The

Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Volume 14, Issue 10

November/December 2004

Shoreline Tour of the Patuxent River and St. Leonard Creek

By Jenny Welker

What a fabulous day for a guided tour of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum's shoreline along the Patuxent River and St. Leonard Creek. The park covers over 500 acres and is owned by the State of Maryland. It is a working farm and the site of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory. Kirsti Uunila, our archaeologist tour guide, was joined by Kelly Mackall of the JPPM staff. They welcomed us to the park and explained the park's establishment and historical significance before we launched for the on-water tour They told us more history as we paddled along the shoreline with them.

This was the second year in a row that the Shoreline Tour included a press boat. Joel Davis, managing editor of *The Calvert Recorder*, his daughter, Melissa Davis, and Darwin Weigel, staff photographer, joined us for the tour. We had 12 kayakers and 2 canoes with 5 people for the morning trip. At Petersons Point, we paused as Kirsti regaled us with battle

stories of St. Leonard Creek during the War of 1812. The press canoe accompanied us as far as Mackall Cove, on the west side the creek,



before paddling back to the launch. The rest of us crossed St. Leonard Creek to Sollers Wharf, a former steamboat wharf. On our return trip we had the opportunity to perform a canoe rescue at Petersons Point where the waves

and boat wakes combined to form a confused sea.

Back at the launch we had lunch.

Several of the kayakers from the morning trip plus two kayakers who arrived late went out for an afternoon trip. We headed up river past several preserved farms and then peered into Island Creek and across to Broomes Island.

The news of the day was that the King's Reach launch site is now open to the public. For several years, the park has allowed the shoreline tour participants to launch from King's Reach. Kelly Mackall explained that paddlers may now use the launch site without special arrangements. Paddlers should check in at the Visitors Center before proceeding to the King's Reach field. Kayaks may be

off loaded near the beach path. Then vehicles must be parked in a designated area on the other side of the park's main road. Contact the park for more information about public access. The opportunity to launch from

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:

We accept display advertising that relates to the interest of our readers. Monthly rates are as follows:

Size cost wide x deep (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 at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for 3 months.

FOR SALE: Top of the Line Current Design Caribou S. 17 ft 10 in. x 21 3/4 in. Kevlar, only 46 lbs. Skeg - my "guest" boat. Used 50 hours in 3 years. Like new. List \$3,100. Paid \$2,750. Sell \$1,850. Vincent Gerardi 410-810-2999 (11/04)

THE best kayak car, 1987 Volvo 240DL, miles 120k, 4 door, excellent condition, \$3,000 OBO. Call Julie 410-626-0241 (11/04)

One-piece, feathered paddle by Advanced Technology (www.atpaddle.com/ TouringXOSSeries.html). I believe it is the Xception OS E model. Paddle is new! 230 cm. Cost: \$299. Asking \$100. Contact Lisa at lgardner25@comcast.net. (9/04)

SPACE FOR RENT: Rent kayak space at the Pier 7 Boat House on the South River. Convenient to Annapolis. Free launches on Wednesday nights. Secure indoors storage. Greg Welker, 301-249-4895 or gwelker@chesapeake.net (9/04)

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 as follows:

Issue Jan/Feb 2005 March 2005 Deadline for Copy December 15, 2004 February 15, 2005

Have a story but think you're not a good writer? Send it anyway. We promise to proof, edit and add chair-gripping shark scenes. Email Danielle at news editor@cpakayaker.com or call at 703-208-0812.

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—Barry Marsh, 410-728-4016, circus_cyaneus@earthlink.net

Membership, subscriptions—Steve Lindeman, 410-827-7871, PO Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768, membership@cpakayaker.com

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Pirate Groups:

Pier 7 Pirate King—Alan Avery, 410-956-3299, pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com

Potomac Pirate King—Dick Rock, 703-780-6605

Patuxent Pirate King—Dan Wells, 410-414-2660, pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com;

Don Polakovics, 301-866-0437, pirates_patuxent2@cpakayaker.com

Georgetown Pirate Queens—Cyndi Janetzko, 703-276-2728; Dave Biss, 703-276-2728; David Moore, 301-445-3273; pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com

Baltimore Pirate King—Barry Marsh, 410-728-4016, circus_cyaneus@earthlink.net

Algonkian Pirate King—James Song, 703-375-4754, pirates algonkian@cpakayaker.com

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

It's been a great two years. I have been fortunate to be the Coordinator during an exciting time at CPA. We went from about 30 to over 100 trips and events each year. Membership rose to almost 600 at the peak and is now holding steady at about 550.

We continued to alternate Cold Water Clinics with SK101, hold annual SK102 events, and rolling + rescue classes. This winter, we are planning a new seminar: Paddling with Partners or how to lead trips for one, two, or more people.

Piracy has also grown with the initiation of the Pirates of Baltimore and Algonquian. I'm still hoping for Pirates groups for the Eastern Shore and North Bay. We have also continued our support for charitable swims and demo days.

But more than numbers, quality has also improved. The website went through an awesome transformation! We also started the forums to complement the improved member list. I would

suggest the website and forums have replaced the newsletter as the primary means of communication in the association. Fortunately, the newsletter is also still going strong. Two years ago, we were considering raising dues to cover increasing printing and mailing costs. Now, due to overwhelming numbers of CPA members switching to the electronic version, we are faced with the reverse situation—debating how to spend potential surplus money!

Within the last two years we developed a logo and started selling logo gear and clothing at cost. Our "line" is expanding and we now have the ability to place orders on the website and pay by PayPal. Sales of the new patch fund the volunteer recognition program (patches and rockers), also started during this period.

Best of all, we have seen more involvement by more people. Everything listed above occurred because members did them. While we have tried to recognize the people who did an enormous

amount of work, it really was a team effort to accomplish these things in the last two years. There are many unsung heroes who do the behind the scenes work like finances, keeping the membership roles, or arranging pool sessions that rarely get recognized.

My hat is off to all the CPA members who have organized or participated in these, and the numerous functions not listed above. We have all reaped the benefits. One of the greatest pleasures the last two years has been to meet so many new paddlers and watch their love of this sport grow.

I know CPA will be in good hands. As long as we remember our roots, stick to our mission, and continue to help others learn to sea kayak safely, CPA will continue to flourish. That is, as long as you and the other members stay involved.

Thanks for two great years,

-Brian Blankinship



\$9,500:

Funds raised by swimmers in 2004

Charities Benefited: Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Potomac River Association, the Southern Maryland Sierra Club, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

Kayaking Safety and the Chesapeake Paddlers Association

By Rob Castle

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association (CPA) prides itself on its promotion of kayak safety awareness and skill competency among the membership. While it is true that the membership is made up of paddlers of all different skill levels and interests, the one thing that is certain to be found throughout is that, when it comes to safety and competency, there are absolutely no "stupid" questions or lack of opportunities to improve within the CPA.

Over the years, the CPA has become the "go to" organization for many of the water-based charity event organizers in the Chesapeake Bay region. If kudos from organizers and participants are the measure of success, it is abundantly clear that these groups truly appreciate the involvement of CPA paddlers as an integral and necessary part of their event safety strategy. Along those same lines, some of the commercial kayaking entities in the region have also come to appreciate the presence of CPA "Safety Boats" during their public "demo" events

From personal observation during the 2003 and 2004

paddling seasons, the role the CPA has played and, hopefully, will continue to play in promoting kayak safety through the various public and "members only" venues is the most important thing we do as an organization (besides eating and socializing, that is). But no matter how good a job we do in getting the word out about the benefits of CPA affiliation, there will always be a percentage of people that simply don't think it necessary to join up or simply don't get the word at all.

Unfortunately, these people turn out to be some of the very same ones that end up in the news headlines (often with a tragic story attached) or boating casualty statistics. That is not to say that we are all "accidents waiting to happen", but I personally would like to think that through diligent efforts in education, preparation, and practice, the less likely we are to end up being counted in those same statistics.

I feel we have a responsibility to the paddling community as a whole to be aware of unsafe paddling activities, wherever we find them, and bring the issues of safety to the attention of the participants. I am not advocating suction-cup

mounted blue lights on the decks of our kayaks here (personally, I prefer the deckmounted power megaphone with warbling siren tone), I am simply saying that a polite comment may be all that is necessary to avert potential disaster.

Perhaps you could offer to steady their boat while they put on their PFD. We have all come across the kayaker(s) with a perfectly good PFD strapped somewhere on the deck. I know, the regulations only require the PFD to be on board in most cases, but I think we all know that the best place for the PFD is on the paddler. Even the U.S. Coast Guard states, "The best PFD is the one you will wear". My question to CPA members is very straightforward: what would vou do?



Hey Mister! Where's yer life jacket?

PADDLIN PLACES

This feature is compiled from member discussions on the CPA list serv or from member experiences.

Nassawango Creek—lower Eastern shore of Maryland

This 18-mile creek meanders through the northern-most bald cypress swamp in the United States, where 12 orchid species, including the pink lady's slipper, the state-rare grass-pink, and the rose pogonia are found. Swamps and bogs shelter rare grasses and sedges, insectivorious plants, and Atlantic white cedar stands.

The Nature Conservancy began protecting Nassawango Creek in 1978 after it received a 157-acre donation of swamp and forested

uplands. Since then, the preserve has grown to become the largest private nature preserve in Maryland with 9,100 acres.

Nassawango Creek begins five miles from the Delaware state line and runs through Worcester and Wicomico counties before draining into the Pocomoke River, a main tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Nearly 20 species of neotropical migratory birds, such as the hooded warbler, find homes at Nassawango.

The preserve is open year round for nature walks, kayaking and

bird watching. The Nature Conservancy & Furnace Town Visitor Center and the Paul Leifer Trail provide additional ways to explore Nassawango Creek. Admission to the visitor center is free for Conservancy members. For non-members, there is \$4 entry fee for adults and \$2 entry fee for children.

Directions to launch site:
From Baltimore/Washington, take
Route 50 east across the Bay Bridge
to Salisbury. From Salisbury, go
south on Route 12 towards Snow
Hill and turn right onto Red House
Road. After about one mile, park
along the road shoulder near the
designated parking sign. Launch
next to the sign on the west side of
the creek. Two yellow "Nature
Sanctuary" signs mark this area.

CPA Pool Sessions*, 2004-2005

Where: Fairland Aquatic Center, Burtonsville, MD

When: Saturdays, now through spring **Time**: 4-5:50 pm and 5:50-7:45 pm **Fee**: \$7 per person. Pay at FAC

Required:

- 1. Boats and gear must be clear of leaves, mud, Grass, etc.
- 2. A reservation. To get a reservation, email Joan at Jspinner2@peoplepc.com (preferred) or call 301-559-3345 by the Thursday prior to the session. Leave a message with the following information:
- a. your name and phone number
- c. date of session
- d. time slot
- e. number and type of boats (WW or sea kayak)

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. Enter through the patio.

*These are open sessions, not lessons. You must bring your own boat and gear. In case of inclement weather, call the center to see if it is open: 301-206-2359

Continued from Page 1

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum provides easier public access to St. Leonard Creek and this section of the Patuxent River.

The morning trip was approximately 4 miles, and the afternoon trip about 2.5 miles. The paddlers included Sue Bauer, Gail Davidson, John Davidson, Joel Davis, Melissa Davis, Diane Dickey, Richard Fiero, Mitchell Grooms, Margie Kriz, Kelly Mackall, Karen Miller, Dave Mood, Don Mozley, Peggy Mozley, Jenny Plummer-Welker, Kirsti Uunila, Darwin Weigel, Greg Welker, and Dan Wells. More information about Calvert

County's steamboat wharves and landings may be found on the web at www.co.cal.md.us/ about/abtcnty.htm. For more information about Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, call 410-586-8500, or visit the web site at www.jefpat.org.



Alan Avery's Baaaadass Koliday Parly



CPA will hold its annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 4 at 7 p.m. at the home of Alan and Shirley Avery, 352 Derbyshire Lane, Riva, Maryland 21140. Everyone is asked to bring either an entree, salad or dessert to feed 6-8 people. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Bring your own beer, wine or Courvoisier.

RSVP's would be appreciated by Wednesday, December 1 via e-mail at (zaverys@yahoo.com). Please clearly indicate the names of those attending in addition to what you will be bringing. If there are any questions, please call Alan or Shirley at 410-956-3299.



Directions: From Rt. 50 East ,exit 16 (Rt. 424) to Davidsonville Road. Go south on Davidsonville Rd 1 mile to a flashing light at the intersection with Governor's Bridge Road. Turn left for 2.5 miles to Riva Road. Turn left and go a half mile to Westbury Drive (Annapolis Landing). Turn right and take the 3rd right onto Stonehenge Drive, then the 3rd right onto Walpole Way. Turn right on Derbyshire. 352 is 2nd house on the left. From 50 West take exit 22 (Rt. 665--Aris T. Allen Blvd.) to Riva Rd. (exit immediately after the I 97 exit). Remain in right lane and turn right at Riva Rd. South. Follow Riva Rd. for 1.5 miles to Westbury Drive. 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 Rd.). Go 2 miles and turn right onto Riva Rd and turn right on Westbury Drive 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 1.5 miles to Westbury Drive (Annapolis Landing). Turn left and follow Annapolis Landing directions above.

2004 CPA Annual Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Steve Lindeman

The CPA annual club meeting was held on November 7, 2004 in Deale, Maryland with 38 club members attending. The purpose of the meeting was to elect new club officers, review the 2004 activities and the club status, and discuss upcoming activities.

2005 Election Results:

Officers — Coordinator: Barry Marsh; Treasurer: John Blackburn; Secretary: Steve Lindeman **Steering Committee** — Alan Avery, Cindy Janetzko, Dave Biss, Rich Stevens, Yvonne Thayer Brian Blankinship

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, John Blackburn, reported the club has approximately \$6,400 in reserves. The primary revenue source is from club membership dues. The primary expenses are for newsletter publication and distribution and for club brochures. The SK101 and SK102 events are break-even activities with revenues matching expenses. Logo Gear sales have started to generate some revenues but start-up cost expenses outweighed the revenues in 2004. A motion was made and approved to keep the annual membership dues at \$10.

Membership Report

The Secretary, Steve Lindeman, reported that the club has 511 paid members as of November 1, 2004. This is down from 544 members in 2004 and 438 members in 2003. The newsletter is distributed electronically to 389 members as compared to 290 in 2003 and 44 in 2002. The newsletter is distributed in hard-copy to 179 members as compared to 254 in 2003 and 435 in 2002. The membership breakdown by state is: Maryland, 308; Virginia, 154; Washington DC, 19; Pennsylvania, 17; All others, 13.

The club calls on volunteers to help keep our membership counts growing. We need to get the word out about our club and the many benefits we offer. There are club brochures available to be distributed at local sporting goods retailers. We can also set up a table at the various demo days and outdoors events. We have a CPA banner available if you are interested in running a table at any event. Contact any of the steering committee members for more information, getting brochures, or volunteering.

Annual Activity Reports

Newsletter – Danielle Ring, our newsletter editor, provided an update on the newsletter and asked for suggestions on any changes members would like to see. One suggested change is to add phone numbers to the CPA trip information and to the steering committee contact information in the newsletter. This change will be made.

Website – Barbara Foley, our web administrator, provided an update on the website. There have been significant accomplishments this year. The online store was developed and will be available soon. Online forums, a stolen boats database and photo galleries were created. The question was raised as to whether we should keep both the online forums and the email discussion list. One option was presented to use a new feature called 'RSS' to broadcast the forum information in much the same way as the email discussion list works. RSS will be enabled for those who want to try it. For the present time, both the email discussion list and the forums will remain.

SK101 – Joan Spinner reported that the SK101 workshop sold out quickly and was a success.

Annual Meeting Minutes Cont.

SK102 – Brian Blankinship reported that the SK102 event was a success and was also sold out. In 2004, the event was covered under the ACA liability insurance through the Paddlers Around the Chesapeake (PAC) organization. This approach will continue in 2005. The 2005 event will be May 13-15 and registration will open with the March newsletter. This is a members-only event.

2004 Trips – Brian Blankinship reported that there were roughly 100 official CPA trips in 2004.

Adirondack Trip – David Moore reported on the first CPA Adirondack trip held in September. Nine members went on a seven day paddling, eating and shopping trip. The trip will be offered again September 3-10th, 2005. The cost is approximately \$300 per person which includes lodging and some dinners. Contact David (301-445-3273 or dtmoore@starpower.net) if you would like more information about the 2005 trip.

Chesapeake Bay Bridge swim – Mike Vandamm reported that he is looking for a volunteer to take over the coordination of the kayak support for the annual Bay Bridge swim event. Mike has coordinated this activity for the last five years. Contact Mike (301-345-6324 or michael.j.vandamm@usps.gov) if you are interested. More kayakers are needed to provide on-water monitoring and first response safety for the swimmers. A discussion was held about kayaker safety for the event. The 2004 swim was particularly challenging for the kayakers due to the wave size on the Bay. Each person is responsible to understand their abilities as compared to the weather and make the personal choice to participate or not. A voluntary swim support skill awareness/training clinic for kayakers could be held if there is interest.

Upcoming Events

Holiday Party – This season's holiday party will be held on December 4th at Alan and Shirley Avery's home in Annapolis. Everyone is asked to bring a dish. RSVPs are required in order to have an accurate count and to have name tags pre-printed. (See Page 6 for more information.)

Paddling with Partners – Greg Welker announced the idea of a seminar called "Paddling with Partners" that could be held in winter/early spring. Volunteers are needed. Contact Greg (301-249-4895 or gwelker@erols.com) if you are interested.

Piracy Updates

Pirates of Pier 7 – Alan Avery reported that the Pier 7 marina might be sold. The boat house lease agreement has been extended until June 2005. Impact to the Wednesday night paddling location is not yet known.

Pirates of Georgetown – David Moore reported that Jack's boat house most likely will remain unchanged for the 2005 season. The long-term future is unknown as waterfront re-development pressures continue to pose a threat. Dave Biss reported that a dock will remain available to CPA members through out the winter. The "Winter" Pirates of Georgetown will continue to paddle. You must dress in gear appropriate for the water conditions. Contact Dave (bissd@erols.com) with any questions.

New Business

After the Annual meeting boat party - John and Susan Blackburn held an open house on their trawler after the annual meeting and invited all to attend.

Photos available – Jenny Plummer-Welker had a stack of trip photos available to browse through and take.

CPA Trip Requirements and Ratings

All 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 water-tight 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 CPAsponsored trips 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 needed.

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 groups paddling skills.

Intermediate Paddlers: Participants 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 trips requirements and ratings.

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.

The latest information about CPA trips is at www.cpakayaker.com.

DECEMBER

4 (Sat) Holiday Party, Alan Avery's house (All) See Page 6 for details 11 (Sat) Winter Paddling Series. (Advanced Beginner) James Song. (703) 470-7343.

JANUARY

15 (Sat) Winter Paddling Series (Advanced Beginner) *James Song.* (703) 470-7343.

FEBRUARY

12 (Sat) Winter Paddling Series (Advanced Beginner) James Song. (703) 470-7343.

MARCH

12 (Sat) Winter Paddling Series (Advanced Beginner) James Song. (703) 470-7343.

MAY

13-15 (Fri—Sun) 7th Annual SK102 Skills Clinic (All) Brian Blankinship. (410) 867-1051.



Inside our November/December issue...

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- Annual Meeting Minutes
- Kayaking Safety and the CPA

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.