

Chesapeake Pirates Raid Smith Island: Two Bands of Roving Pirates Swarm Ashore!

Bob Pullman writes: Smith Island is an archipelago with three villages. Ewell is the northern most village where most people live. Rhodes Point is to the south west and is connected to Ewell by a 2 mile road. One of the groups led by Laurie and I stayed in Tylerton, which is to the southeast of Ewell, and can only be reached by boat from the other two villages. To the north of Ewell is the Martin's Wildlife Refuge which is uninhabited except for wildlife and about the size of the lower archipelago of Smith Island. You can only get to Smith Island by boat and the ferries have regular service from Crisfield, Maryland, everyday.

They also have regular service to Tangier Island located to the south in Virginia. While researching the trip I found out that Smith Island has a small southern portion that is part of Virginia. The dividing line has changed over the years due to oystering and crabbing rights.

Our trip began Friday morning in Crisfield. The majority of the group wanted to attempt a crossing by kayaks and the weather report was favorable for a crossing. The remainder of the group took the 12:30 PM ferry. We got permission from Tawed Oil Company to launch from their private beach at 10th and Lumber into a protected cove

Upon leaving the protection of Jane's Island, we encountered a light chop and very pleasant paddling conditions. About half way across we saw the ferry boats heading over, as they gave us waves of encouragement. Approaching Smith Island, Jim Zawlocki and I commented on a dilapidated old house that last year was dubbed Tim Dole's house. It still has a great view if you don't mind getting your feet wet while standing in the house.

The short cut to Tylerton is Lion's Club Canal. Arriving in Tylerton, the kayaks in the backyard from those that took the ferry across were a dead giveaway. I always get a little nervous when I rent a place for the first time but Pauline's House far exceeded my expectations. The house is complete with all bedding and cooking utensils. I remember the sunsets last year on Smith Island and the view from the backyard did not disappoint us.

Friday night dinner consisted of white chili, Greek salad, salad with seafood, fruit, and Spanish Rice casserole. Melissa ordered a Smith Island cake for desert but it was never delivered. We made do with cookies and brownies. Smith Island is dry, but you can BYOB as long as you are discreet.

Saturday brought us more great weather and we paddled south on the Tangier Sound (east) side of the island heading towards Tangier

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Pauline's House, Tylerton, Smith Island photo by Ralph Heimlich

Annual Meeting (Continued from page 1)

courage attendees to bring some other yummy snacks that can be shared with the troops. Brownies, cookies, chips, veggies and dips, etc.

You can also purchase CPA logowear shirts, stickers, patches, and other stuff. Bela Mariassy will have the entire trunk of **CPA Logowear**. Open Air Wear will offer overrun sports wear items from their line at deep discount. Come and enjoy the food and meet your fellow CPA paddlers wearing clothes that aren't neoprene. Imagine guys without skirts and girls wearing them! Find out why this room has RED walls. PARTICIPATE.

And, just like last year, there will be free ice skating at the Aquatics Center that you can participate in after the meeting adjourns [is this still true?]. If you have any questions about this, contact [Ed Hershon](#).



Last year on the Anacostia photo by Ralph Heimlich

Smith Island (Continued from page 6)

Island. Melissa was on the island over a month ago with a school group on the southern tip of the island known as South Point Marsh. They were banding brown pelicans in the marsh. We decided to take a look for ourselves and stopped on a little sliver of sand separating the Tangier Sound from the Chesapeake Bay. Walking along where the marsh intersected the beach was a big group of pelicans along with a variety of sea birds.

We decided to break into two groups, one going on to cross over to Tangier Island, and the other group completing the clockwise circumnavigation around Smith Island. Ralph, Gina, Laurie, and I headed up the west coast to Rhodes Point, admiring the many birds along the way. We noticed a long line of power lines over the water that ended where Shanks Island used to be. Paddling on to Rhodes Point, we took the Doctor's Gut through the marsh to Ewell. We stopped at Ruke's and had crab cake sandwiches. Ralph opted for the whole crab (soft shell). He called it a Bug Sandwich! Yum. I tried one last year and it was delicious. We encountered Rich Stevens and Steven Jahnke from the "other" Pirate band and checked out their quaint little lodgings in a converted crab shack.



Yellow track: Friday 17.6 Mi. Red Track: Saturday 11.8 Mi. Blue Track: Sunday 21.4 Mi GPS track by Rich Stevens



The cottage on Ewell photo by Rich Stevens

Paddling through the channel between Ewell and Goat Island (yes, they do have goats living there), we made our way back to Tylerton. We noticed the Mail boat heading in that direction and we later found out they were delivering the Smith Island Cake that Melissa ordered for Friday. As we were preparing our meal, the others arrived back from Tangier Island. That night we did have cake! Smith Island is known for their multi layer cake - some make 7 layers, some 9 layers, etc. It is very rich and very filling.

Sunday was another beautiful day with a very light breeze and most of the group paddled back across the Tangier Sound while Laurie, Gina, Tim, and I stayed behind to transport the gear back on the ferry. Gina, Tim and myself paddled back up to Ewell and then over to Swan Island. This is part of the Martin's Wildlife Refuge - about 4,500 acres. We were able to see white swans (Mutes, the BAD kind) along with egrets, heron, and many others as we explored farther into the marshes. As we were enjoying our exploration of each new cove of the refuge, we knew it was time to head back to Tylerton to catch the ferry. The crossing showed calmer waters on Sunday compared to Friday. The weather can be unpredictable and can change at a moments notice but we could not have asked for a nicer weekend.

Thanks to Laurie, Ralph, Jim, Melissa, Tim, Deb, Rob, Rich Pieper, Paula, and Gina for making this a great trip.

Rich Stevens writes: Thanks to Marla for organizing the northern contingent who stayed at Ewell, which consisted of Marla Aron, Stephen Jahnke, Sue Stevens, and myself. The weather was spectacular: Sunny, warm, and just a slight breeze. The Smith and Tangier area is notorious for windy conditions, and with a strong north or south wind, the crossing to these islands is generally too rough for kayaks except for the very skilled or foolhardy. It's not all that uncommon for the ferries to cancel crossings due to the weather. Island crabcakes are everything that they are made out to be, and unequalled by all but a handful of mainland based restaurants. A GPS and a good chart are recommended for a first visit as a lot of the many passages through the salt marshes look alike.

Rich Steven's pics: [http://picasaweb.google.com/CommodoreRi ... sland2010#](http://picasaweb.google.com/CommodoreRi...sland2010#)

Melissa's pics: [http://www2.snapfish.com/comcast/thumbn ... E=comcast/](http://www2.snapfish.com/comcast/thumbn...E=comcast/)

Gina Cicotello's pics: http://pasadenagina.smugmug.com/Kayaking/Smith-Island-2010/14150559_u9Wcx#1043892397_WGQMo

Tim Doyles' pics: <http://picasaweb.google.com/NeckyTim/SmithIsland2010?feat=directlink>

Jim Zawlocki's pics:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=Jimzzz1&target=ALBUM&id=5527000850331272737&authkey=Gv1sRgCO-elIODTyr-hPg&feat=email>

Pauline's house on Tylerton: <http://www.smithislandhouse rentals.com/>

The cottage on Ewell: <http://smithislandinnpetitemaerin.com/default.aspx>



Pelican swarm at Smith Island's South Point Marsh *photo by Ralph Heimlich*

Inside our October 2010 issue:

- Annual Meeting and Paddle Sunday, November 7
- 2011 Candidates and Stump Speeches
- Mail-in Ballot
- Chesapeake Pirates Raid Smith Island
- Holiday Party—December 4th
- Trash Out Pax II: November 6

The Chesapeake Paddler

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