



# MAPA Newsletter

Mid-Atlantic Paddler's Association



Lance, Tim, Andy & Jim paddled at the Onancock Challenge on September 23. They highly recommend this event for 2018.

## Races and Events

MAPA members sponsored three major events this Summer & Fall: Paddle for the Bay (PFB), Chickahominy Challenge, and Seaford Challenge. This was the 20th year for PFB. Race Director Tim Jones had great support from MAPA volunteers and the City of Norfolk. Paddlers showed up to support this fund-raising event in support of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Paddlers were in surf skis, kayaks, outrigger canoes, and stand-up paddle boards. A Nor'easter blew in on Labor Day Weekend, so the Chickahominy Challenge was delayed one day. Last minute Champs filled the OC-6 seats for those with schedule conflicts for the revised race day. Race Director Jim Perry hosted a post-race party at his farm. The last race of the season was in Seaford (York Cty) with a race course around the Goodwin Islands. Jim Farrington organized a great end-of-season event.

**Holiday  
Party**

**Saturday  
Jan. 20  
Jim Perry's  
Farm**

**St. Paddy's  
Paddle**

**Wednesday  
March 14  
Newmarket  
Creek**

**Bennett's  
Creek Bash  
and  
Membership  
Meeting**

**Sunday  
April 8**



## Volunteers Make the World Go 'Round

Many thanks for our outstanding volunteers. Contributions ranged from registering paddlers prior to races, providing snacks and water, creating tasty dishes for post-race lunches, making awards, keeping time during races, rigging canoes, towing canoes, and much more.



## New Race Directors & Race Ideas Welcome for the 2018 Season

The Hampton Roads area offers so many locations for local races, and we have lots of MAPA members with organizational talent. Let's make the most of that and add a few local races to our 2018 Event Calendar. Each event requires a Race Director. Often we run events as "Keep It Simple" races, so the duties of the Race Director are simplified. Contact one of the MAPA Board Members, and we will help you get started with your race plan.

Perhaps you're interested in teaming up with an experienced Race Director. That's certainly an option too. The three races mentioned on the front page are always in need of Deputy Race Directors.

### BECOME A MEMBER

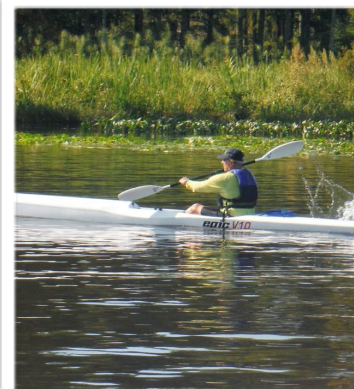
Basic - individual \$20;  
family \$30; military or  
student \$10

### OUTRIGGER

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

### PAYPAL

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



# Race Report for Lumber River Challenge

by Tim Jones



A gator dodgin' swamp crawling good. time. On September 16, four MAPA members travelled to Lumberton NC for a race that has been held almost continuously for nearly 20 years. It's a great North Carolina experience, led by some of the friendliest people around, and a cool T-shirt.

A little race history: In the capable hands of William and Lynne McDuffie, it has survived hurricanes, high low water, high water and various iterations to become a classic

southern "event". The "prototype" of the race was held in the spring year 2000(?) , and was 50 miles from Lumberton NC to Fair Bluff NC. Several MAPA members participated in this sufferfest, including your humble author. The extreme swampiness of the first half of the race (and subsequent bitter whining) let to a change to a 40 mile race ending in Nichols SC, with 10 and 20 mile options. Over the years MAPA has done quite well, with former president Ben Lawry holding the 40-mile course record. (It will probably never be broken, because the race is now 10 and 20 miles only). If you want a low-key challenge, on a wild and scenic river in a fairly remote area, check this race out.

This year current president Vic Sorensen and the irrepressible Andy Petkofsky represented MAPA, in solo boats, and Jim Perry and I paddled the course in a tandem canoe (The Roanoke River 4). Vic and I drove down together, and met Andy Friday. He was camped near the halfway point of the course. Andy commented on how mysterious and spooky the river looked, with its black, tannin water and Spanish moss draped trees. I could only express unadulterated joy that the water was moving, and recent rains meant it would not be a low water suck-fest. We paddled a practice run on the course, four miles upstream nearly to the put-in, then a quick four miles back to the campground. We even survived the razor sharp teeth of a crazed pit bull puppy, who was intent on shredding our ankles, fingers and boat covers. After meeting Jim at the hotel, we were ready to race the next day.

Andy and Vic did very well in the C-1 division, especially for rookies to the Lumber. Good flow meant less technical challenges and more speed. Jim and I chugged along at our usual steady pace, and we finished 1 of 1 in our division. We all agreed that it was easier than our epic 30-mile day last March on the Roanoke River. Check out this race, or any of the races put on by the North Carolina Canoe Racing Association, for a nice change of pace.

# MAPA President's Page - Vic Sorensen

## Weekly Practice schedule for Winter 2017/2018



MAPA practices are “bring what ya got & be ready to paddle hard” (canoe, surf ski, marathon canoe, kayak, SUP).

**Wednesday** (two options):

3:30 Bennett's Creek and

4:00 at Newmarket Creek **Friday:** 3:30 Bennett's Creek

**Sunday:** 7:30 Bennett's Creek

*Watch the MAPA Facebook page for changes to the schedule. Also note that the practice location for the last Sunday of the month may rotate to new locations as we try to get in some longer practices.*

## Cold Weather Paddling

Water temperature in the Bay is now in the mid 50's & dropping fast so remember to wear PFD's, dress for water temp, and have a strategy for rewarming in case of an unplanned swim. For a refresher on the effects of cold water, cold water shock, hypothermia and how to prepare for time on the water and be safe this winter, check the website for the National Center for Cold Water Safety. <http://www.coldwatersafety.org/nccwsRules3.html>

## Save the Dates - 2018

January 20 - Holiday Party at Jim Perry's Farm (watch FB page for more details)

March 14 - St. Paddy's Paddle, Newmarket Creek, Hampton (MAPA event)

April 8 - Bennett's Creek Bash and annual MAPA membership meeting, Suffolk (MAPA event)

April 28 - French Broad Classique, Asheville, NC; [fbcanoeracing.org](http://fbcanoeracing.org)

May 25 - 29 - General Clinton Regatta, New York; [canoeregatta.org](http://canoeregatta.org)

August 4 - Paddle for the Bay, Ocean View, Norfolk (MAPA and CBF event)

September 1 - Chickahominy Challenge, James City County (MAPA event)

mid September - Lumber River Challenge, Lumberton, NC

October 7 - Seaford Challenge, York County (MAPA event)

East Coast Outrigger Association races will be determined during the ECORA meeting on January 27, 2018. Races include OC-1, OC-2, and OC-6. As we learn about more races we'll add them to the schedule, let's make 2018 a great year to be on the water!