

Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Volume 16, Issue 1

January-February 2006

2005 CPA Holiday Party

by Ralph Heimlich

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association holiday party took place on December 10 at the Crofton home of Jackie and Rob Castle, assisted in the reservations by Sue Bauer. A festive crowd of about 35 happy paddlers filled the house to overflowing, with a delightful pot luck buffet, conversations stretching from the cozy kitchen to the Yule decorated living room and on into the fire-lit family room. Libations appropriate to the festive season were quaffed in abundance. No one had been arrested (at least when I left).



Rob and Friends photo by Beth Heimlich



After greetings for all and best wishes of the season were exchanged, we all lined up for the pot luck buffet. Served on a groaning board, festooned with a buckskin Santa paddling a birchbark canoe (What? No kayak?), the buffet had the kind of variety and succulence expected from a crew whose proud motto is "We paddle to Eat!"

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Kayak Santa photo by Ralph Heimlich

8th Annual Kayak Skills Clinic (SK102)—April 28-30, 2006

By Brian Blankinship



Hard to believe this year will be the eighth SK102. Each year around 100 people flock to Lake Anna, VA, for a weekend of instruction, fun and food. Imagine over 100 kayaks, paddles and other assorted gear you can try. Instruction from some of the areas best instructors, all volunteering to provide YOU with free lessons. Add a barbeque and bonfire and you know it's going to be a great weekend.

The skills clinic is designed with the new paddler in mind, but includes some "higher level" classes as well. Courses range from an introduction to boat design to advanced rescues, from basic strokes to classes in Greenland or Wing paddle techniques.

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Brian Passing Word photo by Robert Woodward

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.

WANTED—Volunteers for Article Editor and Advertising Coordinator for the Newsletter Team. Contact Ralph Heimlich, Managing Editor, at news_editor@cpakayaker.com



Chicken photo by Ralph Heimlich

SCHEDULE FOR 2006 CHESAPEAKE PADDLER

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	Deadline for Copy
March 2006	February 15, 2006
April 2006	March 15, 2006
May 2006	April 15, 2006 (eek!)

Have an idea for an article, or is there information you would like to see in the newsletter? Email Ralph at news_editor@cpakayaker.com or call at 301-498-0722.

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, coordinator@cpakayaker.com

2660, pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com;
 Don Polakovics, 301-866-0437,
pirates_patuxent2@cpakayaker.com

Membership, subscriptions—Sue Bauer, 410-531-5641, c/o CPA, PO Box 341 Greenbelt, MD 20768, membership@cpakayaker.com

Georgetown Pirate Committee—Cyndi Janetzko, 703-241-0036; Dave Biss, 703-241-0036; David Moore, 301-445-3273; pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com

Secretary—Sue Bauer, 410-531-5641 secretary@cpakayaker.com

Baltimore Pirate King—Bob Huber, 410-335-0994, pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com

Treasurer—John Blackburn, 301-587-7142, treasurer@cpakayaker.com

Algonkian Pirate King—Jeff Walaszek, 703-670-7712, pirates_algonkian@cpakayaker.com

Webmaster/E-Mail List Administrator—Barbara Foley, webmaster@cpakayaker.com

Sugarloaf Pirate Queen—Deb McKenzie, 240-601-1440, pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com

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Advertising Coordinator—vacant, news_advertising@cpakayaker.com

Mailing and Distribution—Rob and Jackie Castle, news_distribution@cpakayaker.com

Pirate Groups:

Pier 7 Pirate Committee—Jackie & Rob Castle, Brent Cogswell, Jenny & Greg Welker, Sue Bauer pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com

Potomac Pirate King—Dick Rock, 703-780-6605 pirates_potomac@cpakayaker.com

Patuxent Pirate King—Dan Wells, 410-414-

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, except Nov-Feb 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.

Admiral's Walk



Happy New Year, and welcome to winter! With proper gear, skills, planning, and on-water safety practices, winter paddling can be a wonderful experience, marked by crisp, quiet days, flocks of overwintering birds, and a near-complete lack of powerboats. Break out and inspect your cold weather paddling gear, check the weather forecast and water temps, find some similarly-minded and attired paddling friends, and get out on the water!

As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter and on the CPA website, we've scheduled two Trip/Event Planning meetings for our 2006 season, the first in Virginia on March 4 and the second in Maryland on March 11. Remember all those great

CPA trips you've been on and events you've attended in the past, and consider getting involved in organizing and leading trips and events in 2006. We're holding a Steering Committee meeting right before the March 11 Maryland Trip/Event Planning meeting. At the SC Meeting, your elected officers will discuss CPA plans and policy for 2006 and beyond. All members are welcome to attend the SC meeting, making it a great opportunity for you to get your ideas on the agenda. Keep an eye on the website, user forums, and listserv for more info about the March meetings. Hope to see you at the meetings, and to see you organizing and leading trips in 2006!

We had a fun CPA Holiday Party at Rob and Jackie Castle's house on December 10th. The 30+ members who attended ate, drank, talked, sang, and regifted many "oh-you-shouldn't-have" presents in the white elephant gift exchange. Thanks to all who came, and to our hosts and organizers.

Happy, safe, and warm paddlin' - see ya on the water!

Barry
CPA Coordinator



(Continued from page 1) 2005 CPA Holiday Party

After several kinds of desserts (my personal favorite was the pecan pie), the classic "White Elephant" ("Shove Under" or "Chinese") gift exchange was organized for 16 participants who brought wrapped presents to unload, erhh...exchange. The most popular items were the two waterproof paddling "safes" for documents or cash that you can hang around your neck. They were swapped several times until their new owners settled in. Also popular was the electrically-lit fake fish aquarium light, won by the Avery's. We all

thought it should be hung upside down to simulate the capsized kayak view. Undoubtedly, however, the least popular item (selected by your correspondent because it was the biggest box)

was the bi-level cheese board and cover (bilevel terrarium?) constructed from a bifurcated cheap wine jug. I got stuck with it, but CPA participants WILL see it again. I'm thinking of using it as a door prize for the last one leaving the [Maryland Trip/Event Planning meeting](#), scheduled for March 11.



Sue and Jennifer photo by Brian Blankinship



Hunting White Elephants photo by Ralph Heimlich

(Continued on page 5)

CPA Pool Sessions, 2005-2006

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

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

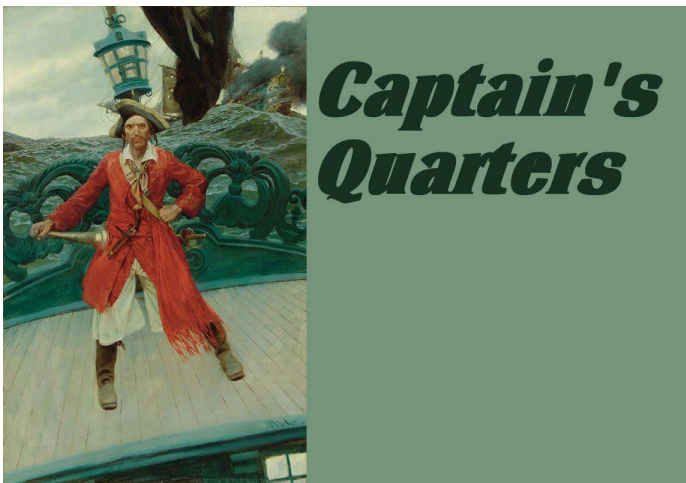
Required:

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
 - b. date of session
 - c. time slot
 - d. 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. Boat entrance is around to the left side of the building. In case of inclement weather, call the center to see if it is open: 301-206-2359

Note that new forum has been added at the CPA Kayaker Forum Index, "[Indoor Pool Sessions](#)".



CPA Trip/Event Planning Meetings Scheduled

On those cold winter nights by the fire, get out your paddling logs and charts and start thinking ahead to the 2006 paddling season. All trip leaders should come to either the Virginia Trip/Event Planning session (**March 4** at the home of Dave Biss and Cyndi Janetzko) or the Maryland Trip/Event Planning session (**March 11** at the home of Ralph Heimlich). There will be a Steering Committee meeting one hour prior to the Planning session at the March 11th meeting. Trips and outings are at the heart of a successful CPA, so come prepared to put forward your trip plans for the greater enjoyment of the Chesapeake Paddlers.

Who Can Organize and Lead A Trip? Anyone can organize a trip by coming up with an idea, a location, and a date. If you don't feel you have the necessary skills (such as navigation, rescues, first aid) to successfully LEAD your trip, you should recruit a more experienced trip leader to take charge of the on-water leadership. CPA training sessions (SK102, Kayak Navigation, Trip Leader Training) help you learn to lead trips.

What Kind of Trips Can CPA Paddlers Organize/Lead? The most common trips in the past have been day paddles, car camping trips, and kayak camping trips, but the anything on the deep blue sea is possible. CPA paddlers are always ready for new paddling venues, or more competitive activities such as Poker Runs, Geocaching, or paddling games (hounds and hares, anyone?). You should organize/lead trips within your skill level (see <http://www.cpakayaker.com/events/trip.html#skill>) and appropriate for the expected weather.

What Information Do I Need? Come to the Trip/Event Planning session prepared with the location, date(s), activity, and leadership for your proposed trip. Discussion at the sessions will help you refine your proposal, with input from other paddlers who have paddled at the location or undertaken a similar activity. Instructions on how to complete the calendar entries for trips will be available. It's a good idea to scout the launch, lunch, and take-out sites for your planned trip by car over the winter months, or using charts and maps or online aid such as <http://www.cpakayaker.com/launchsites.html> or Woody's Launch Finder at <http://www.kayaktrips.net/gmap.html>



The Musicians photo by Brian Blankinship

(Continued from page 3)

2005 CPA Holiday Party

The festivities continued with a musical interlude to the accompaniment of Jenny Plummer-Welker on the fiddle and Jesse Aronson on piano. Nostalgic holiday songs mingled with the buzz of conversations throughout the house as the night wore on.

All in all, our holiday party was a resounding success. Many thanks to efforts of Jackie, Sue and Rob, and the hospitality (and bravery) of the Castles for opening their home to our Piratical Yuletide Revels. See you again next December!!

We're Having A Party (and you're all invited)

The Pirates of Baltimore are hosting a mid-winter "beat the blues" party to help prepare our minds and souls for the upcoming season. We will meet at 6 PM on Saturday, January 28 at Mike McGovern's Pub, 1129 S. Clinton Street, Baltimore MD (410-534-2200). We will provide food. Drinks, hard and soft, will be available for purchase from the bar.

This evening will be one of those too rare opportunities to socialize with your paddling mates away from the water, in a quiet (at least until we get there), smoke-free environment. Check out this unique establishment at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A26105-2004Sep16.html>

So if you are a pirate (of any locale), ever wanted to be a pirate, wished you were a pirate, thought about maybe joining the pirates, played for the Pirates, talked like a pirate (ARRGH!), or even dressed like a pirate (you all know who you are), come join your brethren for an evening of camaraderie and merry times as we make ready for Spring.

Contact: Bob Huber, 410-335-0994, pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com



American Canoe Association Activities

Anyone interested in American Canoe Association (ACA) course or assessment schedules can go to www.americancanoe.org and find them listed by date, location and Instructor Trainer. You can also contact the ACA Middle States Division instruction facilitator, Greg Mallet-Prevost, at 301 942-1793. And yes you can call me for either canoe or kayak instructor certification. Mike Aronoff ACA ITE, BCU Coach at 703-264-8911.

Remember, if you are become an ACA member, you save \$10 on SK 102 registration (because of the insurance coverage).

Paddling 'Round the Seasons 'Round Eastern Neck By Marshall Woodruff



Marshall

photo by Ralph Heimlich

Every time I paddle, it is an adventure for me. I am happy to be alive and tasting all there is and kayaking does this for me. Sharing it is frosting on the cake, and I like to give back to CPA, so I organized three trips to one of my favorite paddling places this season: Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge.

Every trip to Eastern Neck is always different. The turn out of paddlers for each trip were those that enjoy being out in nature and having that door open to them even more. Like me, they enjoy meeting new people and the camaraderie of fellow paddlers. They were a nice mix on both paddles. Our paddles sometimes push us to our limits with distance and conditions, but the rewards at the end of the day are the memories and accomplishments.

When we paddled on June 18, it was a beautiful, warm day, the summer paddling season just emerging. The trees were in full leaf, song birds were twittering in the background, and there were lots of herons, egrets, and ducks, not to forget the circling seagulls. We saw an occasional osprey and eagle, a few turtle heads bobbing, and heard the drone of motorboats passing in the distance. We were on the water, lost in our own world, and enjoying it. Along with

me in June were Manuel Vera, Tom Heneghan, Mike Cohn, Lisa Arrasmith, Chuck ?, Suzanne and Kevin Copping, Eileen Burns and Nelson Labbe.

Our October trip opened the door for the migrating birds. We saw a few of many different species, including eagles, osprey, herons, and jumping fish, against a background of fully-leafed trees just starting to change, and noticed a new chill in water temperatures and a change in the air—not summer anymore. The last of the motor boats roared by, and the sailors relished the brisk breeze. The bay that day was rough, and we prudently reversed and took another route than our planned circumnavigation. Despite the change in plans, we still did not miss the sights abounding and certainly had fun. Dave Blanpied, our speaker for that trip, talked about his specialty, the island and how the Refuge was created. As we paddled, we envisioned the past and the change that occurred. That day, as we paddled, we saw the island with a different perspective. Paddling that day were Suzanne Copping, Dan Hoke, Manuel Vera, Andy DeVito, Debbie Hofbeck, Ralph Heimlich, Mildred Porter, Gina Cicotello, Jack Wengrynink, Dale Murphy, and Kingsley Chan.

Howard's Talk

Photo by Jesse Aronson



With our November paddle, we had another speaker to introduce us to what we were about to see. Howard MacIntire, is the official bird counter (who knew?) for the island, and the news he brought was that earlier in the week 5,000 tundra swans arrived from the North!!! We couldn't have asked for a nicer day—clear, cool and calm—but it could have been cold, rainy and rough because we make the best of what is dealt us. We were not disappointed. After Howard's talk, we seemed to be keener in "seeing" the pintail ducks, loons, eagles, swans and all that was to be seen that day. As we paddled, the vision was awe-inspiring. Along the horizon were miles of white—the tundra swans. This sight was hard to believe, and hearing them take off was something we will not forget. In November, Brian Blankinship,



Bridge to Eastern Neck Island

Photo by Ralph Heimlich

(Continued on page 8)

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 CPA-sponsored 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 <http://www.cpakayaker.com/events.html>

January

7(Sat) (Intermediate) [Eastern Neck Winter Paddle](#)

Led by Marshall Woodruff, marshall.woodruff@gmail.com 202-345-0606.

This is a Winter paddle around Eastern Neck island. Email leader to be screened.

March

4 (Sat) Trip/Event Planning Meeting for 2006, Virginia (Dave Biss and Cyndi Janetzko) and

11 (Sat) Trip/Event Planning Meeting for 2006, Maryland (Ralph Heimlich)

April

28-30 (Fri-Sun) (First Timer) [8th Annual SK102](#)

Led by Brian Blankinship, SK102@BayKayaking.com

The event is geared towards the new paddler and includes free lessons in strokes, bracing, rescues, rolling, and more. When: April 28-30, 2006 (Friday-Sunday) Where: Lake Anna, VA see [article](#) and [registration form](#) in this issue (page 9).



(Continued from page 6) **'Round Eastern Neck**

Gerry Gilstrop, Rebecca Pepkowitz, Jennifer Bine, Kingsley Chan, Tom Heneghan, Mary and Vitas Eidukevicius, Jesse Aronsen, and Sally Baker paddled with me.

As you can see, even though we return to the same locale, every paddle is a different adventure, and the new people we meet make it even more memorable. I want to thank all who came on these trips for sharing the Eastern Neck with me as the seasons changed.

Editor's Note: See [Marshall's January 7 trip](#), planning to go back to Eastern Neck in winter.

Off Eastern Neck Photo by Vitas Eidukevicius



Learning Skills photo by Robert Woodward

Saturday night is the barbeque (included in the price) and bonfire. Bring your S'more fixin's. Musicians are always appreciated! Sunday will feature walk-in classes both on land and water (at least the rolling instructors "walk-in").

This is not commercial instruction. The money collected goes towards expenses. If you are an [American Canoe Association](#) member, you can save the insurance fee. The only way to register is using [the form](#) in this newsletter—but don't delay. SK102 usually fills within two weeks.

For the latest information check out www.cpakayaker.com/forums under Events, SK102.

8th Annual SK102 (Continued from page 1)

Friday night starts with a night paddle, so bring your lights. Removed from major cities, the night sky is brighter. Throw in plenty of good company and it's hard to beat 60 or 70 kayaks lit like fireflies on the lake. Saturday we will have two blocks of classes, before and after lunch. When classes are over, there are kayak games, impromptu rolling competitions and just messing about in boats (and on land).



Chow Line photo by Robert Woodward

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL SK102 SKILLS CLINIC, APRIL 28-30, 2006

This is a Chesapeake Paddlers Association "members only" event.

Where: Lake Anna is 2 hours south of Washington DC, between Fredericksburg and Richmond, VA, just west of I-95. The lake is a cooling pond for a nuclear power station so the water is not only very clear—it is heated! The location is private property, where you are welcome to set up your own tent. There are motels nearby for non-campers. Details and directions will be emailed, and are posted on www.cpakayaker.com/forums under Events, SK102.

Cost: \$32, which covers the cost of the porta-potties, handouts, insurance provided by the American Canoe Association (ACA), and dinner on Saturday night. You will be responsible for all your other meals. You provide your own boat, spray skirt, and PFD. CPA volunteers conduct the free skills clinic. This is not certified instruction. For questions or to volunteer: Email: SK102@BayKayaking.com. If needed, call Brian at 410 867-1051.

Registration will be limited to 80 and will fill up quickly. See instructions at the bottom of the form. You will be notified by email of acceptance/non-acceptance. For those turned away, checks will be destroyed.

ALL MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED: NO NON-REGISTERED GUESTS OR WALK-INS allowed on the grounds.

SK102 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Note: Children 12 and older are accepted, but must take classes with their parent/guardian
If a participant is 12-18 years old, please check here

Were you turned away last year for lack of space? Yes / No

Did you attend last year? Yes / No

Would you like to be included in the event directory? Yes / No

If you are an [ACA member](#), the fee is discounted to \$22. ACA Membership # _____

If you prefer a vegetarian option for dinner, please check here

SELECT ONE MORNING AND ONE AFTERNOON BLOCK (check the appropriate boxes)

For course descriptions, go to www.cpakayaker.com and look under Special Events, SK102

Morning Session: 9:00-12:00 Saturday

- BLOCK 1: Kayak Design, Wet Exit, Basic Strokes
- BLOCK 2: Stroke Improvement, Intermediate Strokes, Bracing
- BLOCK 3: Self Rescues, Group Rescues, Towing
- BLOCK 4: Greenland Style Paddling
- BLOCK 5: Wing Paddle Technique

Afternoon Session: 1:00-3:00 Saturday

- BLOCK A: Stroke Improvement, Intermediate Strokes, Bracing
- BLOCK B: Self Rescues, Group Rescues
- BLOCK C: Advanced Rescues
- BLOCK D: Rolling

Sunday Morning Sessions do not require registration, and will be announced by email and on the web page.

To register: Send this form along with your \$32 (\$22 for ACA members) check payable to "CPA" to:
Laura Butterbaugh, 829 Chester River Dr., Grasonville, MD 21638



Inside our January-February 2006 issue:

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CPA Holiday Party, December 10, 2005, Jackie and Rob Castle's Home, Crofton, MD photo by Ralph Heimlich

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.