

Chesapeake Paddler



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May 2006

When Your “Dream Boat” Becomes a Nightmare: My First Kayak Repair

By Ron Barnett

Well, it wasn't exactly my first repair—I repaired a leaking front hatch two years ago. But now my lovely, sleek kayak had some nasty gashes and gunks. I'll spare you the embarrassing details of how the damage was done. Suffice it to say in one instance it involved an attempt to empty rain water from the kayak while it was still on top of a car. In the second, it involved two muscular he-men trying to move a kayak from the top of a car to the ground without dropping it, an act they'd accomplished successfully hundreds of times! But it is only one slip from sleek to sloven.

I consider this repair as my first “real” repair, because it involved the working end of a kayak, the bottom, the part that is in constant contact with water, subject to abrasion, and vulnerable to who-knows-what from the deep. I also think a “gel coat mystique” forms our perception of what constitutes a “real” repair. For most of my life, I'd never heard of gel coat let alone thought about how to repair it, and I imagined it would be as complicated as setting a VCR or brain surgery.

So last winter I faced reality. There they were—two damaged areas to the gel coat, both on the keel, one fore and one aft. Each area was the size of a thumb; and the larger, uglier one exposed the Kevlar. Even the distinctive gold color of Kevlar shining through couldn't make the thing look pretty.

My first step was to consult a respected paddler who had patches on the bottom of his kayak. I then conducted a web search. Most but not all sources recommended replacing gel coat with gel coat. That made sense, but that isn't what I did. In fact, one source said never use anything other than gel coat or you'll live to regret it. He didn't say why. Smart guy. He left it to my imagination to dream-up the worst outcomes.



Note: AquaMend and acetone can be obtained from Home Depot and other retailers

What did I use? Since the areas were relatively small, I used an epoxy putty called AquaMend® (disclaimer: I have no affiliation or connection with this product). It's a modeling clay-like material that comes in a tube in a “tootsie-roll” form. It does not require measuring or mixing, and after hardening it can be sanded, filed, and painted. The “tootsie-roll” consists of two parts, the base (green) and the hardening agent (white). When the two colors are kneaded together to initiate hardening, you get a white putty that is ready to be applied and shaped.

There were several hairline cracks in the gel coat that extended out from the damaged areas. So I used a small screw driver to pry-off several semi-attached pieces of gel coat, even though it made the holes larger—OUCH! Leaving them would have resulted in an insecure base on which to apply the epoxy. I also checked the Kevlar inside and outside of the kayak, and there was no damage.

To improve the “grab” of the epoxy, I sanded the gel coat around the edges of each area so they sloped and the area overall. I cleaned the entire area with acetone. I cut-off some AquaMend, kneaded it, and applied it by pushing it in the holes to fill them and molded it to conform to the shape of the keel. I let the AquaMend somewhat overlap the gel coat by about 3/8th of an inch. It hardened overnight and the next day I sanded it down flush with the existing gel coat using course (100) and fine (220) grades of sandpaper. As the kayak is white I saw no need to apply paint.

Did it work? Well, I've paddled 50 miles so far and there are no leaks, and aesthetically it passes. My kayak is no longer “virgin”, but has that “lived in” look. Now if those imagined outcomes don't come to pass, the repairs should be in good shape for miles to come. If not, isn't learning grand?



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!

Nesty Zoar Sport LV Sea Kayak. 13' 7" by 24". Weight 54 Pounds. New last fall. Shoulder injury forces sale. \$1035 invested. Asking \$899. Howard Jones, 703-938-0490.

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.



Patuxent River Clean Up photo by Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper

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
June 2006	May 15, 2006
July 2006	June 15, 2006
August 2006	July 15, 2006

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

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

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

Patuxent Pirate King—Dan Wells, 410-414-2660, pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com; Don Polakovics, 301-866-0437, pirates_patuxent2@cpakayaker.com

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

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

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

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

Pirate Queen of the North—Wendy Baker-Davis, 717-293-1086, pirates_north@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, 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



Ahoy, Paddlers!

I want to thank everyone who was involved in any way in the planning and running of this year's amazing SK102 at Lake Anna. Laura, Brian, Dave, and Teresa—as always, you did an incredible job organizing this great event—thank you!

Each of our 20+ instructors was outstanding—thanks for taking the time to make sure everyone learned as much as they could, on and off the water.

To the 90+ SK102 participants—I hope you all learned a few things about yourselves, your boats and gear (and the other

members' boats and gear you got to try out), and your club, and made new friends to with which to paddle. I hope to meet each of you on the water over the coming months and years.

With the Spring paddling season upon us, check out all the trips and events we have listed on the website and newsletter calendars (see <http://www.cpakayaker.com/events.html>). If there's a place you'd like to paddle that you don't see listed, feel free to organize a peer paddle there and announce it to the listserve (Members@cpakayaker.com) and forums (<http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/>).

If you would like to organize a trip or event but aren't sure you have the skills, experience, or local knowledge, please contact any member of the Steering Committee and we'll help get you started and/or make the connections to make your trip a reality.

Happy paddlin',

Barry
CPA Coordinator (and SK102 Grillmeister)



Captain's Quarters

CPA Piracies Roar to Life, Me Hearties!!

According to CPA Policy, everyone must complete a CPA Waiver prior to their first outing with each Piracy this season. It is now a one page 'painless' waiver. You can fill in the form on-line, print it, sign it and bring it with you on your first outing with us.

To find the waiver, go to <http://www.cpakayaker.com/downloads/events/forms/CPARelease.pdf>

Black Hill Pirates Swash Their Buckles

I'm sure all of the Pirate Captains say they paddle with the finest of the finest, and this Pirate Queen is no exception. It's great to have new paddlers come out and share their joy and excitement while benefiting from the skills and stories from paddlers who've experienced a wave or two over the years. It's great to have spouses and families join in on the fun, to have paddlers bring the fantastic boats they've built and of

course, the good company of regular paddling friends.

The first official Pirates of Sugarloaf weekly paddle brought out six paddlers to enjoy an absolutely perfect evening on Lake Seneca at Black Hill Regional Park. The weather was perfect and the water still and clear. Scott was unofficially appointed the group's naturalist for the evening as he easily could name more birds than the rest of us combined. The water level was a bit higher than normal and combined with the great visibility, allowed us to enjoy some great turtle watching.

Bob Knill is starting to become quite the expert with his newly made Greenland paddle and the group fumbled upon the startling (and possibly alarming) discovery that the kayak community (or at least the Pirates of Sugarloaf) has a disproportionate share of A-Type

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Assateague Kayak Kamper: Sturm und Drang

By Ralph Heimlich



Launch from Ferry Landing photo by Ralph Heimlich

After getting skunked in Spring 2005 on this trip (we opted out of the backcountry sites because of high winds), I was relieved to lead 11 hearty Pirates down Sinepuxent Bay to Green Run on a breezy, but sunny Saturday, May 6. Despite the forecasted NE winds, we pushed into a southerly flow that kicked up to 10 or 15 knots in our faces. We lunched at a delightful sand beach out of the wind, just north of Pine Tree.

Green Run was occupied by 4 canoeists who had started out on Friday, but our arrival must have unsettled them, because they opted to push off for Pine Tree almost as soon as we arrived. We put up a tarp as appeasement to the rain gods, and gathered a prodigious pile of pine and other flammables for the night to come.

The ocean beach (a 10 minute walk from camp) was a draw after our long paddle. Of interest were large rafts of some kind of sea duck (scoters? Scaup? Too far out to tell) that seemed to dive on cue and all surface together. We also watched shoals of shorebirds frolicking in the waves, and just laid down on the warm sand to roast our bones.

The highlight of Saturday night was a sack of Chincoteague oysters Greg Welker procured from some of his waterman friends, despite the unpropitious month of May (no R, although we had plenty of Arrrgh!). After working up a good bed of coals, Greg simply laid the toothsome shellfish on the grill until they peeped out (called "shocking"), which imparts a warm, salty-sweet smoky flavor to the oysters. We gorged on many a bounteous bivalve, complete with lemon and cocktail sauce. We even pressed a few oysters on a pair of backpackers who joined us at the camp. The young lady from Illinois seemed game, but the young man from Rochester, NY, had apparently not thought oysters edible. After a long campfire, complete with "transfusions" from our ruby red ambo bags of wine, we enjoyed a quiet and beautiful night of peace in the backcountry.



Green Run Camp photo by Ralph Heimlich

The wind picked up early on Sunday morning. Four of our number had responsibilities back in the developed world (Greg Welker, Todd Angerhoffer, Dan Wells, and Bob Pullman), so packed up and headed off into a stiff 20-25 knot breeze (yes, the forecast wind finally arrived to head us off) on their way back to Ferry Landing. The remaining 7 opted to stay Sunday night because of the expected mess with the Bay Bridge Walk, which would not end until 7 PM on Sunday.

Five of the remainder set out on a day-paddle to Popes Bay, riding the northerlies south for a quick southbound jaunt (Ron Barnett, Dan Hoke, Jim Allen, Dick Rock and I). Ellen Stefaniak and Frank Day kept camp for us, and took the opportunity to watch birds and count sheep. With Dan Hokes GPS, we navigated the winding passages to Popes Bay, where we met a pair of kayakers who were packing up for a night at Pine Tree. After lunch, we 5 bucked ferocious north winds, gusting over 30 kts at times, to return to Green Run. We tried to find as many sheltered waterways to head back our way as possible, even portaging over a neck at one point to avoid the worst of the wind.

Dinner was more subdued on Sunday night, as the weather worsened. About 9, rain arrived early, along with renewed wind. As a hammock camper, I felt like camping in a kite that night, and all the tents and tarps rattled as fiercely as a man o' war in a 3-reef gale.

Dawn finally broke, and we crammed wet and soggy gear and tents back in the boats, wolfed down a quick breakfast, and paddled off into the deceptive calm of Green Run Bay in early morning. When we rounded the Pirate Islands, the full force of the 20-knot wind hit us, staggering us back. Dan led us on a point-to-point from one bit of sheltering marsh to another as we crawled our way North. The heavy wind, combined with low tides and shallow waters inshore, limited our progress and made us pick our way between the [Scylla and Charybdis](#) of the wind and the shallows.

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(Continued from page 3) **Captain's Quarters**

personalities. (I don't have to name names; we know who we are?) Thanks to last season's regulars Bob and Jim for coming out and to Jim's wife (now we know where the term "better half" comes from). I'd like to extend a special welcome to new Pirates Deb Haggart and Scott Siegel for their good company and I hope to see you all on the water again soon. Now we just need Russell to bring his boat the next time he comes!

Pirate Queen: Deb McKenzie

Pirates of Richmond Seeking Swabbies

Live too far south to join one of the current piracies? You could be a Pirate of Richmond! No pirates here yet, so there's lots of water to explore and plundering to be done! To join the group and help with making plans for the upcoming season, contact Captain Ellen Stefaniak at 1es@earthlink.net or 804-305-1673.

Pirates of Baltimore: Tall Ships and Tall Tales

We have had four great paddle sessions this year. Wonderful, sunny weather, tall ships and Volvo racers in the Inner Harbor, paddling under the lighthouse at Rocky Point... (sigh)...

It's time to open it up to all you warm weather paddlers. The cold water gear restrictions are now lifted, starting with our 5/16 paddle in Canton. To celebrate, after our session we headed to the Austin Grill for some camaraderie and fun. Got to know the group in an off-water setting and enjoy the company.

The water temps are still in the low 60's, so wear something more than your mini-Speedo, but a dry suit or full length wet suit is not required. All the usual safety requirements still hold, of course.

Pirate King: Bob Huber

(Continued from page 4) **Assateague Kayak Kamper Kontinued**

At one point, Frank Day, whose wrist had gotten progressively worse during the trip, lagged behind, so we took him under tow to keep the group together. That must have been the signal to the wind gods, because it slacked off for a while. We lunched at a muddy beach south of Pine Tree, then started off again for Ferry Landing. At some points, the water was so shallow paddlers got up on their feet in disgust and hauled the boats along. How weird for those of us still afloat to look up at our companions striding along. After 6 long hours of slogging, we finally arrived at Ferry Landing and packed away our toys, like good girls and boys, for the trip home. A few of us stopped off for seafood at the Waterman's Restaurant on Rt. 50, before wending the weary miles home.

I'm glad we were able to get down the Bay this year, and very glad to have gotten back.



Sheltering from the Northerlies photo by Ron Barnett



The 2006 Great Chesapeake Bay Swim

On June 11, 2006, hundreds of open water swimmers will be diving into the Bay waters from Sandy Point State Park, under the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. They will swim 4.4 miles to the other side of the bay. CPA kayakers are an important part of this event, as kayakers are responsible for first hand support of the swimmers.

We need kayakers for both the main 4.4 mile swim across the Bay from Sandy Point to Hemingways Beach and the shorter, 1 mile swim taking place in the protected cove on the Eastern side of the Bay Bridge. Kayakers need to be ready to tow swimmers to rescue boats, and offer assistance to fellow kayakers, including rescues, as needed.

For more information or to sign up contact Dave Biss at davidbiss@cox.net or Cyndi Janetzko at janetzko@hotmail.com or call 703.241.0036.

The 2006 Potomac River Swim

Yes, I know you've seen this request before but we are still short-handed and really need some more support kayakers. Here's the deal....The swim takes place on Saturday, June 3, at the mouth of the Potomac River. Currently there are 25 swimmers signed up from all over the country (NM, CA, VA, MD, NY, MI, WV). BUT, there are only 19 kayakers signed up. We NEED one kayaker per swimmer plus a few extra for sweeps and to cover any last minute drop outs. Basically, we could really use 10 or more of you. AND ITS FUN!!!

What do you get? First, you get to brag about what you did, and a shirt (designed by a local artist) to prove you did it. Whenever I wore my shirt during the past year people would ask about it and then I could pass on the good news about CPA and what we do.

But wait...that's not all....You also get a FREE dinner the night before including some yummy treats and excellent company.

But there's still more....You get FREE camping on Friday and Saturday night at Point Lookout State Park, an excellent, clean park with full facilities.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL....You also get a feast of a lunch when you make it to shore at the end of the swim. Last year the spread was fit for a king (or queen). So what are you waiting for? **ACT NOW!!!**



Seriously, we really do need your help, so please go to <http://www.crosslink.net/~cherylw/pr2006i.htm> to check all the information and let Cheryl Wagner cherylw@crosslink.net know you are coming. Most people show up Friday afternoon and some of us will do a quick paddle until time to get ready for dinner. The next morning we put our boats on a 60' mast sailing ship to cross the river then we unload and the swimmers swim back. It is an amazing sight to see. Conditions can be a little rough (up to 2' waves) but they definitely won't be extreme or the swim will be called off. If you have more questions, contact Cheryl or me bresnacj@pwcs.edu.

Chris Bresnan
Epic Endurance 18
Red/White

I have supported a swimmer at this event for the past two years and have signed up again this year. It is challenging, lots of fun and at the end you and your swimmer are new friends. I encourage everyone to consider participating if possible.

Manuel Vera

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>

MAY

19(Fri)	Adirondack Paddlefest : Non-CPA Event --Here is yet another Paddlefest to see. Although a little out of the way. Web Site: http://www.mountainmanoutdoors.com/pages.paddlefest/paddlefest.html Skill Level: All Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Mountainman OSC (315) 357-6672.
19-21(Fri-Sun)	Pocomoke River/Nassawango Creek Car Camper --Car camping and multiple paddling trips on the Pocomoke River and Nassawango Creek. Web Site: http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/eastern/pocomokeriver.html Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 (leave a message), Saki Sakakihara.
20(Sat)	Kent Island Peer Paddle Training --This is a paddle geared towards someone who wants to practice and get in shape over the next several months in preparation for the long distance paddle. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Marshall Woodruff 202.345.0606.
21(Sun)	Save the Patapsco, Hon V - Swim Support : Non-CPA Event --This is Joe Stewart's fifth swim to increase awareness of the health of the Patapsco River (Baltimore Harbor) and raise funds for its protection. Joe and five other swimmers will swim north across the mouth of the Patapsco, outside the Key Bridge, from Venice on the Bay to North Point State Park, around 4 miles in open water. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Barry Marsh 410-728-4016.
28(Sun)	Patuxent River & Jug Bay --10 NM round trip from Selby Landing south of Jug Bay, including Lyons Creek and Mattaponi Creek. Protected water; great nature-watching. Limited to 15 paddlers. IMPORTANT NOTE: I won't be screening paddlers for this trip until early May - stay tuned to the calendar, newsletter, listserve, and forums... Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Barry Marsh 410-728-4016.
29(Mon) Memorial Day	Occoquan Watertrail --Explore the Occoquan Watertrail on this Holiday Adventure. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Dan Hoke.
31(Wed)	REI Kayak Navigation Class : Non-CPA Event --This is a classroom session that teaches the fundamentals of navigation. Web Site: http://www.rei.com/stores/baileyscrossroads/index.html Organizer(s): Led by REI Customer Service 703-379-9400. Location: REI Bailey's Crossroads Cost: \$25 REI Members/\$40 nonmembers.

JUNE

- 3(Sat)** **Potomac River Swim 2006 : Non-CPA Event**--Volunteer to support a swimmer as they cross the mouth of the Potomac River. Web Site: <http://www.crosslink.net/~cherylw/pr2006i.htm> **Skill Level:** Intermediate Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Cheryl Wagner (202) 387-2361 or (202) 874-0614.
- 5(Mon)** **Breton Bay to the Potomac**--This will be an intermediate explorer trip of Breton Bay to the Potomac River and Back. Skill Level: Intermediate Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Mark Woodside.
- 9-11(Fri-Sun)** **Point Lookout State Park Car Camper**--Car camping at Point Lookout State Park and paddling in vicinity. Web Site: <http://troop424.freesevers.com/Bill%20Dodge%27s%20CPA%20trip/index.html> **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Bill Dodge 703-979-5837.
- 10-11(Sat-Sun)** **LLBean Paddlefest, Annapolis : Non-CPA Event**--Boat demos, lectures, classes, and more. Web Site: <http://www.llbean.com> **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by LLBean.
- 10(Sat)** **Al Staats Memorial Paddle and Picnic : Non-CPA Event**--As many of you may already know, a member dear to our hearts, has passed on. We will be celebrating his life and his commitments to things he loved with a paddle and picnic at Pohick Bay Regional Park, VA. **Skill Level:** Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Pat Case 202-483-4204.
- 10-11(Sat-Sun)** **Okoumestock : Non-CPA Event**--CPA will be providing safety boaters and on water demonstrations for Chesapeake Light Craft's annual Okoumestock weekend at Camp Lets on the Rhodes river in southern Anne Arundel County, MD. Contact Greg Welker at gdwelker@verizon.net if you are interested in helping out either on water or on land. Web Site: http://www.clcboats.com/okoumestock/index.php/cart_id=42d09e3d98243bee5305ceca27a1c56f/ **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Greg Welker 301-249-4895, Chesapeake Light Craft 410-267-0137.
- 11(Sun)** **Great Chesapeake Bay Swim Support : Non-CPA Event**--Join us in supporting the Swim Across the Chesapeake Bay again this year. Web Site: <http://www.bayswim.com/> **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by David Biss 703.241.0036, Cyndi Janetzko 703.241.0036.
- 17-18(Sat-Sun)** **Clearwater Festival : Non-CPA Event**--Here is a Hudson River event that may be of interest so many paddlers. Web Site: <http://www.clearwater.org/revival06/aboutfestival.html> **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Jerry Blackstone.
- 17(Sat)** **3rd Annual Paddle for the Cure : Non-CPA Event**--A charitable paddle opportunity. Web Site: www.ultimatewatersports.com **Skill Level:** First Timer Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Hal Ashman 410-335-5352.
- 17(Sat)** **Kent Island Peer Paddle Training**--This is a paddle geared towards someone who wants to practice and get in shape over the next several months in preparation for the long distance paddle. **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Marshall Woodruff 202.345.0606.
- 17-18(Sat-Sun)** **Greenwell State Park Kayak Kamper**--Kayak Kamping at a primitive campsite on the Patuxent River. Web Site: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/greenwell.html> **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 (leave a message), Greg Welker.
- 17-18(Sat-Sun)** **REI's Paddle Demo Days : Non-CPA Event**--REI is having their Paddling Demo Days. Go try out some boats! Web Site: <http://www.rei.com/stores/baileyscrossroads/index.html>. **Organizer(s):** Led by Maryland REI Customer Service 301-982-9681, Virginia REI Customer Service 703-379-9400. **Location:** Seneca Creek State Park, Gaithersburg, MD (17th) and Pohick Bay Regional Park, Lorton, VA (18th)
- 24(Sat)** **CPA Race 5 miles, Fun Race, Rec Kayak Race**--5 Mile race at Jack's Boathouse (Pirates of Georgetown). Followed by a "fun" race and a Recreational Kayak Race Many classes. Web Site: www.cpkayaker.com/forums **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Brina Blankinship 443 994-7990, Cyndi Janetzko.
- 25(Sun)** **Calvert Cliffs**--Open water on the Chesapeake Bay, 12 NM round trip from Flag Ponds Nature Park along the Calvert Cliffs to Cove Point Lighthouse. Scenic shoreline paddle with surf, waves, and wind; fossil collecting during beach breaks. Limited to 15 paddlers. IMPORTANT NOTE #1: The parking lots are 1/2 mile from the beach - EVERY PADDLER MUST BRING HIS/HER OWN KAYAK CART! IMPORTANT NOTE #2: I won't be screening paddlers for this trip until May or early June - stay tuned to the calendar, newsletter, listserve, and forums... **Skill Level:** Intermediate Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Barry Marsh 410-728-4016.

July

4(Tue)	PoG July 4th Fireworks Paddle: Come join us for the best seats in the house to see the Washington D.C. Fireworks - your kayak on the Potomac River. More information to follow shortly. Skill Level: First Timer. Organizer: Todd Angerhoffer
7-9(Fri-Sun)	Mathews County, VA, Car Camper: Car camping on the beach and paddling in the Bay and Mobjack Bay. Web Site: http://troop424.freesevers.com/New%20Point%20Comfort%20Kayak%20Camper%20IV/index.html Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers. Organizer(s): Led by Bill Dodge 703-979-5837
9(Sun)	Re-entries and Rescues Skills Training Day: This will be a fun filled day of safety, rescues, recoveries, and towing. Training will cover topics and activities on the water and off. This event will be held at Mason Neck State Park, on the Potomac River in VA. Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers. Organizer(s): Led by Dave Biss 703.241.0036, Cyndi Janetzko 703.241.0036.
13(Thu)	Nanjemoy Creek Day Paddle: Join us for a day paddle on Nanjemoy Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River in MD. Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers, Organizer(s): Led by Dan Hoke.
15(Sat)	CPA Races 5+10 Miles, Fun Race: 5 and 10 Mile races and "fun" race at The West River Center, West River, Maryland. Many classes. Web Site: www.cpakayaker.com/forums Skill Level: All Paddlers. Organizer(s): Led by Brian Blankinship 443 994-7990, Cyndi Janetzko.
22-23(Sat-Sun)	Eastern Neck Island Paddle and Camp: Here is the opportunity to see Eastern Neck Island during the summer Season. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner. Organizer: Marshall Woodruff 202.345.0606.
29(Sat)	Rocky Gorge / Tridelphia Reservoir: Join us for a Day Paddle on one of the reservoirs. Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Ron Barnett 240.401.3068.
29(Sat)	Kent Island Paddle Training: This is a paddle in preparation for the long distance paddle around the island. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Organizer(s): Led by Marshall Woodruff 202.345.0606.
30(Sun)	Dundee Creek & Gunpowder River: Round trip from Dundee Creek Marina to Pooles Island. 10-14 nautical miles in protected and coastal water, with open-water crossings of up to 1.5 miles. Great wild-life trip! Limited to 15 paddlers. Skill Level: Intermediate Organizer(s): Led by Barry Marsh 410-728-4016.

National Park Service Releases Georgetown University Boathouse Environmental Assessment

Georgetown University has released their assessment at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document>

What was approved still blocks the view of the river (36' tall) and is still 18,600 SF. Those who are concerned about the Potomac should read it and comment. Of note:

- GU is the study director and bought and paid for this EA, so likely support the three alternatives as acceptable by GU.
- All three alternatives block the view of the river and have significant visual impact from the water and from the Canal. This study is dismissive of this fact by claiming that the structures are nearly the same size as the WCC structure. In fact they are 4X the SF and 50% to 100% taller.
- There is a significant factual error in the McKissack & McKissack feasibility study, shown on Fig. 2-10, pg. II-19 of the EA. They show the access drive continuing down the CCT some 600'-800' beyond the eastern end of the GU property, when, in fact, the GU easement bears off the centerline of the CCT right at the eastern end, and is completely out of the Right of Way in less than 100'. Also, in order to have a reasonable grade, they show the grading beginning inside the easement, which should not be allowed by NPS.
- In Appendix P, Table 3, the water velocity during a flood is shown to double at the downstream end of the proposed boathouse (Station M1) compared to what it would be without the new structure, and it is shown to increase by 40% at the upstream end of the structure (Station N1). Why isn't NPS concerned about the impact of water flows against the canal embankment that have been sped up somewhere between 40%-100%? The EA only mentions that the velocities are essentially unchanged at stations opposite the WCC, but fails to make note of the upstream increases that their data reveals. This increase in velocity will undercut the canal embankment and probably cause it to collapse.
- They now reference the "Draft Nonmotorized Boathouse Zone Plan of 2000". Appendix L has no standing, even though it is referenced many times as modifying the 1987 planning document. In particular, it is only a draft, never been reviewed by the C&O Canal Commission, ACHP, NCPC, CFA or other bodies and was never open for discussion. It has not been used until now in the zoning, Section 106 or other proceedings.

From a listserve item by Mike Aronoff



Inside our May 2006 issue:

- **When Your Dreamboat Has "Issues"**
- **Swim Support**
- **May/June/July Events**
- **Assateague Kayak Kamper**
- **Georgetown Boathouse EA**

Chip Walsh on Mataponi Creek, on the Pax

photo from <http://home.comcast.net/~chip2006/STG2JB/STG2JB.html>

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.