

Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. Volume 24, Issue 5

July, 2014

Paddling into a Tea Party—Chestertown 2014

By Sue Stevens



Kayakers watch the *Sultana* sail by on the Chester River
Photograph by Greg Welker

It started with sheep—yes, those four footed wooly varieties gathered for the 37th annual Sheep & Wool Festival in Howard County, Maryland (<http://www.sheepandwool.org/>), held in May that gave us the idea to paddle to the Chestertown Tea Party Festival. After munching a huge grilled lamb brisket sandwich, checking out the different sheep breeds from all across the eastern US, wandering around oodles of multicolored wool yarn displays, sheep dog herding trials, sheep shearing contests, more lamb BBQ, lamb judging, checking out huge crowds of visitors, and lots of people watching (and spotting several CPA members, obviously clad in our bright orange CPA logo shirt), we were attracted to the magic sounds of hammered dulcimer music (<http://www.maggiesmusic.com>).

Spotting the display of dancing puppets and enjoying a bit of live music, we picked up a small flyer announcing their music schedule: May 10, The Creative Alliance in Baltimore, **May 25 - Chestertown Tea Party Festival (WOW-light bulb effect)**, and a bit later—North East Dulcimer Symposium on Blue Mountain Lake, New York. The North East Symposium is organized by yet another set of CPA members (thanks - David & Elizabeth: www.nedulcimer.org/contact). (This was too much of a coincidence!) There is also a week-long kayaking trip on the CPA calendar in September set on Blue Mountain Lake – and

lots of kayaking opportunities found on the surrounding lakes, now in its 11th year (<http://www.cpakayaker.com/calendar/85/1295-2014-Loons-of-the-Adirondacks/>).

The Chestertown Tea Party Festival (<http://www.chestertownteaparty.com/>) was scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, so we decided to put an announcement for a trip on the CPA calendar STAT! Several years back—there was always a CPA kayaking day trip to the Chestertown Tea Party Festival, but most of us had conflicting weekend plans last year to organize it. It's a fun idea—combining our favorite water hobby and a local river front festival. Checking the schedule for Saturday, May 24—meant starting a bit early—rather than driving all the way to Chestertown—so first we go kayaking!

Gathering a group of twelve paddlers for this trip, we all met early at Southeast Creek Landing in Queen Anne County (<http://crwt.org/chester-river-trail/points/southeast-creek-public-landing>). It's the very end of a dusty gravel road, and very much off the beaten track. By the way: Ever notice how frequently the older road names spell out their local landmarks—such as the ably named Southeast Creek Landing Road. Look around at other locations—and you can usually spot an historic church, corner school or store site, a Bay packet boat landing to service the nearby plantations and farms, or a revolutionary era ferry crossing location. It was quiet here except for the red-wing blackbirds calling from the top of the phragamite reeds (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phragmites>), which sheltered our launch location. Of course, Queen Anne County charges to launch and to park at all of their ramps and landings, so everyone procured their own annual or single day permits first. Good thing: the county inspector rolled in to check for permits twice as we assembled on the water.

Four new kayaking friends joined us from Delaware (Geri & Paul, Tim & Kate), plus eight more paddlers from the Western Shore (Paul & Carrie, Greg & Jenny, Bill, Carol, Rich & Sue), most had never paddled from this quiet landing. Only two other vehicles were parked at the landing—and the tide was going out, so the single boat concrete ramp was easy to navigate—nothing slippery here. It is part of the Chester River Water Trail (<http://srwt.org/partners-trail-chester>) and also the SassafRAS River Trail (<http://srwt.org/sassafRAS-river-trail/about-trail>). Heading west out of Southeast Creek, a pleasant northeast breeze hit us quickly—foretelling more wind. Soon we were on the Chester River at the gravelly point topped with tall scrub pine trees marking the main channel. It's only five miles worth of paddling up river. With Jenny in the lead and Greg volunteering to sweep, it was nice size group—with every color of kayak and hat! How nice is it to see all twelve of us quickly crossing the Chester in unison all abreast, and we stayed out of most of the wind following the wooded northern shore. With the tide out, we were paddling over a mere foot of water

(Continued on page 7)

CLASSIFIEDS

Ads dated three months before the date of this issue will be pulled unless a new request is received by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. And if it has sold...tell us!

Advertising Rates:

We accept display advertising that relates to the interest of our readers. Monthly rates are as follows:

Size	cost	wide x deep (col)
1/8 page	\$20	2.4" x 3.5" (1)
1/4 page	\$32	4.9" x 4.7" (2)
1/2 page	\$50	7.5" x 4.7" (3)
Full page	\$80	7.5" x 9.75" (3)

A 5% discount will be given for ads supplied as electronic files in acceptable formats (i.e., .tif, .gif, .jpeg, bit-map). Email or call for more information and for 10-month discount. See advertising contact in masthead.

Public service announcement and personal ads to sell kayaks/accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for 3 months.

SCHEDULE FOR THE 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. Have an idea for an article, or is there information you would like to see in the newsletter? Email Jenny Plummer-Welker at news_editor@cpakayaker.com or call 301-249-4895.

THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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—Ralph Heimlich
301-498-0918
coordinator@cpakayaker.com

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

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

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

Steering Committee—
steering_committee@cpakayaker.com

Paul Casto 410-353-7221
Paula Hubbard 407-619-2896
Dave Isbell
Jesse Aronson 571-969-1539
Tom Heneghan 703-216-9837
Béla Máriássy 410-507-4972

Webmaster/E-Mail List Administrators—
Stephen Bethke and Paula Hubbard,
webmaster@cpakayaker.com

Newsletter Team:

Editor—Jenny Plummer-Welker 301-249-4895,
news_editor@cpakayaker.com

Paddler Profiles and Skills Series—Rick Wiebush,
rwiebush@gmail.com

Mailing and Distribution—Sue Stevens (digital)
and Jenny Plummer-Welker (hardcopy)

Pirate Groups:

Pier 7 Pirates Committee—
Rich Stevens 703-527-4882,
Béla Máriássy 410-507-4972, Jenny Plummer-
Welker and Greg Welker 301-249-4895, Sue
Stevens 410-531-5641, Brent Cogswell
410-381-0037 pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of Algonkian—James Higgins, 571-659-
3319, pirates_algonkian@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of Baltimore—Dave Wilson
443-962-7612, Marla Aron 301-395-6822,
Rick Wiebush 410-788-1241
pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of the Eastern Shore—Paula Hubbard
407-619-2896
pirates_easternshore@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of Georgetown—Jesse Aronson
571-969-1539, Tom Heneghan 571-969-1866,
Rob Pearlman 240-688-6340
pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of the James—Mary Larson 804-
316-3432, Jon Phipard 804-334-3019
pirates_james@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of the Lakes—Tom Hunt 717-940-6572,
Mark Rizzuto
pirates_lakes@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of the North—Bob Shakeshaft
410-939-0269
pirates_north@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of Occoquan—Jeff Walaszek 703-
670-7712, Jim Zawlocki 703-378-7536
pirates_occoquan@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of Patuxent—Jenny Plummer-Welker
410-535-2348/301-249-4895, Don Polakovics
pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of Potomac—Dick Rock
703-780-6605
pirates_potomac@cpakayaker.com

Pirates of Sugarloaf—Liz Marancik
301-221-0572, Rita Scherping 240-731-9987
pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com

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

NEW: Membership is \$10, \$18, \$27, \$35, for 1, 2, 3, and 4 years. Sign up for membership online at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/join-cpa/become-a-member/> or send checks or changes of membership information to CPA, P.O. Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768. Do not send them to the newsletter team.

The Chesapeake Paddler is published monthly, except November through February when it is published bimonthly, 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 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 Editor.



Belle Isle Trip 2014
Photograph by Rich Stevens



Belle Isle Trip 2014
Photograph by Rich Stevens

Now Is the Summer of Our Content

To paraphrase Shakespeare, now is our time to get out and paddle. The days are long, the air and water are warm and inviting, and the pace of life slows, even if just a little, to let us enjoy our sport to its fullest. No matter what else is going on, I urge you to get out on the Chesapeake waters NOW!

There are a host of opportunities cooked up by energetic CPA trip leaders [on the calendar](#). First, Dave Wilson's ambitious Voyager series continues to wend its way down the Eastern Shore. While there is a dedicated core group, Dave welcomes "guest" paddlers on any of the legs. Some are campers and some are day trips. Legs include #6 Tylers Cove to Wenona, #7 Wenona to Guard Shore, and #8 Guard Shore to Bayford Road. Marshall Woodruff's Kent Island Practice Paddles (KIPP) also continue through the summer.

Car camping trips allow you to economize on driving to choice locations by base camping and doing a series of day trips over a long weekend. Scheduled are campers on the Pocomoke River (Suzanne Farace) and Point Lookout (Ralph Heimlich). Kayak kampers are the equivalent of backpacking with your boat, in which you are self-contained on the water for several days. Scheduled are kayak kampers on the Patuxent (Suzanne Farace and Tom Heneghan) and the Lower Potomac (Ralph Heimlich). Spaces are usually limited for these trips because of the size of the campsites, so don't wait to contact the leader.

There is also no dearth of day trips. Included are Royal Oak and Myles River and the Turners Creek Lotus Tour (Sue and Rich Stevens for both), Mattawoman Creek (also with Lotus; Mike Cohn and Linda Witkin), Mallows Bay from Quantico (Tom Heneghan), Wye Island Circumnavigation (Sue and Rich Stevens), and a dining extravaganza to Cantler's (Chip Walsh).

For those of you in the fast lane, there are several race events planned by Brian Blankinship, including #3 at Truxtun Park, and the final at Occoquan Reservoir.

Just because there is a lot on the calendar doesn't mean we can't use more trips. With over 700 members, there will always be someone looking to go on YOUR trip. Just give at least a couple of weeks lead time so folks can find your trip. For help planning and posting your trip, contact me or any member of the Steering Committee.

The best time to paddle is mid-week at the CPA Pirate enclaves from the Lakes of the Susquehanna to the James River (see [last month's Chesapeake Paddler](#)). Paddling with a Piracy gives you some of the best places to paddle, with knowledgeable and friendly CPA members and a nice break in the middle of the week, and maybe even an *al fresco* dinner. The long days are perfect for Pirate Paddles, and maybe even paddling under a full moon.

Finally, use our online Forum to find or post a peer-paddle. Peer paddles are not official CPA trips, but groups of friends (or new-found friends through the Forum) who agree to paddle together at a particular time and destination. I urge all peer-paddlers to carefully check the marine forecast, apply the [rules for leading a safe trip](#) every time you go out on the water, and file a float plan with someone who can follow up if you don't get back on time.

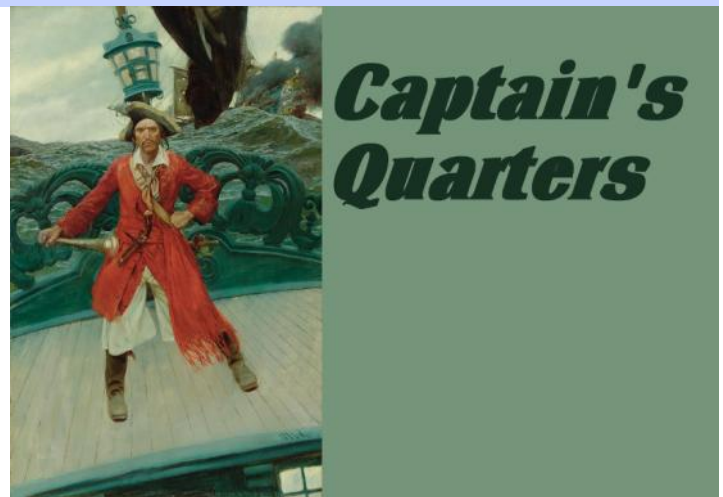
While CPA does not officially sponsor the many swim and kayak support opportunities because of liability issues with our insurance carrier, we do list them on our calendar so you can keep track of what's going on. Most support charities or other worthy causes, and they can be a pleasant day on the water without needing to paddle long distances. Just be sure your skills match the water conditions for the event, so you don't create a second victim.

Regardless of your preferences, you'll find plenty of opportunities to get out on the water in this Summer season. Go! Be Content!



**Ralph Heimlich on a CPA Patuxent River trip,
Selby's Landing to Mount Calvert, Spring 2014**

photograph by Ben Mayoock



**Ralph Heimlich
Coordinator**

CPA Paddler Profiles ~ Catriona Miller

Interview by Rick Wiebush



Catriona Miller paddling on the Potomac River
Photograph by DJ Manalo

Name: Catriona Miller

Lives in: Frederick, Maryland

Real job: Director of Research Initiatives, United States Air Force R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center

Member of a Piracy? I work late so it's hard to make it routinely. When I can make it I move around to different piracies. I paddled with Baltimore three times last year.

Paddling Buddies: Reggie, Jim Z, Aht, Gina, Peter

Number years paddling: 11

How did you get involved in kayaking? I rowed crew in high school and loved the calm feeling of being on the water. I wanted to get that feeling back, so I started kayaking.

How did you learn to sea kayak? Somewhat self-taught, reading books, playing around with different techniques and experimenting. I also went to SK 102 twice as a student.

Any formal training or ACA/BCU certifications: I had a couple of lessons with Gordon Brown in Scotland. I also took some of the lessons that Rick Wiebush does for the Baltimore Pirates, and I did CPA Trip Leader training a couple of years ago.

Boat usually paddled: I have about seven boats, but my favorites are a P&H Vela and a Nigel Foster Silhouette.

Type paddle used: I now use a wing paddle. My regular Euro blade created some wrist problems.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? No, not really.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? I backpack, bike and ski.

How often do you paddle in summer? About once per week.

Do any winter paddling? Yes, I've gone to Florida during Christmas and New Year's for the past four years.

Go to pool sessions? Yes, Fairlands and University of Maryland

Favorite local paddling location: Rocky Gorge Reservoir

Favorite non-local locations: Maine, the Great Lakes and the Virginia Eastern Shore

Best paddling trip/experience ever and why? The first Maine trip we took. We were near Mt. Desert Island at Otter Point doing rock gardening and going in caves and learning to time the swell. There were tourists taking photos of us. We really didn't know what we were doing, but it was a lot of fun.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? On Memorial Day weekend 2013, several of us were attempting the crossing from Jane's Island to Smith Island in 25-30 knot winds and two to three foot waves. The deck bolt that held my seat up was leaking, which I didn't realize until we decided that it was smarter to turn around and not make the crossing. Once we started going down wind, the waves started washing over my back deck and pretty quickly my cockpit was flooded, at which point even with my skeg all the way down, my kayak would only go at a right angle to the wind. Brian Blankinship put me under tow, and after enough force, he'd yank the nose of my kayak down the face of a wave, and I'd go careening. At this point, I was hard pressed to keep upright in an unstable kayak full of water, was leaning back to try to ensure the kayak didn't do an endo, and was trying very hard not to crash into him. I'd fly by the side of him, yanking him, and then we repeated this scenario again and again till we got out of the wind and could empty my kayak. We ended up making the crossing by ferry, and I was very happy that we decided to turn around.

Bucket list trips: I'd like to do a month in Scotland in September. Also the Broken Island chain in the northwest, Baja, Norway and Alaska.

Three things you like most about paddling? 1) The rhythm – it's relaxing. 2) Going to remote places where no other people are around. 3) Rough water.

What do you like about CPA? Generally, the people in the club. Also, SK 102 is a great event.

One thing other people find interesting about you: They are surprised that I actually find time to sleep between the amount of time I spend at my job and all the other activities that I do.

CPA Paddler Profiles ~ Tom Blount

Interview by Rick Wiebush

Name: Tom Blount

Lives in: Olney, Maryland and Charleston, South Carolina (my business is based there).

Real job: Own a trucking company in South Carolina. Also, I'm a retired Navy engineer.

Member of a Piracy? Pirates of Sugar Loaf

Paddling Buddies: Rich, Sue, Suzanne, Ralph, but who I paddle with doesn't matter a lot. I pick trips based on whether it is somewhere new or interesting for me.

Number years paddling: Five

How did you get involved in kayaking? I started off kayak fishing, then joined the Washington, DC meetup group.

How did you learn to sea kayak? I learned a lot by just paddling and people sharing their experiences and tips, but I also did SK 102 and took formal classes at Sea Kayak Carolina.

Any formal training or ACA/BCU certifications: At Sea Kayak Carolina

Boat usually paddled: I paddle a Kevlar Gala Sport, which is from the Czech Republic.

Type paddle used: Both. I favor my Greenland paddle, but will use my Euro if I'm paddling in the ocean.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? No

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Hiking and camping (multi-day trips); fishing

How often do you paddle in summer? Three days a week, both weekend days and once during the week with Pirates of Sugarloaf.

Do any winter paddling? Very little, but I have paddled in Charleston in the winter.

Go to pool sessions? Yes, Fairland

Favorite local paddling location: All around Annapolis

Favorite non-local location: Sparkleberry swamp, near Charleston. I like it so much that I'm now organizing a week-long trip for people from this area and timing it in conjunction with the East Coast festival in Charleston in April.

Best paddling trip/experience ever and why? Last 4th of July, Suzanne Farace organized a trip to the Pocomoke River. I loved the Bald Cypress swamp. There were about 25 people on the trip. I got thrown out of camp for snoring.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? One New Year's Day several years ago, I was paddling in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. I was hung over and dressed totally inappropriately (no dry or wet suit). I hit a branch, went over and could not self-rescue, so I had to swim to shore. I got hypothermic quickly and the rest of the group had to take care of me. It took me two weeks to warm up. I've never paddled dressed like that again.

Bucket list trips: Adirondacks, Boundary Waters, South Florida for the mangroves

Three things you like most about paddling? 1) The connection with the water; 2) being with friends and socializing with like-minded people; and 3) learning new skills.

What do you like about CPA? The camaraderie, their sense of adventure and fun, and the unique social environment (being in nature; interest in skill development).

One thing other people find interesting about you: That even though I'm an engineer by training, I'm versatile, flexible and willing to try new things.



Tom Blount kayaking at Fountainhead
photo by Madeline Towle

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Eastern Shore of Virginia Paddling... and more

New B&B Adventure Sampler

A weekend getaway full of outdoor fun and historic B&B's centered around the 1680 Colonial port town of Onancock on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Options include a Seaside or Bayside trip, SouthEast Expeditions' Kayak Winery Tour, Hang-gliding, and Stand-Up Paddleboarding. Families and groups welcome!

Onancock Challenge: Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014

SouthEast Expeditions' annual Kayak/Canoe/SUP Races on Onancock Creek. There are 5K and 10K courses suitable for all categories of paddlers: Kayak, SUP, Surfski, Outrigger Canoe and K1. Seafood Boil to follow. Register online: paddleguru.com/races/OnancockChallenge

Fall Kayak Camping Expeditions

Autumn lingers on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Join us on special Fall kayak camping trips along the Chesapeake Bay. We'll explore vast marshes and remote beaches by day, and enjoy cool evenings under the stars on our exclusive island campsites.



Rooftop of Virginia Hike & Bike: Columbus Day Weekend Oct. 10-13, 2014

"Take a hike" during peak foliage season in Southwest Virginia. Tackle Virginia's highest peak, Mount Rogers, on the AT the next. A cozy lodge deep in the hollows of Grayson County is our base camp for hot showers, soft beds and delicious meals as we toast each day's adventure!

NEW! Costa Rica Eco-Adventure Dec. 12-19, 2014

Rainforest hikes, wildlife and botanical tours, and paddling on the unspoiled Golfo Dulce, a prime breeding ground for humpback whales and dolphins. This trip to the lesser-known South Pacific coast is for all experience levels with a wide span of activities and stays in comfortable eco-lodges. Just a few spaces left!

Next month: Florida Keys, Everglades and Calusa Blueway winter trips



About us: Bill & Mary Burnham are authors of several guides, including *Hiking Virginia* and *The Florida Keys Paddling Atlas*. Join them on kayak trips in Florida, eco-lodge adventures in Costa Rica, Douro River trips through Portugal, and on the Eastern Shore of Virginia with SouthEast Expeditions. Details on all the above can be found at BurnhamGuides.com or by calling 305-240-0650.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Whoop! Join the Fun!

Kiptopeke Sea Kayaking Symposium

September 19 - 21, 2014
Virginia Barrier Islands

10 courses to choose from each day; all skill levels
Venues: Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean
Housing in the state park lodges

www.crosscurrentsseakayaking.com

Instructors: Jen Kleck, Alison Sigethy, Tom Noffsinger,
Chris Raab, Rick Wiebush, Ed Schiller, Ken Fandetti,
Jay Gitomer, Brian Blankinship, Mike Kunselman,
Paula Hubbard, Kevin Black, Tom Malone



(Continued from page 1)

in some places. The whole northern edge of the shoreline is shallow and sandy, a great spot for leisure boaters to jump out and party. No one is out swimming yet—it's not even 10 a.m. We have come over three miles—the town church steeple and a round silver water tower glows in the morning sun—it's going to be a hot day!

Half way there, we re-group around a large red marker buoy at a wide turn in the Chester River to catch our breath. We could hear the morning parade's drums booming down the open river. Checking the view upriver, we spied the schooner Sultana in full sail—and headed straight for our group clustered at the red marker buoy! The schooner Sultana is the pride of Chestertown—built in town (<http://www.baygateways.net/general.cfm?id=92>). It is one of the tall ships in the fleet for the War of 1812 Reenactment set on the Patuxent River June 21-22.

Faster than expected in the light winds, the Sultana's full sails came straight toward our buoy. Moving a bit further safely toward the lee shore, we had a great view—and the folks on board got some great photos of us kayakers as they passed down river on their morning cruise. Seeing it so close up—we may be planning another kayak trip to Chestertown for the down rigging of the Sultana November 1 (<http://sultanaeducation.org/public-programs/downrigging-weekend/>).

With only a mile to go, we soon landed adjacent to the large wood pavilion next to Washington College's long, low rowing docks. Rich had emailed ahead to get permission from the college to land, so the coast was clear. Low tide still meant a lot of sticky black mud for everyone—our shoes were full of mud, as well as the kayaks. Another large bunch of kayakers on a shorter outing offered by the Chesapeake Adventure Kayakers: <http://www.meetup.com/Chesapeake-Kayak-Adventures/> landed at the same time (including several CPA members). This group had started from the public landing on Morgan Creek just east of Chestertown on MD 291. Suddenly, thirty-five kayaks were spread across the green lawn—what a colorful gaggle of kayakers.

A three year old hand-carry kayak launch, which is part of the Chester River Water Trail (<http://srwt.org/chester-river-trail/points/wilmer-park-chestertown>), is located on the north side of the wood pavilion's shoreline. It is part of the shady waterfront

(Continued on page 8)



Kayaks parked at Washington College
Photograph by Rich Stevens

(Continued from page 7)



Public kayak launch at Washington College
Photograph by Rich Stevens

Wilmer Park, off a nice sunken pathway of wide concrete pavers. It is surrounded by a large shoreline buffer of native plantings to help restore the surrounding marsh area, which used to be horribly mucky at low tide. The concrete paver access still had a sandy berm visible even at low tide, which will make landing easier at high tide. It would be easy to miss from the water with the tall native grasses, and it is a long walk from the nearest parking lot at Wilmer Park: will need wheels for an easy carry here. There was a great view of the waterfront from the deck of the raised wood pavilion, which is a great place to eat lunch in the shade. On Sunday, the Festival holds a homemade silly raft race in this cove (http://www.chestertownteaparty.org/?page_id=131)—another great way to connect people to the water.

Next stop is the festival downtown. Changing out of wet shoes and damp gear into drier duds, we cabled all twelve of our kayaks together for a bit of security, and headed up Water Street toward the festival—now in full swing on High Street. The parade was just finishing, and the streets were full of costumed revolutionary colonials, summer soldiers in British red-coats, uniformed band members, all outnumbered by festival goers and children running amok.

With too many craft booths to check out, we scattered up the shady street toward the smells of lunch—and the food vendors. A big favorite is a local church group's huge fried fish sandwich—hot and tasty, served on top of two slices of white bread—too yummy! The church's stall, with hardly a waiting line this year, had moved to a new location across the crowded Monument Park Square. Music from the corner stage made a lively scene. The streets were full of food tents and tasty offerings—everything from Amish whoopee pies, homemade desserts, donuts, fried clams, hamburgers, someone selling lamb chops and steaks (note: sheep again!), fried dough, craft beer, strawberry shortcake, as well as carved house signs, voter registration booths, jewelry, rose bushes for sale and vendor booths—with more smoke from the grills: everything smelling great!

Next to the Emmanuel Episcopal Churchyard, we heard the magic sound of dulcimer Celtic music AGAIN! While in the shade of a huge magnolia tree full of climbing children, there were several very patient milking goats (sorry- no sheep at this location) that were getting “test” milked by the children. A big white tent in the shade held an exhibit of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Scales & Tails from Tuckahoe State Park (<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/snt.asp>). The park rangers were displaying recovered hawks and owls, which cannot go out flying wild due to their injuries—usually because of their close encounters getting hit by cars. They had cages of local snakes (the hog nose snake was very actively going up the side of his screen cage and showing off his bands of color) and several kinds of box and water turtles to show to hordes of eager children and their grownups. There was so much to see, eat and sample, but we were ready to return to our kayaks in time to see the Tea Party reenactment from the water!

Back in our kayaks, everyone drifted toward the anchored Sultana, now flying a British flag for the show. Everyone was in costume, geared up and shooting white puffs of cannon smoke across the water back toward other reenactors stationed on the waterfront. A number of moored sailboats and motor boats circled the Sultana and there was plenty of space for kayakers to watch the action in the front row, so to speak. The local water patrol boat also kept the water view clear. The packs of sightseers crowded along the narrow harbor street to watch the shoreside action. Costumed Colonials and Redcoats backed down High Street through the middle of the crowds—their alternating gun volleys booming with more smoke. We could not see their street action, but could hear the guns booming when they arrived at the wharf. Suddenly, a whole bunch of costumed soldiers rowed into view—in full “retreat,” followed by colonials, who rowed out to the anchored Sultana. Immediately, various large brown “bales” of tea and red-coated people were flying through the air and landing in the river. The British colors were pulled and the Stars and Stripes appeared on board. The colonials threatened—and more red-coated guys jumped over board and hung onto the tea bales. Everyone was cheering to toss more red-coats and people overboard: the tea party was on!

With the tea-dunking done, our kayak fleet gathered up to head down the Chester. This time we crossed the open channel—12 abreast in one group—staying away from the other motor boaters leaving the reenactment scene. Many of the riverside houses' docks stretching out into the river gave us protection from the busier river traffic channel. The passing boats produced some nice rolling wakes—making easy surfing. The wind was behind us the whole way—we had smooth paddling for another four miles. We kayaked past Bogle's wharf—where the Maryland Swim for Life event will be held on July 12; it's on the CPA calendar (<http://www.cpakayaker.com/calendar/85/767-23nd-Maryland-Swim-for-Life---Swim-Support/>). This a fun day assisting experienced swimmers in a protected fresh water venue, with lots of good fun and an event T-shirt too.

We spotted a small noisy Great Blue Heron rookery below the Wharf—with a resident heron parent standing guard on the very top of a rather large pine tree. It had no shelter from the weather up there—we wondered how they survive to fledge! The point where the group turned into the creek was topped by more large pines growing on top of a short cliff of orange eroding rock—very unusual when most of the Chester River shoreline is sandy or marshy. Around the point into Southeast Creek, we kayakers spotted a huge stick nest of a bald eagle hidden inside the top of another large pine tree, which we missed when we paddled past on the way out. A large brown

(Continued on page 11)



Chestertown Tea Party Reenactment
Photograph by Rich Stevens

Belle Isle, Virginia: A Watery World on the Northern Neck

By Ralph Heimlich

In early June, 12 CPA members joined me for a delightful weekend of kayaking and sightseeing on Virginia's Northern Neck. We base-camped at Belle Isle State Park, one of the newest parks in the Virginia system (opened in the early 1990s) that has a new camping facility with modern bathhouses only a few years old. The park is actually on a peninsula surrounded by Tidewater coastal marshes near Morattico on the northern shore of the Rappahannock River. The park and Georgian style mansion were operated in the 19th century as a plantation. The property was acquired in 1692 by John Bertrand, and the Belle Isle mansion was built around 1760 by Raleigh Downman and restored in the 1940s. We had unusually good weather all weekend for our trip. Temperatures were in the 80's with fair skies and gentle winds all weekend long.

As paddlers began to arrive around noon on Friday, we set up camp and then repaired to Belle Isle's canoe launch on the western end of the peninsula, overlooking Mulberry Creek. My wife Beth and I launched our tandem sit-on-top, and we were quickly followed by Dick Rock, Jesse Aronson, Susan Green, Michael Cohn and Linda Witkin, Sue and Rich Stevens, Rosemary Wallace, Jim Allen, Steven Jahncke, and Wayne Lipscomb. We paddled a surprisingly long way up the creek, after we found the correct channel, and then reversed course and paddled along the creek past Moraticco, out onto the Rappahannock as far as Curletts Point and Lancaster Creek before returning to the launch. For those interested, the state park has recently established a paddle-in campsite on Brewers Point, at the extreme western end of the peninsula, that can be used for kayak camping.

Dinner Friday evening was up to individuals, but there was a great deal of visiting back and forth between campsites in the small campground. On Saturday, we traveled out of the park to paddle around Fleets Island and Windmill Point. Located at the northern mouth of the Rappahannock, the paddle around Fleets Island is one of my favorite in fair weather because of the vistas out on the open Bay, the long sandy beaches, and lovely, clean, clear water. We launched from the public beach access at the end of Windmill Point Road (VA 695) and turned east toward the open Bay. We rounded Windmill Point and paddled north along the beaches up into Fleets Bay. Conditions were fine, with only a gentle breeze and soft waves lapping on the sand. Rounding into Little Bay, we came on a host of sailboats anchored for the weekend and landed for lunch on a sheltered beach just inside Oyster Creek. Part of the group, led by Rich and Sue Stevens, wanted to complete the circumnavigation by ascending Oyster Creek and wending through the inland passages of Fleets Island, passing under the road and exiting through Little Oyster Creek to finish at our original launch. The rest of us retraced our paddle back along the outer beaches, landing back at the launch.



The canoe launch at Belle Isle State Park

Photograph by Beth Heimlich



The launch on Fleets Island at the end of Windmill Point Road

Photograph by Ralph Heimlich

On Saturday night, we drove to the historic Lancaster Tavern Bed and Breakfast for dinner. In 1790, Henry Hinton was granted permission by the Court at Lancaster to build a tavern, "... 30 yards from the east door of the Court House." The building appears much as it must have so very long ago: a two story house with huge hand hewn timbers visible in the basement as the remnants of an early wine cellar. The tavern's selections of seafood, chops and steaks were excellent, and everyone enjoyed dinner and the summery drive back to camp in the gathering darkness.

Sunday morning, after a leisurely breakfast and packing up, we drove west along the neck to Carters Wharf boat ramp at the end of VA 622. We launched and paddled up the Rappahannock along the impressive Fones Cliffs. These four-mile cliff formations along the eastern side of the Rappahannock River, midway between the Route 301 bridge in Port Royal and the Route 360 bridge in Tappahannock, contain diatomaceous earth and are visible from miles away due to their white color. Diatomaceous earth was formed millions of years ago, when all of this territory was underneath the sea and the cliffs are another part of a large ancient reef that formed off the coast of the then Atlantic

(Continued on page 10)

(*Continued from page 9*)

Coast. Sharks teeth and large sea scallops (the Virginia state fossil) can be found in these cliffs. Other outcroppings of the same formation are at Westmoreland State Park on the Potomac, and the Calvert Cliffs.

The Fones Cliffs formation is recognized as having one of the highest concentrations of bald eagles on the East Coast, and is highlighted in the National Geographic map "Treasured Landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay." Fones Cliffs has its own place in history, too: in 1608, the Rappahannock Indians attacked Captain John Smith as he navigated his shallop below the cliffs. Nobody attacked us as we paddled along below the cliffs, craning our necks to stare up at them. We peeked into Brokenbrough Creek, and up PeeDee Creek, a little farther up river, before returning to the launch. Everyone loaded up the boats and gear and headed for home.

We had a great weekend exploring the water world of Belle Isle and left feeling that we had to return another time to hit all the great paddling locations on this part of the Northern Neck. My thanks to all the participants and to Bill Dodge for pioneering this great Virginia kayak camping location.



Beautiful water and beaches on Fleets Island
Photograph by Ralph Heimlich

My pictures online at <https://plus.google.com/photos/102459087707170525949/albums/6022725307996208337?banner=pwa>

Jesse Aronson's (with GPS tracks) at <https://plus.google.com/photos/104764324610301945404/albums/6023463269086881073?authkey=CL773ZrKpv2WGg>

And Rich Steven's of Mulberry Creek:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/100456121536050404533/albums/6023432251508385473>

Fleets Island:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/100456121536050404533/albums/6023437159717039537>

and Peedee Creek:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/100456121536050404533/albums/6023442568251320593>

Pier 7 Pirates Go A-roving!

Starting July 23, 2014, the Pirates will be returning to an old tradition of kayak-roving to new launches within Anne Arundel County to explore creeks and coves along the Chesapeake Bay.

The Pirates will not be gathering to launch on to the South River from the Pier 7 Marina location, which is now under new ownership and policies. They will now require fees of \$10 per vehicle to park and \$10 per kayak to launch.

There are new launches to try out, which are part of the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks string of new pocket parks. Check out the locations: <http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/launch/index.cfm#Sites>. These sites have car-top launches and give basic and decent access to the water – HURRAH!

PLEASE look for more info on the CPA Forum as to where and when we will be launching since we will be moving to new locations each Wednesday to meet and kayak! AND our NEW NAME – how about the "Pirates of Arundell"?

July 23 – The Pirates of Arundell will meet at Galesville Wharf Kayak launch 4847 Riverside Drive, Galesville, MD. We plan to launch around 4:30-5 PM. There are several nearby restaurants to check out after our paddle! Here's the link: http://www.aacounty.org/recparks/parks/community/galesville_wharf.cfm#.U8lk5CxOV1s.

JULY 30 – The Pirates of Arundell will meet after the ribbon cutting at the new Shady Side Park kayak launch, which is located behind the ball field: 1355 West Shady Side Road, Shady Side, MD. We plan to launch around 4:30-5 PM and kayak till dusk: <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/1355+E+West+Shady+Side+Rd,+Shady+Side,+MD+20764/@38.845294,-76.5182558,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m8!4m7!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x89b78b17b881c40d:0xbb6ff3ecc063bd16!2m2!1d-76.51611!2d38.845294>.

Announcement by Sue Stevens, Pirate Captain

Chesapeake Paddlers Association Tentative 2014 Calendar

Date	Title	Summary
7/18/14 to 7/19/14	Chesapeake Bay Voyagers Series #6	This is the sixth paddle of a series covering the entire east shore of the Bay. Intermediate trip. David Wilson, davidwilsonmd@gmail.com, 443-962-7612
7/19/14 to 7/20/14	Practice Kayak Kamper (Patuxent River)	A chance to try out camping from your kayak for one night, combined with an easy paddle each day, and with guidance and support from more experienced kayak kamperers. Suzanne Farace, sfarace@verizon.net, 410-446-5991, and Tom Heneghan (THIS TRIP IS NOW FULL.)
7/19/14	CPA Race Series #3	This is the third race in the series, five miles at Truxtun Park. Brian Blankinship, Brian@BayKayaking.com, 443-994-7990
7/19/14	Swim Ocean City Swim Support (Non CPA Event)	Support swimmers benefiting the Outpatient Neuro Rehab Program at Johns Hopkins Medical Center, working with all sorts of brain injuries from strokes or concussions. Corey Davis, Ocean Games Race Director, corey@swimocmd.com, 410-200-0761
7/19/14	Royal Oak & Miles River	Day paddle near St. Michael's. Sue & Rich Stevens, susiegreenthumb@verizon.net, 410-531-5641
7/27/14	Celebration Sprint Triathlon Swim Support (Non CPA Event)	Kayak swimmer support for Celebration Sprint Triathlon, Centennial Lake, Howard County, MD. Sue Stevens, susiegreenthumb@verizon.net, 410-531-5641
8/2/14	Turner Creek Lotus Tour	Trip to see the native lotus blooming in the coves on the upper Sassafras River. Sue Stevens, susiegreenthumb@verizon.net, 410-531-5641, Rich Stevens
8/2/14	Final CPA Race, #4	Final 2014 race in the CPA series, 4 and 8 miles, Occoquan Reservoir. Brian Blankinship, Brian@BayKayaking.com, 443-994-7990
8/2/14	Manhattan Circumnavigation by Kayak (Non CPA Event)	Yonkers Paddling & Rowing Club, Jerry Blackstone, gerrychem@aol.com, 914-318-4630 https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014_Manhattan_Circumnavigation
8/3/14	Mattawoman Creek	Paddle to the lotus. Mike Cohn, mdcohn@verizon.net, 301-283-2391, cell 301-751-0368, Linda Witkin cell 301-385-3614
8/9/14	Kent Island Paddle (KIP-9 14')	The KIP series is for paddlers who want to have a distance challenge, build their skills and knowledge of paddling. The first two sessions will be open to advanced beginners, then the paddle will be closed. Marshall Woodruff, 202-345-0606, marshall.woodruff@gmail.com
8/10/14	Quantico Marine Base to the Ghost Ships of Mallow's Bay	Launch from Quantico Marine Base, cross the 2 mile wide Potomac and explore the ghost ships in Mallow's Bay. Tom Heneghan, tom@theneghan.com, 571-969-1866
8/15-17/14	Patuxent River Kayak Kamper	Pack your boat and come along for lazy days on the River. Ralph Heimlich, heimlichfamily@comcast.net, 301-498-0918 (leave a message).

Visit the CPA Web page, <http://www.cpakayaker.com/>, for more events, details and trip leader/organizer contact information. For a full listing of upcoming Club events, visit the CPA Calendar, <http://www.cpakayaker.com/index.php?page=calendar>.

CPA Classifieds

Kayak for sale. Klepper Tramp fiberglass river touring kayak (has scratches). 25" wide x 14' long. \$200. On Eastern Shore. George Hires, grhires@aol.com, 443-366-6564.

(Continued from page 8)

immature eagle chick sat on its edge; it was not nearly noisy as the heron babies. There was no parent eagle with a fish for supper in sight—so the chick may be almost ready to fly. Our return trip was turning into a birding expedition!

Once we were back at our landing, which is hidden behind a huge bank of phragamite from the water view, and all kayakers loaded, our crowd was hungry again—craving something cold. While our Delaware paddlers headed north, toward a smoke-oven pizza spot in Newark, Delaware, the rest of the kayakers headed south. We soon discovered homemade ice cream at one of the best known places along US 50: Holly's Restaurant at Jackson Creek Road, right off US 50 on a westbound ramp, which may be changing a [lot](http://www.myeasternshoremd.com/news/queen_anne_county/article_ce9a215b-0715-5d6e-9d40-5666d27d58ba.html) (http://www.myeasternshoremd.com/news/queen_anne_county/article_ce9a215b-0715-5d6e-9d40-5666d27d58ba.html).

Another convenient sandy beach with a nice hand-carry kayak launch is hidden down the road behind Holly's, but again, you need a Queen Anne's County parking permit on your vehicle to launch here (<http://crwt.org/chester-river-trail/points/jackson-creek-landing>). This spot is a great sheltered kayaking area, with some nice sandy private beaches once you get past the backyard piers. Some kayakers have launched—for a really longer paddle—from this beach to go around Eastern Neck Island—shorter drive but a longer paddle trip. Our kayakers filled up on homemade ice cream milkshakes, homemade crab soup, pancakes, waffles, and a picture worthy chocolate brownie sundae—what a way to end a perfect paddling day. Thanks to everyone who made it a great day on the water. Who says kayakers just paddle—We paddle to eat and see the sights too!

Link to Rich's photographs: <https://plus.google.com/photos/100456121536050404533/albums/6017426365179743441>.



Kayaking along Fones Cliffs
Photograph by Ralph Heimlich

Inside this issue:

- [Paddling into a Tea Party - Chestertown 2014](#)
- [Captain's Quarters: Now Is the Summer of Our Content](#)
- [Paddler Profile - Catriona Miller](#)
- [Paddler Profile - Tom Blount](#)
- [Trip Report: Belle Isle, Virginia](#)
- [Pier 7 Pirates Go A-roving](#)
- [CPA Tentative 2014 Calendar](#)
- [CPA Classifieds](#)

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.
P.O. 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; please notify the Secretary for changes to your email address. If your CPA membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues. SEE BOX ON PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS.