

# Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. Volume 18, Issue 8

November 2008

## CPA Annual Meeting



2008 Annual Meeting photo by Ralph Heimlich

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association annual meeting was held Sunday, November 2, at the Ellen E. Linson Aquatics Center on the University of Maryland campus at College Park. Prior to the meeting, our traditional annual meeting paddle was held on the Anacostia River at Bladensburg (see story [page 10](#)). After pizza and other food brought by the membership, Coordinator Dave Biss opened the meeting to all at noon with 28 members present.

Dave introduced the current officers, including Treasurer Rich Stevens, Secretary and Membership Chair Sue Bauer, and the current Steering Committee: Brian Blankinship, Ralph Heimlich, Ed Hershon, Gina Cicotello, Cyndi Janetzko, and Marshall Woodruff.

### Business discussion

Dave welcomed everyone, and asked everyone to sign in – and to fill out their ballots for election of officers voting. Paul Bieri and Laurie Steele volunteered to count the ballots cast and the ballots mailed in earlier.

Dave thanked everyone who assisted in obtaining the Club tax exempt status—especially acknowledging the help of Ed Hershon and Will Bush. Others recognized for activities undertaken for CPA in the past year were: Ralph Heimlich for an outstanding job as Managing Editor/ Layout of *The Chesapeake Paddler*, and introducing the new membership card program; Lynn Erwin, who serves as Articles Editor; Mark Woodside who handles the Newsletter mailing/ distribution and CPA patch distribution; Ed Hershon who has taken over responsibility for both the membership card and CPA patch distribution starting this fall; Nelson and Carolyn Labbé who manage the CPA Library—books, DVDs and videos; and Paul Bieri, who handles mail pickup at the post office box and arranged for the annual meeting room. Dave also thanked all of the Piracy Captains throughout the region for their efforts and support throughout the 2008 season.

Rich Stevens, CPA Treasurer, presented the 2008 Annual Financial Report (see Treasurer's report on [page 9](#)). Rich reported that cash on hand increased 28% to \$16,025 since last year. The new PayPal payment option began in May 2008, making membership dues payment easier. The different events and activities expenses and net profits were summarized, including a donation of \$500 from the Chesapeake Bay Swim. Four piracies claimed their available funds this year, including Pier 7, Georgetown, Patuxent and Potomac River.

General discussion of the expenses and profits of the different events and other areas generated a lot of interest. Everyone agreed that CPA needs to find new ways and new ideas for events to put club monies to work in the upcoming year.

CPA Secretary Sue presented a summary of the current membership status based on the CPA membership database and charts compiled by Ralph Heimlich. There are now 604 current members, up from 573 in 2007. Trends in membership show a rapid increase since 2000. Membership longevity shows some troubling trends, however. 30% of current members have been members for less than a year, and 24% have been members for two years or less. Only a quarter of current members have been members for more than 5 years. CPA is recruiting some 150-180 members each year, of which about 110 leave after just one year. There was a great deal of discussion about what these trends might mean, and how to address them (see Membership on [page 11](#)).

Coordinator Dave Biss urged everyone in the room—and everyone in CPA—to become active and help create an informal

(Continued on page 5)

**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.



Anacostia Paddle photos by Brian Blankinship

**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
Jan/Feb 2009	December 15, 2008
March 2009	February 15, 2009
April 2009	March 15, 2009

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](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com)

**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

**Officers:**

**Coordinator**—Dave Biss, 703-241-0036  
[coordinator@cpakayaker.com](mailto:coordinator@cpakayaker.com)

**Membership, subscriptions**—Sue Bauer, 410-531-5641, c/o CPA, PO Box 341

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[membership@cpakayaker.com](mailto:membership@cpakayaker.com)

**Secretary**—Sue Bauer, 410-531-5641  
[secretary@cpakayaker.com](mailto:secretary@cpakayaker.com)

**Treasurer**—Rich Stevens, 703-527-4882,  
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**Mailing and Distribution**—Mark Woodside, 301-373-4561, [news\\_distribution@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_distribution@cpakayaker.com)

**Pirate Groups:**

**Pier 7 Pirate Committee**—Rich Stevens (703-527-4882), Jenny & Greg Welker(301-249-4895), Sue Bauer(410-531-5641), Brent Cogswell  
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**Potomac Pirate King**—Dick Rock, 703-780-6605  
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**Patuxent Pirate King**—Jenny Plummer-Welker  
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**Georgetown Pirate Committee**—Cyndi Janetzko, Dave Biss, 703-241-0036;  
[pirates\\_georgetown@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com)

**Baltimore Pirate King**—Bob Huber, 410-335-0994, [pirates\\_baltimore@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com)

**Algonkian Pirate King**—Jeff Walaszek, 703-670-7712, Linda Lewis  
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**Sugarloaf Pirate King**—James Higgins 301-460-8022 [pirates\\_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com)

**Pirate Kings of the North**—Bob Shakeshaft (410 939 0269) and Mike Free (610-565-7563)  
[pirates\\_north@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_north@cpakayaker.com)

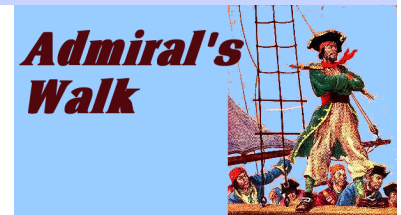
**MEMBERSHIP:** Subscription to the Chesapeake Paddler is included with membership. Membership is \$10/year or \$20/2 years. Send checks or changes of membership information to CPA, PO Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768. DO NOT send them to the newsletter editors.

