

Trip Followers' Responsibilities

I spend a lot of time talking about trip leaders—what they should know, what they should do, their responsibilities. As a participant on CPA trips—a Trip Follower—you also have some responsibilities, and they're just as important to the success of each trip as the Trip Leader's.

Let me illustrate with an anecdote from a recent trip, excerpted in the trip leader's own words. "We had a launch time of 10 a.m., on time and ready to go by 9:50 a.m. In my eyes, if we say '10:00 a.m. on the water' it means just that—it doesn't mean pulling up at 9:59 to start unloading your boats. We had some 'regulars' and a few new paddlers for this paddle. My regulars all arrived in plenty of time and were all ready to go at the appointed time. Everyone received the same info-laden email, including emails that went back and forth to answer questions."

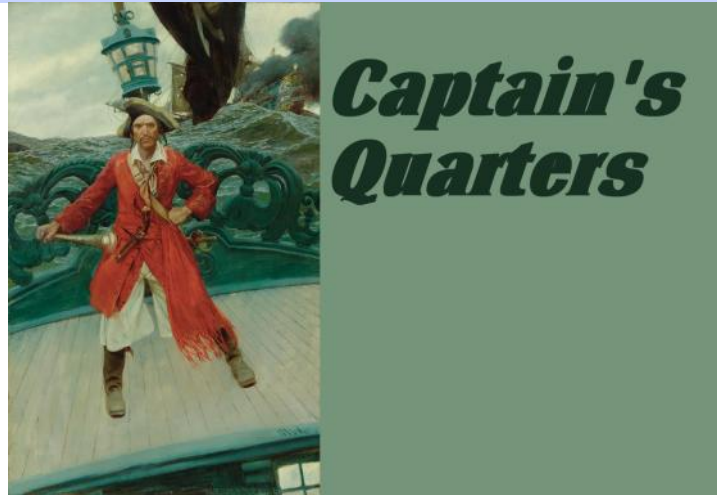
"At 9:58 a.m. the 'new' paddlers hadn't arrived, so I called to see if they were lost or on their way. They told me that they had just left a message that they were 'running late'. I asked 'How late,' and they said they were still almost 30 minutes away—eating their breakfast!"

"I said, 'We are willing to wait for you if you hurry and leave right away,' (knowing full well that it would set us back at least an hour from the original launch time). 'However, if you insist on telling us not to wait for you AND if you opt to launch and paddle without being a part of the group—you DO understand that you are on your own. You have opted NOT to be a part of this CPA paddle. You are paddling at your own risk and without being under the umbrella of the CPA. I'm not going to accept waivers from you because you are not a part of our group based on a decision that you have made to paddle in unfamiliar waters without being a part of the group.'"

"I could tell from the response that they were shocked, but kept going asking them, 'Do you have charts of the area? Have you ever paddled here before? Do you have compasses?' Momentary dead silence on the other end after each question. Their reply was: 'We're strong paddlers. We'll catch up to you. We have a radio. We'll radio you when we get there.' I said, 'It is now after 10:20 a.m. We need to get on the water. Good luck and have a safe paddle.'"

This Trip Leader was far more polite than I would have been. CPA Trip Leaders take on a lot of responsibility for initiating and organizing a paddle and bear a lot of responsibility for conducting it on the water. Here's what YOU owe the Trip Leader:

- **Be on time (THEIR time, not YOUR time).** That means you have to check out how long it will take you, factor in delays, and adjust your wake up, breakfast, and prep time to get there.
- **Be prepared to paddle.** Your boat and other gear should be ready to go, and you should have everything you need, including minimum CPA required gear of skirt, PFD, pump and paddle float, as well as any other gear recommended by the Trip Leader.
- **Be prepared to DO the paddle.** In addition to gear, you should know where you are going, have looked at a chart or map and thought through where the paddle plan will take you, and be ready to assume navigational chores. You don't have to know EVERYTHING about the paddle, but you shouldn't come ready with NOTHING.
- **Practice common courtesy and communication.** If you can't get there on time, let the Trip Leader know as far ahead of time as possible, but be aware that the Trip Leader is trying to make it to launch, too, and they may not have the best mobile connections.
- **Recognize your limitations as well as your strengths.** There is more to being a "Good" paddler than being a "Fast" paddler. Speed, strength, and the ability to roll are great, but knowing how to navigate, knowing tides and currents, and knowing the local area are just as important when you're paddling a new area. That's why the Trip Leader scouted the area or has paddled it a lot.
- **Be obedient.** I don't mean you have to take everything the Trip Leader says as holy writ, but they have put the work into planning and organizing the paddle and usually have a reason for doing things the way they've laid them out. You should be ready to take direction from the Trip Leader. Good Trip Leaders make a distinction between choices up for group discussion during the trip and things that have to happen because of the plan, safety considerations, or conditions. They'll let you know when there are choices, and when there aren't.



Ralph Heimlich kayaking on Mattoponi Creek, July, 2013
photograph by Jenny Plummer-Welker

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Pocomoke River Car Camper

by Suzanne Farace



Navigating narrow creeks
photograph by Tom Blount

Over the four-day July 4th weekend, 18 CPA paddlers camped at the Pocomoke River State Park and paddled that river and its tributaries, including Corker's Creek and Nassawango Creek to Red House Road (part of the Bog Iron Water Trails), and the Pocomoke River through Snow Hill and up to Porter's Crossing. The river and creeks were lush and green and flooded from all the recent rain. We did the limbo under some low bridges, others had bridges opened for them, and yet others made a portage. We saw many birds and other wildlife, including a couple of friendly goats. We were even treated to a ringside seat for a canoe jousting competition. As always, we visited and shopped at the always gracious and helpful local outfitter, Pocomoke River Canoe and Kayak in Snow Hill. Friday evening we enjoyed a terrific pot luck at the campground. Saturday we had a nice dinner out at the Palette restaurant in Snow Hill. We then walked to nearby Sturgis Park where we watched some spectacular fireworks over the river in celebration of the holiday. All in all, a very nice way to spend the holiday weekend.

A collection of photos of our trip can be found here: <https://plus.google.com/photos/117156736323956799313/albums/5903936624449162785?authkey=CKCX0%1eTdq8KJOAE>

Thanks to Jim Allen, Mike Cohn, Linda Witkin, Tom Blount, Paula Hubbard, Paul Miller, Marilyn Fisher, Maryrose Whelley, Sue Stevens, Rich Stevens, Caretta Jones, Gail Addis, Sophie Troy, Jennifer Bine, Yvonne Thayer, and Susan Green for joining us on this trip. Suzanne and Steven Jahncke led the trip.

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• **Participate and anticipate.** Help others move boats to the water or back to the cars. Wait your turn at a narrow landing and clear boat ramps as quickly as possible. Keep an eye on the paddlers around you and let the Trip Leader know if things are amiss. If somebody else isn't practicing good Trip Followership, let them know it isn't appreciated.

Be thankful. Trip Leaders are paid in the currency of gratitude. They aren't outfitters and they aren't your MOTHER, so let them know you appreciate the effort and initiative they've shown to lead your CPA trip, and to share their knowledge and experience. As the trip leader in the story above told me, "To think...we volunteer to do this!"

CPA is lucky to have such a large and dedicated bunch of Trip Leaders. You can demonstrate your appreciation most graphically by being a good Trip Follower.

Speaking of Trip Leaders, kudos to Steven Jahncke, Katie Omeara, Kathy Rost, Lisa Arrasmith, and Bryan Wakefield who recently completed the Kayak Camping Trip Leaders course offered by Jenny Plummer-Welker and Greg Welker, and to CPA's newest BCU 3-star awardees, Paula Hubbard, Mike Thomas, Paul Casto and Jan Sheehan. I'm sure we'll see more of these leaders on the calendar and on the water.

Ralph Heimlich
Coordinator

(Continued from page 4) **CPA Paddler Profile ~ Fran Arnott**

Bucket list trips: I would like to explore more of the Chesapeake Bay. San Juan Islands. Some of the Great Lakes.

Three things you like most about paddling? Only three? Being on the water, an activity I can do with Tom that we both enjoy, and there is always something new to learn.

What do you like about CPA? Besides meeting really great people, I like the fact that safety comes first and most people are willing to share their experience to make you a better paddler.

One thing other people find interesting about you: People seem unusually fascinated with the fact that I don't have a sweet tooth and I generally don't like dessert!

Chesapeake Paddlers Association Tentative 2013 Calendar

Date	Title	Summary
9/13/13	Nanticoke River Car Camper	Camp and paddle the waters of the Nanticoke River. Ralph Heimlich, 301-498-0918 leave a message, heimlichfamily@comcast.net
9/14/13	Kent Island Practice Paddle Series (KIPP)	This series will have six practice paddles once a month, from April thru September. Marshall Woodruff, 202-345-0606, marshall.woodruff@gmail.com
9/14/13	21st Annual Wye Island Regatta—NON CPA EVENT	15 Events; The 13.1 Mile Head Race starts at the Wye Landing on the Wye East River, 18 miles southeast of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and continues around Wye Island. It is the only 100% "people-powered" paddle/rowing regatta in USA. Steve Hall, Annapolis Rowing Club, 410-693-6975, shall@sandler.com
9/21/13	Patuxent Paddle	Showcase paddle for the Patuxent Pirates. Dan Wells, 410-414-2660, wellstd@comcast.net, Jenny Welker-Plummer, plummer_welker@verizon.net, and Greg Welker, gdwelker@verizon.net
9/21/13	Mobjack Marathon - 26.2 nautical miles (30.15 statute miles) around Mobjack Bay	The culmination of a series of monthly skill and endurance building group practice paddles in Mobjack Bay and the surrounding waters. Mary Larson, 804-316-3432, larsonfamily3@gmail.com
9/27/13	3rd Annual Kiptopeke Sea Kayaking Symposium—NON CPA EVENT	Virginia Eastern Shore For Paddlers of All Skill Levels. Rick Wiebush, 410-788-1241, rwiebush@gmail.com
9/28/13	Kent Island Practice Paddle Series (KIPP)—Final	This series will have six practice paddles once a month, from April thru September. Marshall Woodruff, 202-345-0606, marshall.woodruff@gmail.com
9/28/13	Wye Island Circumnavigation	Day paddle around the Island = 12 mile tour. Rich & Sue Stevens, 410-531-5641, susiegreenthumb@verizon.net
10/4-6/13	30th Annual Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival—NON CPA EVENT	Festival of small maritime craft and craftsmanship. Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, 410-745-2916, http://www.cbmm.org/mascf/
10/5/13	EN3-Eastern Neck Camping Paddle	Paddle and camp in the vicinity of Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Marshall Woodruff, 202-345-0606, marshall.woodruff@gmail.com
10/6/13	Swim Support: Half Full Triathlon / Centennial Lake—NON CPA EVENT	Kayak Swim Support: Half Full Triathlon /Centennial Lake. www.halffulltri.org . Sue Stevens, 410-531-5641, susiegreenthumb@verizon.net
10/10-13/13	Delmarva Paddlers Retreat—NON CPA EVENT	25th Annual DELMARVA Paddlers Retreat. All Greenland, traditional paddling event. http://www.delmarvapaddlersretreat.org/ . Chris Beckman, 302-542-0818, delmarvakayak@comcast.net
10/18-20/13	Janes Island Kayak Kamper	Paddle and camp around Janes Island on the Eastern Shore. Ralph Heimlich, 301-498-0918 leave a message, heimlichfamily@comcast.net
11/3/13	Election and Annual Meeting and Paddle	Truxtun Park, Annapolis. See details on Page 9 . Ralph Heimlich, 301-498-0918 leave a message, heimlichfamily@comcast.net

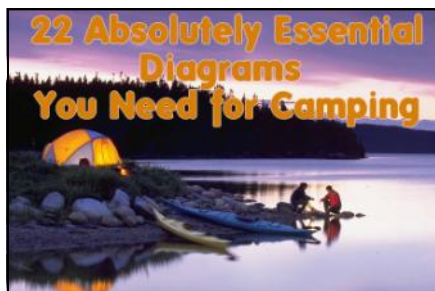
Visit the CPA Web page, <http://www.cpakayaker.com/>, for more events, details and trip leader/organizer contact information. For a full listing of upcoming Club events, visit the CPA Calendar, <http://www.cpakayaker.com/index.php?page=calendar>.

CPA Classifieds

Kayak for sale. Kirton kayak (Inuit) imported from England. 18' w/rudder and Smart Track foot controls, low deck. Fast boat used for racing or fast touring. New hatch covers, very good condition. Cost over \$3,000 new; asking \$1,500. George Hires, 443-366-6564 or grhires@aol.com.

Kayak for sale. Eddyline Equinox kayak, 14' long, 2011 model bought new, minimal use, showroom condition, includes Eddyline Swift 2-piece carbon fiber lightweight paddle, many accessories. \$1,250 complete. See www.eddyline.com for fine details of this first class kayak. Located in Richmond, VA. Contact: mcdonough.jim@comcast.net or phone (804) 795-5402.

Kayak Storage. Storing your kayak outdoors? Were you worried about it during the Derecho last summer? Would you like to store it indoors and protected from the weather? The Pier 7 Pirates have indoor kayak storage spaces available at our weekly paddling site on the South River. Attend Pier 7 Wednesdays without having to load and unload your boat each week! With the location conveniently located near US-50, you can pick up your boat on the way to Eastern Shore paddling trips. Reserve now for the summer paddling season. The storage space is indoors, secure, climate controlled, with 24/7 access and free launching from the sand beach on Wednesday nights. Rates are \$30/month for a six month lease (rent for the warm paddling season, rent for winter storage, or both) or \$30/month if you need shorter term storage. Please contact Greg Welker at gdwelker@verizon.net or 301-249-4895 if interested.



22 Absolutely Essential Diagrams You Need for Camping

This list, compiled by Peggy Wang of BuzzFeed, starts with "How to Build a Campfire" and concludes with "Know Your Poisonous Plants." Among the other twenty essentials are a guide for how to sleep warm, hammock camping, a kayak camping gear guide, and checklist for car camping. The list is available online at <http://www.buzzfeed.com/peggy/absolutely-essential-diagrams-you-need-for-camping>. This link was featured in the June, 2013 edition of the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay e-newsletter.



2013 Chesapeake Bay Swim

Photograph © by DJ Manalo

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The Chesapeake Paddler

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