

Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. Volume 22, Issue 4

April 2012



Piracy Days Are Coming!

For those of you new to the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Piracies are our name for the local chapters of paddlers who go out on a fixed night in the week during the paddling season (roughly mid-April to the end of October). Greg Welker, a great source for CPA living history, once confided to me that the piracies got their name when a member tasked with buying hats for all the Pier 7 paddlers cheated out and bought bandanas—hence turning them all into paddling pirates. Regardless of how they were named, here is a brief introduction to the current set of paddling pirate groups. You can find details (contacts, phone numbers, days, hours, etc.) of each Piracy online at

<http://www.cpakayaker.com/paddle-now/paddling-pirates>

Pirates of Pier 7 is the original Piracy. Operating on **Wednesday evenings** out of Pier 7 Marina on the South River just outside of Annapolis, we are supported and coordinated by a multi-talented committee of Paddlers. Pier 7 Marina is conveniently located on MD Route 2. If you are driving south, take the first left after you cross the bridge. Turn left at the stop sign and just follow the road. From northbound route 2, turn right at Virginia Ave (the traffic light) and follow the road.



We're not sure if it's the ideal breezy sandy beach front setting on South River, the central location, friendly paddlers, or the variety of Pier 7 group suppers, but Pier 7 is the oldest and best of the Piracies! We solicit volunteers from the participants (sometimes through subtle intimidation and shaming) to provide the popular pot luck suppers - starting April 18 this year—that go throughout the summer. The paddling season ends with "Wear a Funny Hat" Night Paddle and a price-fixe dinner at nearby Coconut Joe's Restaurant—this year it's the actual October 31. Pier 7 also has inside kayak storage and elevated racks; there's usually rental space available for a very reasonable monthly rate—just ask Greg Welker if you are seeking a place to store your kayak. Bela Mariassy, Brent Cogswell(410) 381-0037, Greg Welker(301) 249-4895, Jenny Welker-Plummer (301) 249-4895, Rich Stevens(703) 527-4882,Sue Stevens(410) 531-5641, Pirate Quintumvirate.



Pirates of the Potomac—We operate out of Belle Haven Marina, south of the Wilson Bridge on the Virginia side on **Wednesday nights**. We are a small but diverse group and welcome anyone looking for a pleasant two hour escape from the pressures of the day. Our location gives us the advantage of paddling to a variety of destinations. If the tide is right, we can use it to our advantage going north or south. The Old Town Alexandria waterfront let's us enjoy the view of historic sights and going ons as we paddle to the rowing facility on the north end of the town. Or, going south, we can visit Dyke Marsh, the largest salt marsh in the area that offers scenic and wildlife viewing opportunities. Across the river, we visit the new Washington Harbor. We can get an up close viewing of the sculpture of the *Awakening* that was formerly on view at Haines Point. Both sides of the river going south are not developed and make for beautiful scenery. Dick Rock, (703) 780-6605, Pirate Captain.

Pirates of Baltimore—We paddle out of the many ports in and around the Baltimore area: Canton, Island View on Balliston Point, Rocky Point Park, or Dundee Creek. Our weekly paddles occur on **Tuesday evenings** on a rotating schedule (see our listing on the

(Continued on page 7)

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.

SCHEDULE FOR 2011 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
May 2012	April 15, 2012
June 2012	May 15, 2012
July 2012	June 15, 2012

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.

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Pirates of the Eastern Shore—Paula Hubbard, 407-619-2896 pirates_easternshore@cpakayaker.com

MEMBERSHIP: Subscription to the Chesapeake Paddler is included with membership.

NEW: Membership is now \$10, \$18, \$27, \$35, for 1, 2, 3, and 4 years. Send checks or changes of membership information to CPA, PO Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768. DO NOT send them to the newsletter editors.

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Eighth Patuxent Cleanup, 2012 photo by Cera Bellum

Admiral's Walk



New Season, New Friends

This spring, we have more new members than usual and an especially large attendance at SK102. That is great news for the club and for the sport. Everybody, if you see a new face at your piracy or a weekend paddle, be sure to reach out. That new person could turn out to be the best paddling buddy you've found so far.

I hope to meet many of our new people at SK102. As I worked on lesson plans for that weekend, I started thinking about the experience of my own first SK102 as a student – what I expected and what I got.

I brought an ocean cockpit boat that I'd owned but hadn't used for ten years. I couldn't get into it without falling into the water. It was embarrassing, and everybody saw me fall in over and over. I tried to splash quietly, but there's really no way. Instead of laughing at me (which had to be really tempting), people helped me and somebody showed me how to use my paddle to create an outrigger to stabilize the boat while I

wiggled into the cockpit.

There were a couple of other memorably embarrassing moments during the weekend, but what I remember most vividly is the people I met and friends I made. One person in particular stands out: Lizzie O. (hey, Lizzie!). I clicked with Lizzie, and a week later I ran into her on the water with another of her friends, Laura V. (hey, Laura!), who in turn also became my friend. Through Laura, I met other people, including Kerry (hey, Kerry!). Some of these people have turned out to become among my closest friends, even off-water.

I loved paddling right away for the challenges it offers, but the sense of community among paddlers is probably why I stuck with it. We're a small sport. And while CPA is a big club in that small sport, it doesn't take long to meet a lot of the members. A benefit of making friends within the club is that some of them will become your paddling crew – the people you phone when you want to go paddle on short notice. Some of those people will have a lot to teach you. I've learned tons from my paddling buddies (hey, Paul, Rick, Tom, Jerry, Hank, Mark, and Mike! And Laura again!), and they continue to teach me. In addition, some of them have helped me move furniture when I moved. Now *that* is friendship.

For those who are new to the club, the piracies are a good place to start making those connections. You can go to any piracy that you want, and they all offer highly various paddling environments. If one doesn't suit you, try another. We have two new piracies this year, the Eastern Shore and the James River piracies, making a total of ten piracies. That's a lot of chances to explore new places. For those who can't get out on weeknights to explore different areas, there are dozens of weekend paddles all over the Chesapeake area. Don't be shy about signing up for a paddle; if you are unsure of whether the paddle is right for you, just email the organizer and ask. Don't feel like an outsider; you are not. You're a member, you're one of us, and we all want to meet you and paddle with you.

New people bring new interests, new experiences, and (above all) become new friends. We're a richer club every time a new person becomes a 'regular'.

So welcome to all the new people, and to the existing members, it's going to be good to see all of you on the water again in the upcoming weeks.

Jay



Great Chesapeake Bay Swim, photo by DJ Manalo



Bethel Bed & Breakfast

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Pier 7: We Paddle to EAT! photo by Ralph Heimlich

Creepy White House

By Catriona Miller

This is my first year following the spring CPA progression of beginners through SK101 and SK102. It's also my first year assisting with both. I see all the hopeful kayakers, their infectious enthusiasm, and contrast this with when I was first learning to kayak and how many lessons I learned the hard way. I'm happy that I can help a few people avoid learning things the hard way. This story is about a touring trip my partner Reggie and I took early in our kayaking careers.

After some initial local trips of increasing difficulty, it was time for our first touring trip. Some colleagues of mine were planning on camping on Chincoteague one weekend in July. In exchange for borrowing a lot of my camping gear, they agreed to drop us and the kayaks off at the south end of Assateague and pick us up in my car at the north end of Assateague the next day, while we paddled and camped that 22 mile stretch. We studied Google maps, the Forum trip reports, and showed up bright and early in Tom's Cove to get our backcountry permit for Pope's Bay. We diligently memorized the pictures of Pope's Bay campground, took the little paper map that the ranger gave us, and ended up staying on the beach most of the day playing with kites with my colleagues. Then my friends wanted to try out our kayaks. It was probably close to 4 pm by the time we had our kayaks packed and loaded for our first touring trip. I had a 15 foot long small Greenland style boat with barely any storage and Reggie had a 17 foot long Prijon Barracuda that fit an entire 2.5 gallon jug of spring water in the back hatch (literally, the ones you buy in the supermarket). My boat would spin on a dime and wasn't all that fast, Reggie's boat took serious work to turn but was very fast. Clearly, we were not well matched on this trip. By the time we set off, the tidal current we'd hoped to catch pulling us north, was now heading in the opposite direction. But it was okay, we only had 10 miles or so to go to reach Pope's Bay, fighting the current in fully loaded kayaks for the first time.

We knew we were running behind, so we basically paddled off shore and minimized sightseeing to save time. I remember passing a house on stilts at some point full of teenagers or college kids and asking them "How far to the stateline?" and them answering that we still had a ways to go. We exchanged looks of concern because it was approaching sunset. Regardless, we kept paddling on thinking, "It's a long island". If we can't get to our campsite by dark, we'll find a small section of beach and just put up the tent there. Those of you who have been to Assateague or been in a salt marsh or mangroves are now snickering. We'd obviously never ever been in a salt marsh before. It had been a warm July day, I had my hair in a bun and we both had been dumping salt water on my head to cool down. When we started seeing the landscape change mostly to salt marsh, we decided to head inland to start exploring the shore a bit to see if we could spot our campground. We studied our little NPS-provided map and judged that we must be past the state line. Yes, we didn't have charts, and we didn't have a GPS. After all, it's Assateague. How can you get lost on an island that runs straight north and south?

Now that we were paddling closer into the marsh, we started getting eaten alive by mosquitoes. Out came our cans of Backcountry DEET-based insect spray, and I initially gingerly sprayed my arms and hands. Two minutes later, I realized that I have to spray my hair, my face, my neck, and every square inch of skin. Ten minutes later, I realized that DEET keeps mosquitoes off for precisely 10 minutes on Assateague and then needs to be reapplied. So we both take a can of bug spray and spray ourselves down every 10 minutes till the next few mosquito bites become insufferable. When it's fully dark, we come to an opening in the salt marsh with an old house and a long dock jutting out from it. Reggie helpfully comments on how islands and houses like that are probably full of rats that will eat through our tent. Then he suggests we camp at the creepy white house. I very calmly and rationally tell him that I'm next to a long narrow beach island and I'm going to be camping on the beach tonight and not at the Creepy White House. His version of this story is that the drama queen started squealing about how she wasn't camping at any creepy white house. This house is basically the very definition of dilapidated.

We decided to explore the opening in the marsh. We got some flashlights out of our hatches, and decided that in the opening, Reggie would follow the left bank, I would follow the right, and we would discuss what we saw after we met up. Amazingly, we saw a lot of salt marsh and grass, but nowhere to land. We headed back out to the Creepy White House. It's now probably about 10 pm, and we still haven't had dinner. I pop out some sample packets of shot blocks I'd gotten in my latest REI order and we split them. This is when I realize that caffeinated shot blocks are a gift from the Gods. I still don't want to camp at the Creepy White House, but as we're discussing it, we start seeing flickering in the distance. We debated whether it was a thunderstorm or maybe fireworks from Ocean City. Of course, we didn't have a VHF radio so we couldn't check the forecast and my cell phone had no signal. We started talking about maybe just heading across the bay and camping on the mainland or on Chincoteague, so we struck out paddling for the opposite shore. After ten minutes or so, Reggie decided that it's really a stupid idea to go to the opposite shore and we should just head back for Assateague and find a beach. So we turned around and started paddling in the dark towards Assateague and magically end right back at the Creepy White House.

Reggie said "Look, we're meant to camp here." I said no, but he wanted to get out to stretch his legs at least. The dock is probably about 3.5 feet off the water. I muttered about how we're going to get up there since I'd never climbed out of the kayak onto



Not the creepy white house, but a similar one we passed around sunset, photo by Catriona

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CPA Schedules Beginner Paddles For the Year

By Maywin Liu

For those new to kayaking or looking for leisurely trips, CPA is introducing a new Beginner Paddler Series. Participants will be led on trips of 3-8 miles in scenic locations from peaceful lakes and reservoirs to Eastern Neck on the Bay to rivers and estuaries along the Eastern and Western shores of the Bay. The Series will run from May through October. Some of the trips launch from sites that offer rentals if you have not yet purchased a kayak. Many of the trips are combined with special features such as kayak nature photography, a Gear Day lunch stop, historical guides, and lotus blossoms and fall colors viewing. For those who have not done a wet exit or are not comfortable with rescues, most trips will offer the opportunity to practice. Have fun kayaking while improving your skills and confidence with friendly, experienced paddlers who enjoy sharing their love of the sport. For those looking to purchase or upgrade their kayaks, this is a good opportunity to compare the performance of different kayaks and possibly try out a few. Please consult [the CPA calendar](#) for details of the Series and the trips.

Date	Location	County	Estimated Distance	Trip Leader/Contact	Notes
5-May	Piscataway Creek	PG CO	6	Mike Cohn	
19-May	Kent Island Rookie Paddle	QA CO	4	Marshall Woodruff & crew	
3-Jun	Annapolis to Truxton Park	AA CO	6	Maywin Liu	*GEAR DAY at TRUXTON
9-Jun	Jug Bay on the Patuxent	PG CO	8	DJ Manalo/Dave Wilson	*photography too
9-Jun	Tuckahoe State Park - Lake	Caroline CO	3	Ralph Heimlich	
16-Jun	Tridelphia Lake	Mont. Co	6	John Garon/ Sue & Rich Stevens	
30-Jun	Fountainhead Park & the Occquan	VA	4	Jen Bine /Brian Blankinship	
29-Jul	Turner Creek Lotus viewing & Mt Harmon	Kent Co	8	Ralph Heimlich	* crossing Sassafras
4-Aug	Tridelphia Lake	Mont. Co	6	John Garon /Sue & Rich Stevens	
11-Aug	Mattawoman Creek lotus viewing	Charles Co		Mike Cohn	* not posted per Mike
12-Aug	Jug Bay to Mt Calvert Historic Manor	PG CO	8	Jenny Plummer-Welker & Greg Welker	
20-Oct	Fountainhead Park & the Occquan	VA	4	Jeff Walascek / Jim Zawlocki	
21-Oct	Upper Chester River Landing	Kent Co	8	Ralph Heimlich	

Chesapeake Paddlers Photo Gallery

Do you want to share your photos of CPA paddlers or events? CPA has established a gallery of photographs at

<https://picasaweb.google.com/107314129921523152700>

If you want to contribute photos, please either upload your photos at that site or email them to:

107314129921523152700.cpakayaker@picasaweb.com

with the event name in the subject of the message. The photos will be automatically posted to the Picasaweb gallery with the subject of the email as the caption and may randomly appear on the CPA home page in our photograph gallery. Want to see the photographs submitted? Follow the link off the CPA home page or go to

<https://picasaweb.google.com/107314129921523152700>

Creepy White House (Continued from page 4)

something like that before. Reggie just pops out and hops up on deck on his one leg (his previously broken leg is still not weight-bearing at this point, but the cast is off). I gingerly tried to find a couple of square inches of the dock that is not covered with bird droppings and one of the cross beams of the dock breaks off as I tried to climb up. We walked around a bit and the only place to put a tent was the bird-splattered dock, but it's not quite wide enough for our tent. Reggie thinks we should maybe just camp, but I really don't want to camp at the creepy white house. We decided to paddle on, dropping back from the docks into our kayaks. We still saw the flickering, but convinced ourselves it was just fireworks.

It was a gorgeous moonlit night, there was a nice sea breeze blowing, and I was caffeinated on shot blocks. We paddle into every opening we saw in the salt marsh, exploring tunnels and looking for our campsite or just some dry land. As we went over shallow areas, our boat bottoms were bombarded by flopping schools of startled sleeping fish. Phosphorescent jelly fish or some creatures glowed in the water. I had fun exploring little inlets through the salt marsh, but they were much harder in Reggie's 17-foot heavily laden kayak. It was actually quite pleasant except for the mosquitoes that were still eating us alive. We kept splitting up, one going left and the other right as we entered bays or inlets in the salt marsh. About 3 am, we finally entered what we were fairly certain was Pope's Bay from the size of the channel. We split up: I followed the sound of the seashore for quite a long time, thinking that maybe I'd find a way through or some small cleared area. I saw Reggie flashing his flashlight at me and I flashed mine back and blew my whistle a few times and continued on my way. I didn't find any land and headed back towards Reggie, who was panicked because he hadn't seen my flashlight flashes or heard my whistle blows. We continued to explore the Bay a little bit until we came up to an Oyster house that's probably about 5 feet off the water with a dock around it. Reggie says "That's it, we're camping here."

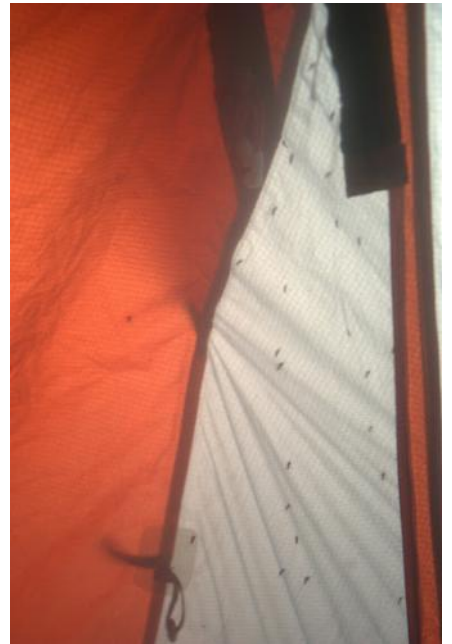
It's 4 am and this house is not quite so creepy. Getting out of the kayaks onto a dock that's above my head is a pretty trick maneuver. Once we were on the dock, our kayaks and all our camping gear was still in the boats. Reggie hopped down to the kayaks, attached rope to the front and back and we hauled the kayaks up out of the water and over the 3 foot railings of the dock with Reggie hopping around on one leg. Neither of us could find the bug spray at this point, but Reggie grabbed his rain jacket and pants to put on. I looked for mine as Reggie told me there wasn't enough room for them because I packed too much stuff. So he'd taken them out. I'm getting eaten alive by mosquitoes and trying to go to the bathroom. I could see hundreds of mosquitoes swarming in the path of my flashlight. Needless to say, I was not a happy camper. We got the tent up, crawled in as fast as possible and spent the next 5 minutes smashing every mosquito that had managed to follow us in. We spent the rest of the night listening to the mosquitoes buzzing at the screen mesh of our tent. We didn't take the food in from the kayaks and I couldn't manage to get my hair unknotted. We just tried to catch what sleep we could.

When the sun began to heat the tent in the morning, we woke up, commenced being eaten alive by mosquitoes again, and broke camp. We lowered the kayaks back into the water and dropped down into them. We decided to give up on finding Pope's Bay campground,

but to find Green Run (further north on Assateague) and maybe take a nap or just cook some food since we'd gone without dinner the night before and just eaten a granola bar for breakfast. We never quite managed to find Green Run, it's not very well signed when you're coming from the south end of the island. By this point, neither of us wanted to see a salt marsh ever again in our lives (I have a special hatred of salt marshes still to this day), so we just paddled out in the middle of the bay and let the wind blow the mosquitoes away. This was my first experience with crossing the Sinepuxent Bay side of Assateague, and it's always just been an absolute slog against the wind coming up to the northern end of Assateague. This first time wasn't an exception.

When we got up to the take out spot, I walked over to the ocean side of the island to find my car and friends. Reggie was going to make us lunch, but was sleeping on a picnic table when I came back with the car. His camp stove pump had broken and lunch wasn't possible. We loaded up the car as fast as possible, trying to minimize how many more mosquito bites we got. When we got home, the only part of my body that wasn't covered in mosquito bites after that trip was what was underneath my PFD. I never did manage to get my hair out of the bun I'd had it in and ended up having to cut off about 2 feet of hair. We came back to Assateague that fall with GPS's, maps, and all sorts of things that would have been handy the first time around. We still have never managed to find the Pope's Bay campsite.

You can see pictures of Cat's disastrous first touring trip at <https://picasaweb.google.com/eyeofcatriona/Assateague>



Piracies (Continued from page 1)

CPA Forum). Destinations may include a visit to the Craighill Channel Lower Rear Lighthouse, off Pleasure Island; the beaches on Hart-Miller Island; Baltimore's Inner Harbor; or a simple paddle in Hawk Cove. One of our ports is a boat launch located behind one of Baltimore's finer seaside restaurants, Island View Restaurant. Members often unwind after an evening's paddle by discussing kayaking topics over an entree of their award winning crab cakes and grog. This year the piracy plans to host one Saturday/Sunday day-paddle per month. These will be longer, open water paddles. Pirates from other Piracies are invited to attend. The Baltimore Piracy is also noted for its Skills courses, given on a monthly basis. Topics such as basic paddle strokes, bracing, various rescue techniques, and advanced strokes are taught by qualified instructors. In past years members of this piracy have also hosted a "Survivor" class. For an entire day, participants must problem solve their way through various scenarios that could and have occurred; leaving all better prepared for when the unexpected occurs out on the water. David Wilson, (443) 562-6156, Pirate Captain.



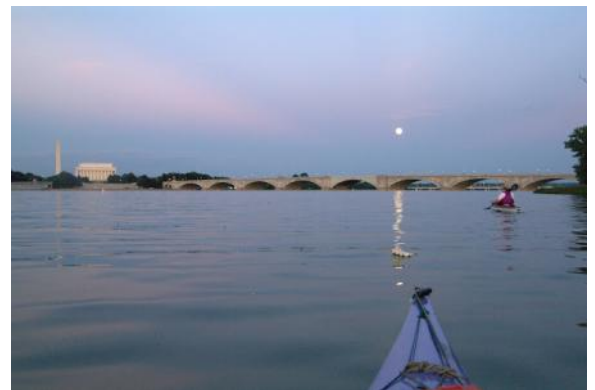
Sunset over Back River, Baltimore Piracy



Havre De Grace waterfront with the PON

The Pirates of the North—are a small group of paddlers on the northern fringes of the Chesapeake. Our paddlers come from far and wide (PA, DE, MD) to enjoy camaraderie, abundant wildlife and some of the best paddling around. In 2012, the PON have returned to paddling on **Thursday nights** after several years of paddling on Tuesdays. Paddling Thursday evenings is a great way to start the weekend even if you have to work on Fridays. Some paddlers frequently visit Coakleys or another pub after paddling. Come join us. We welcome paddlers of all skill levels. The PON launch at 6 PM, Thursdays, from Roberts Park, which is easy to identify as it is located in Havre de Grace at the base of the Amtrak bridge over the Susquehanna River. Bob Shakeshaft. (410) 939-0269, Pirate Captain.

The Pirates of Georgetown—draw from the wide variety that Washington, DC, has to offer, paddling on **Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM**, generally from Columbia Island Marina. We have paddlers from all walks of life, from all different skill levels, and from almost all age groups! We have the advantage of being able to paddle down the Potomac to Haines Point and up the Potomac to the Georgetown waterfront and we get to see the monuments and memorials from a viewpoint few others have – the water. Matt Blakey (202) 210-6367 and Peter Harris (703) 408-7812, Pirate Captains.



Moon over Memorial Bridge POG



On the Bluebell Paddle photo by Mary Scala

Pirates of the Occoquan—OK, we're probably not as exciting as the Georgetown folks ... or as adventurous as the Pier 7 group. Paddling generally on **Wednesdays at 6 PM**, we like relaxing, mellow paddles in beautiful natural environments. We paddle the calm flat water of the Occoquan reservoir and Bull Run. Occasionally we get adventurous and hit the high seas on the Potomac River at Pohick Bay and Mason Neck. Our merry pirate adventurers do paddle some of the prime locations in Virginia for wildlife viewing. We routinely share our waterways with numerous herons, turtles, and eagles ... which is pretty amazing since we're paddling in the backyard of our Nation's capital. Some of you joined our members and experienced our waterways on the recent Bluebell Paddle down Bull Run on 15

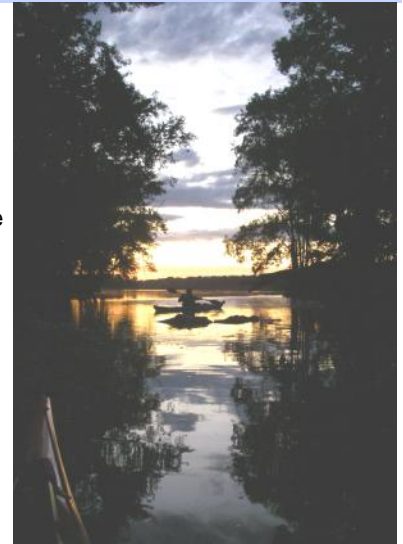
(Continued on page 8)

Piracies (Continued from page 7)

April. Come on out and join us for more wildlife viewing and camaraderie and enjoy some of Virginia's finest paddling. Jeff Walaszek (703) 868-1765 and Jim Zawlocki (703) 378-7536 Pirate Captains.

Pirates of Sugarloaf—We are really looking forward to a new season of CPA kayaking on the upper Potomac River. We know there are many kayakers in upper Montgomery County and we're hoping many will join us **Thursday evenings** at Riley's Lock. Riley's Lock is free, easy to get to, no traffic tie ups, no road construction, and has a very large parking lot. And if we're lucky there will be additional port-a-johns placed closer to the boat ramp!! Plus, we get to view spectacular sunsets over the water, framed by the land and an island. We are starting out slowly with our first official paddle in May. We're a very, very small piracy and need others to come along. Bring a snack to eat on the water as we watch the sunset and bring your lights as we come in after dark. We may decide to venture out for dinner afterwards depending on what the group wants. Rita Scherping (240) 731-9987 and Liz Marancik (301) 221-0572, Pirate Captains

Pirates of the James—If ye decide to venture down this southerly direction, a good Pirate can look forward to a whole season of great paddling, including informal group paddling of the rivers of Central Virginia (James, York, Rappahannock, Chickahominy, Appomattox, and more), local creeks and reservoirs, monthly safety and rescue practices, kayak and car camping, social events in the off season, and, of course, eating...lots of eating! In fact, aside from paddling, eating is what we do best! This new piracy, centered in Richmond, VA, will meet on **Wednesday evenings** from late April through late October at the primary launch site of Deep Bottom Park, but we may move a bit up or down river from time to time for a change of scenery. Mary Larson (804) 316-3432 and Jon Phipard (804) 334-3019 Pirate Co-Captains.



On Riley's Lock with Pirates of the Sugarloaf



On Turner's Creek photo by Paula Hubbard

Pirates of the Eastern Shore—Pirates of the Eastern Shore will kick off the paddling season with our first paddle out of Turner's Creek on Wednesday May 2nd. This will be a 'get to know you paddle' and will be fairly low key. The plan is to get to know each other and explore Turner's Creek at a leisurely pace. Spring is a good time to paddle the upper ends of the creek. During the summer the area becomes thick with lotus that smell heavenly but prevent paddlers from getting very far. After the paddle we will move on to a local spot for snacks and beverages. Turner's Creek Launch is located in Kent County off of Hwy 298. Paddlers should meet at the boat ramp at 5 PM. Parking at the immediate launch point is limited, but there is plenty of parking in the lot a short distance up the hill. Here is a link with map and directions. <http://www.baygateways.net/contact.cfm?id=146> Paula Hubbard, (407) 619-2896 Pirate Captain

Pirates of the Patuxent—This Piracy roves the scenic waters of the lower Patuxent River. The group launches from the small beach just north of the boardwalk on Solomons Island Road, Solomons, Maryland on **Thursday evenings** at 6 PM. Many regulars have built their kayaks. We take turns bringing snacks to share while enjoying the view from the beach. Jenny Plummer-Welker, (410)535-2348, (301)249-4895, Pirate Captain.



Greg Welker and Suzanne Farace doing rescue training at SK203 photo by Ralph Heimlich



Twentieth Annual Potomac Swim: June 1-2

By Chris Bresnan

The Earth needs your help and all you have to do is paddle across the Potomac River. For helping, we'll even give you stuff and feed you. You don't have to pay anything, ask for donations or raise any money. How easy and fun is that?

What I am asking you to do is to be part of the **20th Annual Potomac Swim**that's right, **20 YEARS of Potomac Swims!** Due to this milestone anniversary, we have some special things planned for this year, but you'll have to join us to find out what they are. Also, there have been some small but significant changes we think you'll appreciate, for instance the 'finish' is now north of the public swim area and we have a reserved pavilion, thus providing an area for Potomac Swim only. If you've joined us before then come again this year and be a

part of this commemorative event, and if you've never been part of it then now is a great time to start!

One unique aspect of this event is that it requires **one kayaker for each swimmer**, so without enough kayakers we simply can't allow as many swimmers. Each swimmer raises hundreds (some thousands) of dollars, so each additional kayaker means an additional swimmer thus providing more money being donated to environmental organizations. Not one penny is going into anybody's pocket.

The event is an open-water distance swim of 7.5 miles across the mouth of the Potomac River. This year we have over sixty swimmers from around the country, many of which are waitlisted purely because we need to be sure we can provide a paddler to serve as their Sherpa and cheerleader. Basically, on Saturday June 2 swimmers and kayakers will be ferried from the Maryland side to the Virginia side by charter boats. We'll launch from there and escort the swimmers back to the Maryland side where a *wonderful* lunch will be waiting for everyone.

And here's what you get. First and most important is that you get to be part of a really, really cool event. The feeling of accomplishment when the swimmer reaches the beach is beyond description. It's a team effort and they can't do it without you. You also get a free dinner on Friday June 1, free camping on Friday and Saturday nights at Point Lookout State Park, a free T-shirt, a huge picnic on the beach at the end of the swim and a few other little things.

Please go to <http://www.potomacriverswim.com> or you can e-mail or call either me or Cheryl Wagner. Thank you for helping!!

Chris Bresnan, 540-837-2733 cbresnan@hotmail.com

Cheryl Wagner, (202) 387-2361 Home, (202) 874-0614 Work, (202) 478-0948 Fax

Our Advertisers: Lisa and Charlie Cole, Bethel Bed and Breakfast

Who are Lisa and Charlie Cole and why would a Bed and Breakfast place be advertising in *The Chesapeake Paddler*? It was in 1988 that Charlie and Cindy Cole started an annual gathering of paddlers on the western shore of Rehoboth Bay in Lewes, DE, to exchange paddling skills and knowledge. Since 2001, it has become an annual event at which Greenland-style sea-kayakers gather to celebrate the origins of kayaking and hone traditional kayaking techniques and skills. Whether you are looking to learn your first kayak roll, or develop an understanding of advanced traditional techniques, the Delmarva Paddler's Retreat is the place to do it. Speaking to the history of this event, and of the origins of its official sponsor, Qajaq USA, it was Cindy Cole, who in August 2000, joined Harvey Golden and Greg Stamer, to compete in the first "open" Greenland National Championship. Two years prior to that landmark trip, Champion Greenlander Maligiaq Padilla had embarked on a tour of the United States and Canada. Few then realized the impact that tour, which began with a visit to the 10th Annual Delmarva Paddler's Retreat, would have on the development of Greenland kayaking in America. It was at the 2000 event in Greenland, and the subsequent Qaannat Kattufiat Board meeting, that the seeds of an American chapter were planted, leading to the formation of Qajaq USA. Cindy passed away in 2008.

Lisa Cole is the author/illustrator of the children's book "Searching for Chessie of the Chesapeake Bay." She also wrote the pocket-size cookbook "Small Boats – Big Appetites: A Sailor's Cookbook" and numerous sailing articles for magazines. You can learn more about her books by visiting Lisa Cole Books.

Charlie and Lisa now own and run the Bethel Bed and Breakfast, a kayak-friendly establishment housed in a quaint Victorian home overlooking the scenic Broad Creek River in the historic town of Bethel, Delaware. Once the hub of shipbuilding in the mid-1800s, Bethel is home to the famous three masted RAM Schooner designed and built by resident Captain J.M.C. Moore for use in the commercial shipping industry of the Chesapeake Bay. Bethel is on the John Smith Water Trail and Lisa and Charlie would love to host your next Delaware paddling adventure. Take a look at <http://betheldelawarebedandbreakfast.com/>





POB Balance Practice photo by Maywin Liu

Inside our April 2012 issue:

- Piracy Days Are Coming!
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- Chesapeake Paddlers Photo Gallery
- Twentieth Annual Potomac Swim: June 1-2
- Our Advertisers: Lisa and Charlie Cole

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

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