**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.*

## 2008 In Review

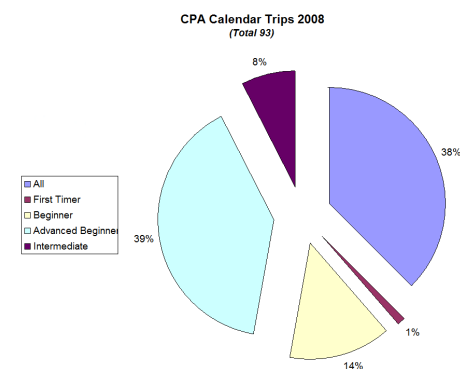
Traditionally paddlers love to think about what they will do over the next paddling season while they are forced to sit inside reading old Sea Kayaker magazines for the winter. Now is the time to plant the seed of events to come that will germinate and blossom into eager volunteers who want to lead a really cool event in 2009. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all the volunteers who lead trips for the club, or who coordinate events, or who offer the ideas that eventually turn into events. Volunteering is the backbone of the CPA, and what makes things happen. The volunteers make the club what it is, and make paddlesports fun for everyone who participate. Think about the trips you have been on and those you really liked, then come to one of the two Trip Planning meetings (see [page 8](#)), then jump up on the furniture and yell 'I want to make a new trip happen! Who will help me?'



It is a great thing to know that the members of the club in general enjoyed an event. Trip leaders and Steering Committee members are always trying to pick out these successes and keep trying to make them happen again and again. A beautiful example of a success is SK102 (see [page 9](#)). It has been widely accepted as a successful event, and has been recreated 10 times (or more). But of course, with the successful trips, come those that very few people are interested in, or are logistically too difficult to repeat often. And then there are the trips that have not yet happened, but that club members are eager to participate in.

More often than not, an event is the result of a long period of time where people say, 'Hey we should do this, or that!', and waiting for someone to take the lead. Here is a secret: it takes more than just the idea to make good trips happen. It takes eager volunteers to make events happen: volunteers to help plant the seed of an idea; volunteers to help coordinate a time, place, and resources for an event; and volunteers to lead the event on the water.

Here is a breakdown of events which appeared on the calendar in 2008. There are big pieces representing *All* (38%), *Beginner* (14%), and *Advanced Beginner* (39%), and a small slice representing the extreme of *Intermediate* (8%). This is as it should be. But then there is that little tiny slice representing *First Timer* (1%). Shouldn't there be more than 1% each year paddling who are first timers? Or maybe the CPA does not offer them anything!? When we look at the '*First Timer*' group, the only entry was SK102. Something is amiss here.



First, we had very little training style events other than SK102. If CPA is a 'Steward of Paddle Safety' as we should be, then providing safety knowledge and training to members should be a priority. In the past, we have had a number of 'Fall-Out-Of-Ur-Boat' events where we provide help learning wet exists and re-entries. I think people in our paddle community would welcome more on-water training style events. Don't you think so? *So, more training should be offered in the future.*

Second, it is hard to understand how only one event was offered to paddlers who considered themselves to be 'First Timers'. But there were many 'Quiet Water' paddle events lumped into the '*Beginner*' group. Many thanks to those leading these trips as to all the Piracies which offer opportunities for new paddlers to join. *So perhaps the solution here should be to remove the 'First Timer' option from the CPA calendar and offer trips to 'Beginners' where the requirements and the environment of the trip will be dictated by the volunteer leading the trip.* Some trips will be more protected with fewer requirements; others will hold more challenge and more of a need for previous experience. Why do some trips say that it is for an '*Advanced Beginner*' and requires lots of previous experience? Here I would like to mention many of the considerations that go through trip leaders minds when they are planning a trip:

- **Is the water cold?** More 'Advanced Beginner' trips than 'Beginner' trips were lead when the season was just starting in April and May because the water was not yet warm enough to rate the risk of cold water exposure as not highly significant.
- **How long will the paddle be?** Every trip has a schedule, even if it is because we need to get home before dark. Trip leaders ask participants to gauge their previous paddling speed over distance to be similar to the other participants so that everyone will finish about the same time and will be having fun.
- **Can you do a wet exit and a re-entry?** Some paddle trips present little risk of capsize, while others provide a very large risk of that happening, or of very serious consequences if it does happen. Trip leaders have to consider how likely, how dangerous, and how to avoid or minimize these risks. **The best accident is the one prevented!**

The result of all of these thoughts for your safety and of the rating of each trip is to make the event safe and fun for all the participants. It is the fun and successful events that our volunteers are looking for out of all the events that happen over the calendar year. Consider volunteering in a position where you can make more trips happen in 2009! See you on the water next season!



# Piracy Portents

## 2008 Annual CPA Holiday Raid

Aye...ye be invited fer some holiday spirits at the Annual CPA Holiday Party. Chart yer course fer the **6<sup>h</sup> of December**. We be a meeting at 1900 hours at coordinates: N-39 09' 17.22" by W-76 53' 05.66". There will be swashbuckling fun, grub, grog and a chance to plunder the treasure chest for an exchange of loot for those pirates wantin' to participate. Wave yer flag if ye be attendin. Sees ye there.....aarrghh !!!!!!!!

**Land Lubber translation:** Come join your hosts Ralph and Beth Heimlich for the annual CPA Holiday Party. Make your way to our house at 7914 Belgaro Road, Laurel, MD 20723 on December 6 at 7 p.m.

### If your last name begins with:

A-K bring a salad (green, fruit, jello, pasta, etc.) and some bread

L-S bring a casserole or entrée (nothing ALIVE please!)

T-Z bring a dessert (cake, pie, cobbler, etc.)

To feed 4-6 people (trust me—we'll have plenty).

We'll supply a ham and non-alcoholic beverages, but you are welcome to bring your own beer, wine, or other beverage of choice (supplying booze to you lot would even break a pirate!!).

We'll have a "white elephant" ("Shoveunder", "Chinese") gift exchange for those wishing to participate. Bring a wrapped "treasure" worth less than \$10 (check your Cracker Jacks boxes now). Regifting is an art form!

RSVP's would be appreciated by Wednesday, December 3 via email at [heimlichfamily@comcast.net](mailto:heimlichfamily@comcast.net). If there are any questions, please email (I hate phones).

### Directions:

**From I-95 between Washington and Baltimore** - Take exit 35 west towards Scaggsville on Route 216. Continue through 2 lights and take the first (north) exit on the traffic circle to Route 29 North. Go 1 exit north and take the exit for Gorman Road (east) off the next traffic circle. Go around the curve (slowly) and make the 1st right on McIver, go downhill to the stop sign at the T, turn left on Belgaro Road and follow it past Crestview Lane. We're the 3rd house on the right with Kayak Santa and a parking problem. Call 301-498-0918 if you're lost.

## Indoor Pool Sessions, Fairland Pool

During the winter season, the CPA enjoys access to Indoor Pool Sessions at Fairland Aquatics Center to practice and learn new skills. These are open sessions, not lessons. Members are responsible for bringing their own boat and gear. Important: Pool sessions begin the weekend of October 18-19.

Visit the discussion forum (<http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewforum.php?f=23>) for pool-closing dates, updates or to coordinate rolling practice with other paddlers.

**Location:** Fairland Aquatics Center 13820 Old Gunpowder Rd Laurel, MD 20707 (see below for directions) Days: Every Saturday through the winter season.

**Hours:** 4:00 to 5:50 and 5:50 to 7:45 pm

**Fee:** \$7 per person. Pay at FAC door (pool level).

**Cancellations:** Use the form above or call Joan Spinner at 301-559-3345. Pool sessions are very popular. Please be sure to contact Joan if you know you won't be able to make it so that someone else can benefit.

**Recommended:** Confirm the pool is open (FAC: 301-206-2359).

**Required:** BOATS MUST BE TOTALLY CLEAN. Boats and gear must be clear of leaves, mud, grass, etc. There is a hose by the door for those who need to use it and a fellow kayaker might have a sponge if you need one.

**Directions:** Take your best route to I-95 between Baltimore and Washington. Exit at MD-198 West. Turn left at 2nd light, Old Gunpowder Road. The pool will be about a half mile down on the right. Use the patio entrance.



Dave Biss teaching Yvonne Thayer to roll at an indoor pool session, Maryland. Photo by Brian Blankinship

*(Continued from page 1)*

committee to incorporate the ideas raised about retaining members in the next season. Dave reminded us that we all see people on the water with no PFD, no skirt, and no skills that would get a lot out of CPA. We need to be stewards for safety on the water, but have to avoid making safety intimidating. CPA should offer beginning classes more than once year and a several locations. New paddlers need some basic instruction. Dave asked for volunteers to follow through on this. Many raised their hands, and he asked them to email him to continue working on basic instruction for beginner paddlers. Dave went on to recap the significant events for CPA in 2008:

**An Introduction to Sea Kayaking, SK101 February**—Yvonne Thayer summarized plans for 2009's event, including assistance from Jenny Plummer- Welker on publicity. SK101 made a profit of \$794 in 2008. Thanks to Gina Cicotello for registration and all the instructors and instructor assistants.

**On Water Seakayak Instruction, SK102 April**—Brian Blankinship recounted that 2008 was again very successful, marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with many returning instructors over the years. SK102 had 80 students and 25 instructors on hand. Brian was surprised that there was a profit of \$800 as the projected estimated attendance and the weather affects numbers. Despite the discussion, Brian emphasized that he cannot do SK102 twice a year because of the logistics of using the site on Lake Anna, getting instructors before their own instructional season heats up, and generally organizing such a complex undertaking. Brian announced that SK102 was recognized by the American Canoe Association (ACA) (See story on [page 9](#)).

**CPA Race Series**—Brian and Cyndi Janetzko gave out some neat ribbons to as first, second, and third place winners. Unlike other race series, almost everyone gets a ribbon at the CPA events. About 8-12 people typically come out for each race. Brian appreciates those paddlers who also assist as Corkers marking the turns, even though they don't race. In 2009, Brian and Cyndi are going to plan events to work on technique and emphasize performance paddling as a group with only one race event at the end of the year. Ironically, although the race series was conceived when there were not a lot of race events to attend, in the meantime competing race events in the DELMARVA race series have had a resurgence, resulting in many conflicts on the same dates.

**The Chesapeake Paddler, our newsletter**—Editor Ralph Heimlich recognized Lynn Erwin and Mark Woodside for their work on the newsletter, commended all those who contributed articles and items in 2008, and requested more volunteer articles and original stories. There are many activities being undertaken that other members would like to know about and the only ones who can provide that information are the members.

**Swim Support and Safety Boating**—Dave encouraged all members to volunteer for the different events supported by CPA, such as the Bay Swim, Potomac River Swim, several more triathlons such as the DC and Columbia and Iron Girl Triathlon, and safety boating events like EMS and CLC's Okumefest. By a show of hands, practically everyone at the meeting had assisted at events in 2008, but we need to get more of the membership involved in these worthwhile, highly visible, and fun events.

**Pool Sessions**—Dave thanked Joan Spinner who has tirelessly volunteered to coordinate this valuable activity every year. There are 2 locations during the winter—in VA and MD—check with Joan Spinner for dates and volunteer instructors needed at the Maryland pool location (see story on [page 4](#)).

**Greenland Paddle Making Workshop**—Dave thanked Nelson and Carolyn Labbé for their time and effort taking on the huge task of carving out all of the cedar blanks ahead of time to make the paddle making class very successful, and Gina Cicotello for handling registration.

**First Annual CPA Gear Day**—Gina Cicotello and Suzanne Farace summarized this new CPA event, held in August at Truxtun Park in Annapolis. It offered Show and Tell opportunities to brag about your gear and to try out many member's boats. It was very successful, attended by 60-70. Everyone wanted to try the stand-up paddle board, sometimes with hilarious effect.

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**Incorporation**—CPA finalized our incorporation and tax standing as a 501(c)(4) non profit organization in 2008, which assists the club on potential tax issues, as well as providing coverage for the officers and trip leaders for liability. The club is backing up trip leaders, and the trip waivers may provide additional coverage. Dave recommended re-working the bylaws to bring the wording in line with a renewed attempt at 501 (c)(3) status, which requires a tighter focus on educational and service objectives.

**Recognition of Volunteers**—Dave thanked all the volunteers who worked for CPA in 2008—some who are doing a lot of work. The Club now needs to develop the next generation of volunteers, skill instructors, trip leaders, and officers. Partnering with new people and sharing responsibilities for a task also allows our new leaders to learn those skills. The Club always needs new volunteers to step into the mix.

To honor volunteers who stood out in 2008, Dave announced the SUPERVOLUNTEERS and presented a CPA ceramic tile white board as a token of appreciation to:

- Sue Bauer – who keeps our members up to date and maintains the CPA database,
- Rich Stevens – who keeps our finances in order and manages the tax reporting,
- Ralph Heimlich – who edited a terrific newsletter and the best camper trips
- Brian Blankinship – who is always active in the Club – leading SK102 for 10 yrs.
- Gina Cicotello - who organized the newest Club events and Gear Day
- Marshall Woodruff – who has lead the most varied and most number of paddle trips
- Ed Hershon – who has assisted in completing the Club tax status

Additional volunteer gift cards were presented to:

- Yvonne Thayer – for organizing SK101 - getting more new members into paddling
- Nelson Labbé – for his efforts organizing the Greenland paddle workshop
- Will Bush - for his assistance getting the tax status package organized

## 2009 Officers Were Elected

Both Suzanne Farace and Matt Blakey (although absent / was represented by Cyndi Janetzko) gave short introductions of their goals as potential steering club members, followed by casting ballots.

