

## Lake Drummond – Dismal Swamp Canal Bike, Camp and Kayak

**WHEN:** Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 26, 27, & 28, 2010

**WHERE:** The Great Dismal Swamp - South Mills, NC/Chesapeake VA

**PADDLE DISTANCE:** Daily – Approximately 8 to 12 miles

**TRIP DIFFICULTY:** Quite easy to difficult but may adjust distance on ability

**SKILL REQUIREMENTS:** Beginner to Experienced

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[http://www.chesapeake.va.us/services/depart/park-rec/dismal\\_swamp\\_trail.shtml](http://www.chesapeake.va.us/services/depart/park-rec/dismal_swamp_trail.shtml)

and

<http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/disw/directions.php>

**TRIP DETAILS:**

**Friday:**

Plan to meet at the Ballhack Road / Dismal Swamp Boat Landing off of US Hwy 17 (3.6 miles North of VA-NC State Line) about noon (see note below). Following lunch, plan to head out (bike) on the 17 mile paved bike loop trail along the canal and the old George Washington Highway. For those that do not want to bike, plan to meet at the boat landing around 3 pm. We plan to return about the same time as well. We'll stow biking gear and launch kayaks for the short (about 1 hour) paddle to the Corps. of Engineers Lake Drummond Spillway campsite. Camping at the spillway is semi-primitive and NOT accessible by car. There are flush toilets but water is NOT useable for human consumption. Grass plot is usually mowed and there is a screen gazebo.

**Saturday:**

Plan on an easy, "circumnavigation" explore paddle around Lake Drummond (about 8 miles in circumference) before returning to our camp site. Skirts may be necessary if windy.

**Sunday:**

After tearing down our camp site, we'll paddle the feeder ditch back to our vehicles, drop off gear, shuttle a couple cars down to South Mills and hop back into the boats for a leisurely 12 mile paddle down the canal to South Mills. We'll try to plan lunch at the NC Visitors Center picnic area. Should be off the water and on the way home by 3 pm or so....

**(note):**

If anyone wants to get in a little more biking, Get an early start 5:30 am and plan to meet at the NC Visitors Center (north of South Mills on Hwy 17 about 9 am. We'll get in a little mountain biking along the 16 miles of logging trails in NC's Dismal Swamp State Park for a couple hours.

**DIRECTIONS FROM NEW BERN TO: (click on links)**

**To the NC Visitors Center:** [click here](#)

**To the Boat Landing:** [click here](#)

**TRIP COORDINATOR:** Cal Hansen, [Paddler@suddenlink.net](mailto:Paddler@suddenlink.net) or 252-637-3655

Please let me know if you are planning to go.