

Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. Volume 21, Issue 5

July 2011

Paddling Trap Pond and Surrounding Delaware Waters

By Saki Sakakihara



Paddling the Trap Pond Water Trail *photo by Saki*

In 2008 and 2009, I explored and paddled the Trap Pond area of Delaware. I found it to be a beautiful place and I thought it would be nice to share it with others. So on April, Suzanne Farace and I scouted the area for a CPA trip. I decided to make [Trap Pond State Park](#) our base of operations. It is a scenic, well-maintained park that features the northernmost natural stand of bald cypress trees in the United States.

Suzanne and I reserved several campsites at the popular state park. She handled the screening of participants, campsite arrangements, and potluck organization. I mapped out the routes. But as with our Prime Hook kayak car camping event at Cape Henlopen State Park in 2010, there was a good bit of overlap in our responsibilities. That was a good thing because having a sane second opinion is something I can use. Otherwise, we might have been taking a plethora of sea kayakers down the James Branch armed with saws, loppers, and Ivy Block.

A day prior to our trip, Suzanne called the park to confirm that everything was in order. She learned that a new well was recently put in place and faucet water was deemed non-potable due to the high chlorine content. But at least the bathrooms were open. Suzanne was also told that there was an outside pump at the campground office that works on a different well whose water was declared safe to drink.

After a great deal of planning and preparation, our event began on the afternoon of Friday, May 20, 2011. We launched from the shore near our campsites (on the south side of the C loop). I took five paddlers on the Trap Pond Water Trail, heading east. Cypress trees were scattered throughout the shallow area with spatterdock filling in many of the gaps. Eventually, we came to the creek that feeds into the pond. Now we were under a dense tree canopy, kayaking through an area about 30 feet wide. Except for the yellow signs with black arrows that told us where to go, I thought things looks amazingly similar to the upper part of the Pocomoke River. Though we hadn't paddled far, it seemed like we were deep in nature.

A wooden foot bridge marked our turn around point. Venturing further would have been difficult for a sea kayak since the width of the creek was now only about 20 feet. Heading back downstream, some of us planned to explore the tributary that leads to Raccoon Pond. This side stream, marked with an easy to miss blue sign and white arrow, took us maybe an eighth of a mile before we had to turn around.

Back in the main part of the pond, we hugged the south side of the shore passing the Baldcypress Nature Center and canoe rental area on the southwest side of the pond. During the last half mile of our 4.2 mile journey, it started to sprinkle. The rain was light and of short duration. Upon reaching the west side of the pond, we looked back and saw a rainbow. From certain angles, it looked like it started (or ended) at our campsite. Paddling back we hoped to find our pot-of-gold.

While the five of us paddled, some folks relaxed out on the pier. Others were still arriving and setting up their tents. About fourteen of us carpooled out to a local restaurant, Station 7, for dinner that night then returned to enjoy the company of the others who stayed behind or showed up later.

On Saturday, Steven told me that water (and we weren't sure exactly what else) was leaking out of the manhole cover in the road and from an unoccupied campground host site. This liquid was then draining into the pond. I called the ranger station (the park office was not

(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.

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
August 2011	July 15, 2011
September 2011	August 15, 2011
October 2011	September 15, 2011

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

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

Treasurer—Rich Stevens, 703-527-4882, treasurer@cpakayaker.com

Webmaster/E-Mail List Administrator—Dave Biss, webmaster@cpakayaker.com

Newsletter Team:

Managing Editor/Layout—Ralph Heimlich, 301-498-0722, news_editor@cpakayaker.com

Articles Editor—Lynn Erwin, news_articles@cpakayaker.com

Advertising Coordinator—vacant, news_advertising@cpakayaker.com

Mailing and Distribution—Mark Woodside, 301-373-4561, news_distribution@cpakayaker.com

Pirate Groups:

Pier 7 Pirate Committee—Rich Stevens, 703-527-4882, Béla Mariassy, 410-507-4972, Greg Welker, 301-249-4895, Sue Stevens, 410-531-5641, Brent Cogswell, 410-381-0037, 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—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



Lunch Stop on St. Michaels Paddle

photo by Maywin

Something Different We Share Together

I have a hard time writing these columns. I put it off till Ralph practically begs me to come up with something for the newsletter, and then I put it off some more.

I asked myself why it's so hard to write them. I'm a writer by trade, it should be a breeze. It should be easy to come up with a topic, probably something seasonal like the whole warm air/cold water discussion that arises every April, and then write about how to avoid the problem.

But I don't want to chide and nag you all about things you already know. How boring. I told myself in April that I would write a column every month this summer about an idea, something interesting to paddlers and maybe even to the non-paddling citizenry – some deep thought. Unfortunately, I don't have a lot of deep thoughts.

I did come up with some good ideas to write about, but when I sat down to put them into words, they faded away and turned out to be non-starters. So I asked myself why it's so hard to write about something I love. And I think the problem is you.

Yes, you. Each and every one of you.

We have a wildly diverse membership, at least in relation to the paddling community at large. We have people who paddle to get closer to nature, who paddle for fitness, who paddle for thrills, and who paddle to lose themselves in the hunt for perfect form. A lot of us really have very little in common.

That's why it's easy to write about technique or about general safety. It's something we all care about, regardless of why we paddle.

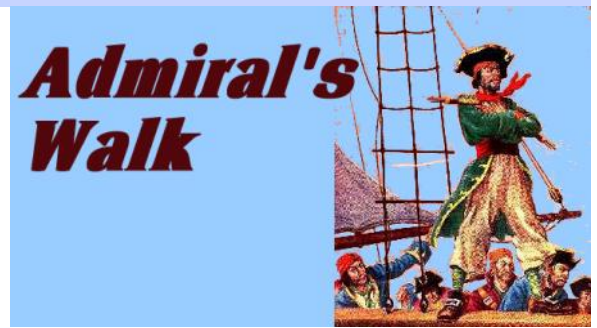
I'm more interested in the reasons we've chosen our particular niche in the paddling world, and what particular challenges that niche presents, and how paddling affects us individually.

I like paddling in big water and surfing. I love the smell of the ocean, love feeling my boat rise and fall on the swells and get shoved by breaking waves, love shaking dried salt out of my hair on the drive home, I love it all. I didn't choose my interest with forethought; I just knew early on that I wanted to feel the power of the water swirling and crashing around me in my boat, while I calmly negotiated the chaos like it was nothing more than a rippling creek. That's a little weird because I used to be a blue water cruiser and the most absolutely full-on, all-out terrified I have ever been in my life was during a raging storm at sea, watching the bow of the trawler I was on plant into every trough while I prayed at the top of my lungs for it to come back up – for eight hours straight. Yet here I am, just a few years later, intentionally going out into water well over my head with nothing but 50 lbs of fiberglass and a foam-stuffed vest to keep me from taking a one-way trip to the ocean floor. It's beyond reason.

There are a few challenges in my niche. The biggest is probably getting over the primal fear that the ocean can arouse so intensely. One day last summer, I was out in confused breaking waves that were a couple of feet or so over my head and I was traveling diagonally in the same direction of the waves, looking for a friend who was surfing in the area. Everything was fine. I was moving along, all was well. Then I heard a wave coming behind me and it sounded, as they so often do, like a freight train. I heard that noise, started back-paddling, and the wave passed under me. No problem. But I was bothered. This particular time, that particular sound had chilled me. After that, I was useless. I just got out of the surf zone as fast as I could and headed back to the launch. I was done. It didn't matter that nothing had happened, it didn't matter that I'd been out in bigger water and been fine, it was just that sound on that day worming its way into this brain. I like that about paddling; I like that some days I feel like a master of the oceans and other days I feel like I have no business being out there. I'm working toward having more days like the former and less like the latter.

But that's not realistic, because the better a person gets at something, the higher the bar for judging success becomes. What was hard last year is easy this year; now something else is hard. There will always be something harder to conquer, some new goal.

And that goes for all sorts of paddling. Paddle further, paddle faster, get better photos, learn more rolls – whatever aspect of paddling that a person finds interesting presents its unique challenges. That, at least, is something we all share.



Jay Gitomer
Coordinator

Paddling the Trap Pond Area (Continued from page 1)

yet open) and reported the problem. After about an hour and a half, a volunteer plumber showed up to turn off the water to the bathrooms. He said sand in the new well was backing up the system. Would we be able to use the bathrooms after kayaking today? We knew not and neither did the plumber.

Our kayak convoy drove out to the [Nanticoke River Marine Park](#) in Blades, Delaware. In attendance were Jennifer Bine, Brian Blankinship, Kristina McCoy, Bela Mariassy, Marla Aron, Marilyn Fisher, Sue Stevens, Rich Stevens, Yvonne Thayer, Tom Heneghan, Dorothy Guy, Jim Allen, Steven Jah-ncke, Emily Bailey, Aht Viravaidya, Amy Friedheim, Dave Gillispie, Suzanne Farace, and me shown in no particular order. At 0945, we launched, did a radio check, then paddled upstream on the upper part of the Nanticoke River. Many of the spring flowers were in bloom. With such a large group, we naturally split up into a "fast" group of 7 led by me and a "scenic group" of 12 led by Suzanne. At each bridge, the groups did a head count. Actually, we were counting kayakers and assuming the people we started with were attached to the boats we counted. I saw a bald eagle and a snake which was swimming about a foot below my boat after my approach scared it. At the split after Sussex Highway (route 20), we took the north branch which eventually led us to our lunch spot in Old Furnace Wildlife Area. Interestingly, both the fast and scenic groups arrived at about the same time after I led my team down a wrong turn.



Trap Pond kayak crew photo by Saki

After lunch, we continued upstream for probably not more than another mile until downfalls prevented us from venturing further. Then we turned around. Kayaking back downstream, we eventually split up again. This time my fast group was down to five. We saw a large dead gar floating in the water and a few beaver lodges. Having gotten quite a bit ahead of the rest, the fast team paddled up Deep Creek heading towards Concord Pond until the others got further downstream. Suzanne called me on her VHF radio to let me know when they got back to the route 20 bridge. Then my group turned around and we all finished around the same time. People paddled somewhere between 12 and 14 miles, depending on which group they paddled with.

Back at the campsite, I spoke to staff in the park office. The bathrooms were all working. We still couldn't drink the water but we could use the flush toilets and showers. Hooray!!!

I asked anyone if they wanted to paddle with me at [Trussum Pond](#). I had no takers so I went alone. Trussum Pond has been described by Ed Gertler as "the closest thing to a bayou in Delaware." I launched on the north end of the pond on a section totally covered by duckweed. Within seconds, I knew exactly what Gertler was writing about. Cypress trees were abundant along with other vegetation that I would expect to find in a bayou. I paddled at a snail's pace so I could take in all the scenery. It was almost visually overwhelming. Turtles were willing to sit and pose for me as I took their photo. Scores of yellow spatterdock flowers dotted the shallowest areas. Even though this was the shortest of my kayak trips this weekend, it was here that I took the most photos. With both hands on my camera, I used my rudder to direct my slow drift.



On Trussum Pond photo by Saki

I meandered between the cypress until I reached the south end of the pond. Then I tried to paddle up the James Branch...the same one that later forms the lower part of the James Branch Canoe Trail. I saw a raccoon swimming through the water, then walking on land. But I didn't get far on the creek. Turning around was difficult. Not only was the James Branch narrow, it was also shallow. Thinking I was only in mud, I used a good bit of force to turn my boat around. Then I heard a loud pop. I pulled up my rudder only to find that about 8 inches of it broke off. Lesson learned: retract your rudder before turning around in a shallow or narrow creek.

(Continued on page 7)

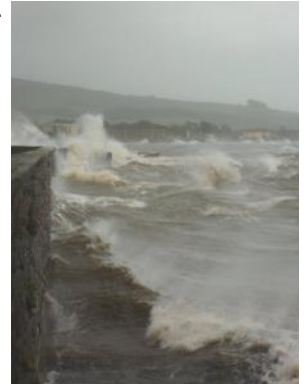
Visiting Scotland Learning by Doing Around Skye

by Catriona Miller

I was in Scotland in May for my cousin's wedding and took advantage of it to get out kayaking for a few days. The wedding was at Eilean Donan castle, 15 miles south of the Isle of Skye on northwest coast of Scotland. I have another cousin that lives in Kyle of Lochalsh, which is directly across the mainland from Skye, and I immediately started planning a kayak outing with him. He mentioned that Gordon Brown lived nearby, and he'd made Gordon's website for him:

<http://www.skyakadventures.com/>. He also said that there were kayaks for hire on the docks in Plockton.

About a week or two before heading over to Scotland, I decided I better actually book a kayak tour or figure out where I could rent a good one, and I began inundating the entire Scottish kayaking internet world with emails and forum posts. Apparently, you can't actually rent a kayak in Scotland without being BCU level 4 or 5 certified/or demonstrating skills. I can of course demonstrate skills, but demonstrating them in level 4 conditions seemed a bit extreme just to rent a kayak on an inland loch and toodle around. It also costs 200-250 GBP for a days private tour/lesson, which was a bit more than I wanted to spend to kayak in Scotland. You can join the Glasgow Kayak Club for about 30 GBP a year, which then gives you access to all of their club boats and equipment to use. I had a really nice member of the Glasgow Kayak Club offer to take me kayaking around Helensburgh when I first got there.... I was tempted by that offer, except there were 100 mph wind gusts that day and from what I could see the Clyde was churning in Glasgow. She sent pictures of the loch where she lived that day: For some reason we decided not to paddle that day.



I drove up to Kyle of Lochalsh after a few days in Glasgow to escape the wedding craziness. I had scheduled a day with Gordon Brown—I'd been told that it was going to be a mixed level group, but they'd make sure to challenge me. The sun was shining and everything looked lovely at 4 AM, but by the time I'd headed over to Skye it was cold, wet and there were 25 MPH winds. Gordon offered to let everyone come back another day when there wasn't as much wind, and said what he usually does when someone seemed to be fearful. "So what's the worst thing that can happen?" Typically someone says "Oh, I fall in" Then he says "No, you die. That's the worst thing that can happen. So falling in isn't really all that bad."

I was quite happy that I decided both my drysuit and the dress for the wedding had to go in my carryon. They fitted me out with an NDK Explorer LV and a Lendal Archipelago paddle (he had many Werners with crook shafts, but I wanted a straight shaft).



We put in at Armadale which Gordon figured would be most sheltered spot on Skye with a harbor to duck into if things got rough. When I got home that evening, my cousin told me how one of his clients had called and after discussing the horrible weather, mentioned there were a bunch of nutty kayakers actually out kayaking, so he'd known exactly where I was.

We started off tucked behind a stone dock, with Gordon sending us out to make turns in the wind... We'd do a few turns and come back behind to get more instruction. He had everyone else out in the relative open making turns, and told me to get as close to the crashing surf on the rocks and stone wall of the dock as possible, making as tight of turns as possible, and edging my boat as much as possible. Once I got used to it, I actually really liked the NDK Explorer LV—very easy to hold an edge and very responsive to edges on waves and rough stuff.

After watching us turn a few times, he gave us a few suggestions, and stressed letting the wind turn the boat for you—when we want to turn in the wind, paddle on the downwind side and let the wind turn your boat—so if you want to turn downwind, back stroke a couple of times on the downwind side. If you want to turn upwind, front stroke a couple of times on the upwind side.... If you do that, the wind will just blow your boat in the direction you want to turn.

After he was confident of our turning abilities, we followed the rocky coastline out of the harbor and then shot straight across to some islands—Gordon sent me to surf the waves, while he watched the others more closely. We did that, saw a few seals on the island, did some other drills, met up with Morag who was taking a newbie in a really sheltered harbor and had lunch. While we ate lunch, the winds were increasing and we were having force 8 gusts, he thought—seemed like about 45 MPH to me.



(Continued on page 6)

Scotland (Continued from page 5)

Gordon had us shoot across straight towards a sheltered bay to see if we could make it, when he was convinced we could make it in the wind, he had us veer back out towards the rocks—and then Bill tipped over. Bill was an old guy that had taken up "canadian canoeing" as he called it, but was taking kayaking courses. I rushed back for him, as did Gordon, he got him in with a heel hook reentry and then had me stabilize and put Bill's skirt back on for him during an assisted tow. Bill was hyperventilating and really shaky, so I was glad to have practiced tows assists recently at CPA SK203's trip leader training in May.

After getting Bill settled, I stuck with him for a while until he looked like he'd calmed down, and then went to play on the rocks. Looking at the crossing we originally did, Gordon decided it was probably better that we not try it with the wind gusting as strong as it was, and headed back towards the sheltered bay where we put in for lunch. I continued to play in the rocks, and when we got back to the sheltered bay, Gordon gave me things to work on. I'd go out into the wind/waves/rocks and try them, and then head back for more advice. His teaching style was basically to ask you questions about what you were doing when and why... and then get you to try different variations on it to see what would work, until of course you realized that the way he wanted you to do it was the easiest way.

The next day when I woke up it was bright and sunny—probably the prettiest morning I had there. The wedding was at 6 that evening, and I decided to run over to Skyak to get another paddle in while there was good weather. The only other day I could kayak was Sunday, which was predicted to have high winds and rain, and I'd have to do a six hour drive back to Glasgow afterwards. When I popped in and said I could paddle till 3, they said, "Oh, come with us to Kyleactin—it's just opposite the bridge and it's beautiful".

There was a mixed group again that day, a guy who was a high level paddler, but whose wife had never paddled before, Bill from the previous day, and another guy. Gordon began going over how to calculate the local tides using almanacs from the closest tide stations. It should be admitted that he'd never been able to predict the tides around Skye where the bridge is, because of how the area is silting in, the bridge supports, etc. But we would get there just as the tide was running in the opposite direction from the wind.



He suggested I try the Avocet LV that day just to feel it, and we got the new girl situated (first time in a kayak). We paddle over to the bridge pillar (waiting there while he's getting the girl going) and it's just a swirly mess of currents underneath the bridge because the wind was going opposite the tide and funneling through the pillars. The wind was probably about 10 knots by then and we paddled across the shipping channel to an area by the lighthouse and the other bridge pillar, where it's very narrow, but there was a little protected inlet to the side to duck into when we needed to talk. Then, he had us paddle in circles around the pillar, loose or tight circles, using different strokes. The girl who has never been in a kayak was paddling in this disturbed zone with the wind intensifying going through the pillar gap between the pillar and the lighthouse. She got stuck by getting blown against the rocks once, and I told Gordon and he said "Oh, she'll be fine, she'll figure it out." Her boy friend said, "Yeah, I thought I'd let Gordon introduce her to kayaking, because if I was trying to teach her, she'd've been screaming at me about an hour ago".

Then Gordon pairs us up: "One of you guys is going to close your eyes, and the other is going to tell you what strokes to make as you paddle around the pillar". It's more than a bit bizarre to be out in choppy soup and wind without seeing what you're doing. We take turns doing that, each guiding the "blind" paddler around the pillar. Gordon said "That teaches you two things: One, you need to use your body more when you're kayaking, women instinctively use their lower body for balance, men don't; Two, those of you that were guiding, were telling other people how to paddle their boat, while paddling your own boat through waves without any problem. Even Sue, who had never been in a boat before, did a complete 360 turn in chop without thinking about it while guiding someone else. If you stop overanalyzing what you're doing, your body will just do what it needs to do"

After lunch, the winds are stronger and Gordon had us shoot across to a rocky island, and then on to the next one which has various rocks across the tip and wind and waves hitting them. We dart through the gaps in the rocks, and Sue was rock gardening in 15-20 mph winds. He gives Sue, Bill and Tim fairly big gaps to go through, and he starts pointing out little holes to me, saying, "There's just enough water for you to get through that on a wave, and then I want you to go sharp right and get through that next tight little crack, then go through this one... and when you've done that a few times, I want you to go back through them in the opposite direction." I do that, and then eventually see Tim get broadsided by a wave and capsize. Gordon and I sprint over to him, I collect the paddle and Tim's hat, and we get Tim to do a heel hook, and Gordon has me support while he tows us out of the wind.

By then, I had to leave for the wedding. I'd love to go back sometime and do a more strenuous paddle with Skyak and some kayak touring in Scotland, but my time was limited with family obligations this trip. I did learn a lot and did some great drills. I was thrilled being able to paddle in Scotland. The contrast between how kayaking is taught in Scotland and the U.S. was striking.

See more pics at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=25&t=5819>

Paddling Trap Pond (Continued from page 4)

Back at the campsite, we prepared for our potluck. Not only do we have some fine kayakers in our club, but we also have some talented chefs. As usual, there was plenty of fine food to go around. After dinner, we reminisced about our first concerts. Some of the answers were quite impressive. Suzanne saw Journey, Bela saw the Grateful Dead, and Rich was at Woodstock. All I could claim was Adam Ant.

One thing I love about the CPA is how prompt everyone is. On Sunday, we asked people to be ready to roll at 0900 and everyone (yes, everyone) was ready at 0850. Is that awesome or what? We drove out to [Phillips Landing](#) near the mouth of Broad Creek in the [Nanticoke Wildlife Area](#). From here, 15

of us paddled upstream against a weak ebb tide, launching at 1000. About midway through, some of us stopped at the [Edward R. Koch Fishing Area](#). Then we continued onward, passing by the town of Bethel. After another mile or so, the creek narrowed and became more scenic as taller trees lined the shore.

In the town of Laurel, we stopped for lunch at [Laurel River Park](#). Rich Stevens continued upstream for not more than a half mile, passing under several bridges until he came to one he could not fit under. Then he paddled back downstream, joining the rest of us. After lunch, we paddled with the tide and current behind us. Of course we also saw numerous turtles. I looked for more snakes and eagles but found none.

On top of a wooden structure below the route 20 bridge, I had a nice view of the group and was able to take a head count. Uno, dos, tres, catorce,...., yes, they're all there. Near the take out, an 18 foot long beaver lodge was spotted. We finished our 14.5 mile trip at 1500, making very good time.

If you want to go...

Trap Pond State Park <http://www.destateparks.com/park/trap-pond/index.asp>

Nanticoke River Marine Park http://saki.iwarp.com/launch_sites.html#nanticokeRiverMarinePark

Trussum Pond http://saki.iwarp.com/launch_sites.html#trussumPond

Phillips Landing http://saki.iwarp.com/launch_sites.html#phillipsLanding

Nanticoke Wildlife Area <http://www.ecodelaware.com/place.php?id=281>

Edward R. Koch Fishing Area http://saki.iwarp.com/launch_sites.html#edKoch

Laurel River Park http://saki.iwarp.com/launch_sites.html#laurelRiverPark



Paddling the Nanticoke photo by Saki



CPA Trip Policies

CPA Trips are organized by members of the club for members of the club. When you participate in them, please remember a few things: Trip leaders are “hosts”, not professional guides. They are not necessarily trained in first aid nor CPR, and do not always carry first aid equipment nor 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, please contact the leader in advance. While on the water, all paddlers must wear PFDs, spray skirts, and clothes appropriate to the water temperature. Boats must have watertight bulkheads or flotation to prevent the kayak from swamping when capsized. All paddlers must have, and know how to use, a pump and paddle float. On the day of the trip, leaders may refuse to admit participants for non-compliance with any of these, so if you are not sure, discuss it with the leader in advance!

All paddlers must sign a CPA [waiver of liability](#). For the safety of the group as a whole, trip participants must agree to abide by club policies and rules and to follow instructions of the trip leader.

Trip Ratings

First Timers: for those who have never paddled before.

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

Advanced Beginners: for those who 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 group-paddling skills.

Intermediate Paddlers: for those who are comfortable on longer trips (more than 10 miles), can maintain a steady pace for extended periods, are comfortable with open water crossings of 2+ miles, can handle a variety of water conditions, and have strong self- and group-rescue skills.

Minimum Required Safety Equipment for CPA Trips

The minimum safety gear for participating in a club trip are (beyond a kayak and paddle) as follows:

- ◆ personal flotation device (PFD) and sound producing device, such as whistle (USCG requirements). PFD must be properly worn.
- ◆ paddle float
- ◆ bilge pump (except sit-on-tops)
- ◆ spray skirt on boats designed to accommodate them- must be worn
- ◆ water tight bulkheads or flotation bags (to facilitate rescues)
- ◆ light that can be shown to prevent a collision (USCG requirement, night paddle only)

CPA Policy Regarding Trip Waivers

It is CPA's policy to require that all participants in CPA sponsored trips and events sign legal release forms before setting out on the water. Trip leaders and “event organizers” are responsible for obtaining blank release forms, for securing signatures from participants, and for returning the signed forms to the Coordinator for safekeeping. A fresh signature must be obtained for each separate trip or event. The legal release absolves all participating CPA members from legal liability for the injury or death of a fellow participant, and allows us to continue to organize and participate in group activities without undue fear of incurring personal legal liability.

Start paddling sooner! Print out and sign this [Waiver of Liability](#) form and bring it with you to the launch location.



Bethel Bed & Breakfast

7728 Main St.
Bethel, DE 19931
302-569-0960

www.betheldelawarebedandbreakfast.com

Chesapeake Paddlers Association Calendar

Date	Title	Summary
8/7	Purple Swim Baltimore 2011 swim support	Kayak support for the Purple Swim Baltimore 2011 (In memory of Bud Beatty)
8/9	PoB Skills Clinic #2: Towing	Fourth in a series of four free clinics offered by Pirates of Baltimore
8/13	Kent Island Paddle 6 2011 (KIP-6 11')	This is the fifth event of the season. It is not for everyone. The Kent Island Paddle is not meant for just a distance paddle but for paddlers who want to build their skills and knowledge of paddling. It is there for something to be achieved,
8/13	American Lotus Blossoms on Mattawoman Creek	Paddle among the blooms in Lotusland
8/20	SURVIVOR II ! Hart-Miller Island	A day of incident management scenarios designed for you to explore your skills and ingenuity.
8/21	Iron Girl Columbia Triathlon swim support	Kayak support for the Iron Girl Columbia Triathlon
8/27-28	Blue Ribbon Baltimore	Freighters, Foundries, Forts, and Fermentation
8/28	Upper Chester River Paddle	Launch and paddle the upper Chester
9/3-10	Loons of the Adirondack 2011	This is the 8th year in the Adirondacks: multi-level day group trips to paddle many of the nearby ADK lakes & cabining on Blue Mt Lake, NY
9/10	Kent Island Paddle 6 2011 (KIP-6 11')	This is the sixth event of the season. It is not for everyone. The Kent Island Paddle is not meant for just a distance paddle but for paddlers who want to build their skills and knowledge of paddling. It is there for something to be achieved,
9/10	Wye Island Race	The 19th Annual Wye Island Regatta & The 2nd Annual Kayak Challenge
9/11	Nation's Triathlon swim support	Kayak support for the Nation's Triathlon
9/23-25	Savage River Reservoir Camper	Car Camp and paddle on a mountain reservoir
9/24	Kent Island Paddle 6 2011 (KIP-6 11') Final	This is the final event of the training season. It will either be 9/24 or 10/1 depending on conditions.
10/1	Kent Island Paddle 6 2011 (KIP-6 11') Final	This is the final event of the training season. It will either be 9/24 or 10/1 depending on conditions.
10/1-2	Ghost Fleet at Mallows Bay Car Camper	Camp and paddle to see derelict ships (Baltimore Canoe Club)
10/15	Wye Island Circumnavigation	Paddle around Wye Island on Maryland's Eastern Shore
10/26	Pier 7 Crazy Hat Night (Closing)	We all wear silly hats on the closing paddle of the season
10/27	Pirates of Georgetown Halloween Event	Come in costume (your boat too) for the closing event of the season
10/30	Halloween paddle at Mallows Bay	Paddle among the ghost ships of Mallows Bay
11/6	CPA Annual Meeting	Come and see paddlers without their skirts
11/10-13	Chickahominy River Car Camper	Camp and paddle on the Chickahominy and James Rivers in Virginia
12/3	CPA Holiday Party	Aye...ye be invited fer some holiday spirits at the Annual CPA Holiday Party

Remember to check details, trip leader/organizer and contact info at the CPA Web Page

<http://www.cpakayaker.com/>

and the calendar at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/index.php?page=calendar> for upcoming CPA events.



Paddling around St. Michaels *photo by Maywin*



On the Nanticoke *photo by Saki*

Inside our July 2011 issue:

- Paddling Trap Pond and Delaware Waters
- Something Different We Share Together
- Learning by Doing Around Skye
- CPA Trip Policies
- CPA Calendar for August-December

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

PO Box 341

Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341

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.