

Wye Island Kayaking – September days!

The first faint call of an osprey greeted our fleet of 13 kayakers as they prepared to launch from Wye Landing: <http://www.talbotcountymd.gov/index.php?page=418>. In September, the crabbers were already out despite overcast skies and full parking lot. Our fleet had 2 double wide ramps and a narrow sandy kayak launch to ourselves.



Preparing to Launch

Photo by Ralph Heimlich

The predicted NE winds and maybe a small craft warning, we opted to go counterclockwise for the first time, keeping the wind behind us. Everything, including landmarks, looks totally different going the opposite way. We took off like rabbits. Using the wind as an advantage, blowing the fleet over 6 miles under the Wye Island Bridge, we arrived to our half way mark in record time. One landmark is missing. A large old house with a duck blind had been demolished over the summer leaving only its chimneys to stand out like light houses. The usual lunch stop was full of exploring boy scouts, so our fleet stopped on a long sandy beach nearby. We agreed it was slightly warmer standing in the water than sitting on the beach, sharing lunch offerings of watermelon, grapes and cookies. BACK in the boats where it was comfy and fast!



Wye Island Lunch Break

Photo by Ralph Heimlich

Aiming across the mouths of the island's deep coves (who wouldn't!) we paralleled the southern shoreline to avoid the wind. The normal landmarks look totally different coming this direction, so the fleet stayed on the lookout for passing boats, who would appear or disappear around wooded tips on the island. Rule ONE: keep the island on your left! TWO: use your radio!

Rounding the last turn, a solitary eagle's cries bounced off the Wye wood, as our landing appeared in sight. It was a very pleasant trip with good wind all day for this year's "survivors" of THE WYE! ☺

Adirondack Cool!

This September marks another successful week-long adventure for our CPA Paddlers who venture north to the Adirondack Mountains: to escape the Mid-Atlantic heat; to bravely go into new cool clear lakes; and occasionally, to scrape more rocks in one week than in



ADK Break

Photo by Ron Tucker

an entire summer in Maryland. It's almost required to leave a bit of gel coat even though the aluminum paint smears from many other boats may already mark the worst rocks. It's a special ADK souvenir- in reverse.

Actually, the waters are clear and cool. It is very inviting to stop for a swim on sunny days and most rocks are very easy to spot or covered with moss. Our 16 kayakers (maxed out this year) gather at cabins along the sandy beaches of Blue Mountain Lake in heart of the Adirondack Park. We are lucky to have this centrally located spot for jumping off to other kayaking spots. Started 13 years ago by long time CPA Life members David and Elizabeth Moore, who organized and guided a variety of day trips and hiking opportunities over Labor Day. The kayaking group has morphed many times at ADK.

The Adirondack Park, one of the first parks in the nation, established in 1885, is an amazing quilt of wilderness, vast private holdings, villages, resort towns, summer cottages, with deep forests of spruce and pine, rough rocky trails, blue mountains, LOTS OF LAKES and less cell reception. There is a great variety of water access only state-owned rustic base camping sites and plenty of blue water to explore. A lot of history abounds. I is well represented at the nearby nationally acclaimed Adirondack Museum: <http://www.adkmuseum.org/>. If you wish to explore some history and glam, there are opportunities to visit historic Great Camps: <http://visitadironacks.com/area-adk/adirondack-great-camps-of-the-gilded-age>. Several of our crew was able to fly fishing; visit the ADK Museum, along with its amazing book store; or tour the Rustic Fair on our last day when the shops set up along the road in the village: http://www.adkmuseum.org/exhibits_and_events/special_events/detail/?id=357.

For seven sunny days, our kayakers swam and practiced rolling their kayaks in Blue Mountain Lake; over- fed friendly chipmunks; and kayaked across Blue to hike up Castle Rock. We also followed the



ADK Group

Photo by Ron Tucker

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