

Chesapeake Paddler



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May 2008



The Loons of the Adirondacks Turn Five

by David T. Moore

The "Loonacy" began as a whim. For years Elizabeth and I spent two to four weeks on the shores of Blue Mountain Lake in upstate New York's Adirondack Park relaxing, playing music, hiking, and kayaking. I had mentioned the area to a number of fellow CPA members and several folks had traveled north to explore the region. In early July 2004, I decided to schedule a trip north and listed it on the CPA calendar. A little advertising on the list server, at Pier 7, and at Georgetown, and we had a crew for a week of paddling beginning Labor Day weekend.

I quickly discovered how much work organizing such a trip could be, especially with only four weeks of evenings to do it! There was housing to arrange, a chef to hire for our suppers (that part was easy as I already had a chef from the music week I organize), tee shirts to design, and a commemorative map book to create. Then there was the paddle planning. Twenty years of visiting the region paid off here, as I knew where much of the interesting water was and where I had "always wanted to explore."

The best part of early September is that there are few or no bugs. Everyone arrived on our first Saturday and we made a leisurely drive to Long Lake for dinner at the Long View Lodge (our meal plan began on Sunday evening). I learned an important lesson that evening: Groups larger than three do best with a fixed price menu.

Sunday finally dawned and we hit the water for a 16-mile paddle up the Bog River Flow to Lowe's Lake. The week expanded our horizons. We explored Sue Bauer's favorite, Indian Lake, surfing and playing tag with the wind among the eskers. A photograph of our foray to the falls at the south inlet of Raquette Lake made a national magazine. We capped off the first year with two paddles: one around Blue Mountain Lake ending on Castle Rock and a long haul down motor-less Little Tupper Lake and up the river to the Rock Pond that is one of its headwaters. Subsequent exploration of a feeder creek up to an impassible beaver dam ensured we were late for supper. Lesson two: Never plan supper for earlier than 7:30 PM if you want to be on time.

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Piracy Season Opens



Dick Rock, Len Thunberg and Brad Roberts,
Pirates of the Potomac

Spring has sprung, pollen is in the air...and the Pirates are back on the water! Piracies are a little mini-vacation each week where you modern-day Huck Finn's sneak away from whitewashing fences and spend some quality time on the river of your choice. The following are reports from some of our best. Let's hear from the rest of you.

Pirates of the Potomac—Tired of paddling in the same waters, seeing the same boring buildings and coves? Join the Pirates of the Potomac on Wednesday evenings. Depending on the tides and the mood of the group, we can paddle north under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, which is usually clogged with motorists, and go into Old Town Alexandria by the expensive waterfront condos, the city docks with the yachts, and the numerous parks on up to Reagan National Airport. Or we can go south, paddling through the ever-

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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.



Jakie Aiken gives SK102 leaders Laura and Brian fuzzy changing robes as thanks

Photo by Cyndi J. anetzko

SCHEDULE FOR 2008 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
May 2008	April 15, 2008 (Tax Day!)
June 2008	May 15, 2008
July 2008	June 15, 2008

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:

Coordinator—Dave Biss, 703-241-0036, coordinator@cpakayaker.com

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Patuxent Pirate King—Jenny Plummer-Welker Pirate Captain(410)535-2348/(301)249-4895 pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com;

Georgetown Pirate Committee—Cyndi Janetzko, Dave Biss, 703-241-0036; pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com

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

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Sugarloaf Pirate King—James Higgins 301-460-8022 pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of the North—Bob Shakeshaft (410 939 0269) and Mike Free (610-565-7563) 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



Seeing Everyone at SK102

What a great time it was. I know that I say that every year after SK102, but every year it gets a little better. This year, Brian Blankinship and Laura Butterbaugh signed up 100 students and 31 instructors for a weekend of camping, training and paddling. I believe the final count was 85 students and 30 instructors, despite the weather forecast.

It all started early for some people. A few of the kayakers who spend much of their time training just to go as fast as possible showed up a couple of days before everyone else for a clinic. Holm and Melissa Schmidt held a kayak racer's training camp. Holm is a former German sprint kayaker who trained for the Olympics and who has trained many professional sprint kayakers in the past. He has a rigorous program and he shared it with a few of the enthusiastic kayak racers who showed up for this training.

Since Lake Anna is a nuclear reactor cooling pond in early spring warm water can be had for training paddling skills and rescues, and even rolling. By Friday evening, what was an empty field had blossomed into a grove of tents. Colorful kayaks were lined up in rows along the shore, and clusters of nylon domes had formed wherever friends found other friends to camp beside for the weekend. At first, Friday progressed as a sort of controlled chaos, but by the time evening approached, everything slowed down and took on a relaxed atmosphere. As everyone got ready for the evening paddle, the camp got quiet and peaceful. A few of us just lounged around and talked with those we had not seen since last season, while watching the lines of lights traveling across the water.

Saturday mornings at SK102 always break early. Soon we all heard Brian make his expected announcement that the morning meeting would start. Over a hundred people gathered in anticipation to hear what the day would bring. For the next three hours everyone worked on skills in an on-water class situation. Some people did wet exits and rescue training, others did basic strokes. Some more specific classes focused on topics like Greenland Style paddling, forward stroke technique, advanced strokes, and more.

Whew! Kayak classes can be a workout. Three hours later, everyone took a break for lunch. While we all rested and snacked and got prepared for another session in the afternoon, we learned about some special gifts that were being circulated. 2008 was a milestone for the SK102 event. It has been presented with the hard work of Brian and others for 10 years; a true feat of effort and coordination. To honor this, some spirited folks in the club got together to give gifts to Brian, Laura, and Dave Compton (who's property we use every year). Nelson Labbè hand-crafted a wooden Greenland Paddle for both Laura and Dave. Gina and I created a collage photo for Brian showing cool scenes from past SK102 events. Everyone at this year's SK102 got to sign all three of these tokens of appreciation. Then we were back at it for another couple of hours.



Wandering amongst a sea of kayaks photo by Gina Cicotello

On Saturday evening, we gathered to cheer on Grillmeister, Barry Marsh, as he set up the grill and started to work on our evening meal. We all got to eat well. Greg Welker always provides an opportunity for sea kayaker's to see what those flares we all carry around actually look like when set off. This night, as the rain gently started falling, we saw many more duds than successes. Next, the bon fire was lit and all circled around to enjoy.

On Sunday there were lots of special clinics going on. There was navigation, Greenland paddle making, fixing a latex gasket, wing paddle technique, knot tying, packing a kayak, Greenland ropes, and even the sale of CPA logo gear. As the rain began, we all slowly packed up our camping gear and our kayaks, and one-by-one headed on our way back home.



I know that to many paddlers SK102 is an unparalleled opportunity to get lessons in paddle strokes, open-water rescues, and even rolling by experienced instructors for very little cost, but I must say that what I look forward to is the people and the camaraderie. For me, it is my only chance to see many of these friends. The coming together of all these paddlers for this event is really a display of kayaking at its best. That is what it is all about.

It may be that I will not see you until next year. So until then, enjoy your time on the water, practice all that you learned at SK102: 2008, and come back next year. I look forward to it, as always! - *Thanks to everyone who participated in this 10th SK102. Whether you planned the event, or just came to play; it would not happen without all of you. Photos are online at http://www.cpakayaker.com/members/photos/dave_biss/sk102_2008/index1.html*

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We agreed that while we might not be included on the newsletter masthead, we'd be a CPA paddling group – *an annual one*. However, we had a problem. Piracies simply did not make sense in the Adirondacks despite the histories of the many robber barons who had (and whose great grandchildren still have) places in the park. We agreed that perhaps we should be a “loonacy” after the many loons we saw during the week. The name also resonated with the character of the first trip. A CPA paddling group was born.

The next three years saw us explore in more detail the park and its waters. We paddled the historic Raquette Lake-to-Blue Mountain Lake route (three times), carrying our boats over William West Durant's *other* railroad to the steamboat docks on Lake Utowana. We explored Indian Lake, Lake Abenakee, and Forked Lake – where we saw more loons in a couple of hours than we have seen everywhere else over the past four seasons. Big

Moose Lake, scene of the Chester Gillette–Grace Brown tragedy captured by Theodore Dreiser in *An American Tragedy* (and Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift in “A Place in the Sun”), and the first five Fulton Lakes soon lay behind us. Always there were favorites that we visited over and over, as well as other lakes tantalizingly close that remained unexplored. The [photo albums on the web](#) grew in number, each photo different and significant to those of us who were there and familiar to those who were not:

Mountains or hills, autumn foliage, and paddlers on dark water; some were sunny, some cloudy. Another lesson we learned was that this was a great place for people to try out their trip leadership skills. The growth in returning paddlers was noticeable and noteworthy.

