

The Chesapeake Paddler



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CPA Holds Annual Meeting

Bill Smith opened the 2023 CPA Annual Membership Meeting, on November 5th, 1:00PM at the Cult Classic Brewery, in Stevensville, MD. Coordinator Paula Hubbard was out of the area and unable to lead the meeting.

Bill thanked all of our CPA members that came out for the fellowship, the pizza, and lots of potluck offerings. Thirty eight members attended, a slight increase compared with the previous years.

Bill thanked all the volunteers who contributed to CPA events this year, including but not limited to the following people and teams:

Coordinator **Paula Hubbard**, Treasurer **Rich Stevens**, Secretary of Membership **Sue Stevens**, and Steering Committee members; **Lisa Arrasmith**, **Beth Boyd**, **Marilyn Cooper**, **Katherine Neale**, **Bill Smith**, and **Gary Trotter**.

Bill Smith gave a special shout out to all the trip leaders piracy captains, crews, and to the kayakers who came out for support of their events.

SK101 2023 team leaders **Laurie Collins**, **Marilyn Cooper**, and their team of presenters: **Paula Hubbard**, **Brian Blankenship**, **Mike Hamilton**, **Rich Stevens**, **Sue Stevens**, and many others.

Catriona Miller, **Maxine Mead** and **Jeff Walaszek**, for planning and organizing CPA's SK102 training weekend.



Jim Zawlocki and his returning crew of experienced kayakers for running the 2023 Kent Island Paddle Series (KIP). This year, KIP added an additional four brave paddlers for their first 35+ miles circumnavigation of Kent Island.

Paula Hubbard for teaching a highly attended kayak Navigation Class.

Bill also thanked **Sue Stevens**, **Paula Hubbard**, and everyone who assisted at the June Fall out of Your Boat Practice, hosted by **Jesse and Lise Parker**.

Bill gave a shout out for **Gregg Banse** our CPA web designer and IT support. He acknowledged Gregg's near completed work in development of an updated CPA webpage with enhanced security and improved design features (New CPA web page is now online, [check it out](#))

Ongoing web support by webmasters **Ralph Heimlich**, **Paula Hubbard** and **Rich Stevens**.

Bill recognized the content and support team who manage the CPA Facebook Page: **Catriona**

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From the CPA Coordinator: Cold Water Paddling

(reprinted from Nov 2022 Paddler)

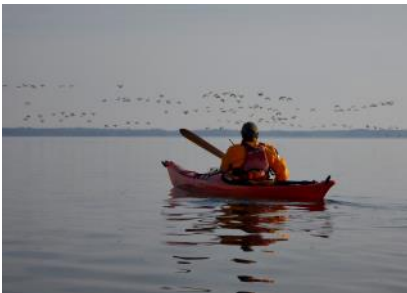
First I would like to thank everyone for their support in electing me as the Coordinator. I am looking forward to a new year that will include many training events, day trips, car camping and kayak camping. For all of these activities to happen, we will need volunteers to help run these trips and events. Coming this winter we will be having a Navigation Class, and SK 101. Past years we have also had a cold water workshop. Now that winter is here, at least based on temperatures it's a perfect time to discuss how we can safely continue to paddle.

Cold Water Paddling is here. It can be beautiful, peaceful, and dangerous. With certain precautions, it can also be done safely. There are many resources that provide information on cold water paddling. One of the leading sites is [National Center for Cold Water Safety](#). The center was started by a former member of CPA, Moulton Avery and is an excellent resource for kayak specific information on Cold Water.

Falling into cold water is dangerous in many ways:

- ☠ **Cold Shock** is caused by sudden contact with cold water on bare skin. This can induce a gasp reflex and inhalation of water.
- ☠ **Incapacitation** involves the progressive cooling of your muscles and nerves to the point where they stop working. Many of us have experienced our fingers going numb when immersed in cold water.
- ☠ **Hypothermia** is a drop in deep body (core) temperature, the temperature of your internal organs. This can happen in or out of the water, but cold water immersion accelerates the process.

So how do we minimize our risk when paddling in cold water? Let's start by minimizing the risk of falling in to begin with. When I paddle in the winter, I tend to paddle in calmer, more sheltered water. In rougher water you tend to get wet from waves splashing over you even



without falling in. Wind can also cause more rapid evaporative chilling making paddling in open water more hazardous for many reasons.

Another hazard is ice. While it may seem amusing to paddle up onto an ice shelf, it is possible that the ice

may not be consistently strong and could cause one to capsize if a portion of the ice gives way. A capsize at the edge of the ice sheet, may result in the victim being drawn beneath the ice unless able to extract themselves or be rescued by another paddler. Sometimes



the waterways can be totally iced in making paddling impossible. On those days, winter hiking is a good option.

Finally, while you may enjoy the serenity and solitude of a solo paddle in the winter, it is safest to paddle with a group. Members of the group should all have the necessary skills and equipment so that everyone stays safe.



Dressing for Immersion—Everyone has heard the term dress for immersion, or dress for the water, not the air. This means that you wear gear that completely

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eliminates cold shock and delays incapacitation and hypothermia. Prevention of cold shock is done by covering your skin so that it is not contact the cold water. Depending on the water temperatures and your degree of tolerance for cold there are several options.

- ☒ [Wet Suits / Neoprene](#) are best used for moderately cold water (water temperatures in the 50's and 60's F), not the extreme cold you find in winter paddles.
- ☒ [Dry Suits / Semi-Dry Suits](#) are designed to keep you dry, or mostly dry. The dry suit is the outer layer that keeps the water out and traps air warmed by your body inside. This will effectively prevent cold shock if you happen to fall in. The drysuit itself does not provide insulation. That is done by wearing moisture-wicking undergarments, followed by heavier insulated layers to retain body heat.

In addition to the drysuit, you also need to consider your hands, feet and head. Cold water in your ears can be very unpleasant. Some paddlers use ear plugs designed to keep water out, but still allowing you to hear. Wool or neoprene hats also offer protection from the cold. Gloves, paddling mittens, or pogies ([an open-ended neoprene sleeve that goes over your paddle with an opening for your hand to grip the paddle](#)) can be used. Socks under your drysuit helps keep your feet warm. You may need paddling shoes a size larger to accommodate the extra layers. It's important not to constrict your extremities to allow for better blood flow so your fingers and toes stay warm.

No matter what you choose for cold water paddling clothes, you should always test your gear. CPA has offered a group cold water swim your gear during our Cold Water Workshops in previous years. This allows you to safely test you cold water gear and find out what works and what doesn't work. I have discovered that what I though was a dry suit was in reality a damp suit based on a swim test.

You should also practice rescues in your cold water gear. It can be more cumbersome to reenter a kayak in a dry suit. I once discovered that I needed to take my hands out of my pogies to roll or to inflate a paddle float. I didn't have the fine control of the blade angle that I needed to roll. If you don't want to do rescues in cold water, at least bring your gear to a pool session and test everything there.

Selecting What to Wear—How do you decide exactly what to wear on a particular paddle? There are lots of

factors to consider. First, cold weather comes in a variety of combinations. When there is cold air, cold water, possible wind, etc. the choice is easy...dress for immersion in cold water. This means a dry suit with adequate insulation layers, head and hand protection. You should have tested your clothing before going paddling. While the likelihood of capsizing may be low, consequences of being in the water are very high.

The real dilemma is warm air, cold water. There is not only a risk of cold water immersion, there is also a risk of overheating. This is when you might want to consider a few other factors. How cold is the water? You can take a thermometer and check the actual water temperature where you are paddling. I consider water temperatures in the low 50's to be the cut off point for when I wear a drysuit, even if I don't think the likelihood of a swim is high. When the water is over 50°F I also consider the likelihood of swimming. What is the probability of capsizing (it's never zero)? How reliable is my roll (unless you practice in cold water, sudden immersion can cause some disorientation and may reduce your ability to roll but then it's never 100 percent). Are there good rescue resources, either a rapid self-reentry (that you practiced in colder water or good group assisted rescues)? If the likelihood of an extended swim is relatively high, dress more for the water than the air.

No matter how you choose to dress, you should have extra warm dry clothes with you in a dry bag. I also bring a [storm cag](#), an extra layer that can go on top of all my gear as additional wind protection and to trap an extra layer of air that stops evaporative cooling. To make these decisions easier, I mapped out some of my common decision points (see flow chart).

To summarize, cold water paddling can be beautiful, quiet, and an enjoyable experience. It can also be deadly. Making educated decisions regarding where and when to paddle, and how to dress for the environment is the best way to safely paddle through the winter.

Paula Hubbard
Coordinator
Paula M. Hubbard
CPA Coordinator



(Continued from page 1) Annual meeting

Miller, Suzanne Farace, and Greg Welker.

Paddler editorial work by **Gary Trotter**, who is staying on as editor of the newsletter for 2024.

Bill also recognized the work on the Meetup Page updates handled by **Ralph Heimlich** and **Paula Hubbard**.

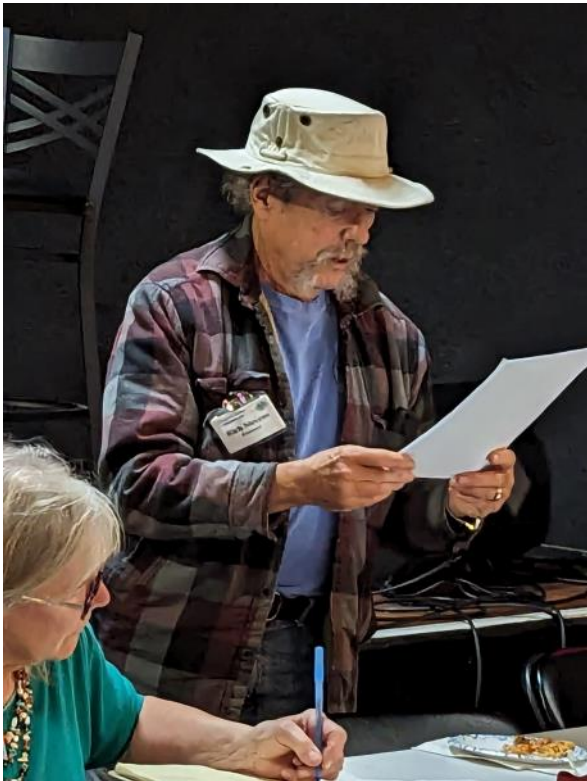
John Gibbs who handles the CPA library and **Marla Aron** who manages the popular CPA LOGO GEAR Inventory and sales.

Summary of 2023 Reports

Election Results:

There were a total of 38 ballots cast: 29 E-votes plus 9 paper ballots cast. No mailed ballots were received. **Gar Robbins and Ralph Heimlich** certified the count. All the officers and six SC members were elected in a non-contested election.

