BREAKING OUT

Paddlers get ready to hit the water

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Spring is here, and it's time to get wet.

Or you can at least dip your paddle in the water at four upcoming events. Here are the details:

■ **April 5** — Check out boats from Bell Canoe, Dagger, Hurricane Aqua Sports, Liquid Logic, Mad River, Native Watercraft, Perception, Pyranha, Wave Sport and Wilderness Systems at Sunrift Adventures' annual Demo Day at Paris Mountain State Park.

Manufacturer's representatives will have 2009 boats available, and you can paddle as many canoes and kayaks as you like in the park's Lake Placid during the event from noon-4 p.m.

Sunrift offers 10 percent off all new boats, 15 percent off accessories, and some brands offer factory rebates. You can turn your old boat into cash with Sunrift's boat donation program: Paddle it Forward.

Admission is a $2 donation to the Friends of Paris Mountain State Park, plus normal park admission. Info: 864-834-3019, or visit: www.sunrift.com

■ **April 11** — The 12 Mile Canoe and Kayak Race returns for flatwater racers. The 12-mile race starts at 12 Mile Park in Clemson.

There are nine classes for all types of boats and paddlers, from touring to professional. For more information, call James Normandin at: 864-936-7400 or e-mail: paddler98@bellsouth.net

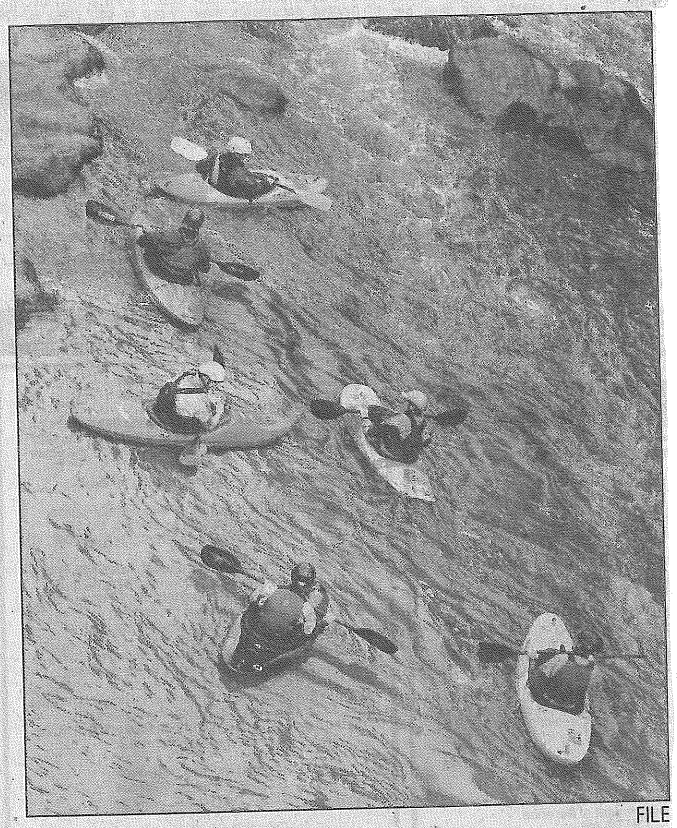
■ **April 18** — Get ready to paddle the Tyger River during the 10th annual Tame the Tyger River Race and Float.

Paddlers with a competitive bent, and those content to meander downriver are both welcome at this family friendly event.

Racers competing in the open division can win a new whitewater kayak, courtesy of Diamond Brand Outfitters, along with other prizes. All participants get lunch from Salsaritas, T-shirt, pre-race shuttle service and admission to the post-race party.

You can also try out new kayaks courtesy of Green River Adventures.

For more information, contact Eric C. Davis, outdoor recreation coordinator, Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation Commission, at: 864-595-5361, extension 121. Or e-mail: edavis@scprc.org or visit: www.scprc.org



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Kayakers participate in the "Tame the Tyger" River Race and Float.

■ **April 17-19** — The East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival is a three-day event filled with everything for the paddler. Learn about technique, gain hands-on experience, take a tour or two, and enjoy canoeing and kayaking.

The festival includes lectures, on-water classes, and demonstrations directed to the novice and the experienced paddler. More than 40 exhibitors will offer product demos. Participants can try boats, paddles and accessories on the water. You can also learn more about the products from designers and manufacturers all weekend.

For more info, visit: www.ccprc.com