

The Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Volume 13, Issue 9

November/December 2003

Kayaking and Camping at Martinak State Park

By Jenny Plummer-Welker

Bill Dodge had scheduled a car camping trip to Mathews County, Virginia, for the third weekend of October. However, four weeks before the trip, Hurricane Isabel damaged the campground, thus requiring a change in destination and a search for a waterside campground not closed due to hurricane damage. Martinak State Park near Denton, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, was chosen as the alternate. On Friday, October 17, Bill arrived at Martinak and picked two campsites. Then Mark Taylor arrived. He and Bill drove to the new museum in Denton that includes displays on the steamboat era.

The museum is steward to several skipjacks. Bill and Mark dined that night at the Greensboro Inn. Ralph Heimlich and Ron Barnett arrived at the park later in the evening.

Greg and I arrived Saturday morning to find Bill and crew preparing their breakfasts. Bill enjoys cooking. He cooked scrambled eggs with Virginia ham. George Hires, who lives further south on the Shore, arrived to kayak with us for the day. My grandparents, Catherine and Roy Adams, live nearby and stopped to visit before going to an annual breakfast at the adjacent church

camp, Camp Mardela. After they left, I offered to walk over to the camp to get donuts for the group. Ralph and I trekked through the woods on unmarked paths to arrive at the dining hall. We brought back a dozen glazed, homemade donuts—donuts that were still warm! A couple from New York, their kayaks atop their van, drove up to our campsite. They had planned to launch from Martinak's boat ramp, but were unable since it was closed for the Fall Fest. My grandfather, who was helping with the festival, had pointed them in our direction. We suggested alternative launch sites such as Crouse Park in Denton and the public ramp in Choptank, where we were launching. The New Yorkers drove away to find Crouse Park. Later in the morning, Wendy Wang joined us.



Jenny Plummer-Welker and Bill Dodge on Hunting Creek

The group of eight caravanned to the public launch site at Choptank (the town has the same name as the river). The day was sunny, but the water was chilly enough for cold water gear. The launch site includes a concrete boat ramp, a sandy beach, and a permanent restroom, which was, thankfully, unlocked. The New York couple, Roger and

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SK101 Offered

Just getting started in sea kayaking? Have friends who are interested in the sport?

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association will conduct a one-day seminar on the basics of sea kayaking. SK 101, Introduction to Sea Kayaking will be held at the Tawes Office Building in Annapolis on Saturday, February 28, 2004. Lunch will be provided. Times and (minimal) cost are yet to be determined.

Topics will include kayak and paddle design, how to choose boats and equipment, basics of safe paddling, dealing with cold water, how to find people to paddle with, where to paddle, and other topics of interest. There will be a boat and gear display, and knowledgeable people will be available to discuss different aspects of kayaking.

Although this event is primarily for the newer paddler, everyone is invited to expand their paddling horizons.

Volunteers are needed to help organize and run the event. We especially want members to get the word out to nonmembers who might be interested. For more information, contact Joan Spinner at jspinner@peoplepc.com (please put SK101 in the Subject line) or at 301-559-3345.

SCHEDULE FOR 2004 CPA PADDLER

The Chesapeake Paddler is published 10 times a year, with combination issues in November/December and January/February. The deadline for submitting copy is usually the 15th of the preceding month. The schedule for 2004 is as follows:

Issue	Deadline for copy
March 2004	February 15, 2004
April 2004	March 15, 2004
May 2004	April 15, 2004
June 2004	May 15, 2004
July 2004	June 15, 2004
August 2004	July 15, 2004
September 2004	August 15, 2004
October 2004	September 15, 2004
Nov/Dec 2004	November 15, 2004
Jan/Feb 2005	January 15, 2005

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.

Steering Committee:

Coordinator—Brian Blankinship, coordinator@cpakayaker.com

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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

Coordinator's Column

The Pre-Annual Meeting Paddle saw 14 boats go up the Severn River. Cold-water clothing was necessary but that didn't stop several participants from rolling at the end of the trip.

The meeting itself was double the number of people, about normal for our business meeting. Volunteers were recognized and given rockers for their patches, and the steering committee briefed those assembled on the CPA's accomplishments for the year. It is great to see the growth in the association and in our financial health. Since most members now receive the newsletter electronically, we are in better financial shape than we have been in the past.

For 2004

We plan to hold an SK101 early next year. Joan Spinner is spearheading this land-based introduction to sea kayaking. Volunteers are needed, and more information will follow.

We will hold two trip-planning meetings again this year, one in Virginia and one in Maryland. The first will be at Dave Biss and Cyndi Janetzko's house on Sunday, January 18. The second will be at Alan Avery's house on Saturday, February 21.

Those on the member list know commercial advertisement has become a debate point again. We set up a subcommittee to look at our existing policy and recommend any necessary changes to the steering committee.

The subcommittee meeting will precede the January 18 trip planning meeting.

A recommendation was made from the floor that CPA donate some money. The motion was not passed and instead we will look at our finances and see if we have a surplus. If we do, the steering committee will offer the membership some choices on what to do with it. The steering committee meeting will precede the February 21 trip planning meeting.

We hope to get more logo gear options out next year. For now, we still have the café-press items available at www.cafe-press.com. Search on CPA.

I hope to see all of you at the Holiday Party at Alan Avery's house in Riva on December 13. RSVP to Alan.

*See you on the water.
Brian Blankinship*

[Note: Minutes are on p.10.]

VA Trip Planning Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 2004

1222 N. Meade Street., #17 in Arlington, VA (across from the Iwo Jima Memorial).

8:30-9:30 AM—Subcommittee meeting. Coffee, tea, and snacks provided.

10 AM—Trip planning meeting. Bring a small snack to add to the buffet, if you can. After-meeting paddle will leave from Jack's

Boathouse to Roosevelt Island and the Boundary Channel. Paddle dependent on meeting length and weather conditions. Cold weather paddling gear required.

From I-495, take the GW Parkway south for about 10 miles. Take Rt. 50 west to the Rosslyn exit (it's the first exit). At the top of the ramp turn left onto N. Meade Street.

From Rt. 66 East, take the Rosslyn/Key Bridge exit (exit 73). Turn right on Fort Myer Drive. Stay in the middle lanes and go through the underpass. Cross over Rt. 50. Fort Myer Drive turns into N. Meade.

From DC, take Rt. 50 west and exit at Rosslyn. At the top of the ramp, turn left onto N. Meade.

1222 N. Meade is one of the four-story red brick condos on the right and #17 is on the top floor.

Call Cyndi or Dave at 703-276-2728, or janetzko@hotmail.com if you need further directions.

MD Trip Planning Meeting

Saturday, February 21, 2004

352 Derbyshire Lane, Riva, MD

8:30-9:30 AM—Steering committee meeting.

10 AM—Trip planning meeting. A paddle will follow the meeting.

For directions, please see p.4 of this newsletter (*CPA Holiday Party*). Also check the CPA website for updates: www.cpakayaker.com.

Join Us at the Annual CPA Holiday Party!

CPA will hold its annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 PM at the home of Alan and Shirley Avery, 352 Derbyshire Lane, Riva, MD 21140. Everyone is asked to bring either an entrée, salad, or dessert to feed 6-8 people. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Bring your own beer or wine.

RSVP by December 10 via e-mail at zaverys@yahoo.com. Please clearly indicate the names of those attending in addition to what you will be bringing. Questions? Please call Alan or Shirley at 410-956-3299.

Directions to the Averys: (There will be CPA directional signs once you get into the community.)

From Rt. 50 East: Take exit 16 (Rt. 424) to Davidsonville Road. Go south on Davidsonville Road about 1 mile to a flashing amber light at the intersection with Governor's Bridge Road. Turn left and go about 2½ miles to Riva Road. Turn left and go about ½ mile to Westbury Drive (*Annapolis Landing*). Turn right and take the 3rd right onto Stonehenge Drive, then the 3rd right onto Walpole Way. Walpole dead ends at Derbyshire where you will turn right. Number 352 is 2nd house on the left.

From Rt. 50 West: Take exit 22 (Rt. 665—Aris T. Allen Blvd.) to Riva Road. (This is immediately after the I 97 exit.) Stay in right lane and turn right at Riva Road South. Follow Riva Road over the South River Bridge approximately 1½ miles to Westbury Drive (Annapolis Landing). Turn left and follow Annapolis Landing directions above.

Heading north on Rt. 2 (south of the Edgewater area and Annapolis): Turn left on Rt. 214 (Mayo Road). Go about 2 miles and turn right onto Riva Road. Go about 2 miles to Westbury Drive. Turn right and follow Annapolis Landing directions above.

From Baltimore: Take I 97 South to Rt. 50. Exit immediately to the right off of Rt. 50 to Aris T. Allen Blvd. (Rt. 665). Keep right and follow signs to Riva Road South. Follow Riva Road South over the South River Bridge approximately 1½ miles to Westbury Drive. Turn left and follow Annapolis Landing directions above.

Survey sez . . .

We asked CPA members to fill out a short survey that was presented with the annual election ballot. The results follow.

SURVEY RESULTS:

- Total Received: 27
- Attended Trips: 15
- Did not attend trips: 12
 - Time/date conflicts: 7
 - Just joined/no boat: 4
 - Too far: 2 (one in PA; one on the Eastern Shore)
 - Trips full: 1

Where to Hold Future Trips

- Eastern Shore: 3
- Blackwater: 1
- Same as 2003: 1
- Potomac/DC: 1
- Within 2 hours of NoVA: 1
- Close to Greenbelt: 1

Types of Trips

- Kayak camping (gear in boat): 17
- Car camping weekends (gear in car): 14
- Beginner trips: 9
- Experienced beginner: 14
- Intermediate: 16
- Advanced: 3

Training Desired

- Roll training: 15
- Rescues: 14
- Trip leader: 6
- SK102: 12
- SK101: 3
- Basic paddler training: 5

Write In Training Requests

- ACA/BCU: 2 write in votes
- Navigation
- GPS-for-dummies
- Demo Day (CPA members try other member's boats or gear)
- Cold Water Clinic

Want warmer water to roll

Swim Support

Advanced Skills Clinics, surf clinics

Other comments:

- Advertise new member trips more in advance (new member, joined late 2003)
- Hold pirating later than 5 PM at Belle Haven. Can't get there by 5.
- Establish web bulletin board for e-chat on specific topics
- Set up peer paddling opportunities via bulletin board
- Area electronic map with info on launch sites, fees, good nearby restaurants, parking
- Trips with area archeologists, historians, environmentalists, etc., like the one Greg set up. This provides an opportunity to learn or work on some project (CPA civic action).

Continued from page 1

Rose, arrived. They had visited Crouse Park and decided they wanted to paddle in a more natural setting. Mark took photos of the CPA group while Roger and Rose got ready to launch. Then the group headed down river past the houses of Choptank. We turned left and entered Hunting Creek.

Hunting Creek is fairly undeveloped, mostly wooded with a few houses along the way. Two wooden bridges cross the creek. The creek is serpentine, so we changed our heading often. Before we paddled off the chart, the New York couple bade us farewell as they wanted to return and travel by car to Blackwater Refuge. We paddled on until we ran out of navigable water, near a grassy area where we stopped for lunch. After a leisurely lunch (and a nap in the sun by some), we retraced our path, passed under the bridges, and re-entered the Choptank River. We paddled to the launch site with our faces to the wind.

The group returned to Martinak to freshen up before going to dinner at the Suicide Bridge Restaurant near Secretary, Maryland. As its name implies, the bridge has been the site of several suicides and attempted suicides over the years. The restaurant was extremely busy, so our wait was longer than anticipated. While we waited, Al Kubelius and his wife Lee, who now live in Talbot County, joined us for dinner. Many courses of food and much conversation were enjoyed. George, Al, and Lee said good night, while the rest of us returned to the park.

After Sunday morning's breakfast and striking camp, five of us traveled through the park to the boat ramp. Ron and Ralph had to head home for other obligations. Bill, Mark, Wendy, Greg, and I

was so high he could practically paddle into the parking area from the boat ramp. We continued on our way to Martinak. As we paddled by my grandparents' home, I noticed their car was gone.



Greg Welker and George Hires on Hunting Creek

unloaded the boats at the ramp. Then the vehicles were moved up the short hill to parking area. We launched into Watts Creek and paddled a short distance to its confluence with the Choptank. We headed up river. Both shorelines along this section of the Choptank are forested. Mud flats support plants that are locally known as Tuckahoe. As we approached Denton, we began passing houses on the right. Many of the house lots are wooded. We checked out the boats at the museum, passed under the bridge into downtown Denton, passed through or under the railroad trestle bridge (no longer used by the railroad), and under the MD 404 bypass bridge. We stopped in the vicinity of Holsinger Lane and ate lunch on a wooded lot that is currently for sale on the west side of the river.

On our return trip, Mark stopped at Crouse Park to stretch. The tide

I looked back again to see them drive into their spot. They had been looking for us in the park and had returned home just in time to see us pass. My grandmother waived to us from the porch doorway, while my grandfather walked down to the shoreline. He and I talked a few moments. Their dock was askew, having been damaged by Isabel's waves and storm surge. After arriving back at the boat ramp and loading our boats, Greg and I said farewell to the group and then went to visit my grandparents, the oldest CPA members who have never been in a kayak. (My grandmother reads each CPA newsletter cover to cover.)

Many thanks to Bill Dodge for organizing the kayak camping trip and for giving me the opportunity to visit with my grandparents in Denton.

PADDLIN' PLACES

Compiled by Ralph Heimlich

Two Trip Reports: Nassawango Creek and Pocomoke River, July 18-20 and October 10-13—Nine intrepid CPA paddlers (Doug Barnes, Ralph Heimlich, Nancy Hendrick, Lucy Mitchell, Anne Nielsen, Matt Nielsen, William Sanderson, and Jacquie Zegan) convened at Shad Landing State Park on Friday, July 18, to a pot-luck feast.

After a refreshing Camelot-style T-storm that kept the bugs down, we awoke on July 19 and launched on the dark waters of the Pocomoke for a leisurely 4.5-mile paddle upstream, and into the mouth of the bald cypress-studded Nassawango Creek. We paddled up through increasingly tight turns (for 18-foot sea kayaks) to the head of navigation at the Red House Road takeout.

After lunch and an impromptu demonstration of pier diving (not just once, but twice) by leader Ralph Heimlich, that slippery fellow, we turned downstream on the return leg.



Photo by Doug Barnes: Pocomoke River at Nassawango Creek, July 2003

The trip was so delightful that the group, prompted by Bill Sanderson demanded a rematch.

That rematch occurred over the Columbus Day weekend, October 10-13. We planned our trip to coincide with the display of fall leaves in this unique vegetation area. The new group had eight members, including Bob Farley, Beth Heimlich, Ralph Heimlich, Nancy Hendrick, Anne Nielsen, Dick Rock, Jane Schumacher, and Bill Walsek. Some of us had paddled the Pocomoke and Nassawango Creek back in July.

On Sunday we ran the Pocomoke from Porters Crossing Road to as far upriver as Hurricane Isabel would allow, because of downed trees. We launched at Byrd Park in Snow Hill, and finished back at Shad Landing. The section above Snow Hill is more reminiscent of Louisiana bayou than of Maryland. Below Snow Hill we had to share the river with the Bass Masters, in full cry on a tourney.

On Monday, Nancy Kendrick, Jane Shumacher, and I paddled Corkers Creek, which bounds Shad Landing Park on the west, up beyond the Route 113 bridge.

Sanderson, the instigator of the "leafpeeper" rematch, couldn't join us in October. But he and his brother made it down from New Jersey in November to paddle the Pocomoke and



Photo by Bill Walsek: Pocomoke River below Porters Crossing, October 2003

Nassawango. They had a great time despite the arctic air and wind. They caught the lunar eclipse on Saturday night and played 27 holes at Nassawango Golf Course on Sunday.

Bill is up for more multi-sport kayak/golf excursions next season, at other Delaware and Eastern Shore locations.

Potomac River, Nolan's Ferry to the Monacacy River

Oona Pilot: I've done Point of Rocks to the Monacacy several times. It is flat water mostly, with a few rocks around Point of Rocks. Some islands have nice beaches, mostly sandy bottoms, but some are muddy. There are a few fish traps in and around the islands, so look out for them. One of the islands was once inhabited, and you can still see an old ruined home or farm. The Monocacy Aqueduct marks the point where the Monocacy River meets the Potomac, and it's clearly visible. The

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ramp is about ¼ mile up the Monocacy from the aqueduct. Historian John Phillips does this trip for groups with the River Trail Outfitters. Here's the link: <http://www.rivertrail.com/Historytour.html>

Thomas Crabill: I do a lot of paddling between Riley's Lock and Point of Rocks — an area that includes Nolan's Ferry and the Monocacy River Aqueduct. There's a current of one to two knots, but no whitewater. I've never encountered any obstructions like fish weirs, either. Nolan's is a good launching point. There's good parking, and the ramp takes you right to the water. Nolan's is about 2.5 miles north of the Monocacy, so you're looking at a five mile round trip. You'll breeze down the river, but coming back will be harder, because you'll be fighting the current. It often takes me twice as long to paddle upsteam than downstream. I've never visited the islands, but there are lots of them in the area. Sometimes I see guys fishing from the banks, but you should have lots of room to explore.

Smith Mountain Lake

Kevin Black: I paddle Smith Mountain Lake at least twice a month. The lake is located southeast of Roanoke, Virginia, between Routes 29 and 220.

By following two simple rules, you can deal with the boat traffic and even have fun... Rule 1: Beware of powerboaters! Assume they don't know the rules of the road, and they've been drinking too

much. Rule 2: Stay completely out of the main channel and you'll be fine. As a bonus to Rule 2, you'll have boat wake swell to play in! I generally try to find shoals and sea walls near cove entrances to hang around.

The lake is usually flat as a board, except for wind waves that form from cold fronts in the spring and fall. Almost the entire shoreline is filled with houses — from trailers to multi-million dollar castles. This lake is real estate heaven!

The good news is that there are several islands where paddlers can camp on for free, and the shoreline of Smith Mountain (next to the dam) is completely free of development. You can camp there too, and it's even possible to have a cove entirely to yourself.

The best news, however, is that nearly all the powerboats are gone after Labor Day. The lake is nearly empty during fall weekends, just as the trees become more and more beautiful. The water temperature remains in the mid-seventies until near the end of September.

I always put in at one of the free public boat launches. I mainly use the Scruggs boat ramp on the

Blackwater River arm of the lake. It's broader and less crowded than the Roanoke River arm. The Pelican Point Yacht Club is nearby, and the sailing crowd uses that area of the lake more than any other. There are a few sea paddlers that regularly use the lake, and all like this launch spot. Lucky Island is a couple of hundred of yards offshore and is popular with kayak campers. I avoid the Hales Ford bridge area — the lake is narrow there, with more boat traffic than anywhere else.

An Assateague Island Trip

Michael Free: September 5-7 was a beautiful weekend for paddling. Based on trip reports and recommendations from CPA members, I headed down to Assateague early on Friday morning.

My first stop was the National Seashore Visitors Center, where I purchased the topo map for \$7.50. There was a beautiful breeze, and the bugs didn't seem too bad. I decided to try Chincoteague Bay to see how far I could go, and to check out interior camping spots.

I launched at the end of Ferry Landing Road, after signing in at the ranger station. An Assateague

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CPA Pool Sessions, 2003-2004

pony munched the grass nearby as I launched into the Bay. The best approach to paddling Assateague Bay is to not plan on going anywhere fast. There are endless rivulets to explore, and I wanted to explore each and every one.

I paddled around Great Egging Beach and just lost track of time. I explored dead-end rivulets and watched turtles come to the surface. I passed several herds of ponies and sat watching a beautiful bald eagle as it perched in a tree, waiting for any movement in the marsh below. In other words, I just meandered along.

Several times I saw blue crabs just below my boat, so I decided to find a spot to do a little crabbing. One nice thing about the Bay is that if your legs get tired, or if you just want to cool off, you can step out of your boat and be in 3-foot-deep water.

I decided to make the Tingles Island Backcountry Campsite my home for the night (it's two miles from Old Ferry Landing). As it turned out, Tingles Island wasn't the most hospitable campsite... I trekked through mud and sank to just below my knees while trying to get there. Planks once led from the shore to the campsite, but they were long gone. The site was fine for my purposes though, but I needed bug spray. I checked myself assiduously for ticks. 8:30 PM — Lights Out!

These are open sessions, not lessons. You must bring your own boat and gear.

Where: Fairland Aquatic Center,
Burtonsville, MD

Dates: Saturdays through May
29, 2004

Time: 4-5:50 PM and 5:50-7:45
PM

Fee: \$7 per person. Pay at
FAC door (pool level)

Required:

- a. Boats and gear must be clear of leaves, mud, grass, etc.
- b. You must have a reservation.

To get a reservation, email Jspinner2@peoplepc.com (email preferred) or call 301-559-3345 by the Thursday prior to the session; leave a message with the following information:

- a. your name
- b. phone number
- c. date of session
- d. time slot
- e. number of boats
- f. type of boats (WW or sea kayak). The pool holds a lot more WW boats than sea kayaks.

You will receive a reservation number. If you do not receive a reservation number, you do NOT have a reservation. Reservations will not be accepted more than 2 weeks in advance.

Directions: Take your best route to I-95 between Baltimore and Washington. Exit at MD-198 West. Turn left at 2nd light, Old Gunpowder Road. The pool is about a half mile down on the right. Boat entrance is around to the left side of the building.

Pool is open every weekend **except:**

December 6
January 31
February 28
March 6, March 27
May 1

Got an idea for a story?
Gone on an interesting
paddle trip lately?

Let the rest of us know
about it.

Send material to:
news_editor@cpakayaker.com

Deadline for next issue:
January 9, 2004

Who 'Dat? Spooky Goings-on in Georgetown!

by Dave Biss

The Georgetown Pirates couldn't have asked for a better night: a crescent moon smiled down as everyone met at Jack's Boathouse. We were staging a double event – a Halloween Party and a Season-Ending Paddle, so everyone showed up in costume ...to paddle and party! And on both counts, the evening was a smashing success.

- Anna Popov came dressed as Frank Baxter, the owner of the boathouse. She wore a beard just like his, and imitated Frank's distinctive picture-posing stance perfectly.
- Anna's son Max came (reluctantly) dressed as Scrappy Doo. Frank towed him around for the entire paddle, and little Max called out to everyone...he was great entertainment for us all.
- Caroline and Nelson Labbe came dressed as pirate and a devil. Great costumes!
- Marcos wore a Death costume over a full dry suit — complete with mask, bone gloves, and bone slippers. That must have been a challenge!
- Faye Shamansky dressed as an M&M, even putting a little M&M man on her bow.
- Ciaran and Sandy went all out and crafted amazing costumes. He dressed as a ladybug, and she as a witch. Those witches' teeth were really scary!
- Carolyn Schoelles came as The Sea Kayaker.
- Cyndi Janetzko and I dressed as pirates, since that's what we are!
- Jesse Aronson and Frank Baxter dressed up their kayaks instead of themselves. Jesse

attached a blinking, 18" ghost to the bow of his boat. Frank mounted a rack of antlers to his.

- And, Elizabeth and Cindy had their faces painted like a panda and a Tiger. Quite appropriate, since both work for the World Wildlife Fund.

We paddled and talked and laughed as we circled Roosevelt Island. On the way back, some of us tried to paddle by the Georgetown waterfront to see if we could scare some treats from the strollers on the wharf...but nobody was around. What would the Coast Guard have thought of Jesse's blinking bow ghost, or the vision of Death paddling the waters of the Potomac?

After we returned to the docks, I managed to amuse the crew by rolling in full costume. It wasn't too bad, but the hat just wouldn't stay put. Rolling with a fake cutlass between my teeth was fun though! Then the food and drink appeared. We ate, we talked, we laughed.

Our Pirate King awarded Halloween gifts to some of the paddlers. Honors included Best Costume, Most Original Costume, Sea Kayaker Costume, among others. I got the Best Attempt to Roll While Wearing a Costume Award, by default.

Our Pirate King was given an award for his efforts to keep the group going, and his ingenuity at devising new excuses for having a great time on the water.

Finally, we honored the man who makes our Georgetown group possible. Frank Baxter's kindness and tireless work gives us a place to launch every week.

And so our party came to a successful end, as we feasted by the glow of jack-o-lantern candlelight and the blinking of skull decorations. It was a great time, and a wonderful end to the season. We're all looking forward to next spring, when we meet again on the Georgetown docks.



Minutes from Chesapeake Paddlers Association Annual Meeting, November 9, 2003
DNR Building, Annapolis
Time: 12:30 – 4PM
Attendees: 29 members

1. Introductions

2. Elections

Election results for 2004 officers and steering committee were approved.

Coordinator–Brian Blankinship
 Treasurer–John Blackburn
 Secretary–Steve Lindeman
 Steering Committee:

Alan Avery, Barry Marsh, Dave Biss,
 David Moore, Joan Spinner, Rich
 Stevens

3. Membership Report

544 paid memberships (compared to
 438 previous year)
 290 email newsletter count (44 same
 time previous year)
 254 hardcopy newsletter count (435
 same time previous year)

4. Treasurer's Report

See attached spreadsheet.

5. Volunteer Recognition

Recognized many volunteers for their
 contributions. Distributed CPA
 patches and rockers.

6. Annual Activity Report

- Trips - Many CPA trips conducted in 2003. High availability and high turnout.
- SK102 – Largest event of the year for CPA. Held first weekend in May at Lake Anna. Over 100 attendees and 20 instructors. Waiting list still existed. For 2004, members on the waiting list will be offered first opportunity to attend.
- Cold Water Workshop – Held on March 15 at Pier 7. First half was lecture, second half in the water. 75 members attended. Event will be held again in 2005. Will consider a Fall cold water event as well.
- CPA website – Significant progress in 2003 on the website. The

pool session form is now online as well.

7. CPA Logo Wear

Current using Café Press to manage our logo wear. Not fully satisfied with quality of logo colors. A link will be added to the CPA website to the Café Press site. A new color image will be sent to Café Press. Other options, including upgraded service from Café Press, will be evaluated. Andy Vaart will lead the evaluation along with Barry Marsh and other volunteers.

8. Member list distribution

Current by-laws permit any member to request full membership list. This is intended to assist members to find other paddlers in their area. A separate paddler profile will be established for members to add their information rather than distributing the entire membership listing. After this separate profile is established the by-laws will be modified to reflect the new listing.

9. Commercial List Policy

Current policy for the email list is for no commercial marketing. Changes to this policy are discussed in Item 14.

10. Holiday Party

Will be held on December 13 at Alan and Shirley Avery's house in Annapolis. More information will be on the website and in the newsletter. RSVPs are required. Attendees should bring an entrée, dessert, or salad. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. BYOB.

11. SK101

Volunteers needed. Joan Spinner is leading the effort. To be held sometime between January and March. This is an on land beginner's kayak workshop.

12. New Brochures

We are running out of our current supply of brochures. Laura Butterbaugh will lead the effort to

update the existing brochure with Barbara Foley and Bernadette Knoblauch assisting. CPA logo will be used on the cover.

13. Trip planning for 2004

Two trip planning meetings will be held this winter. January 18 in Virginia at Dave Biss and Cyndi Janetzko's house; February 21 in Maryland at Alan Avery's house.

14. Commercial Policy Revisions

Effort will be led by Rich Stevens. Several options were discussed. Motion for a separate subcommittee to be formed was proposed and approved. The options will be put to a vote to all members via website and newsletter.

The committee will discuss three issues: The use of signature lines that are business cards, use a thread-based newsgroup vice a member list, and what postings will be allowed by commercial entities.

The following people volunteered to be on the committee: Greg Welker, Dave Biss, Cyndi Janetzko, Anatoly Ivasysuk, Barbara Foley, Rich Stevens (Chair), John Blackburn, and Steven Lindeman.

15. Use of surplus CPA funds

Motion was made to donate \$2000 to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Motion did not carry but it did generate discussion on using surplus funds. Steering committee will determine if there really are surplus funds. If they do exist, options will be developed for using those funds. Options will be put to a vote by all members via website and newsletter.

16. Online membership renewal

Discussion enhancing the online sign up and renewal of memberships. Would like to understand credit card processing options. This might not be possible due to our club status and not having a Federal tax ID number. Barbara Foley will look into it more.

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 above.

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.

DECEMBER

Dec 13 (Sat). CPA Holiday Party. (All). The Averys (410-956-3299). See page 4 for details.

JANUARY

Jan 18 (Sun). Virginia Trip Planning meeting. (All). Cyndi Janetzko/Dave Biss (703-276-2728). See page 3 for directions.

FEBRUARY

Feb 21 (Sun). Maryland Trip Planning meeting. (All). Alan Avery (410-956-3299). See page 3 for directions.

Feb 28 (Sat). SK101, Introduction to Sea Kayaking. (All). Joan Spinner (301-559-3345). See page 2 for more information.

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, bit-map). 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.

*Inside our November/December
issue:*

■ *Kayaking at Martinak SP*

■ *Election Results*

■ *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***