

# The Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

Volume 29 Issue II

March 2019

## Imaginative Trip Calendar Promises to Entice

### *CPA Trip Leaders Pull Out All the Stops for Upcoming Paddling Season*

By Lois Wyatt

**W**hile cold weather may cause many of us to idle our boats, it does not idle our thoughts of being on the water. Instead, it gives time to dream of warmer days to come as we improve our various kayaking skills and gear. CPA's pre-season readiness programs include Skills 101 and 102, making your own spray skirt and Greenland paddle, and enhancing your navigation skills. Service to the larger community

brings the Patuxent River cleanup. Service days continue through the summer with kayak support for several open water swim events, which are fundraisers for numerous environmental and health organizations. Fall Out of Your Boat and Gear Day, the catch-all gathering at Truxton Park in early June, is a time for members to help each other with an exchange of advice and gear, a time to practice wet exits, paddle on Spa Creek, ask questions, and socialize with fellow paddlers.

The annual February planning meeting also spurs some leaders to tantalize us with their ideas for 2019 paddling adventures, both new routes and familiar favorites. The Kent Island Practice series reprises for its 14th season, seven meetings over six months, designed to build strength, skill, and confidence. On February 10th, we heard of beginner trips on the South and Magothy Rivers and also a day to



*SK102 is just around the corner!*

Photo/Paula Hubbard and St Jerome Creek area in St Mary's County in October.

Kayak campers are planned for Newtowne Neck in May, Patuxent River in June, and Potomac River from Leesylvania to Widewater in October.

With so many choices, which trips call out to you? What ideas do you have to add to the calendar? The planning meeting is only the first rough outline for the 2019 season. Think about local territory where you are particularly comfortable or a new spot on the map about which you are curious, and plan a trip for the rest of us. If you would like a mentor or a partner, consult a CPA friend or a member of the steering committee. Ideally CPA would have more beginner and weekday trips and day trips every weekend. What contribution will you make? Your CPA is as vibrant as the collective efforts of the volunteers who step forward to lead. Do your part and add to the ranks of trip leaders. ♦

learn and practice a different paddling form with newly finished Greenland paddles. More day trips include Gunpowder Falls, Nanjimoy Creek, Magothy, Newtowne Neck, Jack Creek, Mt Aventine on the Potomac, Thomas Point Light, and Aquia Creek. Destinations for car campers this season include Great Dismal Swamp on the Virginia-North Carolina border in April, the Pine Barrens in southern Jersey in May, the Chickahominy on the James River in May and November, Pokomoke Sound in August,

# 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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## CLASSIFIEDS

### Advertising Rates:

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](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com)

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## News From the CPA Coordinator - Bill Smith

Well, fair-weather paddlers, it's time to think Spring and make sure your gear is ready for the paddling season. Already there are some fun trips listed on the calendar. As the season progresses, you can expect more; check frequently so as not to miss out. Any and all additions to the calendar are welcome, so we hope to see some new ones coming.

As a friendly reminder, when paddling early in the season, make sure to dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. It is tempting to leave the winter gear behind as you jump in your kayak on a warm day for a short paddle. If you read a few accounts written by survivors of near-tragedies, a familiar theme is that they went out for a routine paddle that almost cost them their lives.

### ATTENTION, PIRATES OF BALTIMORE

The pirates of Baltimore are without a pirate captain, so I am asking anyone willing to take on this position please to contact me or any steering committee member. It can be one individual or a team of several pirates willing to lead the band and continue the tradition. It would be sad if the Pirates of Baltimore closed down.

### NEWS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

After accepting a job offer in Kentucky, steering committee member Linda Delaney resigned her position; Linda will be missed, and I wish her the best of luck in her new adventure. The CPA bylaws allow the filling of a vacancy by a simple committee vote; Lisa Arrasmith was chosen as her replacement. Lisa is very active with the Anne Arundel County water access committee. Please welcome her.



Recently I read an article about Atlantic sturgeon fry being found in the James River in Virginia, upstream of the mouth of the Chickahominy River where CPA has annual camping and paddling trips. I also read that most of the oyster spat used to repopulate the Chesapeake Bay comes from the James River. These two pieces of information tell me that the river has good water quality. I was surprised because I always assumed the James River was polluted to some extent since it passes through Richmond and has several tobacco plants along its shore. Tobacco plants have stainless steel stacks, an indication that they spew some nasty chemicals from the plants; stainless steel stacks are far too expensive to install just because of a nice appearance. Predating most species on earth, sturgeon have been around for 150 million years. They are amazing - they can live up to 60 years, reach a length of 15', and weigh up to 800 pounds. Thus, if you are paddling the lower James River and see a "submarine" go by, relax; it's probably just a sturgeon. I remember back in the '70s when I was living in Michigan, a fisherman caught a 59" sturgeon in the Detroit River. He was so proud that he contacted the Detroit Free Press, which promptly sent out a photographer and snapped his picture for the Sunday edition. Unfortunately for the fisherman, an agent of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources read the article and arrested the guy for harvesting an undersized fish. At the time the minimum size was 60;" now they are protected and must be released immediately. Because of pollutants and silt, it is unlikely there are any sturgeon in the Chesapeake Bay, especially after the past summer's rainfall and the Conowingo dam release. Over the last few years the Bay has made a comeback, but seasons like last summer may have erased some great gains. Let's hope that improvements in the Chesapeake, our wonderful playground, get back on a track in 2019.

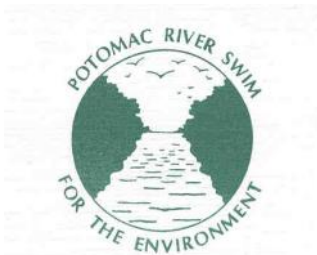
Happy paddling! See you on the water soon.

~ *Bill Smith*

## Annual Potomac River Swim Seeks Kayak Support

The 2019 Potomac River Swim (7.5 miles) seeks support kayakers to accompany individual swimmers on Saturday June 1, 2019. Kayakers receive:

- pre-swim supper/briefing on Friday, May 31.
- camping at Pt. Lookout State Park on Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1.
- post-swim picnic at Pt. Lookout State Park on Saturday, June 1.



- commemorative t-shirt

Swim proceeds are donated to a variety of area environmental organizations.

To sign up go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YJV9BJH>

More info: <http://www.potomacriverswim.com>

Cheryl Wagner (202) 387-2361  
cherylw46@yahoo.com

# Paddler Profile: Andrew Blischak

By Bob Browning

**Lives in:** Edgewater, MD

**Real job:** Electrical Engineer with Northrop Grumman

**Do you regularly attend a Piracy?** Pirates of Arundel

**Number of years paddling:** Eight

**How did you get involved in sea kayaking?** Kayak fishing is what caught my interest, initially. I found that kayak fishing wasn't for me, so I started just paddling around. If you want to go places with open water, a sea kayak was the next logical step after a sit-on-top.

**What boats do you paddle?** P&H mostly, but I'll buy and trade around. My current boat and perhaps the one boat I'll never part with is a blue and yellow (just like the Swedish flag) Capella 173.

**Rudder or skeg?** Skeg 95% of the time. There's that 5% of the time I wish I had a rudder boat. I find that the P&H skeg boats are responsive to edging and rewarding to paddle. Rudders are cheating. :)

**Type paddle used:** Euro. Carbon fiber, please.

**Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking?** I do not.

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities?** I enjoy hunting and fishing. I am thinking about doing some squirrel hunting out of a kayak.

**How often on average do you paddle between May and October?** Weekly at best for the last couple years. I bought a house, and I don't think there's anything left that could break that hasn't yet. So this next year should be better. Should be.

**Do any winter paddling?** Nope. I can't stand dry suits. The neck gasket makes me start to lose it after a bit.

**Favorite local paddling location:** Probably Assateague. Sound side, not ocean side. I like ocean landscapes with sandy beaches and such, but protected. However, there's a bunch of Maryland's Eastern Shore I have not been to, so this might change. Honorable mention to the Tuckahoe River simply because it's amazingly scenic with the overhanging trees and crazy number of turtles.



**Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why:** I went on a car camper to the Nanticoke River maybe 5 years ago that was a great trip, a combination of scenic paddling and camping. Nice campfire and really good food after paddling.

**Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?** Oh, I don't know that I have anything too amazing for this. Probably one of my Assateague trips simply because the weather was perfect.

**Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why?** I was paddling in southern Nags Head NC around the Oregon inlet channel. I went just a little too far south and almost got sucked out by the outgoing tide. Oregon inlet is no joke. I was just paddling along and turned a corner, and bam, out to sea I was headed. I managed to turn and get to land.

**Bucket list trip(s)?** Scotland first. Go google image search "kayaking Scotland" and look at the pictures. Possibly somewhere tropical, though I don't have a place in mind. I was in Roatan, Honduras for a week, and was thinking it would be amazing to paddle a sea kayak around the island. Alas, the only thing I could get my hands on are what I call "floating trash cans" (8 ft sit on top).

**Three things you like most about paddling?** I can go places that would otherwise be inaccessible. The pace at which you do it is such that you have time to look around and notice things. I also like gear, and it's a gear intensive hobby. You can buy and or build your own.

**What do you like about CPA?** The people. I am and have been a member of many different clubs for different activities. All clubs are quirky, have personalities, and drama. CPA, despite its quirks, is pretty low drama.

**One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you?** I think many people are surprised by some of my redneck tendencies. For example, that I enjoy hunting. ♠

*Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile?  
Contact Bob Browning at:  
[BBBrowning43@verizon.net](mailto:BBBrowning43@verizon.net)*

# Chesapeake Paddlers Association – Introduction to Sea Kayaking

**Sunday March 31, 2019, 8:30am-4pm**

Cult Classic Brewery, 1160 Shopping Center Road, Stevensville, Md. (Kent Island)

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN. For more information visit

[https://sk101\\_2019.eventbee.com](https://sk101_2019.eventbee.com)



**\$30 fee per person** includes a light breakfast and lunch. Program includes a dozen featured instructors and personal highlights from some of the area's top kayakers. Registrations must be received by March 11, 2019. Questions can be directed to event coordinator Shelly Wiechelt at [CPAShellyW@gmail.com](mailto:CPAShellyW@gmail.com).

**Kayak Design and Selection • Paddle Types and Pointers on the All-Important Forward Stroke • Kayaking Gear • Kayaking Safety • Going on a CPA trip • Places to Paddle • Transporting and Storing Your Kayak**

Display tables will feature kayak resources, take-a-way handouts from a variety of kayaking organizations and CPA-branded gear sales. A diverse variety of kayaks will be available for inspection.

**Preregistration Required**

## Help Wanted, Apply Within

**D**o you have editing and/or desktop design skills? Have you ever wondered how you could contribute to our club? The newsletter team that brings you *The Chesapeake Paddler* seeks one or two additional members to ensure continuity of the publication. Currently, Lois Wyatt copyedits all submitted articles, while Beth Boyd handles the layout tasks (including photos and titles), using *Microsoft Publisher*. New members of the team would share these duties with Lois and Beth, allowing more flexible newsletter staffing in any given month. *The Chesapeake Paddler* is published 10 times per year. All materials are shared electronically via Dropbox. Please [email Lois](mailto:lois@chespaddlers.com) to ask questions or discuss the jobs further. ♠



*It was not quite the Arctic, but the ice on the Patuxent at Greenwell was tough going for Don Polakovics in early 2019. Too thick to break with a paddle, but not thick enough to support the boat, picks did the trick. Got picks?*

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

|                     |  |  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Sat, Mar 23         | Kayak Navigation Class                                       | 9 am at Cult Classic Brewery, Stevensville, MD. Sign up on Meetup.   |
| Sat, Mar 23         | Build Your Own Spray Skirt Workshop #2                       | 8 am-4 pm, gluing parts to finish project, must have attended #1   |
| Sat, Mar 23         | Greenland Paddle Workshop                                    | 9 am-5 pm, carving paddle from "blank," \$50 includes blank and supplies, earlier blank-cutting sessions to be held in Alex, Arl, & Gambrills      |
| Sun, Mar 31         | SK 101   | 8:30 am-4 pm, Cult Classic Brewery, Kent Is, presentations on selecting and transporting kayaks and gear, safety, etc, \$30, reg. dead-ling Mar 11 |
| Sun, Mar 31         | CPA Gear Logo sale   | 11:30-2:30, CC Brewery, Logo shirts, hats, magnets   |
| Sat, Apr 6          | Greenland Paddle Completion Workshop                         | 10 am-4 pm, if you ever started, but didn't finish making it, join us  |
| Sat, Apr 13         | Patuxent River Cleanup                                       | 9 am-4 pm, Beg, clean trash fr Queen Anne Canoe launch to Jug Bay, cold water gear req, at least wetsuit   |
| Sun, Apr 14         | Pool Rolling, Williamsburg                                   | 2 pm-5 pm, RF Wilkinson Family YMCA, Wmsbg, VA   |
| Th 4/18-Sun 21      | Great Dismal Swamp, VA                                       | 7 pm 4/18-9 pm 4/21, Adv Beg, car camping Northwest River Park, day trips  |
| Sat, Apr 20         | KIP 2019, 14th Annual series #1                              | 6 am-6 pm, build strength, skills, and confidence for personal paddling goal, w some to circumnavigate Kent Is                                     |
| Fri, 4/26-Sun 28    | SK 102, SPA 21st Annual Skills Clinic                        | Lake Anna, Mineral, VA, camping, volunteer instructors teaching skill classes on water & land, \$65  |
| Fri, 4/26-Sat 27    | Tune Up Paddle on South River                                | 11 am -3 pm , Beg, Homeport Farm Park  |
| Wed, May 1          | Pirates of Arundell  | 5 pm-8 pm, midweek paddle & potluck supper, bring wheels for kayak   |
| Fri 5/3-Sun 5/5     | Pine Barrens, NJ   | 7 pm 5/3 - 4 pm 5/5, all skill levels, 2 days on Mullica R   |
| Fri, 5/3- Sun, 5/12 | Sails Angels Spring Gathering, non-CPA event                 | 5/3 noon-5/12 noon, Tall Pines Harbor Campground, sail Pokomoke Sound  |
| Fri 5/17- Mon 5/20  | Chickahominy Area camper                                     | 5 pm 5/17-9 am 5/20, Adv Beg, car camp, paddles on area rivers, re-serve your campsite asap  |
| Sat, May 18         | KIP 2019, 14th Annual series, #2                             | 6 am-6 pm, build strength, skills, and confidence for personal paddling goal, w some to circumnavigate Kent Is                                     |
| Sat, May 18         | Use your Greenland Paddle Paddle                             | 10 am-3 pm, esp for those who recently made a new Greenland but open to all  |
| Sun, May 19         | Pool Rolling, Williamsburg                                   | 2 pm-5 pm, RF Wilkinson Family YMCA, Wmsbg, VA   |
| Sun, June 2         | Annual Gear Swap, Fall-Out Of Your Boat Day, & potluck lunch | 9 am-4 pm, potluck lunch at pavilion w grills, displays of kayaks and gear, kayak outfitting, well-equipped PFD; practice wet exits & rescues; etc |
| Sat, June 8         | KIP 2019, 14th Annual series, #3                             | 6 am-6 pm, build strength, skills, and confidence for personal paddling goal, w some to circumnavigate Kent Is                                     |
| Sat, Jun 15         | Magothy R Paddle   | 9 am-4 pm, Adv Beg, 10+ mi, Sillery Bay; Gibson, Dobbins, & Little Islands, contact trip leader  |
| Sat, Jun 22         | Magothy R Leisure Paddle                                     | 9 am-4 pm, Beg, 5-6 mi in protected waters nr Cypress Creek, contact trip leader   |
| Sat, July 13        | KIP 2019, 14th Annual series, #4                             | 6 am-6 pm, build strength, skills, and confidence for personal paddling goal, w some to circumnavigate Kent Is                                     |
| Sat, July 13        | Chester R Swim for Life, non-CPA event                       | 8 am-2 pm, seeking support kayakers for 5 mi swim  |
| Sat, July 20        | Magothy River to Severn River Paddle                         | 8 am-4 pm, Adv Beg, 16 mi w 5 mi shuttle, around Cape Saint Claire, under Bay Bridge   |



## CPA's 21st Annual SK102 Skills Clinic

### April 26-28, 2019

### Lake Anna, VA

SK102 is CPA's on-water skills clinic weekend.

**Registration Period: February 2, 2019 to March 2, 2019**

Register Here: <http://sk102.eventbrite.com>

SK102 offers on-the-water skills classes covering wet exits, basic strokes, basic and advanced rescues, stroke improvement, rolling and more. Additional on land courses (i.e. navigation, kayak camping, etc) are offered. SK102 is designed to teach beginner or intermediate kayakers proper paddling technique and the skills they need to kayak safely.

#### **IT'S ALSO A HECK OF A LOT OF FUN.**

SK102 sells out every year with a significant waitlist.

- **Where:** Mineral, VA, on Lake Anna, is 2 hours south of Washington DC. The lake is a nuclear power plant cooling pond, so the water is very clear and heated – allowing you to practice wet exits, rescues, and rolling in warm water in early spring! The location is private property on which you are welcome and encouraged to camp.
- **Cost:** \$65, which includes the cost of two days of all volunteer instruction, camping on-site, morning coffee, Saturday night dinner, porta-potties and a one year CPA membership.
- **Required:** You are required to bring a sea kayak or light touring kayak (at least 12 feet in length) with floatation, spray skirt, life vest, paddle, pump, and paddle float. You will be required to sign a release of liability.

**Saturday Classes:** Sign up for 2 of these classes when you register:

**Kayak Design, Wet Exit, Basic Strokes** *If you are new to paddling and/or have not had kayaking lessons*

- Discover features separating various kayak designs and their value to you
- Wet Exiting is the most critical kayak skill for safety—a requirement for attending CPA trips
- The proper basic strokes will make your paddling much more fun and efficient.

**Stroke Improvement, Intermediate Strokes, Bracing** *For those who are proficient in basic strokes.*

- Improve your basic strokes to increase your efficiency and form
- Learn intermediate strokes such as hanging draw, draw on the move, bow rudder
- High and low bracing not only keep you upright but are the foundation of several kayak rolls

**Self-Rescues, Group Rescues, Towing** *Be able to get yourself and others back into a kayak in deep water.*

- Become a self-sufficient paddler, able to recover from capsizes and wet exits
- Be able to rescue another kayaker who capsized.
- Learn types of tow systems, methods and how to use them

**Greenland Style Paddling** *What is that thin paddle anyway?*

- Design & Advantages of Greenland style paddling
- Proper Greenland style strokes

**Advanced Rescues** *For those proficient in self and group rescues, take it to the next level*

- How to rescue a boat without floatation that "sank"
- Techniques to rescue an injured paddler

**Foundations of Rolling:** *For intermediate paddlers who are ready to transition to rolling:*

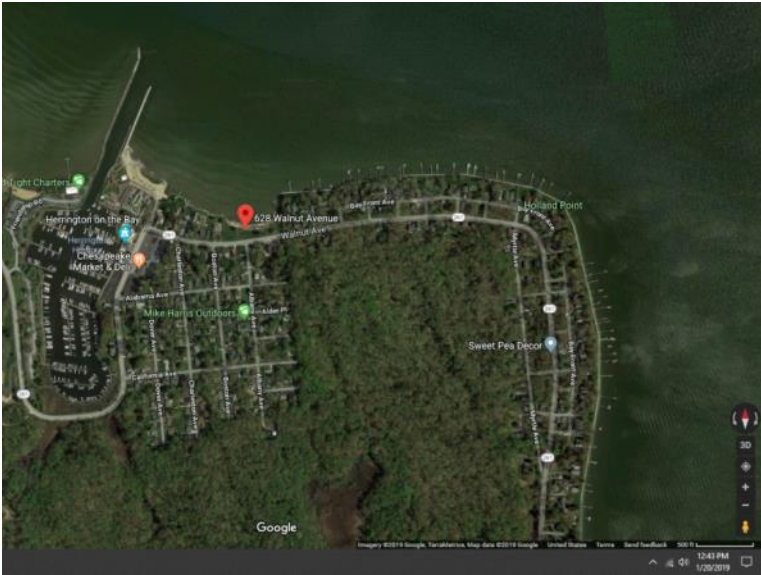
- Braces and hip snaps are the foundations of several kayak rolls
- Bow and Paddle rescues
- The best form of rescue is to never exit the boat

**Sunday Classes:** *Schedule to be announced, sign up at the event.*

For more information, please contact Catriona M. and Maxine M at [SK102@cpakayaker.com](mailto:SK102@cpakayaker.com)

For more information about CPA, please go to <http://www.cpakayaker.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/CPAKayaker>

## Launch of the Month: Rose Haven Park/Holland Point Park



**Location:** 38.7268256, 76.5372201

**Street Address :**628 Walnut Ave, North Beach, MD 20714

**Type:** Small beach

**Parking:** Limited

**Restroom:** No

**Fee:** No

**Ownership:** Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks

**County :** Anne Arundel

**State:** Maryland

**Water Body:** Herring Bay , Chesapeake Bay

**Link:** <http://www.aacounty.org/locations>

Launch of the Month entries are taken from the [Chesapeake Bay Access and Paddle-in Campsite Map](#), which is part of the CPA website. You can enter either the location or street address to find them in Google Maps. Try them out, and look for more in each issue of the newsletter. ~ Ralph E. Heimlich

### The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

P.O. 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; 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.