

Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. Volume 18, Issue 6

September 2008



2007 Chesapeake Paddlers Association Annual Meeting
photo by Ralph Heimlich

As usual, we will order some pizza for the attendees of the meeting, but if you want to show off your culinary expertise or just want to stop by the grocery store on the way, we encourage you to bring a side dish or dessert to add to the food.

While the Annual Meeting is a while away, NOW is the time to consider nominations for the CPA Committee and other chairs. Current nominations are on [page 5](#) and candidates "stump speeches" will be in the October issue. Also come prepared to raise and discuss any issues regarding CPA action from the past year, or issues expected to emerge in the near future. Lastly, come prepared to eat food and meet great people who love to paddle.

CPA Elections and Annual Meeting

This year our Annual Meeting will be in College Park, MD, on Sunday, November 2nd. Our club annual meeting is indoors this year, a change from last year's *al fresco* event at the Blackburn's house. We will also have a pre-meeting paddle from the Bladensburg Marina on the Anacostia River. Don't forget to join us for this event as we discuss relevant club issues and vote in new officers for 2009. Specific directions will be available in the next issue and online.



2007 Annual Meeting Paddle on Rhode River
photo by Ralph Heimlich



Before the Storm (Laurel and Kevin Brown, Ralph Heimlich, Brent Cogswell, Jim Zawlocki, Suzanne Farace, Michael D. Cohn, Melissa Boyle, and Lois Wyatt) *photo by Mark Woodside*

Black Skies Over St George Island

By Mark Woodside

On Saturday, August 2, I met ten eager kayakers at 9:00 AM eagerly awaiting our launch next to the St. George Island County public boat ramps. Holding up our launch was a looming swath of dark grey clouds lumbering across the northern sky, skirting our intended kayak route. Flashes of lightning immediately followed by cracks of thunder sent us back to our vehicles as the sky opened up with a down pour. Sitting in my car reminded me of Jim Zawlocki's previous day's email that weather would be a factor on today's paddle. Predicted stormy weather was expected to occur late in the afternoon (yeah, like 9 AM). All the same, signs of a blue sky to the west permitted us to launch about 90 minutes late. Some thirty minutes past the last rolling clap of thunder.

(Continued on page 4)

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.



CPA Gear Day photos by Ralph Heimlich



SCHEDULE FOR 2008 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
Oct 2008	September 15, 2008
Nov/Dec 2008	November 15, 2008
Jan/Feb 2008	December 15, 2008

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 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.

Officers:

Coordinator—Dave Biss, 703-241-0036, coordinator@cpakayaker.com

Membership, subscriptions—Sue Bauer, 410-531-5641, c/o CPA, PO Box 341 Greenbelt, MD 20768, membership@cpakayaker.com

Secretary—Sue Bauer, 410-531-5641 secretary@cpakayaker.com

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Pirate Groups:

Pier 7 Pirate Committee—Rich Stevens (703-527-4882, Jenny & Greg Welker(301-249-4895), Sue Bauer(410-531-5641), Brent Cogswell pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com

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

Patuxent Pirate King—Jenny Plummer-Welker Pirate Captain(410)535-2348/(301)249-4895 pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com;

Georgetown Pirate Committee—Cyndi Janetzko, Dave Biss, 703-241-0036; pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com

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

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

Sugarloaf Pirate King—James Higgins 301-460-8022 pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com

Pirate Queen of the North—Bob Shakeshaft (410 939 0269) and Mike Free (610-565-7563) 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



The Chesapeake is a Great Staycation Place

Fall is the time of year that we all get that satisfied feeling about our sport of paddling. It is that time of the year that we most often find ourselves saying "Wow! This is a great day to be out!" or "Isn't this gorgeous!" or "I am so happy to be out paddling!" It is the excitement of the cooling days, the great scenery of the coming fall and maybe, just maybe that edgy feeling that winter will be showing its face soon enough. We start finding the time to appreciate our days on the water and we start thinking about where we can go to squeeze in those last great paddle vacation experiences of the season; before the frosty bite of father winter is felt.

Well we all want to travel far away for a vacation trip of a lifetime, but at the same time we all know that crunch feeling as we top-up at the fuel pump. It can be tough looking forward to a long drive to a new paddle spot. Add a couple extra boats on the top of the car and your best paddling pals in the back seat, and that far distant spot gets farther still. So what are you to do to enjoy the rest of the season? Create a *Staycation* in the Chesapeake Bay Region.

We are really lucky to be paddlers in this area. The Chesapeake Bay is, after all, the largest estuary in the US. With over 64,000 square miles of watershed covering 7 states there is more water and more varieties of water than you could explore in your long-lived paddling lifetime!

As one of those paddlers who consider it an ongoing project to explore this area, I thought I would mention a few of my memorable places.

Cape Henlopen, Delaware. For a great kayak-savvy, beach-goers exotic destination, Rehobeth and Lewes, Delaware, are not very far away from Chesapeake Bay central. These two towns offer tourists delights with lots of beach town glitz and a small town, Bay-side feel. For the get-out-of-town paddler, there is a beach-side State Park where you can easily get the feel of the sand between your toes. When I frequent Cape Henlopen, it is usually for a day paddle with friends in that area. I like to skip the tourism and go straight for the water. I was shown the 'locals' way to launch by entering the State Park and parking at the small hidden lot only a simple carry from the swimmer's beach. You can easily get your kayak unloaded and carried to the water and quickly slide out away from all the hubbub of the towns. At first you are protected between the arm of sand at the tip of the Cape and the stone breakers. You will quickly be lured out of this harbor. If you go left into Delaware Bay you can retain much of the protection from the shoreline and you will get the chance to see the cities from the waterside. But you will have to keep an eye out for active boat traffic, especially the infamous ferry which speeds back and forth across the Delaware Bay. Want more seclusion? Then go out of the little protective harbor to the right: A whole new world awaits out there—the Atlantic Ocean. Be prepared to encounter tides, big waves, and more boat traffic. But at the same time you will find beautiful beaches that look like they are out of a fantasy brochure. Land carefully and walk along them with pleasure. Continue to paddle and you will most likely see pods of dolphins cresting beside you. They seem to like this area because the current rushes up to offshore sandbanks and creates spots where fish like to feed and hide. If you paddle farther along the shore you will find the busy beaches of Rehoboth, but if you stray away from shore you can see the Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse in all its glory. Of course all around the lighthouse are fast moving currents, chop and that speeding ferry again. Be well prepared for open water if you venture this way, and always bring a friend and a radio for backup.

Indian River inlet. Drive down to Rehoboth, only a few miles south of Lewes, and find an open expanse of inland water (actually a part of the eastern inland waterway system) where you can explore in comfort and even paddle the back channel which connects all the way from Indian River to the Cape Henlopen harbor.

Westmoreland State Park just below Fredericksburg Virginia. Here is a great spot to camp alone or with all your paddling buddies. You could even rent a cabin if you like. This campground has a beach as well as a ramp from which you can launch your kayak into the Potomac River. If you launch from Westmoreland and paddle north, up the Potomac River, you will quickly come to Pope's Creek. Here is a quiet place to explore back into a secluded area and back into history. Along this creek is George Washington's birthplace. Paddle south and you will soon find yourself paddling under the Horsehead Cliffs, tall clay walls that are remnants of an ancient time when this area was a sea floor. People often find ancient sharks teeth and other fossils in the clay under these cliffs.

If you want to find a *Staycation* for yourself in the Chesapeake Bay area, here are some resources:

Andrea Nolan's ["Sea Kayaking Maryland's Chesapeake Bay"](#)

Andrea Nolan's ["Sea Kayaking Virginia"](#)

Tamsin Venn's ["Sea Kayaking Along the Mid-Atlantic-Coast"](#)

Michaela Gaaserud's ["Sea Kayaking the Baltimore/Washington D.C. Area"](#)

Finally, there is no better way to learn about paddling than to hang out with other paddlers. You can do this in the CPA by going to one of the many events throughout the year, hanging out at one of the Paddling Piracies, or by reading the postings on the club forums. Get in another trip on the water before the winter comes to the area, start planning, and start paddling your Chesapeake *Staycation*!



St. George Island *(Continued from page 1)*

The launch site, with parking, is situated off Piney Point Rd, Route 249 at the base of the bridge prior to going over onto St. George Island. The park draws a consistent crowd taking advantage of the off shore fishing and crabbing opportunities. This paddle site has a range of protected open water, bird activity, and a lack of motorboat activity, except right around the launch and the channel between St. George and the peninsula. I scheduled this paddle because the route paralleled the last leg of the 35th annual Governor's Cup Regatta, (www.smcm.edu/govcup). The 17th century replica Dove sailing ship, moored out in the St. Mary's River, (www.bayweekly.com/year99/issue7_37/life7_37.html) marks the race finish line. The regatta commenced the night before up in Annapolis, and would conclude, winds permitting, at St. Mary's College. The initial trip plan was for a 6 mile paddle up St. Mary's River to the end of the race. A phone call back to my wife while it was raining noted that Doppler radar expected another storm at 1:00 PM. (Note to self; ask for a more definitive location next time.)

I made the decision to launch at 10:30, limiting the paddle to a circumnavigation of St. George Island. Lois Wyatt took the lead reluctantly (I'm not *fast* enough!), after being volunteered, while Brent Cogswell provided sweep duties in his new and awesome Laughing Loon Star Fire, (<http://www.laughingloon.com/firestar.html>) cedar strip baidarka. Jim was out in his new yellow Fathom Kayak by Eddyline. It is a sleek kayak with the standard hatch covers found with other leading manufacturers as opposed to the leak-prone 5-year old Eddyline Falcon that I paddle. A light wind blew as we started out. Brent, Ralph Heimlich, Laurel and Kevin Brown each paddled with their traditional Greenland handcrafted art work paddles. Lois, Melissa Boyle, Suzanne Farace, Jim Zawlocki Michael Cohn and I kept up with them using our conventional Euro paddles. The group was so quiet out on the water one couldn't help notice that everyone's paddle strokes were perfect: There were no paddle splashes from the entire group! Laurel and Kevin just returned from a week-long camping and paddle on Lake Huron, Canada. They loved the trip, which expanded their knowledge and experience on and off the water with the support of their paddle guides.



Ralph Heimlich sizes up his sail capability photo by Mark Woodside

As we neared the point where the St. Mary's River and the Potomac River merge, a large standing fish trap extended out several hundred feet from the shore. You can kayak single file between the boulders lining the shore and the wooden stakes holding up the net or you can paddle the long way around. Louis led us around the net, but not before we had to slow her down a bit. Seems she and Jim were engaged in conversation, completely unaware of just how fast they were going relative to the rest of the group. Going the long way round revealed quite a sight. Usually you can't see much in these fish traps, but this one was swarming with small (about 12" wide) Cow nose rays and fish splashing around. Moments earlier, the wooden poles above the water hosted a wide assortment of sea gulls, cormorants and Herons, all seeking an easy meal of fish caught in the net. The wind in our face, the turbulent wave action increased as we paddled out from the protective cove.

Once at the point, waves splashed over our bows in rhythmic succession. Suzanne pointed out that there were some short waves mixed in with the rolling waves, causing our kayaks to slam down on the water as the waves passed by. A camp ground located at the point was busy with activity of swimmers and people fishing. We were far enough off shore

to avoid snagging any far flung fishing line. Once fully into the Potomac River the slight wind shifted to our backs. Ralph dropped back to launch his newly constructed kayak sail (not enough wind to keep up with the group). The rest of the group were riding the waves making decent forward speed.

We pulled back into the launch site logging 6.1 nautical miles sometime around 1 PM. So much for the predicted 1 PM storm. Michael, Lois and Jim opted to resume paddling after they ate their lunch. According to him "We paddled for 7 more miles up the St. Mary's river. The Skates were all around by the pine trees at the turn to the river. I took some close ups of a bald eagle in a tree. We paddled by the trees on the left and stopped at a nice beach with shade. We headed back to the launch. The breeze stopped and it was very hot on the paddle back. We packed up our boats and left without any thunderstorm activity."

The clear weather and by-now flat water was a clear motivator. Brent, Suzanne, Ralph, Laurel, Kevin and I gave into to the local Sea Food House, (Evans) before heading home.



Laurel Brown and Mike Cohn on the Beach photo by Jim Zawlocki

Quarter master's Log



Preliminary Nominations for CPA Officer Candidates

Status as of 9/11/2008. Check on the website at http://www.cpakayaker.com/nominations_list.php for updates to nominations and stump speeches before the election at the Annual Meeting. Ballots and full nominations will be in the October issue.

The Coordinator—shall have overall responsibility for administration of the club and will be a primary point of contact for the club. S/he shall chair general club membership meetings and meetings of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee may direct the Coordinator to perform other duties consistent with the bylaws.



Dave Biss as Coordinator (incumbent)—Nominated by Ralph Heimlich; Seconded by 4 member(s)

The Secretary—S/he has primary responsibility for maintaining club membership records, but may delegate day-to-day administration of that task to another club member. S/he shall give notice of all meetings of the general membership or the Steering Committee and all other notices required by these bylaws. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all meetings of the general membership and of the Steering Committee. All records of the Secretary shall be the property of the club.

Sue Bauer as Secretary—Nominated by Dave Biss; Seconded by 4 member(s)



The Treasurer—The Treasurer shall have custody of all the funds and securities of the club, and s/he shall keep full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements. Such records shall be the property of the club. S/he shall deposit all such moneys and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the club. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the club consistent with Section 7 of these bylaws. S/he shall provide financial information to the Coordinator or the Steering Committee in a timely fashion as requested.

Rich Stevens as Treasurer—Nominated by Dave Biss; Seconded by 3 member(s)

Steering Committee—The property and business of the club shall be managed under the direction of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will make all decisions about operational activities of the club, unless specified otherwise in these bylaws. As a rule, routine decisions about specific club activities will be the responsibility of the individuals managing those activities, but they may be overridden by the Steering Committee if needed. The Steering Committee will determine which events are to be considered official CPA activities. If appropriate, it may set standards for such determinations so that it need not consider each activity, and it may then delegate to individual club members the responsibility for applying those standards to determine whether specific activities are official CPA activities. At its discretion, the Steering Committee may refer decisions to a membership meeting or to the full club membership.



Brian Blankinship —Nominated by Dave Biss; Seconded by 3 member(s)

Ed Hershon —Nominated by Dave Biss; Seconded by 3 member(s)



Gina Cicotello —Nominated by Dave Biss; Seconded by 6 member(s).

Nelson Labbé—Nominated by Dave Biss; Seconded by 4 members(s) Nelson declined the nomination.



Ralph Heimlich —Nominated by Suzanne Farace; Seconded by 1 member(s) (C'mon you guys!)

Yvonne Thayer —Nominated by Brian Blankinship; Seconded by 3 member(s)



Tom Heneghan —Nominated by Dave Biss; Seconded by 4 member(s) Tom has declined the nomination

Learn how to nominate or second candidates at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=3359> and make nominations or seconds at http://www.cpakayaker.com/nominations_list.php



Thousand Island Trippers and the Trailer photo by Ralph Heimlich

in Canada. The kayakers rode the trailer very well, with no loosening and no damage. Ed and Tom did wrap their boats, the lowest on the trailer, in commercial plastic wrap to shield them from road tar and gravel, but with the right trailer design, that may not be needed. Using the pickup allowed us to load all the gear in one truck (other than personal items taken in the van), but because Jim doesn't have a cap, we had to make sure most everything was in dry bags or packed so as not to be hurt by rain. A cap would have obviated the need for this, and all gear rode below the truck sides, so a cap would have worked. Here's a brief rundown of the cost savings from driving as a group:

We borrowed the trailer from a church camp that had benefitted from CPA help in the past, so there was not cost for that. Savings from group travel were 2/3 compared with everyone driving their own car and half of the cost if 12 of us carpooled in two's. Savings per trip member equal \$364 compared with going alone and \$118 each compared with carpooling by two's. Of course, we had to put up with each other in pretty close proximity for all those miles, and the van wasn't as comfortable as our own cars, but we didn't have to drive, either!

FOUR CAMPS: We stayed at four different camps over the week, a situation we recognized as less than ideal, necessitated by being late with our reservations (camping fills up quickly when Summer is only 2 months long!). Each camp had pros and cons.



Misty Isles Resort photo by Ralph Heimlich

Sugar Island (<http://www.sugar.islandertalk.com/>)—Sugar Island is a 47 acre Island privately owned by the American Canoe Association. It is available to all members for year round use. The island is rustic, with no modern amenities. Staying on the island is a throwback to more primitive camping experiences on an island gem that is pristine and pure. The night skies glow with stars because light pollution is minimal. The air is clean. The water is clear and surprisingly warm in August. Our camp on Rochester Bay (the south side of the island) consisted of woody tent sites, some lumber platforms we used for a kitchen, dining area and social club, a

Thousand Islands: The Trailer

By Ralph Heimlich

August in the Chesapeake Bay region is hot, hazy and humid, so members of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association often seek a cooler venue for paddling. This August, thirteen of us escaped the dog days in the cool climes of Canada and upstate New York, paddling the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River. The trip was organized by Ed Hershon and Tom Heneghan, who began planning early in the Spring. This report covers our four camping venues and our use of a trailer to cut gas costs. The full trip report is on the Forum at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=3373>

DRIVING TOGETHER: In the face of rising gas prices, we wanted to consolidate transportation so we rented a large van and borrowed a kayak trailer hauled by Jim Allen's pickup truck. We put 10 boats on the trailer, carefully padded with foam, 2 on racks on Jim's truck, and our 13th member, Frank Day, took his own boat separately as he met us up

Method	Van	Pickup	Group Total	12 Cars	6 Cars
Miles driven	962	962	1,924	11,544	5,772
MPG	19	20		24	24
Gas cost/mile	\$0.21	\$0.20		\$0.16	\$0.16
Wear and tear	\$0	\$293	\$293	\$3,954	\$1,977
Tolls	\$6.50	\$10	\$16.50	\$78	\$39
Rental	\$833				
Total Cost	\$1,041	\$496	\$1,537	\$5,908	\$2,954

Notes: 481 miles x 2 x number of vehicles. Assumes \$3.80 per gallon. Wear and tear is IRS mileage allowance of \$0.505 minus the gas cost. Tolls were \$3.25 each way for 2 axles and \$5 for 3 axles.

Misty Isles Resort (<http://www.mistyisles.ca/accomodations.html>)—We needed somewhere to land after driving all day and to stage our paddle for the next day. Misty Isles, a private camp just east of Gananoque, Ontario, is really tuned into kayakers (as you can tell by their sign!) They have cabins and campsites with picnic tables and fire pits and have nice bath houses and a launching beach. We were only there overnight (on a Saturday) so we didn't get their best sites, but we talked to other paddlers (from the States, mostly) who based their whole trip there. Sites are \$30 per night (2-4 people, \$5 per head for up to 2 more).

(Continued on page 8)

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>.

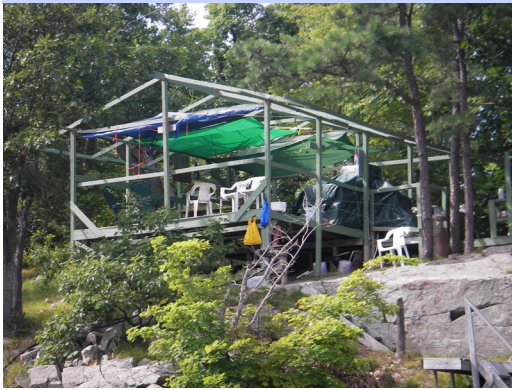
September

Sep. 19-21 (Fri-Sun)	Tall Pines IV 2008 -- A car camper at a private campground on the upper Virginia Eastern shore. Paddle out of your campsite! Lots of local places to paddle once you are there. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers. Organizer(s): Greg Welker and Jenny Plummer-Welker 301-249-4895 gdwelker@verizon.net
Sep. 20 (Sat)	KIP Final Paddle --This is the final paddle in the 2008 Kent Island Circumnavigation Series. On this paddle, we will attempt to paddle around the island. There will be places to take out and return to your cars, if your intent is not to fully circle the island. Skill Level: Intermediate Paddlers. Organizer(s): Led by Marshall Woodruff 202 345 0606.
Sep. 26-28 (Fri-Sun)	Eastern Neck Paddle 4-'08 --The Eastern Neck Refuge, located in Rock Hall, MD, is a 2,285 acre island refuge, a major feeding and resting place for migratory waterfowl. We will circle the Island, paddling along the Chester River and Chesapeake Bay, exploring numerous creeks. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers. Organizer(s): Led by Marshall Woodruff 202 345 0606.
Sep. 27 (Sat)	Chestertown Waterfront Festival--NON CPA EVENT Chestertown Sailfest, boat rides, "survivor" kayak competition, shallow and Washington College crew team race, and CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA! Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers

October

Oct. 5 (Sun)	Cabin Creek Landing to Horseheads Day Paddle--Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers. Organizer(s): Led by Sue Bauer 410-531-5641, Rich Stevens.
Oct. 10-12 (Fri-Sun)	Elk Neck Car Camper --Once again, we will camp at Elk Neck State Park and paddle destinations on the Susquehanna Flats such as Fishing Battery Islands, Stump Point in Peryville, the Northeast River, or the Bohemia River. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers. Organizer(s): Led by Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 (leave a message).
Oct. 10 (Fri)	NON CPA Event- Annapolis Sailboat Show--Skill Level: All
Oct. 17-19 (Fri-Sun)	NON CPA Event- Delmarva Paddlers Retreat --Greenland Style paddling and instruction. Skill Level: All. Organizer(s): Led by Ed Zachowski.
Oct. 19 (Sun)	Non-CPA Event: Mayor's Cup Kayak Race in NY --Long kayak race around Manhattan Island, NY. Volunteers are welcomed too. Skill Level: All. Organizer(s): Led by Ray Fusco 845-440-3127.
Oct. 26 (Sun)	NON CPA Event-St. Michael's Maritime Museum Small Craft Festival. Skill Level: All. Organizer(s): Led by Ed Zachowski.
Oct. 30 (Thu)	Pirates of Georgetown Halloween Paddle Party --Come down to Georgetown, dress up, paddle and party afterwards. Skill Level: All. Organizer(s): Led by Mutineer Dave 703-241-0036, Cyndi Janetzko.

CPA Annual Meeting is **Sunday, November 2** Check online for updates and direction and see the October issue for ballot and directions.



Our Social Club on Sugar Island photo by Ralph Heimlich

Thousand Islands (Continued from page 6)

few primitive outhouses, and spectacular views of Axman, Astounder, Psyche, Bloodletter and many other islands stretching away to the U.S. side at Grindstone Island. Life on Sugar Island is very comfortable for being primitive. We had a hand-pump pulling water directly out of the river (which we filtered using Tom's Katahdin gravity filter), picnic tables on a wood platform shaded by numerous tarps we had brought, and a utilitarian "kitchen" where we set up the stoves and pots and pans. We swam in the Bay and had warm sun showers set up on another platform.

There was even a swanky composting toilet over near the HQ. We were not the only ones on Sugar Island, and shared the muddy paths with an energetic young family and several other groups of paddlers. Sugar is one of a group of islands known as the Lake Fleet Islands, and we could easily paddle to the Admiralty Islands, Navy Islands, and down into the American Narrows from there, so it could be the base for an entire week. Sugar Island costs \$7 per night for ACA members, and \$15 for nonmembers (so join!). You can rent platforms and cabins there, as well.



Swim time in Rochester Bay, Sugar Island photo by Bela Mariassy

known as the Lake Fleet Islands, and we could easily paddle to the Admiralty Islands, Navy Islands, and down into the American Narrows from there, so it could be the base for an entire week. Sugar Island costs \$7 per night for ACA members, and \$15 for nonmembers (so join!). You can rent platforms and cabins there, as well.



CPA HQ at Keewaydin State Park photo by Bela Mariassy

Keewaydin State Park (<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=146>)—

This park was right on the river and had a marina with a boat ramp. We had three campsites next to each other and used the two end sites for our tents and made the middle site our common area with three picnic tables, CPA banner and tarps. It is a typical state park, with lots of RVs and family tent camps, overcrowded bath houses, and people driving around on the roads at all hours. It was conveniently located to explore the American Narrows, Millionaire's Row, Boldt Castle and Alexandria Bay (where Todd became the whipping boy for a Pirate Queen—you have to go to the full trip report for that one!). We had some difficulties with park police and trailer parking that left a bad taste in our mouths, but you could base out of Keewaydin if you are addicted to more comfort camping than fits in your hatches. There is also Grass Point State Park (<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=123>) west of Clayton, that seemed newer and a little less congested. Friday morning, we had to break camp, pack the truck and van, load the boats and launch for our last leg out to Mary Island State Park because at the time we made reservations, there were no sites in Keewaydin for us on Friday night.

Mary Island State Park (<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=150>)—One of several island parks in the NY State system, Mary is a little gem. Just 12 acres, it has a dozen campsites in heavy woods that are barely visible from one another, but have wonderful water views. Potable water and flush toilets (but no showers) make up its amenities. We had three sites and quickly set up camp, just before an afternoon thunderstorm blew in. Mary is at the eastern end of Wellesley Island, within spitting distance (literally) of the Canadian Border. From here you can explore west along the Canadian Middle Channel under the International Bridge and down the Rift to Lake of the Isles, or east to Grenadier Island. If you are comfortable with kayak camping, this is another island that you could base from for a full week and not get bored.



Mary Island Camp photo by Brian Blankinship

No matter where you stay in the Thousand Islands, you'll find the clear water, delightfully cool summer weather, and interesting natural and built shoreline a fascinating place to paddle.

Full trip report and links to photos at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=3373>

A proposal to acquire access to a trailer for the club may be made over the winter, so more paddlers will have the ability to organize group trips with shared travel.



Gear Day Gear photo by Jenny Plummer-Welker

CPA Gear Day A Success

The first annual CPA Gear Day was held at Truxtun Park in Annapolis on Sunday, August 24. Organized by Gina Cicotello and Suzanne Farace, this event provided CPA members an opportunity to “strut their stuff” by showing off the gear they use to make, maintain power, and play with kayaks. It also gave every one a chance to “mess about” with other people’s boats, paddle boards, sail rigs, etc. On hand were Dave Isbell with his skin on frame boats, Neil Macindoe with his Stand Up Paddle Board (a big hit), Nelson Labbe with his Greenland paddle making stuff, Greg Welker with his sailing rigs, Vince Dalrymple with the smallest boat in the fleet, Todd Angerhofer with his canned haggis, and numerous others with equipment ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime (Heimlich’s Hammock). Everyone enjoyed the potluck lunch. There were two paddles down “Ego Alley” to the Annapolis Harbor, one in the peace and quiet of the morning before others arrived, and one in the middle of the afternoon amidst the pandemonium. We are all looking forward to “Gear Day, The Sequel”, next year!

Fish Stories

Two fish stories made the news in the Bay last month, one good and one bad.

Mark Woodside reported seeing dolphins in the Patuxent just north of the Point Patience peninsula which is east of Myrtle Point located about a 1/4 mile north of the Johnson Bridge. This places the pod about 3 miles north on the Patuxent River from the Chesapeake Bay. The photo was taken about a half hour later just west of where Mark spotted them in the same general location. Mark counted between 8 to 12 including some young calves. Photo from the southern Maryland *Enterprise*

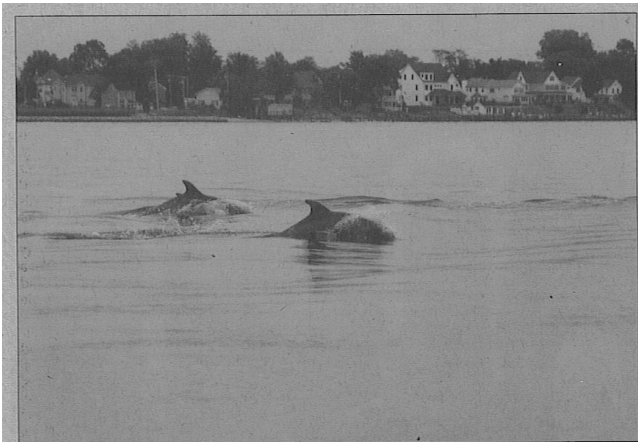


Photo submitted by Buddy Norris

Dolphins at play

Buddy Norris reports that he spotted 20 or more dolphins frolicking in the Patuxent River on July 14. “I was in my boat heading out to go fishing when I saw [the dolphins] around Myrtle Point/Point Patience area, I followed them under the Solomons bridge all the way to the Navy base,” Norris said. The aquatic mammals followed him and played but were more interested in the bait fish in the river. Norris speculated that the large numbers of bait fish in and around the Patuxent River this summer might have drawn the dolphins to the area.

Online at http://www.somdnews.com/stories/07232008/entemor160157_32173.shtml

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The second was a fish kill that occurred in a pocket cove in Aberdeen Creek, a tributary of the South River on September 2, as reported by Pamela Wood in *The Capital* at http://www.hometownannapolis.com/cgi-bin/read/2008/09_03-20/ENV

Up to 100,000 3-6” Atlantic Menhaden were belly up on the surface because of low dissolved oxygen in the creek. Several of us from Pier 7 paddled down to the site on Wednesday afternoon to discover an awful smell, a bunch of dead little fish, and seagulls too full to take off from the water.



Photo by Colleen Dugan - The Capital



New Car-Top Boat Launch Guide for Anne Arundel County Issued

Greg Welker reported that Anne Arundel County’s Department of Recreation and Parks issued a new guide containing information pertaining to its Cartop Boat Launch program. Included at the site you is information including locations, number of parking spaces, permit information, hours of operations, contact phone numbers, fees, park amenities and more on 15 launch sites. Pier 7 Co-Captain Greg spear-headed fact-checking for the new guide, marshaling CPA paddlers to check out each of the sites listed and rate them for kayaker use. The website is <http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/launch/> and the guide itself is available in .pdf format at <http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/launch/siteguide.pdf>



Greg Welker tries Neill's Stand Up Paddle Board *photo by Ralph Heimlich*

Inside our September 2008 issue:

- CPA Annual Meeting, November 2
- Nominations to Date
- Black Skies over St. George
- Thousand Islands—The Trailer
- CPA Gear Day A Success
- Fish Stories
- New Anne Arundel Launch Guide

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.
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.