Mary Jo's cooking became something we looked forward to each year. We expanded from the Blue Mountain Lake Inn and Curry's Cottages to the cabins at Prospect Point. Some of us tried camping. We had music in the evenings and scotch by the fire near the lake. Full moon paddles and northern lights graced our nights. We paddled in sun and rain, day and night. We paddled long and short distances. And *always* we paddled to eat!



Indian Lake and the High Peaks photo by David Moore



We PADDLE to EAT photo by David Moore

We always had someone watching the end of the “90 Miler” paddling race from Old Forge to Blue Mountain Lake. Last year (2007) we discovered what a really windy day is like and how much surf these lakes could produce when the water is moved around by 25 mile-per-hour winds. We learned to use the lees of points and promontories to ease our paddling and how to really surf the waves. We also mourned the death of one of our own, sunk by cancer the previous autumn. Each year, new paddlers joined the Loons, swelling our numbers to over twenty in 2007.

We return again this year for our fifth season. Again we will be at Curry's Cottages and the Blue Mountain Lake Inn. Some paddlers have arrangements for the cabins at Prospect Point. Mary Jo will again cook for us. As always, this is a week long trip for paddlers of all skill levels. We can find water to suit almost anyone. While some of us like the longer “go and see things” paddles, there are other opportunities for shorter adventures. There is also hiking and birding as well as museums; and as our credit card companies can attest, great shopping.



Landing at Curry's photo by Yvonne Thayer (Continued on page 10)

Who's Paddling?

This is the second of an occasional series that I hope to feature every so often called "Who's Paddling?" In this series you can read details from informal interviews with members of the CPA. Let me know if there's anyone you'd like to hear from. Dave Biss

Jenny Plummer-Welker



Jenny Plummer-Welker photo by Greg Welker

Tell us about the area where the Patuxent Pirates paddle.

The Patuxent Pirates meet at Solomons in Calvert County, MD, near the mouth of the river. We launch from just north of the Island. Solomons is actually an island, but it is only 30 feet from the mainland.

Over time the oyster industry had off-loaded shells here and the island moved closer to the mainland from this addition of material. The Pirates launch from the mainland, near Star of the Sea Church. There is a beach right in front of a public parking lot. There is no fee to use this lot, and there is a public restroom down the way so that people can change. From the beach we have several options to go paddling. We can go upriver which will take us under the Thomas Johnson Bridge. Past the bridge, the river curves off to the left and we pass Point Patience which sticks out into the river. It was named Point Patience because when the primary mode of traveling was sailing, the sailors had to be very patient in order to get the tide and the wind just right so that they could pass the point. This land is also owned by the Navy, so not a place where we can land. It is part of the Pax River Naval Station Navy Recreational Center. From Point Patience we can paddle up river to Broomes Island and Saint Leonard Creek, or we can paddle across the river to Greenwell State Park.

We can also go across the river from the launch to the St. Mary's side where there are many little finger creeks, most lined with residential development. Or we can paddle South down along the Island and out to the tip of Solomon's Island. You can look out into the Chesapeake Bay from there. On the right hand side you can see the Patuxent River Naval Station. There are a lot of military aircraft that fly over this area. In fact many of our members are employed by the Navy or are naval contractors. We pass by Chesapeake Biological Laboratories. They have a Pier that juts out into the river. This Laboratory has been in existence since the 1920's, focusing primarily on the ecology of the Bay and the Patuxent River. From there you can round up into the harbor. Solomons is a protected harbor where steamboats used to come up. The water used to be so deep that a pier did not have to be built. Steamboats could just pull up along the land and drop their gangplank so that people could get on and off. The steamboats were a primary mode of transportation until about the 1930's or so when they stopped because of better roads and also the hurricane of 1933 wiped out many of the piers. We can paddle into the harbor and either go into Back Creek or the Narrows and see the marinas up in there. Or we can paddle further up and visit the Drum Point Lighthouse at its second location at the Calvert Marine Museum. Its original home was at Drum Point, but it was cut off at its pilings and moved. It is a screw pile lighthouse similar to the more well known Thomas Point Lighthouse.

