

The Chesapeake Paddler



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Skills class gets new kayakers out on the water



New paddlers got a chance to learn basic kayaking skills such as wet exits thanks to a Basic Skills Training Class led by CPA Steering Committee members Paula Hubbard, in white hat, and Shelly Wiechelt, in the bright green PFD. (Photo: Bill Upton)

In past years, SK102 was CPA's premier training event to help new paddlers go from the classroom setting of SK101 to getting out on the water with the necessary basic skills, especially ones to overcome the common fear of capsizing.

With SK102 temporarily shelved from COVID-19, CPA Steering Committee member Paula Hubbard, who is an ACA certified Coastal Kayak Instructor, stepped in to fill the gap with a Basic Skills Training Class at Truxton Park in June.

Paula held the one-day class for one group and then repeated it the next day for another. Fellow Steering

Committee member and certified instructor Shelly Wiechelt helped out on the second session.

Students spent the morning learning basic maneuvering skills such as an efficient forward stroke, balance, turning and moving sideways. In the afternoon, they practiced wet exits and assisted rescues, all with the goal of developing confidence on the water.

Even though SK102 wasn't held this spring, there are numerous smaller-scale CPA day trips, campers and Piracies going ahead. Check the [CPA Meetup page](#) for the latest on upcoming CPA events.

[See Skills on page three](#)

From the CPA Coordinator**A little bit of history and lots of cicadas**

Cicadas: Since most of our members live in the Chesapeake Bay area then you have been in contact with cicadas.

I would not think as paddlers we would have much interaction with them but recently a storm near Deale in Maryland blew them offshore where they promptly drowned and washed up on the beaches.

On one beach near Fairhaven in Maryland there were a few hundred thousand plus dead cicadas on the shore. It was enough cicadas to make for a crunchy walk to the water. Once July rolled around they were nearly gone except for a few carcasses here and there as a reminder.

Sometimes when we are kayaking, we meet interesting people or find unique places. On a recent Pirates of Arundell paddle near Galesville we came across one of these places. While paddling up a back creek we discovered a colonial era home.

The owner was out front who told us the original house was built in the 1600's, not sure of the year but the really interesting story was that the house was the [Stewards Shipyard facility](#) which was [burned to the ground](#) by British invaders during the revolutionary war.

I really could not find a whole lot of detail about the



Bill Smith

incident other than the shipyard manufactured warships for the colonial navy.

As a person who enjoys reading history, I find the Chesapeake Bay fascinating. It seems that around every corner is a little piece of history whether it is pre-colonial, the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 or the Civil War, it is everywhere. During my travels around the country, I constantly see historic markers but around here they are probably too numerous to mention.

I recently found out about a Union Civil War encampment near my home called Mount Misery in Arnold overlooking the shore of the Severn River and nearby Annapolis. Mount Misery was occupied by the New York Volunteers. The facility was built on a high ground so that they could observe any ships coming or going in the area, especially Annapolis.

The fort commander instructed his soldiers to not mingle with the locals or to accept gifts of Johnny cakes from them because they were probably poisoned. Maryland was listed as neutral but really, they had a strong allegiance to the southern cause. The powers in Washington went to great lengths to keep Maryland neutral because otherwise they would be surrounded by enemy forces.

I would be interested to research some of the areas I have paddled or intend to paddle around here to see what historic event took place.

Happy Paddling—Bill Smith.

Share your paddling adventures!

Do you enjoy reading about the paddling adventures, local and distant, of other members? Do you like getting new ideas for paddling trips?

Are you advocating for paddling access or amenities in your area?

Have you pondered questions relating to kayak gear? Variety is the spice of life, and of newsletters.

Please write an article reflecting your thoughts, experiences, and discoveries to share with our paddling community.

We all become a bit wiser and excited to be on the water again. We need your input to make *The Chesapeake Paddler* the best it can be.

Submit stories or ideas to news_editor@cpakayaker.com. We look forward to sharing your story.

Skills, from page one

Clockwise, from right:

1.) Students from the Day 1 session. (Photo: Mark Kalber)

2.) Students on Day 2 practicing basic boats skills. (Photo: Rich Stevens)

3 and 4.) Shelly Wiechelt helping with wet exits. (Photos: Bill Upton)

5.) Paula Hubbard preparing a student to do a wet exit. (Photo: Bill Upton)



AA County to dedicate new Solleys Cove launch



Thanks to the hard work of advocates for public water access, including CPA's Lisa Arrasmith, Anne Arundel County is celebrating the opening of an improved launch at Solleys Cove Park that includes a sandy beach for kayak launching. (Photo: [Public Water Access Committee](#))

Bring your boat and come celebrate a new kayak launch in Anne Arundel County at the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the improvements at Solleys Cove Park in Curtis Bay on Thursday, July 15 at 12 pm.

"The new ramp includes a trailered boat ramp on one side and a kayak beach launch on the other. The project also involved creating a living shoreline component, and is another step in our effort to bring our residents closer to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries," said Anne Arundel Recreation and Parks Director Jessica Leys.

CPA's Lisa Arrasmith of the Public Water Access Committee has been a tireless advocate for projects like the one at Solley's Cove Park. Click [here](#) for her recent article about the project in the *Severna Park Voice*.

The county has invited CPA and other kayakers to the dedication. "Come join the Ribbon Cutting event at 12 noon and then paddle with us as we tour the creek environs. Wear your CPA Shirts!" said CPA Secretary Sue

Stevens.

More details are on the [CPA Meetup page](#). Don't forget to bring your signed [CPA waiver](#).



The park improvements include a new parking area and easier access to the water.

(Photo: [Public Water Access Committee](#))

Paddler Profile

Meet Gail Addis

Lives in: Baltimore, MD.

Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy? Yes.

Number of years paddling? About 10.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? Part of a project for a professional training I was attending.

What boat(s) do you paddle? Wilderness Systems Tempest 165.

Rudder or skeg? Skeg.

Type of paddle used? Greenland.

Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking? No.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Hiking, swimming.

How often do you paddle between May and October? Two to three times per week.

Do any winter paddling? No.

Favorite local paddling location? Susquehanna by Starkk Moon in PA.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? Most camping trips because I like the extended time outside.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? So far - Maine – Great group of people, well organized, beautiful area and change of scenery. We hired a guide for part of the trip and everyone picked one thing they wanted to learn from the guide.

Scariest/most dangerous paddling trip/incident and why? At a training event while the instructor was working individually with a paddler, another paddler was on her side in her kayak as the instructor was helping the other person in the class.

The instructor and others in the group thought the paddler was practicing 'swimming' in her kayak, a technique where the kayaker is on their side in the kayak and using their paddle to 'swim' and move in the water. Although I have never seen this technique taught in any paddling class nor was I able to locate information on the technique on the internet, this is



what I had been informed it was called.

In actuality she was struggling as she had fallen over with her spray skirt intact and did not know how to get herself back up. Fortunately someone noticed in time and got her upright. This was a scary learning incident for everyone involved. Lesson learned – do not assume someone knows what they are doing. Even if you believe that they do, check that they are OK. Better safe than sorry.

Bucket list trips? Other countries and/or other states, not one place in specific place.

Three things you like most about paddling? Being outside, being active, people.

What do you like about CPA? Safety, knowledge about paddling, and trips in general.

What other paddling clubs/groups do you belong to? Various meetups.

One unusual non-paddling thing we'd be surprised to know about you? I met Bruce Springsteen at the 9:30 Club in D.C.

Farewell to former CPA member Daniel McQueen

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Dan McQueen on March 1, 2021. Dan was a CPA member from 2002-2006 and a founding member of the Gunk Hole Gang.

They were originally a group of Mountain Club of Maryland hikers who thought it would be fun to build wooden kayaks (CLC kits) over a winter and then paddle them.

The Gunkholers paddled on Mondays and stayed together for years, kayaking all over the Chesapeake Bay area. Many CPA members paddled with them, including Marla Aron, Jay Perry, Greg Welker and Ralph Heimlich.

Dan spent his working career with the National Security Agency and filled his spare time from work and then retirement devoted to his family and an incredible range of activities, including kayaking.

Below is an excerpt from his obituary:

Daniel F. McQueen was born April 6, 1939 in Mars, PA to Samuel and Lela Lee McQueen. He is survived by his loving wife Anne McQueen; his son Kevin McQueen; daughter Kara Rolfe; his six grandchildren, Kelsey McQueen, Sean McQueen, Logan Rolfe, Margaret Rolfe, Kaitlin Rolfe and Andrew Rolfe; and his sister Ruth Cestoni ...

He retired at 55 and devoted his free time to his many passions, which included running, hiking, bicycling, kayaking, golfing, traveling and spending time with his grandchildren.

Dan was an avid runner and ran 5 miles every day. He finished three marathons and also participated in many Volksmarches.



His other accomplishments include climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro (Africa), Mt. Rainer (Washington State), Mt. Washington (New Hampshire), Mt. Aconcagua (Argentina), Mt. Fuji (Japan) and Mt. Kosciuszko (Australia). He hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, the John Muir Trail, The Swiss Bernese Oberland (Switzerland), the Inca Trail (Peru), the Chilkoot Trail (British Columbia), the Milford Track in

New Zealand and he trekked to the Mount Everest Base Camp in Nepal.

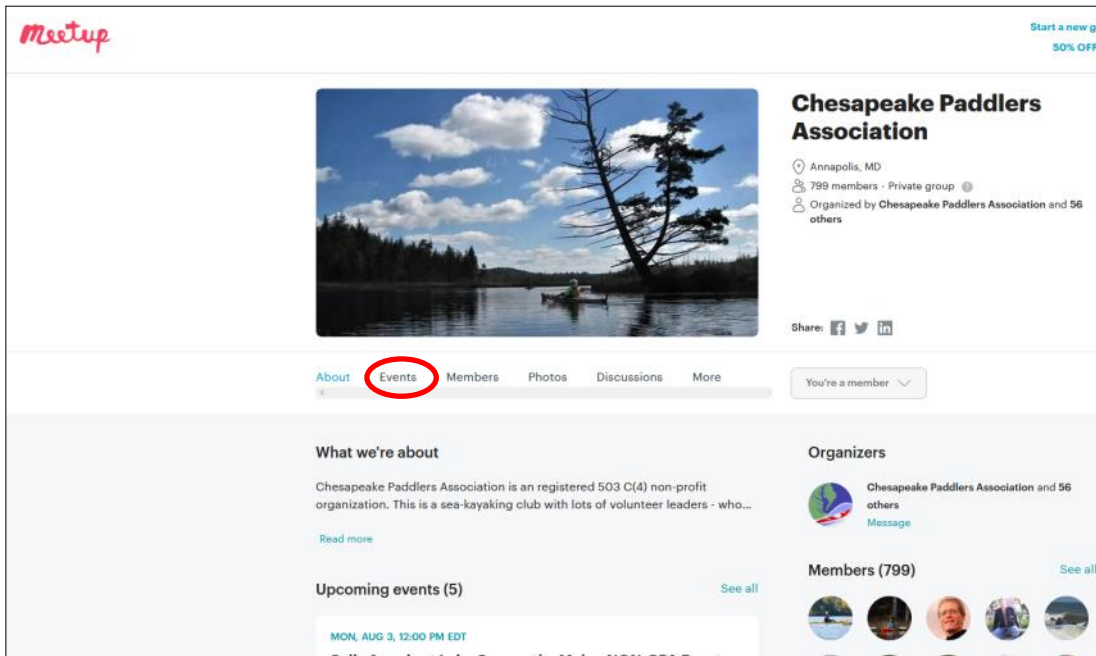
He bicycled many amazing and grueling routes including the 1776 trail from Maryland to Oregon, from Prague to Budapest, all over France including many of the famous Tour De France climbs, through Cape Breton in Nova Scotia, a tricky trip cycling through Cuba, up and down the Scottish Highlands, through the Florida Keys, and through all the National Parks in the West, from Bordeaux, France to Barcelona, Spain, the Baha Peninsula, the entire South Island of New Zealand, and from Telluride to Moab.

Soon after he retired, he built his own sea kayak and kayaked all through the Chesapeake Bay and along the coast of Maine. He canoed the Saranac Lakes, across the Florida Everglades, down the Allagash, St. John's, Potomac and Rio Grande Rivers as well as the Boundary Waters in Minnesota.

He traveled the world and visited the Great Wall of China, scuba dove the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, did an African Safari, visited Antarctica, and toured Russia ...

Click [here](#) for the entire obituary.

Upcoming CPA events



Trips and Piracy paddles are being scheduled, stay up-to-date by visiting the [CPA Meetup page](#).

Check back often, events are subject to change because of COVID-19.

All participants should download the [updated CPA Waiver](#) and read the [CPA COVID-19 event guidelines](#) before participating in any in-person Club activity.

Prevent needless searches - label your boat!

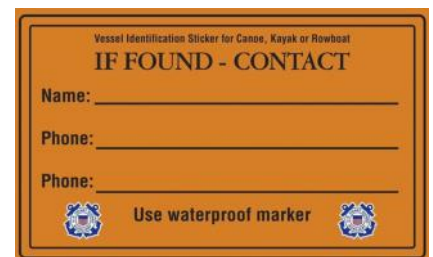


Lost boat or true emergency? This unmarked kayak washed up near Kiptopeake State Park which required a search for the owner by the U.S. Coast Guard. (Photo: [U.S. Coast Guard District 5](#))

Over the July 4th holiday, Coast Guard District 5, which covers the Mid-Atlantic area, was involved in several rescue efforts. They ranged from towing stranded mariners to helping boaters experiencing medical emergencies.

One search was initiated when an abandoned kayak without identification washed onshore near Kiptopeake State Park. Kayakers can help the Coast Guard determine if there is a true emergency or just an errant boat by labeling their kayaks with contact information.

To obtain an orange "If Found - Contact" sticker contact your local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla or Coast Guard Station. The stickers can also be ordered for only the price of postage from [paddling.com](#) (look under Signs, Stickers & Decorations).



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.

Websites: www.cpakayaker.com, [CPA Facebook page](#); [CPA Meetup page](#)

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If your CPA membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues to: CPA, P.O. Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341 or use the [Online Membership](#) option to use PayPal or find more information about membership.

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The Chesapeake Paddler

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