

Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. Volume 19, Issue 9

November-December 2009

CPA Annual Meeting



2009 Annual Meeting photo by Ralph Heimlich

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association annual meeting was held Sunday, November 1, 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. After pizza and other food brought by the membership, Coordinator Dave Biss opened the meeting to all at 12:30 pm with 44 members present, plus some guests.

Dave introduced the current officers, including Treasurer Rich Stevens, Secretary and Membership Chair Sue Bauer, and the current Steering Committee: Brian Blankinship, Gina Cicotello, Suzanne Farace, Ralph Heimlich, Ed Hershon, and Yvonne Thayer.

Business discussion—Coordinator **Dave Biss** opened the annual CPA business meeting at 12:30 pm, welcomed everyone, and introduced Current Officers and Steering Committee Members. He also distributed available pamphlets, membership applications, cold weather gear brochures, the 2009 financial report, and Membership reports. Dave asked everyone to sign in and to vote on the distributed ballots for 2010 Officers and steering committee. **Paul Bieri** and **Suzanne Farace** volunteered to tabulate all ballots and the previously mailed ballots.

The Chesapeake Paddler—Dave thanked everyone who assisted throughout the year with Club events. He gave special thanks to **Ralph Heimlich** for his outstanding job as Managing Editor/ Layout of *THE PADDLER* Newsletter, as well as again hosting the annual Holiday Party set for December 5, 2009. Thanks also to **Lynn Erwin** who served as the Articles Editor, to **Mark Woodside** who handled the print distribution of *The Paddler*.

Membership Cards—Dave expressed thanks to **Ed Hershon** and **Ralph Heimlich**, who handled the membership card program and the CPA patch distribution.

CPA Library—Dave also recognized **Nelson and Caroline Labbe** who manage the CPA Library – books, DVDs and videos.

Trip and Event Leaders—The Club offered over 111 paddling trips and other organized events during 2009. Some of the most noteworthy included:

Yvonne Thayer and Gina Cicotello for their work on coordination and registrations and to **Jenny Plummer-Welker** for the publicity support with the local news papers for Sea Kayaking Basics Class (SK101) held March 14, 2009, and all the instructors and participants. Everyone agreed that this is a great recruiting program. All agreed that this basic off- the-water class should be offered every year for beginning training before the paddling season starts. It is an excellent opportunity for new people to meet experienced paddlers and to learn from them first hand. There were 80 students in the March 2009 class, and there should be additional space available for more students as the West River Center is expanding into a larger facility. There should be no need to wait-list students for the Class to be held on March 20, 2010. Gina agreed to handle registration, Jenny will continue to do publicity, and **Suzanne Farace** will take over coordination from **Yvonne Thayer**.

Dave also thanked everyone who assisted with the second big event – Sea Kayaking Intermediate Skills Clinic (SK102) at Lake Anna, VA, held May 1-3, 2009. He thanked **Brian Blankinship** who has coordinated the clinic for all eleven years. Over 800 new paddlers have completed the clinics – nearly 100 people attended in 2009. In 2010, Brian announced that a committee is looking at an alternate site on Kent Island or several other locations, as a one day class, with no camping opportunity. He is working with a search committee and will be seeking instructors.

Dave thanked everyone who assisted with “A Day with **Dubside**” – a one day master’s training class with World Class Greenland roller/paddler **Dubside**.

There was good attendance by club members and the public for the Club Gear Day event held at Occoquan State Park, Occoquan, VA, on May 31, coordinated by **Suzanne Farace** and **Gina Cicotello**, who announced that the event will be rotating back to Truxton Park in Annapolis, MD, in 2010.

(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.

FOR SALE

2009 Current Designs Gulfstream, Kevlar, with factory mounted Ritchie compass, yellow deck, smoke hull, mint condition, garage stowed, \$2600. See

http://www.cdkayak.com/products/template/product_detail.php?IID=148

For details. Jay Perry, JWPerry@aol.com, 410 825 1422; Towson, Maryland



Breaking News—FRANK BAXTER

Dave and I learned that Frank Baxter, the owner of Jack's Boathouse and a friend to many of us, passed away on Thanksgiving day. We will all miss him.

No details on a memorial service have yet been made but they will be posted on the [Jack's Boathouse](http://www.jacksboathouse.com) website when they are available.

Think of Frank the next time you are paddling the Potomac.

Cyndi Janetsko

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 2010	December 15, 2009
March 2010	February 15, 2010
April 2010	March 15, 2010

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

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

Secretary—Sue Bauer, 410-531-5641 secretary@cpakayaker.com

Treasurer—Rich Stevens, 703-527-4882, treasurer@cpakayaker.com

Webmaster/E-Mail List Administrator—Dave Biss, webmaster@cpakayaker.com

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Articles Editor—Lynn Erwin, news_articles@cpakayaker.com

Advertising Coordinator—vacant, news_advertising@cpakayaker.com

Mailing and Distribution—Mark Woodside, 301-373-4561, news_distribution@cpakayaker.com

Pirate Groups:

Pier 7 Pirate Committee—Rich Stevens (703-527-4882, Béla Mariassy (410-266-4529), Greg Welker(301-249-4895), Sue Bauer(410-531-5641), Brent Cogswell pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com

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

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

Georgetown Pirate Committee—Tom Heneghan, Paul Bieri, Matt Blakey & Dave Biss, 703-241-0036; pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com

Baltimore Pirate King—Jay Gitomer (443-449-5119), pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com

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

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

Pirate Kings of the North—Bob Shakeshaft (410 939 0269) and Mike Free (610-565-7563) pirates_north@cpakayaker.com

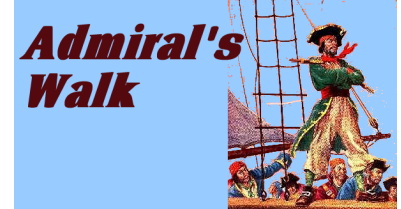
MEMBERSHIP: Subscription to the Chesapeake Paddler is included with membership.

NEW: Membership is now \$10, \$18, \$27, \$35, for 1, 2, 3, and 4 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. The download link or file for the electronic version of this newsletter may not be posted or forwarded to non-members without the express consent of the Coordinator or Managing Editor

From the Outgoing Coordinator: Many of you were at the CPA Annual Meeting at the beginning of November. And as you read in this month's newsletter, it was quite a meeting ([page 1](#)). There were more people in attendance than ever before. For me, the Annual Meeting this year was a time of change. As you all know, I have acted as Coordinator for our great club for the past few years, and this year was the time to watch as another took over. Perhaps it is synonymous to the seasons of the year for a paddler. During our summers, we have so many plans and so many places to go and friends to see. Always overwhelmed with the choices of which paddling trips to join, and how to get everything accomplished you want to for that season. Then the warmer season winds down and the fall and eventually the winter comes upon us. We decide that it is time to put the boat away or at least switch over to pool sessions for the duration of the cold. But in your mind you start planning what the next warm season will bring and how many paddling trips you will squeeze into it; how you will make it better than the last; and how many new people you will meet during your paddling adventures next year.



Admiral's Walk

That was rather how I saw that day last month as it started early with a pre-meeting paddle on the Anacostia. It was a dreary morning with a sky full of pouring rain. I asked myself if I would even see anyone come out for a paddle in that weather. But to my surprise, a dozen people came to join me. Most of them were familiar; close friends who I paddle with often on the Potomac, and some I only paddle with once or twice a year. And amongst the familiar were new friends who had just moved to this area from California. They were joining us for the first time to find out about the club they heard so much of from another close friend of mine who had moved from Washington DC to California a few years back. Not only did we have a great paddle that morning, but we succeeded in treating everyone to a breakfast at the waters edge of coffee, bagels, and donuts. Yes, in the rain. But that was the fun of it. It was the effort of friends working together to make the fun happen, despite the weather.

At the meeting, we all gathered around and discussed the great events that took place over 2009, and those that are already planned for 2010. We talked about changes that are occurring in the club and how we will resolve them over the following year, and then we all voted for the officers and Steering Committee for 2010 (see [page 6](#)). Your new officers are a great group of people; all great friends and all great paddlers.

As the meeting wrapped up, I could not help spending time talking to as many people as possible. Somehow I just wanted to thank everyone who comes out to CPA events, whether they be casual paddlers or trip leaders, whether they be a part of a swim support team or a part of the CPA officer list. I know that it is the hard work and dedication of all the members of the club which makes it so enjoyable for me and for everyone. We all work together in our ways to make things better every new paddling season.

After the meeting, I knew that it was one of the last events for the year. After the last Piracy paddle and after the CPA Holiday Party, everyone will go their own ways for the winter. We will see familiar faces for pool sessions every once in a while, but no matter how active we try to be, we will always feel that our boats have been put away awaiting the warmth of spring and the planning of a new season. My paddling season is over.

But soon enough, spring will come. And with spring will come new gatherings of paddlers for new CPA events of 2010. All the planning will begin anew. I know that Ed, Rich and Sue along with Matt, Brian, Gina, Ralph, Dave and Bela will do a wonderful job of inspiring all paddlers in the Chesapeake area to join together in making events better than they have been before. 2010 will be a great year for paddling in this area. And it has started already. Gina, Suzanne and Jenny have already named a date for CPA's An Introduction to Sea Kayaking, and Brian has found a way to carry on CPA's Weekend of Sea Kayak Training at Lake Anna for one more year.



Dave Biss, Outgoing Coordinator

Hurray for the events held by our CPA members, and hurray for the new season. It is indeed a season of change and 2010 will be a season of paddling to look forward to. I look forward to the paddling events next year and paddling with all my friends. I look forward to what will be planned, and I look forward to taking part in it. For me it will be just a little bit different, and perhaps if you meet up with me you can ask if I am enjoying my season of change.

From the Incoming Coordinator: I sit here and write my first Coordinator's Column for the Chesapeake Paddler I want to express my profound thanks to Dave Biss for his many years of service to the Chesapeake Paddlers Association as a member of the Steering Committee and the past three years as Coordinator. Dave has provided countless hours to the club and in that time, our club has provided more opportunities for new and experienced paddlers alike to learn skills to enable them to be better paddlers. I sincerely hope to continue that tradition.

One of the themes that Dave had emphasized over the past several years was participation by the members of the club. Essentially, we cannot have such a wonderful club without members volunteering their time to make the club better. There are many ways that you can volunteer with the club; you can lead or plan a trip. Plan or lead a class on skills such as "Fall out of your boat day", navigation, trip leading workshop, or many other such events. You can volunteer as a safety boater for one of the many swim supports (Bay Swim, Iron Girl Triathlon, National Triathlon, etc.), or demo days (EMS, REI, CLC, etc.). There are many ways for members to get involved with the club. There is no shortage of opportunities for all of our members to get involved. You can contact me or any other member of the Steering Committee to get involved.

I want to update you on one of the bigger issues discussed at the annual meeting, the Club's By-Laws. Several members volunteered to assist in the revision of the By-Laws to reflect changes that are necessary for the club to be more responsive to the membership. One of those ways is to provide a mechanism for on-line voting of officers and steering committee members. These changes are being drafted now and will be sent out to the membership shortly and a special meeting will be held in February (the trip-planning meeting will coincide with this special meeting) for approval by the membership.

Lastly, I want to invite everyone to attend the Annual Holiday Party (see [page 4](#)) being held on December 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Ralph Heimlich's home. I hope you can all make it to this event and wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season.



Ed Hershon, Incoming Coordinator



Piracy Portents

2009 Annual CPA Holiday Raid

Aye...ye be invited fer some holiday spirits at the Annual CPA Holiday Party. Chart yer course fer the **5th 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.....aarrgghh !!!!!!!!

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 5 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). Re-gifting is an art form!

RSVP's would be appreciated by Wednesday, December 2 via email at 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 Mclver, 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.

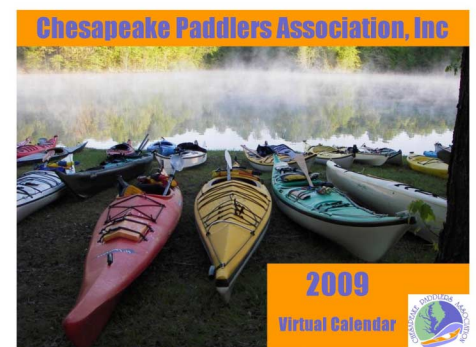
CPA 2010 Virtual Calendar Photo Contest is Underway

I've been busily soliciting photos for the 2010 semi-virtual CPA calendar for about a month now. We will be choosing 13 photos (1 cover and 1 for each month). So far, more than 90 photos have been submitted. You can see them all at <http://picasaweb.google.com/ralph.heimlich/CPA2010CalendarPictures#>

I've decided to impose some order on this chaos with a few simple rules:

- 1) Has to be taken in the Chesapeake Bay drainage.
- 2) You must be a CPA member and the photo must have been taken by you. (I'll check the database).
- 3) Has to have a kayak or visually identifiable kayaker (i.e, in kayaking clothes/gear) in the picture.
- 4) Has to be submitted for one of the 12 months or the cover. You can use the month it was taken or choose one that you think it represents well. Props (pumpkins, Santa gear, peeps, etc.) are appropriate. Voting will be by Month (i.e, the top January pic wins that month, etc.). No duplicate submissions (so submit for only 1 month).
- 5) Must have minimum info submitted with it (full name of the photographer, location taken, month submitted to compete in, any caption you'd like on it).
- 6) All submissions must be electronic (you can send me a link if it's posted somewhere) and I must be able to retrieve it at least at 640 x480 resolution.
- 7) All votes must be cast by December 31, 2009, and my tally is final (stay tuned to the Forum for how to vote)

I am open to ways to use the selected photos for a calendar. Last year, we produced a virtual calendar <http://www.cpkayaker.com/downloads/newsletter/2008/CPACalendar2009.pdf> and I believe there was a Google calendar version or some such. So, some rainy weekend, check your photos from this season and submit them, and don't forget October, November and December!



2009's Award Winning Cover Photo by Jenny-Plummer Welker

Ralph Heimlich
heimlichfamily@comcast.net

Annual Meeting (Continued from page 1)

Dave thanked all the many leaders and members participating in the eight local paddling Piracies—regularly offering after-work paddling opportunities around the area during the mid-week. These include: **Dick Rock**—Potomac (Belle Haven Marina), **Dave Biss, Matt Blakey, Paul Bieri, and Peter Harris**—Georgetown group (POG), **Bela Mariassy, Brent Cogswell, Greg Welker, Jenny Plummer-Welker, Rich Stevens and Sue Bauer**—Pier 7 - Annapolis, **Jay Gitomer**—Baltimore, **Jenny Plummer-Welker**—Patuxent River - Solomons, **Bob Shakeshaft and Mike Free**—Havre de Grace (North), **Jeff Walazek**—Algonkian, and **James Higgins**—Sugarloaf.

The Greenland Paddle Making Class, which is coordinated by **Caroline and Nelson Labbe**, is usually held every other year. They spend considerable effort in rough cutting all the wood blanks for each participant's specifications. Nelson indicated that he would organize the class, which fills within days, again in 2010. Paddlers **Jesse Aronson** and **Chip Walsh** held a small impromptu carving session last spring.

Dave also emphasized the many swim support activities and thanked Club members who participated. These included the one mile and 4.2 mile Chesapeake Bay Swims, the Potomac River Swim, the DC Triathlon, and the Chester River Swim-for-Life, the Columbia Triathlon, and the Iron Girl Triathlon. He is seeking a member to act as a central support/ point person to handle details with the various Swim Event coordinators and to help gather volunteer kayakers. **Matt Blakey** volunteered to be the support person. There is a new U.S. Open Water Swim coming in 2010, for which Dave will have the details.

Dave Biss led the group in congratulating and recognizing trip leader **Marshall Woodruff** who dedicated his time to organize the most number of trips: 12 for 2009—for the 38 mile Kent Island circumnavigation paddles (KIP) and four seasons Eastern Neck Island trips.

We recognized paddler **Ralph Heimlich** who organized the most overnight camping events—with 10 paddling events including 6 camping trips.

We also recognized **Bill Dodge**—who has pioneered trips for many years, including St. Clements Island, and keeps right on paddling at age 80 (it was rumored that when the Calverts landed on St. Clements Island in Maryland, Bill was there....)

Treasurer's Report—Treasurer **Rich Stevens** presented the 2009 Annual Financial Report, a summary of which is provided on [page 9](#). Rich reported that the ending checking balance has increased 8% to \$17,067. The PayPal payment option, begun in May 2008, has collected more membership payments than through the traditional personal check method in 2009. PayPal fees to date were \$175. The different events and activities, expenses and net profits were also summarized in the financial report. Outside funding of \$992 was received from Chesapeake Bay Swim, Inc, Columbia Triathlon, Inc, and from Potomac Paddlesports, Inc. Only one piracy had claimed available funds to date—Pier 7 - Annapolis of \$250.00—and several other Piracies will be submitting their own group expenses (max. \$25/member up to \$250) by November 30. Logo gear sales for new Club patches and wicking long sleeve shirts were \$1,739.

General discussion of the expenses and profits for the events and other details in the financial report generated a lot of interest. Everyone agreed that the Club will need to find new ways and new ideas for future classes and other activities to properly utilize the funds during the year to benefit the most number of members. There is concern that future income may level off with the new popular multiple year membership dues structure started in March 2009 (\$10 = 1yr, \$18 = 2yrs, \$27 = 3yrs, \$45 = 4yrs) and with future paid-up life memberships. Several ideas were discussed—such as utilizing funds to support other non profit groups and out reach, for the club members to raise funds for specific outside philanthropic causes, to purchase a basic kayak fleet to loan-out for members and other club activities, or to purchase a kayak trailer for club group outings. Dave proffered a challenge for a team to gather new ideas for the use of club funds.

Membership Report—Secretary and Membership coordinator **Sue Bauer** presented the summary of the current membership. The charts in the Membership Report 2009 were compiled by **Ralph Heimlich** from the CPA database—a summary is on [page 7](#). As of October 2009, there were 627 active members, up from 573 in 2007 and 604 in 2008. There has been a rapid increase since 2000 when membership was around 400. Membership longevity shows that 17% have been a member for a year, 39% for two to five years, 25% for 6-10 years, and 18% for 10-20 years. The charts also show that the membership gained 157 in 2009, but the Club is losing 101 -120 members each year. For example, of 195 members who joined in 2008, only 30% renewed during 2009.

The club now has 4 members who have qualified for CPA life membership: **Dave Isbell** (member #22), **Greg Welker and Jenny Plummer- Welker** (members #42), and **Barry Miller** (member # 95) – who have paid CPA membership dues totaling 20 years.

Regionally, Maryland represents 64% (385) of active members, Virginia has 27% (153), and DC is third highest count, with other members in nearby states. Our most distant members live in California and in Britain. We have 595 members receiving *The Paddler* electronically, and 74 members who opt for the printed version.

A discussion session touched on many ideas and suggestions:

- ◆ It is a normal statistical trend in organizations that less than 20% are active
- ◆ Create a survey online to get feedback (Survey Monkey website)
- ◆ Reach out to those 30% of new members renewing
- ◆ What features do new paddlers seek?

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Annual Meeting (Continued from page 5)

- ◆ Easier trips/ shorter distances / comfort level for beginning paddlers/ frequent breaks
- ◆ More volunteers as trip leaders
- ◆ Less gear requirements and start at beginner level
- ◆ Local Piracies are a good social connection to encourage beginners
- ◆ More skill practice opportunities
- ◆ Recreational kayak fishing is fastest growing segment
- ◆ Offer cross-over events with both whitewater elements and flat-water skill training

Logo Gear Sales—The Logo Gear report was presented by **Bela Mariassy** (the Gearmeister). The new wicking long sleeve shirts have been well received at \$15 each; sales have been steady and 20% of the 400 shirts have been sold, mostly by email order/ check (with a \$5 mailing cost). Most orders are requesting either of the 2 blue shirts. The over-large sizing has been a bit of an issue fitting smaller paddlers. Cathy Jacobs, representing Open-Air Wear, Inc. who supplied the shirts indicated that future orders can be tweaked to accommodate popular colors and sizes. Bela is offering the Logo shirts for sale at the meeting and the sales have been brisk. He also offered another alternative— for \$25 he can order an individual embroidered CPA logo and your name in color onto your own choice of cotton woven type shirt. There are only 11 CPA logo caps left in stock for sale.

By Law Revision—Discussion was held on revising the CPA BYLAWS—led by **Ed Hershon**, who has been working within the Steering Committee to update and amend the Bylaws. We are seeking clarification in the Club purpose and educational mission to allow CPA to be legally recognized as a non profit 501C (3) status. The club is now a 501 C (4) non profit organization as accepted by the IRS in 2009. The Steering Committee also is considering options to allow for new technology and to encourage additional membership participation by online structured electronic voting. Ed presented a formal motion; seconded by **Gina Cicotello**:

MOTION : TO establish a sub-committee to revise the CPA bylaws and to allow secure electronic voting procedures, and to hold a special membership meeting to ratify the changes by Fall 2010. PASSED

There was general discussion to set up a venue for a special membership meeting to ratify the proposed bylaw changes. It was recommended for the Steering Committee to meet at ONE central location during the Spring Trip planning meeting time to discuss the bylaw revisions in February 2010. It was recommended to put out the proposed amendments and changes onto the online Forum and in *The Paddler* newsletters with sufficient time for members to comment and to hold a general membership vote by next Spring.

Coordinator Dave Biss summarized the morning paddle held just before the Membership meeting—and welcomed two new paddlers **Rich Pieper and Paula Hubbard**—who just moved from California and paddled with the morning group of 12.

Race Series— although none were held this year per **Cyndi Janetzko**; the same people were coming out to paddle each time, so the events were turned into peer paddles.

Dave Biss distributed CPA **ROCKER PATCHES** to three new Pirate Captains for 2009—including **Bela Mariassy**—Pier 7—Annapolis, Ms. **Jay Giotomer**—Baltimore, and **Matt Blakey**—POG. Additional CPA Rockers were distributed to other members and paddlers who assisted during 2009 as: trip leaders, swim support, safety boaters, event volunteers, and class instructors. **ED Hershon**—was presented with the bright red **ROCKER** as the incoming CPA Coordinator in 2010.

Election Results were announced by tabulators Suzanne **Farace** and **Paul Bieri**. **2010 Officers (terms begin January 1, 2010)**

Coordinator: Ed Hershon

Treasurer: Rich Stevens

Secretary: Sue Bauer

Steering Committee (6):

Matt Blakey * new

Brian Blankinship

Gina Cicotello

Ralph Heimlich

Dave Isbell * new

Bela Mariassy * new

Congratulations were offered to all newly elected steering committee members and thanks to all other club members who have offered support and time and personal skills that make CPA a great group of paddlers.



Morning CPA Annual Paddle on the Anacostia—photo by Ralph Heimlich

(Continued on page 7)

Annual Meeting (Continued from page 6)



Participants at the 2009 CPA Annual Meeting photo by Ralph Heimlich

Dave urged everyone to keep the membership topics active:

- ◆ Addressing new paddler needs
- ◆ How to involve new members
- ◆ More skill related events
- ◆ Instilling confidence for new trip leaders
- ◆ More activities for Club members

2010 TRIP PLANNING MEETINGS—all are welcome to attend: Our Club goal is to put lots of trips on the calendar, find new locations for paddle trips and seek new ideas. There were 111 events on the calendar in 2009—with more to come in 2010.

Meeting adjourned by outgoing Coordinator of Three YEARS - **Dave Biss** at 3 pm.

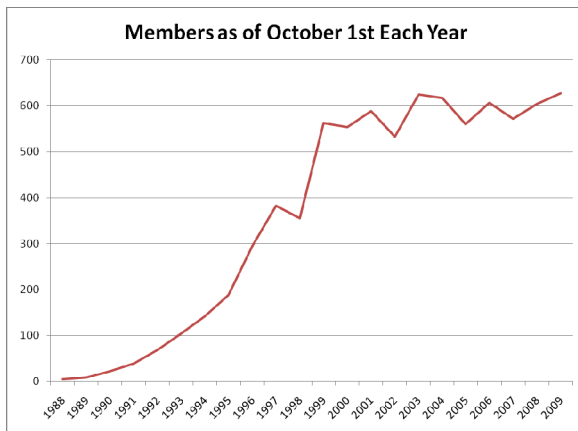
Following the meeting: Cathy Jacobs of Open Air Wear, Inc., whose company made the special order CPA shirts, offered a variety of outdoor clothing and overstock items for sale.

UPCOMING: CPA EVENT – DECEMBER 5 hosted by **Ralph and Beth Heimlich** (see [page 4](#))

Sue Bauer
CPA Membership Chair and Secretary

2009 Membership Report

As of 10/1/2009, there were 627 current members, up from 604 on 10/1/2008. Trends in membership are as follows:



Since the dawn of recorded history, 3,027 people have been members of CPA (they must have learned something!). Of these, 54 percent dropped after a year of membership (didn't learn much), 12 percent were retained for at least 2 years, 9 percent were retained for as long as 5 years, and 4 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 218 stayed just one year. Currently, we are recruiting about 150-180 each year, of which about half leave after just one year. 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.

Due to correcting some deficiencies in the database, this graph is some-



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. Since we now offer multi-year memberships, here is the current tally of members by term:

Memberships by term		
Term in Years	Number of Memberships	Percent of Total
Not renewed yet	51	8.5%
One year only	346	55.2%
Two	131	20.9%
Three	23	3.7%
Four	72	11.5%
Five or more	4	0.6%
Grand Total	627	100.0%

(Continued on page 11)

Paddling Maine's Islands: September 4-12, 2009

by Yvonne Thayer

Leave no trace; no problem. Paddle in cold rough seas, tackle twelve foot tides; why not. Haul in all drinking water, hump boats up craggy slick rocks, eat lobster; what are we waiting for. Let's go.

So we did. In early September, eight pals drove to Maine for a week of kayak camping along a section of the Maine Island Trail off Deer Isle. Established in 1988, the Maine Island Trail is America's first water trail, a 350-mile long chain of some 80 wild fragile coastal islands, some public, some private, available for use by members. Several of us had paddled in Maine before and were eager to explore more of Penobscot Bay's granite islands, pine forests and hidden coves. The deep blue bay is sprinkled with brightly colored lobster buoys and teams with playful harbor seals, ducks, gulls, elusive loons and haughty bald eagles.

We met up in Old Quarry campground (<http://oldquarry.com/>) the Saturday before Labor Day. We checked our radios, sorted



Lobstah Dinner at Old Quarry Campground photo by Yvonne Thayer

gear, and unpacked our drysuits. We'd arranged to share cooking equipment and paired off to make communal breakfasts and dinners. Brian had gotten us charts and many of us had joined the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA; <http://www.mita.org/>).

We celebrated our first night with a lobster feast. Tom and Todd gingerly picked out live hard and soft shelled lobsters scrambling in wire cages submerged off the Old Quarry dock. Todd grappled with an aggressive four pound-plus lobster, which he decided needed taking down. When I told Todd he'd need a hammer to crack its iron thick shell, he started to hum "If I Had A Hammer" and named the creature Pete. Lacking a hammer, we hacked away at our dinner with knives until Brian pulled out his tire iron to finish the job.

We camped the first two nights in Old Quarry, taking a day paddle into nearby Stonington Harbor and surrounding islands to familiarize ourselves with conditions and charts. On Labor Day we separated out stuff to leave in the cars for later pick-up, loaded up the boats, filled water bottles and bags with potable water, and paddled out to Pond Island. We arrived near high tide and set up our cooking area on a rocky beach well above the water line. Several of us walked two miles around the island, climbing over rocks and through woods and marshes, finding washed up buoys and lobster pots, deer and raccoon tracks, a solitary man clamming in the mud. As on most nights, we enjoyed a brilliant striped fuchsia sunset, gentle mauve sunrise and huge harvest moon. That evening we watched harbor seals fight over space atop warm rocks that slowly emerged in the ebbing tide; other less domineering seals simply piled up on top of each other. In the distance we saw majestic two and three-masted schooners. Pond was buggy though, and we were ready to move on after two days.

On the way to Hell's Half Acre island, Jen found a large blue rubber fisherman's glove bobbing in the water. She mounted it on the bow of her boat, the fingers curled like a proctologist in mid-exam. Over the next few days, we found three more single blue rubber gloves and adorned more boats. We dubbed ourselves the Pirates of the Blue Gauntlet and adjusted the gloves on the bow: Thumbs up when we came in peace, and thumbs down when we came as pirates with intent to raid.

In good CPA fashion, our meals were copious and inspired. For some reason, many featured couscous and polenta, which we variously boiled with dried fruits and nuts, fried, or paired with Indian sauces, mushrooms and vegetables. We feasted on wild Maine blueberries, chorizo and stir fry. Dessert was delicious homemade cookies, chocolate, and one night, strawberry cheesecake. Friends passed around wine, cognac, Cuban rum, blackberry brandy. One night Frank invited us to kill off a bottle of Bailey's. We lined up, cups outstretched. It turned out to be a miniature bottle; all we got was a teaspoon or two.



Pirates of the Blue Gauntlet photo by Tom Heneghan

On our first night on Hell's Half Acre, we saw a fishing boat burning nearby, spewing first black then white smoke as it burned down to the water line. Other boats came promptly to the rescue. When we returned a day later the burnt hull was nowhere in sight, presumably towed out to deeper waters and sunk. We heard later that no one was hurt. That day we paddled through rough seas against a strong headwind to our next campsite on Wheat Island. A baldish looking island with a clump of pine trees, Wheat turned out to have spectacular views in all directions. After lunch, Brian, Tom, Todd and I paddled out around the populated Isle de Haut with its clapboard houses, church steeples, and sentry lighthouse. Later we discovered Suzanne's spare paddle had been left behind on Hell's Half Acre.

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Treasurer's Report

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. continues to be in good financial shape. Our cash on hand increased just over 8% to \$17,067.15 as of 10/28/08. This amount includes \$16,510.72 in the CPA bank account, \$313.43 in the PayPal account, and \$243.00 in checks not yet deposited. This is in spite of an expenditure of \$7,254.75 for Club logo gear this year. We have recovered \$1,739.19 of this expenditure for logo gear in sales, although Volunteer logo shirts and many of the patches are given away as thank-you gifts to volunteers and new members. We successfully sponsored a number of events for our members and the interested general public at large, including SK 101, SK 102, A Day with Dubside, and a CPA Gear Day. Money is available for the annual Piracies distribution, the Annual Meeting, and a Holiday Party. We have

also been able to continue to print and distribute the Club Newsletter, Club brochures, and the educational Cold Water Brochure. We are current in filing the necessary state and federal tax returns. Through the hard work of Dave Biss and others, the implementation of PayPal as an on-line payment option for membership signup and renewals continues to be a great success. So far this year PayPal represents over 57% of all membership payments and I think has played a large part in the number of new members that have joined and in the number of renewing members.

Following this summary is a condensed listing of all of the account transactions for the calendar year **to date**. Some of this year's highlights are the following:

- ◆ Beginning balance \$15,785.89. Ending balance \$17,067.15. An increase of \$1,281.26 or just over 8%.
- ◆ Membership dues collected, \$6,893.65, \$2957.00 by check or cash and \$3,936.65 by PayPal. PayPal fees were \$174.93. Last year we collected \$6,680.00 in dues for the entire year.
- ◆ SK101 income, \$1,840.00. Expenses for room rental and food, \$1,373.52. Approximately \$263.29 was spent on printing and mailing for this event. That left a net profit of approximately \$203.19.
- ◆ A Day with Dubside. CPA subsidized part of the expense of making this world-class paddler available to interested members for advanced instruction. An expense of \$170.00.
- ◆ SK102 income \$3,265.00. Expenses for instructor gift cards, food, port-a-johns, insurance, volunteer shirts, etc. \$2,232.41. Net profit, \$1,032.59. Although we spent \$167.92 more for instructor gifts, we saved \$165.38 on port-a-pots and \$234.29 on food compared to the previous year when the net profit was \$683.84.
- ◆ CPA Gear Day expenses for pavilion rental and picnic supplies, \$165.50. A free event for members and the public.
- ◆ Donations received were \$992.00 for our support of the Chesapeake Bay Swim, the Columbia Triathlon, and a donation from Potomac Paddlesports.
- ◆ General printing and mailing expenses, including post office box, the Newsletter, postage, stationary, membership cards and brochures, \$2,221.75. The Newsletter alone was \$1,642.57 or 74% of the total.
- ◆ Logo gear expenses for new Club patches and shirts, \$7,254.75. Shirts were \$6,336.00 and patches were \$918.75. All logo gear sales to date, \$1,739.19. At last count we had 348 shirts and 11 caps on hand, with a resale value of \$5,385.00.
- ◆ Annual Piracy expenditures to date, Pier 7, \$250.00.
- ◆ Annual Meeting room rental, \$150.00. Food to be determined.

Please note that there will be some slight discrepancies between this report, the report printed from the banking software, and actual monies on hand, as some monies received in the last few days have yet to be deposited or recorded.

Richard Stevens
Treasurer

South River Happenings

Pier 7 Pirates and anyone in the Annapolis area should be interested in these two events regarding the South River.

South River Farms Park Wetland Mitigation—This project was created in response to required environmental mitigation for the replacement of the bridge on MD 450 over Bacon Ridge Branch. It consists of creating one acre of wetland at the Anne Arundel County-owned park, and will be done through construction of an off-shore stone sill, placement of clean sand fill between the sill and the shoreline, and planting salt marsh vegetation on the sand fill. The current site (on the NW shore of Mayo Point at Limehouse Cove) has an eroding shoreline with 10-30 foot banks. This project will be similar to the previously constructed one on the NE shoreline. A public meeting on the project is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1. See

<http://www.sha.maryland.gov/Pages/CalendarDetails.aspx?EventId=19>

On Saturday, October 17, 2009 County Executive John R. Leopold planted the first tree of the Homeport Farm Park reforestation effort, accompanied by, from left, Bud Reaves (County Forester), Erik Michelson (Executive Director, South River Federation), David Prosten (Chair, Anne Arundel County Sierra Club), and Karyn Molines (Supervisor of Cultural Resources). Mr. Leopold was joined by over 50 volunteers, including CPA members, to plant 400 trees on an acre of Homeport Farm Park. For more on the new kayak/canoe launch at Homeport Farms on Church Creek, see <http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/parks/homeportfarm/index.cfm>



CPA Logo Gear Report

Shirts—Logo shirt have been well received by the club membership. Since receiving shirts in May, a total of 87 shirts have sold, which represents 20% of the total 425 shirts the club purchased. We have been averaging about 15 per month, which has been sustained by the popularity of mail orders coming in from the CPA webpage. I take a sample of the shirts with me to various events, and they have sold steadily. My impression is that we have saturated the regular attendee club members. Between that fact and the seasonal end of weekly club meetings, I expect that sales will drop until next May, when the piracies get back out on the water. Some facts to consider:

Sizes—The shirts are in men's sizes and run large in general. Distribution is:

Small	24%
Medium	29%
Large	23%
XLarge	19%
XXLarge	5%

Colors—Sky blue is definitely the most popular, but we received the least of that color—only 6 out of a total 425. These were the extras from an order of 100 volunteer shirts ordered as handouts for SK102 staff and other volunteer recognition. As a fallback, people have selected the pacific blue. Generally women choose blue, while men choose khaki.

Sky blue	3%
Pacific blue	50%
Sage green	18%
Khaki	29%

I recommend that we order some sky blue shirts, particularly in small and medium sizes. There are sufficient shirts in the other color and size combinations. Cathy Jacobs of Open Air Wear, our source, indicated she would be willing to deal on shirt sizes.

Caps—There are 11 caps available, basically in color combinations that don't appeal. 15 have sold since last year, mainly at SK102. I recommend that we order more in the popular tan or tan with green bill combination.

Béla Máriássy
Logo gear QuarterMeister

Quarter master's Log



Paddling Maine (Continued from page 8)

September 11 dawned with a glorious pink and gold sky. Brian raced off early back to Hell's Half Acre in order to reserve a campsite and look for Suzanne's paddle. Meanwhile, I'd noticed a clever limerick in the MITA logbook on Wheat Island. We started making up limericks, laughing uproariously the whole way back at our increasingly inane poems. Once or twice Todd or Frank hailed a moored sailboat in the name of the Pirates of the Gauntlet Blue and demanded couscous or polenta. We would then recite a limerick, to the amusement of the people aboard.

***We, the Pirates of the Gauntlet Blue
Chesapeake Paddlers through and through
We respect this place
We leave no trace
Though we eat lots of polenta and couscous***

***We paddled through Maine without Ed
Seeking shelter sent Brian ahead
His prize was three kisses
From three lovely misses
Til he said, "Take my wagbag instead."
(abridged—heavily)***

Later that day we split into groups. Todd led a paddle to find more seals, other of us paddled back to Stonington to look for a boat we thought might know something about the missing paddle. We saw harbor seals swimming among the moored boats, gulls picking greedily at crabs on the sand, a duck struggling to swallow a fish too big to down whole. Early the next morning we paddled the short distance back to Old Quarry campground for one last hot shower before heading back home.

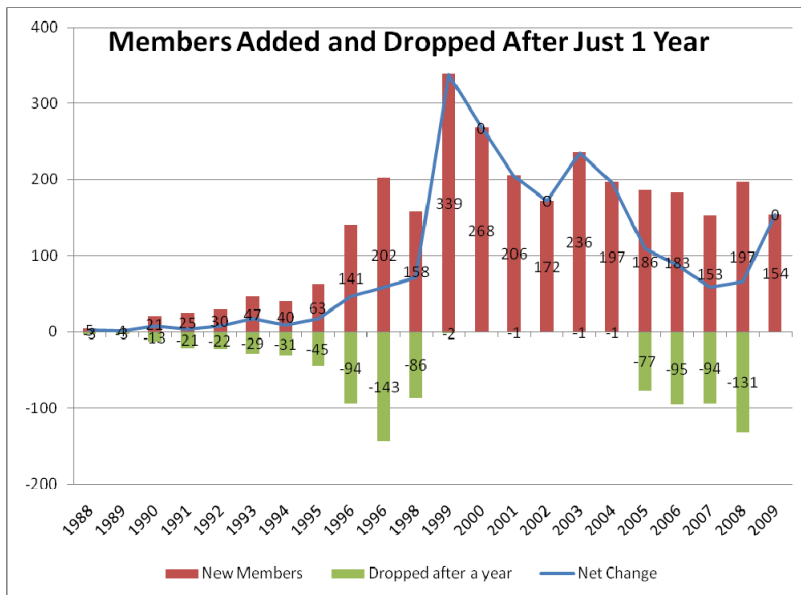
How to: See the *Sea Kayaker Magazine* article by Michael Daugherty in the December 2009 issue for more pics, map and trip planner info at <http://www.seakayakermag.com/>

See our pictures online at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/HeneghanTailTom/MaineIslandTrailSept200902?authkey=Gv1sRgCPSvnuyc6Mvf4QE#>
http://picasaweb.google.com/HeneghanTailTom/Bela?authkey=Gv1sRgCJLhMSL_fOgMg#
<http://picasaweb.google.com/yfthayer/MaineKayakCamping#>
<http://picasaweb.google.com/BayKayaking/Share?feat=email#>

Membership report (Continued from page 7)

what different than last year. Notably, the numbers dropped after 1 year were overrepresented in the previous graph because the renewal date was not accurately entered in the database. So the net change was actually higher in early 2000s than previously shown and has dropped in the 2005-2009 period.



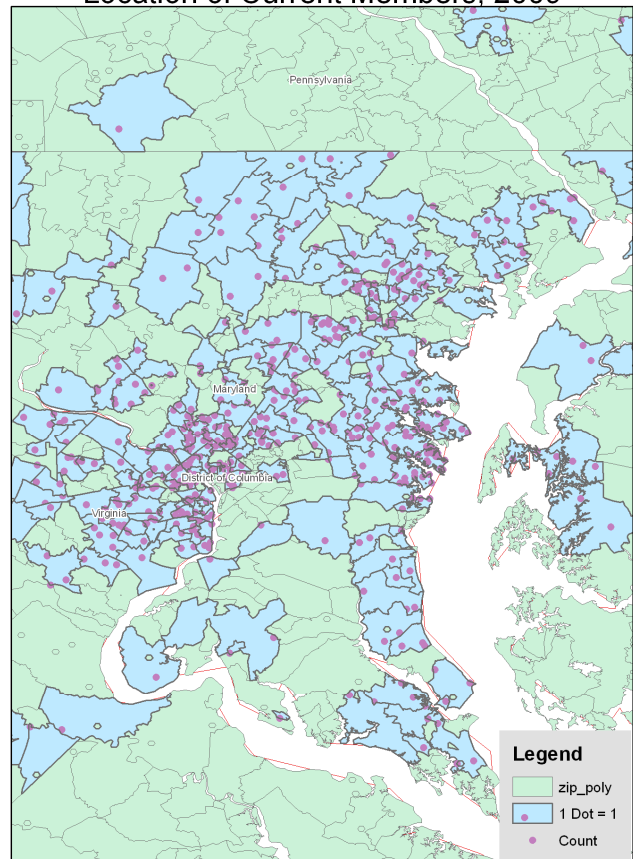
Finally, Maryland continues to be the home of CPA, hosting 60 to 64 percent of total current membership over time. Virginia is second, with 24-27 percent, and the District of Columbia is third with 100 percent of the actual kayak owners in DC.



Annual Meeting Paddle, Bladensburg Waterfront Park photo by Ralph Heimlich

Members by State, 2005-2008					
State	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
MD	385	384	357	386	336
VA	153	150	145	148	155
DC	31	26	28	29	28
PA	27	24	19	19	15
DE	14	7	7	7	5
WV	6	6	5	3	2
NY	1	0	2	2	3
FL	2	1	1	2	2
MA	1	1	2	1	1
ME	1	1	0	0	1
NC	0	1	1	5	3
NJ	2	1	2	1	3
RI	0	1	2	0	0
SC	1	1	1	1	1
CA	1	0	1	1	2
CT	0	0	0	0	1
Total	627	604	573	605	558

Location of Current Members, 2009





Paddlers at CPA Annual Meeting Paddle, Bladensburg Waterfront Park (the Matt Blakey Portable Coffee Shop) *photo by Ralph Heimlich*

Inside our November 2009 issue:

- Chesapeake Pirates converge on small MD town...
- CPA Holiday Raid! AARGH!
- Ships that pass at the annual meeting...
- CPA 2010 Virtual Calendar Photo Contest
- Mapping CPA's Treasure...
- Where the Bodies are...
- What happened to the booty...
- Chesapeake Pirates reported in Maine Islands...

The Chesapeake Paddler

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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.