

# Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Volume 16, Issue 8

September 2006

## Padding New Zealand's Marlborough Sounds

By Chip Walsh



Queen Charlotte Sound. Photo by Chip Walsh

[Editor's Note: Paddling away from home is always an adventure. This issue has a report on paddling away from home that came my way earlier this year.]

There was a ton of stuff to do before catching the BlueBridge Line's Ferry from Wellington NZ to Picton. Check in was 12:15 for a 1:15 sailing. I started off on foot to get stove fuel, maps, pump up the wheels of the dolly, and pick up last minute vittles. I found the people of Wellington delightful; everyone was very helpful. Back at the hotel by 10, I fit all the gear into drybags and a large duffel. The concierge paged a cab for me, and I poured

all the gear into the cab for the short ride to Queens Wharf. My cab driver deposited me and my small hill of gear at the pier. I rented a rotomolded "Shear Water" sea kayak from Fergs. "Do the hatches leak?" I asked. "Oh, no, they're not supposed to," she replied. I opened the rear hatch, and the compartment was about half full of water. "Oh my, I don't know how that got in there."

It was just about noon by the time the last of my gear disappeared into the kayak and I got the boat up on the dolly, ready to roll. I went up onto the observation deck to enjoy the sunny, but windy weather, with my gortex rain suit in a handbag, and found a seat in the sun. Out in Cook Straight, the wind could knock you off your feet when it caught you right. The deck was crowded leaving Wellington, but the wind and spray cleared the deck and kept the Bluebridge cruising along with a steady list.

The crew informed us that we would not be taking the shortest route, through the Tory Channel, to Picton, because one of the aqua-culture, salmon farms had broken loose in the Channel. Without the Tory Channel short-cut, the Ferry had to enter at the top of Queen Charlotte Sound, and we got to see the entire Sound, passing by Ship Cove, where the English explorer James Cook had berthed his ship on five occasions, sometimes for a month at a time. After seeing how the elements had affected our crossing of the Straight in a very large ship, I can imagine Cook must have had a sense of thankfulness for the refuge of Ship's Cove.

In the small harborside town of Picton, I rolled my kayak off the ship and over to the Visitor Information Center. At the VIC, I bought a 2-night camping permit and correlated my map to the location of the DOC campsites. At the Subway (very popular in NZ) across the street I got a 12-inch sub and an energy sports drink and proceeded to the town beach in the center of town. Ate half the sub, stowed the rest, between 5 and 6pm, I launched. Surveying the Sound from the Ferry, I had become cautiously optimistic that conditions were improving as we came to the end of the sound. Sitting up in a large ship, it had been difficult to judge just how rough it was, but I decided to head out there and see. I figured I should be able to cross the sound in under two hours, so I'd have time to spare before dark, and I had marking lights if I needed them, and an alternative camp identified that was downwind, in case I had no choice but to head in that direction.



The Bluebridge took me to Picton. Photo by Chip Walsh.

(Continued on page 5)

**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.



Dale Murphy and Jim Allen "locking through" on the Erie Canal *photo by Ralph Heimlich*

**SCHEDULE FOR 2006 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 2006	September 15, 2006
November 2006	October 15, 2006
December 2006	November 15, 2006

Have an idea for an article, or is there information you would like to see in the newsletter? Email Ralph at [news\\_editor@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com) or call at 301-498-0722.

**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](mailto:coordinator@cpakayaker.com)

**Membership, subscriptions**—Sue Bauer, 410-531-5641, c/o CPA, PO Box 341 Greenbelt, MD 20768, [membership@cpakayaker.com](mailto:membership@cpakayaker.com)

**Secretary**—Sue Bauer, 410-531-5641 [secretary@cpakayaker.com](mailto:secretary@cpakayaker.com)

**Treasurer**—John Blackburn, 301-587-7142, [treasurer@cpakayaker.com](mailto:treasurer@cpakayaker.com)

**Webmaster/E-Mail List Administrator**—Barbara Foley, [webmaster@cpakayaker.com](mailto:webmaster@cpakayaker.com)

**Newsletter Team:**  
*Managing Editor/Layout*—Ralph Heimlich, 301-498-0722, [news\\_editor@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com)

*Articles Editor*—vacant, [news\\_articles@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_articles@cpakayaker.com)

*Advertising Coordinator*—vacant, [news\\_advertising@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_advertising@cpakayaker.com)

*Mailing and Distribution*—Mark Woodside, 301-373-4561, [news\\_distribution@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_distribution@cpakayaker.com)

**Pirate Groups:**

**Pier 7 Pirate Committee**—Brent Cogswell, Jenny & Greg Welker, Sue Bauer [pirates\\_pier7@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com)

**Potomac Pirate King**—Dick Rock, 703-780-6605 [pirates\\_potomac@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_potomac@cpakayaker.com)

**Patuxent Pirate King**—Dan Wells, 410-414-2660, [pirates\\_patuxent@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com); Don Polakovics, 301-866-0437, [pirates\\_patuxent2@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_patuxent2@cpakayaker.com)

**Georgetown Pirate Committee**—Cyndi Janetzko, 703-241-0036; Dave Biss, 703-241-0036; [pirates\\_georgetown@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com)

**Baltimore Pirate King**—Bob Huber, 410-335-0994, [pirates\\_baltimore@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com)

**Algonkian Pirate King**—Jeff Walaszek, 703-670-7712, [pirates\\_algonkian@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_algonkian@cpakayaker.com)

**Sugarloaf Pirate Queen**—Deb McKenzie, 240-601-1440, [pirates\\_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com)

**Pirate Queen of the North**—Wendy Baker-Davis, 717-293-1086, [pirates\\_north@cpakayaker.com](mailto: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, except Nov-Feb 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.*

# Admiral's Walk



Ahoy, Paddlers!

With fall comes cooler weather and wonderful paddling opportunities. If you're a year-round paddler, take the time to check out your cold weather gear to make sure it's ready for the cooler months to follow. For everyone, whether you paddle year-round or the end of your 2006 season is coming soon, enjoy the cool, crisp fall days, and invite your friends out for a trip!

Fall also brings the annual CPA Officer and Steering Committee member elections. It's time to nominate your friends (or yourself) to serve a year as a CPA Officer or Steering

Committee member. Although the club's activities wouldn't be possible without the assistance of a great many members, our club relies on three elected Officers and six SC members to make decisions, set policy, and manage the CPA's overall activities. The Coordinator is the CPA president and oversees the club's activities, closely assisted by the Treasurer and Secretary; most decisions that affect the club are discussed among and voted upon by the Steering Committee. Duties of the Officers and SC members are detailed in our Bylaws - [www.cpakayaker.com/bylaws.html](http://www.cpakayaker.com/bylaws.html).

As CPA members, we've all learned a lot about kayaking and appreciate the efforts our leaders have made to ensure the CPA is the best kayaking club around. If you've been a member for a while and wish to give something back to your club - your experience and leadership - consider accepting a nomination as an Officer or SC member. The CPA Elections page is available at the CPA website [http://www.cpakayaker.com/nominations\\_list.php](http://www.cpakayaker.com/nominations_list.php). Feel free to nominate paddlers you think would be good leaders for our great club. If you're nominated, you can write a stump speech online as well. Nominee names and their stump speeches will be included in the October and/or November *Chesapeake Paddler* newsletter.

As in past years, the formal election will be held at our Annual Meeting. This year's Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, **November 19**. Meeting time, location, and directions will be included in the October newsletter, and will be announced via the user forums, listserv, and website. The October newsletter will also include the election proxy ballot. You can either vote via mail-in ballot or in person at the Annual Meeting; ballots will be counted and winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting. As always, we'll offer a pre-meeting paddle from Galesville that morning; launch time and other details will follow.

I've enjoyed my two years as CPA Coordinator, meeting many of you and learning just how amazing the CPA is. I look forward to seeing many of you named as Officer and SC nominees, and to seeing you take on leadership roles to help guide our club in 2007 and beyond.

Safe, happy, and warm paddling - see ya on the water!



Barry  
CPA Coordinator



## Breton Bay Paddle

Ten hearty souls yearning to see some wildlife showed up at Leonardtown, MD, on August 26. The object was a short paddle on the northern neck of Breton Bay up into McIntosh Run, depth permitting.

We set out around 9:30 AM from the end of Camp Calvert Road, located behind Ryken Catholic High School. The launch site's shallow depth supports only canoes and kayaks. Oyster shells located everywhere on the beach motivated some folks to launch directly out in the water. Bill Gallagher reminded all of us to verify that the spray skirt "ripcord" was visible in case we needed a wet exit.



Group shot awaiting a muskrat *photo by Mark Woodside*

Cindy Howard was appointed the lead, while Bill, a member of the Calvert Marine Museum Kayak and Canoe Club, volunteered to sweep. We passed by the first osprey nest, empty at the time, then made a wide starboard turn into the northern-most inlet of Breton Bay. Shortly, thereafter, a young passenger on a passing motor boat proclaimed, "Look Dad, a neat flotilla of Kayaks". Dad, decked out in water skiing attire, responded "That means bad news". This turned out to be an ominous sign—only five minutes before I had forecast a total absence of jet skis and motorized craft due to shallow water. Equally wrong was my research on high tide. Todd Angerhofer accurately noted that the predicted high tide at 10:10 AM was plus or minus two hours.

The sight of a large pile of boulders and two small cranes marked the ongoing removal of an old oyster canning wharf in Leonardtown. Next to the old pilings, recently removed, was a 1950s era public boat launch just wide enough nowadays for a jet ski. Signs posted there now ask boaters to launch at Abells Wharf, some 8 miles away. [Note to all, Camp Calvert Rd County Park offers kayakers a peaceful launch point with parking, even though it lacks facilities.]

We covered the first mile with only a distant sighting of an osprey bathing on a sandbar. As we left civilization with pastel \$500K condos on the banks in Leonardtown, we spotted our first of numerous great blue herons. Marsh grass above mud banks marked our entrance into the southern mouth of McIntosh Run. Several herons were gracefully perched aloft in some tall trees sneering down at what must have looked like a colorful snake with ten links winding its way up the creek. The marsh grass along the banks escorted our paddle north, often with minnows scurrying along side for protection. Low tide sharpened our paddling skills, forcing us to navigate around sand bars and visible sunken logs. Leaving all signs of humanity behind us, we encountered our first of many Ospreys hovering above us. They appeared to be hoping a spooked fish would swim away from the protective cover of the marsh grass.

Numerous birds and plants were sighted along the way. In no particular order of sightings, one could not help but be impressed with this group, well-versed in ornithology and botany. Humbly, I was informed that the bird I identified as a Baltimore Oriole was really a red-wing black bird. Catbirds, sea gulls, juvenile bald eagles, great blue herons and a few of the smaller green herons were a few of birds escorting our paddle. By far, the most controversial bird sighted on a mud bank going up stream and later back down stream has led to some post trip research by many. Absent their correction, I believe we saw a Killdeer. I await feedback from Goldie Blumenstyk, Kristina Callahan or Cindy to update our sightings. The confusion centered on what appeared to be 3 black bands spotted around the neck vice the standard two.

Hedy Sladovich, Margie Kriz and Bill quietly came packed with a superior knowledge on the botany lining the banks. The marsh grass slowly gave way to the transition of deep woods as we paddled north. White Hibiscus, Red Trumpet and other flowers hosted numerous swarms of yellow Swallowtail butterflies along the stream banks. A purple Joe-



Joe Pye Weed out on a limb *photo by Mark Woodside*

Pye-weed growing out on the limb made for an interesting photo. We paddled leisurely for good mile plus up McIntosh Run, totally without man made noise. Rick Harwell, the prize owner of Vince's brilliant Green Kevlar Squamish, seemed to be thrilled to be going up stream vice fighting traffic in the metro area. Rick drove over from Alexandria; however, he originally lived only 5 miles from Leonardtown. He offered quite a perspective on how St. Mary's County has changed in the last 15 years.

Putting in during low tide, the lower water level separated "Glass" from "Tupperware" in the northern web of McIntosh Run. Mike Adams, a new CPA member, officially christened his brand new yellow on yellow Squamish when he settled the bottom against a sand bar, grimacing in pain. He was reassured after an immediate hull inspection revealed only a blemish.

Our return down stream was a repeat of the wildlife seen going up stream. We could see the tide slowly coming in, 2 hours late in my book. Used to the standard crabs pots, we came upon some 30 floats that appeared to be bright orange volleyballs, spaced in two perfectly straight lines, covering a ¼ mile. The inner competitors in Todd, Kristina and Margie were tempted to slalom these floats. Fearful of their wake, the group continued back to the launch at a more leisurely pace. Todd's GPS informed us that we covered 5.3 Statute miles. Everyone enjoyed the experience, continuing it at one of the local diners located a few blocks away that also hosts a restroom. Rick came ashore, but relaunched to paddle to the Abells Wharf launch, located about a mile away.

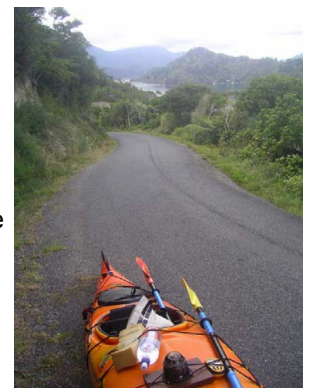
Mike and I sat on the large log under the shaded trees eating our lunch, visited by a red bellied woodpecker in a nearby tree- Overall, a successful and most enjoyable trip made possible only by the participants. The general consensus calls for the CPA to offer additional day trips.

Mark Woodside

*(Continued from page 1)* **New Zealand's Marlborough Sounds**

Paddling across Queen Charlotte Sound went smoothly. There were whitecaps out in the sound, but just barely. The Shear Water was very stable and I used the huge rudder...maybe twice the surface area of what I normally see...on the way across. I was headed pretty much due west and the 18 mph wind was from the Northwest. While it wasn't helping me, it wasn't hurting me that much, I was quartering the waves at an angle that lengthened the troughs and I wasn't getting a lot of splash or hull-slap. Meanwhile, the scenery was stunning. I thought I'd be in a lee once I got into Torea Bay, a body of water that cul d' sacs in a pocket of the hills of the Queen Charlotte Peninsula. Amazingly, the further I got into the bay, the harder the wind came. It baffled me. What was making this wind blow off the mountains like that? Maybe it was coming over the saddle, the low notch in the hill at the back of Torea Bay, which was my next destination.

Torea Bay was longer than I thought. About 8pm, I located the landing near the sealed track (road) to the village of Portage on Kenepuru Sound. I estimated that the QC Penninsula is only a kilometer wide at this point. For some reason, I had my mind fixed on Kenepuru Sound. It's pretty smack dab in the middle of the Marlborough Sounds Region. To paddle there would have taken several days, time I didn't have. I had a cart, so I planned to pull across the track. My map showed the saddle elevation as 104 meters, a huge gradient over a kilometer. By necessity, the road switch backed its way up the grade so I ended up walking a lot more than a kilometer. I rigged a harness around my hips and pulled like a donkey, towing 150 pounds of kayak and gear step, by step, by....



Towing the kayak over the Saddle Road. Photo by Chip Walsh.

It was fully dark by the time I reached Portage, and I had to go into a luxury hotel to ask directions to the campground. I didn't care for this camp ground, which was more of an RV parking area than a camp, but I wasn't there long. I pitched my tent beside (and by the glow of) the guest host's RV, ate the second half of my Subway sub from Picton, and lost no time getting in the sack.

Like on the Whanganui, I was awakened before dawn by the sound of rain. And again, it dried up in the daylight. I ate, packed, and launched into a humid morning when, for a change, no wind was blowing. I had only a vague idea of where to find the campsites and was very pleased to find the Ferndale Campsite near a point on the northern side of the center of Kenepuru Sound. It had a table, privy, and a water spigot, a nice feature even though the sign said not to drink it without treating it. The site were I ended up pitching my tent shrunk considerably as the tide came up right under the table.

A small group of kayakers arrived for lunch. They went past me and landed a 100 meters down the beach in the other direction, revealing the presence of another site. They had lunch and departed. Upon my return to camp (after a few failed kayak rolls) I was shocked by the huge increase in the size of the beach. The tide had receded in elevation by about ten feet.

*(Continued on page 6)*



*(Continued from page 5)* **New Zealand's Marlborough Sounds**

I took some pictures as the sun set over the mountains across the sound. The stars were spectacular as I drained the scotch out of the plastic flask (to reduce weight, you know?). Then it was early to bed, and I set an alarm to wake me up before dawn...can't always count on the rain to wake me up.

I awoke next day, cooked and packed the camp into the kayak in the dark, and I was on the water at first light. The air was still for a change, and I had an easy paddle back to Portage. I rigged the PFD around my waist like a cattle yoke and towed the kayak up over the Saddle. It seemed shorter and easier, maybe because I knew the boat had to be lighter without the food and water I'd consumed. Where the Queen Charlotte Track crosses the Saddle Road there is a little monument to NZ soldiers of WWI.

I relaunched the kayak into Torea Bay and felt the wind beginning to pick up as I got onto Queen Charlotte Sound. The crossing was uneventful, amid mild whitecaps. I hugged the eastern shore as I paddled in Picton Bay, skirting close by the rocky shoreline, admiring the bottom formations in water with visibility to about ten feet. The tide completely covered the beach where I had launched on two days before, and I paddled right up to the seawall that lined the submerged beach. Conveniently, there was a wheel chair ramp where I was able to beach the kayak and get it up onto the cart for the haul over to the InterIslander Terminal.



Camp at Ferndale. Photo by Chip Walsh.

I was booked on the 1:15pm, InterIslander ferry back to Wellington. I must say I enjoyed the nonconformity of walking through the terminal with a kayak in tow, and then getting in line with the cars, 18-wheelers, and RVs and walking the kayak up the ramp onto the Ferry. In a display of Kiwi humor, when asked where to leave the kayak one of the InterIslander staff pointed to the stairwell and told me to take it up to the 7th deck. She had me going for a second.



The Shear Water kayak at rest on the beach at Ferndale camp site. Photo by Chip Walsh.

The downside of returning to Wellington on the InterIslander line, is that their docks and terminal are in an industrial area east of downtown, and I had to haul that kayak three or four kilometers back to Queens Wharf to return it to Fergs. Even walking, the wind was fierce along the harbor front, but I made it back to Fergs before they closed and returned the kayak.

Read about Chip's ferry adventure and canoeing the Whanganui River on the CPA Forum under Trip Reports <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=1659>



Terrapin Nature Area Cleanup photo by Saki

**International Coastal Cleanup**—Several CPA members participated in cleanup events. On September 16, 2006, Saki (Alan Sakakihara) and Dan Hoke participated in a joint effort between the Howard County Sierra Club and the Columbia Ski Club. Also participating were members of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association (CPA) and the Maryland Outdoor Club. This event was led by Sue Muller, a Natural Resource Technician with the Howard County Recreation and Parks. The mission was to pick up trash at the [Terrapin Nature Area](#), a scenic area containing one mile of shoreline. This area is on the west side of Kent Island, just north of the Bay Bridge, bordering the Chesapeake Bay. While any day is a good day to clean up the environment, this day marked International Coastal Cleanup Day. More at Saki's website <http://saki.iwarp.com/kayaking.html>

## 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 <http://www.cpakayaker.com/events.html>

### October

6(Fri)	<b>Hunter's Moon Paddle:</b> Join us for an evening paddle celebrating the Hunter's Moon. Target launch time from Jonas Green Park is 6:30pm. Apres paddle bite to eat at Cantlers. <b>Skill Level:</b> Beginner <b>Organizer:</b> Led by Chip Walsh.
6(Fri)	<b>Full Moon Paddle - Black Hills Park:</b> Join some of the Pirates of Sugarloaf for an evening paddle and picnic. <b>Skill Level:</b> Beginner Paddlers. <b>Organizer(s):</b> Led by Deb McKenzie.
6-8(Fri-Sat)	<b>Delmarva Retreat : Non-CPA Event--</b> Join other Greenland paddlers to learn skills, see events, and talk about the latest issues. <b>Web Site:</b> <a href="http://www.sendthemtogreenland.org/delmarva/index.html">http://www.sendthemtogreenland.org/delmarva/index.html</a> <b>Skill Level:</b> Advanced Beginner Paddlers <b>Organizer(s):</b> Led by Ed Zachowski.
15(Sun)	<b>Breton Bay, Redux:</b> A leisurely day paddle on Breton Bay. We will launch from Abells Wharf and paddle out of the Bay to lunch at St. Clements Island, and return, 12 nautical miles. <b>Skill Level:</b> Intermediate paddlers. <b>Organizer(s):</b> Led by Ralph Heimlich (heimlichfamily@comcast.net)
21(Sat)	<b>Kent Island Circumnavigation: Moved from September.</b> This is not a paddle for those who are faint at heart. This will be a day paddle all the way around Kent Island. This date is tentative. Scheduling will be based upon weather and tides. <b>Skill Level:</b> Intermediate <b>Organizer:</b> Led by Marshall Woodruff 202.345.0606.
26(Thu)	<b>PoG 4th Annual Halloween Paddle Party:</b> Join us again at Jack's Boathouse in Georgetown for another scary Halloween Paddle Party. We will dress up in our scariest costumes and paddle down towards the Georgetown Waterfront. After our paddle, we will feast and drink to the end of the season. <b>Web Site:</b> <a href="http://www.PiratesofGTown.com">http://www.PiratesofGTown.com</a> <b>Skill Level:</b> All Paddlers <b>Organizer(s):</b> Led by David Biss 703.241.0036, Cyndi Janetzko 703.241.0036.
27-29(Fri-Sun)	<b>Westmoreland Car Camper:</b> Car Camper at Westmoreland Park in VA where the Potomac River meets the bay. Cold water clothing will be required. Potluck if we get enough takers. <b>Skill Level:</b> Advanced Beginner <b>Organizer(s):</b> Led by Brian Blankinship (brian@baykayaking.com).

Continued on page 8



## November

- 10-12 (Fri-Sun) Chickahominy River Car Camper:** The Chickahominy River enters the James a few miles upstream from Jamestown Island, and has many small winding tribs suitable for kayaks this time of year. Participants must contact the leader to pre-qualify. CPA members only. **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Bill Dodge 703-979-5837. Web Site: <http://troop424.freeservers.com/Chickahominy%20River,%20VA%20Paddle/index.html>
- 10-12 (Fri-Sun) Assateague Camper:** Join us for an overnight camp and paddle at one of the parks in Assateague, VA. **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner **Organizer(s):** Led by Chip Walsh
- 18 (Sat) Eastern Neck Island Paddle:** Join us today for a day paddle around Eastern Neck Island. For those of you who have been here before, this may be the last chance to see the beautiful Island before winter sets in. **Skill Level:** Intermediate **Organizer(s):** Marshall Woodruff 202-345-0606
- 19 (Sun) Kayak Seasonal Repair Gathering:** We will clean and repair our kayaks before putting them away for the season. **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Jennifer Bine 703.533.2436.
- 19 (Sun) CPA Annual Meeting and Galesville Paddle:** The Annual CPA Meeting will be held on this date at about 12:30 and there will probably be a paddle in the morning beforehand too. More info to follow. **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer:** Barry Marsh, Morning paddle led by Brian Blankinship.

**Other dates to plan for:**

December 9—CPA Christmas Party, undisclosed location in Laurel, MD.

February—CPA Trip Planning Meetings

February-March—SK 101, Introduction to Sea Kayaking (classroom instruction), Location and exact date TBD

April 27-29—The Ninth Annual SK102 Skills Clinic (on water), Lake Anna, VA



Nanjemoy Creek/ Port Tobacco Paddle photo by Saki



Eastern Neck Trek photo by Vitas Eidukevicius



Nanjemoy Trip photo by Vitas Eidukevicius





**Pool Practice To Commence**—Now that Labor Day is past, the MNPPC Fairland pool may be available for kayak practice. If anyone is interested drop me an email at [jspinner2@verizon.net](mailto:jspinner2@verizon.net) or call at 301-559-3345. Reservations aren't needed until the end of October, but I don't have the cost or times for this year. Expressions of interest will help me express the demand for this service, making the pool management more prepared for the influx of paddlers. Expressing your interest will help me make arrangements early.

Joan Spinner  
Pirates of the Pool

**Sugarloafers and the Pirates of the Gorge**—The Sugarloaf

Pirates joined the one remaining Rocky Gorge for a short paddle on a very reduced Rocky Gorge Reservoir at Scotts Cove. This venue has had its ups and downs this season, literally, as WSSC drew down Tridelphia Reservoir for repairs to the dam, then filled everything up with the near-flood June rains, then over-filled Rocky Gorge when they drew down Tridelphia AGAIN, and finally are filling up Tridelphia so letting Rocky Gorge empty out. The beavers must be cussing a blue streak trying to figure out what's happening with the damn dam. Five of us launched in the mud at the end of the ramp and paddled up to the Route 29 bridge, before lengthening shadows turned us around. Much wildlife seen (lots of Great Blues feeding far from the trees, an Egret, ducks, bald eagle, and several deer grazing the mud flats). Also gave a hand (and CPA brochures) to three rec boaters who came in later than us. How dark was it? See the picture on the back cover. More pictures at <http://wobey.net/paddle/BlackHills/>

Ralph Heimlich  
Rocky Horror Picture Paddler



Suzanne Farace and Joanna Allen await the arrival of the rest of the group at our Gunpowder River rest stop *photo by Wendy Baker Davis*

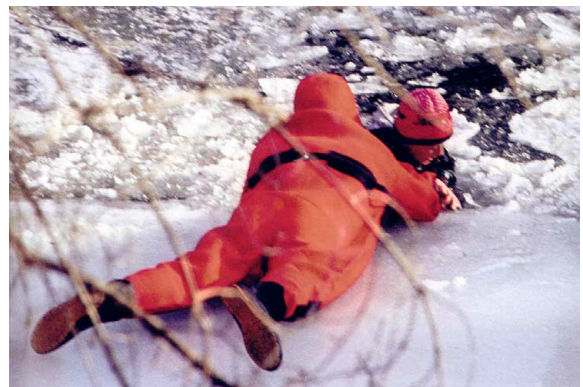
**Pirates of the North/Pirates of Baltimore Joint Paddle and Pic-**

**nic**—Thanks to all who attended the POB/PON joint paddle on September 10 at Mariners Point Park, and who contributed so deliciously to the potluck picnic. There were 9 of us in attendance: PON - Rob Burford, Wendy Baker Davis; POB - Bob Huber, Diane Huber, Suzanne Farace, Bunny Wagner, Joanna Allen, Maryrose Whelley, and Rick Wiebush. Bob Huber led us from salt water into brackish water into fresh water, each with unique scenery, flora and fauna. We took a nice break on the Gunpowder River at a swimming hole surrounded by big rocks, where locals were diving down trying to catch eels, and several of our own took the plunge. It was a beautiful sunny but cool day. We got back late and ravenously fell upon the wings and pasta salads and sandwiches and cookies and fruit and chips and... hard to believe but we barely made a dent in all the food. Many sodas and much cold water aided our re-hydration. Wildlife sightings included: a peregrine falcon, Great Blues, Kingfisher, turtles, fish, and snakes (we never saw them but we could feel them dangling down as we went under trees - just kidding).

Wendy Baker Davis  
Pirate Queen, PON

**Coldwater is Returning**—Please be aware of changing water temps and adjust your gear accordingly. Wear wetsuits, paddle tops, and transition into drysuits with enough insulation as the temperatures drop. The CPA Cold Water Safety brochure is something you might want to print off, read, and pass around to your paddling friends.

Its in .pdf at <http://troop424.freesevers.com/Safety3fold.pdf>



Not you, we hope

## Inside our September 2006 issue:

- **New Zealand's Marlborough Sounds**
- **Breton Bay Paddle**
- **Captain's Quarters**
- **Nominations are open for CPA Officers and Steering Committee**
- **October/November Events and dates to note**



Sugarloafers at Rocky Gorge in the Dark  
*photo by Ralph Heimlich*

**The Chesapeake Paddler**  
Chesapeake Paddlers Association  
PO Box 341  
Greenbelt, MD 20768

REMINDER: Please note your membership expiration date (on your mailing label or by email from the Membership Secretary) If your CPA membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues. SEE BOX ON PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS.