

CPA 2010 Virtual Calendar Photo Contest Concludes

A grand total of 133 photos were submitted for the contest, for each month and the cover. Voting was done from December 25th at midnight to December 31st at midnight, and 41 members voted. The 2010 CPA Virtual Calendar is now available online at

<http://troop424.freesevers.com/CPA%20Virtual%20Calendar%202010.pdf>

You can download the .pdf file and print it yourself, or take the file on a thumb drive to Staples, Kinkos, etc. and have them print and bind a nice one on good stock. The file is laid out to print back to back (i.e., the photo for month x is on the back of the page for month x-1).



This year I left the photos anonymous to keep personalities out of the selection. Congratulations to our winners:

January--Winter Blues 24 votes Kathy Haduch

February--Assateague Ponies, Assateague Island 23 votes Greg Welker

March--Thomas Point 16 votes Sue Bauer

April (tied) --Cherry Blossoms and Monumental 9 votes each Rita Scherping did them both and I used Monumental for the photo

May --Spring in the Swamp 12 votes Greg Welker

June--Sandy Point Beach Assault 8 votes Kevin Lawrence

July--July in Baltimore Harbor 20 votes Sue Bauer

August --Janes Island Water View 10 votes Rich Stevens

September--Paddling in the Sky#2 18 votes Rita Scherping

October--Fall Leaves, Upper Chester River, MD 14 Votes Paula Hammond (I'm trying to get a higher res version and will substitute it)

November -- Furnace Bay Protection from the Storm 18 votes Michael Free (I combined Mike's similar April entry shot in a culvert because the aspect of the November photo was so narrow)

December --When the Water Turns to Snow 12 Rick Wiebush

Cover (tied)--Beach Along Tangier Sound (Bill Upton) and Kayaks Lined Up for the Start of Classes At SK102 (Jenny Plummer-Welker) 9 votes each. I used Jenny's for the front cover because it depicts CPA's flagship SK102 and Bill's for the back cover. I hope these are viewed as equally prestigious slots. Congratulations to Jenny for her second cover win.

I want to recognize Mike Free, who really got into this thing, by submitting so many photos.

The full results for all 133 photos can be viewed at <http://troop424.freesevers.com/2009%20Voting%20%20Results.pdf>

A Trio of Winter Paddles

For those who like to make a tradition of paddling the first day of the year, this year was challenging because it has been unusually cold, snowy, icy and unpleasant, making it more enjoyable to paddle your armchair by the fire than a kayak on the Bay. Nevertheless, three separate groups reported New Year's Day paddles:

I joined a group organized once again by Pirate of the North Michael Free on the Sassafras River at Fox Hole. We were joined by Bob Shakeshaft, Laura Ventura (and her two dogs), Paula Hubbard, and Rich Peiper. Paula and Rich have recently moved to the Eastern Shore from the California Bay area, and are to be especially commended for January paddling. We launched into the fog at about 9:30 and paddled up the Sassafras, under the route 301 bridge from the Fox Hole road public launch, then down again to Hen Island and back.

We were particularly interested in the near-frozen frog we found on the banks of an ice-bound creek. I'd always thought frogs did what turtles do and dig into the bottom mud to overwinter. Not so, as I found at this site: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=how-do-frogs-survive-wint&posted=1#comments>

Photos online at



Paula Hubbard preparing to launch photo by Ralph Heimlich

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<http://picasaweb.google.com/ckayaq/NewYearsDayPaddle2010SassafrasRiverFoxHole?authkey=Gv1sRgCPOE89HJwqm1mAE&feat=email#> and at <http://picasaweb.google.com/ralph.heimlich/NewYearSDayPaddle2010#5422158943754167218>

Another small contingent from Anne Arundel and Harford celebrated the new year on the Severn. Launching from Jonas Green, Gina Cicotello, Hank, Sandra and Dave paddled past a waterfront house—presumably some kind of "green" eco-friendly—built into the hillside and so well camouflaged that it practically disappeared against the landscape. As we explored some of the creeks we encountered lots of brash ice and thin sheet ice, an interesting Beetle Cat sailboat, one chattering Kingfisher and many other birds. More pics at http://pasadenagina.smugmug.com/Kayaking/Severn-River-2010Jan01/10825345_EGv3m#754924781_SrXQL



Finally, Pete (Bay Mystic) noted that he'd paddled the Occoquan and wished everyone many more days paddling in 2010.

If you paddled on New Year's Day and DIDN'T post on the Forum, good on ya, but let us all know.

Ralph Heimlich

Hank, Sandra and Dave on the Severn photo by Gina Cicotello

Cranberry Lake in New York Summer 2009

by Jon Valentine

The two pictures with the green kayak (2008 Necky Zoar Sport Angler) were taken at/on Cranberry Lake, New York in the northwest Adirondacks this summer. Cranberry is my childhood hometown that I return to at various times throughout the year. The lake has about 55 miles of shore line with numerous bays and feeder streams and rivers. It has a maximum depth of about 60 feet. Most of the shoreline is state owned. There are dozens of individual designated campsites around the lake in addition to the 100+ sites at the state campground. There are a number of trailheads around the lake that have only water access. The following link sums it up pretty well.



http://gorp.away.com/gorp/resource/statepark/ny/hik_cran.htm The link doesn't mention that the shore landing/launch points can be sandy, rocky, or log-strewn.

The picture of the kayak on shore was taken at my parents' summer home (formerly the year round family home) at the north end of the lake. The two story boathouse that is owned by a family friend (Giraud) was originally constructed about 80-100 years ago and is built on a log rock crib that is in about 15 feet of water at the entrance to Chipmunk Bay on the west shore of the lake. There are a number of boathouses on the lake. There is no new boathouse construction permitted – only repairs and nominal improvements are allowed. I also took that shot this summer during one of my visits to the region.



Laura Ventura on the Sassafras, New Year's Day photo by Michael Free

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The Chesapeake Paddler

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