

Chesapeake Paddler



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August 2006

Alaska—Of Kachemak and Icy Bays

By Dave Meyer

"I'm going to Alaska," I said to Marshall Woodruff after a Georgetown Pirates' gathering in early June. He told me that he was considering organizing a future club trip to The Great Land and that I should gather some useful information.

My experience kayaking in Alaska was a tale of two worlds: One civilized but beautiful, and another remote, wild and mysterious. I spent a week on the Kenai Peninsula in Homer, and in or around lovely Kachemak Bay. My second week was spent in Wrangle/St. Elias National Park in Icy Bay, in one of the most remote parts of the Gulf of Alaska. Homer offers many amenities in town and on the bay. There is a vast parkland six miles across the bay that is dotted with small cabins that can be rented and with numerous gravel beaches for camping (note to file: snoozing while waiting for a water taxi on a warm day on a gravel beach can be very comfortable once you get all of those warm round stones positioned just right!). One could kayak there for a week or only a day. I choose the latter because I was sampling a little of everything that Maritime Alaska had to offer (biking, hiking, fishing, strolling on the local beach and certainly, kayaking) and I only had 7 days to work with. Besides, Week 2 was going to be spent on the most remote guided kayak trip that I could find in Alaska. Homer was wonderful; great food, great people in a lovely, larger-than-life Alaska setting.

Week 2 began in a sleepy little fishing town on the Gulf of Alaska known for two things: Steelhead trout and surfing. Apparently Yakutat has the best breaks north of California. I had a day to kill before my Alaska Discovery trip headed off to Icy Bay and I wanted to go for a hike, instead of a surf. "Do you have a gun?" asked the lady at the lodge when I asked if there were nice hikes around Yakutat. Since the trout and salmon were running, the Alaska Brown Bears (Grizzlies by another name) were e-v-e-r-y-w-h-e-r-e. We did take that hike, but we also took along Russell, a local, with his sawed-off shotgun.



Dave and Lisa in their Klepper double on Icy Bay photo by Dave Meyer

The Icy Bay trip began by boarding a bush plane with balloon tires capable of landing and taking off of gravel beaches. 30 minutes later we were touching down at the Icy Bay "Airport." We flew over the Malispina Glacier on our way. Wikipedia states that "the Malispina Glacier is so large that it can only be seen in its entirety from space." Larger than the State of Rhode Island, it is the largest glacier in North America. It is hard to describe, but it is very, very BIG. Upon arrival, we lucked out because a group was concluding a week in Icy Bay and they had already assembled the Kleppers—the collapsible tandem kayaks that we would paddle for the week. It was amazing that these rudder-equipped, canvas-sided boats would float after being loaded with all our gear. Paddling a heavily loaded Klepper is like paddling a dead whale. Nonetheless, they fit in inside a plane, hold a lot of gear and they got us from the landing strip in the middle of nowhere to the faces of calving tidal glaciers, and to our campsites each night.

Ours was a small group; a family of three and two middle-aged singles plus two guides. "Don't get too far ahead", Solan chastised me. "Those icebergs will roll or split and you don't want to be anywhere near them if they do." I

pondered this from the stern of my Klepper, trying to remember everything I knew about icebergs (hmmm...90% of the ice is below the waterline...right?).

At 4am it sounded like a 747 had crashed into the campsite as we were only 150 yards from the face of a glacier when an office

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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.

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 |
|----------------|--------------------|
| September 2006 | August 15, 2006 |
| October 2006 | September 15, 2006 |
| November 2006 | October 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.

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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.

Start of KIPP-4 Kent Island Paddle photo by Anne Culver



Admiral's Walk



Ahoy, Paddlers!

Recent postings on the CPA Listserve and User Forums brought to light a number of trip leading issues I'd like to reiterate. Kayaking is generally safe when practiced by responsible paddlers and leaders, but on any trip any number of circumstances can conspire to lead participants into dangerous situations. We've all read of recent kayaker deaths and injuries, and we need to do all we can to protect ourselves and our fellow paddlers. The CPA is lucky to have many skilled trip leaders among our members, and we benefit from their experience by following their lead on the water and through the trip policies they've helped create and that we've adopted.

The CPA has guidelines for trip leaders, trip screening, and on-water management of trips. Check out the trip leader requirements at www.cpakayaker.com/events/triporganizers.html and the trip screening info at www.cpakayaker.com/events/trip.html#screen. Trip leaders are responsible for screening before CPA trips to ensure paddlers who are interested in attending a particular trip have the necessary skills, experience, and gear to participate safely. Our screening process is designed to eliminate less capable paddlers from participating in trips above their skill levels, but that's generally good for the leaders and participants, and even for those left behind. When I began paddling with the CPA, I could clearly see that most advertised trips were beyond my skill level. That actually gave me a goal to strive toward—becoming a skilled enough kayaker to paddle on (and later to lead) those longer, more difficult trips. I've found over the years that if a paddler is honest with him or herself and considers the conditions that might be encountered, he will generally be able to decide if he should even consider being screened for a trip in the first place.

The trip leader is responsible for letting all paddlers know, as well as he can, the conditions they might encounter, such as wind, waves, currents, and weather. The leader also needs to communicate the route planned and the speed and distance they plan to paddle, the bailouts and other contingency plans should the group or a paddler not be able to continue, any special gear requirements, and the like. The leader can set group size. Generally, it's tough for one person to lead more than six to eight other paddlers, but assistant leaders can often allow for larger overall group sizes. The easiest ways to provide all this information, of course, are to provide as accurate a trip description as possible on the CPA website and in trip announcements, and to make sure the paddlers know during the screening process what they can expect. Any member of the Steering Committee and any of the Pirate Captains (as well as many other experienced member paddlers) can help potential trip leaders plan their trips and get them posted on the CPA website.

By the day of the paddle, if trip planning has been done correctly there should be few—if any—surprises. The trip leader is responsible for briefing the paddlers before launch. He needs to explain the paddle plan, make sure everyone has the CPA-required gear, and provide other on-water information. He should have checked the weather forecast and tide prediction table so everyone has a fairly accurate idea of the conditions that may be encountered. He should collect signed trip waivers (www.cpakayaker.com/downloads/events/forms/CPARelease.pdf) from all paddlers, and leave participant names and contact information - along with a paddle plan detailing the route and expected return time - with a responsible person not on the trip. Before launching, the trip leader should ask for volunteers to act as "lead" and "sweep" paddlers to help keep the group together, and ask for assistant leaders to help out. He can also assign a VHF frequency group members will monitor so everyone can stay in touch. The CPA has two VHF radios for members use; simply contact the Coordinator and ask to borrow them.

On the water, the leader and his assistants need to keep the group together and frequently assess the trip and participants. Are any paddlers lagging behind? Is anyone having medical problems? Equipment problems? Are the conditions different than expected, pushing paddlers out of their comfort zone? The leader needs to keep on top of everything and revise the trip if necessary to keep it safe. The best assessment, however, usually comes from the paddlers themselves. If you find yourself lagging behind the group or in conditions too difficult for you to handle, or if you're feeling tired or sick or have equipment problems, you are responsible for letting the leader know. If you see another paddler who looks like he's struggling, ask him if he's ok and stick with him while you let the leader know. An experienced leader comes prepared with a plan to deal with most issues.



Yes, organizing and leading trips can be a lot of work, but it's well worth the effort. All that planning leads to safe, enjoyable trips, trips where nothing serious goes wrong and perhaps we get the chance to push ourselves a bit to increase our skills and experience. We all benefit from well-organized trips, and the better the organization and leadership the more fun it is for all paddlers.

Safe, organized, planned, and happy paddlin',

Barry
CPA Coordinator



Alison ready to harpoon photo by Tom Milani

Alison Sigethy Goes for Greenland Gold

CPA member Alison competed very successfully in the Greenland National Kayaking Championships in July. This is taken from her email to the listserve and her website: "Thanks to all CPA members for your support, good wishes, and interest in this journey."

We are back now and the trip was amazing. I absolutely love Greenland. The country is beautiful and the people are as warm, friendly, and unpretentious as you will meet anywhere. I'd go back in a heartbeat. Starting next spring, Air Greenland will offer direct flights from BWI, so getting there should be a little easier.

I know many of you have been eager to hear results, so here you go. The competition was lots of fun and I did well. I ended up with 8 medals (4 gold, 4 silver). Gold in most of the non-speed stuff: ropes, rolling, harpoon; silver in most the races. Next time I'll have to do more speed training with some of the speedy CPA paddlers! I competed in all

events plus the pre-competition marathon and medaled in everything but the marathon. I am especially happy with my performance in harpoon and ropes. I really enjoy the harpoon and wanted to do well. I won my class and came in second overall. Ropes has been a struggle for me and I was hoping to make the 30 point minimum. I got 43 points, won my class, and am told I am the first non-Greenlandic woman to score over 30.

I have lots of photos and will be adding them to my website as soon as I can go through them and thin them down to a number that is reasonable. I find you take LOTS of photos when you're shooting with a digital camera. In the meantime, Tom has some photos and information up on his blog page (qajariaq.typepad.com). For any CPA members who dream of going to Greenland, DO. It was a phenomenal experience I will never forget."

BTW, James Song also got some time on the ropes (there Todd!) [Editor: See Alison's web page at <http://www.goingtogreenland.com/>]



James on the ropes photo by Tom Milani



Vince with his Caribou photo by Saki

Happy Birthday, Vince!

By Ralph Heimlich

CPA's oldest paddling member celebrated his 94th birthday on August 13. Vince Gerardi, who lives in Chestertown on the river, was one of the early member of ANorAK, the association of North Atlantic Kayakers, and an early CPA member. After Vince posted an ad selling his remaining kayaks and gear, Marshall Woodruff invited him to make "just one more" paddle at Eastern Neck. Vince, who served as a Sea Bee in the Naval Construction Battalion in the Pacific during WWII, said he was "swallowing the anchor" when we all met on July 22 for the paddle and the après paddle pot luck feast (for a trip report by Susanita Hicks, see http://susanita.typepad.com/susanita/2006/07/eastern_neck_is.html). Not having the privilege of paddling with Vince before this, I asked long-time CPA member Greg Welker for some reminisces of Vince's days in CPA.

"Vince has a passion for pursuing the perfect kayak. In fact, he bought so many new boats that people began to keep track of who owned which of his old boats." I can personally vouch for that, since the Arluk III that was my first real sea kayak is a 3rd hand castoff from Vince.

"Vince has never been quite satisfied with any boat he owned and would sometimes make modifications to them. Not being the largest paddler out there, he had one boat that he felt would perform better if it sat a little lower in the water. To accomplish

this, Vince outfitted the boat with removable metal ingots in the cockpit, held in by velcro. I always wondered what would happen to someone if they rolled that boat and the velcro failed!" Alan Avery said he thought of doing something similar with his NordKapp.

"Vince was a staunch supporter of the Association of North Atlantic Sea Kayakers, a club that existed many years ago. He would travel to many of the trade shows and paddlefests and recruit new members. You would go to an event and look for him in his special hat that he wore." H,mmm, another guy with a funny hat??

At any rate, we thank Marshall for inviting him, Deb McKenzie for driving him to and fro, and Vince himself for bringing a bit of CPA history to life on Eastern Neck. Many happy returns, Vince!!



Vince and Deb launching photo by Vitas Eidukevicius

(Continued from page 1) **Alaska—Of Kachemak and Icy Bays**

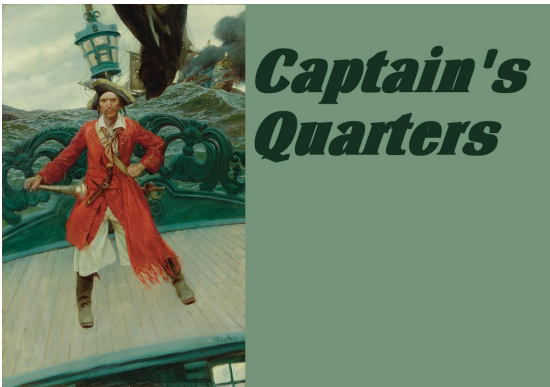


Mount St. Elias, Sarah and Solan, our guide on Icy Bay. photo by Dave Meyer

building-sized chunk fell away. I rolled over and reached for my earplugs and the guides jumped out of their tent to make sure that the resultant wave wouldn't flood our tents 10 feet above the waterline. The soundscape of Icy Bay is truly eerie. It is dominated by the sound of rolling thunder as ice falls and shifts in the numerous glaciers that feed it. We were blessed by favorable weather that made Mount St. Elias viewable every day but one. Rising nearly 19,000 feet from the water of the bay, it is the tallest coastal mountain in the World and the second largest mountain in the U.S.

We kayaked and hiked around a big chunk of Icy Bay during our trip. It was several days before we heard a human sound that we hadn't made ourselves when a couple of bush planes flew past in order to show the bay to the less adventurous. It was peaceful, remote and hauntingly beautiful and the perfect tonic for a man turning 50 who wanted to experience the Wild (with a capital "W").

[Editor's note: Those wanting to see more of Dave's Alaska adventure, check out the pictures at <http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=8AZtGLFs3cOH8QJ>



Pool Practice To Commence—SQUEAK UP MOUSEKET-EERS

—After Labor Day, the MNPPC Fairland pool may be available for kayak practice. If anyone is interested drop me an email at jspinner2@verizon.net or call at 301-559-3345. Reservations aren't needed until the end of October, but I don't have the cost or times for this year. Expressions of interest will help me express the demand for this service, making the pool management more prepared for the influx of paddlers. Expressing your interest will help me make arrangements early.

Joan Spinner
Pirates of the Pool

Horsefly Paddles Patuxent—

The summer doldrums must be setting in. Except for a few boats fishing off of the tripod, no one was out...including kayakers. I got delayed at work and didn't make it to the launch until 6:05. If I missed anyone...my apologies. It was a nice evening for paddling. The horse flies thought so as well, and half dozen or so rode my boat out to Drum Point and up the Calvert coast a bit. These guys made great training companions. As long as the boat was moving at a good clip they'd hunker down on the deck and enjoy the ride. When I stopped, they'd swarm back into the cockpit and start chewing on my legs. I tried burying the bow in the occasional wave, to wash them off, but they were too quick for that. So we just came to an understanding, I'd keep paddling and they'd stay up on the bow.



Nothing else as exciting as the flies to report. The Osprey young look like they're just about ready to move out. The jelly fish seem to be thinning a bit...and the water is just about bath temperature. Fuel prices seem to be dampening the boat traffic and thunderstorm wannabe's are making for nice purple sunsets. As scary as the temperatures seem, evenings on the water are still quite pleasant...as long as you keep the boat moving. Same time and place next Friday!

Don Polakovics
Pirate Co-King
Pirates of the Patuxent

Sugarloafers Rip Rolls and Swallow Sushi—The Sugarloaf Pirates had a cool, delightful evening of rescue and rolling practice in the blood-warm waters of Little Seneca Lake at Black Hills Regional Park on August 1. David Shamus helped the crew learn some new techniques and polish some old ones. Your editor showed up to give people someone to rescue. Best of all, Barbara Cook and

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Trip Leading Tips and Tricks

Based on a wide-ranging discussion thread on the listserve about some recent paddles, Todd Angerhofer started a new topic on the Forums under the "General" topic. Here's what Todd and others learned from that discussion, in no particular order:

1. When a trip has a goal like making a particular distance in a particular amount of time, make sure everyone knows what that means in terms of speed, and that everyone has an idea as to whether they will meet that goal. Decide ahead of time what you are going to do if someone drops behind (mandatory tow or bail, or slow the group down)
2. Pre-planned bail points are good to have.
3. Ground support is great for challenging paddles.
4. Communicate, communicate, communicate.
5. When large groups divide naturally into subgroups, decide as a group whether that's okay for the paddle you are on. If it's okay, make sure everyone knows who is in what subgroup, and what each subgroup intends to do (e.g., paddle along a shoreline; take the shortest straight course; bail at a certain designated bail point).
6. Minimize subgroups (it's easier for other vessels to track a few groups of people than a lot of individual paddlers).
7. Subgroups should be at least three people.
8. Test your gear ahead of time (e.g. do your hatch covers seal?).
9. VHF radio is a great tool to have available. It can also be entertaining on opening day of Rockfish season (KIPP-1).
10. Periodically regroup to discuss pace, subgrouping, track, people's condition.
11. Verify that your trip is rated correctly for distance, speed and skill required (open water, surf...). Recognize that "Intermediate", as the top rating, covers a lot of conditions.
12. Properly screen participants to make sure they meet the ability level for the trip. If they can't keep up or do the mileage, they impact the enjoyment of the whole group.
13. If participants "well exceed" the intended speed of the trip, ensure they will either stay with the group or plan for a fast group with sufficient leadership for both the fast and slow group.
14. Participants screen trip leaders to make sure you are comfortable with their leadership, skill, and planning. Recognize you are always responsible for yourself.
15. Limit the number of participants to a manageable level. Have sufficient skilled (trip leader qualified) paddlers for a proper ratio (6:1? 8:1?). How many can you deal with effectively at once?
16. Check tide tables, weather forecasts and if possible get local knowledge. This applies to leaders AND participants.
17. Have an alternate plan if conditions don't allow the original plan to be conducted safely.
18. Know the signs of hypothermia and hyperthermia. Watch for it and have others watch you.



Assateague Island, May 2006 photo by Ralph Heimlich

Check for more at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=1624>



On the beach at St. Clements Island, where the Calvert colonists first landed in 1635. Bill Dodge is threatening to make this the last year he leads this trip.

See http://www.cpakayaker.com/events.html?event_id=330 photo by Ralph Heimlich



Marshall Woodruff gives Susan Williamson a good start on KIPP-4 photo by Anne Culver

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>

August

| | |
|---------|--|
| 12(Sat) | Manhattan Island Circumnavigation : Non-CPA Event --Join the Yonkers Paddling & Rowing Club on New York for their Annual Manhattan Island Circumnavigation. Web Site: http://www.yprc.org/ Skill Level: Intermediate Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Jerry Blackstone. |
| 19(Sat) | Nanjemoy Creek Day Paddle: Join us for a day paddle on Nanjemoy Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River in MD. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers, Organizer(s): Led by Dan Hoke. |
| 26(Sat) | Breton Bay At Leonardtown --We will explore Breton Bay, which has great bird watching. The waters here are shallow, so conditions will be safe and protected for beginner paddlers. Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Mark Woodside. |
| 26(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. |

Your trip here! There's still time to post trips for the remainder of the “dog days” of August and the prime paddling periods of September and October (after the kiddies are back in school). There is always a need for day trips to close-in locations. If you want to lead a CPA day- or weekend trip, send details for posting to Ralph Heimlich (news_editor@cpakayaker.com) or Dave Biss (pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com) with date, place, brief description, organizers(s) and leader(s), and trip rating (see above). We'll get it posted on the calendar, or send you instructions for doing so. You must self-certify as the trip leader according to CPA guidelines at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/events/triporganizers.html>.

Don't want to lead a trip? You can always post a notice for a “peer paddle” on the CPA listserve at Members@cpakayaker.com (see http://www.cpakayaker.com/mailman/listinfo/members_cpakayaker.com). Peer paddles are NOT CPA sponsored trips, but groups of friends or acquaintances who meet to paddle for mutual pleasure and safety.

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September

- 2-9(Sat-Sat)** **3rd Annual Adirondacks Paddling Week:** Come paddle in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York. Lakes galore suitable for all levels of paddling will be explored. **Skill Level:** Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Dave Moore.
- 9-10(Sat-Sun)** **9th Annual St. Clements Island Kayak Kamper:** Kayak Kamping with launch from Colton Point. **Web Site:** <http://troop424.freeservers.com/St.%20Clements%20Island%20Trip/index.html> **Skill Level:** Intermediate Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Bill Dodge 703-979-5837.
- 9-10(Sat-Sun)** **Eastern Neck Fall Camper:** Join us for another Camping Weekend at Eastern Neck Island, and see everything in Fall Spectacular Colors. **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner **Organizer:** Led by Marshall Woodruff 202.345.0606.
- 16(Sat)** **Wye Island Race :** Non-CPA Event--The Annual Wye Island Race & Regatta **Web Site:** <http://www.annapolisrowingclub.com/wyeisland.htm#> **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by See Link Details.
- 19 (Tue)** **Talk Like A Pirate Day :** Non CPA Event--Practice up now me Mateys fo' the day is a commin'. **Web Site:** <http://www.talklikeapirate.com/piratehome.html> **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by A Lilly-Livered Landlubber!.
- 23(Sat)** **Kent Island Circumnavigation:** This is not a paddle for those who are faint at heart. This will be a day paddle all the way around Kent Island. This date is tentative. Scheduling will be based upon weather and tides. **Skill Level:** Intermediate **Organizer:** Led by Marshall Woodruff 202.345.0606.
- 24(Sun)** **Fountainhead Regional Park:** Join us for a day paddle on the Occoquan Reservoir. **Skill Level:** Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Jennifer Bine 703.533.2436.
- 29-Oct 1 (Fri-Sun)** **Elk Neck Car Camper:** This is the third annual Elk Neck camping trip. **Web Site:** <http://troop424.freeservers.com/Elk%20Neck%20Car%20Camper/> **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 and leave a message.

October

- 6(Fri)** **Hunter's Moon Paddle:** Join us for an evening paddle celebrating the Hunter's Moon. Target launch time from Jonas Green Park is 6:30pm. Apres paddle bite to eat at Cantlers. **Skill Level:** Beginner **Organizer:** Led by Chip Walsh.
- 6(Fri)** **Full Moon Paddle - Black Hills Park:** Join some of the Pirates of Sugarloaf for an evening paddle and picnic. **Skill Level:** Beginner Paddlers. **Organizer(s):** Led by Deb McKenzie.
- 6-8(Fri-Sat)** **Delmarva Retreat : Non-CPA Event--**Join other Greenland paddlers to learn skills, see events, and talk about the latest issues. **Web Site:** <http://www.sendthemetogreenland.org/delmarva/index.html> **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Ed Zachowski.
- 26(Thu)** **PoG 4th Annual Halloween Paddle Party:** Join us again at Jack's Boathouse in Georgetown for another scary Halloween Paddle Party. We will dress up in our scariest costumes and paddle down towards the Georgetown Waterfront. After our paddle, we will feast and drink to the end of the season. **Web Site:** <http://www.PiratesofGTown.com> **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by David Biss 703.241.0036, Cyndi Janetzko 703.241.0036.

November

- 5 (Sun)** **CPA Annual Meeting and Galesville Paddle:** The Annual CPA Meeting will be held on this date and there will probably be a paddle in the morning beforehand too. More info to follow. **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer:** Brian Blankenship.
- 10-12 (Fri-Sun)** **Chickahominy River Car Camper:** The Chickahominy River enters the James a few miles upstream from Jamestown Island, and has many small winding tribs suitable for kayaks this time of year. Participants must contact the leader to pre-qualify. CPA members only. **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Bill Dodge 703-979-5837. **Web Site:** <http://troop424.freeservers.com/Chickahominy%20River,%20VA%20Paddle/index.html>
- 10-12 (Fri-Sun)** **Assateague Camper:** Join us for an overnight camp and paddle at one of the parks in Assateague, VA. **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner **Organizer(s):** Led by Chip Walsh
- 18 (Sat)** **Eastern Neck Island Paddle:** Join us today for a day paddle around Eastern Neck Island. For those of you who have been here before, this may be the last chance to see the beautiful Island before winter sets in. **Skill Level:** Intermediate **Organizer(s):** Marshall Woodruff 202-345-0606
- 19 (Sun)** **Kayak Seasonal Repair Gathering:** We will clean and repair our kayaks before putting them away for the season. **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Jennifer Bine 703.533.2436.

(Continued from page 5) **Captain's Quarters**



Deb rips her roll photo by Mary and Vitas Eidukevicius

Deb McKenzie both ripped their rolls under the careful tutelage. Successes of all kinds were celebrated under the half-moon with sushi (thanks Mary), cold water-melon (you Rocky Gorgers missed out, but somebody had to eat it), and chocolate-dipped cookies.

More pictures at <http://wobey.net/paddle/BlackHills/>

Ralph Heimlich
Roving Reparteur
With the Pirates of Sugarloaf

Pirate Queen of the North featured in *Baltimore Sun* article

Wendy Baker Davis was featured in "Paddle yourself to recreation and exploration: Kayaking is a fast-growing activity, and Harford offers several places to get on the water", by Cassandra A. Fortin, published August 6. I've abstracted some of Wendy's wisdom, quoted by Ms. Fortin.

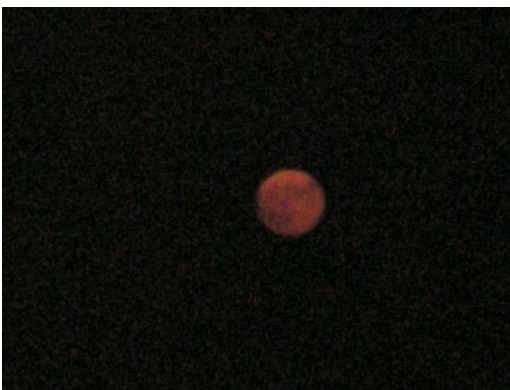
"On Thursdays, Wendy Baker Davis secures her 16-foot sea kayak to her car. Next, she packs her personal flotation device, a water pump and a pair of water shoes. Then she sets out from her home in Lancaster, Pa., to meet up with 20 other kayaking enthusiasts at Jean Roberts Park in Havre de Grace. Davis' bunch, known as the Pirates of North, is a northern Maryland offshoot of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, a volunteer nonprofit group based in Greenbelt." "Kayaking is the fastest growing sport I'm involved in," said the 43-year-old Davis, who is also an avid hiker and cyclist. "Although there are still die-hard canoers, about 95 percent of the people in the paddlers association have switched from canoes to kayaks."

The full article is online at <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/harford/bal-ha.kayak06aug06,0,5169513.story?coll=bal-local-harford>



L to R: Wendy Baker Davis, Bruce Griffith, Ken Berg, Ron Venell, Bob Shakeshaft, Guy McNair photo by Kim Palmer

Pier 7 Vampire Pirates Paddle on the Moon...



Moon (let's not get all specific here, folks) photo by Ralph Heimlich

Lit waters of the South River, on our August 9th get together. Nine lunatics launched after a delicious meal of honey-baked ham, black beans and rice, and watermelon and paddled downstream just as the pumpkin-orange jack-o-lantern moon rose over the Bay, gilding the placid surface with sinuous bands of molten copper and gold. We paddled down to just opposite Quiet Waters park, periodically stopping to count our nocturnal cadence (one...two...OK, who's three and why aren't you paying attention?...uh, three, sorry...four...). On our return, the nine were joined by a couple of ninja paddlers (Alan Avery, you know who you are) who later claimed they'd paddled all the way to Thomas Point Light and back while we were "idling" down the river. This reporter can neither prove, nor disprove, that claim, but we doubt it. No blood was spilled on this paddle, but several additional slices of water melon were found sucked dry on the Pier 7 picnic table at the conclusion of the event.

Ralph Heimlich
Bloodsucker in Chief



Mary Eidukevicius on Little Seneca Lake *photo by Vitas Eidukevicius*

Inside our August 2006 issue:

- **Alaska—Of Kachemak and Icy Bays**
- **Alison Sigethy: Greenland Gold**
- **Captain's Quarters**
- **Happy Birthday, Vince!**
- **Trip Leading Tips and Techniques**
- **September/October/November Events**

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.