

# Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. Volume 21, Issue 9

November-December 2011

## Chincoteague Island Columbus Day Weekend 2011 Peer Paddle

Lodging for the second annual Chincoteague Island Columbus Day weekend peer paddle was a quirky Victorian house that suited the personalities of 10 paddlers, provided excellent sunsets, and access to Chincoteague Bay. This group originated from those who had attended the Prime Hook trip in June 2010, and did a similar trip last October. This year those who could attend included Mike Cohn, Linda Witkin, Marilyn Fisher, Suzanne Farace, Jim Allen, Jennifer Bine, Maryrose Whelley, Aht Viravaidya, Nora Connell, and Steven Jahncke. Marilyn planned and organized gourmet and truly excellent communal meals that also served to bring the group together as everyone participated in the cooking and cleanup. The paddle plans were done by group consensus. Whoever was in charge of the weather came through in grand style—sunny skies, warm (but not too warm) temperatures, and calm seas—perfect weather for the weekend.



*Quirky Victorians, photo by Jim Allen*

The group arrived Friday afternoon. Those who arrived early had time to explore the shops and galleries on Main Street or visit Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge to see the shore birds and elusive fox squirrels. One member of the group visited the Chincoteague Museum (formerly the Oyster Museum) to see an exhibit about Misty of literary fame. She was shocked to discover both Misty and Stormy there in the flesh (so to speak), looking somewhat the worse for wear. That evening Marilyn whipped up some cornbread to go with the Turkey Chili she brought from home and a delicious ginger cake for dessert.

The highlight of last year's trip was paddling with a pod of feeding dolphins near the south end of Assateague Island, so that seemed like a good place to start Saturday morning. As part of National Wildlife Refuge Week, entry to the Assateague Wildlife Refuge was free on Saturday. Normally entry is \$8 per day or \$15 for a one-week pass. Launching from the Tom's Cove side of the beach was the obvious choice. The beach had been rearranged by the 2011 storms, but the kayak launch site was unchanged.

We started off on a clockwise route around the cove. Light winds from the northeast created ideal conditions. We headed out into the Atlantic Ocean, and up the outer shore of Assateague Island. We decided to continue until we got near some fairly large breaking waves, and then turn around. We saw our first dolphins as we paddled back into Chincoteague Inlet. Our lunch break was on the cove side of Fishing Point. After lunch we collected seashells by the seaside.



*Chincoteague Paddlers photo by Jim Allen*

*(Continued on page 4)*

## 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.



"...When what to my wondering eyes did appear, but a paddling Santa, with a Greenland reindeer!" (Santa Dave Biss) Eastern neck, December 2007 photo by Ralph Heimlich

## SCHEDULE FOR 2011 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 2012 | December 15, 2011 |
| March 2012   | February 15, 2012 |
| April 2012   | March 15, 2012    |

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) 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**—Jay Gitomer, 410-687-6878, [coordinator@cpakayaker.com](mailto:coordinator@cpakayaker.com)

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

Greenbelt, MD 20768, [membership@cpakayaker.com](mailto:membership@cpakayaker.com)

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

**Treasurer**—Rich Stevens, 703-527-4882, [treasurer@cpakayaker.com](mailto:treasurer@cpakayaker.com)

**Webmaster/E-Mail List Administrator**—Dave Biss, [webmaster@cpakayaker.com](mailto:webmaster@cpakayaker.com)

### Newsletter Team:

**Managing Editor/Layout**—Ralph Heimlich, 301-498-0722, [news\\_editor@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com)

**Articles Editor**—Lynn Erwin, [news\\_articles@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_articles@cpakayaker.com)

**Advertising Coordinator**—vacant, [news\\_advertising@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_advertising@cpakayaker.com)

**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, Béla Mariassy, Jenny Welker-Plummer and Greg Welker, 301-249-4895, Sue Stevens, 410-531-5641, Brent Cogswell, 410-381-0037, [pirates\\_pier7@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com)

**Potomac Pirate King**—Dick Rock, 703-780-6605 [pirates\\_potomac@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_potomac@cpakayaker.com)

**Patuxent Pirate King**—Jenny Plummer-Welker Pirate Captain, 410-535-2348/301-249-4895, [pirates\\_patuxent@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com);

**Georgetown Pirate Committee**—Matt Blakey 202-210-6367, Dave Biss, 703-241-0036, Peter Harris; [pirates\\_georgetown@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com).

**Baltimore Pirate King**—Jay Gitomer, 410-687-6878, [pirates\\_baltimore@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com)

**Algonkian Pirate King**—Jeff Walaszek, 703-670-7712, Linda Lewis [pirates\\_algonkian@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_algonkian@cpakayaker.com)

**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, 484-889-2214, [pirates\\_north@cpakayaker.com](mailto: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*

# Admiral's Walk



## Surviving the Winter

I'm excited about paddling again. For a few months late this summer, I wasn't. Too much of a focus on challenges wore me down. I'm so goal-oriented that I had to constantly be working toward something. I never just got in a boat and paddled for no reason at all. It was sapping.

Even though my interest was dwindling, I had one last goal I wanted to achieve – BCU 4\* Leader certification. I'd worked toward it for 18 months, going to some pretty extreme measures and distant places to strengthen my skills. All that would have been wasted if I gave up before at least trying to attain it. But I just didn't feel like trying. I bored my friends by going on and

on about whether I should bother to go for it or not. I told everybody: my mailman, toll collectors, complete strangers. I was torn. Finally, I decided that I'd go for the cert, let the chips fall, and then back off paddling for a while. I thought about what it would feel like to sell my boats and gear, and what I'd do instead to keep active – maybe something that didn't involve being cold, wet, and possibly drowned. I thought about the friends I'd lose if we didn't share paddling experiences. It was like contemplating a divorce in a lot of ways.

I went to Tybee for the cert with a lackadaisical attitude. I figured, "I'll probably blow it, and then I'll stick the boats in the shed for the winter and forget about paddling at least for a while – or longer."

The assessment went well and I got the cert. Within about three minutes of hearing the news, everything changed. I saw Kevin Black directly afterwards and started asking him questions about the next level cert. He said, "Slow down, girl, and take a breath!" I just laughed. I can't take a breath.

On the drive home, I was reading the 5-star syllabus out loud (I wasn't driving) and planning a new event for CPA. Then another event for CPA. Then a quick look at the L2 syllabus. Then some plans for paddling trips. The excitement and enthusiasm were back.

This started out as a column about winter activities, then it turned into something else. But maybe it didn't. We all go through periods of greater or lesser interest in things we care about. Nothing can continuously trend upwards. Long periods of enforced distance from our interests can dampen them, and the climate in our area forces us to put aside paddling for a good part of the year.

So here are some things that a paddler can do in the cold months to keep the faith and have a better upcoming season:

- Develop athletic condition to increase stamina and speed.
- Think about which paddling skills could be strengthened and plan ways to perform better in the summer.
- Look around for summer training schedules and sign up for some clinics.
- Sharpen navigational skills.
- Put those navigational skills to use and plan some trips.
- Organize gear and replace or upgrade anything in bad shape - a lot of kayak gear is cheaper in the winter.
- Read the CPA message board, other paddling message boards, and kayak magazines.
- Learn about a type of paddling that you've never tried.
- Attend the CPA holiday party!
- Call your regular paddling buddies and go out for a drink to talk about paddling.

That would be enough to keep anybody busy. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and hope to see you on the water in the spring.



**Jay Gitomer**  
Coordinator

*Chincoteague (Continued from page 1)*

Adorned with whelk shells, the flotilla paddled across the mouth of the cove toward the refuge. Because it was low tide, we could see birds walking around some sand bars, but other sand bars were covered by water. In order to maintain our course, a few paddlers hopped out of their boats and towed them along until we hit deeper water. On reaching the refuge, an eagle was there to greet us. We continued around to the west side of Assateague where we saw descendants of Misty and Stormy munching grass to the backbeat from the band at the Chincoteague Oyster Festival (another Columbus Day weekend tradition). We then paddled along the refuge shore, past the dilapidated oysterman's cabin, and returned to the ocean beach for a 10-mile trip total.

After returning to the house, Marilyn and Mike went fishing and came back with enough flounder for dinner. The best part was that a license was not required to fish at Gary Howard's seafood shop.

After a couple of happy hours hanging around the kitchen watching another spectacular sunset, the group feasted on flounder stuffed with spinach and mushrooms with a cream sauce made by Mike and Linda and an unbelievably delicious, fresh baked apple walnut cake made by Marilyn for dessert. After dinner we retired to the parlor to watch one of Maligiaq and Dubsides's Greenland rolling videos. As interesting as those two can be, putting anything on the screen after a day of paddling and an evening of good food and drink is going to put paddlers to sleep early.

Sunday we decided to start close to home. We had the option of a nearby city park or the bank behind the house. The park had a standard street sign on a pole that read KAYAK marking the preferred launch site (just in case we could not figure that out for ourselves). The banks at both the house and park were a little muddy, but once in the water the bottom was sandy and firm. To cut down on the launch site traffic, we used both sites, and were paddling counter-clockwise from the mainland side of the island at 9:30 a.m. Our objective was to prove that Chincoteague is actually an island.

Dolphins were sighted as we came around the southern end of the island. We stopped to watch their aerial show as they chased fish around the channel. We stopped for lunch at Memorial Park (about one third of the way around but the only good place to stop.) As we launched from the park to continue our journey, a fisherman on the pier wished us well and said "see you on the way back." He was surprised to learn we were not coming back. The next few miles were against an outgoing tide. By the time we got to the South end of Morris Island (about two-thirds way around) it was slack low tide. As we paddled in the channel, a large flight of migrating cormorants passed overhead in a formation stretched across the sky. When we rounded Morris Island, we could see what we thought was the tip of Chincoteague; however, there was another three miles of grass wetlands to paddle around before we could round the tip of the island and head back. We arrived back at our starting point about 4:30 p.m. after paddling somewhere between 18 and 20 miles.

It was not long before we were all back the kitchen, nibbling garlic shrimp prepared by Marilyn and waiting for her Chicken Marbella to cook. Marilyn was prepared to bake another cake, but the landlord, who was impressed by our paddling feat, brought us chocolate cake and snicker doodles. In the end we decided to walk to the Island Creamery for homemade ice cream instead. No lack of calories this weekend!

Monday seemed to come much too fast. Some of us had to return to reality and headed for home. Seven paddlers, however, stopped off at Middle Hooper's Island on the way home, and launched with permission from the bayside private property of a friend of Maryrose. We paddled out to and did a figure eight around Barren Island (it has a middle cut-through). For the first time that weekend, we encountered some wind and bumpy water. Barren Island is home to many, many birds, including the brown pelican. Six of the seven then stopped at the Jetty in Grasonville for dinner on the way home.

The group was unanimous that the weekend was a great experience; weather terrific; animal life cooperative; house funky and comfortable; food amazing; and the company a pure pleasure.



**Low Flyer (Nora's pretty fast, too) photo by Jim Allen**

## WHAT'S UP, DOCK?

by Al Larsen

Chaos theory tells us that a random event such as a butterfly beating its wings in the Amazon sets off a chain of actions that can ultimately result in a typhoon half way around the world. The Chesapeake Paddlers Association has empirical evidence that even the rarest of events, for instance a traffic jam on the DC Beltway, can lead to a large, fixed, inanimate object moving itself to a new location and then returning to its original position. This, then, is a story of a kayak and canoe launch dock that decided it wanted to see the world.

On the first weekend in June, Ralph Heimlich led a club outing down the Patuxent River (See <http://www.cpkayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=25&t=5790>). At the appointed launch time, Jennifer Bine and Jesse Aronson were trapped in a horrific traffic jam on the Beltway, nowhere near the launch. Plan B was to meet the rest of the group down river at Jug Bay. We told them how much we enjoyed the upper stretch of the trip, a narrow, very natural, scenic piece of the river, lined on both sides by forest, before it widens out into the flat wetlands area of Jug Bay. But, what is a pleasant June paddle would be a scorching sun bath in July and August in the DC area. So it was not until my birthday, September 25, that Jen, Jesse, my wife Anne and I planned to revisit the Pax. A few days before our outing, I called the park personnel to confirm the lock combination for access to Queen Anne Landing. The man on the other end of the phone said, "I'd really like to accommodate you, but Queen Anne Landing is gone!" He said he's worked for the park since 1976 and the water on the Pax was higher during these hurricanes than anything he had ever seen. He said that part of the road had been washed away so they could not even let cars drive in. Wow!

We decided to launch from Patuxent Wetlands Park, where MD Route 4 crosses over the Pax at the Hills Bridge, and paddle upstream to Queen Anne Landing and return. It is an excellent car-top launch, with a side channel to the Pax coming in a 100 feet or so, right up to the parking lot. We slipped into the side channel, paddled out to the main Pax, and headed upstream. The river was still rather high and the current strong. It seemed to me that all the little feeder brooklets throughout the drainage were still feeding lots of water into the river.

Along the way, we saw upended duck blinds, mud-covered banks, and very oddly, multiple sites on the river banks with metal chairs and tables that appeared to be set up precisely where they had been before the flooding. About ¼ mile downriver from Queen Anne Landing, we saw the dock that used to be secured by the pilings at the landing. It was intact and upright, resting at the river bank. At the landing itself, the pilings were still in place, but the ground all around the landing had been swept away. The ramp with hand railings, that previously connected an upper deck to the launching deck, now just plops at a severe angle into the river. The area around and behind the upper deck was also scoured out, leaving a big (and currently) muddy mess between the river and the parking area up the hill. While people couldn't use the site, the mosquitoes had clearly been making optimum use, as we were swarmed over while we did our (abbreviated) stretch and survey of the damage. Quite a sight! Much work will be required to restore the landing. So, for some unknown period, anyone wishing to paddle the Pax will have to launch elsewhere.

It was a very nice outing, observing the effect on our efforts from that amount of current, and seeing the resilience of the natural features. While duck blinds and docks got trashed, trees and other vegetation were largely intact, with just residual mud on leaves 10' above the river, and mud over every inch of bank, the only indications of what was going on there several weeks ago.

A few days later, I posted a trip report on the CPA website where member Greg Welker read it. Later the same week Greg read a very different report by Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman. Amazingly, Fred was describing the damage done to the Pax by the hurricanes, and in particular, noted that the Queen Anne Landing dock had washed away. I told Fred where the dock was, and said it appeared to be intact, and while not knowing too much about the logistics of such things, it seemed to me it could be floated and propelled back upstream. Fred, in turn, put me in contact with Greg Lewis, Facilities Manager for Pax River Park. They were going to go looking for the dock where I told them they would find it, and determine what could be done. They found it and concluded that my guess was right—it could be moved back up stream. A major work effort, led by Fred Tutman and the "Patuxent Roughnecks", using canoes, kayaks and attaching an outboard motor onto the dock, rendered it seaworthy and convinced it (I'm anthropomorphising here) that it was time to go home. As Greg says, we saved them a lot of time looking for the wanderlust-struck dock—assuming they wouldn't have just written it off as gone forever, and a lot of money for replacing it. To me, the best aspect is how so many of us who love, use and protect our waterways came together in this microcosm of the stewardship that goes on throughout the entire Chesapeake basin. Just chaos theory in action.

For photos of the recovery operation by the Roughnecks, see [http://www.hawxhurst.com/Other/20111015roughriders/19625187\\_WHqFtZ#1538240424\\_hjCvxWC](http://www.hawxhurst.com/Other/20111015roughriders/19625187_WHqFtZ#1538240424_hjCvxWC)



Patuxent Roughnecks "motoring" the missing dock home photo by [David-Owen-Hawxhurst](http://www.hawxhurst.com)



# Treasurer's Report

## 2011 Annual Financial Report

By Rich Stevens

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. continues to be in good financial shape. Our cash on hand increased by \$3,214 or 13.4%, from \$24,036 to \$27,250, and covers the time from the last annual meeting report. This amount includes \$27,041 in the CPA bank account and \$210 in the PayPal account. From the beginning of this year, our income increased \$5,458, an increase of 25%. It should be noted that there are several large expenditures such as the Piracies, the Annual Meeting, the Cold Water Workshop, and the Holiday Party, and generally reduced income during November and December.

Most of the rest of the figures for 2011 are for this calendar year to date. We successfully sponsored a number of events for our members and the interested general public at large, including SK 101, SK 102, the Greenland Paddle Workshop, pool sessions, trip planning meetings, trip leader training, a CPA Gear Day, and several skills sessions. Money is available to fund the piracies. We will also fund the Annual Meeting, the Piracy's annual allotments, and will help fund a Holiday Party. We have also been able to continue to print and distribute the club's newsletter, *The Chesapeake Paddler*, club brochures, and the educational Cold Water brochure. We are current in filing the necessary state and federal tax returns.

Some of this year's highlights are the following:

- **Beginning balance** from last year's November meeting was \$24,036. Ending balance \$27,250, an increase of \$3,214 or 13.4%. Last year the increase was quite a bit larger, \$7,065 or 36.4%. The balance at the beginning of the year was \$21,462 plus \$330 in the PayPal account for a total of \$21,791.
- **Membership dues** collected \$4,999, \$1,414 by check or cash and \$3,585 net, or 71.7% of the total, by PayPal. PayPal fees were \$198, which includes money collected by PayPal for SK101. Last year we collected \$6,294 in dues over the same period. This is a decrease of \$1,295 or 20.6%.
- **SK101 income**, \$1,850, \$825 by check and \$1025 by PayPal. Expenses for room rental and food, \$1,456. That left a net profit of \$394. Last year there was a net loss of \$365.
- **Freya Hoffmeister event** in 2009. With Brian Blankenship's initiative, CPA coordinated with EMS to bring this world class and record setting paddler to EMS to give a talk on her exploits. The last of the expenses were paid in January. Income was \$745 and expenses, consisting of a payment to Freya were \$975, for a net loss of \$230.
- **SK102 income** \$3,810. Expenses for instructor gifts, food, port-a-johns, insurance, etc. \$2004. Net profit, \$1,806. The previous year the net profit was \$477. The large increase was due to larger attendance while expenses remained nearly the same.
- **CPA Gear Day expenses** for picnic supplies, \$33. Organized by Suzanne Farace with many other members helping, this was a free event for members and the public sponsored by CPA. Last year expenses were \$100.
- **Greenland Paddle Workshop** organized by Nelson Labbe and Gina Cicotello, expenses were \$556 for wood and other materials. Income was \$430 for a net loss of \$126. Last year there was a net profit of \$19.
- **Donations received totaled** \$1,100 for our support of the Chesapeake Bay Swim (\$750), the Columbia Triathlon(\$300), and a donation from Suzanne Straub in memory of Alan Avery, one of the founding members of CPA (\$50).
- **General printing and mailing** expenses, including post office box, the *Paddler*, postage, stationary, membership cards and brochures was \$1,229. The *Paddler* alone was \$792 or 64.5% of the total. Thanks to Ralph Heimlich and Mark Woodside for these tasks. Last year this was \$1,023. We received \$112 in ad revenue for the newsletter. Post Office box rental was \$116.
- **Logo gear** was ably handled by Béla Mariassy. Expenses for new gear, \$1,275 for new hats. Net sales for the year to date were \$1,663.
- **Maryland Trip Planning Meeting** hosted by Sue and Rich Stevens. Paper goods and other expenses were \$15.
- **Annual Piracy Expenditures** to date, Pier 7, \$875. Other Piracies are expected to apply for their allotment before the end of the year. Forty one members attended Pier 7's last night dinner and Crazy Hat Night.
- **Grill Purchase** Brian Blankenship coordinated the purchase of a commercial size gas grill available for use at CPA events, which eliminates the expense of the annual rental at SK102. The grill cost \$419, less than the cost of many residential grills.
- **Bank Expenses** were \$112 for checks and deposit slips.
- **Still to Come** are the other Piracy expenditures, the upcoming Cold Water Workshop organized by Suzanne Farace and featuring Mario Vittone, the expenses for the Annual Meeting, and the Holiday Party, hosted by Laurie Steele and Bob Pullman.

[Editor's note: All amounts rounded to the nearest dollar. You can obtain the full Treasurer's report by contacting Rich at the email on the [masthead](#).]



# Press Gang

(Membership)

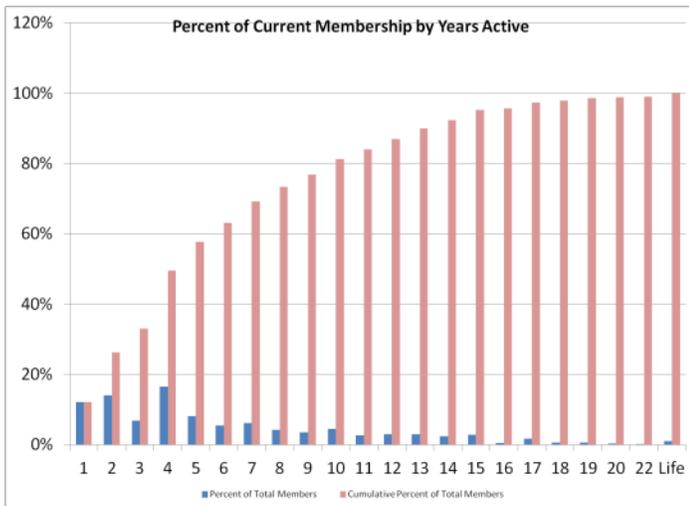
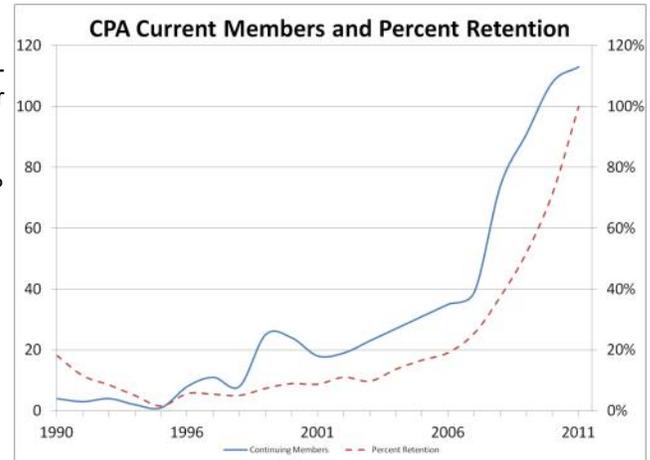
## Membership Report

By Sue Stevens and Ralph Heimlich

Out of 3,314 members who ever joined CPA, 1,704 have joined for only 1 year (51.4%), but the percentage in each year-joined class has fallen from 66% in 2002 to 28% in 2009 (can't tell for 2010 or 2011 since they haven't had more than a year or two yet). The number joining in any year has also generally fallen from more than 300 in 1999 to 113 in 2011, but the members we do recruit are tending to stay in the club longer.

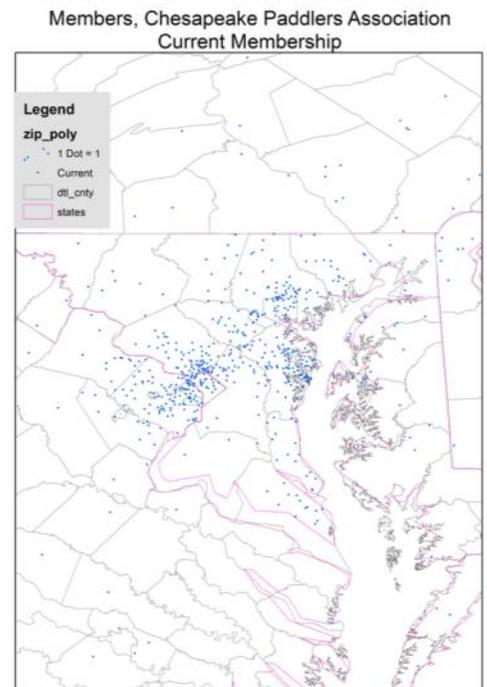
When looking at the current members (668 who were current as of October 1, 2011), overall we've retained 20.2 percent of those who have ever joined, ranging from 18 percent of those who joined in 1990 to 71.5 percent of those who joined in 2010. 33.1 % of current members joined in the last three years, 63 % have been members for 5 years or more, 19% have been members for 10 years or more, and less than 2% have been members for 20 years or more.

Overall, two-thirds of the members who ever joined came from MD, about one-fifth from VA, 5% from DC and 10% from other places. This has changed over the years, with a bit more from MD and other places in recent years. The club has added 113 new members during 2011, With an average growth of 3-4% annually over the last 4 years since 2008. New 2011 members are currently 16.9 % of the total membership. Thirty percent of our members renewed during this year and the balance have renewed for longer terms in previous years.



The charts show that 33.1% of our members have been members for less than 3 years, and 63% have more than 5 years.

There are 6 club family members who have qualified for CPA Life Membership with 20 years of continuous paid dues since 1990 when the club was formed, including: Dave and Judy Isbell of Annapolis MD; Greg Welker and Jenny Plummer- Welker of Bowie MD; Barry and Allyson Miller of Bethesda MD; Steve and Stephanie Fleming of The Villages FL; Rick Leader of Easton MD; and Les and Dianne Dickey of Prince Frederick MD.



## KIPP Paddler Recognition

Marshall Woodruff has been conducting a series of workup paddles each year and a final circumnavigation of Kent Island at the end of the summer season. These KIPP paddles have had a lot of participation and have helped many paddlers build their performance and stamina. Recently, Marshall commissioned a patch for those who completed the circumnavigation. KIPP 2011 participants were: Aht Viravaidy, Bill Upton, Carol Collins, Dan Wells, George Banks, Jeff Heneks, Rich Piper, Liang Ron

Weng, Jim Zawlocki, Kat Rost, Lisa Arrasmith, Rob Bowen and Sue Byerly.

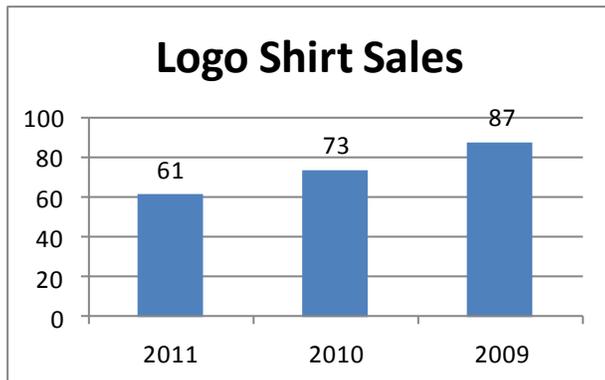
And a dip of the paddle to those that put in the time and energy but could not make the final paddle: Anita Huslin, Daniel Shepherdson, Eric Dougherty, Eric Zacharias, Glen McNemar, Tim Dole, Larry Abramson, Lisa Cunningham, Manuel Suarez, Maywin Liu, Mike Hamilton, Pat Kennedy, and Paula Hubbard.

## CPA Logo Gear Report for 2011 Annual Meeting

By Béla Máriássy

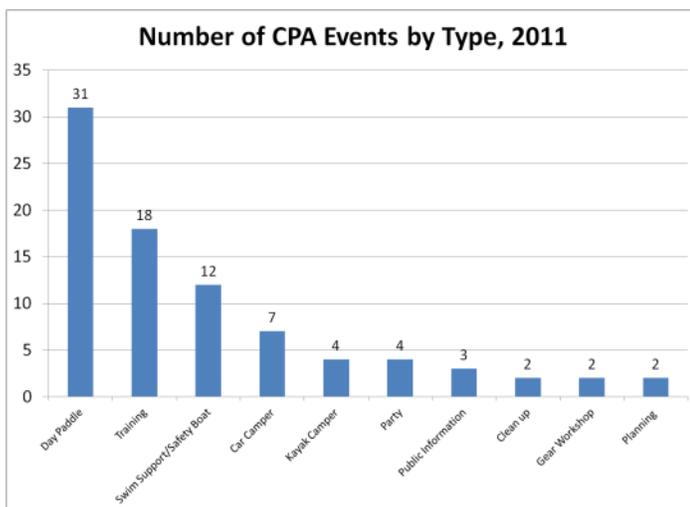
In response to requests by a number of members, the club expanded the offering of logo caps to include technical fabric (quick drying synthetic) in addition to cotton fabric. The technical caps were well received and sold reasonably well over the past year. They have also been distributed as gratuities to volunteers at SK 102 and Paddleclash.

Sales for the year were 39. That pretty much cleared out most of the “stale” cotton inventory. Presently we have 35 on hand, which is projected to be sufficient for the next year.



Logo shirts continue to sell well, although the trend is declining as demand is saturated. The main impetus over the past year was that we got sizes and a color that appealed to the female club members. A large volume of sales arises around events where new members or infrequent members show up, such as SK101 / SK102 / Gear Day. Otherwise sales are at a low rate for replacement. In 2010, mail order sales also occurred off the webpage, whereas in 2011, there have been none.

With 248 shirts on hand, we have sufficient selections in the desired sizes and colors to meet demand for the next year.



### Butts in Boats: Participation in CPA Events

SC Member Jennifer Bine contacted all trip and event leaders to gather data on participation in 2011 events. Overall, active CPA members organized 85 events or trips during 2011, attended by 1,342 participants.

The largest category of event was day paddles, followed by training events (SK101, 102, 203, and pool and other sessions).

The largest number of participants was in training events, followed by day paddles. About half of all participants were in events open to members of all paddling skill levels, while a quarter were for advanced beginner paddlers.

Three members (Jay Gitomer, Marshall Woodruff and Ralph Heimlich) led 10 events each (35 % of the total), and there were 31 members involved in leading events (although many more contributed to event organization and implementation).

| Event Type               | Level of Paddler |            |               |              | Total        |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|                          | All              | Beginner.  | Adv. Beginner | Intermediate |              |
| Training                 | 384              |            | 20            | 25           | 429          |
| Day Paddle               | 7                | 61         | 111           | 150          | 329          |
| Swim Support/Safety Boat | 20               | 92         | 100           |              | 212          |
| Party                    | 116              |            |               |              | 116          |
| Car Camper               | 25               | 14         | 66            |              | 105          |
| Gear Workshop            | 65               |            |               |              | 65           |
| Planning                 | 43               |            |               |              | 43           |
| Kayak Camper             |                  |            | 9             | 18           | 27           |
| Public Information       | 10               |            |               |              | 10           |
| Clean up                 |                  | 6          |               |              | 6            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>       | <b>670</b>       | <b>173</b> | <b>306</b>    | <b>193</b>   | <b>1,342</b> |



Trip Leader Training photo by Don Monday

## Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

By Sue Stevens

November 6, 2011, College Park, MD Members present: 46

CPA Coordinator Jay Gitomer opened the annual CPA business meeting, welcomed everyone, and introduced current Officers and the current Steering Committee (SC) members. Jay introduced the club members nominated for 2012 positions- including herself, Rich Stevens, Sue Stevens in the same positions, and the 7 nominees for SC. The electronic ballots had been earlier tabulated by Web Master Dave Biss, who capably managed the CPA on-line voting process. The additional paper ballots and the mailed paper ballots (3) were gathered and totaled by Ralph Heimlich and volunteers Chuck Haberlein and Jim Allen. Election results: 66 electronic ballots with a total of 82 ballots received. New officers for 2012 are:

**2012 Coordinator: Jay Gitomer**

**2012 Treasurer: Rich Stevens**

**2012 Secretary: Sue Stevens**

**2012 Steering Committee (6):**

**Jennifer Bine**

**Rob Pearlman**

**Paula Hubbard (new)**

**Maywin Liu (new)**

**Catriona Miller (new)**

**Rick Wiebush (new)**

### Recap of 2011 events:

**SK 101** CPA one day basic class held March 26 at the new West River Center, Mayo, MD—coordinated by Suzanne Farace and Jenny Plummer Welker. Maryrose Whelley handled registration and used Paypal to facilitate online payments for the first time. Attendance: 80 students and instructors.

**SK102** CPA's on-the-water training at Lake Anna, VA held April 29- May 1—This was the 13<sup>th</sup> year! Coordinated by Brian Blankinship along with many others helping with the daily details, advance registration, and food preparation. We were able to use the back yard of our member hosts Dave Compton and Theresa Pendleton for the entire weekend to camp and paddle in Lake Anna's warm waters. Attendance: 113 students and 30 instructors.

**SK203** CPA Trip Leader Training at Westmoreland State Park, VA- May 14-15 coordinated by Brian Blankinship and Rick Wiebush. Attendance: 17 students and 8 instructors.

**Fourth Annual Gear Day/ Fall out of your Boat Day** at Truxton Park, Annapolis, MD—June 26-coordinated by Suzanne Farace, Kristina McCoy and crew. Attendance: 50.

**PaddleClash Kayak Games**—on the Choptank River—new for 2011—held June 10-12—coordinated by Jay Gitomer and crew. Attendance: 24 plus 4 coaches.

**Survivor II at Hart- Miller Island**—held August 20—coordinated by Jay Gitomer and crew—Attendance: 16 plus 4 coaches.

**Greenland Paddle Making Clinic**—April 23—coordinated by Gina Cicotello and Nelson Labbe who prepared all of the cedar blanks for shaping. Attendance: 10 new and numerous finished.

**KIPP Training in 7<sup>th</sup> Year**—coordinated by Marshall Woodruff -18+ paddlers achieved their goals to circumnavigate Kent Island. Marshall also does numerous trips around Eastern Neck Island for 20+ paddlers.

**SK304 Cold Water Clinic**—new event held in Annapolis, MD on November 20—coordinated by Suzanne Farace with guest speaker USCG Mario Vittone Water Safety Expert. Attendance: 34 plus 4 coaches in very cold water.

**Holiday Party**—December 3. Hosts—Bob Pullman and Laurie Steele in Bowie, MD.

**CPA Calendar 2012 Photo Contest**—Ralph Heimlich

### Event planning for 2012:

**SK101**—Suzanne Farace has reserved the West River Center for March 10, 2012.

**SK102**—Brian Blankinship is coordinating a 14th year - date pending - at Lake Anna

**SK304**—A Cold Water Clinic—Moulton Avery may set up another session in early winter if there is continued interest to try out winter gear in cold water with Marion Vittone.

**Gear Day/ Fall out your Boat Day**—Catriona Miller and Kristina McCoy – pending

**PaddleClash 2012**—Jay Gitomer is planning for early June.

**Survivor III**—Jay is coordinating – planning an earlier date before jellyfish arrive.

**Annual Trip Planning Meetings**—VA and MD - look for dates in early 2012.

**Potential Rescue Competition**—to be set up by Jay Gitomer.

**Potential SK 203 Trip Leader training class**

**Holiday Party**—December 2012

**CPA Calendar 2013 Photo Contest**—Ralph Heimlich

**Financial Report 2011**—Treasurer Rich Stevens presented the summary of the 2011 Annual Financial Report and provided a breakdown of income and expenses for each event held during the year, logo gear, membership dues, piracy expenditures, plan-

*(Continued on page 10)*

*Minutes of the Annual Meeting (Continued from page 9)*

ning meetings, bank expenses, and newsletter printing expenses. Rich prepares the annual 501(c) 4 Tax reports required for the IRS and handles all income received via from Paypal, income, and outgoing expense reports. See [report](#).

**Membership Report 2011**—Secretary Sue Stevens summarized the 2011 Membership data- detailed in the graphs capably prepared by Ralph Heimlich: there are now 668 members effective October 1 –up from 646 in 2010 (see [report](#)) She manages the CPA database off line, collects info from Paypal for all new and renewing members, and emails out monthly dues reminders. She is also reviewing the active users on the Forum to determine their membership status- and requesting them to renew their membership & stay active.

An over view of the CPA Forum use from statistics gathered by Web Master Dave Biss shows 1,070 registered user accounts, however only 322 users or 30% were active during the past year. Currently 277 CPA members are registered users—which is 41% of the total club membership. They can also access their own data and membership info status under the Forum user control Profile. Anyone, CPA member or not, can read current topics without logging into the Forum.

**Logo Gear Report**—Bela Mariassy Gear Meister presented the sales summary (see [report](#)). He also has the CPA bumper stickers and patches available. Bela will have shirts (\$15) and tech caps for sale at many upcoming events, and by mail.

**The Chesapeake Paddler Newsletter**—Editor Ralph Heimlich requested articles and updates to keep the newsletter lively and current. He does the mass emailing of the newsletter and handles advertising. Ralph coordinates with Mark Woodside, who works with a local printer company to produce and mail the monthly copies. The Paddler newsletter is sent out via email to 625 members and the printed version is mailed to 55 members – which is a 29% reduction from 78 members in 2010. Ralph also manages the annual CPA Calendar Photo Contest each December and will be seeking entries for the 2012 edition, printing of the CPA membership brochures, and all of the CPA membership cards new and renewing members.

**CPA Library Offerings**—Carolyn and Nelson Labbe has lots of new DVDs for loan out to members –including for Eskimo rolling techniques by Dubsie.

**Presentation & Recognition 2011**—Leaders and volunteers (CPA rockers)—Jay Gitomer will send out CPA rockers to anyone who has earned them for instructors, volunteers, trip leaders, safety boating, swim supports, piracy captain, or Steering Committee activity. Jay thanked everyone for their interest and participation this year and next year. She sees a lot of new paddlers seeking more training opportunities and paddling trips of all kinds. She is seeking more volunteer trip leaders to set up more paddling trips on the calendar – especially shorter trips and encourage younger paddlers to get active. The SC members will be taking on new projects this year – including possible sea and rough water /surf training, winter pool rolling sessions, and advanced classes, as well as assisting in the other events.

### Open Discussion

**NEW Club Liability Insurance**—Jay Gitomer outlined the new general liability and participant accident coverage term insurance policy quote dated October 7, 2011, obtained from Sports Insurance Hawaii.com, a Division of Sports Insurance Global LLC. It states “This program provides protection for all Participants & Staff of the policyholder, against claims of bodily injury liability, property damage liability, and the litigation costs to defend against such claims. Coverage is provided up to \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence with a general aggregate amount of \$2,000,000.00.” The estimated premium cost is \$2,737.88 through October 10, 2011-2012.

**Updating CPA membership brochure**—Kathy Haduch, Maywin Liu and Paula Hubbard have volunteered today to update the brochure with Ralph Heimlich and Sue Stevens. Ralph recommends that the brochure be printed in volume at Staples or some other outlet. It can be distributed to the piracy captains, CPA members, and at other open events.

**Re-Submit Club Application for 501C (3) Nonprofit Status**—Rich Stevens indicated there will be a reasonable fee expense for the re-application. The club bylaws have been revised last year to correctly reflect the clubs goals. Jay will check if CPA member Marilyn Fisher, who works on the legal requirements for nonprofit applications, will assist. [Motion](#) by Jay & seconded - To move forward with reapplying for 501 (c) 3 status was passed.

**New Trip Leaders**—Jay requested that newly trained trip leaders offer trips next year to expand the number of trips and levels of paddling experiences, which will encourage more members to come out and paddle together.

**Winter Pool Rolling Sessions**—There are several locations including the pool at University of Maryland arranged by Mike Hamilton. There may be space at pools in Prince Frederick, and the Eastern Shore.

**New Piracy – Eastern Shore**—Paula Hubbard is tentatively starting up an Eastern Shore piracy. The group met on several Wednesdays last summer to learn skills and to go on short paddles at different locations.

**Wilderness and First Aid Training Class**—A number of paddlers whose existing first aid certifications will be expiring in 2012 are interested in another class. Paul Bieri may be able to set up a class location, which also needs water access for part of the class time.

**Waterfront Lifeguard Certification Training**—Kurt Thiel, who is currently a waterfront lifeguard, may set up certification training for those interested in swim supports.

**CPA and Face Book**—Catriona Miller and Suzanne Farace will moderate and update the CPA Face Book page, replacing Ed Her-shon. They may link it to the CPA webpage.

**2011 Holiday Party**—December 3 hosted by Bob Pullman and Laurie Steele.

**2012 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 event ideas.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.



# Piracy Portents

## CPA Holiday Party—IT'S MOVED!

The traditional CPA holiday party will be held on Saturday, December 3 this year at the home of Laurie Steele and Bob Pullman in Bowie (don't come to my house **AGAIN**—I'll be at the party). Wrap up a special item for the White Elephant gift exchange (nothing of real value, please), share your favorite pot-luck recipe with us all, toss back a few and tell paddling stories with your peers.

Aye...ye be invited fer some holiday spirits at the Annual CPA Holiday Party. Chart yer course fer the 3rd of December (Saturday). We be a meeting at 1900 hours at coordinates: N-39 0' 31" by W-76 47' 38". There will be swashbuckling fun, grub, grog

**Land Lubber translation:** The CPA Holiday Party has MOVED TO hosts Laurie Steele and Bob Pullman. Make your way to their house at 8610 Ross Street, Bowie, MD 20720 on Saturday, December 3 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).

Laurie and Bob will 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 1 via email at [yakerbob@yahoo.com](mailto:yakerbob@yahoo.com). If there are any questions, please call or email: ).

**Driving Directions:** Enter 8610 Ross Street, Bowie, MD 20720 into Google Maps or your GPS: or

From the north on MD-295 (BW Parkway): Head southwest on MD-295 S, Take the Powder Mill Rd exit toward Beltsville (0.3 mi), Turn left onto Powder Mill Rd (0.6 mi), Turn right onto Springfield Rd (2.5 mi), Turn left to stay on Springfield Rd (0.2 mi), Take the 1st left onto Duckettown Rd (0.9 mi), Turn right onto Ross St, Destination will be on the right (0.1 mi).

From the south on MD-295 (BW Parkway): Head north on MD-295 N, Take the Powder Mill Rd exit toward Beltsville (0.3 mi), Turn right onto Powder Mill Rd (0.5 mi), Turn right onto Springfield Rd (2.5 mi), Turn left to stay on Springfield Rd (0.2 mi), Take the 1st left onto Duckettown Rd (0.9 mi), Turn right onto Ross St, Destination will be on the right (0.1 mi)

They're on the corner with a parking problem. Call 301-464-8204 if you're lost.



**Kayak Santa Clauses (Cyndy Janetzko and Dave Biss, photo by Ralph Heimlich**



**The old original Kayak Santa photo by Ralph Heimlich**



Autumn's Last Gasp, College Creek, Williamsburg, VA *photo by Ron Barnett*

## Inside our Nov-Dec 2011 issue:

- Chincoteague Island Peer Paddle
- Surviving the Winter
- What's Up, Dock?
- 2011 Annual Treasurer's Report
- 2011 Membership Report
- KIPP Paddle Recognition
- Logo Gear Report
- Butts in Boats: Participation in CPA Events
- Election Results/Minutes of the Annual Meeting
- CPA Holiday Party Has MOVED!

### 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.