

The Chesapeake Paddler



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Jack Creek Park, before and after

By Paul Fofonoff

Jack Creek Park, an Anne Arundel County Park on the east coast of Shady Side, has been a favorite spot of mine as a stop on my annual paddle to work and as a destination in itself with a sandy beach, beautiful woods of oak and holly (where bald eagles sometimes perched), and an expansive grassy field.

For many years, access to the park was difficult. It was



Prior beach access was via a rough half-mile trail.

either by boat or a half-mile walk to the water. The park has gone through many changes, from the erosive effects of rising sea levels to new construction to mitigate those effects and allow easier access to a new a canoe/kayak launch.



Jack Creek Park shoreline in days past before the effects of wind and waves.

In 2003, on my first paddle to work, the park had a peninsula sticking out into the Bay. After a while it got severed by a channel. At first it was a tight and shallow squeeze for my kayak, but soon it got wide and several



In the early 2000's, the original shoreline was severed to form a small island.

[See Park on page three](#)

State Covid-19 Boating Policies as of April 30

As of April 30, here are the Covid-19 boating policies for Maryland and Virginia:

From the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#):

Can I go boating?

Recreational boating is prohibited until the governor lifts the executive order or until the State of Emergency has ended. However, if an individual is boating to seek food for them or their family, boating is permitted.

Boats used to transport essential employees or goods as defined in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#) are also permitted.

Does kayaking or paddle boarding count as recreational boating?

Since kayaking and paddle boarding are both human-powered forms of exercise, akin to bicycling, they are permitted under the executive order. Guidance on social distancing and the prohibition on social gatherings must

Our intrepid CPA Coordinator is recovering from injuries to his hands that make writing difficult. His column will resume when he's feeling better. Best wishes for a speedy recovery!



CPA Coordinator Bill Smith

be strictly followed.

From the [Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries](#):

Can I still take my boat out?

Outdoor activities, including boating, are a great way to relax and enjoy nature. Social distancing guidelines still apply. If you need to register your boat or renew your boat registration, visit [Go Outdoors Virginia](#).

See page four for the [new CPA guidelines](#) for club paddles going forward.

DC Environmental Film Festival goes online

Each March, [The Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital](#) hosts the largest environmental film festival in the world.

It presents more than 100 films in collaboration with over 110 partners, including museums, embassies, universities, and theaters.

This year, the festival had to move online in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the films features the riverkeepers of the Eastern Shore.

Click [here](#) to view the video.



Park, from page one



In 2018, Anne Arundel County embarked on a restoration effort to repair the damaged beach and access trail.

feet deep. For several years, I enjoyed swimming out to the island from the beach.

By 2018, the island had split in half, and on at least one stormy day in 2019, and again in April 2020, it was underwater. Meanwhile, waves had chewed at the park's shore and the forest.



Park improvements included repairs to the access trail, beach protection and a new kayak launch.

By 2018, the original trail through the forest required lots of detours and scary steps over eroded gaps. The park was officially closed and construction started on a shore protection project, which included a public kayak launch.

The project was finished in March 2020, but the

coronavirus outbreak caused the cancellation of the planned opening ceremony. The park, however, has been open and offers lots of open space, but the beaches were small patches of sand laced with wires to protect newly planted beach grass, and with only narrow gaps in the new breakwaters. They seem to be designed to prevent swimming and boat access away from the launch.

I'll confess to feeling nostalgic for the park as it was, with a stretch of wild shoreline and lots of solitude, reachable only by a long walk or by boat. But it was eroding fast, and there is a need for public access to the Bay.

Boat access was difficult for those who don't live in a waterfront neighborhood. Paddling here is very weather-dependent since the shore is exposed. Overall, Jack Creek Park is a great natural asset for the residents of Anne Arundel County.



A new parking lot expands public access, but be sure to get the gate access code before you visit.

(Editor's note: CPA members, including Lisa Arrasmith, have been strong advocates for expanded public access for kayaking and other water-related activities.

Jack Creek and several other Anne Arundel parks have a gated entrance. Visitors must submit an [online form](#) to get the access code before visiting.)

For more information about Jack Creek Park, go to:

<https://www.aacounty.org/locations-and-directions/jack-creek-park>

Photos by Paul Fofonoff and [The Public Water Access Committee](#).

CPA Guidelines for club paddles going forward

Governors in Maryland, Virginia, and other Bay states are beginning to set forth guidelines for reopening public access after the more restrictive lockdowns, including recreational access for paddlers. In light of these developments, CPA [adopts the guidance](#) for trip and piracy leaders below effective May 2, 2020:

1. No CPA trips, events or activities will be sanctioned that are not allowed under State or local stay-in-place orders in effect in the State where the activity is scheduled. That is, we will not allow scheduled Club activities where State or local emergency orders do not allow them. MD and VA statements linked below:
Maryland: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/04/24/governor-hogan-introduces-safe-gradual-and-effective-maryland-strong-roadmap-to-recovery/>
2. Virginia: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/april/headline-856337-en.html>
3. Note that all participation in scheduled CPA activities under these guidelines is VOLUNTARY by the participants and implies no liability or guarantee of the safety of participating from COVID-19 infection. We, and all others, simply do not know enough to guarantee your personal health and safety in this emergency. If you DO NOT feel comfortable participating under these conditions, please DO NOT PARTICIPATE.
4. Participants have the responsibility to refrain from participating if they have a) been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus, b) been exposed to sick people or the virus within the last 14 days, c) feel ill or have a temperature, regardless if they have not been tested or diagnosed with COVID-19, d) have underlying health conditions (pulmonary, cardiac or immune-compromised health issues) that would render them especially susceptible to COVID-19.
5. The number of participants is limited to the number allowed under eased stay-in-place orders in the various States and localities. If more participants are

anticipated (e.g., at a piracy), waves of launch times should be scheduled to avoid violating the maximum number of participants at any point in time.

6. Only activities that a) take place outdoors, b) allow for proper social distancing, and c) minimize face-to-face and hand-to-hand contact should be considered appropriate. That means no indoor meetings, workshops or training activities that would bring participants into close contact (less than 6 foot distance) with one another.
7. No social mingling or shared food or eating should be allowed at CPA activities in the initial phases of relaxing stay-in-place orders to minimize face-to-face contact and spread of the virus.
8. Participants in paddles or other activities should carefully observe all social distancing, disinfecting, and face and hand covering requirements suggested by the CDC and State health authorities for preventing spread of the virus.
9. Participants can seek help loading or unloading boats for activities at their discretion, taking care to observe appropriate social distancing and cleaning of surfaces on boats and equipment where others may contact them.
10. Carefully limit interaction before and after the planned activity (conversations, greetings, goodbyes, etc.) to those at appropriate social distances (> 6 feet) and with appropriate face and hand protection in place.

These [guidelines](#) are expected to remain in effect until greater relaxation of stay-in-place orders are enacted by competent State and local authorities in the affected locations. Be alert for changes based on second-wave pandemic spread which may require a retreat to previously more restrictive stay-in-place orders.

Bill Smith

Coordinator

For the Steering Committee

Proposed update to CPA's Bylaws

By Rich Stevens

Earlier this year the Steering Committee began a review and discussion of our Club's bylaws which has not been done since 2009. Several people had pointed out some shortcomings and a careful review uncovered some errors and inconsistencies.

We initiated an online discussion and arrived at several revisions. This resulted in a final version that was voted on and approved at the Steering Committee meeting held immediately prior to the Trip Planning meeting on March 8th.

The existing bylaws can be found [here](#) and the proposed updated version can be found [here](#). Our present bylaws require that any proposed changes to the bylaws be voted on by the full membership at the next Annual or general membership meeting.

The revised bylaws will be on the ballot for an up-or-down vote at the next Annual Meeting, which is presently scheduled for November 1, 2020. The links for the present and proposed bylaws will be repeated on the ballot and election notifications as the time for the Annual Meeting approaches.

The proposed changes and the reasoning behind them are described as follows:

Section 3. Membership

Revocation of membership. The requirement for a 75% vote of the Steering Committee shall be changed to two thirds. This just makes more sense with a nine-member board.

Examples of reasons for termination membership are changed from (1) brings a discredit upon the CPA, or (2) endangers others, to (1) brings a discredit upon or otherwise harms the CPA, (2) endangers others, or (3) bullies or harasses another member. Harassment has become a significant issue and our liability insurance does not cover it.

There was an error regarding life membership. It has always been twenty years of continuous membership, not ten.

Section 4.1. General Powers of the Steering Committee

The section that allows members to override a Steering Committee decision by referendum is eliminated. This was based on legal advice that such a provision can be divisive and is not really suitable for an all-volunteer organization like ours.

Section 4.5. Meetings

Changed the time for notification of a Steering Committee meeting from three to fifteen days to give members more notice and make it consistent with the notice required for a general membership meeting. Notice for the Annual Meeting remains at 30 days.

Section 4.8. Removal of an officer or Steering Committee member from the board.

This is a new addition. Prior to this, the only way a Steering Committee member could be removed was by revoking their membership. Full text of this section can be found [here](#) in the proposed update.

Section 8. Amendment to the Bylaws

The section regarding amendment by petition has been removed. Any member in good standing may propose an amendment to the Steering Committee for consideration. If approved by the Steering Committee, it will then be presented to the entire membership for a vote.

Upcoming CPA Events

Due to the rapidly changing response to COVID-19, please refer to the [CPA Meetup Calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information on scheduled CPA events.

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.

www.cpakayaker.com

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

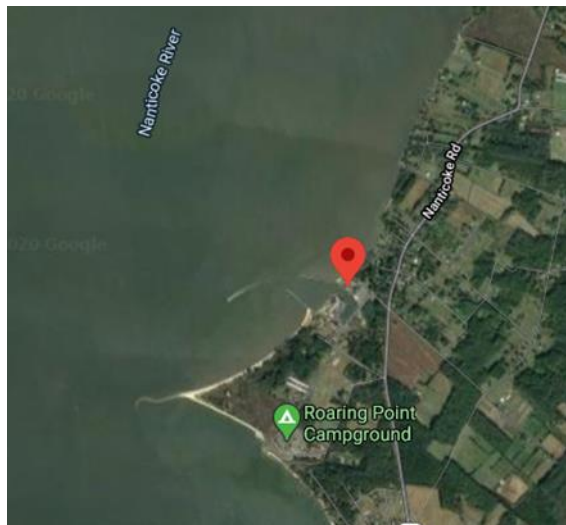
Public service announcements and personal ads to sell kayaks/ accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for three months. Ads dated three months before the date of this issue will be pulled unless a new request is received by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. And if it has 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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Launch of the month: Nanticoke Harbor, MD



| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site | Nanticoke Harbor |
| Lat/Long | 38.26991, -75.9097 |
| Address | 20411 West Harbor Road Nanticoke, MD 21840 |
| Type | ramp, beach |
| Parking | Large |
| Restroom | Yes |
| Fee | No |
| Ownership | Wicomico County - Recreation, Parks, and Tourism |
| County | Wicomico |
| State | Maryland |
| Water Body | Nanticoke River |
| Map/Guide | http://www.wicomcorecandparks.org/parks-and-facilities/nanticoke-harbor |

Nanticoke Harbor and other 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

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