

The Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

Volume 26 Issue IV

May 2016

CPA Kayak Workshop

By Tom Blount and Greg Welker

Despite the blustery weather the CPA kayak workshop was a successful day. 17 CPA members and 1 guest arrived to repair hatch covers, install new deck lines, replace rudder cables and even finish Greenland paddles. We were able to fix Mark Fisher's stuck skeg simply by looking at it! Other projects were a little more delicate. One owner of a very new Epic wanted to install a compass, but was skittish about drilling the holes it would require. We found someone in the club who was experienced in drilling holes in other people's boats and the project was a success.



Boat Repairs

Photo by Tom Blount

The potluck lunch was highlighted by Ralph Heimlich's Dutch Oven Black Bean Chili. Many other delectables were consumed along with items hot off the grill.

Naturally whenever kayakers get together there is always discussion on trips and events we have attended and plans for new trips for the coming year. It is surely the social comradery that makes us brave the weather and meet for any kayak event. ☺



Compass Drilling

Photo by Tom Blount

PAX River Clean-up



Quite a Load!

Photo by Dorothy Guy

By Chip Walsh

On April 5, 2003, Ralph Heimlich and a fellow named MacGregor launched from the Queen Anne Canoe Launch for our first Patuxent River Cleanup. It was the first time I had met Ralph, but far from the last. It wasn't a CPA event, and neither Ralph nor I remember how we came to be at the launch that morning. My guess is that somebody emailed a notice of the clean-up to the CPA list serve, the e-mail predecessor to the CPA web site. Regardless, it was our introduction to the Patuxent Riverkeeper community. The clean-ups are coordinated by the Riverkeeper, Fred Tutman, and his volunteer coordinators. They have been great people to work with; with a very enthusiastic and let's-get-it-done attitude. We were hooked on the cleanups and the Riverkeeper was hooked on having CPA as clean-up partners.

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THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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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1/4 page	\$32	4.9" x 4.7"	(2)
1/2 page	\$50	7.5" x 4.7"	(3)
Full page	\$80	7.5" x 9.75"	(3)

A 5% discount will be given for ads supplied as electronic files in acceptable formats (i.e., .tif, .gif, .jpeg, bit-map). Email or call for more information and for 10-month discount. See advertising contact in masthead.



Public service announcement and personal ads to sell kayaks/accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for 3 months. Ads dated three 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!

THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLER

The Chesapeake Paddler is published 10 times a year, with combination issues in Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb. The deadline for submitting copy is the 15th of the preceding month. Have an idea for an article, or is there information you would like to see in the newsletter?

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News From the CPA Coordinator - Ralph Heimlich

Here's to Camping with Kayaks

Many people see "kayaking" and "camping" as two separate activities and never the 'twain shall meet. You're missing out on twice the fun if you do....extending your paddling day by camping over gives you new insights into the wild places; new opportunities to get to know your fellow paddlers; extends your range; and increases the efficiency of your traveling time and dollars for paddling.

There are two basic modes of camping with kayaks. The easiest is car camping in conjunction with a paddling trip, where you find a state park, KOA, or other camping venue for lodging at the end of one paddling day and a base camp for starting the next (and the next, etc.). Many of our national and state parks are located on water bodies (Assateague Island, Janes Island, Shad Landing, Belle Isle, Elk Neck, Westmoreland are just examples), and many have camp sites located near the water. You can even go upscale and in comfort, camping from an RV or trailer.

To get back to paddling's roots as a voyaging mode, however, you really need to try kayak camping (sometimes spelled KAMPING), where



Ralph Heimlich

Photo by Suzanne Farace

So, pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and paddle, paddle, paddle!!

- May 7-8 [Assateague Kayak Camper](#)
- May 13-15 [Pine Barrens Car Camper](#)
- June 14-26 [Belle Isle Car Camper](#)
- June 25-26 [Upper Potomac Kayak Camper](#)
- July 1-4 [Pokomoke River Car Camper](#)
- July 14-17 [Potomac Passagemaker Kayak Camping Tour](#)
- July 30-31 [Patuxent River Practice Kayak Camper](#)
- Aug 4-6 [Bay Voyagers Car Camper](#)
- Aug 12-14 [Nanticoke River Car Camper](#)
- Oct 15-17 [Patuxent Kayak Camper](#)
- Nov 10-13 [Chickahominy River Car Camper](#) ☺



Kayak Car Camping at Pohick Bay Regional Park, Virginia

(Greg Welker)

Photo by Ralph Heimlich

all your gear goes in the boat with you as you make your human-powered way across the world. While limiting your luxuries somewhat compared to car camping, kayak camping enables you to carry much more than you can in the typical back pack. There are far fewer venues for kayak camping on the Bay, but paddle-in campsites are on an upward trend in our area. Locations include the many sites on the Patuxent Water Trail, several fine new ones at Leesylvania, Caledon, and Westmoreland State Parks in Virginia. There are new sites planned for Newtowne Neck SP and St. Inigoes State Forest in Maryland, and a somewhat mysterious site on the upper Potomac.

When I joined CPA back at the turn of the century (love that phrase!), the only person leading camping trips in the club was Bill Dodge (see memoriam on page 6). Now our calendar is brimming with camping trips, although some of these trips are already full. You can even learn to kayak camp on the Patuxent under the expert tutelage of Suzanne Farace.



Kayak Camping at Chapel Point State Park, Maryland (Dick Rock)

Photo by Ralph Heimlich

Paddler Profile: Larry Ichter

by Bob Browning

Lives in: Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County, VA.

Real job: Retired as a civil engineer after 23 years with Fairfax County Government working in charge of roadway design and transportation improvements.

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? Yes, Pirates for Georgetown. After two years, I had attended so often, they asked me to be one of the four captains.

Number of years paddling: Five years.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? After retirement, I was looking for activities that incorporate fun ways to exercise. I have always enjoyed the water and grew up sailing, so kayaking allowed me another way to get back on the water. In 2011, I attended an Outdoor Expo in McLean. CPA was represented as was Mike Aronoff from Canoe Kayak and Paddle Company. I attended SK101, then bought a used kayak from Mike, went to SK102 and I was on my way.

What boats do you paddle? Jackson Journey, 14', orange, plastic. At times I have wished for a longer faster kayak to keep up with some of the others. I recently bought two Hobie Mirage kayaks (sit-on-top) from someone looking to unload them before moving to California. I plan to get my wife out on the water with one of them.

Rudder or skeg? Neither. I often wished I had a rudder as I often experience a severe weather cocking in my kayak. They make a rudder available but I am too cheap to pay almost \$200 to add one.

Type paddle used: Regular Euro paddle but I am making a Greenland paddle at the CPA workshop this year and am looking forward to using it.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking (e.g., canoe, SUP) Just the Hobie Mirages that I will break out once the water turns warm.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities I have a Catalina 22 sailboat that I keep at the local marina. I enjoy hiking and now that I have my National Parks Service Lifetime Senior Pass, I hope to do more.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? Typically once a week with the Pirates of Georgetown with occasional CPA trips and ones on my own. I am two blocks away from Dogue Creek so I can launch my kayak there and explore down to Washington's Grist Mill or up the Potomac River to Mount Vernon or downstream to Gunston Cove.

Do any winter paddling? No, as I despise the cold water and weather. I have a wet suit but no dry suit that also limits any winter paddling.

Favorite local paddling location: Besides Dogue Creek near my home, Columbia Island Marina. Great location and no launch fees.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: Potomac Passage Maker Tour #3 to Mallows Bay. Just exciting seeing the wreckage of all those old boats in Mallows Bay.

Coollest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why ? The Mallows Bay trip.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why ? We had three kayaks one evening at the Pirates of Georgetown. The weather was looking a bit stormy but we checked the radar and weather updates



Larry Ichter

Photo by Jesse Aronson

and felt the storm was going to pass to the north of us. We headed out up river and got a bit along when the storm rolled in right over us. Heavy rain and lightning. We looked for places along the shore to beach but it was all large riprap and drop offs. We paddled as fast as we could toward the Memorial Bridge and waited out the storm underneath the bridge with heavy lightning for about half an hour.

Future bucket list trip: None involved with kayaking. My wife wants to go to Ireland and Scotland so we will need to schedule that. I love the National Parks and want to visit more of them out west, like Yellowstone, Zion and Bryce.

Three things you like most about paddling? The exercise, exploring new areas not accessible otherwise and just being out on the water.

What do you like about CPA? Organized activities to teach the basics and more, such as SK101 and SK102. The Greenland paddle workshop is great. CPA has so much to offer and you can't beat it for \$10 a year. The members are all so friendly and willing to help out in so many ways.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you*: I enjoy astronomy and in particular viewing total solar eclipses. I have been to four, seen three as one in Hawaii was clouded out. I am looking forward to viewing the total eclipse in the United States next August and am planning the best location for viewing. I refereed youth soccer for 11 years before moving out of Springfield to a new house and giving it up. ☺

We would like to know about you! Contact Bob Browning if you are interested in a being featured in the Paddler Profile or if you know of someone else he can contact. Contact Bob at: BBBrowning43@verizon.net

[PAX: continued from p. 1](#)

In 2004, I began listing the cleanup with the Baltimore Canoe Club and we'd list the trips in the CPA calendar, too. Nowadays, we have a healthy core of CPA river cleaners and no longer partner with the Baltimore club. And we did it again the next year, and... well, this year was the 14th annual version of the cleanup.

So, why do we keep coming back? Well, it's a great "excuse" to be on the water. The weather the first weekend of April, traditional date for the cleanup, can be a surprise. We've run the cleanup in rain, wind, hail, and yes, snow. And we've had many nice days, too. This year we got the combo—we launched in rain, but it turned into a nice day. Some of the most dramatic times to be on the water is amidst a changing weather day, but it often takes a commitment like the cleanup to get me out there. The cleanup is one of the few trips where we get out of the boats, walking the bank tops looking for trash; we take in scenes we normally just paddle by. There were rows of bluebells and new stalks of skunk weed exploding green on the still winterish forest floor. This year I found myself next to a beaver-dam overlooking a several-acre pond adjacent to the river—a scenic



More...

Photo by Dorothy Guy

expansion we normally just paddle by without knowing it is there. Spring was bursting forth, and it was just a great day to be out in boats with a great group.

And, yes, we pick up trash. Everybody wants a full boat when we pull in at Hills Bridge. Mark Woodside and Rich and Sue Stevens are masters at boat packing. They somehow get more stuff in their boats and are paddling with almost no freeboard by the end. Tires make for good visuals; I had to laugh this year when Suzanne Farace and Tom Heneghan stopped to load a way-too-big tire into their boat. You can't buy smiles like they were wearing after they got that tire on, not in their boat. Somebody always seems to bring in some improbably large item that just shouldn't fit in a boat—there was Ralph and the picnic table, Saki and the tractor tire, and one year we brought in a full-sized refrigerator!. There are always some oddball finds. Like, a PC, stolen boats, and this year's most interesting find was, I think, a bicycle frame. How does this stuff get into the river?

In the 2000's we used to pass a dump on river right, just a quarter mile below the launch. The dump stretched for hundreds of yards along a steep river bank and included a number of derelict cars, appliances, and lots of big metal objects like signs and tanks. The dump seemed to trivialize our clean-up efforts. In 2009 and 2010, CPA teamed up with the Baltimore Canoe Club and the Maryland Off-Road Enthusiasts (a group that likes 4-wheeling and challenges), and we cleaned up that dump! We got a grant and hired a metal worker to cut the cars into pieces we could wrestle up the bank. The MORE people used the



And More!

Photo by Dorothy Guy

winches on their vehicles to get the heavy stuff up the bank, and then trailered it out to Sands Road. We removed over 20 tons of trash. Not seeing that dump on the river makes me feel a lot better about the annual cleanup.

To sum up, I look at the annual clean-up as a great day on the water with a bunch of great people. I doubt I'm alone in this, because people keep coming back to the clean-up, year after year. In recent years our numbers have grown and we have expanded our clean-up effort southward into Jug Bay. This year we launched a group from three locations—Queen Annes, Hills Bridge, and Jug Bay.

2016 Participants:

Jug Bay - Bela Mariassy, Leigh Mariassy, Linda Delaney, Marla Aron, Ralph Heimlich

Hills Bridge - Katherine Neal, Mark Woodside, Jenny Plummer-Welker, Greg Welker

Queen Anne - Charles Brown, Dorothy Guy, Rich Stevens, Sue Stevens, Chip Walsh, Bob Justice, Suzanne Farace, Tom Heneghan ☹



Tom Heneghan

Photo by Suzanne Farace

In Memoriam... Bill Dodge

A long-time CPA member and key trip leader passed away in April. At the time I joined CPA in 2002, Bill Dodge was one of the few members leading club camping trips. He led the first CPA trip I attended, a sentiment echoed by many who replied to the CPA Face Book post on Bill's funeral. Bill's encyclopedic knowledge of Chesapeake Bay waters prompted him to lead trips in some far-flung Bay destinations that most of us had never visited. Among them were intro trips to kayak camping at St. Clement's Island, to Gwynn Island and New Point Comfort in Mathews County, Belle Isle State Park on the Rappahannock, circumnavigating Fleets Island, and to the Chickahominy River and Jamestown. Bill was also a camp gourmet and loved baked potatoes, especially the morning after as big, chunky home fries. Many of the trips Bill pioneered are ongoing today, and the annual Chickahominy River Veterans Day trip potluck always includes a memorial Baked Potato Guy. Bill also originated and led the Potomac Pirates from Belle Haven Marina for many years. While he had not been paddling with us in recent years, he is definitely missed.

William ("Bill") Bannard Dodge (Age 87)

Born March 2, 1929, died peacefully on Sunday April 10, 2016. He was a life-long resident of Arlington County, VA. Bill was a graduate of Washington-Lee High School (Arlington, VA) and attended George Washington University (Washington, D.C.) where he studied mechanical engineering. He spent most of his career (31 years) as a small craft (boat) mechanical engineer for the U.S. Coast Guard (civilian), retiring in 1989. Bill was an excellent woodworker and craftsman who built 3 sailboats, a canoe, and 3 kayaks. In his youth he and his brother learned to sail as members of Sea Scout Boat #322. When his sons were in the Boy Scouts (Troop #409) he served as an Assistant Scout Master who planned dozens of backpacking, hiking, and bicycling trips as well as various other activities. As a member of the Potomac Pedalers he planned and led numerous bicycling trips and logged more than 20,000 miles on



Bill Dodge at Point Lookout SP, Maryland

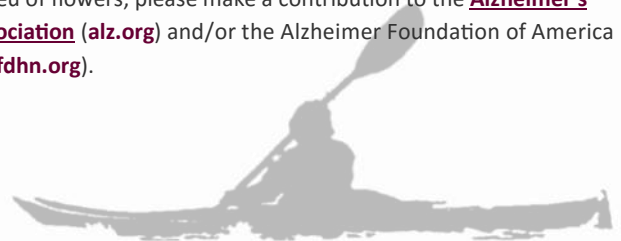


Signed CPA Shirt for Bill's 80th Birthday

his bicycle. Into his mid- to late-70s he led and participated in kayaking trips on the Potomac River as a member of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association.

Bill is survived by three sons, Billy (wife Trish), Stephen, and David, three daughters, Susan, Priscilla, and Merrie Beth (husband Conrad), 3 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, a brother John (wife Priscilla), and 2 sisters, Mary Lou, and Martha Ann (husband Ervin). He was predeceased by his beloved life partner of 32 years, Madeline Ehrman.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to the [Alzheimer's Association \(alz.org\)](http://Alzheimer's Association (alz.org)) and/or the Alzheimer Foundation of America (alzfdhn.org).



Chesapeake Paddlers Association 2015 Calendar

Date	Title	Summary
5/1-5/8*	Sails Angels Va. Eastern Shore	Kayak sailing/car camping week on the Virginia Eastern shore.
5/2	La Trappe Creek	Paddle La Trappe Creek and southern shore of the Lower Choptank River
5/7	National Park Service 100 Paddle	Help spell out 100 years of the National Park Service for an aerial photo at Sandy Point State Park.
5/7-5/8	Assateague Kayak Kamper Paddle	Assateague kayak camper paddle is an 11 mile bayside paddle to an overnight backcountry camper.
5/7*	EMS Kayak Demo Day	EMS store in Annapolis offers free kayak demos on the water at Truxton Park, Annapolis, MD.
5/8	Piscataway Creek Circumnavigation	Paddle a beautiful tributary of the Potomac 4 or 10 miles.
5/9	Patuxent River from Queen Anne Canoe Launch	Paddle a woodsy section of the Patuxent River just above tidal influence
5/13-5/15	NJ Pine Barrens Kayak Camping Trip	Paddle the scenic and spooky New jersey Pine Barrens and meet the Jersey Devil.
5/14*	Bay Bridge Paddle	Water enthusiasts of all ages and expertise are invited to join us in the first inaugural Bay Bridge Paddle, open to stand-up paddle boards, Kayaks and other paddle craft.
5/14	Newtown Neck and Vicinity Paddle	Paddle around the undeveloped Newtowne Neck State Park, Breton Bay and Saint Clements Bay
5/15*	Kayak support at Columbia Triathlon	Kayak swimmer support at Columbia Triathlon, Centennial Lake Howard County, MD.
5/16	Pooles Island	Paddle to Pooles Island Lighthouse.
5/21	Columbia Island Marina - Beginner	Come on out for a beginner's paddle on the Potomac.
5/21	Magothy River Tour	Come paddle the Magothy river from the new Spriggs Farm Kayak launch.
5/22	Sotterley Planation Tour	This is a 6-8 nm. Paddle from Broomes Island across the Patuxent River to the Sotterley Planation for a guided tour.
5/22	Get Those Greenland Paddles Wet!	Open to all, this is a reunion of alumni from the CPA Greenland Paddle-Making Workshops.
5/23	Bohemia River	Paddle the Upper Bohemia River
5/28	Germantown - Beginner	Beginners paddle near Germantown, MD. A narrow lace with several arms for exploring, waterfowl common throughout the lake.
5/28	Chestertown Tea Party Celebration Paddle	Meet and Paddle to the Chestertown Tea Party
5/30	Upper Mattawoman Creek Beginner Paddle	Memorial Day Holiday, paddle the calm waters of the Upper Mattawoman Creek

* Non CPA Event



CPA Kayak Workshop

Photo by Tom Blount



CPA Kayak Workshop

Photo by Tom Blount

Stuff worth checking out:

Are you ready for a 700 mile paddle? Read about a couple of fellas who are doing just that to honor nature and one of the men's Grandfather. This is a fascinating story - <http://www.capitalgazette.com/news/annapolis/ph-ac-cn-kayak-alaska-chesapeake-0418-20160418-story.html>

Do you enjoy paddling the surf? Check out this video of some paddlers who have a penchant for huge waves - <https://www.rapidmedia.com/adventurekayak/categories/video/7537-video-the-hazards-of-filming-neptune-s-rangers-ocean-whitewater-kayaking.html>

Susquehanna is on the endangered river list - <http://www.canoekayak.com/news/american-rivers-releases-2016s-most-endangered-rivers-list/#6X01w15PuOusE5jV.97>

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I am always looking for articles. If you go kayaking, send me pics and a write-up!

Email me at: news_editor@cpakayaker.com Thanks! Carrie

The Chesapeake Paddler

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