Dave Biss – Coordinator Rich Stevens – Treasurer Sue Bauer – Secretary

Steering Committee (6 members) are Brian Blankinship, Ed Hershon, Gina Cicotello, Ralph Heimlich, Suzanne Farace - newly elected, Yvonne Thayer - newly elected

Dave Biss announced that this will be his third and last year as Coordinator. He will continue to handle the maintenance of the website as Web Master. In 2009, Dave urged everyone to keep the membership topics active, including:

- Addressing new paddler needs,
- Retaining members,
- Having more skill related events (fall out of your boat day, trip leader sessions),
- Instilling confidence for new trip leaders,
- Holding more activities just for CPA members.



The awards handed out by Dave photo by Ralph Heimlich

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Dave pointed out that many retailers and vendors offer training in kayaking classes that is more expensive than SK101 and 102 that fill quickly, while CPA offers similar opportunities for free or very low cost. Brian is considering offering additional trip leader training sessions. There is a need for volunteers to join the various committees. We need to find additional ways to keep members active and support safety in paddling. All members should try to reach out to new members on their first trip activity with the Club, find quiet protected areas for safe easy short trips, perhaps explore less strict requirements (although always requiring a PFD) that encourage confidence in new paddlers. Dave mentioned that he is going to lead a beginner's trip on the Bladensburg Waterfront Park to the National Arboretum in Spring 2009. In 2008 the Club was able to offer a Wilderness First Aid class for \$45— many who came to that class were at the meeting.

## New Business

Dave thought we should plan for a second session on Wilderness First Aid.

Brian recommended the Club financially support the launch package fee for Jack's in Georgetown. Dave worked out a package price for the Piracy use last year.

**MOTION- presented by Brian Blankinship:** For the Club to provide financial support to any established Piracy group if they need assistance for established group season launch fees within a limited amount, not to be a part of their annual allocation of Piracy funds. **SECONDED** by Ed Hershon. **VOTE - ALL** in favor - **NO** – none

Additional new business—To revise the wording in Club bylaws to delete mention of any social activities or parties in order to remove objections raised by the tax examiner for 501 (c)(3) status.

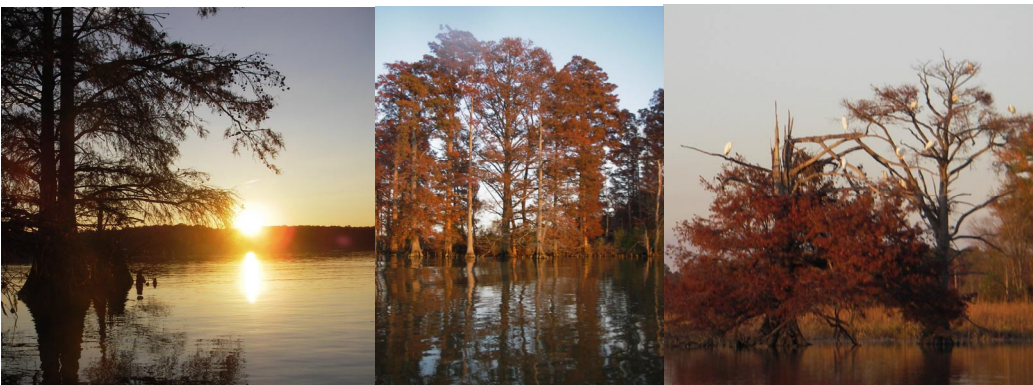
**MOTION- presented by Cyndi Janetzko:** For the Club to further invest a maximum of 2/3 of the Club total checking funds into a short term safe investment account, at the Treasurer's discretion. **Seconded** by Ed Hershon. **VOTE-** - all in favor - **NO** – none

**2009 TRIP PLANNING MEETINGS—** all are welcome to attend either session (one in MD, one in VA) usually held in February or March. CPA goal is to put lots of trips on calendar, find new locations for paddle trips and add events and seek new ideas.

CPA logo gear was available for sale. CPA members were recognized with the various CPA rockers: as volunteer, trip leader, swim support, steering committee, Pirate Captain, Safety Boater, and the rare RED Coordinator rocker.

Ralph Heimlich showed examples of performance fabric paddling wear that could be purchased as CPA logo ware. These included long sleeve shirts synthetic shirts, Polar Fleece jackets and other items. He will compare prices and quality for a possible future offering. Laurie Steele also has experience and access to a professional-grade embroidery machine through her job.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50, followed by free ice skating. This summary based on the minutes provide by Sue Bauer, Secretary.



**Bald Cypress of the Chickahominy River** photos by Ralph Heimlich

## Paddler Completes Richmond-Washington Serial Paddle

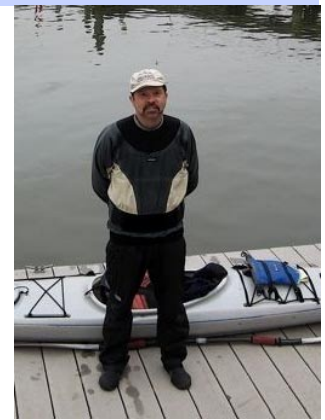
By Pete (BayMystic)

Bay Mystic's round-trip paddle from Richmond to Washington, D.C. is finally complete. Pete finished the last segment, from Gravelly Point to Alexandria on the Potomac, on November 3. Pete's odyssey was mostly done on Mondays, his day off, over the past two years. How do people get into these things? Pete says, "Like most trips, I didn't start out intending to do this. First I decided to paddle the entire tidal James. Then I completed the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, and York. After this I decided to connect the James and York and paddle around the Virginia Peninsula (Newport News, Hampton, and Poquoson). As I headed up the Chesapeake Bay, I got the idea of going all the way to Washington, D.C. I probably averaged 3 Mondays a month, 12 months of the year."

Here are just a few highlights:

- Most Challenging Segment:** The 5-mile open water crossing at the mouth of Rappahannock River. On the return trip the wind changed direction and picked up speed making the water very rough with a strong headwind. I was afraid I would experience muscle failure before reaching the other side. Suddenly a dolphin, that seemed as long as my kayak, surfaced alongside me, just feet away. It so startled and excited me that the adrenaline gave me the energy to finish the crossing.
- Most Beautiful:** New Point Comfort on the Chesapeake in Matthews County, VA. A 200 year-old sandstone lighthouse sits on a rocky island. The sandy beaches are beautiful and the confluence of the York and Chesapeake waters create big waves as they hit the shallow sand bars. I went back here several times and played in the surf.
- Most Interesting:** The military bases in Yorktown, Newport News, Dahlgren, and Quantico. I got to see an aircraft carrier passing over the Hampton Roads Tunnel. The Ghost Fleet on the James and the remains of the World War I wooden steam ships on the Potomac were fascinating. Also, the 2 miles of riprap made from a cemetery (Chotank Creek to Caledon on Potomac) was very unexpected.

Paddling on a journey like this, especially in the winter, is for those who are trained and well-equipped. Sometimes the air temperature was under 20° F. In cold water temps I always wore a drysuit or wetsuit that would allow me to survive hours in the water. Plus I carried the proper safety and communication equipment and others knew my itinerary. I was not too proud to knock on a door and ask for a ride to the boat ramp when conditions turned too rough to continue. I used to be a survivor instructor and I was always thinking of what I would do if the worst happened. As it was, I never capsized once during the entire journey, but I was ready, both with a practiced roll and with proper apparel and equipment for a wet exit. I won't belabor the point, but I don't encourage anyone to place themselves at risk. Thanks for your encouragement along the way!



End of the journey, Torpedo Factory docks at Alexandria

## Upcoming CPA Events

If you thought the season was over, you'd be WRONG!

### December

**Dec. 6 (Sat)** **CPA Holiday Raid**--Carouse with the Pirates of the Chesapeake and Swap booty! AARGH! **Skill Level:** NONE **Organizer(s):** Ralph Heimlich heimlichfamily@comcast.net See article [on p. 4](#).

### February

**Feb. 8 (Sun)** **Maryland Planning Meeting**--Got some great ideas for a day paddle? Car- or Kayak camping trip? Extended excursion? Training event? Bring them to the Maryland CPA Planning Meeting!! A light lunch (soup and crackers, feel free to bring dessert or whatever) will be served about noon and the Planning Meeting starts after lunch. **Organizer(s):** Ralph Heimlich 301-498-0918 (H, leave a message) **Location:** 7914 Belgaro Road, Laurel, MD (in Howard County).

### March

**Mar. 7 (Sat)** **Virginia Planning Meeting**--Here is your second chance to get in on the club trip planning! People come to make new day-trip plans and over-night-trip plans. People come just to meet other club members interested in the same things. It's a fun time for all. We will have coffee, and tea available, as well as some breakfast-like goodies. Feel free to contribute. The meeting will commence about 10:00 am and will run until everyone is talked out. That is usually about 2:00 to 3:00 pm. **Organizer(s):** Dave Biss 703-241-0036, Cyndi Janetzko 703-241-0036. **Location:** Cyndi and Dave's Yak Shak, 6668 Barrett Road, Falls Church, VA 22042



## Treasury



As opposed to the rest of the country, I'm pleased to say that the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. is in good financial shape. Cash on hand increased 28 percent, we successfully sponsored a number of events for our members and the public that made slight profits or cost very little, and money was available for the Piracies, the Annual Meeting, and a Holiday Party. We have been able to print and distribute CPA brochures and an educational Cold Water Safety brochure. We have completed the incorporation of the club as a non-

profit 501 (c)(4) and filed the necessary state and federal tax returns. One of the most notable accomplishments this year, through the hard work of Dave Biss and others, is the implementation of PayPal as an on-line payment option for membership signup and renewals. Even though PayPal did not begin until May, it represents 48 percent of all membership payments and has played a large part in the number of new members joining.

The finances, in summary are:

- Beginning balance of \$12,476 grew to an ending balance of \$16,025, a 28% increase.
- Membership dues collected were \$5,663, \$3,820 in check or cash and \$1,843 by PayPal. PayPal fees are \$97.
- SK101: Income \$1,820, expenses for room rental and food were \$1025, yielding a profit of \$795.
- Greenland Paddle Workshop: Income \$925, Expenses for materials and food were \$963, net expense of \$38.
- SK102: Income was \$3,190, expenses for instructor gift cards, food, port-a-jons, insurance, etc. were \$2,836, net profit of \$803.
- CPA Gear Day: expenses for pavilion and picnic supplies, \$119.
- Donations received, \$500 for support of the Chesapeake Bay Swim.
- Newsletter advertizing income, \$79.50.
- Newsletter printing and mailing expenses, \$1,836.
- General printing and mailing expenses, including post office box, postage, stationary, membership cards, and brochures, \$797.
- Web hosting, 2 years at \$239.
- Logo gear expenses for new stickers, \$1,223. Logo gear sales, \$409.
- Insurance through ACA for events besides SK102, \$120.
- Annual Piracy expenditures to date, Pier 7 \$230.
- Annual Meeting room rental, \$150, with pizza and other food costs TBD.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich "Moneybags" Stevens  
Treasurer and Lootmaster



### Premiere CPA Training Event Wins American Canoe Association Award

On Saturday, November 1, Brian Blankinship accepted ACA's J. Henry Rushton Award, presented annually to an organization or other group for outstanding achievements in advancing paddlesport and the mission of the ACA. Brian received the award at the ACA Annual Meeting in Fredricksburg, VA, accepting for himself, Laura Butterbaugh, his long-time partner in organizing this event, and the hundreds of instructors and students who have attended on the shores of balmy Lake Anna every April for 10 years. Congratulations to Brian, SK102 and CPA!

# Annual Meeting Paddle



Dave Biss and Cyndi Janetsko led the traditional annual paddle this year, launching from Bladensburg Waterfront Park and heading down the mighty Anacostia River. You may have the same mistaken impression of the Anacostia as I did, dismissing it as a trash-choked drainage ditch for an over urbanized inner suburban ring, but you would be wrong, as our friends, the Anacostia Beavers soon established.

Yup binky, those are really beavers swimming in the Anacostia, not ginormous water rats! Brian took this from the launch dock and someone said they saw them fleeing in terror from "boaters" as we paddled downstream. There was a lot of trash in the river, but the area is surprisingly undeveloped. We didn't see a single building along the



Anacostia Beavers photo by Brian Blankinship

river until we approached the Orange-Blue line bridge and the power plant, nearly 2 miles down river. The trashiest thing on the river were large, brightly colored pieces of plastic and high-tech material that "fell" into the water at the Bladensburg dock.

Dave Biss, having apparently forgotten his boat at home, made do with a small piece of wood found near the launch site, although it barely supported his weight in the brownish waters. Thank gosh for dry suits!



At the launch photo by Brian Blankinship

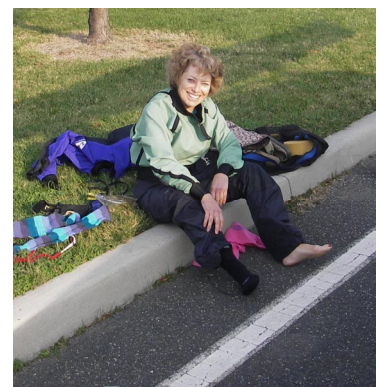


Dave's 2 x 4 photo by Ralph Heimlich



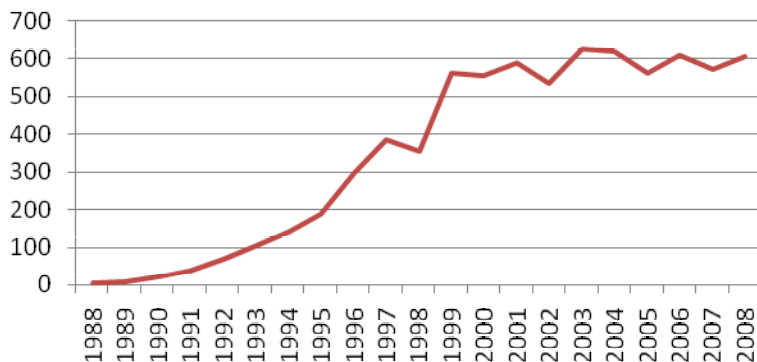
Talking Paddling to Power photo by Ralph Heimlich

Everyone had a good time, and we managed to retrieve and recycle all the big bright plastic junk (and Dave's 2 x 4), leaving only a poor, lonesome street person in the parking lot without even a decent pair of shoes! Oh well.



"Street Person" photo by Ralph Heimlich

## Members as of October 1st Each Year



Since the dawn of recorded history, 2,859 people have been members of CPA (they must have learned *something!*). Of these, 69 percent dropped after a year of membership (didn't learn *much*), 53 percent were retained for at least 2 years, 10 percent were retained for as long as 5 years, and 2 percent were retained for as long as 10 years. Our recruitment has slacked off a bit since the peak in 1999, when 339 were recruited, but 226 stayed just one year. Currently, we are recruiting about 150-180 each year, of which about 110 leave after just one year. Of course, we require everyone attending SK102 to be a member, but they may not stay long after getting that inexpensive training. We need to discuss solutions to this issue, since the effort of recruiting and recording these people would be better used if they stayed longer.

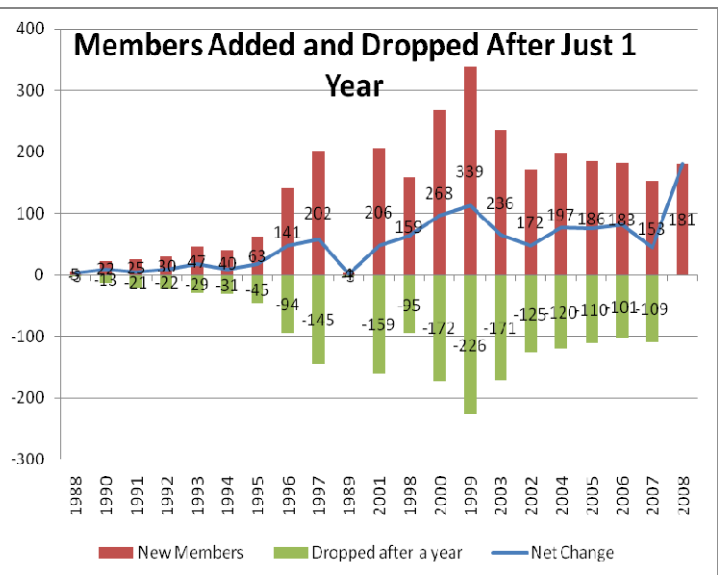
Finally, Maryland continues to be the home of CPA, hosting 60 to 64 percent of total current membership over time. Virginia is second, with 24-27 percent, and the District of Columbia is third with 100 percent of the actual kayakers in DC.

Members by State, 2005-2008				
State	2008	2007	2006	2005
MD	384	357	386	336
VA	150	145	148	155
DC	26	28	29	28
PA	24	19	19	15
DE	7	7	7	5
WV	6	5	3	2
NY	0	2	2	3
FL	1	1	2	2
MA	1	2	1	1
ME	1	0	0	1
NC	1	1	5	3
NJ	1	2	1	3
RI	1	2	0	0
SC	1	1	1	1
CA	0	1	1	2
CT				1
Grand Total	604	573	605	558

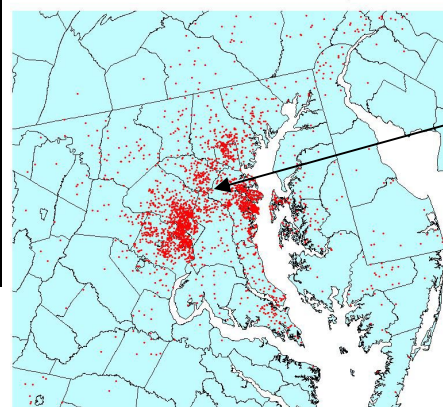
## Membership Report, 2008

As of 10/1/2008, there were 604 current members, up from 573 on 10/1/2007. Thirty percent of current members have been a member for less than a year, while 25 percent have been members for more than 5 years. Seven have been members for more than 15 years, but 2 of those are dead (just kidding!).

Membership Longevity, current members as of 10/1/2008		
Member for:	Number	Percent of Total Membership
Less than One Year	179	30%
One to Two Years	146	24%
Three to Five Years	128	21%
Six to Ten Years	114	19%
Eleven to Fifteen Years	30	5%
More than Fifteen Years	7	1%
Total	604	100%



Location of Current Members, 2008



Analysis by Ralph Heimlich, who is this *leetle* dot right about....here!

Number of Members

1 Dot = 1



Bill Dodge, Annette Ramos and Brad Roberts feasting on the Chickahominy River *photo by Ralph Heimlich*

## Inside our November 2008 issue:

- CPA Annual Meeting, November 2
- CPA Holiday Raid! AARGH!
- Pool Sessions Begin
- Annual Meeting Paddle
- Mapping CPA's Treasure
- Where the Bodies are...
- ACA Recognizes CPA for SK102
- Paddler Completes Richmond to Washington Serial Paddle

### The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

PO Box 341

Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341

REMINDER: Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date. If you receive the newsletter electronically, you will receive an e-mail reminder prior to your membership expiring. If your CPA membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues. SEE BOX ON PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS.