

Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Volume 15, Issue 7

September 2005

New Point Comfort Car Camper IV

Ralph Heimlich

CPA members and trip organizers Bill Dodge and Mark Taylor have now led the 4th kayak car camping expedition to New Point Comfort in Mathews County, Virginia, which took place on July 8-10, 2005. This year marked a record 18 participants and was blessed with unusually good weather, despite a soggy kiss from Hurricane Cindy on Thursday night. Ron Barnett and Mark Taylor paddled Friday up on the Piankatank River, and Bill, Bill and Meg Scofield, Bob Brannon and I launched from the beach and explored Horn Harbor.



Bill Scofield with Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins

Attending were Bill Dodge, Mark Taylor, Greg and Jenny Welker, Bill and Meg Scofield, Mary and Vitus Eidukevicius, Sally Baker, Bob Brannon, Ron Barnett, "Woody" Woodward, Marshall Woodruff, Joan Spinner, Yvonne Thayer, Dick Rock, Ellen Stefaniak and I. With so large a crowd, Saturday we split into two paddling groups to launch in the direction of the "old" New Point Comfort Lighthouse, with the "earlys" leaving a bit sooner. The "lates" were rewarded for their sloth by paddling with a pod of 20-30 Atlantic bottlenose dolphins as we approached the breaking water near the lighthouse.

Both groups rendezvoused at the sand spit north of the lighthouse for lunch, a little surfboating (the highlight of Bill's trip), and some first aid for jellyfish sting when Bill Scofield capsized and recovered both himself and a Medusa into his cockpit. When I heard that the first aid for stings is Adolph's Meat Tenderizer and vinegar, I wasn't sure if we were going to treat him, or eat him.

Sunday we paddled as a group (after some defections) from the beach up to Winter Harbor and out through the cut in the north embayment. With Greg and Jenny playing Humphrey Bogart

and Katherine Hepburn a la African Queen in getting us through the narrow, sinuous channel from south harbor to north harbor, we eventually came out to a lunch spot overlooking the Bay and Wolf Trap Light. Again, we glimpsed a few dolphins having lunch on their way north. We got back to camp about 3:30, hit the showers, and hit the road. Another perfect Mathews County paddle.

Once-sleepy Mathews County, bordered nearly all around by the Piankatank River, Chesapeake Bay, Mobjack Bay, and the East

Continued on Page 6

CLASSIFIEDS

Ads dated 3 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!

Advertising Rates:

We accept display advertising that relates to the interest of our readers.

Monthly rates are as follows:

Size cost wide x deep (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 announcement and personal ads to sell kayaks/accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for 3 months.

WANTED:**Chesapeake Paddler
Newsletter Editor**

Volunteer, work with a great group of people, learn about kayaking & use your writing and editing skills.

For more information,
call Danielle: 703-517-6073

SCHEDULE FOR 2005 CHESAPEAKE PADDLER

Chesapeake Paddler is published 10 times a year, with combination issues in November/December and January/February. The deadline for submitting copy is usually the 15th of the preceding month as follows:

Issue	Deadline for Copy
October	September 15
November/December	October 30
January/February	December 30

Have an idea for an article, or is there information you would like to see in the newsletter? Email Danielle at news_editor@cpakayaker.com or call her at 703-517-6073.

THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLERS ASSOCIATION

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.

Steering Committee:

Coordinator—Barry Marsh, 410-728-4016, coordinator@cpakayaker.com

Membership, subscriptions—Steve Lindeman, 410-827-7871, PO Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768, membership@cpakayaker.com

Secretary—Steve Lindeman, 410-827-7871, secretary@cpakayaker.com

Treasurer—John Blackburn, 301-587-7142, treasurer@cpakayaker.com

Webmaster/E-Mail List Administrator—Barbara Foley, webmaster@cpakayaker.com

Newsletter Team:

Managing Editor/Layout—Danielle Ring, 703-208-0812, news_editor@cpakayaker.com

Articles Editor—Thomas Crabill, 202-501-3258, news_articles@cpakayaker.com

Advertising Coordinator—James Song, 703-375-4754, news_advertising@cpakayaker.com

Mailing and Distribution—Rob and Jackie Castle, news_distribution@cpakayaker.com

Pirate Groups:

Pier 7 Pirate Committee—Rob & Jackie Castle, Brent Cogswell, Greg Welker, pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com

Potomac Pirate King—Dick Rock, 703-780-6605, pirates_potomac@cpakayaker.com

Patuxent Pirate King—Dan Wells, 410-414-2660, pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com; Don Polakovics, 301-866-0437, pirates_patuxent2@cpakayaker.com

Georgetown Pirate Committee—Cyndi Janetzko, 703-241-0036; Dave Biss, 703-241-0036; David Moore, 301-445-3273; pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com

Baltimore Pirate King—Bob Huber, 410-335-0994, pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com

Algonkian Pirate King—Jeff Walaszek, 703-670-7712, pirates_algonkian@cpakayaker.com

Sugarloaf Pirate Queen—Deb McKenzie, 240-601-1440, pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of the North—Wendy Baker Davis, (717) 293-1086, pirates_north@cpakayaker.com

MEMBERSHIP: Subscription to the Chesapeake Paddler is included with membership. Membership is \$10/year or \$20/2 years. Send checks or changes of membership information to CPA, PO Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768. DO NOT send them to the newsletter editors.

DEADLINES: Closing date for articles, trip reports, information and advertisements is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. The editors retain the right to edit or not to print any submitted material. See advertising information in the Classifieds section.

The Chesapeake Paddler is published monthly, approximately March–December and 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 Managing Editor.

Coordinators Column

By Barry Marsh

Ahoy, Paddlers!

I hope everyone's having a great summer of paddling. After a lot of hot days on the water, though, I'm sure looking forward to the cooler fall days soon to come...

We have another new Piracy! Wendy Baker Davis of Lancaster, PA launched our eighth and newest Piracy in August, the **Pirates of the North**, for kayakers in the PA, DE, and northern MD area. Thanks, Wendy! They've not yet chosen a regular meeting place, but are test-paddling several launch sites including Perryville and Havre de Grace. Keep an eye on the CPA newsletter, Listserve, and User Forums for more information, and get out there and paddle with Wendy and her crew!

Speaking of the User Forums, I'd really like to encourage everyone to sign up for this great, free service. Since we launched the Forums last year, Forum membership has increased dramatically, with nearly 400 paddlers now signed on. The Forums are fast becoming THE place to go to ask your paddling questions, announce paddle trips, find friends to paddle with, buy and sell kayaks and gear, see what's happening in the Piracies, learn about special offers for training and gear, and much more. Check out www.cpakayaker.com/forums to see what you're missing! When you sign up (or even if you're already a member), check out the Forum descriptions and policies, include some info about yourself in your profile, and upload a picture of yourself

enjoying kayaking.

Lastly, we're looking for a new Newsletter Editor. Danielle Ring, who has done a great job managing our Chesapeake Paddler newsletter since last year, will be moving on as she establishes her freelance writing career. As you saw in the last (and this) newsletter, we're looking for a volunteer to take Danielle's place to lead our amazing newsletter team. Are you willing to take over and help your association continue to be the successful club it is? Please contact Danielle if you're interested.

Safe and happy paddlin', and see ya on the water (and in the User Forums!),

Barry
2005 CPA Coordinator

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION NOTICE

The CPA Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, November 6, 2005**. Lunch will be provided. At the meeting we will discuss CPA business and elect the association officers (Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer) and the other six Steering Committee positions. If you are interested in running for one of those positions, send your name and a brief "campaign speech" to webmaster@cpakayaker.com.

The deadline for nominations is **October 2, 2005**. Nominee names will be listed on the proxy ballot in the October newsletter, as well as on the CPA website. I hope everyone attends the Annual Meeting. If you can't, please complete and mail your proxy ballot.

More details on where and when we will hold our Annual Meeting are forthcoming.

Barry D. Marsh

The 8th Annual St. Clement's Overnighter, September 17-18

By Bill Dodge

St. Clement's Island is located in the Potomac River off Colton Point, St. Mary's County. The island is 1/2 mile long and 1/2 mile from the mainland. A sandy beach at its south end allows kayaks to be brought ashore. A few hundred yard walk across trimmed grass leads to a lovely tent site. A nearby picnic shelter provides cover for cooking, eating and visiting. Pit toilets are (not too) close. A manually-operated cast iron pump provides water. Maryland preserves this 44

acres because it is the nearest to holy ground existing in Maryland today. In 1634, the first Englishman (and a woman or two) set foot ashore on land that became Maryland.

This is a good first try for kayak camping instead of car camping (which is what we usually do).

However, Maryland state parks limit the number of participants to 20. The other concern is to have enough experienced

kayakers to keep the beginners in order.

If you are interested in going on such an historical trip, call Bill Dodge at home, (703) 979-5837 or on the cell at (703) 201-8636.



Bill Dodge

Weekly Pirates Paddling

For more details, check out the CPA website and user forums at www.cpakayaker.com

Pirates at Pier 7

Wednesday nights, arrive 4-6 PM. 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 south, over the South River. Take the first left after crossing the bridge. Follow road to Pier 7 Marina. Contact: Alan Avery, 410-856-3299 or pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com.

Note: Pier 7 kayak launching is free on Wednesday only. All other times there is a \$10 launch fee per kayak if launching from the beach.

Pirates of the Potomac

Wednesday nights, 5 PM. Belle Haven Marina. \$3 launch fee. Seasonal passes \$45. Directions: From Alexandria, VA, take the Mount Vernon Parkway 1.3 miles south of the Beltway, then left and straight into the marina. Contact: Dick Rock, 703-780-6605 or pirates_potomac@cpakayaker.com. In case of inclement weather, call Bellhaven Marina at 703-768-0018 after 3:30 to confirm launch cancelled.



Pirates of the Patuxent

Thursday nights, arrive 5-6 PM. Free parking on the right, just north of the boardwalk across from Our Lady Star of the Sea Church. Contact: Dan Wells, 410-414-2660 or pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com; (alternate) Don Polakovics, 301-866-0437, pirates_patuxent2@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of Georgetown

Thursday nights, arrive between 6-6:30 PM. Jack's Boats (202-337-9642), 3500 K Street, NW in the Georgetown area of Washington, DC under the Whitehurst Freeway. Plenty of parking. Rental kayaks available. Contact: David Moore, 301-445-3273, Dave Biss 703-241-0036 or Cyndi Janetzko 703-241-0036. Or on the web at pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com; <http://www.jacksboathouse.com/POG>

Pirates of Sugarloaf

Tuesday nights, arrive 5:15 PM. Recreational paddling at Black Hill Regional Park in Germantown, Maryland. Daily permit fee of \$5 paid at boat ramp; seasonal permit is \$55. Contact Deb McKenzie, 240-601-1440, pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of Baltimore (the roving Piracy!)

1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays at Canton Waterfront Park, 3001 Boston St., Baltimore; 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Rocky Point Park, Essex, MD. Meet at 5:30 PM for paddling and skills practice and to meet other paddlers. PFDs, sprayskirts and a waterproof light required. Contact Bob Huber, (410) 335-0994 or pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com.

Pirates of Algonkian (upper Potomac)

Wednesday evenings, 6:00 PM until sunset. Upper Potomac and the various Northern Virginia Regional Parks. Our primary launch points will be Algonkian Regional Park and Fountainhead Regional Park. Other occasional launch sites will include Bull Run Marina, Occoquan Regional Park, Pohick Bay Regional Park ... and maybe even Mason Neck. Check out the Algonkian Pirates Discussion Forum for current info and plans. Contact: Jeff Walaszek, 703-670-7712, pirates_algonkian@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of the North

Contact Wendy Baker Davis, (717) 293-1086. Details coming soon...

Continued from Page 1

River (Charts 13 and 14, ADC Chesapeake Bay Chartbook, 5th edition), is fast becoming a weekend getaway destination for folks from Norfolk to Washington, many of them paddlers. Mark Taylor is credited with the brainstorm of CPA camping trips to the location when he was bicycling the many rural roads in the county, but Bill Dodge has been the trip organizer and leader of all four expeditions.

Dodge's first CPA Mathews County trip was hardly auspicious. We (Bill, Mark, Dick Rock and I) rendezvoused at the Gwynn Island Camp Ground in a relentless pouring rain, set up tents, and did what any good adult campers do—piled in the car and headed for bright lights and cold beer! We discovered the Southwind Café in the heart of Mathews (the biggest conurbation around) and had a delightful dinner and libations in light, dry, bug-free bliss. The Southwind is still one of the premier restaurants in the New Point Comfort area. That first trip we visited the very interesting (and dry) Gwynn Island Museum, circumnavigated Gwynn Island (along with Greg and Jenny Welker, who arrived next day), and visited a local outfitter (Queens Creek Outfitter) who told us about the Mathews County Blue Way water trail.

After spending a rather soggy couple of nights on Gwynn Island, Mark and Bill did some scouting and located our current venue, the New Point

Comfort Campground, run by the Webster family. The Websters were a tad leery of Bill's first approach, wondering if their quiet campground would be overrun by the aquatic version of Hell's Angels, but with an average age approaching 50, and CPA's habitual leave-no-trace ethic, they were won over. For the last three years, this has been CPA's home-away-from-home in Mathews County, and our beachfront sites (off in the corner, so the rest of RVs don't get infected with muscle-power madness) have been the site of a gypsy encampment of long-boaters.

Some links for trip planning:

Welcome to Mathews County
<http://www.visitmathews.com/>

Mathews County Blue Way
<http://www.visitmathews.com/MAPS/BLUEWAYS/blueways.htm>
And <http://www.blueways.org/>

Queens Creek Outfitter
<http://queenscreek.com/>

New Point Comfort Campground <http://www.visitmathews.com/LODGING/NPCAMPGROUND/npcampground.htm>



Bill, Marshall, Ron, Woody, Joan, Bob, Mark, and Yvonne in Camp

CPA Trip Requirements and Ratings

All trips are organized by and for members of the club. When you participate, please remember that trip leaders are "hosts", not professional guides, but you must be willing to follow their instructions. They are neither necessarily trained in first aid or CPR, nor do they always carry first aid equipment or 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, you must contact the leader in advance.

REQUIREMENTS

Equipment: While on the water, all paddlers must wear PFDs, spray skirts

and clothes appropriate to the water temperature. Boats must have water-tight bulkheads or flotation devices to prevent the kayak from swamping when capsized. All paddlers must have—and know how to use—a pump, paddle float and whistle. On the day of the trip, leaders may refuse to admit participants for noncompliance with any of these requirements, so if you are not sure, discuss it with the leader in advance!

Waivers: All participants in CPA-sponsored trips must sign legal release forms each time before setting out on the water. Only one release per season is needed for regularly scheduled events (e.g., the weekly activities of the "pirates"). The legal release absolves all participating CPA members from legal liability for the injury or death of a fellow participant.

RATINGS:

First Timers: Participants have never paddled before. No prior skills needed.

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

Advanced Beginners: Participants 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 groups paddling skills.

Intermediate Paddlers: Participants are comfortable with open-water crossings of 2+ miles, can handle a variety of water conditions and have strong self- and group-rescue skills.

Calendar

Participants in CPA events must read and comply with the statement of CPA trips requirements and ratings. Please contact the trip leaders in advance, even if you are familiar with the area being paddled. They need contact information in case of changes, and there may be space limitations or other trip restrictions.

The latest information about CPA trips is at www.cpakayaker.com.

September	3-10 (Sat-Sat) 2nd Annual Adirondacks Paddling Week (All) David Moore (301) 445-3273 17-18 (Sat-Sun) St. Clements Island Kayak Camper (Beginner) Bill Dodge (703) 979-5837 23-25 (Fri-Sun) Elk Neck Car Camper (Advanced Beginner) Ralph Heimlich (301) 498-0918
October	2 (Sun) Deadline for CPA Officer Nominations Barry Marsh (410) 728-4016 8-10 (Sat-Mon) Tall Pines (Advanced Beginner) Greg Welker (301) 249-4895 14 (Fri) Evening Hunter's Moon Paddle (Beginner) Chip Walsh, chipwalsh@comcast.net 26 (Wed) Sunset and Moonlight Paddle (Beginner) Chip Walsh, chipwalsh@comcast.net 27 (Thursday) 3rd Annual Halloween Paddle (Beginner) Dave Biss, (703) 241-0036
November	6 (Sun) CPA Annual Meeting (All) Barry Marsh (410) 728-4016 11 (Fri) Chickahominy River Car Camper (Beginner) Bill Dodge (703) 979-5837



Bill Dodge, Vitus and Mary Eidukevicius, Mark Taylor, and Robert Woodward at New Point Comfort Lighthouse

Inside our September 2005 issue:

- **New Point Comfort**
- **Annual Meeting Announcement**
- **St Clements Island Kayak Camper**

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association
PO Box 341
Greenbelt, MD 20768

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