

The Chesapeake Paddler



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Navigation Class Schools Paddlers in Charting the Way

Don't know a nun from a can? Think harmonics is just for musicians? You might find yourself directionally challenged on the water. There's a class for that.

By Lois Wyatt

Exceeded my expectations - that was my experience in the Navigation class taught by Paula Hubbard April 7. An effective instructor needs to break down content into small increments and move slowly enough through those steps not to lose listeners, not an easy task for those with years of experience and expertise, but Paula succeeded. As a teacher myself, I appreciated how well she prepared for those of us who committed our Saturday to better understand different elements of kayak trip planning. A 9:00 to 4:00 day in a darkened room could have felt long, but instead it was most satisfying.

Two carefully constructed slide presentations guided our day's instruction, Charts and Compasses in the morning and Tides and Currents in the afternoon. I thought that common sense was sufficient for me to grasp the basics of marine charts, but as we looked at all the notations and letters and symbols, so much more was revealed. Yes, much of the information conveyed is more relevant to larger crafts with deeper drafts, but I did learn about some information more important to kayakers than I realized, the superfluous is no longer "Greek" to me, and I can better distinguish between the two.

Though I figured that my ancient Girl Scout compass was probably not waterproof, and thus not a good choice to carry in my PFD, I did not fully grasp the significance of the rest of the markings on compasses others carried. I have heard "red in the shed" before, but I needed to



Photo/Lois Wyatt

hear it again; this time I think I get it. Course, heading, and bearing - of course the terms are related, but now my sense of each is no longer fuzzy. I have heard of dead reckoning, but now I have added the warning phrase "constant bearing, decreasing range" to remind myself how to assess the situation.

To amend our favorite tagline, "we paddle to eat," for a chilly classroom day in early April, 'we come to navigation class to eat,' our lunch buffet offered lots of

delicious options and left us well fortified to focus on Tides and Charts during the afternoon. Thanks to Sue Stevens for organizing it.

Checking tide tables is one component of planning a trip. With high tides, kayakers can explore further up creeks, but an intended lunch beach can disappear. Low tide is feast time for birds, making birders happy, but a destination creek likely becomes much shorter. Being "up a creek without water" is even worse than being there "without a paddle." One trip where finding a low tide on a good day and time is key to success is a visit to Mallows Bay. From childhood, most of us recall science lessons about the gravitational force of the sun and moon, but tides are far more complex than I understood. Paula introduced new (to me) names for these complexities, such as mean higher high and its counterpart, mean lower low, harmonic and subordinate predictions, and neap tide. Of course, river flow and storm surge offset tides and affect water level well upstream. It makes sense that as high tide moves up the bay, there is a lag time, but the delay over a short distance astonished me. From Matapeake on Kent

[Continued on page 5](#)

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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We accept display advertising that relates to the interest of our readers. Monthly rates are as follows:

size	cost	dimensions (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.

Public service announcements 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? Contact news_editor@cpakayaker.com

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News From the CPA Coordinator - Bill Smith

Like most of you, I am glad that May is here when the active paddling season really kicks off. For some of us, the dry suits can now be put away, while others break out the boat and equipment to start the season. This is also the time of year when the paddling calendar fills with fun trips and the days grow longer.

Whether you paddle with a Greenland or a Euro paddle is a matter of personal preference. I have been paddling with a Greenland paddle since 2007 and have no desire to switch back to the Euro paddle. The history of the two paddles goes back somewhere either 300 or 12,000+ years, depending on which type you consider. I have read more than a few books on the history of the Inuits and Arctic exploration by the Europeans. The most successful European explorers studied the lifestyle of the Inuits. Why wouldn't they? The natives had lived successfully in the Arctic climate for thousands of years. Many an explorer, while looking down on the natives as ignorant savages, died of scurvy or froze to death in a short one or two years. The ego of the European explorers made them their own worst enemy. Though they did copy the design of the native boats, they thought they had a better idea for the paddle. The Europeans also thought their choice of clothing and food were superior; many wore wool and ate fruit as long as it lasted. Meanwhile, the natives were wearing furs and eating blubber. Wool did not have the warmth or the wind resistance of a caribou jacket, and the fruit supply was soon exhausted. The blubber, which most Europeans thought disgusting, was loaded with vitamin C, which explains why the natives did not have problems with scurvy.



Today we paddle for fun, but the Inuit paddled to survive. It was a necessity for the Inuits to learn a roll for survival because they could not swim. Even if they could swim, they would soon die of exposure in the 32° water. Building a kayak and making accessories was a family affair because the survival of the whole family depended on it. The women who sewed the seal skins to cover the kayak frame were highly skilled. They learned a knot that was waterproof, which they also used when making mukluks, important as well to be waterproof. Each family member had their own task which was shared by the village. The wood for the kayak frame and paddles came from drift wood collected from the beaches; most natives

probably spent their entire life without ever seeing a live tree. Native villages were a tight knit group that shared food and adopted a hunter's family if their hunter failed to return from a food foray. The villagers usually hunted in a group for safety, so success or failure was shared by the whole village. A hunting trip was never routine; tragedy was common, making the life of the natives very hard. In some native cultures it was common, if the body was recovered, to bury the deceased with his kayak, spear and paddle.

Another interesting tidbit is that the term Eskimo, meaning fish eaters, is a derogatory term given to the Inuits by the Athabaskan Indians. ♠

Weekday Piracies Launch Summer Paddles

By Lois Wyatt

Warmer weather portends opening day for CPA's ten piracies, your opportunity to join likeminded paddlers for a midweek outing close to home. Many members appreciate an interlude in the workweek for some exercise and outdoor time. Whether one weekend to the next is too long to wait for your next paddle or the weekends require your time elsewhere, it is good to know there is a piracy awaiting you.

Each group sets its own meeting day, time, and opening date. First "out of the gate" this year was the Pirates of the Potomac at Belle Haven on Wednesday, April 25, with the Arundell and Georgetown groups the first week of May, followed by Pirates of Sugarloaf, Algonkian, and the North the second week. Pirates of the Patuxent will have their first on May 24, while Baltimore opens after Memorial Day, May 29. The Eastern Shore has a more ad hoc approach, not a consistent weekly meeting. Check the website calendar for lots more information on each. This year the Paddler calendar will not repeat the

piracies entries every week, yet another reason to check the website for the most up-to-date information.

Under Trips & Events, click on Mid-Week Piracies and then on the Paddling Pirates to find the most convenient locations for you, learn key details, and find contact information for the pirate captains. Starting times range from 4:30 to 6:30. Some are flexible about the day of the week. Some groups have one consistent launch site while others have multiple locations, anywhere from two to six. For the roving ones, it is important to know which launch site is up each week. If you are not a regular participant, it is wise to let the captain know that you intend to paddle with a particular group on a certain day so they will have a trip leader expecting you. After the paddle, one piracy typically has a potluck, some dine out together, and others head directly home. Whatever choices and patterns each piracy has established, you can be sure to have a relaxing evening with others who share your enthusiasm for being on the water. ♠

Paddler Profile: Rick Leader

By Bob Browning

Lives in : Easton, Maryland

Real job : Executive Director of Scenic Rivers Land Trust in Annapolis. We permanently preserve land along five rivers in Anne Arundel County by using conservation easements and influencing government purchases and management

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? No

Number of years paddling: 20

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I grew up on the

Elk River and spent a lot of time in small skiffs and canoes. Years later, when I was managing a nature center off the Wye River I bought my first kayak

What boats do you paddle? I have a red and white P&H Cetus HV and a green and black P&H Cetus MV. The HV is about 18' and the MV is 17.5'

Rudder or skeg? Skeg

Type paddle used: Euro

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? I have done a fair amount of canoeing, but I recently sold my canoe due to lack of use.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? I do a lot of hiking and I have a small power boat for fishing. I sailed for a few years on a Neptune 24 I fixed up.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? I try to get out at least twice a week

Do any winter paddling? I skip the worst weather, but I try to get out throughout the winter months

Favorite local paddling location ? I paddle Kings Creek off the Choptank at least once a month throughout the year. I enjoy seeing the creek change throughout the seasons

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? The Kent Island Paddle series is a fantastic CPA group and a special opportunity to improve your skills and confidence. I have participated for three years but only completed the final circumnavigation of Kent Island once.



Coollest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? Key Largo to Key West with the Burnam's was my first extended camping trip and a test of my skills and endurance. It gave me an appreciation

of how scarce camping sites can be, the importance of like-minded paddle partners, and the ability to find "wilderness" in a very developed area. It was a very special experience and inspired a new interest in kayak camping.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/ experience and why? I paddle alone often, so I work hard at not putting myself in dangerous situations. Once on a casual one-hour paddle on the Nanticoke, I skimmed on my safety gear and left my skirt in the car. A quick change in weather made for a

rough trip home and a lesson well learned.

Future bucket list trip? Baja, Costa Rica and Portugal

Three things you like most about paddling? Quiet time on the water in close proximity to nature. Adventures with good friends and very healthy exercise.

What do you like about CPA? Dedication to safety and to having a gentle impact on the environment

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? For five years, I organized the Bay Bridge Walk festival in Sandy Point. A very public activity for an introvert. ♣

Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile? Contact Bob Browning at: BBBrowning43@verizon.net

Lend Your Digital Skills to CPA!

Chesapeake Paddlers Association needs an additional member for the Website Team. This person would be responsible for posting information to the CPA websites (<http://www.cpakayaker.com> and <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums>) and making any necessary changes to the web content, including updating the WordPress and phpBB® Forum Software installations. Works with other members of the Website Team, the Coordinator, Newsletter Editors, and Steering Committee members. If you have website experience, especially with WordPress and phpBB, please reply to steering_committee@cpakayaker.com. ♣

How to make the most of your CPA membership

Dreaming about kayaking on warm summer days? BE SURE to join our 2018 trips!

You may have recently seen an email – or two- about your own CPA membership status, which may be up for renewal. Those with multi-year CPA membership paid up see reminders A LOT less often. Please contact me to keep your email & address info up-to-date so that you can keep receiving the CPA Paddlers E-newsletters monthly!

Of course, you know that CPA offers multi-year membership dues discounts: \$10- 1yr, \$18 - 2 yrs, \$27- 3 yrs, OR the best deal of all at \$35 for 4 years. It's really easy to renew online: http://www.cpakayaker.com/membership/#online_option.

Did you know that the CPA FACEBOOK Page, our Meetup Event calendar and CPA Forum are easy to spot on our web site: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/> Please check the CPA website calendar (on the top row) for sea kayaking paddling days, camp trips, events, and skill workshops. (NOTE: CPA does not provide rental/ loaner kayaks.)

You can read about all kinds of kayaking topics on the CPA Forum (you do not need to log-in to access, only to post a question or reply), just click on the CPA home webpage link. Here's the link to set up your personal log on – if you wish to post: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=14&t=4676>.

NAVIGATION [Continued from page 1](#)

Island to Tolchester Beach near Rock Hall north of Eastern Neck Island was a two-hour lag. Because many factors contribute to water levels, it is important to use multiple available resources.

Slack tide is the time when the water level is changing the least, which I understood to be around the time of high and low tides. Except when it isn't, when it is midway between high and low, which brings us to the standing wave model, progressive wave model, hydraulic current, and the Rule of Thirds. Finally, combining compass reading with understanding of currents and tides leads to calculations, or intuitive guesstimates, for ferry angles.

My head could have been spinning with new terminology and the wealth of information. Rather than feeling overwhelmed in the class, however, I was excited to be learning new concepts. In the middle of the Chesapeake Bay, most of us probably do not have compass, ruler, and pencil out to calculate bearings, but it is good to understand the principles. Is your curiosity piqued? Wish you could have been there? Last year I wanted to take the Navigation class, but it was impossible, so I was watching closely for it this year. Paula intends to offer it annually, so I strongly recommend that you be on the lookout for it next spring. ♦

Discover more sea kayaking current news & topics on our CPA FACEBOOK Community Page: <http://www.facebook.com/CPAKayaker>.

With the CPA online calendar - you also must join our CPA meetup to see our full calendar, trip details, and to sign up for our volunteer-led trips & events: <https://www.meetup.com/The-Chesapeake-Paddlers-Association/>.

However, you may wish to contact /email the trip leader directly if you feel more comfortable signing up directly for trips with them. They will have a lot more details about the upcoming trip– which is NOT shown on their Meetup calendar event – especially time and location. Our volunteer trip leaders really want to know who is coming ahead of time. Of course, no one likes a surprise early in the morning after only one cup of coffee -- if you have not told them you are coming! Our volunteer trip leaders also may be asking a few questions about you and your kayak skill set if they have not paddled with you before. All our CPA Kayakers want to enjoy the day and paddle safely together!

Looking forward to our 2018 kayaking! ♦

~ Sue Stevens

Membership/Secretary: secretary@cpakayaker.com.



Paddlers! The Potomac River Swim Needs You!

The 2018 Potomac River Swim (7.5 miles) needs support kayakers to accompany individual swimmers on **Saturday June 2, 2018**. You can really make a difference!

Kayakers accompany individual swimmers on their crossing and get: - pre-swim supper/briefing on Friday, June 1. - camping at Pt. Lookout State Park on Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. - post-swim picnic at Pt. Lookout State Park on Saturday, June 2. - commemorative t-shirt. More info: <http://www.potomacriverswim.com> Sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TQ9HYG3> Cheryl Wagner (202) 387-2361 cherylw46@yahoo.com

Paddlers don't let paddlers go Euro



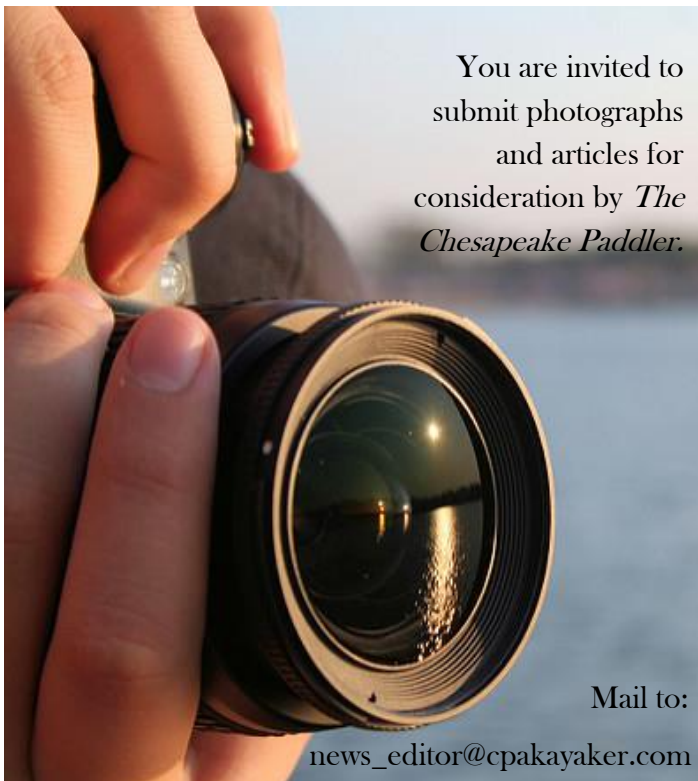
Photos/Ralph Heimlich



The scent of fresh cedar shavings filled the air when a dozen CPA members gathered at the end of March to fashion custom Greenland paddles from pre-cut blanks. Chip Walsh hosted the event, which saw first-time woodworkers and veterans alike busting planes, wielding Surform shavers (look it up), and commandeering orbital sanders. Wisdom was on hand, too: Dave Wilson and Len Thunberg “checked our work” and offered gentle suggestions. Did I mention that we make paddles to eat? A pirate-worthy potluck kept us going all afternoon. ♦

The *Paddler* wants your photographs and prose

Do you enjoy reading of the paddling adventures, local and distant, of other members? Do you like getting new ideas for paddling trips? Are you advocating for paddling access or amenities in your area? Have you pondered questions relating to kayak gear? Variety is the spice of life, and of newsletters. Please write an article reflecting your thoughts, experiences, and discoveries to share with our paddling community. We all become a bit wiser and excited to be on the water again. We need your input to make *The Chesapeake Paddler* the best it can be. We look forward to your help with content for these issues of 2018. ♦



You are invited to submit photographs and articles for consideration by *The Chesapeake Paddler*.

Mail to:

news_editor@cpakayaker.com

Photo: Ben Stephenson/[Creative Commons](#)

Upcoming Events. For the most up-to-date listings, visit the [CPA Meetup Calendar](#)

Date	Event	Summary
Sat 4/28-Sun, 5/6 A3	non-CPA event: Sails Angels Spring Gathering	4/28 9:00 am-5/6 3:00 pm, Tall Pines Harbor, Temperanceville VA, on Pocomoke Sound
Wed, May 2	Pirates of Potomac	second mtg of season
Wed, May 2	Pirates of Arundell	5:00 pm-8:30 pm, season opener, check CPA calendar for time and launch location
Th, May 3	Pirates of Georgetown	6:00 - 8:30, season opener, check CPA calendar for details
Mon, May 7	Islands of the Chesapeake	10:00 - 3:30, explore around Wye Is
Tu, 5/8-Th, 5/10	Virginia Mtn Lakes Camper	5/8 7:00 am-5/10 4:00 pm, Adv Beg, paddle West-Central VA, Lakes Moomaw, Claytor, & Smith Mtn, camp on private property nr Eagle Rock
Th, May 10	Pirates of the North	season opener
Th, 5/10-Sun, 5/13	Western Sinepuxent Bay	5/10 7:00 pm-5/14 9:00 am, car camping at Shad Landing to paddle Western Sinepuxent Bay
Mon, May 14	Islands of the Chesapeake	10:00 - 3:00, explore waters around Hart/Miller & Pleasure Is
Mon, May 14	Tred Avon	10:00 - 3:00, Oxford, Md
Fri, 5/18-Sun, 5/20	Sail the Patuxent	5/18 8:00 am-5/20 7:00 pm, sail the length of tidal Patuxent, camp at paddle-in sites
Sat, May 19	KIPP #2	second mtg to help improve skills & build endurance
Sat, May 19	Use Your Greenland Paddle	10:00, Adv Beg, Jonas Green Park, esp for participants of paddle-making workshop, but open to all
Sat, May 19	non-CPA event: Okoumefest, CLC	9:00 am, see CPA calendar for details
Mon, May 21	Islands of the Chesapeake	10:00 - 4:00, from Chaptico Wharf to Cobb Is
Th, May 24	Pirates of the Patuxent	6:00 pm-9:00 pm, season opener, check CPA website for details
Fri, 5/25-Sun, 5/27	Gather at Chickahominy	5/25 11:00 am - 5/27 2:00 pm, Adv Beg, car camper
Sat, 5/26-Sun, 5/27	Practice Kayak Camper	5/26 9:00 am - 5/27 5:00 pm, for paddlers with at least Level 1 skills, try out kayak camping with support from those more experienced
Sat, Jun 2	non-CPA event: Potomac River Swim Support	8:00-5:00, free camping Pt. Lookout SP, experienced kayakers to accompany individual swimmers & provide support, 7.5 mi crossing
Sun, Jun 3	Gear Day & Fall-Out-of-Boat Day	9:00 - 4:00, Truxton Park, Annapolis, w potluck lunch
Mon, Jun 4	Islands of the Chesapeake	10:00 - 3:30, explore Bodkin & Parsons Is, Eastern Bay
Sat, Jun 9	KIPP #3	third mtg to help improve skills & build endurance
Sat, 6/9-Sun 6/10	Martinak Car Camper	6/9 9:00-6/10 6:00, Adv Beg, Martinak SP, paddling on Tuckahoe
Sun, Jun 10	Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay	9:30 am-3:30 pm, Adv Beg, from Quantico cross Potomac
Mon, Jun 11	Circumnavigate Barren Is	9:00 - 5:00, Int, open water crossing
Sat, Jun 16	St Clements Is champagne brunch	9:00 - 3:00, fr Newtowne Neck SP to St Clements, potluck
Mon, Jun 18	Islands of the Chesapeake series	10:00 - 3:30, Adv Beg, explore waters of Eastern Neck Is
Mon, Jun 25	Islands of the Chesapeake series	10:00 - 3:30, Int, waters of Poplar Is, exposed open waters
Fri, 6/29-Sun, 7/2	Fourth of July Holiday Pocomoke Car	6/29 3:00 pm - 7/2 1:00 pm, Pocomoke River SP, paddle area water-
Sat, July 14	KIPP # 4	fourth mtg to help improve skills & build endurance
Sat, July 14	non-CPA event: Chester R Swim for	7:30-3:00, swimmers need kayak support

Launch of the Month: Hatton Creek Ramp

"What's your favorite local paddling place?" is an interview question asked in each paddler profile. In last month's edition, Joan Ellis gave a familiar answer, "Any place I have not paddled." If that response reflects your own thinking, you will appreciate a new feature, Launch of the Month, intended to appear monthly as space permits. The launches are taken from an [online atlas](#) of the same created by Ralph Heimlich and published on the CPA web site. *The Chesapeake Paddler* hopes to inspire the explorer in each of you, assisting you to find hidden gems and new adventures. Please submit your own discoveries to help other members expand their horizons. Sharing information helps all of us building a "library" of options. ♣

Location: 38.30602458 -76.85544198

Street Address: 13135 Hatton Creek Rd
Newburg, MD 20664

Type: ramp

Parking : Moderate

Restroom: No/Seasonal

Owner: Charles County - Parks and Recreation

County: Charles, Maryland

Water Body: Hatton Creek\Wicomico River

Link: <http://www.charlescountyparks.com/parks/boat-launch-facilities>



The Chesapeake Paddler

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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; please notify the Secretary for changes to your email address. If your CPA membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues. SEE BOX ON PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS.