

The Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

Volume 26 Issue II

March 2016

SK101

It's not too late to pass this information on to your friends. Cut and paste this info into an email to invite paddler wannabees to the SK101 seminar.

Sea Kayaking 101 (SK-101) is a one-day indoor seminar being held on 19 March 2016 focused on introducing people to the sport.

Details and the registration form is available on the web at <http://cpakayaker-sk101-2016.eventbee.com>, and questions can be sent to: sk101.cpa@gmail.com.

Knowledgeable people will be available to discuss different aspects of kayaking. Presentations include:

- Choosing the right kayaks and paddles
- Equipment needed to start paddling
- Basics of safe paddling
- Places to paddle in the Maryland/DC/Virginia area
- Other topics of interest

There will be a variety of kayaking gear on display: kayaks, paddles, equipment, clothing, car racks and more. This event is primarily for the new paddler or those interested in getting into the sport; however, everyone is invited to expand their paddling horizons

Cost is \$28/person.

Saturday, March 19, 2016

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

West River Center, West River, Maryland.

Includes a light breakfast and lunch.

Advanced registration is required.

Space is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis.

Registrations must be received by March 13, 2016.

Pirate News



Is your kayak sitting on it's rack looking forlorn? Are you staring out the window waiting for the temperature to rise? Are you itching to don that goofy hat and slither into your kayak cockpit? Well, have no fear, spring is coming and with it brings plenty of kayaking opportunities. Get your paddle dusted off, your paddling shorts aired out, and get ready, because it will be here before we know it. Find out what the Piracies are doing this year by reading the following articles. Contact the Captains if you have any questions or want to join them ([p. 2](#)). Check out the [calendar](#) to find other adventures for all levels of paddling. See you on the water!

All Piracy Paddles:

A sea kayak, PFD, paddle float, bilge pump, spray skirt, and waterproof light on your PFD or kayak (for night paddles) are required for all CPA paddles. A [CPA waiver](#) must be completed and given to one of the Pirate Captains the first time you paddle with each piracy yearly. Contact information is located on page 2 of the newsletter. Check out the Piracy pages and the forums for additional and up-to-date information. Piracies: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/paddle-now/paddling-pirates/>. Forums: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewforum.php?f=37>

Algonkian - Captain James Higgins

The Algonkian Chapter will begin Tuesday evenings on May 3rd or 10th. Depending on the weather or sunset, the last paddle of the season will be in early October (4th or 11th). We meet around 5 pm; launch by 5:30; and are off the water around sunset. The launch fee is \$4.00 per boat, per day or Fairfax County residences can buy the season pass (\$40). Directions can be found at: http://www.nvrpa.org/park/algonkian/content/hours_and_directions Please bring water, a snack, water proof camera, and bug spray.

I listen to WTOP for the latest weather updates & communicate w/ the Queens of the Sugarloaf Chapter, if needed, being situated 2 miles upstream from Riley's, we can discuss the ever changing weather, storms, lightning & flooding! Depending on time & weather, I personally like to paddle up to and around the 3rd. Island Van Deventer and back to the ramp, it's about 6 miles round trip! I've had up to 6 paddlers this past season, we also run into the Sugarloaf Chapter paddling out of Riley's Lock Captained by Rita and Liz!

[Continued on p. 6; Pirates](#)

SK102

planning is in full swing.
Check out [page 5](#) for
information.



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.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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. 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!

THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLER

The Chesapeake Paddler is published 10 times a year, with combination issues in Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb. The deadline for submitting copy is the 15th of the preceding month. Have an idea for an article, or is there information you would like to see in the newsletter?

The newsletter 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.

News From the CPA Coordinator - Ralph Heimlich

Your Home and Our Future

This edition is about our Paddling Piracies, the week night paddle venues in your local area that I always think of as our paddling homes. Most of us go on trips and get exposed to a wide variety of CPA and non-CPA paddlers, but its the folks at our local Piracies we paddle with week after week, year after year. They really get to be our paddling "family" and the Piracies become our paddling "home".

Like real families and homes, each Piracy is a unique blend of its members, reflecting its own unique character. Some Piracies are staid and a bit stuffy, some are the "hippy" kids on the block, and some are unique in other ways. What ever YOUR Piracy is like, it's still like home.

Just because you have a home doesn't mean you can't wander a bit, too. The various Piracies would love to have you visit. They'll show you their paddling neighborhood and highlight all the best places to go.

Regardless, I urge you to get out and take advantage of the mid week paddles. It may take a bit of planning and a degree of resolve. After all, nobody puts "I should have spent more time in the office" on their tombstone!

The other activities highlighted in this issue have to do with our future as a club. SK 101 (Introduction to Sea Kayaking) and SK 102 (on-water training) are the two most important ways new kayakers find CPA. Without a constant infusion of new blood, CPA, like any club relying on volunteers, will eventually wither and die. One thing that EVERY CPA member can do to help is get the word out to your friends, neighbors, or family members that might want to join you kayaking to get in these two classes and start out on the right foot.

A third training event was held at the end of February at Janes Island State Park's Daugherty Creek conference center. A group of 16 trip leaders in training were put through an intensive two-day classroom session on navigation, trip planning, emergency procedures, risk assessment and other topics important for leading CPA trips. This group will also do a weekend in June that will



Ralph Heimlich

Photo by Suzanne Farace

emphasize on-water rescue, towing and group management skills.

Trip leaders are another key component in CPA's continuing existence. Without a constant influx of new trip leaders, our calendar of trips would also wither and die. This year's crop of trip leaders will begin leading trips this year, so look out for them and let them know you appreciate their efforts.

Finally, the Planning Meeting in February, and its aftermath, led to a very full calendar of day trips, campers, kayak campers, and activities and events. [Check it out at http://www.cpakayaker.com/paddle-now/calendar/](http://www.cpakayaker.com/paddle-now/calendar/) Between the weekly Piracies and this bursting calendar, there is plenty of paddling for your pleasure this season! 🐾



I'm Ready!

<https://barkpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/kurgo1-600x374.jpg>

Paddler Profile: Greg Welker

by Bob Browning

Lives in: Bowie, Maryland

Real job: Retired from Maryland State Highways, now doing part time consulting in Highway Construction Engineering/Management.

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? I attend the Pirates of Arundel, and occasionally the Patuxent Pirates in order to paddle with my wife Jenny. It is really interesting to attend the different piracies. Each has their own "flavor".

Number of years paddling: Paddling since 1991

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I was involved in wildlife photography, and needed a way onto the water. So I bought a sea kayak instead of a canoe. On one of my early paddles I met a CPA member on the water. I kept repeating the CPA contact phone number he gave me all the way back to the ramp...

What boats do you paddle?

- KayakSport Vivianne/19 ft/red over white, as my camping kayak. Rudder and a skeg, plus outrigger sail rig.
- Impex Outer Island/18 ft/green over white, as my play/rolling sea kayak. Accidentally did my first hand roll demoing the boat, so I bought it - Skegged.
- Kruger Seawind/17 ft/white over white. A partially decked sea canoe with sprayskirt, it is my favorite boat. It will handle much of the water we paddle with sea kayaks. Ruddered, and equipped with a BSD sail rig.

Rudder or skeg? If you're going to sail, you really need a rudder. Otherwise, skegs seem more prone to problems than rudders on club trips. Most long distance paddlers I know use ruddered boats due to the efficiency of not having to make corrective strokes.

Type paddle used: What's a Euro? With my ruddered boats, I like a single blade bent shaft ZRE racing canoe paddle. Add a Greenland paddle for rough water or downwind runs. I save the Euro for the pack canoe.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? Jenny and I both paddle ultralight canoes that we use in the Adirondacks. My other activity on the water is sailing the Vivianne and the Seawind as part of the east coast Sails Angels canoe/kayak sailing group.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? If not on the water, I bike camp and backpack. I am working my way through the big rail trails on the east coast and section hiking the lower half of the Appalachian Trail as time allows.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? In 2015, I was in my canoes and kayaks 117 days. From May-October I was on the water 73 times. Jenny and I both keep logs of our boating, noting location, time, distance, boat used, etc.

Do any winter paddling? Yes, but Jenny and I pick our days and locations carefully depending on the wind and weather. No ice breaking.

Favorite local paddling location: My go-to location is the Patuxent River, usually from Selby Landing. It's about 10 minutes from the house. Otherwise, I look at my charts and make a decision based on the forecast. Two hours can get me to the bottom of Southern Maryland and the Patuxent river mouth or Mallow's Bay, or across the bay bridge to the Chester River. I like long paddles. 20-30 miles with the Greenland is nice, 30-40 miles with the single blade. So I look for places conducive to that type of paddling.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: A certain skills clinic CPA held many years ago at Dares Beach. The waves were picking up,



Greg Welker

Photo by Shannon Bishop

and everyone else got off the water except this one lady. I decided I needed to meet her, and later she married me. Someone once said, "Do what you love, and your love will find you."

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? Sea kayaking the North Carolina lower Outer Banks. Our CPA group saw no one else for five days, ate shrimp and mussels, and watched wild horses and sunsets.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? I almost scalped myself on the coaming of a loose boat in surf during a kayak surfing trip in Delaware once. That hurt a lot. CPA rules come from bad experiences. I am the reason CPA has a helmet rule for surfing.

Future bucket list trip: More of Florida – the Everglades and the west coast rivers and shoreline.

Three things you like most about paddling? 1. Time alone in my boat. 2. Exploring new shorelines with my paddling partner. 3. Camping out of the boat.

What do you like about CPA? Our culture of sharing knowledge – whether it is teaching paddling skills, helping with boat repairs, or showing people interesting places to paddle by leading trips on the waters you know.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? No idea. You'll have to ask someone who knows me.... 🐼

We would like to know about you! Contact Bob Browning if you are interested in a being featured in the Paddler Profile or if you know of someone else he can contact. Contact Bob at: BBBrowning43@verizon.net



CPA's 18th Annual SK102 Skills Clinic

April 29-May 1, 2016

Lake Anna, VA

SK102 is CPA's on-water skills clinic weekend.

Registration Period: February 1 – March 28, 2016

Register Here: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/sk102/>

SK102 offers on-the-water skills classes covering wet exits, basic strokes, basic and advanced rescues, stroke improvement, rolling and more. Additional on land courses (i.e. navigation, kayak camping, etc.) are offered. SK102 is designed to teach beginner or intermediate kayakers proper paddling technique and the skills they need to kayak safely.

IT'S ALSO A HECK OF A LOT OF FUN. Read: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/sk102-narrative>

SK102 sells out every year with a significant waitlist. New paddlers and SK101 attendees receive priority.

Where: Lake Anna is 2 hours south of Washington DC. The lake is a nuclear power plant cooling pond, so the water is very clear and heated – allowing you to practice wet exits, rescues, and rolling in warm water in early spring! The location is private property on which you are welcome to camp.

Cost: \$50, which includes the cost of two days of all volunteer instruction, camping on-site, morning coffee, Saturday night dinner, porta-potties and a one year CPA membership.

Required: You are required to bring a kayak, spray skirt (for closed cockpit kayaks), life vest, paddle, pump, and paddle float. You will be required to sign a release of liability.

Rental kayaks & gear are available to be delivered to SK102: http://www.cpakayaker.com/sk102_rental/

Saturday Classes: Sign up for 2 of these classes when you register:

Kayak Design, Wet Exit, Basic Strokes *If you are new to paddling and/or have not had kayaking lessons*

Discover features separating various kayak designs and their value to you

Wet Exiting is the most critical kayak skill for safety—a requirement for attending CPA trips

The proper basic strokes will make your paddling much more fun and efficient.

Stroke Improvement, Intermediate Strokes, Bracing *For those who are proficient in basic strokes.*

Improve your basic strokes to increase your efficiency and form

Learn intermediate strokes such as hanging draw, draw on the move, bow rudder

High and low bracing not only keep you upright but are the foundation of several kayak rolls

Self-Rescues, Group Rescues, Towing *Be able to get yourself and others back into a kayak in deep water.*

Become a self-sufficient paddler, able to recover from capsizes and wet exits

Be able to rescue another kayaker who capsized.

Learn types of tow systems, methods and how to use them

Greenland Style Paddling *What is that thin paddle anyway?*

Design & Advantages of Greenland style paddling

Proper Greenland style strokes

Advanced Rescues *For those proficient in self and group rescues, take it to the next level*

How to rescue a boat without flotation that “sank”

Techniques to rescue an injured paddler

Foundations of Rolling: *For intermediate paddlers who are ready to transition to rolling:*

Braces and hip snaps are the foundations of several kayak rolls

Bow and Paddle rescues

The best form of rescue is to never exit the boat

Sunday Classes: *Schedule to be announced, sign up at the event.*

For more information, please contact Catriona M. and Maxine M at SK102@cpakayaker.com

Pictures of previous events are visible here: <https://picasaweb.google.com/cpakayaker/>

For more information about CPA, please go to <http://www.cpakayaker.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/CPAKayaker>

[Pirates; Cont. from p. 1](#)



I want to welcome the whole CPA community to come out and Paddle with us! ARGH!!

Arundell - Committee Sue Stevens, Bella Mariassy and Bill Smith

The Pirates of Arundell launch from three favorite locations in Anne Arundel County outside Annapolis, beginning Wednesday May 4, 2016.

EVERY Wednesday, our Arundell Pirates, the oldest and largest after-work-week-day group, meet to kayak from early May through Halloween. Weather dependent, we gather about 4 PM and launch in small groups, as kayakers arrive. We usually have no fixed group plans for a destination or distance. Many of us paddle together seeking new creeks to explore. Some of us take longer or shorter paddles in different directions. If you are new to these launch locations OR to kayaking on this river, we will be happy to show you the sights. There is **always** a fellow kayaker willing to lend helping hands to unload your kayak.

We have three favorite launch locations at County Parks and we typically paddle till dusk – when the parks close – rotating weekly:

- ☠ Homeport Farms kayak launch – off MD 2 south of Annapolis onto Church Creek & South River
- ☠ Galesville kayak launch - off MD 468 onto the West River
- ☠ Jonas Green Park kayak launch - off MD 450/ MD 2 on the Severn River - opposite Annapolis

We have food! Volunteers surprise the rest of the paddlers, sharing light snacks & supper fare after paddling. The mid-week break makes the rest of the week fly! We hope you can come out and join us!

Pirates of Baltimore - Captains Marla Aron and Dave Wilson

The Pirates of Baltimore paddle every Tuesday evening, beginning May 10th. Unless otherwise noted on the [Pirates of Baltimore forum](#) page, arrival time is 5:00-5:30 p.m. and launch time is 6:00 p.m. Throughout the summer we launch from sites in Baltimore, Anne Arundel, and Harford Counties. Our favorite places to paddle include the Middle, Bird, Gunpowder, Bush, and Patapsco Rivers; the Bear, Otter, and Dundee Creeks; Baltimore Harbor; and Chesapeake Bay. We will post a tentative list of dates, launch sites, and directions to the launch sites on the [Pirates of Baltimore forum](#). We also will schedule evenings to practice rescues and other kayaking skills. After our paddles we eat in restaurants close to the launch sites (remember the CPA motto is "We paddle to eat").

Eastern Shore - Paula Hubbard

The Pirates of the Eastern Shore will be paddling this summer, typically on Wednesday, at one of the Kent County Public launch sites. Check with the Pirate Captain for the time and location. We are a very small group and visitors are welcome.

Georgetown - Capitan Tom Heneghan

This is CPA's weekly Thursday night "city" paddling gang. Join us

every Thursday night to paddle on the urban Potomac. We have a relaxing paddle, with great views of DC monuments, iconic buildings, Roosevelt Island, the Georgetown waterfront and the Pentagon. We launch promptly at 6:30pm from the ramp at [Columbia Island Marina](#) just off the southbound side of the George Washington Parkway and on the Virginia side of the river.

The North - Captain Bob Shakeshaft

Come visit the Pirates of the North (PON) and see where the mighty Susquehanna enters the Chesapeake Bay. We paddle on Thursday nights, launching at 6 PM from Roberts Park below the Amtrak Bridge in Havre de Grace. We have some of the most interesting paddling options on the Bay. These include paddling up river to Port Deposit or Susquehanna State Park, across the river to Furnace Bay and/or the Flats, or paddling south along the Havre de Grace shoreline toward Swan Creek, or, last but not least, do some open water paddling out to the old Fishing Battery. We generally see a good variety of wildlife and always have a good time. We welcome paddlers of all skills and will be always glad to help new paddlers learn to paddle safely. Weather permitting we will begin our season on May 5th, the first Thursday. Come on out.

Occoquan - Captains Jeff Walaszek and Jim Zawlocki

The Pirates of the Occoquan paddle the Occoquan Water Trail (OWL) in Northern Virginia which covers 40-miles on the Bull Run, Occoquan River, and Potomac River. Adventures abound, as you discover the vast and changing landscape of 10,000 acres of public lands with class II rapids at the headwaters, calm waters of the reservoir, and the open fetch rough water capability of the Potomac bays. The majority of the trail runs along protected parkland and wildlife preserve and is home to numerous herons, eagles, egrets, kingfishers, and other aquatic life within its numerous coves and marshlands. The Pirates alternate their paddle nights every week between Tuesday and Thursday evenings and use launch sites at Bull Run Marina, Fountainhead Regional Park, Mason Neck State Park, and Pohick Bay Regional Park.

Join us as we paddle this unique, natural world of scenic landscapes and abundant wildlife. We frequent local eateries afterwards to discuss our paddling adventures. Launch fees are \$4/\$5 dollars; most Pirates purchase the annual OWL launch pass for \$40. Visit the Pirate Forum to find more information: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewforum.php?f=6&sid=e41fca27fdef0ee416f5405fe8d7a54>

Patuxent - Captains Jenny Plummer-Welker and Don Polakovics

The Patuxent Pirates' port of call is a pretty little beach in Solomons, Maryland, across Solomons Island Road from Our Lady Star of the Sea. We assemble Thursdays around 5:30 PM for 6 PM launches, starting May 5th this year and running through late October. Our trips are generally six to ten miles in length and range from open water jaunts to exploring tidal marshes or



[Continued on p. 7: Pirates](#)

Chesapeake Paddlers Association 2015 Calendar

Date	Title	Summary
3/13	Williamsburg Pool Sessions	Kayak practice sessions at the RF Wilkinson YMCA.
3/19	SK101	See Article
3/26	Greenland Paddle Workshop Part 2	Greenland Paddle creation
4/2	12th Annual Patuxent River Clean Up	Come out and give back to the river by cleaning up from your boat.
4/9	Kent Island Practice Paddle Series	KIPP 11 2016 - Practice for endurance to circumnavigate Kent Island.
4/9	Boat and Paddle Workshop & Gear Swap	Kayak & Paddle Workshop & Gear Swap at Truxton Park in Annapolis 10-3p
4/16*	Potomac Trash cleanup	Help Clean up trash from the water at sites along the Potomac River
4/16	Eastern Neck Paddle - Spring	This is one of (hopefully) four seasonal circumnavigation paddles around Eastern Neck Island.
4/18	Head of the Elk river Paddle	Paddle the upper reaches of the Elk River
4/25	Southeast Creek	Paddle southeast Creek and Gunk Hole Island Creek, off the Chester River
4/29-5/1	SK102	CPA Skills Weekend
* Non CPA Event		

[Pirates; Continued from p. 6](#)



sometimes both on the same outing. We welcome paddlers of all skill levels and tailor our evening paddles to match. Although most of our outings are on the beautiful Patuxent River, we sometimes hold “roving nights” on other weekday nights from other locations, so please check the “[Pirates of the Patuxent](#)” forum on the CPA website for the latest news of upcoming adventures.

In June we hold a skills session covering self and group rescues. Many of our crew built their own boats, so we hold a fair bit of skin-on-frame, plywood, and cedar strip experience if you want to combine boat

building conversation with a leisurely paddle.

Potomac - Captain Dick Rock

We hope to start our piracy's paddles when the water temperature is 70 degrees. This is usually about the end of April. I will announce it on the [forum](#). We are located on the George Washington Memorial Parkway one mile south of Alexandria in the Yacht Haven Marina at Dyke Marsh National Park. The launch fee is \$5 daily or \$45 for the yearly pass. We normally launch at 5 PM and paddle on the Potomac River which gives many options for paddle sorties. We usually paddle for a couple of hours. After our paddle some people go into Old Town for a quick dinner. We have a variety of paddlers and welcome all comers. Our paddles are designed to be fun and enjoyable for all. We paddle on Wednesday. It is true that a paddle to break up the week is a wonderful way to get away for a refreshing lull. Try it, you won't be sorry.

Sugarloaf – Captains Liz Maranick and Rita Scherping

The Pirates of Sugarloaf meet Tuesday evenings, 6:00 pm, at Riley's Lock (off River Road in Seneca/Darnestown, MD). Our usual plan is to paddle up the Potomac River, stop at an island to share snacks, watch the sunset and float back in the dark. Most weeks it's a nice easy paddle, but we do change it up once in a while to practice rescues or paddle a longer distance. We have all levels from beginners to the occasional very advanced paddler. Some of us are Greenland paddlers, others use a Euro paddler and a few of us change paddles every week. Doesn't matter -- we always enjoy ourselves. We will start in May and are always happy to have new people join us. ☺



Eastern Shore Piracy Paddle

Photo by Paula Hubbard



In Remembrance: Robert Burke - professional photographer and CPA member - died June 2015

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Interesting Reads:

Coldwater Safety Workshop at Annapolis Canoe and Kayak: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/news/362/15/Cold-Water-Workshop-A-Successful-announcement-detail/>

Virtual CPA Calendar: <http://www.cpakayaker.com/uploads/calendar/2016%20CPA%20virtual%20calendar.compressed.pdf>

Kayak Launch: <http://www.daggerpress.com/201602/22/ben-boniface-deer-creek-valley-fund-awards-50000-grant-for-deer-creek-kayakcanoe-launch/>

Kayaker Fined: <http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/14285329.Kayak-instructor-fined-for-error-and-misjudgement-that-led-to-death-of-ex-soldier-in-training-exercise-on-River-Tees/>

Kayak Surfing: <https://www.rapidmedia.com/adventurekayak/categories/skills/761-learn-to-surf-kayak-technique.html>

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

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REMINDER: Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date. If you receive the newsletter electronically, you will receive an e-mail reminder prior to your membership expiring; 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.