

The Chesapeake Paddler



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Volume 28 Issue II

March 2018

Solitude and scenery mark Baja paddle

Far from the madding crowd, paddlers enjoy snorkeling, changing visual feast

By Lois Wyatt

"I am viewing Southwest-type scenery from a kayak." I kept marveling at the unlikely juxtaposition as I paddled south along the coast of Baja on the Sea of Cortez in late October. I had no idea that volcanic outflow came in so many colors and shades. The layers, uplifts, foldings, and eroded shapes presented a feast for my eyes, changing several times a day over the ten-day trip. Each beach where we set up camp for the night was distinct from every other.

Our trip was run by the Mexican outfitter Paddling South in partnership with California-based Seatrek. They offer this itinerary from Loreto to La Paz, ten days of paddling and primitive camping along a very sparsely populated and largely inaccessible stretch of coastline, only twice in a paddling season, which runs from late

October to early May. Helen Dawson asked if I would like to join her and paddling buddy Bill on this trip, and I jumped at the opportunity. She and Bill had been in Loreto in the spring for the coast and island itinerary three years prior. To return they eyed the fall for warmer water and the linear route for a more remote adventure. The maximum for this trip is 12, but we three and two women friends from Sausalito were the only paying customers, so I felt lucky that it had not been cancelled, as I think most U.S. companies would have done.



View from a hike above last campsite.

Photo/Lois Wyatt

One morning flight a day departs Los Angeles for Loreto, so connecting from DC required a night layover. We gave ourselves an additional day as insurance against any problem with that single flight. The first afternoon in Loreto, I walked the length of the town waterfront and took lots of photos. With no natural sheltered harbor, manmade barriers on three sides formed a box to protect the fishing fleet of pangas. Pelicans laid claim to many of the pangas. My first dinner was shrimp-stuffed chiles rellenos, which I thought were so delicious that I ordered them twice more--that is, all of my three restaurant dinners of the trip. The next day I enjoyed a long swim north. Later Helen and I shopped a couple blocks inland. Away from the sea breezes, that evening of October 20 was hot, so I knew why our trip was the first departure of the season.

At our initial evening meeting, we met our leader, Jorge. We threw him a curve when all five of us were unequivocal that we wanted single kayaks. Concerned, he explained that at least two tandems were important for carrying our food supply and in case of injury as we were to be far removed from any emergency assistance and almost always without cell phone coverage. We appreciated Jorge's quandary, yet in the end he accommodated our request. I think he would have preferred to be more nimble in a

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THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The mission of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association is to provide a way for people to enjoy sea kayaking within the Chesapeake Bay area and to promote safe sea kayaking practices through educating the local sea kayaking community and the interested public.

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We accept display advertising that relates to the interest of our readers. Monthly rates are as follows:

size	cost	dimensions (col)
1/8 page	\$20	2.4" x 3.5" (1)
1/4 page	\$32	4.9" x 4.7" (2)
1/2 page	\$50	7.5" x 4.7" (3)
Full page	\$80	7.5" x 9.75" (3)

A 5% discount will be given for ads supplied as electronic files in acceptable formats (i.e., .tif, .gif, .jpeg, bit-map). Email or call for more information and for 10-month discount. See advertising contact in masthead.

Public service announcements and personal ads to sell kayaks/ accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for 3 months. Ads dated three months before the date of this issue will be pulled unless a new request is received by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. And if it has sold...tell us!

THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLER

The Chesapeake Paddler is published 10 times a year, with combination issues in Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb. The deadline for submitting copy is the 15th of the preceding month. Have an idea for an article, or is there information you would like to see in the newsletter? Contact news_editor@cpakayaker.com

The newsletter may be reprinted whole or in part if credit is given to this newsletter and any identified author (unless an article is specifically copyrighted), and a courtesy copy is sent to the Editor. The download link or file for the electronic version of this newsletter may not be posted or forwarded to non-members without the express consent of the Coordinator or Editor.

News From the CPA Coordinator - Bill Smith

Well, March is here. I hope everyone survived the winter unscathed.

I recently read the article that Paula Hubbard posted about a sea kayaker in the San Francisco area. Though an experienced and skillful paddler, Drew Altizer was swept by the current into and briefly under a dock at Alcatraz Island from which he had to be rescued. <http://www.riverandocean.com/alcatraz-incident-new-years-day-2018-kim-grandfield/> I wondered if this paddler could have used a ferry maneuver to avoid the dock or if it caught him by surprise before he could react. One problem with sea kayaks, compared with whitewater boats, is that they are slow to maneuver, so getting into the right position may not have been an option. Around the Chesapeake Bay there are few places a kayaker can practice ferrying; most of us probably don't use the skill. Off the east side of Kent Island, Kent Narrows frequently has currents that could be ferried when the tide is rushing in or out near the bridge piers. I am sure some of you know other places around the bay with similar conditions.

Ferrying is used to cross the current without being pushed downstream or to cross the current in a controlled descent. When I paddle my whitewater boat, I practice ferrying frequently because it is a good skill to know and also a lot of fun. By paddling upstream into the current with the current at 12:00, you minimize the resistance on your boat and can move upstream. If you vary your angle to 11:00 or



1:00 you will move across the stream with the current pushing you in the direction you wish to travel just by maintaining the same speed as the current. Maintaining the same speed as the current is actually very easy, and you will find you are probably paddling more slowly than you typically paddle. If you vary the angle a little more steeply, then the current will push you

across and downstream -- you can control your descent by varying the angle. If you are paddling faster than the current, you will move upstream. If the current is strong enough, you can actually move across without paddling by exposing your bow to the current and planting your paddle near the bow to catch the current. You can use the same technique when swimming and accomplish the same effect; the best part is you do not have to be an Olympic swimmer to accomplish this even though you may look like one to the untrained eye. It can be very useful if you are out of your boat and don't like what you are being washed into.

We have two classroom events coming up, SK101 and Navigation. Our season on the water is almost here. ♣

~ *Bill Smith*

How to make the most of your CPA membership

Dreaming about kayaking on warm summer days? BE SURE to join our 2018 trips!

You may have recently seen an email – or two- about your own CPA membership status, which may be up for renewal. Those with multi-year CPA membership paid up see reminders A LOT less often. Please contact me to keep your email & address info up-to-date so that you can keep receiving the CPA Paddlers E-newsletters monthly!

Of course, you know that CPA offers multi-year membership dues discounts: \$10- 1yr, \$18 - 2 yrs, \$27- 3 yrs, OR the best deal of all at \$35 for 4 years. It's really easy to renew online: http://www.cpakayaker.com/membership/#online_option.

Did you know that the CPA FACEBOOK Page, our Meetup Event calendar and CPA Forum are easy to spot on our web site: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/> Please check the CPA website calendar (on the top row) for sea kayaking paddling days, camp trips, events, and skill workshops. (NOTE: CPA does not provide rental/ loaner kayaks.)

You can read about all kinds of kayaking topics on the CPA Forum (you do not need to log-in to access, only to post a question or reply), just click on the CPA home webpage link. Here's the link to set up your personal log on – if you wish to post: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=14&t=4676>.

Discover more sea kayaking current news & topics on our CPA FACEBOOK Community Page: <http://www.facebook.com/CPAKayaker>.

With the CPA online calendar - you also must join our CPA meetup to see our full calendar, trip details, and to sign up for our volunteer-led trips & events: <https://www.meetup.com/The-Chesapeake-Paddlers-Association/>.

However, you may wish to contact /email the trip leader directly if you feel more comfortable signing up directly for trips with them. They will have a lot more details about the upcoming trip– which is NOT shown on their Meetup calendar event – especially time and location. Our volunteer trip leaders really want to know who is coming ahead of time. Of course, no one likes a surprise early in the morning after only one cup of coffee -- if you have not told them you are coming! Our volunteer trip leaders also may be asking a few questions about you and your kayak skill set if they have not paddled with you before. All our CPA Kayakers want to enjoy the day and paddle safely together!

Looking forward to our 2018 kayaking! ♣

~ *Sue Stevens*

Membership/Secretary: secretary@cpakayaker.com.

Paddler Profile: Edward Santelmann

Interview by Bob Browning

Lives in: Annapolis, Maryland

Real job: Retired, produced technical animated films mostly for the Defense Department

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? Yes, Pirates of Arundell

Number of years paddling: 10

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? Always thought kayaking was cool, had a chance to attend an orientation in Easton that included a paddle. Then took an L.L. Bean class in Annapolis (Bean did it 10 years ago) and we were only 2 students, so I had full instruction for the entire day. Went out and bought a 16ft Tsunami.

What boats do you paddle? Both Current Designs: 17 ½-foot Solstice GT, light green over white, and 15-foot Vision, white over white.

Rudder or skeg? Both have rudders.

Type paddle used: Euro. About once a year, use a self-made Greenland.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? Just love doing kayak support for long distance swims and triathlons.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Sold my sailboat last year after sailing all over the Chesapeake for 46 years.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? Probably about 1.75 times a week.



Photo/April Childress

Do any winter paddling? Only in Florida and South Carolina.

Favorite local paddling location? Nanjemoy Creek...always restful and plenty of eagles.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: That's a tough one, all CPA paddles have been great, probably the Upper Choptank.

Cooliest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? The Ace Basin in South Carolina. After the spring rains, the blackwater streams would overflow their banks and you could actually paddle through the woods. Lots of fun when going downstream. Love seeing alligators; it's a mutual respect thing.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? Never had one. I've always had huge respect for the bay and water and never challenged the weather. I've

never signed up for a trip with CPA in the bay (only did Thomas Point once).

Three things you like most about paddling? Just being out there with other people. I can't get over how welcoming everyone is and how readily people share their knowledge, making me a better kayaker.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? Volunteer at the Model Guild at Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael's. I developed a class in carving a half-hull boat model which is held twice a year....Everybody who has taken the class has gone home proud and happy with a beautiful wall hanging....Join us if you want to learn the skill. ♦

*Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile?
Contact Bob Browning at:*

Chesapeake Paddlers Association - Introduction to Sea Kayaking

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 8:30am-4pm

West River Center, 5100 Chalk Point Road, West River, MD 20778

For Preregistration and to learn more visit http://cpa_sk101_2018.eventbee.com

\$30 fee per person includes a light breakfast and lunch. Program includes 12 featured instructors and 14 two-minute highlights from some of the area's top kayakers. Registrations must be received by March 1, 2018. Questions can be directed to Rick Leader at rleader@goeaston.net or 410-310-6541

Kayak Design and Selection • Paddle Types and Pointers on the all-important Forward Stroke • Kayaking Gear • Kayaking Safety • Going on a CPA trip

• Places to Paddle • Transporting and Storing Your Kayak

CPA_SK101_2018.Eventbee.com

Preregistration Required

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single, but, instead, he and his assistant, Adrian, were in the only tandem. With five experienced paddlers, the trip went smoothly, but again, I think most U.S. companies would have insisted on two tandems. I was grateful he did not.

The first day began with a two-hour drive south to Puerto Agua Verde and test-sitting in the assorted kayaks. The biggest one went to the only male, Bill; Suellen went for one identical to hers at home, while Michelle, Helen, and I chose easily among the three remaining. My boat was a Huachinango model, or Red Snapper.

In fiberglass, it was a lot heavier than my kevlar, but otherwise I was happy with it for the duration. There was concern the night before that the wind might make launching that day impossible, but we embarked into the surf about 2 p.m. It felt great to be underway, and we covered about 5 miles. Rounding a cliff point in which was a sea cave, we saw that another group had claimed the large section of our intended beach, but our group was fine on a smaller, semi-separate section. When I realized all of them were in tandems, I was not even slightly envious.

Oh, how the winds did howl that night and into the next day, so we stayed put. The other group departed, so then we had the whole area to ourselves. We hiked and snorkeled, relaxed and chatted, and I got more familiar with the routines of primitive camping. The layover was no problem because, wisely, two two-night stays are built into the schedule. We later concluded it was for the best because the planned stopover three days later was the least pleasant of all our camp locations. A lot of palm tree debris from Hurricane Lidia a month before had not been cleaned up and the water there was cloudy, in contrast to the water we were snorkeled in and paddling on the rest of the time. Truly, I've never seen such an expanse of clear and apparently clean water anywhere else I've paddled. Rain from the hurricane had awakened the usually parched landscape; everyone else, who had been there before, remarked on how green Baja was.

On our second paddling day, we were encouraged to hold a more direct line well away from the coast, but that was hard to do with



Sergeant major and Baja angelfish. Photo/Lois Wyatt

spectacular scenery beckoning. The shoreline was straight and exposed; surf would have meant a challenging landing and launch, but the day was long, and as Jorge later conceded, "I forgot how far it was," the result, I suppose, of an itinerary followed only twice each year. The next morning began with a brief paddle to a sheltered landing and a short, steep hike over cross-bedded sandstone formations to a razorback section of trail and a spectacular view. Our lunch break included a walk from the beach to an old ranch and outbuildings, the walls of a once-fine two-story hacienda, four tiny old shacks, and some modest environmentally-aware new construction. We refilled dromedaries and continued on to a lovely campsite with red lava ledges offering tide pools and fine snorkeled. Special care was needed to guide the kayaks through the narrow channel to that beach.

Subsequent campsites were also different one from the other. One was an oasis with characteristic palm trees to the edge of the beach littered with dead palm fronds, another a small cove covered with so many rocks that there were few sandy spots for setting up tents, the next a wide and long beach of soft sand and shrubs where we really spread out. Sometimes we paddled beside huge sand dunes or high vertical faces of black rock plunging straight into the water or countless layers of green, red, and white; other times



A colorful cliff face. Photo/Lois Wyatt

we savored wide vistas. We stopped at one tiny fishing village tucked against steep rock, accessible only from the water and another sprawling village where we saw their community dirt soccer field, bought snacks at mini-store, and refilled at their tiny desalination

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plant. We crossed that harbor to a four-table restaurant where we had a midday meal and chatted with the owner and an expat couple living on the sailboat anchored just out from where our kayaks rested. Apparently one popular activity for the women in these remote locations is embroidery; at each stop they came to spread out their handiwork; sea scenes and characters from Ariel



Helen Dawson aims her camera at cross-bedded sandstone. Photo/Lois Wyatt

and Finding Nemo were common subjects. Snorkeling every day, I was able to see past the familiar, colorful cast of characters to a number of well camouflaged bottom feeders. I saw my first sea turtle and kept my gaze riveted on a wary octopus for long time. Intact seashells were everywhere. There were short hikes to overlooks and up ravines. I marveled at the determination of the tiny plants to survive in their parched and rocky environment. Most days after landing, the first task for Adrian was spear-fishing for our dinner. One afternoon Adrian and Jorge instead went diving for chocolate clams, the name suggesting not the flavor but the color of their shells. Each night the Milky Way popped soon after sunset, vivid and magnificent overhead. We began with nights hot enough that I slept on top of my sleeping bag. Each night I would wake a bit earlier to move from top to inside until the last night when I was in my sleeping bag the whole night.

The second layover day was planned for our last campsite, and the paddle that final morning was a short distance to a larger fishing village north of Punta Coyote. In total we covered about 70 miles. When we landed, we stacked all the equipment and waited for the vehicles to arrive, van for us and truck with trailer for the gear and kayaks. But where were they? No cell phone service, no information. More than an hour later, Jorge spotted someone approaching on foot on the road between the vertical rock and the rocky shoreline. The van was stuck on the sandy road which had been damaged by the hurricane. What to do? People and personal gear were loaded into an available panga. Because we were mellow after ten days of functioning at paddling and camping speed, it was startling to race across the water, sea spray flying. Vehicles from the village followed the road, maneuvered, struggled, and eventually freed Paddling South's van. Once loaded, we appreciated the AC as we drove two

hours south to La Paz. After our farewell dinner, including another serving of shrimp chile rellenos for me, we encountered many witches and ghosts, pirates and princesses, small and grown, on our walk along the malecón. U.S. Halloween, with some modifications, has blended with Day of the Dead observances in Mexico. Whole families in costumes were out walking. Rather than walking door to door, children said "trick or treat" and open their bags to the adults and

the businesses along the malecón. An early morning airport shuttle carried us on an hilly inland route through a landscape dense with yellow flowers blooming on tree poppy bushes. A fellow passenger commented on how much greener it looked from her arrival two weeks earlier. From SJD Los Cabos Airport, we were homeward bound after two weeks packed with great experiences and with memories to savor for years to come. ♣



Paddlers!

The Potomac River Swim Needs You!

The 2018 Potomac River Swim (7.5 miles) needs support kayakers to accompany individual swimmers on **Saturday June 2, 2018**. You can really make a difference!

Kayakers accompany individual swimmers on their crossing and get: - pre-swim supper/briefing on Friday, June 1. - camping at Pt. Lookout State Park on Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. - post-swim picnic at Pt. Lookout State Park on Saturday, June 2. - commemorative t-shirt

More info: <http://www.potomacriverswim.com>

Sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TQ9HYG3>

Cheryl Wagner (202) 387-2361 cherylw46@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events. For the most up-to-date listings, visit the [CPA Meetup Calendar](#)

DateA1	Event	Summary
Sun, Mar 4	pool rolling session	2:00-5:00 RF Wilkinson YMCA, Williamsburg VA
Sat, Mar 10	SK101 Basics of Sea Kayaking	8:00, classroom workshop with 12 speakers for beginners & those considering buying their first kayak, \$30, register by Mar 1
Sat Mar 31	Greenland Paddle-Making Workshop	9:00, \$ for cedar plank, bring block plane, other woodworking tools helpful
Sat, Mar 31	SK101 Basics of Sea Kayaking - Lite	10:30-4:30, Chinn Library, Woodbridge VA
Sat, Apr 7	Navigation - Classroom	9:00-7:00, trip planning & day-of issues, tides & currents, measuring
Sat, Apr 7	Patuxent River cleanup	8:00, clean up trash from the river, 2 groups work to meet at Rt. 7
Sun, Apr 8	pool rolling session	2:00-5:00 RF Wilkinson YMCA, Williamsburg VA
Wed, 4/18-Sun, 4/22	Great Dismal Swamp	4/18 7:00 pm - 4/22 9:00, Adv Beg, car camping Northwest River Park, Chesapeake City, paddle Dismal Swamp, Northwest River, & Back Bay
Sat, Apr 21	Kent Island Practice Paddle (KIPP)	first of monthly group meetings to help improve skills & build endurance to prepare for personal distance challenge paddle in Sept
Apr 20-22	non-CPA event: East Coast Paddlesports Symposium	4/20 7:00 am - 4/22 5:00 pm, Charleston SC, history, technique, hands-on experience, on-water classes, access to boat demos
Fri, 4/27-Sun, 29	SK102 20th Annual Skills Clinic	4/27 4:00 pm-4/29 1:00 pm, Lake Anna VA, \$65, wet exits, stroke improvement, rescues, rolling, et al
Sat 4/28-Sun, 5/6	non-CPA event: Sails Angels Spring Gathering	4/28 9:00 am - 5/6 3:00 pm, Tall Pines Harbor, Temperanceville VA, on Pocomoke Sound
Wed, May 2	Pirates of Arundell	season opener, check CPA calendar for time and launch location
Th, 5/10-Sun, 5/13	Western Sinepuxent Bay	5/10 7:00 p - 5/13 9:00 pm, car camping at Shad Landing to paddle Western Sinepuxent Bay
Fri, 5/18-Sun, 5/20	Sail the Patuxent	5/18 8:00 am - 5/20 7:00 pm, sail the length of tidal Patuxent, camp at paddle-in sites
Sat, May 19	KIPP #2	second meeting to help improve skills & build endurance for Sept
Sat, May 19	Use Your Greenland Paddle	10:00, Adv Beg, Jonas Green Park, esp for participants of paddle-making workshop, but open to all
Fri, 5/25-Sun, 5/27	Gather at Chickahominy	5/25 11:00 am - 5/27 2:00 pm, Adv Beg, car camper
Sat, 5/26-Sun, 5/27	Practice Kayak Camper	5/26 9:00 am - 5/27 5:00 pm, for paddlers with at least Level 1 skills, try out kayak camping with support from those more experienced
Sat, Jun 2	non-CPA event: Potomac River Swim Support	8:0-5:00, free camping Pt. Lookout SP, experienced kayakers to accompany individual swimmers & provide support, 7.5 mi crossing
Sat, Jun 9	KIPP #3	third meeting to help improve skills & build endurance for Sept
Sat, 6/9-Sun 6/10	Martinak Car Camper	6/9 9:00-6/10 6:00, Adv Beg, Martinak SP, paddling on Tuckahoe
Fri, 6/29-Sun, 7/2	Fourth of July Holiday Pocomoke Car	6/29 3:00 pm - 7/2 1:00 pm, Pocomoke River SP, paddle area water-

Do you enjoy reading of the paddling adventures, local and distant, of other members? Do you like getting new ideas for paddling trips? Are you advocating for paddling access or amenities in your area? Have you pondered questions relating to kayak gear? Variety is the spice of life, and of newsletters. Please write an article reflecting your thoughts, experiences, and discoveries to share with our paddling community. We all become a bit wiser and excited to be on the water again. We need your input to make *The Chesapeake Paddler* the best it can be. We look forward to your help with content for these ten issues of 2018. ♦



CPA's 20th Annual SK102 Skills Clinic

April 27-29, 2018

Lake Anna, VA

SK102 is CPA's on-water skills clinic weekend.

Registration Period: February 10-March 10, 2018

Register Here: <http://sk102.eventbrite.com>

*SK102 offers on-the-water skills classes covering kayak design; wet exits; basic strokes; intermediate strokes; stroke improvement; bracing; self-rescues; group rescues; advanced rescues; towing; Greenland style paddling; and foundations of rolling. Additional on-land courses (e.g. navigation, kayak camping, etc.) are also offered. SK102 is designed to teach beginner or intermediate kayakers proper paddling technique and the skills they need to kayak safely. **IT'S ALSO A HECK OF A LOT OF FUN.***

SK102 sells out every year with a significant waitlist.

Where: Lake Anna is 2 hours south of Washington DC. The lake is a nuclear power plant cooling pond, so the water is very clear and heated – allowing you to practice wet exits, rescues, and rolling in warm water in early spring! The location is private property on which you are welcome to camp.

Cost: \$65, which includes the cost of two days of all volunteer instruction, camping on-site, morning coffee, Saturday night dinner, porta-potties and a one year CPA membership.

Required: You are required to bring a sea or light touring kayak, spray skirt, life vest, paddle, pump, and paddle float. You will be required to sign a release of liability.

For more information, please contact Catriona M. and Maxine M at SK102@cpakayaker.com

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 341

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REMINDER: Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date. If you receive the newsletter electronically, you will receive an e-mail reminder prior to your membership expiring; please notify the Secretary for changes to your email address. If your CPA membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues. SEE BOX ON PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS.