

The Chesapeake Paddler



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CPA Piracies - recollections and remembrances



CPA "Piracies" began when members in local areas wanted to gather for weekly paddles. Pier 7 in Annapolis was one of the first. Pictured above, members gather under the trademark Pier 7 canopy for food and beer during one of many demo nights with Chesapeake Light Craft of Annapolis.

by Greg Welker

This is the second in a series of articles by Greg Welker on the history of the CPA, the first appeared in the [July issue](#) of the newsletter.

CPA trips were typically scheduled on weekends when most people had the time to paddle. However, there was a desire to paddle with those who were local to each other. The May 1991 newsletter contains the start of a local paddling group concept that evolved into the present-day CPA Piracies:

CPA PADDLE GROUPS AND GROUP LEADERS: *The paddle group you belong to is determined by where you live. We are organizing five paddle groups: Northern Virginia, Washington D.C./Maryland, Annapolis, Baltimore, and the DELMARVA*

peninsula. The purpose of a paddle group is to give you local contact to CPA. Group Leader(s) keep track of the paddlers list for their area and act as CPA representatives. Phone trees will be organized through group leaders.

Group leaders are: Annapolis – Ron Casterline, Maryland/DC Steve and Stephanie Flemming, Northern Virginia Mike Hughes and Baltimore Bill McMillan (No DELMARVA yet).

Later, Don Barker was announced as a Delmarva group leader and a Northern Neck Group was headed by Mike Cox.

So why "Piracies"? Where did this "Pirates" thing come

[See Piracies on page three](#)

From the CPA Coordinator

A paddling tale of two rivers in Michigan

As I mentioned in previous columns I am recovering from an injury, but I am finally back paddling at a limited capacity. Last week I paddled with my brother on the Huron River in Michigan in a borrowed rec boat.

The Huron river has a history of being a river that was used by the native Americans and voyagers to cross the state from Lake Erie to Lake Michigan. I grew up near the river so I have paddled about 2/3 of the river with some sections several dozen times.

The remaining sections of the river are too industrial or urban for my taste so I will pass on any other sections. Another river I used to paddle frequently is the Au Sable River which runs east across the northern part of the Michigan lower peninsula. My parents owned a cabin just a stone's throw from the river, so I spent a lot of time exploring the river. The river is deep, cool and gin clear.

The tale of two rivers

Like the Huron, the Au Sable was also a well-used route by the native Americans, and it is easy to see why. The river is mostly contained in the Huron National Forest and the Huron Manistee National Forest with pockets of private land scattered throughout; my parents' cabin was surrounded by the forest land, so it was a heavenly location. The river is considered one of the best trout streams in the eastern US and part of it (23 miles) is designated a wild and scenic river.

The river starts in eastern part of Frederic Township in north central Michigan and dumps into Lake Huron at Oscoda Michigan 138 miles from its source; I have paddled 124 of the 138 miles of the river. The Manistee River is another river that is similar in size to the Au Sable and also runs through the western part of Frederic Township, mostly contained in the Huron Manistee National Forest and the Manistee National Forest; the Manistee dumps into Lake Michigan after 190 miles of travel.

The Manistee is also considered one of the best trout streams in the eastern US and parts of it designated a wild and scenic river. This river runs west and dumps into Lake Michigan at Manistee Michigan. The native Americans would paddle up the one, portage a few miles and paddle down the other, just like it was designed by a voyager.



Bill Smith

Both rivers have a history of logging back in the late 1800's to early 1900's with some evidence along the way with submerged logs, a monument along the Au Sable built by the National Park Service and a loggers museum.

The Au Sable passes through the mating grounds of the endangered Kirkland's Warbler which is the only place in the world where they breed. The Kirkland's Warbler will only nest in jack pines from 7-20 years old and the only way jack pines seed is after a forest fire since it takes the heat of the fire to open the seeds. The U.S. Forest Service conducts a controlled burn every year to ensure future nesting sites.

The Au Sable river is also the site of the annual Au Sable Canoe Marathon which began in 1947, this race is part of the triple crown of canoe races and considered one of the toughest endurance races in the world. The race starts in Grayling Michigan with a shot gun start at 9PM where the paddlers must run with their boat one half mile to the river and ends 124 miles later in Oscoda Michigan.

The racers paddle continuously at a furious pace from start to finish and must portage six hydroelectric dams along the way. There are several checkpoints along the route that must be passed by a designated time or the paddler is disqualified. The entire race expires after 22 hours from the start. Most of the race is conducted at night in absolute darkness and some of the ponds they cross have exposed stumps that create a real hazard for the paddlers.

One year I spent a few hours at one of the dams and watched the portages. The paddlers would leap out of their boats and run over the trail to the water below the dam and off they would go, most would not even bother to dump the water out of their boat. I spent some time at one race to watch the finishes and some boaters were so exhausted that the paramedics would dump them out of their boats and drag them ashore to begin an IV fluid drip.

The 1947 winner spent 22 hours in the race with the times improving throughout the years especially since the canoes today probably now weigh one fourth of the original canoes. Serge Corbin, a French Canadian is the all-time course champion with 18 wins and the fastest time of 13 hours and 58 minutes.

Another notable champion is Al Widing Sr. who has raced a whopping 41 times completing his last race at the age of 89. Al should be an inspiration to us all.

Happy kayak trails!

Piracies, from page one

from? In the early days of sea kayaking on the Chesapeake we were all trying to figure out what worked best for paddling clothing and kayaking gear. For kayaking gear and parts we would literally wander the aisles of boat shops looking for things that would work. Jack “Jog” Martin was well known for spending a lot of time in Annapolis Performance Sailing’s store in Eastport. His Pintail sea kayak often looked like a test bed of sailboat cams, levers and fittings as he worked to figure out items that would work for kayaking.

Similarly, we were all experimenting with clothing for kayaking. Some wore cotton dress shirts for sun protection, some t-shirts. Cutting edge was the lightest weight poly-pro underwear tops from REI or sporting goods stores. Rash guards and sun block clothing didn’t exist in our culture yet. Hats, and ways to keep the sweat from dripping down into your face were areas of experimentation, particularly if you were female and had long hair.

Beth Morris, a club member, started experimenting with bandannas. They seemed to work, and on one trip which was mostly Pier 7 paddlers she promised to bring everyone a bandanna to use. The largest and cheapest ones she could find happened to have skulls and crossbones on them (sea kayaking clubs have other similarities to motorcycle gangs if you think about it). The bandannas were a hit on the trip, and the pirate jokes started flowing as we picked out sailboats that we could board and plunder!

Ron Casterline dubbed us “the Pirates of Pier 7” as noted in the September 1995 newsletter. Thus, the Pier 7 Piracy came into existence. The paddle-night meals began with a few beers and bags of chips and grew from there. I can remember flipping burgers on a small hibachi-like gas grill (that grill later launched itself into the South River during a spring cleaning when the regulator caught fire and melted). Those informal meals developed into a regular process whereby participants sign up in pairs to provide meals each Wednesday, ranging from hot dogs to chicken and pasta.



After work piracy paddles often race sunset. Pictured above, the Pirates of Sugarloaf landing for a snack on an island upstream of Riley’s Lock in 2017.

As club members established other weeknight paddling groups, they liked the “Piracy” theme and the convention stuck. So far, we’ve only had one parrot that I know of (thanks to Todd Anglehoffer).

Looking back at the CPA newsletter and my log there were several piracies that existed at one time or another. A listing of the piracies, and their years of existence, as well as I know them, are listed below.

Pier 7 Pirates/Pirates of Arundel

Those of us who were local to the Annapolis area started getting together to paddle on weeknights. These paddles were coordinated by Ron Casterline. About mid-day on Wednesdays we would call Ron at work and he would let us know where we would be launching. The paddle locations tended to vary – Carr’s Wharf, Clark’s Landing, Annapolis, Spa Creek. Choices depended on weather and what was happening – we often watched sailboat races in the Annapolis harbor.

In 1991, Ron decided to become a kayak dealer for Seda Kayaks and rented a small room at Pier 7 Marina on the South River. This small room, which was built into the side of the hill and had a deck and nice sand beach to the north, became Ron’s kayak shop – Annapolis Coastal Kayak Center (ACKC). Ron sold Seda boats, gave lessons on weekends, and let the shop serve as a base for the

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Annapolis area weeknight paddlers.

We would gather each Wednesday night at Ron's at Pier 7 and paddle the South River. We also used the sand beach to the north and the area near the MD-2 bridge with its deeper water for rescue practice and rolling lessons. This area became known as "the rolling hole."

By 1993 the Pier 7 location, aka "Rolling at Ron's," was a standard Wednesday night event with paddlers bringing food for dinner. The convenience of Pier 7, with the sand beach, restrooms, and no need to communicate launch locations, quickly replaced the roving Wednesday night launches.

Thus, the Pier 7 chapter of CPA was born. As Ron's business grew, he later moved from the small building in the hill to the main marina building. The building in the hill was used for storing inventory and gradually became used for renting storage spaces for CPA member boats as well.

Ron decided to close Annapolis Kayaks in 1995, but he kept the hill room for kayak storage rentals. As he headed for retirement in 2004, the Pier 7 Pirates had a discussion around the picnic table one Wednesday night and decided that we would like to keep Pier 7 available

for CPA. I volunteered to take over the administration of the kayak storage space and that allowed us to keep paddling from Pier 7 on Wednesday nights.

One of the interesting bits of history associated with CPA's Pier 7 group is our association with the founder of Chesapeake Light Craft (CLC), the Anne Arundel County-based company that is well known as a provider of kits for kayaks and other small craft.

The original founder of CLC, Chris Kulczyk, would bring his early prototype boats down to Pier 7. He would let us paddle them and provide feedback on design, performance, and features. It was a great opportunity to be involved in the development of kayaks that we still see on the water today. His stitch and glue method of assembling a wooden kayak was pretty revolutionary and provided good boats at low prices.

Many CPA members built and paddled his original Cape Charles kayak as found in his 1991 book *The Kayak Shop*. That book was updated in 2001 as *The New Kayak Shop* and is still available at various locations online. CLC boats continue to be built and paddled by many club members.

The Pier 7 Pirates remained at Pier 7 until the summer of 2014, when the marina was sold to new owners and they terminated our lease. Since then, the Pier 7 Pirates have become known as the Pirates of Arundel and have returned to the original roving piracy nights utilizing kayak launches across Anne Arundel county.

Georgetown

This group paddled the Potomac River out of the Georgetown area from a kayak/canoe rental concession known as "Jack's boathouse." I believe this was the second piracy formed, based on this June 1993 newsletter item: "We have been having mid-week paddles on Thursday at Pier 7 Marina near Annapolis and on Wednesday at Thompson Boat Center in Washington DC" (Chris got the days backwards).

Dave Moore remembers this about the Georgetown group when it was at Frank's kayak



Local piracies were also a chance to improve kayaking techniques, such as this Pirates of the Sugarloaf skill session on Greenbriar Lake in 2005. The lady in the blue boat is Deb McKenzie, Pirate Queen at the time.

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Piracies, from page four

concession by the Key bridge:

“The Georgetown Pirates was founded in 1999. We actually started gathering as an offshoot of a divorced person’s social group. The original group name was the Potomac River Rats. Eric Unterberg picked the locale based on using it for his ‘divorce group.’ I started after he asked me to be a safety boat for one of their outings.

“As I recall, Eric subsequently had some serious health issues and this is what sent him elsewhere. We might be the “Rats” today but Laura Butterbaugh really hated the name so we changed it to be in line with the larger CPA. At first, we were sort of a bit outlawish (I guess ‘cause we were true pirates after all!). I recall there was some tension and uncertainty on the part of the larger club with regards to who we were and what we were doing.

“We were all novice paddlers, we did not always require skirts (in deference to Frank’s rental boats). The group certainly contributed a lot of paddlers to the club - in large part I suspect because novices could rent gear and then paddle in an organized group. We did some skills work, too, eventually leading up to what became know I recall as “fall out of your boat night” Prizes were rubber duckies. We also began the 4th of July forays out to watch the fireworks.”

The Georgetown group was also active in working to protect their launch site. “We were all there for the defense of the (Jack’s) Boathouse against the proposal to moor a Clyde’s barge there. We all pitched in when Jack’s periodically got flooded out from a storm.

From Jesse Aronson, another long time Georgetown paddler:

“POG was started in 1999. The founder was Eric Unterberg, but he lasted only one season. David Moore saved us from oblivion in year two by stepping up as the Pirate King. I was new to paddling at the time and found CPA through the piracy. We had our own website and even had a cute river rat logo, sketched by a friend of Eric’s.

“As to core members, the Stephen that David Moore mentions was Rev. Stephen Edmunson, who was a faculty member at Virginia Theological Seminary. I remember going on CPA trips with Stephen where before launch the trip leader would go around and ask people to introduce themselves and give a summary of their paddling skills.

“When they got to Stephen he’d say something along the lines of ‘I’m Stephen, and in case all the rescues the other people mentioned don’t work, I know how to administer last rites.’ Definitely a more fun guy than you’d expect

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Enjoying evenings of paddling is the core of CPA piracies. The Patuxent Pirates heading out toward the Route 4 bridge at Solomons Island in 2009.

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from a seminarian.

“Laura Butterbaugh was an early regular. Yvonne Thayer started showing up pretty early. Joy Hecht (since moved away) and Joan Spinner and Mike Vaca. Barb Foley and Anatoly Ivasyuk (Barb designed the CPA logo, BTW). Nelson and Caroline Labbe were there as early as 2002. Susanita Hicks used to be a Georgetown, as was Marshall Woodruff, but that might have been a little later on.

“In the early years we’d have ‘Ducky Night’, where little rubber duckies were given out for various kayaking feats (fastest rescue, ability to stand up in your boat ...). On a hot summer night we’d have ‘fall out of your boat night’ where no one paddled - we just all did rescues and goofed around in the water near Jack’s. For many years our season ended with a Halloween paddle - we’d paddle in costume past the Georgetown waterfront then have a party on the dock at Jack’s.

“In about 2010 Jack’s lost its lease from the National Park Service which owned the land and the piracy moved to Columbia Island Marina near Alexandria where it still resides in 2014.”

Pirates of the Patuxent

Paddling out of Solomons Island in Calvert County, this group typically launches from the beach at the public parking area near Our Lady of the Star church. It was founded in 1997 by Jenny Plummer-Welker, Joq Martin, Don Polakovics, Cindi Vivaldi, Wayne Higgins and Sylvia Tognetti. There was an earlier weekday paddle group in the area too: From the July 1993 newsletter - “Mid-week paddles are still being held at Pier 7 marina in Edgewater and at Blue Wind in the Solomon’s island area on Wednesday evenings.

Also noted same in the July 1993 newsletter:

Pirates of the Potomac

Paddling out of Belle Haven Marina in Alexandria, this group was established by Bill Dodge. The earliest



Outings often go into the late evening and headlamps are standard fare. Pictured above, the Pirates of Baltimore on Curtis Creek in 2019 led by Jean Wunder, one of the co-captains (with Suzanne Farace).

newsletter mention of this group is from the April 1997 issue. The group paddles out of Bellehaven Marina. From Dick Rock, the Pirate Captain:

“Bill Dodge had the piracy when I started paddling and had been the captain for several years at that time. I joined it in 1999 and took it over in Sept 2000. I picked this piracy because it is 15 minutes from my home. I liked this group because it was low-key and I was just starting to paddle. Bill had peer paddles on weekends and always invited anyone that wanted to paddle to join him.”

Pirates of the Delmarva/Delmarva Paddlers

While almost all of the Piracies have been based on the Western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, there was some early interest on the Eastern shore.

Around 1995 a store on Maryland’s eastern shore in the Salisbury area started selling sea kayaks. At the same time, a couple of people in the area started paddling – Nelson Riggins and Larry Blevin. There was some interest in the area of forming a sea kayaking club and CPA was invited to attend their first organizational meeting. The group was composed of people who paddled canoes, recreational kayaks (think Pungo and Loon) and sea kayaks.

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Piracies, from page six

After some discussion they decided to become affiliated with us. CPA expanded its trip ratings to indicate which trips would be suitable for canoes, and several lower eastern shore paddles were added to the calendar. The eastern shore group, known as the Delmarva Paddlers, were interested in racing canoes and kayaks, and became part of the CPA race series when it existed.

With the decline of the racing circuit this group became more of a recreational paddling group that had members who paddled with CPA and also members who raced in local and regional ACA-affiliated races. The group was also hurt by the pfiesteria outbreaks on several of the lower eastern shore rivers that kept them off local waters for a while and significantly damaged the health of at least one key member.

Through 2013 the Delmarva Paddlers existed as an online group that served as a way to organize local peer paddles and racing events. Currently it exists only as an email group for Delmarva kayak and canoe racing announcements.

Pirates of Baltimore

Paddling from various locations in the Baltimore area, Barry Marsh was the original founder of the group. From Barry Marsh:

"I formed the POB in 2003 or 2004 after realizing there were many paddlers in the Baltimore area who couldn't get to any other Piracies, like Pier 7, due to driving distance and traffic. The original locations were chosen by a poll of the early paddlers - alternating between Canton Waterfront Park, Rocky Point, and Dundee Creek Marina.

"I was the first Captain, followed by Bob Huber, then Jay Gitomer. Bob instituted the skills sessions that Jay and others followed up with; during the two or so years I ran the group it was mostly just evening paddle trips. For a



MONSTER, from page 3

Pat's doing okay, but he can't paddle any faster. I paddle with him for about 2 miles but I'm having trouble paddling so slowly. The chop is really starting to beat me up and to smooth things out, I've got to make better headway. I look back at Pat and he says he's doing okay, so I start to pull away.

Eight hours in my Nordkapp, and one of us is in desperate need of relief. When I can see the Kentmoor Beach I quicken my pace. I can see kayaks on the beach. One more mile, and I'm thinking about an ice-cold beer. I'm getting sliced and diced by the chop, but the waves splashing on my face and chest just make me paddle faster. I can finally make out Neysa and the guys on the crowded beach.

When I feel the sand of the beach slide under my boat's hull, I know I can finally relax; I made it. Pat and Vince arrive soon after me. Vince was running very low on drinking water, and had to leave Russ at the marina by the bridge. We congratulate each other and pose for pictures, then it's time to put the boats away.

After showers, we repair to the bar for some ice-cold Red Hooks. I suddenly spot a haggard-looking Russ walking outside the bar and Vince and I run out to greet him. We help him bring his boat up and load it on his truck. Russ is very tired but glad to have finished in the same day. All of us are bone tired and I'm relieved that all paddlers are accounted for. We finish the day at Red Hot and Blue for BBQ and beer. I'm glad I took the week off from work. *[Editor's note: We thank Michael LaStartina and his wonderful family for the many kindnesses they extended to our club. And thank you, Troy, for the special suntan lotion.]*

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Pirates of the Patuxent

by Jenny Plummer and Cindi Vivaldi

The Pirates of the Patuxent have begun their evening paddles. Short trips...some shorter than others depending on the conditions...along the Patuxent and into the Bay.

Trip One...Baptized by a Downpour. To commemorate our inaugural trip, Wayne Higgs began paddling five hours early! After scouting the area, he arrived back at the launch site to meet Joq Martin, Jenny Plummer, and a rather large thunderstorm with its own light show that was sweeping its way through Calvert County. The winds were strong enough to halfway accomplish blowing kayaks from the security of their roof-racks and keeping a few would-be pirates stranded on the side of the road to Solomon's. Thus the first night of Pax Piracy came to a quick and soggy close.

Trip Two...1313 Hungerford Creek. Mother Nature more than made up for the previous week's weather and gave us a perfect Thursday night. Jenny, Joq, Don, Sylvia, and Cindi met, launched (unfortunately without Joq), and paddled north along the Pax to Hungerford Creek...a quiet little forked inlet that sheltered attack swans (no pecking incidents though) and a mother/daughter team crabbing for dinner (small dinner...they only had one crab). The left fork of the creek ended in the "sock drawer of Davy Jones' locker"...a cove full of abandoned and half-sunken sport and small fishing boats. If you're ever planning on a Halloween moonlight paddle...this is the place to go...spooky! We turned and paddled back to Solomon's with a gorgeous sunset at our backs.

Trip Three...Skate Bait. Our luck held for the third week and, again, not a cloud in the sky. Launching from Solomon's, we (Jenny, Don, Cindi, and Joq) made our way south along the Patuxent and around to Drum Point, surfing the occasional wake and taking time to paddle around the remnants of

the Drum Point Lighthouse. The skates were plentiful that evening...out enjoying a bit of supper on the Bay. One rather large skate mistook Jenny for a snack, surfacing under the stern of her kayak and flapping away in a fury when it realized she was NOT a minnow. After that bit of excitement, it seemed like a good time to head back to the launch, again accompanied by another perfect sunset.

Trips 4 & 5...The Don Tour. Don assumes the role of "Pirate King" while his fellow crew members attend to other pressing commitments and does his thing solo.

Trip #4...Don crosses the Pax to explore creeks on the opposite shore, dodging powerboats and a growing number of jellyfish along the way.

Trip #5...Jenny, Joq, and Cindi stand on the shore and watch Don paddle into the mists of a damp evening.

Please accept an invitation to come out and paddle with the Pirates of the Patuxent on Thursday evenings. Hey, for all we know, Don may still be out there...☹

Welcome New Members and Renewals!

Thea Warner, Dennis Liu, Robert Mercer, Marcie Stanziale, Judith Johnson, William Dunn, Geraldine Sachs, Vladimir Klimentko, Cynthia Scharf, Jamie Harms, Wayne and Kristina Carpenter, Leon Strauss, Landis and Janet Doner, Eric and Jacquie Toner, Pierre and Sally Bely, Dorothy Lucy, Michael Reiter, Virginia and Bradley Paleg, Jay Gitomer, Danny Schweitzer, and Joq Martin.

An article from the CPA newsletter about the first trips in 1995 by the Pirates of the Patuxent.

brief time we were known as the Pirates of the Patapsco since most of the existing Piracies at the time were 'Pirates of the P___,' (Potomac, Patuxent, Pier 7). We changed the name when we realized not many people a) knew Baltimore Harbor is the Patapsco River, and b) 'Pirates of Baltimore' was more inclusive of a larger area."

Pirates of the North

This group paddles from the Perryville/Havre De Grace area. From Bob Shakeshaft, the current pirate captain:

"The PON (Pirates of the North) started in August 2005.

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Piracies, from page seven

Wendy Baker Davis posted an invite to folks in the North Bay area. We first met at Perryville but decided Roberts Park in Havre de Grace was a better launch site for several reasons. It was centrally located, it did not close at sunset and the bugs at Perryville were awful.

“We continue to use Roberts Park because it gives us several nice paddling options that let us tailor our trips to the abilities of the paddlers that show up. We paddle up the Susquehanna River, east around Perry Point to Furnace Bay, south across open water to the Battery islands, south along the shore line to Swan Creek and, when we need to stay close, we paddle Garrett Island just across from our launch.

“The early paddlers were Wendy [Baker-Davis], Rob Burford, Kim Palmer, Michael Free and myself. People have come and gone. I am the only regular paddler from the original core but Wendy still comes down once in a while.”

From Wendy Baker-Davis:

“Our very first gathering was at Perryville Park. We managed to meet at the exact moment that 10,000 fly hatchlings greeted the world. We all retreated to our cars and unanimously chose Jean Roberts Park as our pirate port of call.

“As we began our piracy so late in the year (August), we did quite a bit of paddling in the twilight and dark that year. Somewhat unfamiliar with our surroundings, someone always managed to ground themselves on a sandbar or hit an unseen obstruction. This led to an unofficial nickname ‘the kayakers who knock into nuns.’

“One memorable paddle took us up-river into the remains of an old canal paralleling the main channel. There we met an ancient snapping turtle - exploratory hands were quickly snatched back into boats. We often paddle around Garrett Island, and over the years several



Pirate paddles are also a chance to improve safety practices such as this Baltimore Pirates Skill session in Dundee Creek in 2006. Jerry Sweet, in black PFD, from the Pirates of the North (Havre de Grace) is practicing a kayak re-entry.

of us have joined up with RiverSweep to do a one day cleanup of the Island.

“We have done a few weekend excursions - to the Sassafras and up to Holtwood on the Susquehanna. We explored the petroglyphs at Safe Harbor. Other early activities included BBQs at Michael Free’s place near Elkton, Dinners at Coakleys, and an occasional cold beer on Rob Burford’s boat at the Marina.”

Other Piracies

Over the years there were several other piracies in the area, for which I have limited knowledge of their formation and history. These included: the Pirates of Sugarloaf, who paddled the Montgomery county reservoirs and the Potomac around Violets Lock; Pirates of the Eastern Shore, a more northerly group than the Delmarva group; Pirates of the Lakes, who paddled the Susquehanna dam pools above the Conowingo; and the Pirates of the James, below Richmond, Virginia.

Piracies are an integral part of CPA and help maintain the club as a leader in promoting skills, safety and the just plain fun of the sport of sea kayaking. And finally, thanks to all the Pirate Captains and many volunteers who make CPA possible. ♠

Nominations open for CPA Officers

By **Ralph Heimlich**

Now is the time to nominate people who you think will help play an active role over the next club year (November-November) to vote on issues, create fun activities and keep the participation of the club lively through 2021.

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association is a volunteer organization and the people who volunteer the most are the elected officers: The Coordinator, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and the Steering Committee members.

Now is the time to tell us who you think should play an active part in steering the club's activities. As

always, in addition to balloting at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 1 (if we HAVE an Annual Meeting), you may cast your ballot for CPA officers online. The descriptions of the officers in our [By-Laws](#) read:

"Sec. 4—The Steering Committee. The property and business of the club shall be managed under the direction of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will make all decisions about operational activities of the club, unless specified otherwise in these bylaws. As a rule, routine decisions about specific club activities will be the responsibility of the individuals managing those activities, but they may be overridden by the Steering Committee if needed.

"The Steering Committee will determine which events are to be considered official CPA activities. If appropriate, it may set standards for such determinations so that it need not consider each activity, and it may then delegate to individual club members the responsibility for applying those standards to determine whether specific activities are official CPA activities.



CPA Wants YOU!

"Sec. 5.4—Duties of Officers: The Coordinator shall have overall responsibility for administration of the club and will be a primary point of contact for the club. S/he shall chair general club membership meetings and meetings of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee may direct the Coordinator to perform other duties consistent with the bylaws. The Coordinator is the only person authorized to speak for the club. This authority may be delegated by the Coordinator.

"The Treasurer shall perform all the duties generally incident to the office of Treasurer, subject to the control of the Steering Committee and the oversight of the Coordinator.

"The Treasurer shall have custody of all the funds and securities of the club, and s/he shall keep full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements. Such records shall be the property of the club. S/he shall deposit all such moneys and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the club.

"The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the club consistent with Section seven of these bylaws. S/he shall provide financial information to the Coordinator or the Steering Committee in a timely fashion as requested.

"The Secretary shall perform all duties generally incident to the office of Secretary, subject to the control of the Steering Committee and the oversight of the Coordinator. S/he has primary responsibility for maintaining club membership records, but may delegate day-to-day administration of that task to another club member.

"S/he shall give notice of all meetings of the general membership or the Steering Committee and all other notices required by these bylaws. The Secretary shall

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Nominations, from page nine

record the proceedings of all meetings of the general membership and of the Steering Committee. All records of the Secretary shall be the property of the club.”

Nominations can be [emailed to the Secretary](#), please copy the person being nominated. Persons nominated should accept or decline their nomination, develop a “Stump Speech” giving their experience and reasons why members should vote for them.

These will be printed in the October issue of *The Chesapeake Paddler* and viewable online. In addition to mail-in ballots and voting at the November Annual Meeting, there will be an online mechanism for voting, and you will need your CPA member number to authenticate your vote. The votes will be tallied at the Annual Meeting and will determine which individuals will hold which positions for the coming year.

So, throw your paddling hat in the ring, or throw someone else in the ring, but let the best candidates win!

Rare meteotsunami formed in the Bay



Intense thunderstorms, similar to the one pictured above, generated a rare meteotsunami on the Chesapeake Bay in July. File photo: NOAA/Michelle MCGahey.

As reported in the [Bay Weekly](#), an intense line of thunderstorms packing near 70 mile-per-hour winds near Tolchester Beach on the Bay’s eastern shore generated a rare meteotsunami, a series of waves caused by strong winds and changes in air pressure, not seismic activity. The last suspected meteotsunami was during the derecho thunderstorm in 2013.



CPA members exploring Bodkin Creek from Downs Memorial Park kayak launch in Anne Arundel county in July 2019.

CPA members join growing interest in paddle sports

By Sue Stevens, Membership Secretary

Thanks to all of our CPA Members who amazingly JOINED or RENEWED despite the pause in most CPA activities. Some members went ahead and paid their dues anyway in support of CPA - thank you Paulina!

What is more fun to see is that another set of long-lapsed members who have refreshed their memberships - outta the blue - from as long as 16 years ago. Welcome back Mike B! As a reminder, all CPA members have 12 months FREE added to their Membership’s due date. The next renewals will be in 2021.

What is more amazing is the growth of water-loving paddle sports activities. Just about everyone wants to get outside and on the water, where it is cool, fun and with 16-plus feet of safe distancing (see more: <https://www.facebook.com/CPAKayaker/>).

Finding rec or used kayaks on sale, or that special boat, is much harder to locate this summer. There’s a big demand for kayaks of all kinds driving the kayak and gear market. There may be delays in delivery for new boats – just ask an eager paddler or your local kayak dealer. And if you have a boat or gear you want to sell or want to buy be sure to check out the [Gear Swap](#) section of the CPA website.

If you have any thoughts or questions, please contact us: membership@cpakayaker.com. Hope to see you all on the water...just a bit later!

Prepare for nautical charts to go digital

By Ralph Heimlich

No matter how good GPS units get, the wise kayaker always has a paper chart on deck as a back up in case of battery failure, e-drowning, or other mishaps.

While paper charts are hundreds (thousands?) of years old, the way they are being produced is changing rapidly in the digital age.

In late 2019, the NOAA Office of Coast Survey told the marine industry that production of traditional paper charts would wind down by 2025. Replacing them would be a web app that served the Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) data from NOAA.

The NOAA Custom Chart app (<https://devgis.charttools.noaa.gov/pod/>) prototype is being built in conjunction with ESRI using the ArcGIS Maritime extension. The Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) is also moving away from separate paper and digital products to the digital world only.

The maritime industry began the shift to digital navigation in 2009 when the International Maritime Organization (IMO) required all merchant ships to use an electronic chart display and information system to comply with Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea treaty.

What this did is force hydrographic offices around the world to focus on maintaining the vector digital databases behind all chart products and abandon production of purely paper charts.

Paper charts aren't going away, they will simply be produced as a by-product of maintaining digital chart databases.

Print-on-demand means that the output of a digital

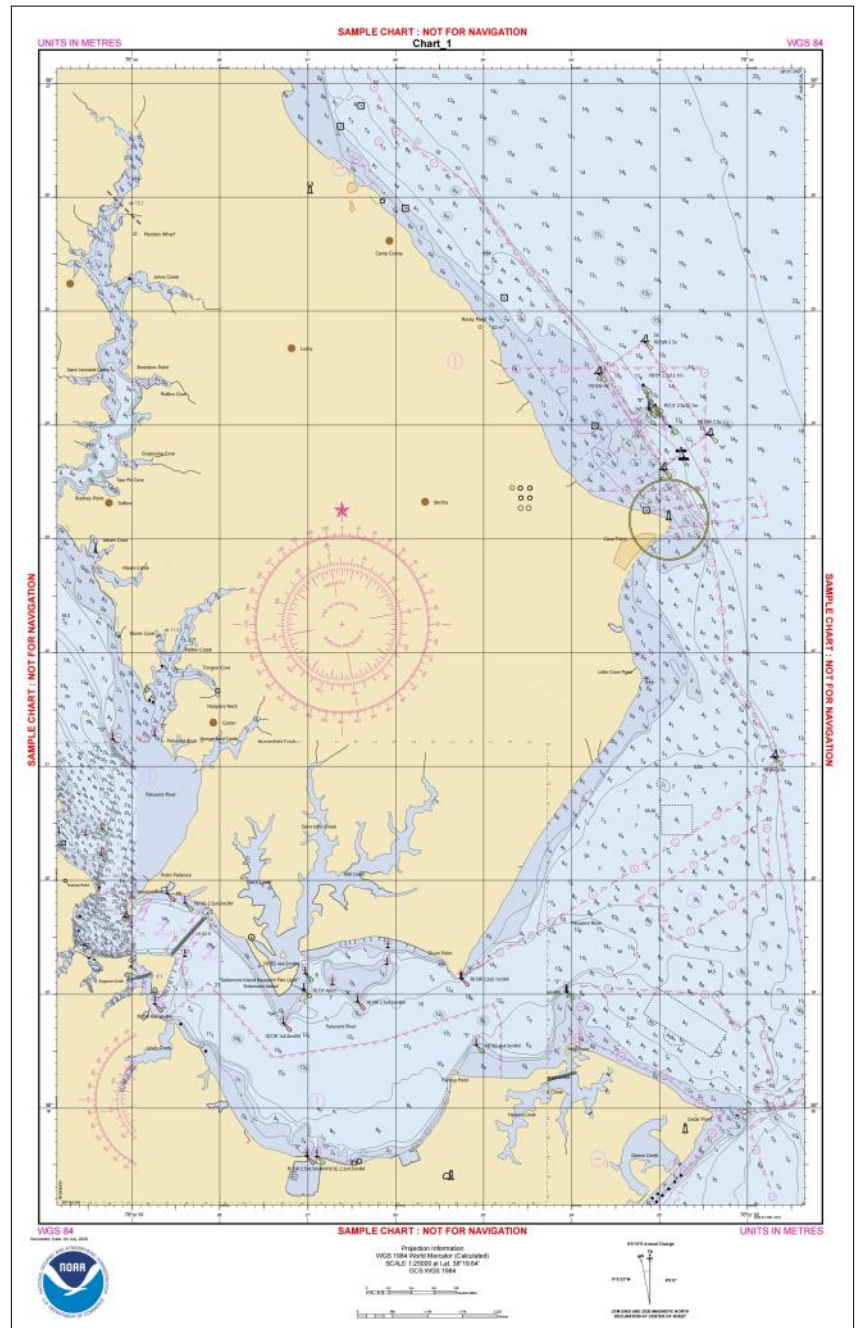


Figure 1: A 1:25,000 scale chart of the area from Solomons Island to the Cove Point lighthouse.

database specified for a certain location and scale will be a .pdf file (not to be confused with a PDF). The .pdf file can then be printed and used as a paper back up to the electronic chart display.

See Charts on page 12

Charts, from page 11

So, what can this mean for kayakers? Instead of buying cumbersome paper charts or expensive chart book collections for an area, a kayaker planning their trip can use the electronic chart tool to quickly customize and print out their own custom chart.

For example, figure 1 is a 1:25,000 chart of the area from Solomons Island to the Cove Point lighthouse.

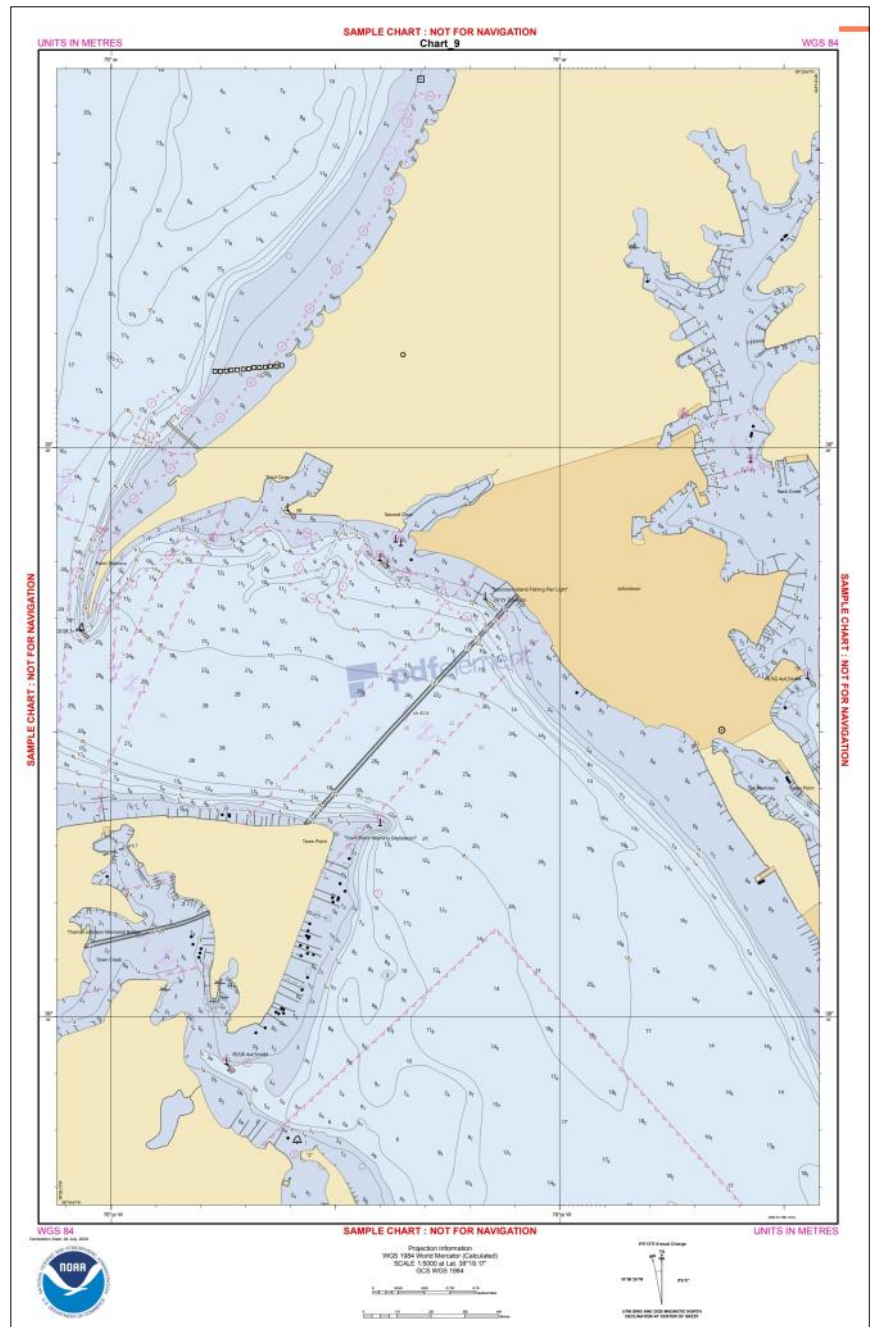
This is an overview for a paddle in that area, output as a .pdf file that will print at 8.5" x 11" on plain paper or on waterproof chart paper.

The prospective route can be saved at more detailed scales, as well, such as the 1:5000 scale chart in figure 2. These were both done in about 10 minutes at the prototype site <https://devgis.charttools.noaa.gov/pod/>.

Take the opportunity to chart your next paddle or your favorite paddle location.

Note: This article was based on information published in <https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/arcnews/nautical-charts-go-digital-with-help-from-gis/>.

Figure 2: Digital charts can be scaled to show more detail for a planned trip such as this 1:5000 scale enlargement of an area from the chart in Figure 1.



Share your paddling adventures!

Do you enjoy reading about 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.

Submit stories or ideas to news_editor@cpakayaker.com. We look forward to sharing your story.

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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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 news_editor@cpakayaker.com for more information and for a 10-month discount.

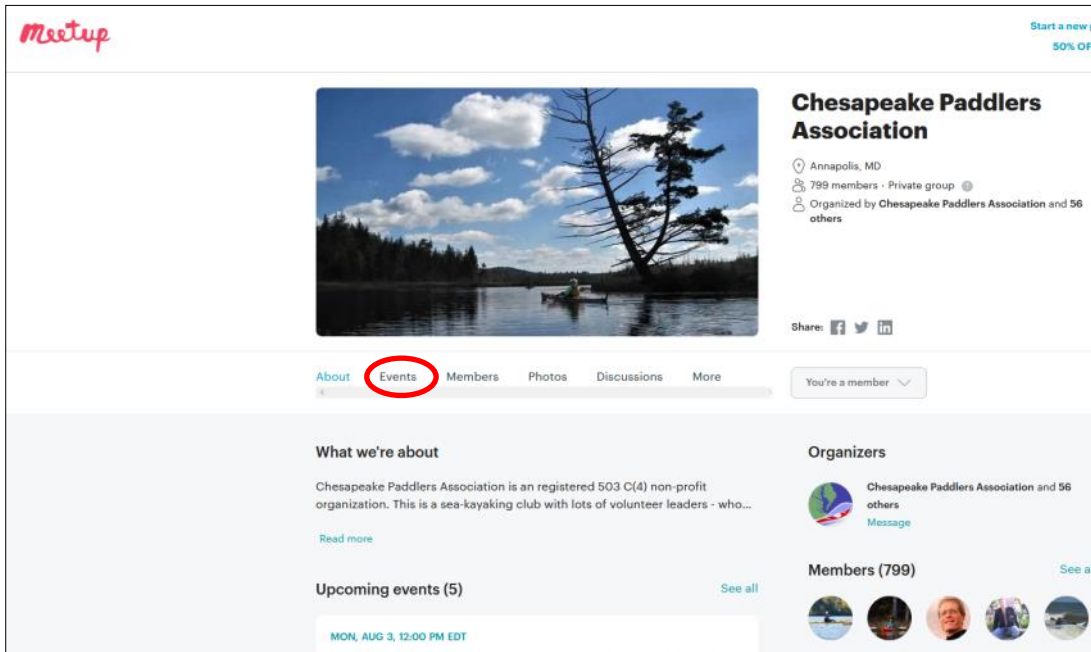
Public service announcements and personal ads to sell kayaks/ accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for three months. Ads dated three months before the date of this issue will be pulled unless a new request is received by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. And if it has sold... please 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. Articles and illustrations (graphics, photos) should be submitted as separate attachments to: news_editor@cpakayaker.com

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Upcoming CPA events



CPA is currently scheduling some club activities. Due to the rapidly changing environment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, members should refer to the [CPA Meetup page](#) for the latest event information.

Also, all participants should read the [CPA COVID-19 event guidelines](#) before participating in any club activity.

The Chesapeake Paddler

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