

The Chesapeake Paddler



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April 2002

A Brief Winter Trip to South Carolina, with kayak

by Greg Welker

February 17-20, 2002

Having an overabundance of vacation leave, and a desire to go somewhere warmer, I loaded up the pickup with kayak and gear and headed south. Five hundred and twelve miles later I was in Colleton State Park, just a few miles off of I-95 in South Carolina. At the bottom of the hill from the camping area lay the Edisto River. This section of the Edisto river is designated as the Edisto river canoe and kayak trail, which is either 66

miles if you read the brochure, or 49.3 miles if you add up the river sections shown on the brochure's map. Minor point. I set up camp out of the pickup, and went to bed.

The next day was a spare day in the schedule before getting on the river, and I headed up to Lake Marion for some paddling through the cypress swamps in the lake. Since this section of South Carolina is experiencing drought conditions, there was a nice sand beach at the parking area of Santee State Park to launch from.

With winds out of the north for the day, I paddled toward the north end of the

lake and explored the cypress swamp and part of Halfway Swamp Creek. The cypress trees are surrounded with enough water that you can easily paddle deep into the heart of the forest, to the point that I was using the deck compass to navigate a route northwest through the trees.

Spanish moss, cypress trees, the occasional live oak, herons, wood ducks and osprey were excellent scenery. At the mouth of the creek, large carp were tailing in the shallows, and bumping the boat. After lunch, I headed back downwind, surfing the one-foot waves. Halfway back I noticed an elderly couple paddling out of the cypress swamp back toward the cottages on shore. They looked a little uncomfortable in their Loon, and

Trip cont. on page 3

IMPORTANT
CPA
INFORMATION

Page 2—for information on receiving the newsletter by email as a PDF.

Page 2—new contact e-mail address for membership and issues.

Page 6—for a meeting on April 14 to investigate a new Pirate group in Va.

By the Book—Time to Read

by Woody Woodard

I've got a handful of kayaking 'how to' books. Nigel's *Surf Kayaking*, Harrison's *Kayak Camping* and *Kayak Touring* books, *Extreme Sea Kayaking* by Soares and Powers, just to name a few.

In all, though, most sea kayaking books seem to be the same. Maybe an expanded chapter or two (such as camping, or surfing), but in all, they are pretty much all just the same book. However, I do have a few that stand out.

Sea Kayak Rescue by Roger Schumann and Jan Shiner

If you have been through the BCU, ACA, or CPA safety/rescue classes, you probably don't need this book. But it is refreshing to see an entire book dedicated

to rescues - not just a chapter. Lots of pictures and interspersed with real life stories makes this an excellent book for folks who are unable to attend training, or who would like to polish up their book knowledge of rescues.

Sea Kayaking Safety & Rescue by John Lull

For those that progress into the intermediate and advanced sea kayaker ranks, I can recommend this book to you. *Careful*, I don't recommend a beginner take on these topics until they have built a firm foundation in basic skills and rescues. But those that chase hurricanes up the coast may want to give this book a read.

There are many topics concerning rescues/safety I haven't seen covered well in other books, if at all. Some examples:

Reading cont. on page 6

THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLERS ASSOCIATION

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

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MEMBERSHIP: Subscriptions to The Chesapeake Paddler are included with membership. Membership is \$10/year or \$20/2 years. Send checks or changes of membership information to: CPA, P.O. Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768. Do NOT send them to the Managing Editor.

DEADLINES: Closing date for articles, trip reports, information, and advertisements is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. The Managing Editor retains the right not to print and/or to edit articles, trip reports, photographs, drawings, advertisements, or other materials submitted for publication of a subject matter not related to the interests of our readers or due to lack of space, etc. See Advertising information in the Classifieds section

The Chesapeake Paddler is published monthly, approximately March-December, and may be reprinted in 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 Managing Editor.

From the Editor

There have been a few changes. We have a new person handling the membership list. Dave Mood, who has been efficiently doing this job for us for many years, has turned the task over to Steve Lindeman. *Many* thanks to Dave. He has spent years showing up with the address labels every month. He has done a fantastic job.

Steve has an email address to which you can direct membership issues, **CPAmembership@dmv.com**. If you want him to put you name on the electronic newsletter list send an email there.

One issue that is unresolved is the assistance I need with the newsletter. As I said in the last issue, I need help if we are going to continue having more than calendar and classifieds in the newsletter.

In fact, *if we are going to have a newsletter at all I need people willing to help with getting the printing and mailing done*. All you need is a decent printer, a willingness to help and some time. After this issue I will not be able to do it.

It consists of receiving the electronic files for the newsletter and mailing labels, taking them to be printed, picking them up and doing the mailing. It takes 3 people to fold, stamp, and label the usually 500+ newsletters. We have been getting it done in a matter of 2 hours or so.

To paddling: The week before Easter we went for a couple of days of paddling on Nanjemoy Creek. It wasn't the Kent Island trip we wanted but the weather wasn't accommodating. The Nanjemoy is just beautiful. We have had years of pleasure there. We again had a wonderful time.

But, I get migraine headaches if the light is too strong in my eyes. On Thursday we played around having a great time and ended up paddling directly into the sun on the way back when it was quite low. I had to ask to be towed so that I could paddle without looking up. This was my first experience being towed.

I'm a strong paddler and even just a few strokes had me paddling faster than the person towing me. I finally had to yield the help because I was getting my paddle caught in the tow rope, which was more than a bit dangerous. By that point we had fooled around long enough that the sun was low enough for me to paddle on my own. I was lucky. It was paddle myself or be pull me along. I didn't seem to be able to pace my paddling without helping. So, now I need to practice being towed. Practice! Practice! Practice!

Now we come to the annual cry. Paddle smart. *The water is cold!* We measured the water in Nanjemoy Creek. It was 51°, which is really cold. Wednesday the air was about 55° and Thursday was about 63°, very nice weather! This is how people end up in the hospital. *Dress for the water, even if you can't even imagine falling into it.*

Try putting your hands in the water for a minute or two, not just 30 seconds but say, a minute and a half. Now try to tie your shoes. Try to put your water bottle under the bungee on your deck.

What do you think you can do if your whole body is that numb and cold? Why take chances? Either have a wetsuit or wait until you can go into the water and swim safely. Is a few hours on the water really worth the risk of the damage that happens with hypothermia? Taking the kids out is risking their lives. Children are even more vulnerable to the cold.

We are working, lining up training for trip leaders, keep an eye out if you are interested. There are people planning trips and we invite you to add your offering.

The Pirate season will be opening for *Pier 7* on April 10, tentatively for the *Georgetown* group on the 25th, and for the *Pirates of the Potomac* on May 7 but you should call to confirm the last two. *For now wear the wetsuit or wait for warmer water.*

Joan Spinner
Editor

Find CPA at: <http://www.cpakayaker.com>

CPA

On-line

CPA e-mail list: To subscribe to our online electronic mailing list, send a message to **majordomo@lists.shire.net** with the body of the message reading 'subscribe CPAKayaker' (without quotes). To send a message to the list, send it to **CPAKayaker@lists.shire.net**.

Trip (from page 1)

had their pfd's and a cooler securely strapped to the stern deck. They had spent the night in a cabin/duck blind in the swamp. I talked to them until they got into shallower, calmer water. Back at the parking lot, I had to ask for help to get the boat back on the truck because of the increase in the wind during the course of the day. *Day one of paddling, 15.6 miles, 4.7 hours.*

On the way back to Colleton I scouted out the other public ramps and bail out points on the river. There are ramps or public access points about every ten miles on this section of river. Because the river is bordered by swamps in most locations it is difficult to bail out at any other points. The Edisto watershed alliance has plans to put numbered duck boxes along the river at mile intervals, and guides or river users will be able to use marine radios to call out and give their locations by duck box number. Almost as good as call boxes, and environmentally beneficial!

This section of South Carolina is economically depressed, with unemployment

just recently down to 18% in one of the counties. Major employers are the lumber companies and the power generation station next to Colleton state park (you hear it at night). It shows in towns, which are slowly dying and disappearing. Don't expect to find restaurants or rooms readily available, except at the interstate interchanges.

Several guide and livery services operate trips on the river, mostly during warmer months. I had previously been in touch with a couple of them, and had selected Richard Mikell of Adventure Carolina to help me with the shuttle logistics. Richard and I had conversed via email several times over the last couple of months regarding the trip details and timing. Deer season runs from November through January. Perhaps not the time to run the river. Winter water levels have been low this year, which exposes more of the sandbars along the river, which is where you can back country camp. High water levels can severely limit your campsite choices. The river has a definite current, and there are numerous fallen trees (strainers), especially at the bends, so paddlers need to have some basic river

running skills. It is generally not possible or necessary to get out and scout upcoming river sections.

I met Richard the next morning at his outpost south of Branchville, where I left my vehicle. Richard dropped me off at the ramp at Whetstone Crossroads. He was skeptical that all my gear would fit into the kayak. It did. My original plan was to paddle down about 13 miles to a back country campsite on the first day, get to Colleton State Park 8 miles further on day two, use day three to go 21 miles to Givens Ferry State Park, and take out on day four ten miles further down river at Long Creek Landing. Due to an oncoming wet weather front I opted to reduce the trip to two nights on the river, staying at the state parks and still covering the 49.3 miles. The section from Whetstone down to the Colleton power plant is the most remote section, and was a very enjoyable paddle. In fact, the scenery and the sandbars were so inviting that I ended up stopping for the night on a sandbar with a nice southern exposure about a mile above Colleton. Enough space of the bar for the kayak, the tent, and to lie in the sun. All I needed. Following my standard operating procedure for camping along rivers and places I can't walk out of, I tied off the kayak to a tree, stuck a stick in the sand at the water line to see if the river level changed over time, and took a nap. At one point I looked up to see a deer come out of the swamp about fifteen feet from me and drink from the river. That night I listened to owls, snug in my winter bag as the temperatures went below freezing. *Day two of paddling, 20 miles, 5.3 hours on water, and a night in the woods.*

The morning of day three I found the water bottle outside the tent frozen. The ones inside the boat were fine, and a hot breakfast started the day. Today I paddled past the gas and coal fired power plant on the river, and past Colleton State Park. Colleton turned out to be the only public landing/access point on the river that was marked from the river view. Some of the other access points are difficult to distinguish from private ramps when viewed from the water.

