

The Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Volume 14, Issue 1

January/February 2004

Starting the New Year Right: Wye by Water

by Phil Nester

Our launch time at Wye Landing on the Wye East River was set for 10:00 AM. Betty Aldrich, Carlos Rodriguez, Lee, Ciaran, Steve, and I got under way at 10:15. Carlos did his first roll of the New Year almost as soon as we were on the water. Larry Bliven and another Steve planned to launch at 11:00.

The weather was fantastic—partly sunny skies, temperatures in the mid-40's, and a gentle breeze. Quite a contrast to last year's New Year's Day paddle in the pouring rain!

Our first destination was the east end of Wye Island. I had observed bald eagles there on previous trips, but none graced us with their presence today.

Next we turned into the mouth of Skipton Creek to explore its tributaries. A mile up Skipton we spotted a mature bald eagle, its white head and tail gleaming in the sunlight. He circled 50 feet above us as we turned north into Mill Creek.

On a map, Mill Creek looks to be navigable for a couple of miles.

And a flood tide, soon to crest, made it seem like a good time to explore. So we tried it, but soon we found ourselves paddling in a few inches of water. Still, we plugged on tenaciously until we came to a large tree that had fallen across the channel, blocking further progress. I like to explore the upper reaches of rivers and creeks, but the shallow water was making things difficult. The tree provided a welcome excuse to turn around.

Arriving back at Skipton Creek, we turned our bows to the east. From where we were, Skipton continues in a wide channel for another mile before it narrows and splits into two small streams. Route 50 crosses the creek just beyond the split. We could see the bridge clearly, but shallow water once again took the fun out further paddling. We reversed course.

On the way back to Wye Island we landed on a beach that provided a large log for a seat. Despite its sandy appearance, our lovely little beach was more mud than sand. So we made do.



Carlos Rodriguez, Betty Aldrich, and Cold Duck

Continued on page 10

Kayakers: We need your help!!

The 2004 Potomac River Swim on June 5, 2004 needs support kayakers for the 7.5-mile swim from Hull Neck, VA to Point Lookout State Park, MD. Pledges raised by the swimmers equally benefit the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, the Southern Maryland Sierra Club, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Point Lookout State Park, and the Potomac River Association. Free camping at Point Lookout State Park, a pre-swim supper, breakfast, lunch, and t-shirt are all included.

For more information, contact Cheryl Wagner at (202) 387-2361 cherylw@crosslink.net or visit our webpage: <http://www.crosslink.net/~cherylw/pr2004i.htm>.



SCHEDULE FOR 2004 CHESAPEAKE 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
Jan/Feb 2004	January 15, 2004
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

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

Coordinator's Column

Welcome to 2004.

CPA is continuing to move forward in the new year. We now have CPA bumper stickers in three designs, which we are selling at cost. (See two of the designs below and the third on p. 10.) We are working on improved logo wear, but our existing design is still available at CafePress.com.

Dave Biss ran the first trip planning meeting this year. The next one will be at Alan Avery's house, February 21 at 10:00. If you are interested in leading trips or suggesting locations, join us.

The meeting will follow a steering committee meeting you are also welcome to attend. Check the website's calendar for updates.

Joan Spinner is heading up SK101 on February 28 at the South River Café next to Pier 7. If you have friends who are interested in starting kayaking or purchasing new equipment, this Introduction to Sea Kayaking is a great opportunity to get lots of information. Since this event is geared towards non-members, we need everyone's help to get the word out. Check the web page for a notice you can post for us.

The registration form for SK102, the sixth annual skills clinic at Lake Anna should be in the next newsletter. The clinic will be held May 14-16. I expect registration to fill fairly quickly like usual. If you were not able to get in last year, let us know on the registration form and we will get you in this year. So far we have about 25 volunteers who are helping in one form or another.

It looks like 2004 is shaping up to be another banner year for CPA. I hope you will be actively involved in your association and join us on some paddles.

Brian Blankinship

See also page 10.
INSIDE DOWN
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We Padd



2003, An Awesome Summer: The Wye Regatta and Broken Group Islands

By Lucy Mitchell

I got hooked on kayaking the moment I sat in a 13-foot Perception Acadia three summers ago. After a guided tour with Coastal Kayak in Fenwick, Delaware. I promptly bought an Acadia for myself.

After kayaking around my native Kent Island, I joined CPA. I went on some group trips and attended the Lake Anna Skills Weekend.

Now I paddle an Impex Montauk, and have a minor obsession with kayaking and navigation. I still have my original Acadia, and I bought a Perception Carolina as well. I find these kayaks wonderful for small creek adventures and for picture taking—they're more stable than the Montauk.

My kayaking skills have grown over the past 3 years, so last summer I put myself to a test—I entered the Wye Island Regatta on September 13, 2003.

I spent a fair amount of time training. But no matter how hard I practiced, I could never shake the notion that I would surely capsize or otherwise interrupt someone else's progress. As the big day approached, my anxiety increased and I tried to convince myself that I really didn't need to do this.

With quiet yet persistent encouragement from my daughter, I headed out at daybreak for Wye Island. The day of the race was overcast, with intermittent showers and downpours. The officials met to consider changes the course, but in the end decided to run the race as scheduled. We were given our start times.

Having reviewed last year's finish times for women recreational kayakers, I set my goals:

1. Finish the race in a "respectable" time (3.5 hours).
2. DO NOT CAPSIZE!
3. Do not get lost.

I figured that staying on course and in my boat was my best strategy. Then I wouldn't waste any strokes.

The weather ended up favoring us paddlers, and we broke twelve Regatta records. Still, I found the last quarter mile or so challenging, because I had to figure out the combination of wind and choppy water I was dealing with. I still have much to learn about weather conditions and adjusting my skeg.

I've found that the first four miles or so of paddling feel difficult. Then paddling becomes almost automatic. I barely notice pain or fatigue until I approach my limits of endurance.

I never quit worrying about the race, but I soon began to enjoy the experience. While milling about waiting for the race to start, I overheard a fellow paddler's experience of being clipped and overturned by a rower. I decided that those were aggressive folks who should be avoided.

Besides crossing the finish line, being on the water with the rowers was the highlight of the day. I've decided that rowing is something I'd like to try. I could hear them approach from behind, the rhythmic cadence of their oars whooshing in the water. A group of women rowers cheered me on as they sped past; others were rowing to rock music.

Before the race I had programmed a route around the island into my GPS to stay on course. I also brought along a map with the bearings marked. I glanced at my map and compass frequently during the race, but I discovered that following the

pack was also safe. Later I heard that a group of rowers strayed a mile off course. A trial run around the island, prior to the race, offered me a measure of security.

I finished the Regatta in 2 hours, 55 minutes and 15 seconds. With a course of 12.4 miles, I averaged slightly faster than 4 mph—a better time than I had expected. I finished last in my category of four, but I was well within my estimation of a "respectable" finish.

Though tired from the race, I left for Vancouver, B.C. with my daughter the next day. We took a ferry to the Eagle Nook Ocean Wilderness Resort, where we had arranged for guides for hiking and kayaking in the Broken Group Islands. The lodge was absolutely wonderful—it was remote, with kayaks available for independent exploring.

I got to paddle a Seaward Navigator for almost ten pristine miles. Our guide made several stops along the way to explore islands and to picnic. If anyone is familiar with Barkley Sound and the Broken Group Islands, we paddled around Nettle Island, Alma Russell Island, Robertson Island, Effingham Inlet, and Vernon Bay.

While exploring the islands' coasts we observed aquatic wildlife through clear, green water. At the lodge we also had a wonderful nature tour in a small skiff. We saw bald eagles, sea lions, harbor seals, starfish, and huge sea kelp.

My summer was awesome and I must express my appreciation to all the folks of CPA. I have had much encouragement, advice, training, inspiration, and experience along the way. And members give with a most generous spirit.



Chesapeake Paddlers Association (CPA)
presents

SK101, An Introduction to Sea Kayaking

Share the News: Tell Others About this Workshop

- What: An introduction to sea kayaking
- Hear presentations on the types and uses of boats, paddles, safety, gear, with Q&A after each presentation and handouts available of different aspects of paddling
 - Learn where to paddle
 - Find potential paddling buddies
 - See displays of boats (including a folding boat and kids' boats), paddles, safety and other paddling gear, kayak camping
 - Water permitting, there will be an on-the-water display

When: Saturday, February 28, 2004, 8:45AM - 3:00PM

Where: South River Cafe, Pier 7 Marina, Edgewater, MD. Take US 50 west toward Annapolis. Exit 22 onto Aris T. Allen Blvd (MD 665). Turn right onto MD 2 south. Go about a mile, cross the South River. Take first left after crossing the bridge. Follow road to the left to the South River Cafe.

Cost: \$15, includes light breakfast and lunch. This event sells out, so everyone MUST register. Walk-in will not be available.

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

Do you have any kayaking experience? _____

If so, what kind/how long? _____

Any special interests we should cover? _____

Lunch (choose one):

Buffet of meatballs, wings, hot dogs, and hamburgers

Soup and sandwiches (circle one from each category):

Sandwiches: roast beef, ham and cheese, turkey; or vegetarian (tomato, avocado, bean sprouts on whole wheat)

Soups: crab bisque, broccoli and cheese, or vegetable noodle

Please mail a check for \$15 payable to CPA and send to:

Sk 101, Greg Welker, 16307 Pennsbury Way, Bowie, MD 20716

301-249-4859

Deadline for registration: February 14; \$5 late fee after that.



PADDLIN' PLACES

compiled by Ralph Heimlich

Eastern Shore Launching Points

Chris Conklin, Southeastern Maps: Chris is finishing field work for the *Chesapeake Boat Launch Guide*, Version 3, that will be available in March 2004 at <http://www.semmaps.com/>. The *Chesapeake Boat Launch Guide* is now nearing 700 identified boat launches. Here is a sampler of several launching points:

Perryville Community Park (<http://www.perryvillemd.org/park.htm>); Located on top of the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Susquehanna River. The Chesapeake Bay Program's *Public Access Guide* identifies this park as "19 Green". The *Guide* doesn't show the park's launches, however. This season, as part of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (A Gateway Project), a gravel canoe launch is being installed and site improvements are being made. As far as I can tell, using this large, pristine park and its launch are free.

The launch is located on the Mill Creek side of the Perryville neck, near a VA hospital. The ramp's location protects it from a full southern exposure to the Chesapeake Bay. Mill Creek has a surprisingly undeveloped shoreline. Furnace Bay and Carpenter Point are to the east. Havre De Grace to the west, across the mouth of the Susquehanna River. Coordinates are: 39 32.88 N Lat and 77 02.92 W Long (ADC Cecil Co pg 14 Grid K6).

Directions: From downtown Perryville, start on Broad Street

(which is MD Rt 7) and proceed East (NNE) for about a mile. At the Perryville Fire Station, take a right (South) on Firestone Road (MD Rt. 327). Continue south to the park. A paved road winds through the woods with Mill Creek (Bay) on the left. The road then opens to a large sports field, with a gravel loop road around the Neck to Stump Point. The launch is on the left (East) side of the loop.

Launches on the Wicomico River: The Wicomico flows southwestward through Salisbury, Maryland, and continues southward to Tangier Sound. The river divides Wicomico County to the north from Somerset County to the south. Sometimes, if I am heading towards Pocomoke City and points south, I take the back roads west of Salisbury and cross the Wicomico River, using the Whitehaven Ferry. Recent explorations have turned up three nice beach launches on the lower Wicomico River and the Manokin River, to the south.

- *Clara Road Recreation Area:* At the south road-end of Clara Road, this is just an empty field with a nice sand beach (free, no facilities). Most likely it's county property. Looking south, there's a great open view of the Wicomico River. Location: (ADC Wicomico Co. pg 27 Grid G3) or (38° 15.7317' N Lat(DMD) by 75° 49.2617' W Long (DMD)).

- *Whitehaven Ferry:* This was the first time I ever had a departing ferry stop and back up to get me! This three-car cable ferry spans the Wicomico on Whitehaven Road at picturesque Whitehaven Village, and it's free. You can launch from the north shore of the ferry landing, at a small oyster beach. Please don't block access to the ferry when you park, and be careful of the cable when you're out on the water.

There's also a roadside turnoff to a sandy beach on the south side of the river, just a few hundred yards upriver from the ferry. The shoreline is mostly open marsh with some local side creeks. Location: (ADC Wicomico Co. pg 27 grid G9) or (38° 16.1267' N Lat(DMD) by 75° 47.3217' W Long(DMD))

- *Raccoon Point Recreation Area:* This is a road-end park belonging to Somerset County, and it's free. It's located at the West end of MD Rt. 640. There's a nice west-facing sand beach, a few picnic tables, a covered pavilion and a porta-potty.

This launch faces the Manokin River, which is very open. Boat travel is possible to the west, northeast, and southwest. Location: (Chesapeake Bay Program:- Public Access Guide – 226 Green), (ADC MD/Del State Road Atlas pg 27, Grid: B4) or (38° 8.4583' N Lat(DMD) by 75° 47.2417' W Long(DMD))

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Sunset Beaches: Sandy beaches come in many types; I pay particular attention to what I call "sunset beaches". These are west-facing beaches that offer a good over-the-water view of the setting sun.

One of the better sunset beaches is *Guard Shore Beach* on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Guard Shore Beach is on the eastern edge of Beasley Bay, the first big bay south of Pocomoke Sound. Beasley Bay is just over the Virginia state line, in the northwest corner of Accomack County.

You can reach Guard Shore Beach by taking VA State Road 684 west from Bloxum Town. Follow the road out into the marshes, where it makes a right turn on a small

peninsula with a mile-long sand beach on the west side of the road.

Beasley Bay is one of the more remote and pristine sections of the Chesapeake Bay. Unlike the marshlands of Dorchester County to the north, Beasley Bay has many more isolated sandy beaches for landing. This is because the southern half of the Chesapeake has more sand than the northern half. Beasley Bay's shoreline at is still marshy, but the number and density of boat launches is greater.

Recently I revisited Guard Shore Beach, and a lot has happened since I last visited several years ago. Previously this area wasn't well maintained, but last year the Wildlife Foundation of Virginia donated the property to the

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as a wildlife management area. Local volunteers held a cleanup, so now the area is clean and well kept.

Guard Shore has a sand beach that's long and wide. Looking out across the wide bay, other sandy shorelines beckon. As an added plus, there's a small commercial campground just up the road, called Little Acres Campground (Ph: 757-665-4788 or email: littleacres@dmv.com). The owner, Homer, is very interested in supporting kayak operations. At this time I am not sure what the camping possibilities are out on the bay but at least you have a campground to daytrip from. I very much encourage exploration of this area, and I ask for trip reports.

CPA Pool Sessions, 2003-2004

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:

- Boats/gear clear of leaves, mud, grass, etc.
- 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:

- your name
- phone number
- date of session
- time slot
- number of boats
- type of boats (WW or sea kayak). Pool holds more WW boats than sea kayaks.

You'll 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 Balti-more 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:**

February 28
March 6, March 27
May 1

Last session: May 29, 2004.

Wilmington By Water: Kayaking the Christina River on New Years Day

by Michael Free

Thursday, January 1, 2004 dawned bright and clear. I decided to celebrate the New Year's Day with a kayaking paddle. I launched from the ramp at the *Up the Creek* restaurant and headed southwest, toward Wilmington, Delaware.

The water temperature was a chilly 40°F, but the air temperature was a balmy 50°F. Those kind of conditions warrant special safety considerations. Cold water can kill, and many of the drowning deaths from November through March are caused by hypothermia—abnormally low body temperature—not by water in the lungs. Cold water robs the body of heat 25 to 30 times faster than air. Had I fallen into the water that day, my core temperature would have begun to drop in 10 to 15 minutes.

One safety precaution I took was to tell my family where I was going, and when to expect me back. Specialized equipment is also required for safe cold water paddling. I wore cold water gear, a scuba diver's hood to protect my head from heat loss, paddling gloves, and a PFD with an attached whistle and a VHF radio in the pocket. I also packed an extra set of clothes and a towel in a dry bag, in case I needed to change.

Equipped with a spare paddle, a paddle float and a hand pump to remove water, I was ready to launch. In the event of a capsize, I'd have about ten minutes to either re-enter my kayak or reach shore before hypothermia set in. I didn't plan to roll.

Despite the potential dangers of winter paddling, the benefits include the peace and quiet of propelling yourself in a centuries-old craft design. On New Year's Day the motorboats were all in storage, so the only boat traffic was the occasional tug headed to the Port of Wilmington.

One is immediately struck by the history of this river. Within half a mile of launching I approach the tall ship *Kalmar Nyckel*. A Swedish-owned, Dutch-built warship, the *Kalmar Nyckel* brought the first permanent European settlers to the Delaware Valley 366 years ago. It made four documented round-trip crossings of the Atlantic, but was lost in the late 1600s. A *Kalmar Nyckel* replica was launched in 1997 from a shipyard adjacent to her original landing site. I slowly paddle next to her to get a birdseye view of the wonderful carvings that decorate her bow and stern.

After another hundred feet I reach "**The Rocks**," a natural wharf within Fort Christina State Park. The first settlers sailed from Goteborg, Sweden in November 1637. The *Kalmar Nyckel* carried 24 settlers from Sweden, Finland, Holland, and Germany. She landed on the banks of the Christina River, a tributary of the Delaware, in March 1638. The landing site became known as "The Rocks."

The 24 European settlers were joined by a black freedman from the Caribbean, Anthoni, nicknamed "the black Swede." These men from different countries, speaking different languages and blending different cultures, founded Fort Christina and built the first log cabins in America. When the *Kalmar Nyckel* returned two years later with women and children, all 25 settlers were alive and well!



The tall ship *Kalmar Nyckel*

I meander past the moored Wilmington Fire Department Boat #7, head under a bridge and pass the Wilmington Youth Rowing Association (WYRA) boathouse. The WYRA is a nonprofit organization that teaches rowing to area youngsters, especially inner-city youth, who are deemed at-risk because of the neighborhoods where they live. The WYRA uses crew to raise self-esteem and teach responsibility, self-discipline, sportsmanship, pursuit of excellence and teamwork.

I pass a few folks on The Riverwalk, a 1.3-mile riverfront path that provides pedestrian access to attractions from Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park to the Shipyard Shops.

Now I leave the hustle and bustle of downtown and look forward to the 4-mile push to the Newport boat ramp. In the spring and summer I pass female and male rowing teams from the University

of Delaware (or they pass me), jet skis, and motorboats. But today I'm alone on the water. Hawks pass overhead, and the road traffic from I-95 is only a light hum in the background.

Finally I reach my destination, having covering 8 miles. With the exception of a few walkers, I see no other people or boats. Now the easy part begins: I turn my kayak and drift lazily back to the launch, riding the tide and current. With little paddle movement I can drift all the way back in half the time it took me to get here. The Wilmington skyline looms in the distance. I return safely back at my launch site, stretch cramped limbs and load my boat for the drive home.

The only detraction is that people still use the Christina River for dumping, so you'll see flotsam as you paddle. However, I saw history up close and personal from the water, just like our forebears did. It was well worth the trip.



The Rocks

Newport Boat Ramp: Take I-95/I-495 or Kirkwood Highway to Route 141. From 141S take the Newport exit and take the first left (Rt. 4W), then the first left again and go straight until you reach the Ciba-Geigy plant. Take a left onto Water Street (before the bridge); take the second right onto Copper Drive and then a left on Harvey Drive. Boat ramp entrance sign is a hundred feet or so down on the right. From 141N take the Newport exit and go straight until you reach the Ciba-Geigy plant, then follow directions above from Water Street.

7th Street Boat Ramp, Wilmington: You will need a \$35 boat access card (bring postal money order). Contact City of Wilmington Parks & Recreation, 22 S. Heald Street, 302-576-3810. The ramp is less than 5 minutes from the Parks & Recreation Building.

Up the Creek Restaurant: Opposite the 7th Street boat ramp. From I-495 take the Terminal Avenue exit toward Wilmington. At traffic light take a right and follow until bridge. Cross the bridge, be in the right-hand lane as you cross and take the first right onto Swedes Landing Road. Go to the end of the street and take a right on 7th street and follow till it dead-ends. Both Fort Christina and the *Kalmar Nyckel* are on 7th Street. See <http://www.riverfrontwilm.com/> for a map and links to local attractions.

Tidal Information and Map: Two useful websites are <http://www.riverfrontwilm.com/> and <http://www.wrcrowing.org/>

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 contact information in case of changes, and there may be space limitations or other trip restrictions.

Note: 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.

FEBRUARY

Feb 21 (Sat). Maryland Trip Planning meeting. (All). Alan Avery, 352 Derbyshire Lane, Riva, MD. (410-956-3299). 8:30-9:30 AM, Steering committee meeting; 10 AM, Trip planning meeting. A paddle will follow the meeting.

Feb 28 (Sat). SK101, Introduction to Sea Kayaking. (All). Joan Spinner (301-559-3345). See page 5 for more information.

JUNE

June 13 (Sat). Dodge Great Chesapeake Bay Swim and One Mile Swim need escort kayakers. Mike Vandamm (301/345-6324; 202/268-3021 (office); michael.j.vandamm@usps.gov) or Alan Avery (410/956-3299; zaverys@yahoo.com).

CLASSIFIEDS

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.

FOR SALE

Northwest Kayak Cadence Touring Kayak. Fiberglass, 17', 56 lb, rudder, 455-lb load capacity. Great for expeditions. Stable and comfortable for long paddles. Original price: \$2400. Asking: \$1600. Kate O'Byrne, 410-588-5984.

Seda Impulse, 18' by 21", 50 lb, yellow, \$1000. Tom Rose, 410-349-8711 or rosefurs@aol.com.

Necky Arluk II, kevlar, fast light-weight racer/cruiser w/rudder, 18'x 22", 45 lbs, teal/white, black stripe, excellent condition. 1999 list \$3099; asking \$1800. Neysa, 301-345-6324 or nnarena@earthlink.net.

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I broke out a plate of sliced summer sausage, cheese and crackers, and a bottle of Cold Duck. Unfortunately, our group of six had diminished to only three — Betty, Carlos and me. Lee was the first to head back early, followed by Steve and Ciaran. I thought that if the others were going to catch up with us, they would have done so by now. So the three of us toasted the New Year and dug into our mini buffet. Fortunately, there was still some “champagne” left when Ciaran returned unexpectedly. Another toast was in order!

After the celebration we headed for southern Wye Island, where we found Larry and the other Steve. We explored Wye's south side, then turned into a deep cove that reaches into the island for half a mile. The inlet was filled with huge rafts of geese and ducks. As we approached, the giant herd took to the air with a tremendous cacophony of honking. Thousands of wings thundered and webbed feet smacked the water as the birds became airborne. The sky filled with layers of geese and ducks, each layer flying in a different direction. You had to be there to fully appreciate magnitude of the scene.

Betty, Carlos, Ciaran, and I finally turned back to Wye Landing, while Larry and Steve continued to circumnavigate the island. I ended the trip with a splash—literally—as I fell backward into the cold water while getting out of my boat! We had paddled a comfortable 13.8 statute miles.

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 or 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.

CPA BUMPER STICKERS

CPA has produced three bumper stickers. We are selling these for \$1 each (our cost is about 90 cents each). Two of the designs are on page 3. The sticker below with three logos was designed to be cut up to provide a 33-cent logo sticker, but for simplicity we will sell only the whole bumper sticker. Currently, distribution will be through the Pirate Captains or Steering Committee members.



Inside our January/February issue:

- *SK101*
- *Wye by Water*
- *Wilmington by Water*
- *Paddlin' Places*

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***