Congratulations to **Paula Hubbard Coordinator**, and the **2024 CPA Steering Committee: Lisa Arrasmith, Beth Boyd, Marilyn Cooper, Katherine Neale, Bill Smith and new member Ricardo Stewart.**



Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Rich Stevens summarized the Club finances as outlined in the 2023 Interim Report through October 2023.

A full report and detailed charts will be available in the 2023 Year End Financial Report.

The current CPA net worth is \$27,112, a slight year over year decrease of 2.03% from this time in 2022.

Outstanding 2023 club expenses including the annual liability insurance payment premium for an estimated \$999 and reimbursements for end-of-season Piracy stipends.

Membership Report:

Secretary Sue Stevens summarized the CPA annual membership report:



Total membership is now 606, in 2022 total was 594.

For 2023, CPA gained 85 new members a 30% increase over 2022. CPA had 153 renewing members.

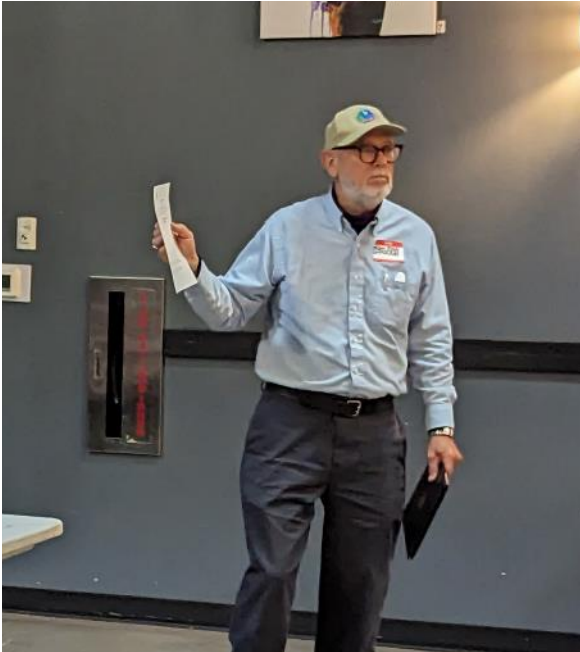
There are now 77 Twenty Year-Continuously paid-
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(Continued from page 4) Annual Meeting

up LIFE Members, an increase from 67 in 2022.

Trip Participation Report:

Ralph Heimlich summarized members participation levels:



CPA had 25 individual trip leaders, leading a combined 64 trips or events, with 311 individual participants taking part a total of 714 times during the year.

Participation has grown at the Eight popular piracy groups this summer: **Pirates of Arundell, Baltimore, Georgetown, the North, Patuxent, Potomac, Sugarloaf, and Pirates of the North.**

There was a new category of winter hikes starting in 2021: Five winter hikes were led over 2022-2023 with 32 participants led by **Suzanne Farace** and **John Sweeney.**

Old Business:

SK203 Advanced Trip Leader Training was discussed, no 2023 event was organized. There was so much good discussion last year, but no follow through it's tough when everyone is so busy. We recognize the club needs to encourage more kayakers to become active trip leaders. Beth Boyd gave an overview of our discussion: **Paula Hubbard** may be able to set up trip leader class. If there was a moderate fee it is perceived to have

more value. Beth mentioned that Paula had logistical issues getting instructors to assist and it needs support of a committee to help organize it. Rich Stevens mentioned most members present today are able to lead any number of basic trips and can pair up with another trip leader.

New Business:

2023 Annual Appreciation Awards: Bill Smith presented the CPA plaques of appreciation:

Maxine Mead: For outstanding service as registrar for CPA's Sea Kayaking Skills Clinic (SK102)



course in 2015-present; registrar for CPA's Introduction to Sea Kayaking (SK101) course in 2018; and participating in many CPA events and activities since joining in 2011.

Jeff Walaszek: For outstanding service co-leading the Pirates of Algonkian/Occoquan in 2005-17, serving on the administrative staff for CPA's Sea



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Up Coming Events: All Are Invited to the CPA Holiday Party

Make your plans to attend the Annual CPA Holiday Party Dec. 9th

When: Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM to Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 11:00 PM EST

Where: Ralph and Beth Heimlich House

3873 Paul Mill Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Phone: 240-472-8825 (cell)

Details: For **details** and to aid in planning **please RSVP in CPA Meetup ASAP.**

Come join the fun. We will have some turkey, you all bring salads, main dishes and desserts to share. We will have a White Elephant gift exchange with a kayaking theme. Bring your own libations. Look for Kayak Santa!

We have a large heated sunroom with plenty of ventilation, outdoor seating areas, and a firepit, so you can choose which environment you are comfortable with in terms of COVID exposure.

(Continued from page 5) Annual Meeting

Kayaking Skills Clinic (SK102) course since 2021, leading several trips and events, and participating in many CPA events and activities since joining in 2001.

Marilyn Cooper: For outstanding service co-



leading CPA's Introduction to Sea Kayaking (SK101) course in 2022-present, reviving and co-leading the Pirates of Sugarloaf since 2021, serving on the Steering Committee since 2021, leading several day trips, and participating in many CPA events and activities since joining in 2017.

Laurie Collins: For outstanding service co-leading



CPA's Introduction to Sea Kayaking (SK101) course in 2022-present, reviving and co-leading the Pirates of Sugarloaf since 2021, leading several day trips, and participating in many CPA events and activities since joining in 2015.

Congratulations and thanks to all award recipients!

CPA Officers for 2024

Please welcome our new leadership team for 2024:

Each year CPA members elect the Officers and Steering Committee members who help keep CPA a leading resource for the sea kayaking community. Behind the scenes of CPA trips, training and other events, club officers, pirate captains, event coordinators and other volunteers make it all possible.

Here are the CPA Officers and Steering Committee members for 2024:



*Paula Hubbard
Coordinator*



*Sue Stevens
Secretary*



*Rich Stevens
Treasurer*



*Lisa Arrasmith
Steering Committee*



*Beth Boyd
Steering Committee*



*Marilyn Cooper
Steering Committee*



*Katherine Neale
Steering Committee*



*Bill Smith
Steering Committee*



*Ricardo Stewart
Steering Committee*

CPA Treasurer's Report

By Rich Stevens

The figures in this interim report are based on the figures from 10/16/22 through 10/15/2023,

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. continues to be in good financial shape. Our year over year cash on hand decreased by \$561.71 or 2.03%, from \$27,673.43 to \$27,111.72. The closing balance includes \$26,767.79 in the CPA bank account and \$343.93 in the PayPal account.

The following is a condensed listing of most of the major account transactions for the year:

Membership Dues: Collected, \$4,477.89; \$263.00 by check or cash and \$4,214.89 net by PayPal. PayPal fees for online membership were \$236.11.

SK101: Expenses were \$1,140.66 for food, miscellaneous supplies, Eventbrite, and PayPal. Profit from this event was \$1,219.34.

SK102: Various expenses were \$8,829.11 and income was \$8,269.02 for an expense of \$560.09. .

Navigation Class: Offered to CPA members by Paula Hubbard and sponsored by CPA, expenses were \$285.20 for food, coffee, and printing.

CPA Gear Day/Fall Out of Your Boat Days: Expenses were \$150.00 for the venue rental and \$133.75 for food and supplies, for a total of \$283.75.

Trip Planning Meeting: Was held at Cult Classic Brewery, at no cost to the club, thanks to Bill Smith. Coffee, food, and misc. supplies were \$49.24.

Meetup and Web Site: These were some of our major expenses over the last year. We spent \$209.76 for a 12-month Meetup subscription, \$61.83 to Moniker Services for Email, and \$1,220.00 to Gregg Banse for web hosting, technical support, and a major upgrade that is now in progress. We

also spent \$149.90 for a one year Zoom Pro account. There was an additional expense of \$107.10 for a Wordfence security subscription. Total expenses were \$1,748.59 up from \$720.57 last year, an increase of \$1,028.02 or 142.67%.

General Office, Printing, and Mailing

Expenses: Including post office box, postage, printer supplies, office supplies, membership cards, and brochures was \$805.14, up \$369.76 or 84.93% from \$435.38 last year at this time. Most of the expense was for membership cards, office supplies, and the post office box. Membership cards and mailing expenses were \$226.34 and the Post Office box rental was \$258.00. Office supplies included paper, printer supplies, file folders, and a file tote were \$244.92

Logo Gear: Sales were \$1,999.08 with expenses of \$1,982.73 for new stock, for a total profit of \$16.35. Last year there was a net expense of \$421.22. Marla reports that we currently have \$2,644.00 in retail value of shirts and hats in stock. Logo gear is sold at near cost.

Liability Insurance: Cost was \$999.00, up from \$899.00 last year or an increase of \$100.00 or 11.12%. There was an additional charge of \$1,370.00 for camping insurance for SK02. Total insurance cost was \$2,369.00, an increase of \$695.00 or 50.73% from last year.

Last Year's Annual Meeting: Was held at Cult Classic. Expenses were \$104.67 for pizza, soft drinks, and misc. supplies.

Piracy Expenses: From 10/16/2022 to 10/15/2023; Pirates of the Potomac \$165.03, Pirates of the Patuxent \$175.00,

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Treasurer's Report ([Continued](#) from page 8)

Pirates of the North \$210.00, and Pirates of Georgetown \$210.00, all in 2022. Total Piracy stipends for this time period were \$760.03

Holiday Party: Hosted by Ralph and Beth Heimlich. Expenses for food and supplies were \$70.39. Thanks to the Heimlich's for allowing a raging hoard of Pirates to swarm up the driveway and pillage their home.

Credit Card Cash Back: \$105.65.

Zoom Settlement: \$82.32.

Future Major Expenses for the Fiscal Year:

Insurance, Holiday Party, Annual Meeting and appreciation gifts, and Piracy Stipends. Some of these are pending, and will come due before the end of the year.

This report covers the major income and expenses of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. since the last Annual Meeting. Detailed records of all transactions are available, but not listed in this report for simplicity and privacy considerations. Any questions please e-mail me at Treasurer@cpakayaker.com.

CPA Annual Membership Report

By Sue Stevens

Good news: our CPA membership is growing and we have a lot of dedicated paddlers.

Current CPA paid up membership totals 606 an increase from 594 last year. There are more than 70 additional kayaking family members, spouses & partners not included in the total membership count. Many are active kayakers and contribute to the Club.

CPA has 153 renewing members in 2023. That's an 27% increase over 111 in 2022.

New Memberships. In 2023 the club got a big bump in new memberships. **The club gained 85 new members, a 30% increase over**

2022; most joined during the active paddling season in spring & summer.

In 2023 CPA is recognizing a total of 77 Twenty Year, continuous paid up, Life members. That's an increase of 10 from the 67 in 2022, Life members are now 12% of the total CPA membership. Many are active contributors to the club. It certainly is not true that the club's kayakers are starting to "age out" of actively paddling.

Upcoming Events

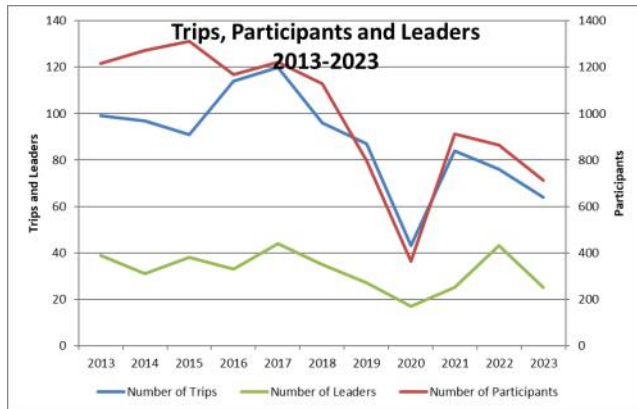
See [CPA Meetup Page](#) for Details and to RSVP

CPA Holiday Party	December 9, 2023	3873 Paul Mill Rd	Ralph Heimlich
CPA Culture Crawl	January 4th, 2024	National Gallery of Art Constitution Ave entrance	Marla Aron
Hike -- Appalachian Trail	January 6th, 2024	Gathland State Park	John Sweeney
Intro to Navigation	January 20, 2024	Cult Classic Brewing	Paula Hubbard

CPA Participation Report 2023

By Ralph Heimlich

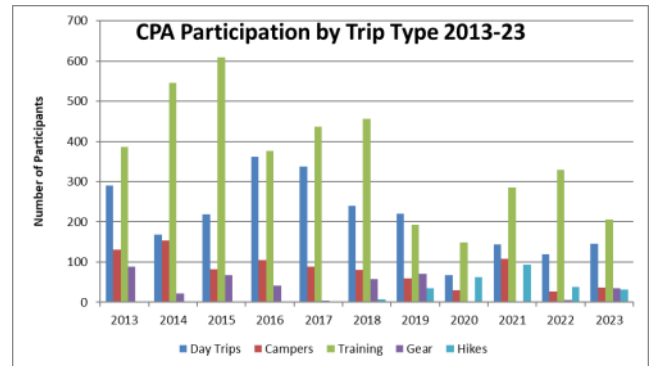
CPA had 25 individual trip leaders, leading a combined 64 trips or events, with 311 individual participants taking part a total of 714 times during the year. That's 72 percent of our usual trip numbers, 77 percent of our usual trip leader corps, 72 percent of our usual trip participation and 85 percent of our usual individual participants, based on the 2013-2023 averages.



Of the trips, 21 were Day Trips (62% of 2013-23 average), 5 Campers (50%), and 9 Training events (70%). Five winter hikes were led over 2022-23, with 32 participants. Eight Piracies (POA, POB, POG, PON, POS, PPAX, POAlg, and PPOT) met.

Active trip leaders included Ralph Heimlich (18), Suzanne Farace (6), Jim Zawlocki (7), Bill Smith

and Sue Stevens(5 each), and Paula Hubbard (4). Piracy leaders carried the bulk of the get-togethers with weekly participation in nearly all of them.



Top participants were Ralph Heimlich (24 events), Sue Stevens (15), Bill Smith (13), Rich Stevens (12), Sophie Troy (12), Suzanne Farace (11), Marla Aron (10), and Gail Addis, Lois Wyatt, Jennifer Strass, Paula Hubbard, Beth Boyd, and Barbara Southworth (9 each). 70 people participated in 3 or more events over the season. (Note that participation in Piracies is not well documented as to number of times participating.)

Here's hoping 2024 will continue to improve, and that more trips and trip participation will be forthcoming.



2023 Bela Mariassy kayaking in Vietnam

San Juan Islands Kayak Adventure - September 13-18, 2023

By Ed Johnson

My move from Maryland to central Oregon this summer, made possible a decades long bucket-list adventure to the San Juan Islands of the Pacific Northwest. One of my kayaks, a Current Designs Nomad GTS, a 19ft “gear hauler,” made the cut for the move cross-country specifically for this type of adventure.

Living in Maryland I’ve been fortunate to paddle many rivers, lakes, bays and coastal Atlantic waters from Canada to Florida. My new home (Bend, Oregon), lies east of the Cascade Mountains and less than an hour drive to fabulous mountain hiking, biking, camping, skiing and even a few kayaking spots. That said, central Oregon is NOT a kayaker’s paradise like the mid Atlantic where a 1-2 hour drive provides a wide variety of paddling opportunities for novices and experts alike.

A visit to the local REI in Bend provided me a list of several nearby kayaking locations used by recreational kayakers (mountain lakes and flat water of the Deschutes River). I thanked the staff member for the tips but they must have noticed my disappointment. As the conversation ended they suggested I visit Tumalo Creek Kayak and Canoe (TCKC) two blocks away. I did.

I walked into the shop minutes before closing time and was immediately impressed by the huge inventory equipped to serve the recreational kayaker, whitewater and SUP enthusiast. Clayton was manning the shop located beside the Deschutes River. He was engaging and I shared with him a little of my paddling history and experience. I wasn’t sure if he was joking when he said “there are only about 10 *active* sea kayakers in Central Oregon.” I replied “well now there are eleven!”

I mentioned that a San Juan Islands kayaking adventure was on my bucket list. Clayton’s eyes widened and with a wide toothy grin he said, “we just happen to be leading two trips to the San Juan Islands in two weeks! One is a 4-day trip and the other a 6-day trip. With your background I think you would love the 6-day trip.”

My wife Donna (not a kayaker) and I had only arrived in Bend two weeks earlier. We were still unpacking and far from settled into our “new” home. “Wow,” I said to Clayton, “I need to give this some serious thought and check with the ‘boss’, but I am definitely interested!”

Donna read me like a book after I told her of my conversation with Clayton. “You must go” she



Fig. 1 Map of the Salish Sea & Surrounding Basin, Stefan Freelan, WWU, 2023.

said, “don’t wait until next year you have time now. GO!”

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I love Donna!

The San Juan Islands are an archipelago in the Salish Sea of Washington State and British Columbia, Canada. The Pacific Ocean sloshes back and forth through the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the west, the Strait of Georgia to the north, and Puget Sound to the south (Fig. 1). Tides are big; 9-foot swings are common. Currents are significant (1-2 kts) and narrow passages can become impassable for all but the strongest and skilled paddler. The water is cold year-round (<60 degrees F). It's an unforgiving environment and not for beginners. It is a kayaking gem for the prepared paddler.

I began getting my kayaking gear together and made plans to meet up with Clayton and his employer, Geoff (owner of TCKC), at Washington Park in Anacortes, WA the evening of September 12. I would camp in Washington Park (\$27), a nice quiet campground with hot showers, just 1.5 miles from the Anacortes ferry terminal where we were to rendezvous at 8:30am the next morning. There I would meet the other two TCKC clients Bruce and Sonnie. This would be their seventh multi-day sea kayaking trip in the San Juans with TCKC. For the next 6-days we would have a fantastic trip experiencing this Pacific Northwest kayakers paradise.

The five of us hopped into the TCKC van with our 5 kayaks on the roof and drove onto the ferry that would take us to Lopez Island. Forty minutes later we disembarked and drove 10 minutes to Spencer Spit State Park where we unloaded and parked the van for the duration of our trip.

Fig. 1 Map of the Salish Sea & Surrounding Basin, Stefan Freelan, WWU, 2023. Our ferry had been an hour late leaving Anacortes. I sensed some anxiety in Clayton for the delay. He was eager to get on the water and paddling. We needed to get through Obstruction Pass before the ebb tide. We were successful and arrived at our camp site on Doe Island about 5pm. I sat in my camp chair beside my tent as the twilight was replaced with starlight. I laughed out loud with joy as my eyes adjusted revealing the nighttime beauty. Wow! This is spectacular I thought. Clayton joined me; "pretty awesome eh," he said.

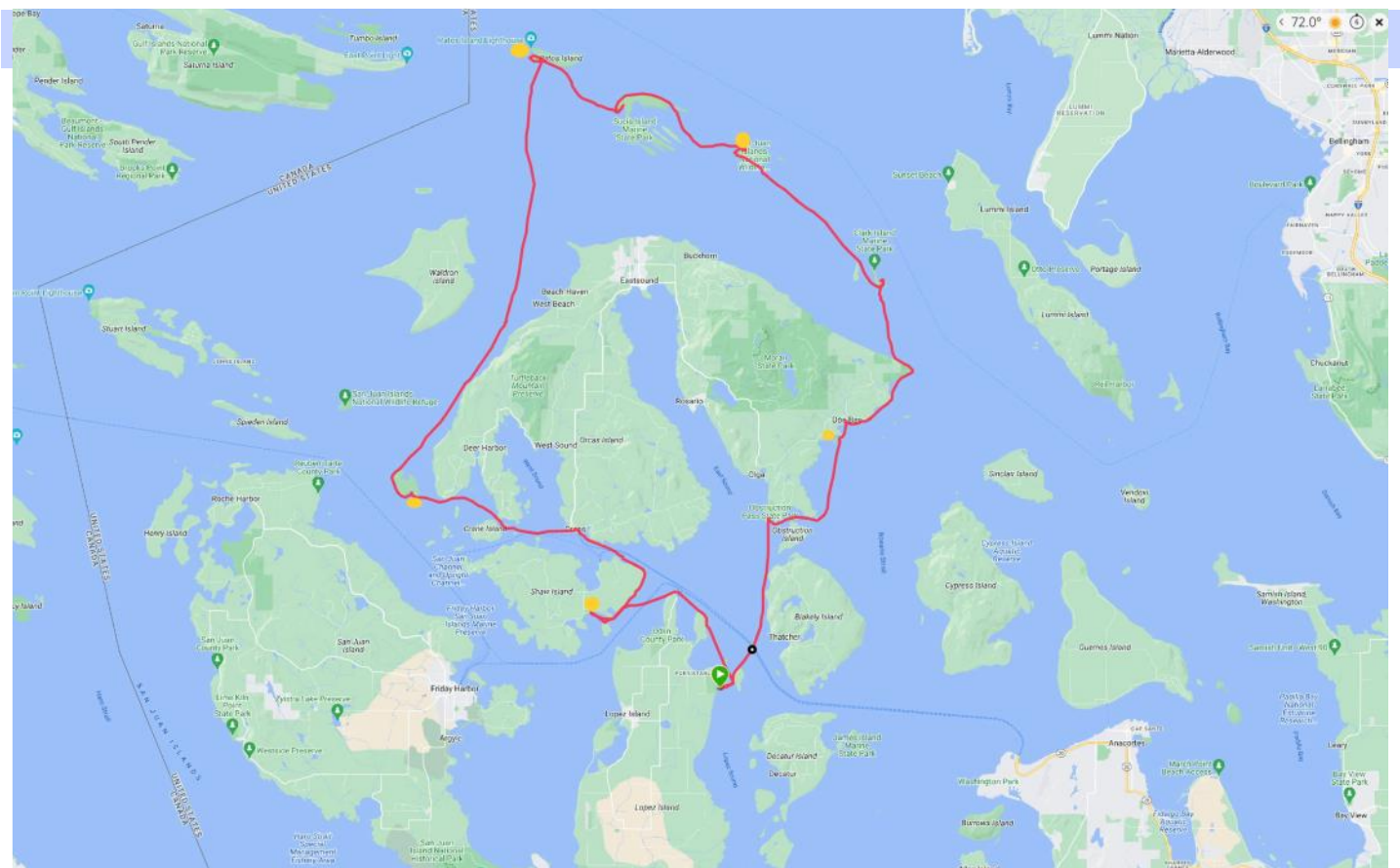
Bruce retired from the US Forest Service about 20 years ago, and Sonnie is a retired registered nurse. They are experienced kayakers and campers. Their favorite and regular kayak adventures are the Pacific Northwest (US and Canada) and the Sea of Cortez (Baja, Mexico). I was captivated by Bruce's forest fire fighting stories. He was a dedicated civil servant.

My conversations with Geoff suggest that he has mellowed from his admittedly youthful risk-taking days when he sought-out whitewater, big waterfalls, powerful whirlpools and unsupported month-long sea kayaking expeditions. On this San Juan Islands trip Geoff was the perfect guide. Each morning he queried the group. A typical exchange would go like this: "How are you feeling this morning? Here's what I suggest we do... lets stick to the plan I described last evening. We'll launch at ___ hrs paddle to ___ for a break, reassess the current, and if it is as predicted we should have a ___ kt push to tentative camp site at ___ island. If we encounter a head wind or less favorable current we can fall back to plan-B and camp a ___ island. Is everyone okay with that?"

Geoff's leadership style was decisive and deliberate. He kept us informed of the decisions he was making and why. His voice was calm and confident. He and Clayton were observant of our energy level, need for rest, water, and food. We were all questioned throughout the day as to whether or not we were comfortable with proceeding as planned. Geoff and Clayton worked well as a team. I felt safe with them and confident in their ability to assist with rescues and manage mishaps.

Our trip was blessed with nearly perfect weather. Air temperatures ranged from the upper 60s (daytime) to lower 50s (nighttime). Winds were mostly light and variable except for day-2 when we encountered a 8-10kt headwind for 2 hours as we did the crossing from Orcas to Clark Island. The wind seemed to cancel-out the 1.5kt current push predicted. We opted for plan-B, camping on Matia Island rather than going further to Sucia as planned. A 2-minute, nearly bare swim, at Matia Island camp satisfied my curiosity of "how cold is 60 degree F water." *Ca, ca, ca, COLD!*

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Clayton, was an enthusiast and knowledgeable guide. In the winter he is a professional ski patroller at Mt Bachelor ski area a short drive from Bend, OR. When our group was paddling, he and Geoff took turns as lead and sweep kayak. We were a tight paddling team. Onshore Geoff and Clayton were vigilant about checking tide and relocating our kayaks to higher ground, safe from rising water and ship wakes. Clayton and Geoff worked efficiently in camp too preparing nutritious and delicious hot breakfasts and dinners and cleaning up afterwards. Lunches were typically deli meat sandwiches with lettuce, tomato, pickles, apples, and chips.

Fig. 2 Six-day route beginning/ending at Spencer Spit (green arrow) on Lopez Island and moving counter clockwise. Yellow dots are overnights. Several times during our trip we saw porpoises. Two types of porpoises typically frequent the Salish Sea - Dall's and Harbor porpoises. We saw Harbor porpoises. We did not see Orcas (killer whales), which are actually related to dolphins. We saw harbor seals, fish, crabs, and beautifully colored starfish and an assortment of shorebirds (see video). Despite warnings, our camp sites were not raided by marauding raccoons as Geoff experienced in previous trips. Precautions were taken to avoid raccoon encounters. The one animal most annoying on this trip were the hordes

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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.

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of yellow jackets that thrive on the food prepared at campsites. Their numbers were so intense that state officials deploy yellow jacket traps in the campsites. The population of yellow jackets seem unaffected by the traps which were all nearly full. Food and drink should be covered until ready to eat. The San Juan Islands are beautiful. The shoreline varies from rocky cliffs, to boulder strewn, pebble and sand beaches. Many shorelines are riddled with picturesque old logs. These can be a challenge to walk through especially carrying a kayak. Shoreline logs and braking waves require vigilant situational awareness. The high energy, cold-clear coastal water environment of the San Juans Islands, the surrounding islands and mountain views makes paddling in this region so rewarding. We were blessed with spectacular views of the northern Cascade mountains including snow covered Mt Baker (10,786ft). Much of the shoreline is privately owned. Some shoreline is not unsuitable for landing a kayak. Washington State Parks maintains many camp sites and equips them with composting toilets. Not all campsites have potable water and beginning in September less frequented camps have their water turned off for the season. Cell phone coverage is widely available but should not be relied upon. As always, VHF radios and satellite communication are highly recommended. Salish Sea tides are big and so are the currents. It's not a place for novice kayakers or even skilled kayakers with little or no experience in this environment. Weather conditions can change fast from good to gnarly. If you're not completely confident in your skills and those of your paddling partners, than seek out professionals with local knowledge and experience, at least for your first visit. You surely will enjoy your trip more. My experience with Geoff, Clayton, Bruce and Sonnie far exceeded my expectation of a San Juan Island adventure.

I'm looking forward to repeating the same or similar trip next year! Let's get busy planning! Checkout [my YouTube video](#) of this adventure. For more information and details about this specific trip offering, contact: Tumalo Creek Kayak and Canoe, Bend, Oregon (info@tumalocreek.com).

About the author: I joined CPA in 2000 as a beginner kayaker. I have benefited from CPA immensely over the years through formal and informal skill improvement opportunities. I am grateful to the past and present leadership of CPA, its trip leaders, and dedicated club members for sharing their knowledge, commitment to the club, and their work with local and state government to enhance access and promote the sport.

Trip Stats:

Day -1: Paddled 9.27 miles, camped on Doe Island, no potable water. Got water at Doe Bay resort the next morning.

Day-2: Paddled 12.59 miles, lunched on Clark Island, camped on Matia Island, no potable water.

Day-3: Paddled 9.25 miles, lunched on Sucia Island, camped on Patos Island, no potable water.

Day-4: Paddled 13.82 miles, camped on Jones Island, no potable water.

Day-5: Paddled 9.94 miles, got water at Orcas ferry landing, camped on Shaw Island (water usually available).

Day-6: Paddled 6.23 miles to take-out at our starting point 6-days earlier— Spencer Spit State Park.



Wanted: More Paddler Profiles

Paddler Profiles are a newsletter feature designed to feature...YOU! We'd like to know more about CPA members and this is your chance to tell us more about your paddling experience, what draws you to the water and what else is going on in your life.

Just fill out the few simple questions [here](#) and [send us](#) a recent photo of you in paddling mode. We'll do the rest, and soon all your CPA paddling buddies will know more about you.

For a complete roster of past Paddler Profiles, see the CPA Website [here](#).

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](#)

Officers

Coordinator coordinator@cpakayaker.com

Paula Hubbard 407-619-2896

Secretary/Membership membership@cpakayaker.com

Sue Stevens 410-531-5641
c/o CPA, P.O. Box 341,
Greenbelt, MD 20768

Treasurer — Rich Stevens treasurer@cpakayaker.com

Steering Committee steering_committee@cpakayaker.com

Lisa Arrasmith
Beth Boyd
Marilyn Cooper 440-413-1662
Katherine Neale
Bill Smith 407-489-7191
Ricardo Stewart 240-893-9714

Librarian — John Gibbs 703-922-7686 [Library](#)

Gear Volunteer — Marla Aron [Gear Page](#)

Webmaster/E-Mail List Administrators

webmaster@cpakayaker.com

Ralph Heimlich Paula Hubbard Rich Stevens

Newsletter Team news_editor@cpakayaker.com

Gary Trotter — Editor
Ralph Heimlich — Assistant Editor
Sue Stevens — Digital Distribution

The Chesapeake Paddler

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All *Paddler* newsletters are sent via email with a link to the current monthly issue. Please be sure to keep your email address current to keep receiving the *Paddler* newsletter and for reminders of when your membership is up for renewal by contacting the [CPA Secretary](#).

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.

Display advertising that relates to the interests of our readers is accepted, contact the editor at news_editor@cpakayaker.com for ad rates and specifications. Public service announcements and personal ads to sell kayaks/ accessories are published at no charge; non-members pay \$10 per ad.

Pirate Groups

Pirates of Algonkian

pirates_algonkian@cpakayaker.com
James Higgins 571-659-3319

Pirates of Arundell

pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com
Rich Stevens 410-507-4972
Béla Máriássy 301-249-4895
Greg Welker 410-531-5641
Sue Stevens

Pirates of Baltimore

pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com
Jean Wunder
Suzanne Farace
Sophie Troy
Lisa Giguère
Bob Shakeshaft 410-939-0269

Pirates of Eastern Shore

pirates_easternshore@cpakayaker.com
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Pirates of Georgetown

pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com
Jesse Aronson 571-969-1539
Tom Heneghan 571-969-1866
Rob Pearlman 240-688-6340

Pirates of the North

pirates_north@cpakayaker.com
Bob Shakeshaft 410-939-0269
Joan Sweet, 732-275-2310
Jerry Sweet

Pirates of Occoquan

pirates_occoquan@cpakayaker.com
VACANT — Please consider volunteering

Pirates of Patuxent

pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com
Jenny Plummer-Welker 301-249-4895
Don Polakovics 301-247-8133

Pirates of Potomac

pirates_potomac@cpakayaker.com
John Gibbs 703-922-7686
Bob Maynes 703-527-5299

Pirates of Sugarloaf

pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com
Laurie Collins 440-472-2134
Marilyn Cooper 440-413-1662
Luci Hollingsworth 443-474-8069
Ricardo Stewart 240-893-9714
Ben Maycock