

Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. Volume 17, Issue 5

July 2007

The POGS Paddle United 2007 Independence Day Fireworks

By Susanita Hicks

Shannon and I finally made it to the annual CPA 4th of July fireworks paddle on the Potomac, organized by Yvonne Thayer at the Pirates of Georgetown (POG). Shannon had tried to make this paddle two years in a row and never made it down. Last year's horrific thunderstorm kept all but the intrepid off of the water for the fireworks. This year we were both determined to make the fireworks paddle.



Susanita and the SS Isabella photo by Shannon Bishop



POG picnic in the rain photo by Susanita

We got to Jack's boathouse around 4, but it took us another hour to get the boats off the car and into the water. I had to talk to anyone who would listen about my new SOF, SS Isabella, and she got a lot of attention. We saw a lot of the regular Pirates of Georgetown (POG) paddlers: Todd, Bob, Frank, Yvonne, Jen ... but lots of new faces. Even in the midst of an early evening rain, participants enjoyed a hearty picnic at Jack's boathouse.

The group started launching for the evening paddle over to Memorial Bridge around eight. Fortunately the rain stopped in time for the fireworks. Shannon and I brought about 45 light sticks that you wear around your wrist or neck. We gave them to paddlers so Yvonne, our organizer, could keep track of everyone in the dark. My initial plan was to meet up with my friend Gordon who would paddle over from Roosevelt Island from the Virginia side of the Potomac. Gordon



Yvonne and the POGs photo by Susanita

wanted to paddle his canoe, not a kayak, but the gunnels on his canoe were old and rotted. He had been working all afternoon trying to make repairs, and eventually ended up driving to Rosslyn and running down to Jack's ... just in time to see us launch. Then he ran from Jack's to the bridge at Roosevelt Island just in time to see us pass through. He didn't get to paddle with us but we had several Gordon "sightings". Shannon also caught a glimpse of him on one of the beaches on Roosevelt Island.

After we lost sight of Gordon, Shannon and I continued our herding duties with the kayakers. The primo spot for an on water view of the fireworks is just south of the Memorial Bridge. Being the paparazzi that we are ... we spent most of the time taking photos of each other in silhouette with the fireworks or getting the group in silhouette with the fireworks ... trying to get that great fireworks photo. It never happened. I saw the photo [Page posted on the forum](#) and it was definitely better than anything we took. But check it out for yourself.



Fireworks below Mem Bridge photo by Susanita

Susanita's full blog and photos are at <http://www.purplemirage.net/blog.html> and pictures at <http://web.mac.com/yosusanita/iWeb/Independence07/CPA%20Picnic.html> and <http://web.mac.com/yosusanita/iWeb/Independence07/Group%20Paddle.html> and <http://web.mac.com/yosusanita/iWeb/Independence07/Fireworks.html> Also Page D's pics and stats for the paddle at <http://letsgo2sea.com/Independence%20Day%20Paddle%202007/>

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:

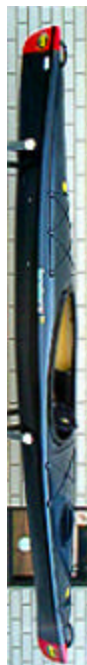
Size cost wide x deep (col)
 1/8 page \$20 2.4" x 3.5" (1)
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A 5% discount will be given for ads supplied as electronic files in acceptable formats (i.e. .tif, .gif, .jpeg, bit-map). Email or call for more information and for 10-month discount. See advertising 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.

**MEMBER
ADVERTISEMENT****EPIC 16 KAYAK FOR SALE**

With its kevlar/carbon/honeycomb layup this 16 foot kayak weighs just 36 lbs and is very fast. This earlier version of the boat described at www.epickayaks.com is carbon black. **REDUCED PRICE: Best offer over \$1,000** includes fitted sprayskirt, cockpit cover, and custom boat cover made by Kayak Covers of Charleston useable while cartopping. Mike Vandamm 202-268-3021(office); 301-345-0711 (home); michael.j.vandamm@usps.gov

**SCHEDULE FOR 2007 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 2007	August 15, 2007
October 2007	September 15, 2007
November 2007	October 15, 2007

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.

Officers:

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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.

Admiral's Walk



It is the mid-point of the season. The temperatures are fine for paddling. We have had remarkably few thunderstorms yet this season, and the weather has been rather mild. In general it is a great season for the CPA!

The events this year sound as though they have been wonderful. We have had a couple of great overnighter paddler-camper trips courtesy of Ralph H. and Bill D. The trip reports and the pictures looked like there was lots of fun!

This was the second season where the CPA has sponsored [fun and fast kayak races](#). I was able to help out at two of these as a 'corker'. People came from near and far to paddle as fast as they could. Food was shared, and medals were passed out.

We have had more 'Quiet Water' trips this year than I ever remember. These are trips where little experience (if any) is required. Some of these Quiet Water trips followed the John Smith Shallop, which is recreating a historic journey on the Chesapeake Bay. Don't forget that on the Eastern Shore, Marshall is still challenging people to go far. His paddles work up to a long distance paddle around all of Kent Island.



So all-in-all, it is a usual year. No, a great year for the CPA. And a great time for all of us to be on the water.

Closer to home, are the changes the club has been making on-line. You are probably aware that the CPA has started a new program called the 'Membership Discount Program'. We have been working with wonderful retailers and other Outdoor Specialists to bring discounts to you. You should have received a CPA Member Card in the mail already. Take this card to one of our participants in the program and get a special deal. [Here is the growing list of participants](#).

Also to come on-line: we are working to bring you the ability to renew or join electronically. You will see this change soon. This will make it more economical for the club and easier for you. Also we are working to bring the growing CPA Library to you via the web.

You should soon be able to see what books are available through our completely donated library and find out when you can check it out from Nelson and Caroline Labbe.



Lastly, in the middle of this wonderful paddling season, let me say one more thing. There are so many opportunities to get out and paddle with friends. Join one of the weekly Piracy groups. Follow along on a daily paddling event. Go out camping from your kayak. Just find a way to get out and have fun. That is what the paddling season is all about; a way for us to have fun. And remember to always be safe on the water!

See you on the water!

Dave Biss

A Quiet Water Paddling Day

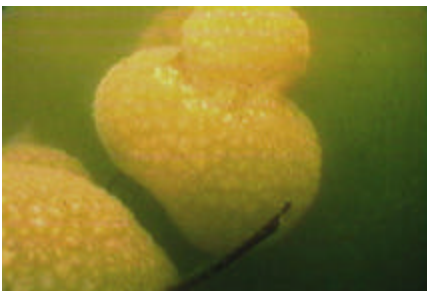
By Sue Bauer

July 15 was our second quiet water paddle trip set for Rocky Gorge reservoir. There were several brand new paddlers along for the day and they were still learning their paddle strokes and getting their boats to go faster. They all had some instruction from other vendors including wet exits, so we were good to go! Most were accustomed to using skirts, so despite the lack of wind or wave action, it prevented that weird half-knee tan on the inside of your thighs. Our group paddled out from Scott's Cove Landing, and that morning, there were few fishermen so we had the quiet surface of the lake to ourselves.

Our group of seven paddlers was spread out a bit, which was okay by me. Rich led the way (working on his RU distance [Editor: an RU or Rich Unit is 30 nautical miles]) and I stayed behind while we slowed to grab up stray bottles and cans that could bereached within a paddle length of the shore. We all got to practice draw strokes to creep parallel into the shore line without hitting the



Rocky Gorge Paddlers Photo by Rich Stevens



rocks. Thank goodness for tough, practical, plastic boats which aren't afraid of gravel beaches and sudden under- water rock appearances! The water level had been pulled down a bit more, so there was more rocky shoreline showing—and more sunken stumps and logs as well as lots of weird underwater algae blobs. The water was crystal clear so we could see many more rocks and small bass swimming under our boats. The globular algae blobs were growing on every underwater log and branch. We have never seen these blobs anywhere else, which makes us all glad we don't go swimming and the water is treated later for drinking. They sure were not worthy of photos, but I bet our local newsletter editor/ naturalist Ralph knows what they

are! [Editor: Sue is correct. They are not from outer space, nor is it the result of mutations caused by radioactivity from nuclear power plants; *Pectinatella magnifica* is a member of the animal phylum Ectoprocta (common names: bryozoans, moss animals), a group with a fossil record extending back to the upper Cambrian (500,000,000 years ago!). See <http://www.bio.umass.edu/biology/conn.river/bryozoa.html> for the story of these fascinating globs.]

The rangers must have marked the locations of several nice sized native chestnut trees growing along the western shores. The American Chestnut has long 12" blade-shaped distinctively serrated leaf clusters so it is easy to spot once you know how to identify the tree. I heard of another mature nut bearing Native American chestnut tree over in Howard County that they were trying to cross pollinate to produce a good crop of blight-resistant nuts and future trees. Last summer, I drove past that tree to find EACH NUT CLUSTER individually wrapped in its own little white protective sack and wondered what kind of weird flower was blooming. Not until they harvested (by cherry picker truck) several hundred nut sacks last fall did we know about the unusual white packages that the tree was growing! Now there were several spots along Rocky Gorge with orange flagging tape marking a few more of these elusively rare American species. They sprout from the stump, but rarely mature to bear nuts.

After a bit of a paddle and exploring side branches—nearly 6 miles—we pulled into a quiet cove with a sandy beach for a bite of lunch and homemade cookies made by Mimi. We could see the undergrowth along the shore has either been chopped down by exploring beavers seeking winter food supplies in years past or by the growing deer population. The mature trees create a shady canopy, but the growth is sparse close to the ground. No poison ivy or honeysuckle vines, which the deer do not eat, to intrude on our shore explorations. We all found a nice dry log to settle for lunch, but it sure got harder the longer we sat there in the shade. Back into our boats with padded seats!

Young trees are the favorite food of both critters, but the beavers have no problems tackling larger trees just to get to their tender top branches. Their fallen trees litter the shoreline or occasionally get caught up in the treetops, if they miscalculate the tree space. Sprawling piles of cut branches covering beaver lodges along several of the side coves show that beavers were out in force over the years, but we didn't cross any of their paths. They are active on the upper reaches where we have surprised them coming out of the woods. Quietly going ahead, Rich spotted a fawn bedded down along one cove. We tried out each others' paddles and tested the weight of a wood canoe paddle while doing a J-stroke canoe style.

As we moved along the curves of the creeks, the peace and quiet of the water was only broken by the sounds of woodpeckers drumming in the woods and the cries of surprised Great Blue herons fishing, Green herons, occasional Osprey,



Photo by Rich Stevens

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and Belted Kingfishers. The slider turtles sunning on the fallen logs didn't want to budge until the last second, so they make great photo opportunities if you drift quietly. There were lots of Cliff Swallows swirling around their mud nests plastered on the metal bridge girders under the Route 29 bridge. We also heard an invisible owl practice his evening call and we had to smile because we were quieter than the owl. There was no sign of the resident Bald Eagle pair; the nest site is still hidden on top of a nearby ridge which we spotted this spring. Our new paddlers wanted to explore more—forgetting we still had to paddle the same distance back! Finally, at a one last rocky outcrop where the lake narrows, the wind picked up and the clouds started to gather, so we turned around to explore the opposite side.

By trips end, we discovered we had covered 10 miles of quiet paddling, with at least 3 kayaks full of floating bottles and cans, one large black plastic pot, carefully balanced for the whole trip back, one canning jar complete with lid, several misplaced fishing lures and nylon fishing line found hanging in low tree limbs, one nice large heron feather, some newly sore shoulder muscles, and several more new friends.



Rocky Gorge Quiet Waters Photo by Rich Stevens



Kurt Rodowsky Photo by Ralph Heimlich

Passing the canoe dock, we beheld Bela Mariassy, who had been late getting his permit and lugged his kayak down the road on his shoulder from the locked gate. Makes up for his automotive feat at Assateague. Now six, we paddled leisurely down, checking out the wildlife and enjoying shade.

One mishap. As I tried to "land" a stray inch worm on a branch, Robert Golden, surprised by my sudden deceleration, half-rolled his new Solstice and baptized his boat in earnest. We had fun deploying our 3-boat X rescue and Robert enjoyed the cooling off. After a short wade-ashore lunch (yes Dale, same one we used a week earlier), we headed back to the landing for a nice, easy day.

We saw Paw Paws fruiting on the bank, eagle, osprey, kingfisher, spotted sandpiper, plop of a snoozing otter, turtles, wild turkey (at the landing) and spotted an otter on the road down to the landing as I shuttle Bela back to his car.

Mid-Pax Day Paddle

By Ralph Heimlich

Five of us (Robert Golden, Mimi Pollow, Suzanne Farace, Kurt Rodowsky and I) assembled at the Queen Anne Canoe Launch, near the Patuxent 4H Center, for a shady paddle on an atypically mild July 21. I had originally scheduled this for a kayak kamper, intending to paddle down to the Selby Landing paddle-in site and then down to Magruder's Landing for a take out on Sunday, but I wasn't quick enough getting campsite reservations [Note: the Kamper is on for August 24-26, which will be typically hot, hazy and humid. See http://www.cpakayaker.com/events.html?event_id=508] Launching from the floating canoe dock is a bit different, but we all made it afloat without incident. We paddled upstream, against a weak current to see how the Pax RoughNecks had cleared out the snags and blowdowns. We managed about half a mile, but then the water got a bit "thin", so we turned around for the somewhat more challenging downstream slalom.



Our wade-in lunch spot Photo by Ralph Heimlich



Brian calling the Start for Race 2 Photo by Dave Biss

Racing the CPA Way

By Cyndi Janetzko

Last year, a few CPA regulars got interested in going forward fast. This rather inevitably led to wanting to see how fast was fast and a growing desire to race. At the time we weren't aware of many races in our area, so Brian Blankenship and I started the CPA race series. Rather than venues for cut-throat competition, we designed these races with an eye to having fun, to learning our limits, and to meeting other paddlers seeking efficiency and speed. Now in our second season, I think we can safely say we have achieved these goals.

This year's series kicked off with a season opener at Jack's Boat House on the Potomac River. It was a beautiful morning as the 13 racers sped from Jack's Boathouse past Three Sisters, crossed to the Virginia side, headed downstream, circled around Roosevelt Island and then re-

turned to the docks. Total distance averaged 4.65 miles – a bit more if you wandered and a bit less if you tried to cut the corners. Given that it was the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, the river was a bit busy, so the racers had the extra challenge of not being run down by power boats of eight-man rowing shells. We even had a special guest appearance from Brian Houston of Epic Kayaks. It seemed only fitting that he should be racing with us that day, as Epic was well represented with various Epic 18s and V10s on the water.

Next we headed down to the Occoquan Reservoir and Fountain Head Regional Park. To make sure there was a race for everyone, we laid out both 5-mile and 10-mile courses. 12 boaters showed up. You would have thought that this was a "serious" race given the gear that was around. With four full-on racing boats plus three racing sea kayaks strung about, not to mention wing paddles and inflatable PFDs, people were looking fast! Competition was fierce and there were several races-within-the-race, each with a battle to the end. Afterward, the competition was forgotten as we celebrated with a picnic brunch.

Our last race took us south to the Wicomico River. Mark Woodside handled all the logistics and planning for this one. That gave Brian and me a chance to just show up and paddle. The races were advertised as 6- and 12-milers, but they ended up being more like 6.5 miles for the short course and 9 miles for the long course. For some reason this course just felt slow and many of us were more than happy to find the turn-around buoy, marked by Todd playing the French national anthem since it was Bastille day, about two miles sooner than we expected.

The races draw paddlers of all speeds and skill and really are just another way to spend a great day on the water. To keep things interesting, we try to move the races around to introduce the racers to new paddling locations and challenges. Picnics usually follow. Despite all that, we know that some people need other motivations to race – motivations like hardware. I know many a paddler who decides which races to attend based on the likelihood of winning a medal, a ribbon or even better, cash. CPA might not offer up cash prizes, but hardware does flow freely. In fact, everyone has left the race with either a medal or a ribbon for finishing in their class.

To ensure that classes are fair and that you are racing against similar boats, we break down the classes as follows:

- **Racing Kayaks:** Less than 20 inch beam, wing paddles allowed. For those paddlers who concentrate on racing and have the equipment to go with it. Previous top finishers of the Fast Touring Kayak class are encouraged to enter this class.
- **Fast Touring Kayaks:** 20 inch beam or greater, wing paddles allowed. For fit paddlers who do not specialize in racing but have faster than average kayaks and/or are faster than average paddlers.
- **Touring Kayaks A:** 20 inch beam or greater, 17 feet or longer, no wing paddles. For first time racers in typical sea kayaks, and experienced paddlers who are less serious about racing.
- **Touring Kayaks B:** 20 inch beam or greater, less than 17 feet in length, no wing paddles. For first time racers and beginner paddlers in slower boats.



Jessi Krause: "My favorite part of the races are the camaraderie, learning to pace myself so that I can complete the distance w/o stopping, and just watching the really fast kayakers" Photo by Cyndi Janetzko

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CPA Paddles Back in Time: The Voyage of 1608 Comes Home

By Lynn Erwin

On June 7th, an able bodied group of paddlers took to the waterways near Mount Vernon and Piscataway Creek to retrace a portion of Captain John Smith's famous voyage of the Chesapeake Bay in 1608. CPA paddlers joined with others to help celebrate the 400th anniversary of John Smith's 1,700 mile voyage. Page D reports that CPA coordinator Dave Biss organized the paddle and Nelson Labbe scouted put-in sites from the George Washington Parkway. While some eventually put in near Mount Vernon, others launched out of Piscataway Creek. The group met at the confluence of the Potomac for a paddle to National Colonial Farm in Maryland.

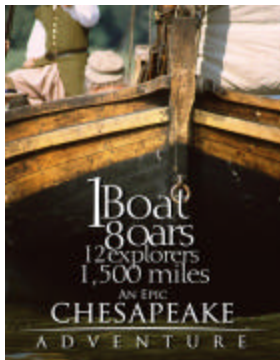
The paddle was part of the Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project—an inaugural program that will create America's first all-water National Historic Trail. "Overseen by the National Park Service, the John Smith Trail will allow modern-day adventurers to explore the Chesapeake while learning about Native American history, early English settlements and the Chesapeake's abundant natural resources" (see [NPS website](#)).



The Shallop underway, photo by Michael Wootton

The centerpiece of the celebration is the replica of the 30-foot open boat or "shallop" that was manned by Smith and fourteen English colonists. The 1608 crew of the shallop witnessed perhaps the peak of our Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem and partnered (or fought) with a large multitude of Native Americans. John Smith noted the phenomenal abundance of the Bay waters:

"... a few Bevers, Otters, Beares, Martins and minkes we found, and in divers places that abundance of fish, lying so thicke with their heads above the water, as for want of nets (our barge driving amongst them) we attempted to catch them with a frying pan: but we found it a bad instrument to catch fish with: neither better fish, more plenty, nor more variety for smal fish, had any of us ever seene in any place so swimming in the water, but they are not to be caught with frying pans: some small codd also we did see swim close by the shore by Smiths lles, and some as high as Riccards Clifts (Calvert Cliffs)." John Smith, log of the First Voyage, at <http://www.johnsmith400.org/journalfirstvoyage.htm>



On August 4, you can join CPA trip leader Greg Welker on a rare chance to experience the Patuxent River and the history surrounding the river during the time of John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake. The paddle will launch from Solomon's Island or Greenwell State Park (depending on weather conditions) and paddle over to Jefferson-Patterson Park and Museum on the shores of the Patuxent River. The paddle will be about 10-12 statute miles, round trip, and will be suitable for Advanced Beginners. The group will then secure the kayaks and take a short walk over to the Patuxent Encounters Festival. The Festival is a two day program focused on the lasting contributions that American Indians have made and continue to make, to the social, political, technological, and cultural fabric of this nation. The Sultana Project's John Smith Shallop will be arriving sometime on August 4th if they have good weather. The Patuxent Encounters Festival has an admission fee—\$6 for a one day pass in advance, \$10 at the gate. (2 day passes available). If you contact Greg Welker at least one week in advance of the August 4th paddle, he can reserve tickets for you. You may bring your lunch or buy food from the Festival menu on the premises.



Replica village at Jefferson-Patterson Park

If you are interested in joining Greg Welker on this CPA trip, please contact him at gdweker@verizon.net and give him a contact phone number, or call him at 301-249-4895.

For Page D's trip report see <http://letsgo2sea.com/Paddle%20John%20Smith%20Shallop%20June%2007/>

For more background on the Sultana shallop project, see <http://www.johnsmith400.org/>

And for Patuxent Encounters, see <http://www.jefpat.org./Patuxent%20Encounters/PEWebMain.htm>

And a video at <http://www.jefpat.org/johnsmith%20spot2.wma>

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We then split out men's and women's categories within each class. In the first and second races, we had seven different classes with medals awarded to each. Who knows, if enough people show up for season three, maybe we'll further divide by age group or maybe add a Greenland class!

Instrumental in all the races are our beloved "corkers" and the land crew. The corkers are the kayakers who come out to support the racers. They act as buoy turn markers, course directors, traffic cops and cheering section. Our land crew helps with registration, timing, ranking, and also has cheering duties! They all deserve a huge Thank You!



Lots of different kinds of boats Photo by Dan Hoke



Mark Powell fighting it out around the buoy at Fountain Head Regional Pak Photo by Dave Biss

Going forward fast is fun. Speed is addictive. Efficiency leads to more enjoyable kayaking. Just ask any of the below people who participated in the series this year and plan to join us next year!

For all the details on CPA's races visit our new race page: www.cpakayaker.com/cparacing.html. It includes details on this year's races with links to the results, information on other races in the area and will be home for next year's schedule once we get that far.

NEW PUBLICATION!

Paddling Guide to Baltimore/Washington, D.C. Area! 10% Discount to CPA Members!

Introducing the first comprehensive paddling guide to Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia and Maryland! *Sea Kayaking the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. Area* is a valuable "where to" resource with details on 92 launch sites on the area's rivers, lakes and tidal tributaries.

Paddlers of all ages and abilities will enjoy in-depth accounts of 25 of the area's best paddling destinations plus descriptions of 67 additional sites that include directions, launch facilities, launch fees and important facts about each location.

Also included are more than 50 photographs, county maps and a listing of regional paddling resources including outfitters, guided trips, clubs and associations.

Price: \$14.95 / Price with CPA discount: \$13.45

Ordering Information

Online: www.rainmakerpublishing.com

Phone: 703.385.2088

Use Discount Code CPA07



"A must read for anyone looking to paddle the waterways of the Baltimore / Washington, D.C. area. From paddling by Washington D.C.'s cherry blossoms to touring historical sites in Annapolis, this book shares everything you need to know to enjoy the region from the cockpit of a kayak."

- Eugene Buchanan, Editor-in-Chief, *Paddling Life*
www.paddlinglife.net

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

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

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-

August

4 (Sat)	Non CPA Event: Broadkill Race: The 8th Annual Broadkill Canoe and Kayak Race is a 10 mile course from Oyster Rocks Road outside Lewes, DE to the historic little town of Milton, DE. Organizer(s): Led by Karen at Milton Development Corp. 302-684-3400.
4 (Sat)	John Smith Water Trail: Join us as we paddle with the John Smith 400 Project Shallop at Jefferson Patterson Park on the Patuxent. Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Greg Welker 301-249-4895.
4 (Sat)	Kent Island Paddle No. 5: This is a paddle geared towards someone who wants to practice and get in shape over the next several months in preparation for a distance paddle at Kent Island. Skill Level: Intermediate Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Marshall Woodruff 202-345-0606.
5 (Sun)	Saint Clements Island Trip: Day trip out to St. Clements Island from Breton Bay or from Bush's Wharf on the Wicomico. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 (leave a message). Web Site: http://troop424.freesevers.com/St.%20Clements%20Island,%202006/index.html
11 (Sat)	Mason Neck Day Paddle: A quiet water paddle from Mason Neck to explore Kane's Creek. Skill Level: Beginner Organizer(s): Led by Jennifer Bine.
12 (Sun)	Nanjemoy Creek: A day paddle on Nanjemoy creek of about 6 miles in length. Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Dan Hoke.
17-19 (Fri-Sun)	Belle Isle, Virginia, Car Camper: This car camper will be at the new camping facilities at Belle Isle State Park, on Virginia's Rappahannock River. Call Bill to pre-qualify and for more details. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Bill Dodge 703-201-8636 (cell).
19 (Sun)	Iron Girl Triathlon Support: The ladies version of the Columbia Triathlon requests kayak support during their crack of dawn swim on Centennial Lake in Columbia MD. YOU MUST CONTACT the organizers ahead of time! Web Site: www.irongirl.com Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Sue Bauer 410 531 5641 H.
24-26 (Fri-Sun)	Patuxent Kayak Camping: Kayak Kamper from Queen Anne's Bridge (Route 214) to Magruder's Landing Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 (leave a message). Web Site: http://troop424.freesevers.com/Greenwell%20State%20Park%20Kayak%20Kamper/index.html
26 (Sun)	Nanjemoy to Port Tobacco: A day paddle from Nanjemoy Creek to Port Tobacco. This will be around 14 miles in distance. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers. Organizer(s): Led by Dan Hoke.

Continued on next page

September

- 1-8 (Sat-Sat)** **4th Annual Loons of the Adirondacks:** Come paddle in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York. Lakes galore suitable for all levels of paddling will be explored. We can do paddles at all levels of experience. September is a great time -- warm weather, no bugs, few tourists. When we get tired of paddling, there are museums, shopping, hiking, swimming, and nature watching. **Skill Level:** All Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by David T Moore 301-704-3262, Luci Adams.
- 7-10 (Fri-Mon)** **Non CPA Event: Downeast Sea Kayaking Symposium:** Some of our Club Member who teach in Main are co-sponsoring a Kayak Symposium in September. **Web Site:** <http://www.carpediemkayaking.com>
Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Carpe Diem Kayaking (207) 669-2338.
- 7-9 (Fri-Sun)** **Martinak State Park:** Car camping at Maryland's Martinak State Park on the middle Eastern Shore. Paddle the Choptank River and other local waters. Protected water paddling. RSVP required. Call Greg for sign up and pre-qualification. **Skill Level:** Beginner **Organizer(s):** Led by Greg Welker and Jenny Plummer-Welker 301-249-4895.
- 8 (Sat)** **Kent Island Paddle Finale:** This is the finale paddle of a series geared towards practicing and getting in shape over several months in preparation for a distance paddle at Kent Island.
Skill Level: Intermediate Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Marshall Woodruff 202-345-0606.
- 15 (Sat)** **Non CPA Event: Wye Island Race:** The 12.5 mile race starts at Wye Landing on the Wye East River, 18 miles southeast of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The course is over sheltered estuaries with minimum boat traffic and great scenery. **Skill Level:** All
- 15 (Sat)** **Camp Merek on the Potomac:** Launch from The Camp Merek Lyons Club onto the Potomac for a day paddle. There will be a \$5 launch fee. More information to follow. **Skill Level:** Beginner **Organizer(s):** Led by Mike Cohn.
- 15 (Sat)** **Eastern Neck:** Join us for a paddle around Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge. More information to follow shortly. **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner **Organizer(s):** Led by Marshall Woodruff (202) 345-0606.
- 16 (Sun)** **Alexandria Waterfront Day Paddle:** A day paddle from Bel Haven Marina to the waterfront of Old Town Alexandria. See the towering new Wilson Bridge above. More information to follow shortly. **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner **Organizer(s):** Led by Dan Hoke.
- 21-23 (Fri-Sun)** **Tall Pines III:** A car camper at a private campground on the upper Virginia Eastern shore. Paddle out of your campsite! Lots of local places to paddle once you are there. Call for prequalification and more information. **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner **Organizer(s):** Led by Greg Welker and Jenny Plummer-Welker 301-249-4895.

October

- 5-8 (Fri-Mon)** **Non CPA Event: Delmarva Paddlers Retreat:** Now in it's 19th year, the Delmarva Paddler's Retreat has grown into one of the largest celebrations of the origins of kayaking. Participants and Guides alike have opportunity to share and hone traditional kayaking techniques and skills. Activities range from on-water instruction, along with rope gymnastics, seminars on traditional kayak construction, presentations and lectures. **Skill Level:** All **Organizer(s):** Led by Ed Zachowski.
- 12-14 (Fri-Sun)** **Elk Neck Car Camper:** Fourth Annual Elk Neck Car Camper and Moveable Feast. **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Web Site:** <http://troop424.freesevers.com/Elk%20Neck%202006/ELKNECKTRiPREPORT.html>
Organizer(s): Led by Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 (leave a message).
- 25 (Thu)** **PoG Halloween Paddle Party:** The event to end the season. We will dress up, paddle and then part on the docks as we close the season. More information will follow shortly. **Skill Level:** All **Organizer(s):** Led by Dave Biss 703-241-0036.

November

- 4 (Sun)** **CPA Annual Meeting:** details to follow. **Skill Level:** All **Organizer(s):** Dave Biss.
- 10-12 (Sat-Mon)** **Chicahominy Riverfront Park:** Car camping and paddling in the protected waters of Chickahominy River **Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner Paddlers **Organizer(s):** Led by Bill Dodge 703-201-8636 (cell).

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>

Travel by Time Machine to “Chesapeake: Bay of Light”

By Ralph Heimlich

One of my fondest desires is to travel back in time, like the H.G. Wells character, to tour the Bay (with my kayak, of course) as it was on the day John Smith and the Jamestowners sailed up the first of “five faire rivers”. While I’m not likely to make that trip, I can certainly imagine it in high resolution visual acuity with a little help from a new book of photographs by Ian J. Plant, with accompanying essays by Tom Horton, just released by Mountain Trail Press. *Chesapeake: Bay of Light* is a large-format delight with stunning photographs, some in double-page spread, taken mostly from the artist’s sea kayak.



From Chesapeake: Bay of Light photo by Ian Plant



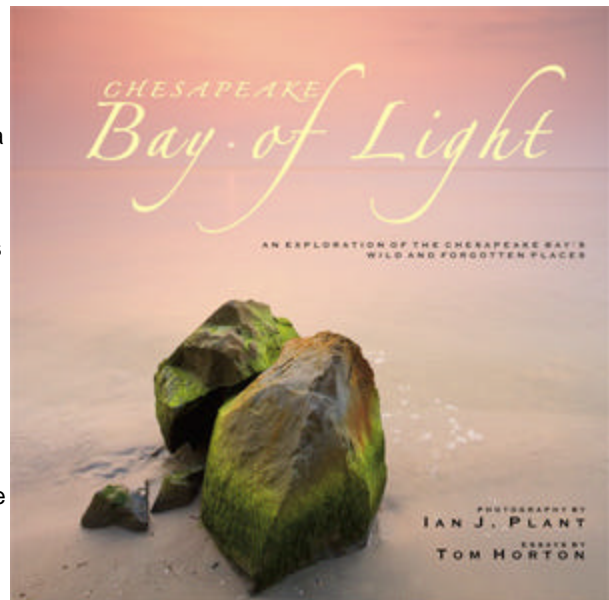
From Chesapeake: Bay of Light photo by Ian Plant

The first chapter explores the many qualities of light on the Bay, that body of reflection, translucence and gilding magnificence. Ian captures all of the Bay’s many facets, from gentle sunrises to fiery sunsets, gleaming sand banks and barely lit twilight skies, to a crystal new moon rising through bald cypress along the Chickahominy. Chapter 2, titled “The Water’s Edge,” conveys the shoreline transition between water and land and some of the comings and goings of we who live along the water. Not only wildlife, but plants, sands, shells, rivulets and waves dance along the Bay’s rim. Chapter 3 introduces a varied cast from our “Bay of Life”, from a raucous flock of Black Skimmers to rich colors of mussels, bottlenose dolphins leaping and splashing (how *does* he get those shots?), and white pelicans. Chapter 4 moves to the “Ancient Rhythms” of the Bay, from long cycles of epochs, seasons and migrations to the nightly round of stars, the tracks of a raccoon on the sand, and flashes of lightening frozen as they flash over the Potomac. The final chapter, “Winter Light,” captures a Bay that only the hardest ever see up close. Flocks of waterfowl, solitary eagles in snowy pines, and pairs of grey loons on a gray Bay are the sights of winter, with an occasional festive holly tree, it’s berries frozen under a glaze.

Complementing these marvelous art photographs are the essays by Tom Horton, the dean of Chesapeake writers, author of *Bay Country* and other books, as well as a masterful survey of the state of the Bay for National Geographic magazine titled, “Why Can’t We Save the Bay?”. Tom melds quotes from John Smith’s logs, myriads of Bay facts, and the anxieties of a lover for a beloved that is no longer young. Both a celebration of the unspoiled and a jeremiad for the lost, Tom’s essays provide a thoughtful balance to the sheer emotion of Ian’s photography. The call to arms is subtle and muted, but sets off the foreword by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s William Baker and emeritus chairman Patrick Noonan and leaves the reader in little doubt that it will take a fight to preserve and restore the Bay.

As a relative newcomer to the Chesapeake, I was struck by how many of the views captured in the book I’ve been able to share from a kayak. This point is reinforced by the map of John Smith’s voyages, and the location of the photographs in the back of the book. From Morris Creek on the Chickahominy, past New Point Comfort, Point Lookout, Calvert Cliffs, James Island, Tilghman Island, Eastern Neck, Elk Neck and the flats of the Susquehanna, this book contains the Bay in 191 pages in a way that will set your mind to wandering over voyages taken and voyages yet to come.

Whether as a gift for someone torn from the Bay or for your own coffee table, *Chesapeake: Bay of Light. An Exploration of the Chesapeake Bay’s Wild and Forgotten Places* is a true time-machine that brings back the best of the Bay. View the book and enjoy a slide show of images from it at http://www.ipphotography.com/Bay_of_Light.htm Much to my distress, the review copy Ian sent me will be donated to the CPA library (eventually).





Yvonne's trip to Thomas Point *Photo by Ralph Heimlich*

Inside our July 2007 issue:

- **POG 4th of July Party**
- **Quiet Waters of Rocky Gorge**
- **Mid-Pax Day Paddle**
- **Racing the CPA Way**
- **CPA Paddles Back in Time**
- **Chesapeake: Bay of Light**
- **2007 Calendar**

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.
PO Box 341
Greenbelt, MD 20768

REMINDER: Please check your mailing label or the email you were sent 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.**