What makes the Patuxent Piracy different? One of the unique things about Solomons is that we don't have a boathouse or a grill where we can cook, unlike Pier 7. We often do not go out to eat. Patuxent Pirates often just gather, go paddle, come back, and then go home. Our group is not focused on eating so much, except for the beginning and the ending of the season. Since Solomons Island does have a lot of restaurants, we can usually tell which way the wind is blowing by what food we can smell. When we do go out to eat it will often be to the local family-owned grocery store called Woodburn's. Woodburn's has a gourmet salad bar, a deli, and a sushi bar. The neat thing is that they do not mind wet kayakers, because everything is waterproofed.

Can you tell me about a memorable trip? We met up at Broomes Island, launched from Lenny's Marina and paddled across to the Sotterley Plantation on the St. Mary's side of the Patuxent. We had contacted Sotterley's in advance and they did an evening tour for us through their historic house. We used CPA funding for the first time last year to do an end of season dinner at the CD Café in Solomons. We had a good time.

Give me a short lure to bring people to the Patuxent Pirates. Friendly people and a gorgeous place to paddle. The Thomas Johnstown Bridge is quite striking and then the views along the river and across the Bay make it a beautiful spot to paddle. Also the sailing group has their races on Thursday nights so we often get to watch the small sailboats race.

Register Now!
June 14, 15 & 16



Adventure Crafters of Queenstown

Welcomes Guest Instructors
Alec & Sharon Bloyd-Peshkin

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to learn some new skills, brush up on some old and just have fun!

Schedule of Events:

Saturday June 14th - Roll That Kayak & Water Women

Sunday June 15th - Rescue Scenarios/Water Safety Problem Solving & Fun on the Water (For Kids 12-16)

Monday June 16th – Making a Greenland Paddle & a free presentation on Paddling the Great Lakes (Light fare & beverages provided by Adventure Crafters!)

For detailed information please visit:
<http://www.adventurecrafters.com/whats-new.asp>
Register now, space is limited!
Call - 888.529.2563
Or Email - info@adventurecrafters.com

Join CPA, Become a Member Individual/family memberships: \$10 per year

You will be delighted to know that we are now offering a new method of joining the CPA or renewing your club membership. We are hosting payment through **PayPal online**. This is a secure way of paying by using a credit card, eCheck, or funds in your PayPal account.

We offer a variety of methods of completing your membership with the **Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.** If you wish to mail in a check to the CPA, please click on the "**Mail**" button below. If you wish to use online payment methods click on the "Online" button below.

[Mail](#)

[Online](#)

If you are already a member and need to update your membership information, please use our **online Membership Address Correction** form by selecting the below option.

[Membership Address Correction](#)

Thank you for joining the **Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.**, the largest kayaking club in the Mid-Atlantic region. We appreciate your membership and look forward to seeing you on the water. *Note: the links above actually work, or you can go to <http://www.cpakayaker.com/join.html>*

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.

May	
Check the calendar at http://www.cpakayaker.com/events.html	
May 16-17(Fri-Sat)	Eastern Neck Paddle 2-'08 --The main paddle will be Saturday, but we will be camping Fri. and Sat., so you can either camp or just come for the paddle on Sat. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Marshall Woodruff 202 345 0606.
May 17(Sat)	CPA and West/Rhode Riverkeeper Race --Join us as CPA joins forces with the West and Rhode Riverkeeper to provide a great open race on the Chesapeake Bay! Web Site: http://www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org/KayakRace08online1.pdf Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Cyndi Janetzko, Brian Blankenship.
May 17-18(Sat-Sun)	Pamunkey/Mattaponi Car Camper --Join Jenny and I for two days of paddling the Mattaponi and Pamunkey rivers in Virginia. Join us for Saturday, or come car camping with us in a local campground Saturday night and paddle with us on Sunday too. Paddles ranging from 12-20 miles depending on the abilities of the groups. Limited camping and trip space. RSVP required. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Organizer(s): Led by Greg Welker 301-249-4895.
May 18 (Sun)	Back River Swim Support --Distance swimmer Joe Stewart and two other swimmers plan a benefit two nautical mile swim across the mouth of the Back River (near Baltimore) from Rocky Point Park to the town of Millers and back. This swim is to bring attention to the local watershed and environment issues. CPA has proudly supported Joe on many earlier Patapsco swims, and we need your help again! Skill Level: Intermediate Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Barry Marsh 443-416-3192.
May 24 (Sat)	Chestertown Tea Party --Paddle to Chestertown and celebrate the Tea REvolution Re-enactment. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Todd Angerhofer 202-412-7267.
May 31(Sat)	NON CPA Event- Potomac River Swim Support --Support paddlers are needed for the Potomac River Swim on May 31, 2008. This is a fun event and a chance to really make a difference to an individual swimmer. Web Site: http://artemis.crosslink.net/~cherylw/pr2008i.htm Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Cheryl Wagner (202) 387-2361 (home), Chris Bresnan.
May 30-June 1(Fri-Sun)	Point Lookout Car Camper --Camp and paddle in and around Point Lookout, Dinner out with the group, if you desire. Participants must contact the leader to pre-qualify. CPA members only. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Bill Dodge 703-201-8636 (cell).
June	
Check the calendar at http://www.cpakayaker.com/events.html	
June 7(Sat)	Kent Island Practice Paddle, KIPP3-'08 --This is the third year for a most unusual paddle. It is a paddle where we have five practice paddles (once a month, from April to August) culminating in a final paddle, in September, where you paddle the distance you have been practicing for. Skill Level: Intermediate Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Marshall Woodruff 202 345 0606.
June 8 (Sun)	Great Chesapeake Bay Swim --Help us out to support the swimmers as they cross the Chesapeake Bay. Web Site: http://www.bayswim.com/index.html Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Dave Biss 703.241.0036, Cyndi Janetzko 703.241.0036.
June 13-15 (Fri-Sun)	Pokomoke/Nassawango Car Camper --Camping and paddling on the Pokomoke River and Nassawango Creek Web Site: http://picasaweb.google.com/ralph.heimlich/NassawangoJune2007 Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 (leave a message).
June 21 (Sat)	Tuckahoe Creek Day Paddle --Day paddle from Hillsboro launch Web Site: http://troop424.freesevers.com/Tuckahoe%20Creek%20Paddle/index.html Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Lucy Mitchell 410-604-3139.
Jun 21 (Sat)	CPA Navigation Training --Kayak Navigation classroom training. This will be a 4+ hour indoor program. The following week will provide outdoor experience. Skill Level: All Organizer(s): Led by Tom Henehan 703.748.1856.
June 22 (Sun)	CPA Race 2 --Race number two features a 5 and 10 mile course on the protected Occoquan. Launch from Fountainhead Regional Park, paddle 2.5 miles up the reservoir and then return. 10 mile racers paddle 5 miles, turn around just short of Bull Run Marina and then return. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Cyndi Janetzko, Brian Blankenship.
June 27-29 (Fri-Sun)	Virginia Capes Barrier Island Car Camper --Camping at the Virginia Barrier Islands, with Day Trips on the water. Limited space available. Skill Level: Intermediate Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Greg Welker 301-249-4895.
June 28 (Sat)	Non CPA Event: 2008 Escape from Fort Delaware --KAYAK SUPPORTERS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT! The Coast Guard always wants the sponsor, Piranha, to have more and more kayakers for support, so recruit your friends, spread the invitation, etc. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Debbie Martin 302-576-3107.
Jun 29 (Sun)	CPA Navigation Practice --This is a follow up on-water practice day for the previous CPA Navigation Training day. It will take place on an Open Water Environment where understanding of charts, rules-of-the-road, and other navigational techniques will be put into practice. The previous CPA Navigation Training day is a prerequisite. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Organizer(s): Led by Dave Biss 703-241-0036.

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changing Dyke Marsh, by the mansions of the Mount Vernon area, to the edge of George Washington's home at Mount Vernon. Or we can cross over to the Maryland shore of the Potomac and go north into the quiet and unexplored area just up river from the Wilson bridge. Or directly across from Belle Haven to the new National Harbor complex and view "The Awakening" from the water. Or go south to paddle around Browns Cove, Broad Creek, Fort Washington and its lighthouse. With three seasons, your paddling will never be the same.

Departing from the sheltered marina at Belle Haven, we pass scores of osprey nests guarded by Mom and Pop Osprey. We are surprised at the number of Eagles and Great Blue Herons that we encounter, as well as ducks, red-winged black birds, kingfishers, and geese. The occasional sightings of beaver, muskrat, fox and otter adds to the wonder.

Though we usually leave at 5 PM and return about two hours later, we sometime change our schedule and watch the moon rise over the Maryland shore and paddle in the moonlight. If you are looking for a nice evening paddle with variable landscapes and an interesting bunch of paddlers, join the Pirates of the Potomac on Wednesday nights. You will be welcome anytime. Report by Mimi Pollock (Dick Rock, Potomac Pirate Captain)

Pirates of Baltimore—The Baltimore Piracy launched the 2008 season on Tuesday, May 6, at the Inner Harbor. We launch at 6:00 from the traditional put-in at the Korean War Veterans park in Canton. Directions are on the CPA website, but contact me with any questions. I'm changing our schedule this year, so we'll only paddle the Harbor on the first Tuesday of the month. On the third we'll meet at Dundee Creek, and we'll use the couple of fifth Tuesdays to travel to sites TBA. The second and fourth Tuesdays will remain at Rocky Point. Please join us as we enjoy dinner afterwards at one of the fine local establishments. I'm looking forward to a great season, so please contact me with any questions, comments, or suggestions. See you on the water! (Bob Huber, Baltimore Pirate Captain)



Pier 7 Opening Night photo by Ralph Heimlich

Pirates of Pier 7—Your oldest piracy resumed operation on April 23, our regular Wednesday night. Paddlers arrive anytime between 4 and 6 PM, and some of our "Vampire" paddlers arrive later. We rotate cooking responsibilities and have a boathouse with a refrigerator (cold \$1 beer) and a barbecue. The Pier 7 Pirate Committee (Yes...we have a committee!) is planning a skills night on June 11 for outfitting your boat. Do you have a kayak that needs some "padding" to fit you better? Does your boat need deck lines? Ever thought about adding a keel rub strip to prevent bottom wear? Bring your boat and questions. We'll teach you how to make a bow line, or "painter", which can be used in towing and securing your kayak. Bring a piece of rope that is five times the length from the bow of your boat to the front of your cockpit. The rope should be 1/4 to 3/8 inches in diameter. Please RSVP so we can coordinate supplies Ralph Heimlich (heimlichfamily@comcast.net) or Greg Welker, gdwelker@verizon.net or 301-249-4895.

Pirates of Algonkian—The Occoquan Watertrail League (OWL) will host an evening paddle at Occoquan on Thursday, June 5, 6 to 9 pm at the boat ramp at Occoquan Regional Park. The Park will provide picnic and send out invitations. All are invited to attend. I specifically asked them to host this on a Thursday so we might get the Pirates of the Algonkian to participate. Hey, free food and a rare chance to do a night paddle from a park here.

Pirates of Georgetown—POG is back in action for the season. We are gonna start a new feature this season, called the PoG 15. We will do mini clinics before, or just after we get on the water for approximately 15 minutes. May 1st was "Getting Your Boat Ready for the Season" where we will briefly talk about what you can do to inspect and clean your craft before the season gets heavy.

Editor's Note: Pirate Captains, send me your news and pics. Can't print 'em if I don't get 'em.



"The Awakening" at National Harbor with Len Thunberg



Coordinator Dave Biss explains kayak maintenance supplies at POG



Photo by Elizabeth Malby - Baltimore Sun

Gear Up, and Join the CPA in Supporting The 2007 Great Chesapeake Bay Swim

Come out and offer support for the 2008 Great Chesapeake Bay Swim. 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. Kayakers will be responsible for first hand support of the swimmers. We will spread out along the course, and keep an eye out for any swimmers that may need help along the way. We are an important part of this event, and we would like as many kayakers as possible on the water to help us out.

longer swim, will take place at Sandy Point State Park on the Western side of the Bay Bridge, starting at 10:00 am, and completing at approximately 4:00 pm. It is possible for kayakers to support both swim events. Remember that if you are supporting a swim, you may need to paddle twice as far as the swimmers to return to your launch point. Be ready to tow swimmers to rescue boats, and offer assistance to fellow kayakers, including rescues, as needed. Website: <http://www.bayswim.com/index.html>

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.



Potomac River Swim Support

Support paddlers are needed for the Potomac River Swim on May 31, 2008.

This is a fun event and a chance to really make a difference to an individual swimmer.

Kayakers get a t-shirt, dinner on Friday night, free camping at Point Lookout State Park (in Maryland) on Friday night and Saturday night and a free picnic on Saturday after the swim. Also, I arrange a free kayak rolling session sometime in the summer, at the Patuxent Adventure Center on Solomons Island for Potomac Swim kayakers.

Your support helps improve the health of the river and the bay since proceeds from the swim go to area environmental organizations.

Additional safety procedures have been added this year. I hope you will consider joining us!!

For more information about the swim, see our website: <http://artemis.crosslink.net/~cherylw/pr2008i.htm>

Happy new year and safe paddling.

Cheryl Wagner
H (202) 387-2361
W (202) 874-0614
FAX (202) 478-0948

Chris Bresnan
bresnacj@pwcs.edu



Swimmer John Sullivan and kayak supporter Photo by Cheryl Wagner

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

Adirondack Loonacy (Continued from page 4)



Lake Abenakee, 2007 photo by David Moore

The dates this year are 30 August to 6 September, 2008, with an option to stay an extra night. There is a great craft's fair the day we traditionally leave. How does one sign up? Simple: You email me, David Moore, dtmoore@mac.com. We do a pre-trip interview (CPA rules for trips apply here). The available number of beds (everybody gets one of their own!) and the number of leadership qualified people who sign up are what determines the maximum size of the group. Costs are based on how densely we occupy Curry's Cottages and the Inn. This depends on the group's makeup. We do get a price break, as it is the end of the season.

It is a great week and those of us who are returning again this year hope you can join us. By the way, photos of past years forays are to be found at: <http://homepage.mac.com/dtmoore/index.html> (season 1, 2004) and http://web.mac.com/dtmoore/My_Site/Welcome.html (seasons 2 through 4, 2005-2007). See you in Blue (Mountain Lake) at the end of August!

July	
(continued from page 7) Check the calendar at http://www.cpakayaker.com/events.html	
Jul 4 (Fri)	Independence Day Paddle in Georgetown --Come join us for the best seats in the house to see the Washington D.C. Fireworks - your kayak on the Potomac River. Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Todd Angerhofer 202-412-7267.
Jul 5-6 (Sat-Sun)	Patuxent Kayak Kamper --Launch from Hallowing Point in Benedict and paddle across to remote campsite at Patuxent River NRMA. Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 (leave a message). Email organizer to prequalify. Numbers will be limited due to capacity of the site.
Jul 6 (Sun)	Tridelphia Reservoir Day Paddle --Paddle a quiet waters trip. Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Sue Bauer 410-531-5641 susiegreenthumb@aol.com and Rich Stevens rstevens15@verizon.net .
Jul 10-13 (Thu-Sun)	Janes Island Car Camper --Camp at Janes Island State Park and paddle nearby destinations on the Bay, such as Janes Island Water Trail, Cedar Island WMA, etc. Web Site: http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/eastern/janesisland.html Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Ralph Heimlich heimlichfamily@comcast.net or 301-498-0918 (leave a message).
Jul 12 (Sat)	Non-CPA Evernt Blackburn Challenge --The Blackburn Challenge is one of the east coast's premier open-water human-powered boat competitions. This 20 mile challenge sends rowers, kayakers and canoeist around Cape Ann in Massachusetts. Skill Level: Intermediate
Jul 12 (Sat)	Parkers Creek Trash Cleanup and Paddle --We will launch from Warrior's Rest beach and pick up trash along the way up Parkers Creek and return. Skill Level: Beginner Paddler Organizer(s): Led by Jenny Plummer-Welker 301-249-4895.
Jul 12 (Sat)	Kent Island Practice Paddle (KIPP 4-'08) --This is the third year for a most unusual paddle. It is a paddle where we have five practice paddles (once a month, from April to August) culminating in a final paddle, in September, where you paddle the distance you have been practicing for. Skill Level: Intermediate Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Marshall Woodruff 202 345 0606.
Jul 18-20 (Fri-Sun)	Matthews County Car Camper --Camp at either Gwynn Island or New Point Comfort and paddle venues on the Bay or around Gwynn Island. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Organizer(s): Led by Bill Dodge 703-201-8636 (cell).
Jul 19-20 (Sat-Sun)	CPA Greenland Paddle Days --Come get together with other CPA Members who are getting intersted in the Style of Greenland Paddling. If you want to participate or volunteer, we want you to join us. More information to follow. Skill Level: All Organizer(s): Led by Dave Biss 703-241-0036.
Jul 20 (Sun)	Bear Creek Day Paddle -- Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Suzanne Farace 410-446-5991 Cell sfarace@fslawoffice.com
Jul 25-26 (Fri-Sat)	Eastern Neck Paddle 3-'08 --The Eastern Neck Refuge, located in Rock Hall, MD, is a 2,285 acre island refuge, a major feeding and resting place for migratory waterfowl. We will circle the Island, paddling along the Chester River and Chesapeake Bay, exploring numerous creeks. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Marshall Woodruff 202 345 0606.
Jul 26 (Sat)	CPA Race 3--
Jul 27 (Sun)	St. Clements Island Day Paddle --Launch from Abel's Wharf and paddle out of Breton Bay to St. Clements Island for a picnic and return. Web Site: http://troop424.freesevers.com/Breton%20Bay%20Paddle/index.html Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 (leave a message).
Jul 27 (Sun)	Non CPA Event: Ocoquan River Festival --Celebrate on the Ocoquan. Skill Level : All
August	
Check the calendar at http://www.cpakayaker.com/events.html	
Aug 2 (Sat)	St Georges Island --Paddle in protected waters as well as on the open Potomac for a 10 mile day trip. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Mark Woodside (301) 373-4561.
Aug 2 (Sat)	Non-CPA Event: Manhattan Island Circumnavigation --Join some native NY Paddlers on a long day's expedition around Manhattan Island. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Todd Angerhoffer 202.412.7267. The launch will be at Pier 40 in Manhattan. Unload your gear and then park your car across the street. The launch will be at 7:00 AM SHARP. The group will be paddling against the start of the flood until we round the Battery.
Aug 3 (Sun)	Algonkian Island Explorer --We will paddle out of Algonkian Park, VA on the Potomac River and explore the waters to the north. More information to follow. Skill Level: Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Jesse Aronson 571-334-5242.
Aug 9 (Sun)	Kent Island Practice Paddle, KIPP5-'08 --This is the third year for a most unusual paddle. It is a paddle where we have five practice paddles (once a month, from April to August) culminating in a final paddle, in September, where you paddle the distance you have been practicing for. Skill Level: Intermediate Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Marshall Woodruff 202 345 0606.
Aug 15-17 (Fri-Sun)	Belle Isle, Virginia, Car Camper --Camp at Virginia's Belle Isle State Park and paddle venues on the Rappahannock River or Windmill Point on the Bay. Skill Level: Advanced Beginner Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by Bill Dodge 703-201-8636 (cell).
Aug 24 (Sun)	Pirate Club Day-Black Hills Regional Park --This is the "Gear Day" so many were discussing on the Forum. Gather at Black Hills Regional Park to share experiences with gear and mess around in boats. Skill Level: All Organizer(s): Led by Suzanne Farace 410-446-5991 Cell, Gina Cicotello 240-305-0922.
Aug 30-Sep 6 (Sat-Sat)	Fifth 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. Web Site: http://web.mac.com/dtmoore/My_Site/Welcome.html Skill Level: All Paddlers Organizer(s): Led by David Moore 301-704-3262/301-445-3273. This is CPA's fifth annual week long paddle trip in the Adirondack Mountains of New York for paddlers of all levels. Past paddlers have significantly developed both their stamina and their skills during the week. Trip lengths vary from 4-5 miles to over 15 miles. We always plan on a variety of distances to accommodate everyone's preferences.



Inside our May 2008 issue:

- **Loons of the Adirondacks Turn Five**
- **Piracy Season Opens**
- **Make A Date With the CPA**
- **Who's Paddling? Jenny Plummer-Welker, Pirate Queen of the Pax**
- **May and June Calendar**
- **Potomac and Bay Swim Support**
- **Join online now**

New! CPA stickers (outside, 3 for \$1; inside static cling, \$0.50 each, bumper stickers, \$1 each)

See <http://www.cpakayaker.com/newcpastickers.html>

The Chesapeake Paddler, Inc.
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.