

The Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Volume 13, Issue 8

October 2003

Storm Paddlin' Isabel

by Brian Blankinship

As Vince [Dalrymple] and I prepared to launch from Truxtun Park at noon on Thursday, September 18, people couldn't believe we were planning to paddle into the leading edge of Hurricane Isabel. The Annapolis Harbor Masters were busy pulling their boats out of the water as we launched into the horizontal rain.

Paddling out Spa Creek was not too bad, but once we passed into Annapolis Harbor the winds picked up considerably. As we turned the corner to head out to the bay, Vince wanted to play in the reflecting waters off the yacht club sea wall. I borrowed the camera Vince was carrying under a towel on his deck, and stayed off a bit so I could take pictures of him. It wasn't until I put the camera down that I realized I was in 2+-foot seas myself.

We elected to take the most direct route to the "spider buoy" and then out to the Chesapeake Bay at Greenbury Point. This led us out through the middle of the Severn River. Normally the area is crowded with boat traffic, but today we were the only craft in sight. In hindsight, we should

have hitched a ride along the more protected northern shore but we thought the wind would be whipping around the corner.

We slogged into 25-knot winds and mostly 2-foot seas to outer Greenbury Point. Vince took a bigger wave across the deck that was powerful enough to strip the map, spare pump, towel-tethered camera, and tethered VHF from under the bungies into his lap. He had to quickly re-secure every-

thing before the next big one came. This served as a reminder that **EVERYTHING** on your deck should be "dummy corded" down (so you don't lose it like a dummy).

Once out of the lee of Greenbury Point, the winds from the north were blowing at a recorded 35 knots, gusting to 38 knots. It was hard to make progress, but with the motivation of knowing we would surf the now 3.5-to 4-foot waves back, we pressed on. Vince caught

Continued on page 4



NOTICE

Annual meeting

The annual meeting of the club membership will be held on Sunday, November 9, from 12:30 to 4:00 PM at the Tawes State Office Building (DNR) in Annapolis. (See page 3 for directions.)

All members may vote at this meeting.

CPA Holiday Party

December 13, 2003
Time: TBD

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THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLERS ASSOCIATION

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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MEMBERSHIP: Subscription to The Chesapeake Paddler is included with membership. Membership is \$10/year or \$20/2 years. Send checks or changes of membership information to: CPA, PO Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768. DO NOT send them to the newsletter editors.

DEADLINES: Closing date for articles, trip reports, information and advertisements is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. The editors retain the right to edit or not to print any submitted material. See advertising information in the Classifieds section.

The Chesapeake Paddler is published monthly, approximately March-December and may be reprinted whole or in part if credit is given to this newsletter and any identified author (unless an article is specifically copyrighted), and a courtesy copy is sent to the Managing Editor.

Coordinator's Column

CPA ANNUAL MEETING

It's that time again...

We will hold the Annual Meeting at the Tawes State Office Building (DNR) in Annapolis on **Sunday, November 9, 2003 from 12:30 to 4:00** (at the latest). Lunch will be provided. You will need to bring a photo ID.

We will start the day with a CPA-sponsored beginners paddle from Jonas Green Park at the East end of the Rt. 450 bridge. For the paddle, arrive at 9:00 and launch at 9:30. We will return no later than 12:00. For further directions to the launch, check the website or contact me at blankibr@aol.com or if necessary, 410 867-1051.

At the meeting we will discuss CPA business and elect the association officers (Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer) and the other six Steering Committee positions. We posted electronic notices asking candidates to send their name and a brief "campaign speech" to "webmaster@cpakayaker.com." The deadline was October 12 so they could be listed on the proxy ballot in this newsletter. If you would like to run for one of these positions but didn't submit your name in time to be posted on the ballot, please feel free to conduct a "write in" campaign.

Check the website to see who is running. I hope everyone attends the annual meeting. If you can't, please fill out the proxy and give

it to someone to bring to the meeting, or mail it to me at Brian Blankinship 5305 Beauvoir Court, West River, MD 20778-2101. We will count proxy votes at the same time as "live" votes at the meeting.

Directions to the Tawes State Office Building (DNR) from the DC Metro area:

Take Rt. 50 east towards Annapolis/Bay Bridge. Take exit 24 Rowe Blvd/Rt. 70 exit and follow Rowe Blvd over a bridge until you reach your second light at the corner of Rowe and Taylor Ave. Make a right at the light. Turn left at the DNR sign and then make the next right.

Directions from Baltimore

Take Rt. 97 Southbound and follow the signs to Rt. 50 East/Bay Bridge. Take exit 24 Rowe Blvd/Rt 70 exit and follow the directions from DC.

From the Maryland Eastern Shore:

Take Rt. 50 west toward Washington. After passing over the Severn River Bridge, take exit 24 Rowe Blvd/Rt 70 exit and follow the directions from DC.

CPA HOLIDAY PARTY

Alan and Shirley Avery have graciously volunteered to host the holiday party again. We will hold it at their house in Riva, MD on December 13. See page 2 for more information.

News About the Newsletter

We have had a really strong response to our program of sending patches to new members who take e-mail delivery of the *Paddler* or to established members who renew and switch to the *e-Paddler*. CPA hit a milestone this month as, for the first time, more members will receive the *Paddler* as a PDF file than receive it by mail, 301 to 298, respectively. Those 301 represent about \$300 in unspent postage and reproduction costs.

This month and next we will take another evolutionary step in delivering the *Paddler* electronically. Instead of attaching a PDF file to e-mails, we will notify members that the latest *Paddler* is on the CPA web site and provide a link directly to it. Many businesses, including banks and credit unions, use this method to notify members that monthly statements and other documents are available for downloading. This avoids the delivery of larger files into possibly crowded mail servers.

One troublesome element of e-delivery discovered in this summer's growth in *e-Paddler* subscribers is the sensitivity of e-mail addresses. Our USPS mail carriers can figure our misspelled names or addresses on mail better than our internet mail providers. Accordingly, it is really important that members take care in keeping e-mail addresses correct and up-to-date. Barbara Foley plans on building into our web site the capacity to have members adjust their contact information.

Thanks.

Andy [Vaart]



a picture of us paddling into the wind and waves. The rain was driven horizontally by the wind waves giving us the feeling of having our faces lightly sand blasted, and making clear, no-fog safety glasses the eyewear of the day.

All the effort to get out was deemed worth it, for once we turned, the fruit of our labor greeted us. We started with a little “bongo sliding” or side surfing, but the on-breaking waves didn’t provide sufficient excitement. We decided to turn down and run with the waves. Vince was noticing the spin drift off the wave tops but I was only paying attention to the surf aspect. I quickly caught a large wave and got a great ride. These were those wonderful waves where the first third of your kayak is in the air as you surf along. As the bow dropped, all that was in the air was now below the wave surface. Water shot off my water bottle and slammed into my face. By the time I looked back, I was 150 yards ahead of Vince. I turned back up to wait for him to surf down before continuing.

Vince suggested we paddle north towards Greenbury Point and then we could follow a wave line most of the way back to Annapolis Harbor. As we turned we saw the only other boat on the water—a Harbor Pilot headed out to a cargo ship moored south to the Bay Bridge. Unfortunately, as we reached Greenbury Point the wind was not running around the corner as we predicted, so the waves were disappointing. We decided to head

for the United States Naval Academy (USNA) sea wall to play in the reflecting waves. On the way the wind picked up noticeably as the storm continued to approach. A couple of times the wind gusts were so high we had to turn into the wind and lean forward, slowly paddling deeply vertical (to act as an anchor) to stop from being blown back.

After a down-and-back along the seawall we ran down the riprap along the USNA wall towards Annapolis City Dock. Vince took a line closer to the rocks than I was willing to go and paid for it with a small scrape on the hull. Once in “Ego Alley” we noticed every other boat had been pulled out of the water. Several pedestrians questioned our sanity. As if to reinforce the question, Vince suggested we practice rolling and rescues in Annapolis Harbor. He suggested that location so onlookers would realize that it was just practice and not an emergency, with no need to send anyone out to help. It also

Continued on page 5



put us at the narrow end of the wind funnel, the entrance to Spa Creek, and gave us adequate room to drift while remaining outside the channel.

By this time, the winds on the bay had picked up to over 45 knots. Even in the harbor they had to be at least 35 knots. We both did some rolling and then we each did a group rescue. While I was being the swimmer, I let go of the overturned Pintail so Vince could lift and dump it. Mistake. Before I could grab the bow of his boat, which was right next to me, the raft blew away. It was all I could do to swim with my paddle to where I could reach Vince's extended paddle. I was glad to have a well-skilled partner so screw-ups were not too big a deal. Reminds me that the stuff we tell beginners is not just book knowledge, but something that we all need to put in practice.

Later, I told Vince I was glad he didn't let go of my boat to "rescue" me; it would have made things much worse. In that level of wind, my boat would be smashing into a wall before he could have towed me to it. A better option would have been for him to put a short tow on my kayak (we both wore tow belts) and bring it back to me.

Vince did a reentry and roll, but I didn't want to deal with a boat full of water in the ever-increasing winds. On the way back into Truxtun Park at 3:30 PM, we held our paddles up as sails. Even with a Greenland stick, I was able to go fast enough to surf a 1-foot wave.

I called home to say we were off the water and found they just lost electricity!

Candidates for Office (please check website for full comments)

Brian Blankinship, Coordinator

Brian is the current Coordinator of CPA. An association member since 1995, Brian helped organize both cold water clinics and SK101. He's helped at numerous demo days, swim supports and spearheaded the training of new trip leaders. Brian started and directed the annual SK102 skills clinics at Lake Anna for the last five years and has led many CPA trips. Certified as a BCU 4 Star and an ACA Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructor, Brian teaches Sea Kayaking for CPA, and a local kayaking instruction company. After a successful year of scheduling over 100 trips and events on the CPA calendar, Brian would like to see the association continue the emphasis on trips and also hold another SK101 this winter.

Steven Lindeman, Secretary

I am the current CPA club secretary. In my one year serving in this position, I have participated in setting club policies, goals, priorities and have documented and maintained official club records such as meeting agendas, minutes, attendees, decisions, etc. I have been a member of the CPA since 2000 and also served on the interim steering committee. With your support, I would like to continue in my role as club secretary for another year.

John Blackburn, Treasurer

I'm the current treasurer and have held the post for the past two years. I've led trips, provided swim support and safety boat support. I would appreciate your continuing support and vote in this election.

Alan Avery, Steering Committee

I would gladly serve again as a member of the steering committee. However, I believe there are advantages to the CPA in encouraging new, people to serve in this role.

Barry D. Marsh

I've been kayaking for four years and in the CPA for three. I believe trips should be our club's primary focus. I've led more than a dozen CPA trips over the past three seasons, and I want to continue to encourage paddlers to organize and lead trips so members can meet other paddlers, improve their skills in the safety of a group setting, and explore the Chesapeake region. In 2002 I founded the "Pirates of Baltimore," served on the Interim Steering Committee in 2002, was elected to the Steering Committee for 2003, and hope to continue to serve the CPA in 2004 and beyond.

Dave Biss, Steering Committee

I believe in the CPA as a means to encourage paddlers and to show them ways to safely improve their confidence and skills on the water. For the past few years, I have helped to do just this by organizing and leading trips, assisting with instruction during club events, and offering safety instruction in the form of organized CPA clinics and personal assistance. I also see the CPA as one of the best means of making paddling resources and paddling information available to the paddling community.

David Moore, Steering Committee I've been an active member of CPA for four years. I was one of the founding members of and have been Captain of the Pirates of Georgetown for three years. I have served on the steering committee for two years and am interested in continuing to serve. This year we have seen trips become one of our club's primary foci. If reelected, I will continue encouraging paddlers to organize and lead trips. I am also interested in organizing and encouraging more opportunities for paddlers to develop and enhance their skills. We have a great safety record as a club. Part of that stems from the skills of our members.

Joan Spinner, Steering Committee

I've been active with CPA for 5 years, as managing editor of the newsletter for 2 years, coordinator of the pool sessions for 3 years, Lake Anna, Pier 7, and other regularly scheduled events. I have also been working to put on safety and beginning paddler instruction. I believe we need to expand the more formal safety training for those who see themselves advancing in kayaking. With help I would like to run another SK 101 early next spring.

Rich Stevens, Steering Committee

Rich played a valuable role in the past as a member of the interim steering committee. He contributed significantly in the arduous development of our current bylaws and the redirection of CPA energies to a more member focused organization. He brings both experience and proven dependability to this important position.

Susan Blackburn, Steering Committee

(No statement available yet.)

BALLOT

Vote for CPA Officers and Steering Committee

Coordinator (vote for one)

_____ Brian Blankinship

Secretary (vote for one)

_____ Steven Lindeman

Treasurer (vote for one)

_____ John Blackburn

Steering Committee (vote for six)

_____ Alan Avery

_____ Barry D. Marsh

_____ Dave Biss

_____ Joan Spinner

_____ Rich Stevens

_____ David Moore

_____ Susan Blackburn

After you've voted, please tear out this page, fold, apply a stamp, and mail.

Please take a moment to complete our member survey below. Thanks.

1. In 2003, did you go on a CPA-sponsored trip?

_____ Yes _____ No

2. If No, please check applicable factors below:

_____ No boat/equipment

_____ Time/date conflicts

_____ Nothing appealed to me

_____ Too far to drive

_____ Trips full

_____ Other, _____

3. Where would you like to see trips held? _____

4. What activities would you like to see in CPA?

_____ Beginner Trips

_____ Experienced Beginner Trips

_____ Intermediate Trips

_____ More advanced Trips

_____ Kayak Camping Trips (gear in boat)

_____ Weekend Camping Trips (gear in car)

_____ Trip Leader Training

_____ Basic Paddler Training

_____ Rescue Training

_____ Roll Training

_____ SK101 (Basics before buying a kayak)

_____ SK102 (Basic Skills Weekend)

_____ Other: _____

Place
stamp
here

Chesapeake Paddlers Association
PO Box 341
Greenbelt, MD 20768

PADDLIN' PLACES

Compiled by Ralph Heimlich

This feature is drawn from the CPA discussion list. It focuses on places to paddle, as documented by list server participants.

The Patapsco River

Location: At Baltimore Harbor ADC "Baltimore & Baltimore County, MD" mapbook maps #40-43 and ADC Anne Arundel and Howard County mapbooks, NOAA Chart #12281

Barry Marsh: You can navigate the Patapsco River for a good distance above its confluence with Baltimore Harbor. Two free ramps offer access to the area: one at Broening Park, and another at Southwest Area Park.

Broening Park is near Harbor Hospital, at Route 2 and Hanover Street, at Waterview Avenue. Put in at the south end of the Hanover St. Bridge, about 1/2 mile NNW from the river's confluence with Baltimore Harbor. The ramp and parking lot area appear safe. There's a good parking lot, but I don't believe there are any restroom facilities.

The Southwest Area Park ramp is among six others owned and maintained by Baltimore County: <http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/recreation/waterfront/boatramps.html>

Southwest Area Park is on the northwest bank of the Patapsco, about a mile above the river's confluence with Baltimore Harbor. This is a brand new ramp—it's not

even shown on maps yet—with a good parking lot but no restroom facilities. The ramp is on a small creek and is near a closed landfill.

Directions to Southwest Area Park, per the web site: I-695 to Exit 9, Hollins Ferry Road East. Right on Daisy Avenue Right on Annapolis Road. Left on Georgia Avenue; park is at end of road.

The ramp at Southwest Area Park is the better of the two ramps. By launching there you can avoid the harbor (and some of its trash), and the first few bridges that cross the Patapsco. Once on the river you'll pass under numerous highway, road, and railroad bridges. The first bridges are festooned with fishing and crabbing lines, so use caution as you paddle.

As Chip mentions below, the river is a bit trashy near the harbor, but I found that it cleans up nicely the further upriver you go. By the time you get to the I-295 (Baltimore-Washington Parkway) bridge, about three miles away, it's pretty trash-free.

I've paddled as far as the I-95 bridge, more than seven miles from the Harbor. Most of the land along the river is greenway, including Patapsco Valley State Park. The river bottom in the area is mostly silt and sand. The river itself is never narrower than 50 feet across; in some places it's considerably wider. The borders vary between wetlands and overhanging woods.

Several large ponds lead from the sides of the river in the lower

several miles, offering nature-watching and fishing opportunities. I have seen bass boats as far upriver as about four miles from the Harbor. I was surprised at the good nature-watching I found on the Patapsco—great blue, green, and black-crowned night herons; great and snowy egrets; belted kingfishers; ospreys; a bald eagle; red-tailed hawks; a yellow-billed cuckoo; wood ducks; terrapin, painted, and snapping turtles (big snappers, too—one was probably 2' long); lots of fish; Eastern brown water snakes; etc.

I didn't land when I explored the river, but there are several small beaches along the way: under the I-295, I-695 and I-95 bridges, and on several of the ponds.

If you decide to explore the Patapsco, plan your trip to coincide with the tides. I'd suggest departing toward the tail end of an incoming tide (i.e., during the last two hours), and paddling upriver with the rising tide and slack water. Turn around and head downriver at slack water or before the outgoing tide picks up. There are several places above the I-695 bridge where groundings are possible at low tide or during a dry spell. Check the tides at: http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/access/tide_finder.html

Use "Patapsco River: Middle Branch, Baltimore Harbor" as your reference.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

Chip Walsh: There are many ways to get to the Patapsco River, but I came north on Route 2 from 695. As soon as I crossed the river I turned right and entered a big parking area between the hospital and the bridge. I put in over the riprap and was glad I had a plastic boat, since the winds were 20 MPH from the NE, and the waves were rolling in. The Patapsco has about a one-mile fetch at that point, so the wave action was strong. If you care about your boat and the wind is blowing from the north or east, you'll need help with your launch. Otherwise, find an alternate put-in.

It was only a quarter mile to the Route 2 bridge from the launch site. After I cleared the bridge and was on the river proper, wind was no longer an issue. This was obviously an urban area, but grass and trees along the shore hid most of the blight.

I proceeded upriver and passed a large landfill on the north (right). I believe the fill has closed, but the trash-mountain was hard to miss! Next I passed under a railroad bridge and the Patapsco Avenue Bridge in quick succession. At this point I found a cut of water that leaves the river's main body. I poked around the cut, but didn't fully explore — from prior trips I knew the area abuts mostly parkland. There was lots of water back there, and I could have poked around to my heart's content, but I returned to the Patapsco's main channel and continued upriver.

After passing below what I think was the Tunnel Thruway, the river opened up into a series of big ponds. I followed the south shore, to my left, but I lost the river and dead-ended at a pond. The river continues on, but it's a little further to the north.

I believe the Patapsco is navigable at least to Elkridge—the Colonials used to ship pig iron to Baltimore from the Furnace Road area, near Route 1. That's several miles beyond where I dead-ended.

Patuxent River

Location: Maryland's Western Shore; ADC Chesapeake Chart Book p. 19-20

Ralph Heimlich: There are multiple launch sites on the western Patuxent. Check out: <http://www.mdp.state.md.us/info/patuxpaddle/base.htm>

Click on the section you're interested in, and then click on the little launch symbol for information about a particular put-in.

Al Staats: The participants in the 2003 Patuxent Sojourn used the King's Landing site, near Cocktown Creek. There's a one-lane paved driveway from the parking area to the launch. You can drop your boat by the water before you park your car.

The park closes at 8 PM, and they lock the gates. If you're paddling for the day, plan on returning no later than 7:30 PM.

There's a pool near the parking lot and some showers with very cold

water. The charge is \$3. Use the pool; skip the showers!

Rich Stevens: The launch site on the east side of the Rt. 231 bridge is excellent. There's a wide beach, a short carry to the water, a Port-A-John, and everything is free.

There are lots of nice creeks to explore in the area. Hunting Creek, north of Rt. 231, goes back for miles. The only launch site north of Rt. 231 is King's Landing Park. To check it out:

<http://www.mdp.state.md.us/info/patuxpaddle/area7.htm>

CLASSIFIEDS

Check your ad! Ads dated 3 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!!!!

Advertising Rates:

Display advertising will be accepted that relates to the concerns and interests of our readers. Monthly rates for advertising are as follows:

Size	cost	width x depth (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, bitmap). Email or call for more information and for 10-month discount. See advertising contact in masthead.

Public service announcement and personal ads to sell kayaks/accessories are printed for members at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for 3 months.

Sorry, no items were posted for sale this month.

CPA Trip Requirements and Ratings

CPA trips are organized by and for members of the club. When you participate, please remember that trip leaders are "hosts," not professional guides, but you must be willing to follow their instructions. They are neither necessarily trained in first aid or CPR, nor do they always carry first aid equipment of safety devices for your use.

You, and you alone, are responsible for your personal safety.

Trip leaders will pre-screen all participants for skills, equipment, and willingness to abide by club rules and policies. If you wish to join a trip, you must contact the leader in advance.

REQUIREMENTS:

Equipment: While on the water, all paddlers must wear PFDs, spray skirts, and clothes appropriate to the water

temperature. Boats must have watertight bulkheads or flotation devices to prevent the kayak from swamping when capsized. All paddlers must have, and know how to use, a pump, paddle float, and whistle. On the day of the trip, leaders may refuse to admit participants for noncompliance with any of these requirements, so if you are not sure, discuss it with the leader in advance!

Waivers: All participants in CPA-sponsored trips and events must sign legal release forms each time before setting out on the water. Only one release per season is needed for regularly scheduled events (e.g., the weekly activities of the "pirates"). The legal release absolves all participating CPA members from legal liability for the injury or death of a fellow participant.

RATINGS:

First Timers: Participants have never paddled before. (No prior skills necessary.)

Beginners: Participants have paddled some, taken classes, or have been on short (up to 4-mile) trips and can do a wet exit and paddle float re-entry.

Advanced Beginners: Participants have been on longer trips (up to 10 miles, full-day outings), have some experience with varying conditions such as winds and waves, and have good rescue and group paddling skills.

Intermediate Paddlers: Participants are comfortable on longer trips (more than 10 miles), can maintain a steady pace for extended periods, are comfortable with open water crossings of 2+ miles, can handle a variety of water conditions, and have strong self- and group-rescue skills.

CALENDAR

Participants in CPA events must read and comply with the statement of CPA trip requirements and ratings on p. 11.

Please contact the trip leaders in advance, even if you are familiar with the area being paddled. They need to have contact information in case of changes. Also, there may be space limitations or other trip restrictions.

Note: As always, you can get the latest information about the CPA Calendar at our website: www.cpakayaker.com. Many of the non-CPA-sponsored events have websites with full information on them. Links to these sites are available on the CPA website calendar.

OCTOBER

Oct 10-12 (Fri-Sun). Pokomoke River/Nassawango Creek (Beginner). *Ralph Heimlich (301-498-0918).* Fall foliage paddle on the

beautiful Pokomoke and back up into the mysterious Nassawango Creek.

Oct 11-12 (Sat-Sun). Patuxent River Appreciation Days (All). CPA Booth.

Oct 31 (Fri). Halloween Paddle and Party (All). *Cyndi Janetzko, Dave Biss.*

NOVEMBER

Nov 1-3, 2003 (Sat-Mon) Chickahominy River (Beginner). *Bill Dodge (703) 979-5837.* ADC Chart 32. Enters the James River about 5 miles above Jamestown Island. Pleasant campground is run by James City County. No mos-quitos! The Chickahominy River is about 1/2 mile wide and has many small tributaries. No long fetches.

Nov 9 (Sun) Pre-Annual Meeting Paddle (Beginner) Brian Blankinship (410 867-1051).

Meet at Jonas Green Park at 9:00 to launch at 9:30. Return no later than 12:00. Everyone is welcome. CPA equipment rules apply including cold water clothing as necessary (see any newsletter).

Nov 9 (Sun) CPA Annual Meeting (All) Brian Blankinship (410 867-1051).

This is the only time we discuss business as an association and elect officers. We will start the day with a CPA sponsored, beginners paddle from Jonas Green Park at the East end of the Rt. 450 bridge. At the meeting we will discuss CPA business and elect the association officers (Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer) and the other six Steering Committee positions.

Weekly Pirates Paddling

We now have six pirate groups paddling every week! Join one!

Pirates at Pier 7

Wednesday nights, arrive 4-6 PM. Paddling, rolling, rescue practice, boat fitting, BBQs, and hanging out with other paddlers. PFDs required. Directions: Take US-50 west toward Annapolis. Exit onto MD-665. Exit onto MD-2 south, over the South River. Take first left after crossing the bridge. Follow road to Pier 7 Marina. Contact: Alan Avery, 410-856-3299 or pirates_pier7@cpakayker.com.

Note: Pier 7 kayak launching is free on Wednesdays only. All other times there is a \$5 launch fee, even if launching from the beach.



Pirates of the Potomac

Tuesday nights, 5 PM. Belle Haven Marina. \$3 launch fee. Seasonal passes \$45. Directions: From Alexandria, VA, take the Mt. Vernon Parkway 1.3 miles south of the Beltway, then left and straight into the marina. Contact: Dick Rock, 703-780-6605 or pirates_potomac@cpakayker.com. In case of inclement weather, call Belle Haven Marina, 703-768-0018 after 3:30 PM to confirm launch cancelled.

Pirates of the Patuxent

Thursday nights, arrive 5-6 PM. Free parking on the right, just north of the boardwalk across from Our Lady Star of the Sea Church. Contact: Don Polakovics, 301-866-0437 or pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com; or Jennifer Elmore, 301-862-2398 or pirates_patuxent2@cpakayaker.com.

Pirates of Georgetown

Thursday nights, 6:30 PM. Jack's Boats (202-337-9642), 3500 K Street, NW in the Georgetown area of Washington, DC under the Whitehurst Freeway. Plenty of parking. Rental kayaks available. Contact: David Moore, 301-445-3273 or pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com; website: <http://www.scienceapplications.com/pirates>.

Pirates of Baltimore (the roving Piracy!)

1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays at Canton Waterfront Park, 3001 Boston St., Baltimore; 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Rocky Point Park, Essex, MD. Meet at 5:30 PM for paddling and skills practice and to meet other paddlers. PFDs, sprayskirts, and a waterproof light required. Contact Barry Marsh, 410-728-4016 or 703-837-3017.

Pirates of Algonkian (upper Potomac)

Tuesday nights, 6 PM until sunset. Paddlers from VA and MD paddle along the upper Potomac shores between Virginia and Maryland. We raid unsuspecting canoes and fishermen for food, drink, and catch-of-the-day. AAARRRRRG! We also portage and paddle down along the C&O Canal. We often explore Seneca Creek and elongated islands as well as practice skills, rescues, and rolling workshops. Two launch points: Algonkian Regional Park in Sterling, VA, and Riley's Lock in Potomac, MD. Contact: James Song, james.song@verizon.com or tsongus@yahoo.com or 703-375-4754.

Inside our October issue:

■ *Storm Paddling Isabel*

■ *CPA Elections*

■ *Paddlin' Places*

. . . *and more!*

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association
PO Box 341
Greenbelt, MD 20768

REMINDER: Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date. If your CPA membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues. ***SEE BOX ON PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS***