

Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. Volume 20, Issue 9

November 2010



Sheep may safely graze where an accordion plays photo by May Win

A Baltimore Pirate In Scotland

by May Win

Scotland: Land of lochs, legends, islands, and highlands: what better way to experience it than by kayak? As the sole American among four Brits, I was a curiosity. Why had I come so far? After our pick-up, we put in for a half-day paddle in our P&H Capellas on Loch Torridon in the North West Highlands. Carol and Dave, our two guides, assessed our skill levels and reviewed safety procedures. Dinner at the bunkhouse was family style, with all pitching in to help.

Our first full day was bright and clear. We would paddle from Applecross, on the mainland, to Skye. Carol had never done this paddle before due to poor weather conditions. We rounded a rocky outcropping, and suddenly there was music. A man strolled by a ruin, playing an accordion as sheep grazed in the field nearby. The sky was darkening ahead, and the wind suddenly picked up. We headed for the open water crossing, buffeted by cross-winds. Three of us crossed quickly. The others had stopped—had someone fallen over? When the others arrived, they told us that 20-30 dolphins accompanied them through the

crossing, then disappeared. Paddling fast had been a distinct disadvantage. We paddled onto Skye for lunch, landing on a bed of floating seaweed. Carol surprised us with supplies for hot soup, tea, and coffee. Meanwhile, a lone seal watched from the water. Heading back to Applecross, the seal followed, popping up periodically to stare at us. On shore, we hurriedly changed, somewhat undergarments. Dinner was at a local pub, well-stocked with whiskey (DON't call it Scotch), of course.

We woke to gray skies and wind. Carol took us to sheltered Loch Shieldaig to teach skills: strokes and edging. Because of the steady wind, we attempted to kayak sail. Of course, as soon as the sail was out, the wind died down. Above us, the elusive local sea eagle darted by, chased by gulls.

The next day, we drove to our second base. It was cold and pouring rain. We did not relish a paddle in that. As we arrived at our launch in Arisaig, on the West Coast, the skies cleared and bright sunshine greeted us. We headed for the skerries, small rocky islands scattered around the channel. After exploring on our own, Carol gathered us together for a paddle into the bay. We rode the long swells, searching for dolphins. As we entered the southern skerries, an otter skittered away ahead of us. As we slowly paddled, the first head appeared, then another and another. Over 15 seals surrounded us, popping up to stare then disappearing with a loud sigh. We drifted, mesmerized, as the seals “danced” around us. Gradually as the shadows lengthened and temperature dropped, we reluctantly headed back in.



Lochs on our itinerary

OS GB Route Planner 1:1M. Copyright © 2003 Crown Copyright; Ordnance Survey, Licence Number PU 100034184

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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.



CPA Annual Meeting, 2010 photo by Ralph Heimlich

SCHEDULE FOR 2010 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
September 2010	August 15, 2010
October 2010	September 15, 2010
November 2010	October 15, 2010

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—Jay Gitomer, 410-687-6878, coordinator@cpakayaker.com

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

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

Georgetown Pirate Committee—Matt Blakey 202-210-6367, Dave Biss, 703-241-0036, Peter Harris; pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com.

Baltimore Pirate King—Jay Gitomer, 410-687-6878, 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 Kings of the North—Bob Shakeshaft, 410-939-0269, and Mike Free, 484-889-2214, pirates_north@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.

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. The download link or file for the electronic version of this newsletter may not be posted or forwarded to non-members without the express consent of the Coordinator or Managing Editor

Admiral's Walk



Try Something New in 2011

We're a great club. That's because we have so many members who give so much of their time and share so many of their skills. I hope that this year everyone tries to take advantage of some of the free or almost-free training that the club offers, regardless of the level of experience and skill already attained.

We have a lot of new members. For these paddlers, training is not only a way to become more skilled in general, but it helps a paddler enjoy the sport more. We've all been caught out in surprise conditions at some point; most of us can probably remember a time or two that we got caught in conditions that were a bit too much for us.

We can't control the wind and seas, but we can prepare ourselves to handle whatever nature throws at us by learning how to manage in rough water and how to rescue ourselves and others. Getting comfortable in conditions is how bad weather becomes a reason to paddle instead of a reason to stay ashore. Some of the pirates will be offering free rescue training and skills development next season; sign up when it's offered in your area. If it is not offered, ask for it. We can find coaches to bring training to your piracy.

A lot of members have been paddling for a long time and might not need any training. Yet that doesn't mean that there is nothing to be gained by taking a class or two. No matter how skilled a paddler is, chances are that someone else has something to teach that paddler –the finesse techniques, such as an easier way to empty a boat, how to use the wind to help turn the boat, how to pick and catch the tastiest wave to surf. And the fact is that training is fun. It bonds us as a group. Many of the people I've done my most challenging training with have turned into long-term friends who I've paddled with since in many locations. There will be some intermediate-level training this summer for the paddlers who have experience and skill but want to freshen up or maybe take a step forward. The Trip Leadership Training and SURVIVOR are two fun ways to practice incident management and hopefully those events will fill up fast when they open for registration.

And don't forget – if you have something to teach, please volunteer to run a training session. The more various sessions we can offer, the better. It would be great to see some classes in paddle dexterity, balance, weather, whatever. Make a suggestion. One last thing – just because the weather is cold does not mean paddling has to stop. We have a few pool sessions at Fairlands this winter, there is Lee Pool in Virginia, the Patuxent Pirates are working on getting a pool in Calvert County, and we're also working on getting Dundalk up and running again this year. Most people think pool sessions are just to practice rolling. Of course, that is a common activity at the pool, but not the only one. You can practice self-rescues, bracing, sculling, paddle dexterity, and most of all, you can learn from other paddlers. There is always someone present who is willing to spend some time sharing skills or just spotting while you practice. Let people know you'd like some help and someone will step up.

If you have any ideas for ways to make the club even better than it already is, please share them, either via email or just post on the message board to start a club-wide discussion. I hope to see a lot of you at the pools this winter and at events this the summer, and hopefully you'll be dripping wet and smiling.



You can still paddle, even through the snow is on the ground (launching at Jonas Green State Park on the Severn in January)
photo by *Ralph Heimlich*

Thanks!

Jay

jay@jaygitomer.com



Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

November 7, 2010., Ellen E. Linson Aquatics Center, College Park, MD

Members present: 48 + guests. Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer and all 6 current Steering Committee Members were in attendance.

Business discussion

Coordinator **Ed Hershon** opened the annual CPA business meeting at 1:30 pm, welcomed everyone, and introduced Current Officers and Steering Committee Members. He also distributed ballots and copies of the 2010 financial report. He asked everyone to sign in and to vote on ballots for 2010 Officers and steering committee, if they had not earlier voted electronically online. **Jim Allen and Caroline Labbé** volunteered to tabulate electronic ballot numbers, the hand written ballots prepared today and the two mailed ballots.



Past-Coordinator Ed Hershon, Secretary Sue Stevens, Treasurer Rich Stevens and members at the 2010 CPA Annual Meeting photo by Ralph Heimlich

Secretary **Sue Stevens** summarized the 2010 Membership report—as detailed by **Ralph Heimlich**: there are now 646 active members—up from 627 in 2009. Thirty percent of current members have been a member for less than a year (most join in the Spring between SK101 and SK102), 25 percent have been members for more than 5 years, and 7 have been members for more than 15 years. The club also has life members, who have been continuously paid members for more than 20 years. The members who have qualified for CPA life membership include: **Dave Isbell** (member #22), **Greg Welker and Jenny Plummer- Welker** (member #42), and **Barry Miller** (member # 95)—who have paid CPA membership dues totaling 20 years.

We are recruiting about 130-180 members each year, but about half that number leave after one year after they have gotten a bit of experience & training, perhaps at SK102. The full Membership report is available online [here](#).

Treasurer **Rich Stevens** presented the summary of the 2010 Annual Financial Report. It shows the club funds have increased by \$7,065.27 or 36.4% with an ending balance of \$24,035.97. He provided summaries of club events, logo gear, membership dues, and the newsletter printing expenses. The full report is available [here](#).

Bela Mariassy Gear Meister presented the CPA Logo Gear report: sales over the past year totaled 73—compared to 87 in 2009. Sales are at a low, but steady rate with more gear sold at larger events. He now has a new supply of sky blue small and extra small size shirts to accommodate smaller paddler requests. The full report is available online [here](#).

Suzanne Farace summarized SK101 highlights—nearly 80 students and instructors attended on March 20, 2010. **Gina Cicotello** assisted with registrations for both SK101 and SK102. Suzanne is organizing instructors for the next session, which is set for March 26, 2011 in Mayo, MD.

Brian Blankinship summarized SK102—nearly 100 members and instructors attended April 23-25, 2010 and there was no waiting list necessary. It will be the 12th Annual on April 29-May 1, 2011 at Lake Anna, VA with our Hosts **Dave and Theresa Compton**.

Chesapeake Paddler newsletter Editor Ralph Heimlich summarized the workings of the newsletter—and expressed thanks to **Mark Woodside** who handles the distribution of the print copies and mailings. Ralph is always seeking members to write new kayaking articles about their trips—and will be shortly requesting entries for the 2011 CPA kayaking photo calendar.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RALPH HEIMLICH WHO HAD HIS ARTICLE ON KAYAKING & CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES ON THE EASTERN SHORE RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF SEA KAYAKER MAGAZINE.

Jay Gitomer—Pirates of Baltimore summarized their Tuesday evening activities, including 18 paddlers/ 3 instructors on the water skill sessions coaching strokes, braces & rescues. Baltimore has 10-16 regular paddlers.

Brent Cogswell—Pirates of Pier 7 summarized the South River activities including the Wednesday evening paddles, pot luck suppers, and the Crazy Hat Night dinner for 32 members and guests at Coconut Joe's Restaurant on October 27. There are 18-26 regular paddlers each week. The old refrigerator just died, so we are looking for donations of a replacement.

Dick Rock—Pirates of the Potomac has a small regular group of 4-6 paddlers.

Jennifer Bine—Pirates of Georgetown announced the group has moved to Columbia Island Marina on the VA side of the Potomac on Thursdays with 8-12 regular paddlers. They are continuing as a peer group of **Ice Pirates** over the winter.

Jim Zawlocki—Pirates of the Algonquin have 4-6 regular paddlers meeting at multiple locations in northern VA.

There are also 3 additional paddling groups active—including the Pirates of the North, in Havre de Grace, Pirates of the Patuxent River, and Pirates of Sugarloaf, all in Maryland.

Club Gear Day 2010—which was coordinated by **Suzanne Farace** on June 6 was well attended at Truxton Park, Annapolis, MD, who announced that the event will be held again at Truxton in 2011—she is getting the reservations in place. Ed Hershon also organized **Fall Out of Your Boat Day** at the same time and place. Suzanne is recommending adding additional skill sessions. Registration is being handled by **Mary Rose Whelley**.

More Minutes (Continued on page 5)

CPA Annual Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 4)

Greenland Paddle Making Class 2010 on March 27 was coordinated by **Caroline and Nelson Labbé**—who spend considerable effort in rough cutting all the wood blanks for each participant's specifications. Nelson indicated that he may organize the class again in 2011 because it is very popular.

Nelson and Carolyn Labbé also manage the mobile crates of the CPA Kayaking Library—books, DVDs and videos all are available to borrow.

Chip Walsh, Ralph Heimlich and **Jesse Aaronson** organized volunteer kayakers and other friends for two Patuxent River cleanup days to haul out floating trash on April 10 and bulky abandoned dumped vehicles in the fall.

Swim Supports 2010—There were numerous swim support and triathlons with many volunteer paddlers participating : Great Chesapeake Bay Swim in June and the Chester River Swim for Life on July 10—with paddlers coordinated by **Rob Pearlman**; the Columbia Triathlon, Iron Girl Triathlon, Celebration Triathlon in Howard County—with paddlers coordinated by **Robert Golden and Sue Stevens**; the Potomac River Swim at Point Lookout; and the DC Nation's Triathlon coordinated by **Dave Biss**. Volunteers also assisted with on-the-water kayak support at Chesapeake Light Craft Demo and Ocume Fest on May 15 and EMS Demo Day on June 5 with kayakers coordinated by **Matt Blakey**.

Brian Blankinship summarized Freya Hoffmeister's talk at the Annapolis EMS store about her year-long Australia circumnavigation. This talk was partially funded by CPA. He is seeking future speaker events for 2011.

Coordinator Ed Hershon summarized the By Law changes incorporated this year—including the new electronic voting opportunity—set up by **Dave Biss**—who also serves as **the Club Webmaster**. The officers' terms start immediately after the election. Ed recommended that the Club re-study the current IRS tax status C (4) as a nonprofit club.

Ed Hershon distributed CPA ROCKERS to three new Pirate Captains for 2010—including **Brent Cogswell** (Pier 7 – Annapolis). Additional CPA Rockers were distributed to other members and paddlers who assisted during 2010 as: trip leaders, swim support, safety boaters, event volunteers, and class instructors. Ms. **Jay Gitomer** was presented with the bright red ROCKER as the new CPA Coordinator in 2011.

New Business

A motion was presented by **Brian Blankinship** To fully fund all CPA official events out of Club funds where everyone has opportunity to attend and **Jay Gitomer** seconded. After much group discussion, the motion was withdrawn and an amended motion was presented for the CPA Steering Committee to determine which events should receive funding, such as hosting expenses, and club sanctioned events. The Motion was carried.

A motion was presented by **Rich Stevens** To increase the annual distribution of \$35/ person to each of the Piracies from 10 to be a maximum of 25 members. (\$35x25 members maximum = \$875.00 with receipts) Seconded by **Paul Bieri**. Motion Carried.

Election Results were announced:

2011 Coordinator: Jay Gitomer

2011 Treasurer: Rich Stevens

2011 Secretary: Sue Stevens

2011 Steering Committee (6):

Jennifer Bine * new
Ralph Heimlich
Bela Mariassy

Brian Blankinship
Dave Isbell
Rob Pearlman * new

Congratulations were offered to all newly elected steering committee members and thanks to all other club members who have offered support and time and personal skills that make CPA a great group of paddlers. New Coordinator **Jay Gitomer** thanked all for their interest and participation this year and next. A lot of people want more training to get to the next level. She is seeking volunteer trip leaders to offer more short trips for beginners. New paddlers are seeking local trips—easy to reach. She wants to keep communications open. Both Jay and Outgoing Coordinator Ed urged everyone to keep the membership issues active:

- ~setting up message board for trip leaders
- ~recommending trip leadership training program
- ~short trips for beginners
- ~ new paddler skills
- ~more skill related events
- ~instilling confidence for new trip leaders
- ~more activities for Club members

2011 TRIP PLANNING MEETINGS—All are welcome to attend: Our Club goal is to put lots of trips on calendar, find new locations for paddle trips and seek new ideas.

Meeting adjourned by out-going Coordinator – **Ed Hershon** at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Sue Stevens
 CPA Secretary/ Membership

A Pirate in Scotland (Continued from page 1)

The next morning, Carol discussed tides and winds. We were in for an interesting day on Loch nan Uamh: sunny, steady 25 mph winds, gusts to 35 mph. Carol and Dave stayed with the less experienced paddlers while allowing the rest of us to charge through the chop to pre-determined points. We swept by wind-carved limestone shoulders to a small cove. On shore, Carol gave us a "treasure" map which led us to a cave 12 meters up a rocky hill. Legend said Bonnie Prince Charlie hid there after a failed attempt to claim the English throne. We entered and tried to imagine spending months in the cramped, damp, dark cave.

At our lunch spot, we were in for another surprise. Dave led us through a small rocky ravine to a steep path up to a little fisherman's hut perched high above the beaches. Inside, protected from the rising winds, we munched our lunches as Chris, Richard, and Mike traded humorous barbs. Warm, rested, and full, we headed back down. The winds had picked up substantially. We launched quickly through 1 to 1.5 foot waves, quartering from the right, perfect conditions to play!



Loch nan Uamh, on the Treasure Hunt photo by May Win



Castle Tioram on Loch Moidart photo by May Win

The next day was cold, raining, with wind gusts to 27 mph: Typical Scottish weather. We headed to Loch Moidart. My kayak was again weighed down. Because of the adverse conditions, the guides taught us low braces. We practiced as we were buffeted around the cove. The rain was heavy enough to make seeing beyond our kayaks difficult. We stopped for lunch at a former heron colony on an island just as the sun broke through the clouds. We were cold and wet. Carol and Dave quickly built a fire for hot drinks. After lunch, we practiced side strokes and sweeps and searched unsuccessfully for otters. As we headed back, we paddled around the ruins of the Jacobite castle Tioram. The castle's claim to fame? It was featured in a Superman movie! Thanks to the retreating tide, we were faced with a portage of nearly 100 feet! Between fighting winds and dragging our kayaks so far, we were looking forward to a hearty meal. Our bunkhouse had a wonderful menu: Local seafood and North African food. As expected in Scotland, it also had a full array of whiskeys.

On our last day, we had strong winds again. We stayed in Glen Uig Bay, just outside our bunkhouse. As we rounded Samalaman Island, Dave asked if I thought the trip was worth the long journey over. I responded, without hesitation, "Absolutely," not only for the stunning scenery and challenging conditions, but because I also enjoyed the company of a wonderfully welcoming group of Brits.

This trip was done through Wilderness Scotland. Trips were 6-19 km, depending on weather conditions. Everything was included except dinner and drinks. Refreshingly, in Britain, tips were given by paying for the guides' dinner on the last night.

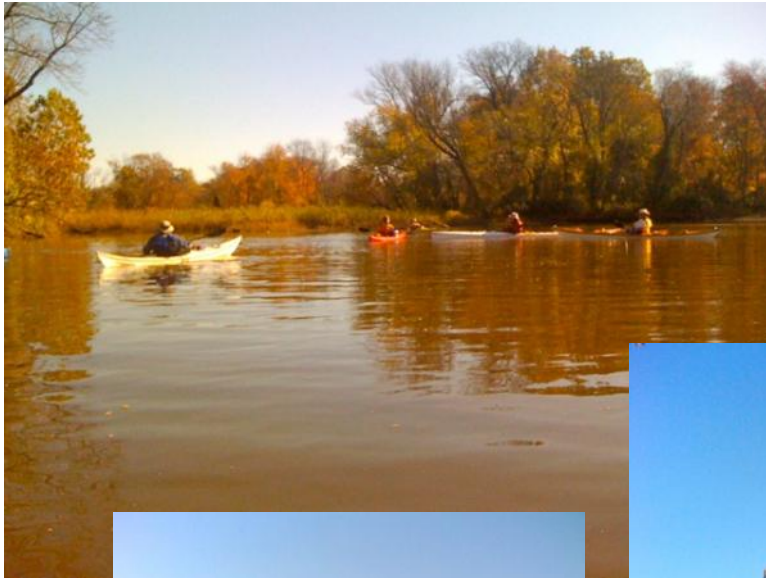
Website: <http://www.wildernessscotland.com/adventures.php?tripID=177>



May Win (center) and welcoming Brits on Glen Uig Bay photo by Carol Lang

CPA Annual Meeting Paddle

What is that strange yellow light in the sky? For one of the few times in living memory, CPA annual meeting paddlers on the Anacostia had SUNSHINE on the day. Paul Bieri and a stalwart crew descended on Bladensburg Waterfront Park and launched into the pleasant Anacostia for delightful, sunny paddle in the crisp air and glowing foliage. These pics are courtesy of Lynda Richards.



And Annual Meeting



Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail!

The story of the Star-Spangled Banner was shaped by the events of the Chesapeake Campaign during the War of 1812. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail is currently in the planning phase. Through sites and landscapes, many of which [you can visit now](#), the Trail will tell the [stories](#) of the events, people, and places that led to the birth of our National Anthem. You can experience sites along the newly designated Trail even as coordination and planning of the Trail is underway.



Barney's Barges in Action at St. Leonard's Creek, 10 June 1814

- Set out on an adventure on the [Star-Spangled Banner Geotrail](#).
- Visit sites and experience trails in the [Chesapeake Gateways and WaterTrails Network](#) -- water trails, parks, museums, and wildlife refuges, among others -- provide learning and access opportunities.
- Visit [Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine](#) to learn about the Battle of Baltimore.
- Get your [NPS Passport](#) stamped at the five locations along the Trail.
- See the recently restored Star-Spangled Banner at the [National Museum of American History](#).
- Spend the day picnicking and exploring at [Jefferson Patterson Park](#).
- Paddle along the Patuxent River from Mount Calvert to Lower Marlboro.
- Drive Maryland's [Star-Spangled Banner Byway](#) from Solomons to Baltimore.
- Take an off-the-beaten-path bicycle tour through North Point.
- Venture out to Caulk's Field or [Tangier Island](#) on the Eastern Shore.
- Visit [Darnall's Chance House Museum](#) in Prince George's County, MD, the home of John Hodges, who was the only man known to be tried for treason for his actions during the War of 1812; there is an annual bus and boat tour of the area each August.

More info at: <http://www.nps.gov/stsp/index.htm> and <http://starspangled200.org/Pages/Home.aspx>

Thanks to Greg Welker for this info.



From the Mists of Time...A Brief History of the CPA Universe

These lists were compiled by the CPA Historian Greg Welker (a real antique) from past issues of the newsletter that *only* he has.

Coordinator: Greg Welker (1996-98), Mike Vandamm (1999), Beth Morris and Greg Hollingsworth (2000), Greg Hollingsworth and Joy Hecht (2001-02), Brian Blankinship (2003-04), Barry Marsh (2005-06), Dave Biss (2007-09), Ed Hershon (2010), Jay Gitomer (2011-??)

Treasurer: Barb Conklin (1989-95), Greg Welker (1996), Margaret Genco (1997-99), Joy Hecht (2000-02), John Blackburn (2003-06), Rich Stevens (2007-??)

Secretary/Membership: Chris Conklin (1989-97), David Mood (1998-2002), Steve Lindeman (2003-05), Sue Stevens (nee Bauer (2006-??)

Newsletter Editor: Chris Conklin (1989-94), Beth Morris (1995-97), Neysa Narena (1998-2000), Joan Spinner (2001-02), Geoffrey Marsh (2003), Bernadette Knoblauch (2004), Danielle Ring (2005), Ralph Heimlich (2006-??)

Race Committee: Al Kubelis (1996), hiatus, Cyndi Janetzko and Brian Blankinship (2006-??)

Other interesting, but discontinued offices:

Dangerous Stunts: Al Kubelis (1996-98 RIP?)

Chesapeake Tidewater Trail Committee: Hans Scheltema (1992-94), Franz Gimmler (1995-2000)

Instruction and Safety Committee: Les Dickey (1995-2000)

Save the Dates

No, this isn't an oddball environmental plea, but a reminder that even though you thought the season had just ended, hope springs eternal in the hearts of the CPA Steering Committee and dedicated volunteers. Put these on your calendar for 2011.

March 26 (Saturday) SK101—Introduction to Sea Kayaking—Yeah, we know YOU don't need it, but think of some of your friends and relatives who could benefit from this one day classroom intro to our sport. Once again to be held at the West River Center in Galesville. Contact Suzanne Farace if you want to help or want more info.

April 29-May 1 (Friday-Sunday) SK102—Sea Kayak Skills Training—It is an ill wind that blows nobody good. The crummy real estate market postponed our long-time host's departure, allowing Brian Blankinship to have at least one more shot at filling the entire surface of Lake Anna with kayaks. This is the classic on-water training session made possible by the many terms of free warming donated by Dominion Power's Nukes. Stay tuned for schedules and the all-important racing start for a spot on the participant's list.

Check all details online at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/index.php?page=calendar>

CPA Holiday Party

The traditional CPA holiday party will be held on Saturday, December 4 this year at the home of your illustrious Editor, Ralph Heimlich. Wrap up a special item for the White Elephant gift exchange (nothing of real value, please), share your favorite pot-luck recipe with us all, toss back a few and tell paddling stories with your peers. Details online at http://www.cpakayaker.com/index.php?mact=Calendar,cntnt01,default,0&cntnt01event_id=100&cntnt01display=event&cntnt01lang=en_GB&cntnt01detailpage=&cntnt01return_id=85&cntnt01returnid=85



Piracy Portents

Pax River Trash Out II: Classic Cars Unearthed

By Ralph Heimlich



Chip Walsh gloating over dead car photo by Fred Tutman

On Saturday, November 6, CPA paddler Chip Walsh claimed victory when a three-year effort resulted in, well—nothing. CPA's 6 years of annual clean ups of the 8-mile stretch of river below the Queen Anne's Canoe Launch had gotten Chip started. CPA members have paddled this stretch of the Patuxent each April, filling boats with hundreds of pounds of bottles, cans, tires, and miscellaneous trash. And year after year, we averted our eyes when we passed a site where tons of large metal trash had been dumped. By our 2007 clean-up paddle, Chip had seen enough of this dump and decided it had to go. But clearly, we weren't going to float out washing machines, refrigerators, and old cars in our boats, so we needed to team with other organizations.

In 2009, after 20 months of planning and coordination, a team assembled for TRASH OUT I, and removed 20 tons of heavy metal trash from this site. It was a major victory, but the TRASH OUT I team was disappointed: They had to leave four junker vehicles on the site. So, our partners in Greater Baltimore Canoe Club applied for a grant from LL Bean through the American Canoe Association, and used the funds to hire a metal worker to cut up the old cars, and all the partner organizations came to-

gether again on November 6 to remove the pieces. The Capital Off-Road Enthusiasts (CORE), coordinated by Keith Holman, provided winching and tractive power without which we'd never have gotten the big pieces off this site. Other participating organizations included the Patuxent Riverkeeper, the Patuxent Roughnecks, Patuxent Greenways, Greenways Environmental, Anne Arundel Recreation and Parks, and C&A Scrap Recyclers. Counting the paddling clubs, ACA, and LL Bean, 11 organizations participated. TRASH OUT II produced an estimated 6 tons of trash.

Combined with the 2009 event, our TRASH OUTs moved 26 tons of metal from a riverbank into the recycling chain. The assemblage of equipment and resources went way beyond the paddling-gear norm, and included 12,000 pound winches, oxy-acetylene torches, a bobcat, battery and generator powered metal saws, plus good old fashioned elbow grease. Due to challenging terrain and the distance from the hard packed road, many of the vehicles had to be cut into sections, winched out of ravines or—manhandled in bucket-brigade fashion.

What we left behind was a pristine site. Chip paddled by late that afternoon and called it a weird feeling--all that work and nothing to show for it! But Chip, that was the point. Where once sprawled a dump site, now is just forest on a river bank. When we paddle through here next spring on the river clean-up, we won't have to avert our eyes.



Saki, Ralph and a CORE volunteer man handle old cars on the Pax *photo by Ken Hastings*

Inside our November 2010 issue:

- A Baltimore Pirate in Scotland
- Try Something New in 2011
- Minutes of the CPA Annual Meeting
- CPA Annual Meeting Paddle Pics
- Star-Spangled Banner Historic Trail
- From the Mists of Time...A History
- Save the DATES!!
- CPA Holiday Raid and Booty Sharing
- On the Pax: TRASH OUT!! Finally!

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

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REMINDER: Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date. If you receive the newsletter electronically, you will receive an e-mail reminder prior to your membership expiring. If your CPA membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues. SEE BOX ON PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS.