/blazing_blue_herons_.html)



**Team Photo of the Girl Scouts Blazing Blue Herons Canoe Team. Location: the 2018 General Clinton Canoe Regatta**



# General Clinton Canoe Regatta “70-Miler”

by Kyle McClain

My first 70 miler was great. Our time was 9 hours 7 minutes and 7 seconds and we finished 7th out of 12 boats in the Amateur C-2 under 50 class. Got to say that I didn't believe my mom (Leza) when she would always say that racing was easier than being pit crew, but she was right. I've been the pit crew leader for my mom and dad racing the 70 miler fourteen (14) times starting in 2003, and helped my mom pit crew for my dad twice before that in 2000 when he did C-1 and in 2002 when he raced with then MAPA president Ben Lawry. That year we also did pit crew for another MAPA team Chuck Conley & Tony V.



Walking down to the lake for the 7:30 am start there was a lot of nervous energy and

butterflies. This was my first time doing the race and this year would be the first time that they started the Amateur and Pro classes at the same time. There were about 100 C-2s on the starting line and with all the fast pro teams there were sure to be some crazy wave action in the first 2.5 miles to the first of three portages around dams. My dad said to stay calm on the lake as it would be a long day, but it was hard not to get swept up in the excitement when the starter's pistol went off at 7:25 am. To be sure there were a lot of waves and teams that couldn't keep their boats straight at the start. Looking around and trying to stay calm I saw that we were with some of the pro teams and amazingly we were ahead of my Uncle Gary and his partner who are very fast in deep water.

Uncle Gary passed us on the portage as we waited in line down the trail to the water, we saw him jump over the guardrail of the bridge that goes over the dam and tumble down the very steep embankment. We could see Uncle Gary about 10 boats ahead of us when we got back in the shallow, narrow section at the very beginning of the Susquehanna River. I had a blast in the upper sections, passing boats while shooting down river. The water was moving fast but it was shallow in spots. We moved up on Uncle Gary and his partner, now only two boats behind them, at Phoenix Mills an old bridge that has been blocked off for vehicle traffic ever since I've started coming to the race in 2000. Uncle Gary stopped in the shallow section to empty the water from their boat and we were ahead of them again.

At Milford, the first pit location a little over two hours into the race my Cousin Taylor and Uncle Gary's partners mom were very surprised to see us first as they waited in a canoe



facing upstream for their team. My mom and Aunt Amber were on the side of the river just around the corner waiting with replacement drink bottles. We were able to stay in front of Uncle Gary until a couple of miles above Portlandville. We took turns riding side wakes with Uncle Gary for about a mile when we came up on another team that had Uncle Gary's partner Neal from a couple of years earlier. Neal

asks if he can join our little "family reunion" as we start to overtake them, they didn't stay with us very long. As we passed the trailer park, a spot where some of the local team pit, we saw our good friend from Southern Tier Canoe, Jeff Pederson pull out just in front of us. Jeff and his partner John had an issue with the back seat of their canoe that they had just quickly fixed. Even though Jeff and John were not in our class (they were in the Amateur over 50 class) Uncle Gary kicked in the afterburners in the deep water in the river and across Good Year Lake. We were about five minutes behind Uncle Gary and his partner when we reached the second portage at the end of Good Year Lake. After Good Year dam the water was very fast and technical, especially the short cut route through the trees about 3/4s of a mile below the dam.

It wasn't very long at all before we were at the third portage and our second pit at the dam in Oneonta. My mom, Aunt Amber, Aunt Patti and my cousins replace our drink bottles, food bags and give us each half of a peanut nut butter and jelly sandwich. I wolfed down my PP&J, my dad shoved his in his mouth and didn't swallow the last of it for at least a mile after we snaked our way through the first section of shoots and rapids. The last half of the race seems twice as long as the first half, long monotonous stretches with the occasional drops, shoots and rapids, some that had fairly large standing waves. There were some hard times in the slow water, where we would miss a few strokes to eat and



continue to cruise MAPA style the best we could to the finish. It was quite an experience and I will probably do the race again, maybe next year with my mom, and we'll let my dad do the hard part of pitting.

A Note from Rusty: "PS The long MAPA practice paddles we did with Jim Perry, Andy P, Charlie and Salli really helped prepare me for this race, thanks MAPA paddlers."

## **August Event News — Paddle for the Bay**

**by Tim Jones**

### **Paddle for the Bay, Saturday August 4, 2018 at Sarah Constant Shrine Park in Ocean View.**

This race is one of the oldest continuously run paddle competitions in the Hampton Roads area. In fact, it may be the oldest. It has run continuously (well, almost) for at least 201 years. Started as an ocean race (Rudee Inlet to Fort Story in Virginia Beach), it was managed for a number of years by Lillie Gilbert and Wild River Outfitters. When MAPA took it over, it was moved to Norfolk, to the Chesapeake Bay. The risk management issues were a little less daunting, and City of Norfolk lifeguards under Dan Jones have always provided great safety support. The race has always (so far as I know) been for the benefit of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation under the aegis of the American Canoe Association.

Old timers such as Chuck Conley, Bob Callahan, Randy Drake, Charlie Barton, Rusty McLain, Jim Farrington and myself will be only so happy to bore you with lies, er...stories of harrowing battles in the enormous swells coming off the Atlantic in days of yore, and terrifying carnage during launching and landing. Although not nearly so crazy these days, it is a nice way to spend a summer morning, hanging with fellow paddlers, seeing what CBF is up to, and fellowshiping over lunch. Please pre-register on the Paddle Guru website. Search for Paddle for the Bay. The race distances are 6 and 3 miles. It's not the most challenging race on our schedule, but usually enough exertion for an August morning. A big shout out to the highly competitive Stand Up Paddleboard community, because they have shown up in very respectable numbers, and kept the race "afloat" for the past few years. Since MAPA have two competitive OC-6's it would be great to get two teams for those boats.

Last, but certainly not least, please contact Tim Jones 757 404-6603, if you can help with registration, timing or general set up (lunch). There is a fair amount of work that goes into putting the race on.



## April 2018 Election Results

At the Annual Membership Meeting at Bennett's Creek, the club voted on open Board positions. Results: Vic Sorensen, President; Susie Johnston, Secretary; Russell Brooks, At-Large; Kyle McLain, At-Large. During the May Board Meeting, empty positions were filled per Section V of the By-Laws. Jim Perry is Commodore, and Tim Jones is Vice President. The Table below lists the full Board and their terms.

Role	Current Office Holder	Term Starts Date	Term Finish Date
<b>President</b>	Vic Sorensen	April 2018	March 2020
<b>Vice President</b>	Tim Jones	April 2017	March 2019
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rusty McLain	April 2017	March 2019
<b>Secretary/ Historian</b>	Susie Johnston	April 2018	March 2020
<b>Commodore</b>	Jim Perry	April 2018	March 2020
<b>At-Large</b>	Jim Farrington	April 2017	March 2019
<b>At-Large</b>	Kyle McLain	April 2018	March 2020
<b>At-Large</b>	Russell Brooks	April 2018	March 2020
<b>At-Large</b>	Open	April 2018	March 2020

## MAPA can benefit from your purchases on Amazon.

Using [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you can add Mid-Atlantic Paddlers Association as your charity of choice. For every purchase, MAPA receives a 0.5% of purchase donation from Amazon.

1

**BECOME A MEMBER**

Basic - individual \$20;  
family \$30; military or  
student \$10

2

**OUTRIGGER**

individual \$50; family  
\$75 (includes Basic  
MAPA membership)

3

**PAYPAL**

Send via PayPal "send  
money to friends or  
family" to  
[Canoe\\_Dude@cox.net](mailto:Canoe_Dude@cox.net)