This second section of the river has a few less sandbars than the first section, and a few more cottages. Many of the cottages have evolved from house trailers,



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Ads dated three months prior to 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.

For Sale

Wilderness Systems Manteo, single light touring/recreation kayak, weighs 50 lbs, multi-chine hull, fixed skeg ; plenty of flare makes it stable, rear bulkhead and hatch. \$450.00. Contact Marcus 202-342-1443 x216; ybcuckoo@yahoo.com (04/02)

Seda Swift, 17' x 24", fiberglass, yellow/light gray; 2 sprayskirts, one nylon, one neoprene, excellent condition, \$1000. **Perception** Umiak, 12' x 21", plastic, red, nylon sprayskirt (kid's kayak, good to 110-120 lb paddler), very good condition, \$275. Bob 301-565-2726 email rgasser@erols.com (04/02)

Cobra Kayaks Wave Witch, 10' 4" x 22.5", plastic SOT surf kayak with integral surf rudder. (For details see www.cobrakayaks.com) \$300 for boat with back rest, thigh straps, **Cobra** surf paddle. Mike Vandamm 202/268-3021 (office); 301/345-6324 (home); mvandamm@email.usps.gov (04/02)

Current Designs Caribou Model year 2001 fiberglass, yellow over white, excellent shape, garage kept NEW \$2595 asking \$2000, located in Sykesville, Carroll County contact Mike at khamilto@wam.umd.edu (04/02)

Ocean Kayak Scupper Pro TW (SOT), bought new \$689 in '99, asking \$450. plastic, self-bailing, multiple accessory eyelets, one 12"x22" hatch. 14'9" X 26", 55 lbs. contact Saki, e-mail: saki@radix.net, home 410-242-4739, work 301-688-0308 see at http://saki.iwarp.com/images/sandy_point_state_park_6_99.jpg (04/02)

ADVERTISING:

ADVERTISING: Display advertising will be accepted that relates to the concerns and interests of our readers. Monthly rates for advertising are as follows:

	size	cost	width	X	depth	(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, eg: .tif, eps, jpg, or gif. Call or write for more information and for 10-month discount. 301-559-3345 or JSpinner@aol.com.

Public service announcements, including personal ads to sell personal kayaks and accessories, are printed for members at no charge, nonmembers \$10, for 3 months.

Calendar of Events

April

April 26-28 (Fri-Sun.) SK 102 at Lake Anna. The 4th annual skills building workshop at Lake Anna Va.

May

May 4 (Sat) Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge An 8 to 10 miles, easy shoreline paddle. bring cold water gear .Sign up by reaching Cyndi at janetzko@igc.org or Dave bissd@erols.com or call 301.240.4659

May 10-11 (Fri-Sat) Springriver Demo Days, Sandy Point State Park.

June

June 1 (Sat) Potomac River Swim for the Environment See page6 for details.

June 8 (Sat.) adv. beginner, Chapel Point State Park, Destination will depend on participants and weather conditions. RSVP necessary. Call 301-472-4894, e-mail rmdement@crosslink.net

June 14 (Sat.) The Great Chesapeake Bay Swim, Sunday, June 14. *Kayakers needed for swim support duties* www.bayswim.com.

June 23-30 Potomac River Sojourn. see page 5 for details. For more information, please contact Jamie Keefer at 202-466-4633 or jkeefe@acb-online.org.

16' Day Sailer Sails, trailer, all running and standing rigging \$1000, **Mad River** Eclipse, 16' Canoe, 2 Canoe Paddles, w/**Voyageur** wooden bent shaft - lightweight and beautiful \$800 for all. Barely used. **Piranha** Mountain 300 creek boat, with fore and float bags, **Outskirts** Sidewinder neoprene sprayskirt, **Impex** Rt hd 45 degree 201 cm paddle, **Primex** Deluge helmet \$500 for all. Accessories used twice. 3 Type III Adult lifejackets - water ski style \$15 each, **Terry** Gambit 12 spd bicycle 17" with toe clips, gel saddle, odometer \$100, Wendy Baker Davis or Les Baker: w_davis@fandm.edu or (717) 293-1086 (04/02)

Current Designs Solstice SS and ST. Like new, only used a few times. Many accessories available. \$1900.00 each. Available accessories include: spray deck, roof rack, life jackets, paddles, compass, pump, float, neoprene spray decks, (410) 421-9042 or anthonyshort@aol.com (03/02)

Yakama rain gutter towers, excellent conditions, sell \$75. New car has no rain gutters. 2 sets Hully Rollers \$55 each call 301-559-3345 or jspinner@peoplepc.com (1/02)

We need more people to sign up! We are looking for one or more paddlers to join us when the "freshet" floods the shores and delta islands of the lower St. John in New Brunswick/Canada. Dates: May 18-20, Fee: \$375 plus (U.S) Departure: New Brunswick, e-mail: coastal@dunmac.com, or write: Coastal Adventures, P.O.Box 77, Tangier, Nova Scotia, Canada BOJ 3HO Or call George/Irene Kamm

July

July 20: (Sat.) 9 a.m. **Patuxent River and St. Leonard Creek** Kayak/canoe shoreline tour, Beginner trip of about 5 miles. A tour of the Patuxent River and St. Leonard Creek guided by an archaeologist. Sponsored in conjunction with Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. Limited number of participants, sign up early! RSVP trip, contact Greg Welker or Jenny Plummer-Welker, 301-249-4895 or gwelker@erols.com or plummer@chesapeake.net.

July 26-28 (Fri-Sun.) Gwynn Island, car camping. Mathews County Va. ADC Chart 13, more details to come.

August

Aug. 17-18 (Sat-Sun.) St. Clement's Island, kayak camping trip ADC chart 23 paddle to St. Clement's Island to camp there, more details to come.

September

Sept. 28-29 (Sat-Sun.) Chichahominy River, car camping ADC chart 32 more details to come.

November

Nov. 2-3 (Sat-Sun.) Point Lookout, car camping, more details to come.

Send submissions for the calendar to the editor; see page 2 for contact info.

703/780-8568 (3/02) note: this is a commercial trip (1/02)

Necky Looksha III, fiberglass, excellent condition, 19.5' and 55 lbs. Yellow with green trim. Like new spray skirt, paddle, and paddle float included. Performance and stability for all levels - See www.necky.com. Selling for \$1700 (list price for kayak alone - \$2600). Contact John Enderle at jenderle@integ.com or 410-626-8190 hm. (1/02)

1998 **Pyranha** Storm, 11, 7'10" x 27" Great river-runner with some play, used but not abused, purple. Selling for \$250. Contact James at james.song@verizon.com or 703-375-4754 (1/02)

CLC North Bay Custom - Used only a few times; professionally built; red. \$1900 Ask for Ed 410-267-0137, ext. 11(11/01) **CLC** Chesapeake 16 - Four to chose from in various stages of completion. Each boat includes all parts required for completion. \$700 to \$1000. Ask for Ed 410-267-0137, ext.11 (11/01)

Nordkapp for sale, includes sprayskirt, paddle, and down wind parasail; kayak is equipped with 3 new VCP hatches. \$1,150 neg. Call Dan, 410-280-0296 or e-mail: kayakdan_2000@yahoo.com (11/01)

Perception, Sea Lion for sale. 17'2" X 22" wide, 65 lbs. Light blue plastic. Good condition, stored in garage. Fairly high volume hatch and rudder. Good first boat for new paddler, good touring boat. Asking \$750. Nylon spray skirt with it (free, but needs work). Call 703- 979-0759 (northern Va) or email jhecht@erols.com.

Trip (from page 3)

which eventually get buried under the addition of rooms, porches and decks. However, since the Edisto is less than two hours from Charleston there are some large new homes going in.

The river starts to deepen and widen in the lower half of this day's section. At one point I came upon the first of only two people I saw on the river during the trip. A fisherman was reeling in a fish from his johnboat. I could see the rod bend, and hear the drag release a couple of times. As I approached, he netted a carp that measured over three feet in length.

Approaching Given's Ferry the land starts to rise on the north side of the river as a formation of limestone emerges into forty-foot tall cliffs. This formation is supposedly the only stone formation on the Carolina coastal plain. As I looked up at the top of the cliff, covered in laurel, I noticed a picnic pavilion in that typical style found in parks across the country.

This was a bad sign. Given's Ferry state park was the only take out I had not scouted down to the water. It now appeared that it sat at the top of the cliffs. Paddling on, I found the canoe beach for the park.

The ranger office sat at the top of a forty foot hill, and the camping area was about an eighth of a mile inland from there. I was tempted to just wait until the ranger went home and then camp out down by the water and the boat rather than drag my gear up the hill. I did end up taking tent and sleeping bag up to the camp area using the large net duffel I typically carry for camping, but I ended up eating at spending my time down at the boat after a nice hot shower.

At the campsite I found that the coals in the fire pit were still live, and the previous user had left a large stack of firewood, so I had a small fire as I watched the western clouds blanket the stars. The cloud cover warmed up the night, and a few mosquitoes made their appearance. No need for the winter bag tonight. *Day three, 20 miles, 6 hours paddling.*

Day four was an early start. It was warmer than yesterday, and quick pack up and launch got me on the river by seven AM. A cold breakfast on the river revealed that the bananas had not survived the previous cold weather, but my standard granola bar fare was fine. I ate as I drifted down river. I knew that with only ten miles to go to the noon takeout that

today would be a relaxed easy day. I floated along, paddling enough to maintain steerage, and enjoyed the scenery.

Some cottages, more than the previous two days, but still there is a large amount of undeveloped swam land. Timber companies own most of the land surrounding the Edisto, and they maintain a good setback from the river, plus much of the swam land is not even well suited for timbering, so is left alone. The companies allow camping on their land at the sandbars, but require a no open fire policy. I noticed at several of the bars I stopped on in the last three days that I didn't see the typical toilet paper flowers left behind at many heavily used back country campsites I've seen. Whether this is due to a leave-no-trace philosophy among the majority of users, or seasonal flooding, I'm not sure.

One of the locals and I had a chat while I drifted by his riverside porch. I declined the beer, but shared his enjoyment of the day.

Long creek landing is not on the river. It's on an old section of the river now cut off from upstream access, and you paddle down the river and then back up into it like a creek. If you didn't know it was there, you'd miss it.

Richard arrived after I had packed and finished my lunch, and we headed back to get my truck, and I headed back north. *Day four, 10 miles, 2.7 hours.* ★

ANORAK Magazine

For Sea Kayakers
About Sea Kayakers
By Sea Kayakers
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609-296-9510 gokayak@aol.com or
kayakillen@aol.com 732-928-4018

The Potomac Sojourn June 23-30, 2002

The Potomac Sojourn is a week long canoeing and kayaking expedition that features educational programming, riverside camping, festive meals, meetings with elected officials, and much more. Novice and experienced paddlers alike enjoy a unique on-the-water experience that builds a strong environmental ethic, while having a lot of fun in the process. The Sojourn aims to elevate awareness of the Potomac River's importance to the region and to encourage local residents to play an active role in its restoration.

The 2002 Potomac Sojourn will begin on Sunday, June 23rd in Shepherdstown, WV and will continue, with overnight camping stops, down to Washington, DC.

Participants are welcome to paddle the entire week or a portion of the week. Nonpaddling programs are offered throughout the trip. For more information, please contact Jamie Keefer at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay at 202-466-4633 or jkeefe@acb-online.org.

Reading (from page 1)

- ♦ Sea-kayaking domains (e.g. open water, surf zone, rock gardens, inland marine waterways)
- ♦ Rescues in surf and rock gardens (including swimming, assisted and self rescues)
- ♦ Towing (and loose boat recovery in windy or current conditions)
- ♦ Paddling in current and handling tide rips
- ♦ Dealing with different types of boat traffic
- ♦ Safety in surf and ocean rock gardens
- ♦ Risk assessment
- ♦ Group safety through teamwork (club and private group trips)
- ♦ Training (to include site selection)

The light but adequate coverage of self/assisted rescues leads me to believe the author expects you to already know these basics, so I still recommend the book by Schumann/Shriner for beginners/adv beginners. If you are starting to paddle in more advanced conditions, Woody gives Mr. Lull's book 2 thumbs up!

Travels With a Kayak by Whit Descher

Not a technical book, but one to lift your spirits. The best way to describe this book would be "Dave Barry goes white water kayaking. Almost no mention of the on-water technical stuff, but full of silly banter on getting to put-ins around the world. An excerpt from the chapter on paddling in Pakistan:

Andy and I jeeped down past the river's carnivorous part then joined it and Slime (Slime was the trip leader),

Marcus, and Mike once more. We paddled to the village of Balakot and here, above the final boulder garden, I asked Slime something I'd been wondering about for the last three weeks. I said, "Slime, you're the leader. What are you doing back here?"

"It's called hindsight."

"But hindsight is *after* the fact."

"Sure, you watch where everyone disappears in this next drop and avoid

that spot. Follow me and you won't get in trouble."

"Slime, I've been trying to follow you for weeks now but you always grab and hog the last possible microscopic eddy above each drop. Anyone behind you is committed to a thrashing."

"That's experience."

Reading cont. on page 7

You're invited!

Pirates of the Piedmont?

Several of us in Central Virginia and points east, north, west and south are interested in organizing a "Pirates of the Piedmont" group. Due to fewer numbers, we think it might be better to schedule a series of paddling (and maybe other recreational activities) events on weekends at various locations, in order to draw more participants. We will need some of the more proficient paddlers of CPA to participate in these events. One goal of this Pirates group (like the others) is to improve our paddling, and we appear to be deficient in having really accomplished paddlers in our region. We also would like to have some CPA events closer to home as well as show off our area to members of CPA.

To discuss ideas and possible events, a meeting is set for 3:30 – 6 p.m. on April 14 at our house on Lake Anna with food towards the end of the meeting. (What is a CPA event without food?) David has volunteered to cook, while we're discussing. Everyone is invited. Just let me know, so I can have the "cook" make enough hamburgers & hotdogs. We'll provide those as well as chips, corn salsa salad and baked beans and iced tea.

In the interests of utilizing the time wisely, I think an agenda is always good. I suggest the below agenda that we'll adjust at the start of the meeting, based on input from attendees:

3:30 - 4:30: discussion of activities of the VA Paddlers (or Pirates of the Piedmont)

4:30 - 5:30: set dates & tentative locations for paddles and other activities.

Assign a responsible party for each event.

5:30 - 6:00: eat and wrap-up discussion

It's a lot to cover in 2 hours, but it's just a start. So if you would put on your thinking caps, jot down your ideas, and bring your calendar, we'll see if we can get a "Pirates of the Piedmont" or "Blue Ridge" or "Central Virginia" organized. Robin Gnatowsky has volunteered to share our ideas (and recruit participants) at SK102 on April 27.

And of course, everyone is invited to paddle before the meeting. Lake water at our dock is 72. For anyone wanting to paddle, we'll head out about 1:15 and will return about 3, in order to start the discussion at 3:30.

For planning purposes, we are approximately 45 – 50 minutes from Charlottesville, Fredericksburg and north Richmond. If you need directions, please let me know from what area. contact Teresa Pendleton at tapendleton@hotmail.com

Teresa Pendleton & David Compton

Lake Anna, 518 Lakeview Drive, Mineral, VA 23117
(can be found on www.mapblast.com) 540-894-5397 ☛

You can get the
**Guide to Public Access
to the Bay**

by using the Alliance for the
Chesapeake Bay's
website:

www.alliancechesbay.org.

Click on bay and river
information and request the
public access guide
information.

Reading (from page 6)

Sea Kayaking - A manual for Long-Distance Touring fourth edition

by John Dowd,

Of all the general kayaking books I own, this is the one book I would recommend to everyone if they could only choose one. You can feel the practical experience ooze out of this book as you read it. It is obvious that John has 'been there, done that'.

Fundamentals of Kayak Navigation by David Burch

I learn (or re-learn) something new every time I pick this book up. A bit heavy for a beginner, but the beauty of this book is you can read it once and come away with a basic level of understanding about navigation. As your experience in kayaking improves, you can read it again and come away with an even deeper understanding. I've gone through this book four times, and I'm still learning and understanding new things.

I've got many other books on the technical side of kayaking, but these are my favorites. Some folks highly recommend

'Deep Trouble' as a book to inform beginners how things can go very wrong. I found it hard to read and a bit dry at times, but others have said I was nuts and that it is an excellent book. I'll at least agree the premise is good, but this is my book list :) The BCU handbook is good, but you really need instruction to go along with the technical portions of the book. I've recently picked up the BCU handbook on kayaking with persons with disabilities, but I haven't had a chance to read it yet. I think this is one area that CPA should eventually begin to look into. If not now, then when I get back from Japan:)

I have several books about kayaking trips (*Homelands - Kayaking the Inside Passage, On Celtic Tides*), all which are excellent reads and can recommend. I'm sure I'll pick up a few more before too long. The two I mention are a great complement to each other.

Homelands is about a couple kayaking together, and some of the emotions that go along with such a trip when two people are in tune with each other. *On Celtic Tides* is a solo journey. Both books appealed to the type person I am - A solo journeyman in search of company. 🌟

CPA POOL Sessions 2001-2002

CPA Indoor Pool Sessions

Fairland Aquatic Center

Saturdays: Sept.15,2001 –Memorial Day 2002

Hours: 4-6 pm

Pool closed to kayakers:

12/1, 12/8, 1/19, 2/9, 2/23, 3/2, 3/23

Required: Boats and gear must be clear of leaves, mud, grass, etc.

Recommended:

Confirm that pool is open. FAC pool:301-206-2359.

Fee: \$5 per person. Pay Dave or Joan upon arrival. If neither are there pay at FAC door or guard office (pool level). Apply to reserve your space! Space is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis. You are confirmed only if you receive a return phone call.

How? * Telephone Joan Spinner at 301-559-3345 or email JSpinner@peoplepc.com; leave message with this information:

1. Your name 3. Number of boats
2. Date of session 4. Your phone number

*You are confirmed ONLY if a slot is available. You will receive a return phone call confirming your reservation. If you do not receive a phone call, you DO NOT have a reservation. Individuals with reservations take priority in the pool.

Directions: Take your best route to I-95 between Baltimore and Washington. Exit at MD-198 West. Turn left at 2nd light, Old Gunpowder Road. The pool will be about a half mile down on the right. Boat entrance is around to the left side of the building. 🌟

Nav-Aids Available

CPA has sets of Chuck Sutherland's Nav-Aids available for \$5 each. The Nav-aid is a compass rosette on rigid clear plastic, which is used to assist with chart and compass navigation when out in a kayak. It comes with detailed directions for how to use it and a variety of other information about navigation in open water. If you would like one, please call Alan Avery, 410-956-3299. He can mail it to you.

If you pay by check, please make your check out to CPA, not to Alan.

A WORD ABOUT TRIPS & RATINGS

CPA trips are organized by members of the club, for members of the club. When you participate in them, please remember a few things: Trip leaders are "hosts," not professional guides. They are not necessarily trained in first aid nor CPR, and do not always carry first aid equipment nor safety devices for your use.

You, and you alone, are responsible for your personal safety.

Trip leaders will pre-screen all participants for skills, equipment, and willingness to abide by club rules and policies. If you wish to join a trip, please contact the leader in advance.

While on the water, all paddlers must wear PFDs, spray skirts, and clothes appropriate to the water temperature. Boats must have watertight bulkheads or flotation in order to prevent the kayak from swamping when capsized. All paddlers must have, and know how to use, a pump and paddle float. On the day of the trip, leaders may refuse to admit participants for non-compliance with any of these, so if you are not sure, discuss it with the leader in advance!

All paddlers must sign a CPA waiver of liability. For the safety of the group as a whole, trip participants must agree to abide by club policies and rules and to follow instructions of the trip leader.

Trip Ratings

First Timers: for those who have never paddled before.

Beginners: for those who have paddled some, taken classes, or been on short (up to 4-mile) trips and are able to do a wet exit and paddle float re-entry.

Advanced Beginners: for those who have been on longer trips (up to 10 miles, full day outings), have some experience with varying conditions such as winds, and waves, and have good rescue and group-paddling skills.

Intermediate Paddlers: for those who are comfortable on longer trips (more than 10 miles), can maintain a steady pace for extended periods, are comfortable with open water crossings of 2+ miles, can handle a variety of water conditions, and have strong self- and group-rescue skills.

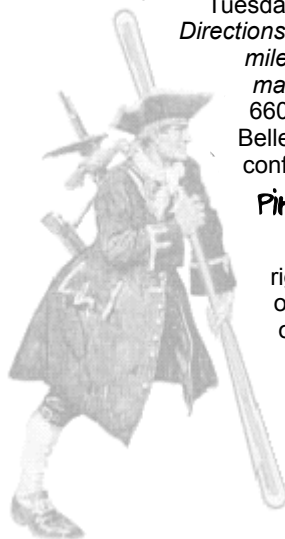
Weekly Gatherings

Pirates at Pier 7*, starting April 1st

Wednesday nights, arrive 4-6 p.m. Paddling, rolling, rescue practice, boat fitting, BBQs, and hanging out with other paddlers. (PFDs required.) *Directions:* Take US-50 west toward Annapolis. Exit onto MD-665. Exit onto MD-2 southbound. Continue on MD-2 south over the South River. Take the first left after crossing the bridge. Follow the road to Pier 7 Marina. Contact: Alan Avery at 410-956-3299 or aandsavery@yahoo.com.

Pirates of the Potomac, starting May 7

Tuesday evenings, 5 p.m. \$3 launch fee. Seasonal passes \$45. *Directions:* From Alexandria, VA, take the Mt. Vernon Parkway 1.3 miles south of the Beltway, then left and straight into the marina. Contact: Dick Rock if you are coming at 703-780-6605, dick.rock@att.net. In case of inclement weather, call Belle Haven Marina at 703-758-0018 after 3:30 p.m. to confirm launch cancelled.



Pirates of the Patuxent

Thursday evenings, arrive 5-6 p.m. and free parking on right just north of the boardwalk across from Our Lady Star of the Sea Church. Contact: Don Polakovics 301-866-0437 or doooobrd@erols.com; or Jennifer Elmore at 301-862-2398 or JSElmore@erols.com.

Pirates of Georgetown

check web site for start

Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m. Plenty of parking. Home port, the dock at Jack's Boats (202-337-9642), is located in Georgetown, Washington, DC, under the Whitehurst Freeway at 3500 K Street, NW. Rental kayaks are available. Contact: David Moore 301-445-3273 or dtmoore@clark.net, web site: <http://www.scienceappliance.com/pirates>

* Notice re Pier 7, Annapolis, MD: kayak launching is free on Wednesdays only. All other times there's a \$5 launch fee, even if launching from the beaches.

CPA Policy Re Trip Waivers: It is CPA's policy to require that all participants in CPA-sponsored trips and events sign legal release forms before setting out on the water. Trip leaders and "event organizers" are responsible for obtaining blank release forms from the Coordinator, for securing signatures from participants, and for returning the signed forms to the Coordinator for safekeeping. A fresh signature must be obtained for each separate trip or event, except that only one release per season is required for regularly-scheduled events such as the weekly activities of "pirates" at Pier 7 and other venues. The legal release absolves all participating CPA members from legal liability for the injury or death of a fellow participant, and allows us to continue to organize and participate in group activities without undue fear of incurring personal legal liability.

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O'CONOR PIPER & FLYNN

Then there is watching videos

by Woody Woodard

I've reviewed Volume I & II of this 2 VHS set, and I have to say I'm really impressed. I expected 2 30 minute tapes, but each tape is a full 2 hours long (4 hours total). Contents include:

Volume I

- How best to use the video
- Choosing Equipment
- Components of Recoveries
- Assisted Recoveries
- Solo Recoveries
- Bag of Tricks
- Doubles
- Folding Kayaks
- Sit on Tops

Volume II

- Understanding Exposure
- Stages of Hypothermia
- Treating Hypothermia
- What to wear??
- Rescue Techniques
- Towing
- MAYDAY Call
- Signal Flare Demos
- Capsize Recovery Review

Forty dollars is a bit steep for the average paddler to shell out (I'd recommend a few bucks more and take a Commercial hands-on safety class or taking the CPA class for free), but for clubs I'd *highly* recommend they purchase the tapes for the club library. For clubs without a safety class, this makes an excellent training aid to watch at your club meetings.

I've been taught, and have taught, numerous recovery/rescue methods, but I still learned a few things from these videos. Learning how to store my paddle-float on the front deck and keep it safe from surf was a great insight for me! Learning yet another Hand of God method was also nice. But probably of greater importance for me as an instructor was being able to sit down and listen to all the finer points without having to shout over the wind, or try and make sure everyone was close enough to hear.

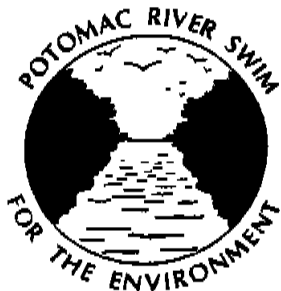
On the down side, the length, 4 hours, makes it impractical in a 1 day hands-on safety class. But for club meetings it can easily be broken down in sections and spread across several meetings. Breaking up the safety class into a 2 day class (day

1 classroom, day 2 practical) may be an option worth considering. Day one could be conducted by a less experienced paddler, all you would need to know how to do is pop in a tape into the VCR, and day 2 could focus on practicing recovery/rescues on the water without having to spend as much time explaining them.

In volume II, the first hour and 10 minutes are spent *discussing* cold shock, hypothermia, and how to dress. I *really* liked this method of two people sitting at a table discussing the varied aspects of each of these subjects. In fact, a cold water workshop could consist of the first hour and 10 minutes of tape #2, followed by on water practical exercises.

The last hour of the second tape I still have to review, got caught up in watching TV, but I have no doubts it will be as good as the first 3 hours.

Bottom line: If you are new to kayaking and too impatient to wait to take a class on rescues, another lecture on cool/cold water hazards, and need to know what to wear now, I can recommend spending the \$40 - but it does not substitute for real in/on water training. Clubs should certainly consider adding it to their library for loan to club members, and this provides a good resource for instructors to review prior to the season's first class. 📌



2002 Potomac River Swim for the Environment June 1, 2002

*Boaters, Paddlers, Safety
Personnel....*

*We need your help! Volunteer to help the
Potomac River Swim for the Environment.*

The **Saturday, June 1, 2002 Potomac River Swim for the Environment** needs boaters, touring kayak paddlers, and public safety workers to ensure the success of this distance swim, which raises funds and awareness for the health of the river.

To volunteer or receive more information, about this 9th annual event, contact: Potomac River Swim for the Environment
c/o Cheryl Wagner 3103 Hawthorne Drive, NE, Washington, DC
20017-1040 (202) 387-2361 Home Phone, (202) 478-0948 Fax,
Email: cherylw@crosslink.net, Web: www.crosslink.net/~cherylw/pr2002i.htm

Please report . . .

sightings of dead, injured, netbound, or stranded whales, dolphins, or sea turtles to the following telephone number: (757) 437-6159.

This is the Virginia Marine Science Museum Stranding emergency number and will be followed up within 24 hours by rescue crews.

As you may know, Humpback and Fin whales are at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, Bottlenose dolphins are throughout, seals are present at certain times of year, as are sea turtles.

ALL sea turtles are threatened now with possible extinction (IUCN red list), even though sea turtles have lived on earth since before the dinosaurs (about 400 million years).



Taking the floating dock back to Georgetown. Workday at Jack's Boathouse didn't offer the best weather but rewarding work.

It's THAT time again

Pirates will start to gather as April unfolds.

- 🔩 *Pier 7 will start, for those with cold water gear on April 14*
- 🔩 *Weather permitting, Georgetown will launch on April 25, call or check the web to confirm*
- 🔩 *Check with the Pirate Kings/Queens to get launch dates for Patuxant and Potomac groups.*

Inside:

- ♦ *A trip to warmer waters on page 1*
- ♦ *On pages 1 and 9 are reading and viewing reviews for those who can't find paddling water yet.*
- ♦ *The calendar is coming along, see page 4*
- ♦ *Pirates information is on page 8*

The Chesapeake Paddler
Chesapeake Paddlers Association
P.O.Box 341
Greenbelt, MD 20768

REMINDER: Please check your mailing label for your expiration date. If your Chesapeake Paddlers Association membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues. ****SEE BOX ON PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS****