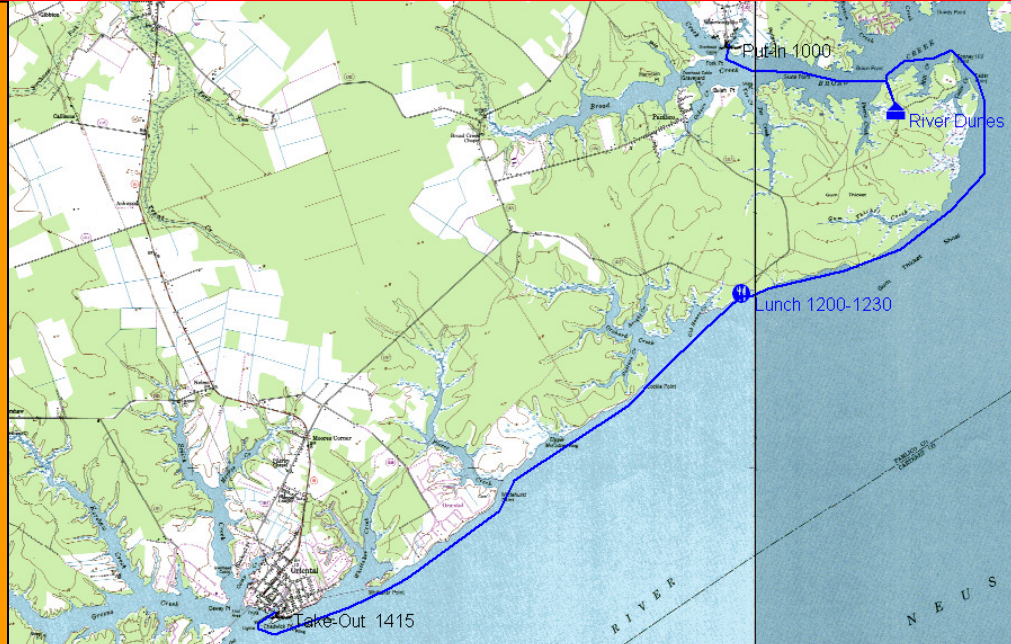


**Neuse River, Saturday, November 17, 2007  
(Whortonsville to Oriental, NC)**



**Put-In:** 1000, Point Marina, Old Lupton Rd, Whortonsville. Temp: 48F Wind: <5MPH from NW Skies: Partly Cloudy  
**Take-Out:** 1415, Paddle Pamlico, Hodges Street, Oriental. Temp: 57 F Wind: 13 MPH Gusting to 18 MPH from SSW, Skies: Partly Cloudy  
**Paddlers:** Alan Garey, Rosemary Curry, Terry and Becky Rich, Bob Kent, Dave McCracken, John Klecker, Cal Bridgers  
**Distance:** 11.6 miles

We met at The Bean in Oriental around 9 AM on a beautiful, practically windless, sunny day. After shifting kayaks around so we could leave a couple of vehicles in Oriental for the shuttle, we headed for the put-in in Whortonsville.

The put-in went off without mishap and we paddled out of Coffee Creek (behind Point Marina) into Broad Creek where we were greeted by a huge flock of sea terns and ospreys filling a private dock. On a “glass-like” surface, we headed eastward towards The Neuse passing Gideon, Tar, and Parris Creeks. 1.5 miles down Broad Creek we turned into the manmade canal that took us to the boat basin of River Dunes. This  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile diversion allowed some of the paddlers a first time view of River Dunes from the waterside as well as the front of the “Idea House.”

Returning to Broad Creek we continued out to Tonney Hill Point (2.8 miles) and turned up the Neuse toward Oriental. We were immediately impressed with the clarity of the water...a 100 yards from the shore we could still see the sandy river bottom. At the shoreline you could easily view downed trees and stumps from hurricanes past as well as lush stands of marsh grass and still standing pine trees. On the water we had to be careful to neither disturb nor damage nets laid out by commercial fisherman. And if you looked skyward you could see an occasional bird fly by with an unlucky fish trashing about in the bird’s talons.

After paddling pass the entrance to Gum Thicket Creek, and just short of Old House Creek, we maneuvered between the remains of a failed seawall to beach for lunch. Someone said it was the remains from a failed ‘80s attempt to build a subdivision there. (By this time we had paddled 6.3 miles.) As the temperature was rising a bit, several of us the doffed fleece liners we were wearing.

After a 30-minute break we put back out and continued toward Oriental going pass the entrances to Old House and Orchard Creeks. From this point inward we started to see some of the beautiful houses on The Neuse. About the time we admiring houses and boats on Pierce Creek (1:30 PM), the expected wind shift from the northwest to its coming out of the southwest occurred. Suddenly we were paddling in slight whitecaps and 1 foot swells. (*So much for the tranquil glass-like paddling surface.*) Past Whittaker Creek and along the Oriental waterfront we paddled until we got to the jetty and turned up Raccoon Creek to the seawall on Hodges Street. There we were met by Thomas and Betsy from Paddle Pamlico who had put the floating yak-a-launcher at the seawall. This enabled us to get our kayaks safely out of the water and faster. Thanks a bunch from group of tired but happy paddlers!!!

The final 2+ miles made for a harder paddle but every one of us agreed that it just added to a great adventure. We got to enjoy a little bit of everything on a fine day for paddling.