

# The Chesapeake Paddler



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## Heart and Soul of CPA Paddling Gears Up for 2022 Season

The heart and soul of paddling in the Chesapeake Paddlers Association are the **Piracies**. "Piracy" is the quaint moniker for regional chapters that paddle on one weeknight each week. It derives from the "Mother" Piracy, the Pirates of Pier 7, when we paddled out of Ron Casterline's sea kayak shop at the Pier 7 Marina on South River, Annapolis, for many years.

There are 9 CPA Piracies operating mostly on week nights during the warmer months (see below for the nearest to you). You get a lot of benefits from joining in to Piracy activities: A core group of paddlers you know well and are comfortable paddling with, a wealth of local knowledge to draw on as you progress your paddling skills, a chance to get out each week and work the kinks out of your life on familiar home waters, and a subsidized year-end activity to wrap up the season. Most Piracies have a year-end meal or activity that is subsidized to the tune of \$35 for each regularly attending member. You must meet all CPA equipment requirements (PFD, pump, paddle float, bulkheads fore and aft or float bags) and complete one CPA waiver at the start of the season that is good all year long.

Below are the names, leaders, locations, dates and other info for each of the CPA Piracies operating this season. Click on the contact links to get in touch with the Piracy leaders. More details, pictures and phone numbers are on the CPA website at <https://www.cpakayaker.com/paddling-pirates/>. If you don't see a Piracy near you and are willing to lead, you can start YOUR own Piracy. Just contact Coordinator [Bill Smith](mailto:Bill_Smith@cpakayaker.com) at [coordinator@cpakayaker.com](mailto:coordinator@cpakayaker.com).

**Pirates of ARUNDELL**—The "Mother Piracy", the Pirates of Pier 7 evolved into a roving piracy using launches throughout Anne Arundel County near Annapolis when our lease at the Pier 7 Marina expired. Pirates of Arundell are led by King and Queen [Rich](#) and [Sue Stevens](#), ably assisted by [Greg Welker](#) and [Bela Mariassy](#). POA is the only Piracy that does not go out as one group. Most launch Wednesday evenings at 5:00-6:00 First launch aim for 4 -4:30 PM with later arrivals departing around 5 PM to return by 7 - 7:30 PM. Volunteer to cook or bring snacks! Post-paddling snacks, cookies and appetizer fare fit for Pirates are mightily appreciated. Occasional group suppers may pop up on our calendar depending on our launch location. Some typical launch sites are Galesville Wharf, Beverly-Triton Beach Park, Jonas Green Park, Homeport Farm Park, Spriggs Farm Park, Shady Side Park, and some private launches members have access to. Weekly launch locations will change! Visit the [CPA Meetup site](#) for schedule, and the [website](#) for complete details.



**Pirates of Arundell at Andrew's Beach** photo by Shae Metcalf

**Pirates of BALTIMORE**—The Charm City Pirates are led by Pirate Queens [Suzanne Farace](#) and [Sophie Troy](#), ably assisted by Northerner [Bob Shakeshaft](#). They meet every Tuesday evening, launching from various sites around Baltimore City and County. Some favorites include Dundee Creek, Rocky Point State Park, Wilson Point, Mariner Point State Park, Island View Waterfront Café, Turner Station Park, and more. On the water by 6 PM sharp, with arrival to unload at 5:30 PM. We paddle until dusk, then go grab a bite to eat at a local restaurant. The schedule of events with exact locations and dates can be found on the [CPA Meetup web-site](#) (FYI: Please indicate your attendance on the CPA Meetup site, and please change your RSVP if your plans change. It is very helpful if we know who is coming). We will begin the season on May 7th and paddle through to early October.



**Pirates of Baltimore** photo by Jean Wunder

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## From the CPA Coordinator

# Newsletter Editor and Yellowstone NP

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

CPA needs a [new editor](#) for the newsletter. Bill Upton the current editor has some family obligations and needs to step down; April's newsletter was his last. Please let us know if you have an interest in taking on this task; your help is much appreciated. Bill Upton did an excellent job so he will be sorely missed.



Bill Smith

### YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS

This past August (2021), I traveled to Yellowstone and the Tetons to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of my oldest daughter's marriage -why there? My daughter and her husband were married in Yellowstone twenty years earlier at Gull Point on Yellowstone Lake. This past summer's trip was the first for their two sons. We stayed just outside the park near West Yellowstone, Montana, and were joined by my mom, my youngest brother and his family plus a few friends who also made the trip.

I have a long history with the two parks since this was my seventh trip there, this was also the most crowded visit since many people have delayed their Yellowstone trips due to the Covid restrictions the last few years. Both parks do have a remedy to overcrowding and that is to travel in the back country. Paddling in Yellowstone is restricted to three locations which are Yellowstone Lake, Lewis Lake and Shoshone lake.

Yellowstone lake is by far the largest with over 110 miles of shoreline and is the largest high elevation lake (elevation 7,732 above sea level) in North America and the second in the world. The lake is about 20 miles long and 15 miles wide but with only about 20 miles of road following the lake, this leaves a lot of wildernesses. The average depth is 139 feet with the deepest spot recorded at 390 feet. Yellowstone Park has over 10,000 thermal features with about half near or under the lake. Due to the elevation and the short summer season, you can expect water temperatures rarely above the low 40's. The outlet to Yellowstone Lake is the Yellowstone River; a short distance down stream the river enters the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and drops over two major waterfalls.

There are several paddle-in or boat-in campsites dotting the lake and you can arrange a shuttle to your campsite or any location from the park service vendor. The park service and the vendor all monitor



A Yellowstone Lake paddle-in campsite

channel 16 on your marine radio 24/7 and since the nearest Coast Guard unit is probably 500 miles away anyone can communicate freely on that channel. You can arrange to rent a kayak from an outfitter in Jackson Hole or launch your own. The wildlife and scenery around the lake is stunning. It is not uncommon to see moose or bison roaming the shores. You can also spot an occasional elk, antelope, wolves or bear especially on the road getting there. I asked a charter captain who has been operating on the lake for the past 10 years if he ever heard of any grizzly bear encounters on the lake. He had not but when we were there in 2001 an upset charter captain told us of a solo female kayaker who was treed by a grizzly a few days earlier at her campsite and the park service waited three hours before responding because they did not want to scare the bear. There are several hiking trails around the lake, but I would not expect to see anyone since it would be a serious hike coming from any parking lot. If you are into fishing, then the lake has an abundant population of cutthroat and rainbow trout. The cutthroat trout is catch and release while the rainbow trout cannot be returned to the water since they are considered an invasive species. Don't fret-they taste delicious!

### LEWIS LAKE TO SHOSHONE LAKE

If you drive south from Yellowstone Lake on the road to the Grand Tetons National Park you will pass Lewis Lake; Lewis and Shoshone Lakes are much smaller than Yellowstone Lake but still high elevation lakes, Lewis Lake is at an elevation of 7782 feet so you can expect the cold-water temperatures. The road briefly follows the east shore of Lewis Lake but other than that it is another wilderness setting. The only way to get to Shoshone Lake (Yellowstone second largest lake) is to paddle from Lewis Lake (Yellowstone's third largest lake) along a 7-mile-long passage or hike. Both lakes are dotted with campsites with 20 back country sites on Shoshone Lake alone-this lake are for paddle

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Coordinator (Continued from page 2)



Lewis Lake

craft only. The best campsites are located at the far end of Shoshone Lake. This area of the park is less traveled except for people passing from Yellowstone to the Tetons so you can expect a tranquil setting. You can also expect the same wildlife activity with moose being the primary wild animal you will encounter. Fishing is also excellent in both lakes with brook, brown, rainbow and cutthroat trout.



Grand Tetons

If you continue south into the Grand Teton National Park (8 miles south of Lewis Lake), you can paddle on 10 of the hundred lakes in the region with 8 of the 10 being non-motorized watercraft only. You can

also expect larger

crowds paddling unless you paddle over a few lakes, Jenny Lake is so crowded with paddle craft since it is easy access and has daily or hourly rentals but once you paddle out of Jenny Lake you can expect the crowds to dwindle. String Lake and Leigh Lakes require a portage to enter so you will leave most of the crowd behind. A few miles south are Bradley, Taggart and Phelps Lakes which all require some portaging so expect them to be less crowded.

I was there in August and the daily temperatures started in the 30's but quickly warmed to the 70's. I was very comfortable with shorts and a sweatshirt in the morning and usually by 10 am or so I could shed the sweatshirt.

Bill Smith

## CPA Membership is Growing this May

If you recall CPA's FREE 12-month extension, during the Covid kayaking shut down, kept members up to date and receiving **The Chesapeake Paddler** newsletter. The free extension is good through May 2022 (i.e., May 30, 2022). Thanks to everyone, a record number of 35 Kayakers joined or renewed during the SK101 class and the SK102 On-water skills class in April.

CPA membership is at 629, plus there are an additional 72 valuable kayaking family members, spouses and partners. Eighteen new members joined in April, just after the SK101 Class April 2 – and many of them bought their first CPA logo-wicking shirts. It looks like all those size Large shirts will be on back order.

**Did you get a renewal email reminder lately?** A really large batch of kayakers' memberships will expire in May – please renew now – start here: <https://www.cpakayaker.com/membership/>. Check our [Facebook page](#) for more current news—especially about Cold-Water Kayaking Safety. Our community Facebook page is always open to read. <https://www.facebook.com/CPAKayaker/>

Ahead of your renewal date (on your CPA Membership Card), please expect to see SEVERAL reminder emails that YOUR membership is up for renewal. Please don't let your membership lapse—otherwise the next issue of **The Chesapeake Paddler** may not be in your email queue. You WON'T get news of future events, the annual November Meeting, picnics, training classes and news from our volunteer writers and the CPA Coordinator. If you renew earlier—the extra time is added onto your current renewal date. Some 62 memberships are expiring during May—this MAY Paddler MAY be YOUR last issue. It's easy to renew via Pay Pal: <https://www.cpakayaker.com/membership/>

If you are interested in helping at club activities, helping on a trip, posting new locations to paddle—please contact our CPA Coordinator Bill Smith or CPA Steering Committee members—we want to hear from you. See ya on the WARMER water real soon!

Sue Stevens

Secretary: [membership@cpakayaker.com](mailto:membership@cpakayaker.com)



SK102 at Lake Anna, Virginia photo by Rich Stevens



## Stop the Sneak at Homeport Farm Park

**Stop the Sneak!** Keep Homeport Farm Park open to the general public - don't let the county give it to the rowers. There's a **stealth project** underway for Anne Arundel County to give Homeport Farm Park, the only usable public water access point on the South River, to the rowers for an ambitious rowing facility. To add insult to injury, the Department of Recreation and Parks is **sneaking** funding for the rowing facility through the Boat Ramp Development account. Public money that could pay for a new public boat ramp for the 14,000 trailered boats and thousands of paddlers in the county may be **diverted** for an athletic facility for a small elite sport.

What can you do **NOW** to **Stop the Sneak**? Email our elected officials and their staff **ASAP!** Email addresses below. **ALSO:** submit your email as written testimony and sign up to testify for the county council budget hearings on 5/9/22 and 5/18/22 as soon as the testimony links open. 5/9/22

<https://www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council/county-council-meetings/event/05/09/2022/budget-public-hearing> 5/18/22  
<https://www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council/county-council-meetings/event/05/18/2022/budget-public-hearing-1>

Tell them how much you love Homeport. Tell them to keep Homeport open to the general public. Tell them not to close the only usable public water access point on the South River. Tell them not to *de facto* privatize Homeport by giving it to one elite sport. Tell them to spend public boat ramp money on a new public boat ramp, not a fancy rowing boathouse! Tell them what you think, tell them what you want! If you don't tell them there's a problem, they may not know there's a problem. (If they don't listen to you, they're part of the problem.)

Here are the email addresses for opposition to giving Homeport Farm Park to the rowers. The addresses are grouped by government body for cut and paste convenience. A reference roster of names and email addresses is at the end.

If you send 4 emails (1 for each government body) your email is less likely to get stuck in a spam filter. People also pay more attention to an email that goes to them and the people they work with, rather than a 50 person mass email.

The rowers are doing a vigorous email campaign to get the county to give them Homeport. Time to fight back against this land and water grab!

**Administration email address block for cut and paste convenience:**  
 expitt99@aacounty.org fy23-budget-comments@aacounty.org  
 exmoul00@aacounty.org extrum99@aacounty.org  
 rpleys00@aacounty.org

**County Council email address block for cut and paste convenience:**  
 lisa.rodvien@aacounty.org slacey@aacounty.org  
 allison.pickard@aacounty.org nathan.volke@aacounty.org  
 andrew.pruski@aacounty.org amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org  
 jessica.haire@aacounty.org

**MD Legislature District 30A email address block for cut and paste convenience:**  
 sarah.elfreth@senate.state.md.us  
 shaneka.henson@house.state.md.us dana.jones@house.state.md.us

**Maryland Department of the Environment email address block for cut and paste convenience:**

HNelson@maryland.gov Tammy.Roberson@maryland.gov  
 andrew.pizzala1@maryland.gov

Homeport Farm Park is in County Council District 6 and Maryland Legislative District 30A.

Homeport Farm Park email reference roster for community opposition to giving Homeport to rowers:

**Anne Arundel County Administration:**

County Executive Steuart Pittman [expitt99@aacounty.org](mailto:expitt99@aacounty.org)

County Executive Pittman FY23 budget comments

[fy23-budgetcomments@aacounty.org](mailto:fy23-budgetcomments@aacounty.org)

Community Engagement Officer Vincent Moulden

[exmoul00@aacounty.org](mailto:exmoul00@aacounty.org)

County Budget Officer Chris Trumbauer [extrum99@aacounty.org](mailto:extrum99@aacounty.org)

Director of Recreation and Parks Jessica Leys [rpleys00@aacounty.org](mailto:rpleys00@aacounty.org)

**Anne Arundel County Council:**

District 1 Councilwoman Sarah F. Lacey [slacey@aacounty.org](mailto:slacey@aacounty.org)

District 2 Councilwoman Allison M. Pickard

[allison.pickard@aacounty.org](mailto:allison.pickard@aacounty.org)

District 3 Councilman Nathan Volke [nathan.volke@aacounty.org](mailto:nathan.volke@aacounty.org)

District 4 Councilman Andrew Pruski [andrew.pruski@aacounty.org](mailto:andrew.pruski@aacounty.org)

District 5 Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler

[amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org](mailto:amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org)

District 6 Councilwoman Lisa Rodvien [lisa.rodvien@aacounty.org](mailto:lisa.rodvien@aacounty.org)

District 7 Councilwoman Jessica Haire [jessica.haire@aacounty.org](mailto:jessica.haire@aacounty.org)

**Maryland Legislature:**

District 30 State Senator Sarah Elfreth

[sarah.elfreth@senate.state.md.us](mailto:sarah.elfreth@senate.state.md.us)

District 30A State Delegate Shaneka Henson

[shaneka.henson@house.state.md.us](mailto:shaneka.henson@house.state.md.us)

District 30A State Delegate Dana Jones [dana.jones@house.state.md.us](mailto:dana.jones@house.state.md.us)

**Maryland Department of the Environment:**

Heather Nelson, Program Manager, Wetlands and Waterways Program,

Maryland Department of the Environment: [HNelson@maryland.gov](mailto:HNelson@maryland.gov)

Tammy Roberson, Division Chief, Tidal Wetlands Division, Wetlands

and Waterways Program, Maryland Department of the Environment:

[Tammy.Roberson@maryland.gov](mailto:Tammy.Roberson@maryland.gov)

Andrew Pizzala, Program Reviewer, Wetlands and Waterways Program,

Maryland Department of the Environment:

[andrew.pizzala1@maryland.gov](mailto:andrew.pizzala1@maryland.gov)

This is the best information available as the newsletter goes to press. County Executive Steuart Pittman presents his proposed FY23 budget to the County Council on April 29, 2022. The Department of Recreation and Parks presents its proposed FY23 budget to the County Council on May 5, 2022.

*Piracy Info (Continued from page 1)*

**Pirates of Georgetown** photo by Rob Pearlman

**Pirates of GEORGETOWN**—POG paddles the urban waters of Washington, DC. Current leaders are the Four Kings: [Tom Heneghan](#), [Jesse Aronson](#), [Rob Pearlman](#), and [Larry Ichter](#). We paddle from the Columbia Island Marina on Thursday evenings launching promptly at 6:30 pm, and will typi-

cally stay on the water for about an hour-and-a-half. We meet regardless of weather and make a safety-oriented decision whether to paddle based on real-time weather conditions (any exceptions will be posted on the forum). In the summer the marina sometimes has food and live music on Thursday nights, which we take advantage of after paddling. In the warm weather we generally have snacks at the marina after our return from paddling. Check details at the [CPA Meetup site](#).

**Pirates of the NORTH**—You are invited to join the PON on our weekly Thursday evening paddles. We think we have some of the best paddling in the Chesapeake. Leaders are [Bob Shakeshaft](#), and Joan and Jerry Sweet. Our home base is Havre de Grace (HdG), where we have multiple interesting paddles including the Susquehanna River, Garrett Island, the Fishing Battery, Furnace Bay and more. We also launch from other sites including the Elk River and the Northeast River. In 2022, our home base in HdG will be the Tydings Park boat ramp, also known as the HdG City Marina. Our long time



**Pirates of the North on the Upper Bay** photo by Bob Shakeshaft

home launch, Roberts Park, is out of commission until late summer as they construct a living shore line project there. Our regular launch time is 6PM, but this is subject to change, as is our location, so please check the [CPA Meetup](#). Please come join us.

**Pirates of OCCOQUAN**—A group of dedicated paddlers from Northern Virginia meet weekly to paddle the **Potomac** above Great Falls from various Northern Virginia Regional Parks during the evenings. Led by [Jim Zawlocki](#), we will launch at 6 PM every other Wednesday evening at Fountainhead Regional Park. On alternate weeks subgroups of the Pirates will set up peer paddles at other locations in Fairfax County along the Occoquan Water Trail. Other locations will include Bull Run Marina, Pohick Bay Regional Park, and Mason Neck State Park. The POO schedule is posted at the [Pirates of the Occoquan Discussion Forum](#) for weekly paddling plans. Decisions on locations will be made Sunday night and posted in the Forum and via the Pirates of the Occoquan mailing list.

**Pirates of ALGONKIAN**—The Pirates of Algonkian meet at Algonkian Regional Park in Sterling, VA, and are captained by [James Higgins](#). We



**Pirates of the Algonkian** photo by David Foral

congregate Tuesdays at 6:00 pm at the Algonkian Regional Park boat ramp. As a group we paddle upstream to the third Potomac island called Van Deventer, about 2 miles from the launch. Often we take a break or paddle either farther upstream before

returning with the river current. Paddlers must be off the water at or near Sunset due to Park Regulations! The launch fee is \$4 for non motorized watercraft.

**Pirates of PATUXENT**—PPAX paddles from a **NEW LOCATION** near Solomons Island, Maryland and is led by Pirate Queen Jenny Plummer-Welker and King Don Polakovics. Meet at 5:30 PM for a 6 PM launch at the tiny sandy beach next to the kayak/canoe pier and boat ramps under the Thomas Johnson Bridge. Launching is free for cartop boats. Our trips are generally six to 10 miles in length and range from open water jaunts to exploring tidal marshes, or sometimes both on the same outing. Although most of our outings are on the beautiful Patuxent River, we sometimes hold “roving nights” on other weekday nights at different locations, so please check the [“Pirates of the Patuxent” forum](#) or [CPA MeetUp](#) 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. See you under the bridge!

### **Pirates of POTO-MAC**—

POP meets at Belle Haven Marina, Alexandria, Virginia, and usually



**Pirates of the Patuxent** photo by Jenny Plummer-Welker

meets at 10 or 10:30 AM for an 11 AM launch during the heat of the summer, and at 3 during Spring and Fall, depending on the weather. Led by Pirate Kings [Bob Maynes](#) and John Gibbs, we are a bit different. We are a small group and are all retired so we almost always go out during the day and some of us go to Primos (informal Italian) for a late lunch or dinner afterwards. While we can maintain 3.5 mph when we feel so inclined we are frequently closer to 2.5 mph as we look for eagles, herons, ospreys and turtles, etc and appreciate the flora. We go different places—down to, and into, Dyke marsh or up to Alexandria’s port and sometimes as far as the Wash-

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*Piracy Info (Continued from page 5)*

ington Sailing Marina where we grab a bite to eat and watch the planes land and then paddle back downstream. We sometimes cross to the Maryland side to National Harbor and then go upstream or downstream to and up Broad Creek or Swan Creek. \$10 launching fee; seasonal passes are \$100. Get on the weekly email notice by contacting either leaders at

[mailto:mpirates\\_potomac@cpakayaker.com](mailto:mpirates_potomac@cpakayaker.com).

**Pirates of SUGARLOAF**—POS paddles in Montgomery and Howard County launches, Maryland. Led by two Queens, [Marilyn Cooper](#) and [Laurie Collins](#), we most often will be meeting on Tuesdays between 5 and 6 PM at one several spots in either Montgomery or Howard County, including Riley's Lock on the Potomac, Seneca Lake in Black Hills Regional Park, Tridelphia Reservoir or Brown's Bridge launch. In Howard County we will paddle out of Scotts Cove on the Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Laurel). The reservoirs require a put in fee or permit; we will post this information along with the location and confirmed time for the paddle on the [CPA Meetup site](#).



**Pirates of Sugarloaf on Tridelphia Reservoir** photo by Rich Stevens

## CPA Planning Meeting Highlights 2022

A Planning Meeting for the 2022 kayak season was held at Cult Classic Brewery on Kent Island on Sunday, April 24. In addition to the week-night Piracies (see article above), a diverse array of trips is planned for the upcoming season. Some of them have definite dates and are already on the CPA Meetup Calendar, but some are still being refined, so make keep checking Meetup to get the specifics. Other trips will be scheduled as the season progresses. It is never too late to schedule a CPA trip or event of your own, and we have nearly 700 members, so don't be shy about planning multiple events on the same weekend. For people with more flexible schedules, week day trips and events are often well-attended by retirees and worker-bees alike.

**April**—By the time you read this, SK102, CPA's 24<sup>th</sup> On-Water Skills Training will be history. After a 2-year hiatus caused by the COVID, the popular skills camp on Virginia's Lake Anna has been sorely missed. Several Piracies also began operating in April, with appropriate cold-water gear requirements.



**May**—The real season kicks off in May with a couple of campers (one to Assateague led by Jim Zawlocki, and another to Trappe Pond, DE, led by Bill Smith).



**Assateague Island** photo by Jim Zawlocki

A delayed memorial to Marshall Woodruff, who passed away last year, is planned for May 14, led by Bill Smith. Two non-CPA events include a Cross Currents on-water navigation class led by Paula Hub-

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### 2022 Season Plans (Continued from page 6)

bard for those who completed the classroom version, and CPA-led safety boating for Chesapeake Light Craft's Big Little Boat Festival at Camp Wabanna on the Rhode River, led by Sue and Rich Stevens. All of the nine Piracies will be in full swing in May.



**CLC Big Little Boat Festival** photo by Sue Stevens

**June**—On the Meetup calendar for June already is an exploration of colonial Hancock's Resolution on Bodkin Creek led by Rich and Sue on June 12. They also plan a leisurely beginner paddle on Rocky Gorge Reservoir on June 5. SC Member Lisa Arrasmith plans to lead a camper or day trip from the Corsica River Yacht Club, and a Maryland Fun Day from Downs Park. Check Meetup for dates. Another skills session is under consideration for late June, location TBD. Potomac Pirate Co-Captain John Gibbs and Desiree Smith plan a trip on Nanjemoy Creek from Friendship Landing following John Wilkes Booth's error-filled escape from Washington after the Lincoln assassination. Hopefully, they won't get as lost as Booth.

**July**—The heat of July is the height of the kayak season. Offerings include a 3<sup>rd</sup> of July BBQ at Ralph Heimlich's home in Ellicott City for those not wanting to wander too far on holiday-packed roads. Bill Smith plans a paddle to the iconic Thomas Point Lighthouse, possibly from Mayo Park beach on July 9. The ever-popular CPA Gear Day/Fall Out of Your Boat Day is planned for mid-July at Annapolis' Trux-



**Thomas Point Lighthouse** photo by Paul Levine

tun Park, pending resolution of an electrical problem at the launch. Rich and Sue will lead another Rocky Gorge leisurely paddle, and Ralph Heimlich is contemplating a kayak camper on the mid-Patuxent. Sophie Troy plans a day paddle out of Jug Bay on the Pax on July 30. A non-CPA event in July is the Gerry Blackstone Manhattan Circumnavigation Paddle in New York City.

**August**—SC Member Paula Hubbard plans a day paddle to view the American Lotus bloom in late July or early August on the Sassafras River/Turner Creek, depending on the state of the bloom. Potomac Pirate Co-Captain John Gibbs is also planning a lotus paddle on Mat-tawoman Creek in Southern Maryland in that same time frame.



**Turner Creek American Lotus blossoms** photo by Ralph Heimlich

**September**—The heat is still on in the Chesapeake Bay area as Fall commences and school starts. Coordinator Bill Smith plans a leisure paddle on the Magothy River for September 10. There are also two non-CPA events: The Chester River Swim for Life, a swim support event, is on the Meetup calendar for the 24<sup>th</sup>. The Kiptopeke Symposium, sponsored by Cross Currents Sea Kayaking, runs from September 23-25 and is held at Kiptopeke State Park in Cape Charles, VA. Several CPA members coach at Kiptopeke, including Paula Hubbard, Mike Hamilton, Rick Wiebush and others.

**October**—Even when things start to cool off, the paddling season is just winding down. Coordinator Bill Smith plans a Magothy River to Jonas Green shuttle paddle on October 8. Greg and Jenny Welker have scheduled Patuxent River campsite cleanups at Emory Landing (October 29), and the Ford Campsite (November 5). Most Piracies schedule their end-of-season dinners and parties during October, so be sure to attend.

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*2022 Season Plans (Continued from page 7)*

**Emory Landing paddle-in Campsite, Patuxent River** *photo by Ralph Heimlich*

**November**—The CPA year rounds out with election of officers in October, culminating at the Annual Meeting on November 6, location TBD. For cold water paddlers, the traditional Veterans Day camper on the Chickahominy River in Virginia is tentatively planned for November 9-13.



**Chickahominy River, VA, in fall** *photo by Ralph Heimlich*

**December**—While paddling is left to the hardy cold-water paddlers and tends to be scheduled close to the event due to changing weather, CPA activities don't cease. Once again, Ralph Heimlich is offering his home in Ellicott City on December 10 for the CPA Holiday Party, featuring food, fellowship, and the ever-hilarious White Elephant Kayaker's Gift Exchange.



**CPA Holiday Party 2021** *photo by Sue Stevens*

*Paddler Profile: Dave Walker (Continued from page 10)*

make it to a little rocky outcropping that had been exposed by the outgoing tide. Paddling my boat with the foredeck barely above water felt like I was trying to push a bulldozer with it's blade down. With great effort and probably a big assist from the energy of my youth (I don't think I could do it today) I managed to make it to the little outcropping where I got out, opened the hatch to see what was the matter, and discovered that the inner neoprene hatch cover that should have been stretched across the rim beneath the plastic hatch covers, was instead floating in the now-flooded compartment. I believe that at the end of the preceding season I had removed the neoprene covers to wash them and then, rather than stretching them back over the rim, just placed them into the fore and aft compartments before buckling on the plastic covers. Lesson learned and one that there but for the grace of god, I did not take to a watery grave.

**Bucket list trips?** I'm fortunate to have done a fair amount of kayaking in some really cool places but I'm probably happiest just sitting in my boat in some mid-Atlantic salt marsh, close to high tide, watching fiddler crabs and marsh snails, sipping coffee from a thermos, maybe as a gentle shower moves through. If I was to pick something a bit further afield, some place I haven't been yet...maybe Newfoundland.

**Three things you like most about paddling?** The physical feeling I have after a long day's paddle, exciting animal encounters, seeing cool geology from the vantage of the water.

**What do you like about CPA?** Looks like a pretty active organization. I've come across quite a few paddle groups, in Atlanta and elsewhere that have a web presence but appear not to have had any scheduled activities for years.

**What other paddling clubs/groups do you belong to?** I get notifications from a Charleston SC paddling meetup group.

**One unusual non-paddling thing we'd be surprised to know about you?** I met my wife on a dating site. She agreed to a date even though my user name was "Paddler61" which, in retrospect, might have seemed a bit dodgy.



Marshall E. Woodruff  
5/2/1944 - 9/24/2021  
*Celebration of Life and  
Memorial Paddle (KIP)*  
*Saturday May 14, 2022*



- Celebration of Life begins at 11:00 am at Ferry Point Park Beach.
- Memorial Paddle, organized by Bill Smith of CPA, meets at 9:00 am at Kent Narrows Launch. Paddlers join others at Ferry Point Park.
- The Celebration continues at Cult Classic Brewing  
1169 Shopping Center Rd.  
Stevensville, MD 21666 - Phone 410-980-8097
- Paddlers Please RSVP to Bill Smith - 407-489-7191 or CPA Meet Up.
- All others RSVP to Margaret Pully - 202-207-4007

Spend the day or the weekend - <https://www.baydreaming.com/destinations/kent-island/>

## Paddler Profile: Meet Dave Walker



**Lives in:** Atlanta, GA

**Real job:** Retired

**Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy?** No

**Number of years paddling?** 33

**How did you get involved in sea kayaking?** I always enjoyed the water. Growing up in Maryland, 30 minutes or so from the Bay, my dad always had a trailered boat. During the summer months, we'd take it out every few weekends, usually to fish but sometimes to just be on the water, see some sights, and enjoy a day on the Bay. Those are some of my fondest childhood memories: Hanging with dad on the boat, sitting on an ice chest eating canned Vienna sausages with crackers waiting for fish to bite, threading bloodworms onto a fishing hook (I'm not sure which of the latter were, in retrospect, more gross), falling to sleep that night still feeling the rocking of the boat. College and grad school took me away from the area and I just sort of forgot about the water. My first job, however, brought me back to the shore, this time in Connecticut where I lived about 2 blocks from Long Island Sound. One day, while browsing magazines at a New Haven news-stand, the cover of a Sea Kayaker magazine caught my eye. I still remember that cover. It was a photo of a kayak resting on a sandy beach in the Outer Banks. As I recall, the sun was low, and the shadows long, everything bathed in rich warm tones of orange and amber light. It was very seductive and I think it was then that I decided to purchase a kayak of my own. Several weeks later, I bought a boat from The Jersey Paddler (a Sealution II), a paddle and PFD, and a pair of wheels to walk it down to the beach, and never looked back.

**What boat(s) do you paddle?** A Sterling Grand Illusion. I also own a Chatham 17 but haven't paddled it since a got the Sterling boat.

**Rudder or skeg?** A skeg that jams if you look at it the wrong way.

**Type of paddle used?** a carved Greenland paddle

**Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking?** A couple of months ago, after more than 3 decades of paddling sea kayaks exclusively, I bought a pack boat (basically a canoe with a kayak hull that's meant to be propelled with a double-bladed paddle). It was just delivered from the manufacturer to the retailer and I will be picking it up by the end of January.

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities?** Is hammock laying an 'activity?'

**How often do you paddle between May and October?** It varies. I'd like to get out at least every couple of weeks, but often it's less than that. About half of my paddling anymore is on out-of-town trips.

**Do any winter paddling?** I used to, but living in Georgia, I'm more inclined to just wait the winter out and focus on other things.

**Favorite local paddling location?** Local to me is Atlanta GA (a state with no natural lakes), so nothing too exciting. Charleston is really nice but 6 hours away. The Okefenokee is also a pretty neat place to paddle and in the same state at least, but again, not really a day trip.

**Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why?** I joined in 2021 because I was planning on traveling through the area with my boat and was hoping there might be a trip I could join, but nothing was scheduled during the time I was passing through. I do get up to the area every now and then however, so still hoping that my first CPA trip isn't too long off.

**Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?** Really hard to say. Maybe paddling through caves in Lake Superior's Apostle Islands, or maybe one time in a little cove in Washington state where, before I knew it, I found myself paddling amongst, and in several instances within arms reach of a bunch of baby seals, apparently napping on the water's surface.

**Scariest/most dangerous paddling trip/incident and why?** Hmmm....I'd have to divide that up into imagined danger and actual danger. For the former, I was paddling one day over on the Eastern Shore - not too far from Crisfield. It was a weekday and there wasn't another boat in sight. Towards the end of the day, I started seeing some odd movements on the surface of the water off in the distance, but the way the sun - low and behind me - was reflecting off the water, I thought it was probably some sort of optical illusion. The disturbance grew nearer and nearer however until eventually there was no doubting it was real. I saw what looked for all the world like dozens if not hundreds of sharks (their fins anyway) heading straight for me. I grabbed the paddle shaft tightly, preparing to brace against the onslaught of sharks that would soon be ramming into my hull. I'm not generally prone to hysteria but I was really quite frightened. They grew closer and closer until I was surrounded by what turned out to be a large school of - perhaps you guessed it - cownose rays flipping the tips of their wing up and down as they travelled leisurely along searching for shellfish in the shallow waters.

As for real danger, I was in Connecticut early on in my paddling career (maybe the 2nd or 3rd year) and had taken my boat out on Easter Day for the first trip of the season. I was maybe a half mile offshore when I started to sense that my boat wasn't sitting quite right and wasn't paddling quite normal. After another 20 minutes or so, it became clear that the front end of my boat was sitting low in the water, increasingly so as more time passed. The tide was approaching max ebb (which would have taken me away from the shore towards Block Island Sound and eventually the open Atlantic) and, to make matters worse, the wind was blowing offshore, there were no other boaters in sight, and the water was still icy cold. I paddled as hard as I could against the tide and the wind, trying to

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Skills? Yep, Pretty Important!

The January-February edition of *The Chesapeake Paddler* included a reminder that readers can find archived articles about a wide range of kayaking skills on the CPA website [here](#). I clicked and found articles addressing skills such as paddle-float re-entry, spray skirt entrapment, and more. That prompted me to recall and ponder anew an experience from the end of this past paddling season that was mostly embarrassing, but, as the articles reminded me, could have been very serious.

I was out at the end of September with the Pirates of the Potomac, paddling out of Belle Haven Marina south of Alexandria. Nice day, laid back outing, and I saw an eagle perched in a tree amongst a lot of other trees. I said, "Hey over there—see the eagle?" The others couldn't pick it out. Being lulled by the calm conditions, I (yes, you can now slap me with a dead fish), took one hand off the paddle, and with that hand, pointed high and ahead to where the eagle was perched. In doing that, I managed to shift my weight, and with no paddle on the water surface, just did a total roll upside down. What would have been a barely noticeable brace became a not even available brace.

It was very odd, a slow motion movie almost. I was saying, well, I'm upside down, in water, and this isn't something I really should be doing. Guess it's time for a wet exit. Pull the loop, do it by the numbers, pop up to the surface. Everything is fine. As I say, I was thoroughly embarrassed, but didn't really think about the other not-so-happy endings that could have occurred—because I did things correctly and they worked out. Reading some of the skills articles that were linked in the January newsletter, has left me a lot less sanguine about my approach to kayaking. Like most of us, I "learned" those skills as I began kayaking, and have sort of assumed they are there, ready to take off the shelf any time I need to call on them. Thankfully, my spray skirt popping, wet exiting, self rescuing (and, importantly, not panicking) skills did in fact work for me. But, I'm going to be practicing them this coming season, and come back to them often enough to know they are in fact ready to pull off the shelf as needed.

Al Larsen

## Become a CPA Newsletter Editor!

Now's your chance to get in touch with your inner writer and graphic artist and put he or she to work editing the *Chesapeake Paddler* newsletter!

Current co-editor Bill Upton moved on to bluer waters after the April 2022 issue. Primary duties involve doing the layout of each issue, writing stories, editing submissions and working with co-editor [Ralph Heimlich](#), CPA Officers, the Steering Committee and members to cover CPA events and issues.

We use MS Publisher for PC, which is part of the MS Office Suite, for layout. I can provide hands-on or remote training and supervision for the first few issues.

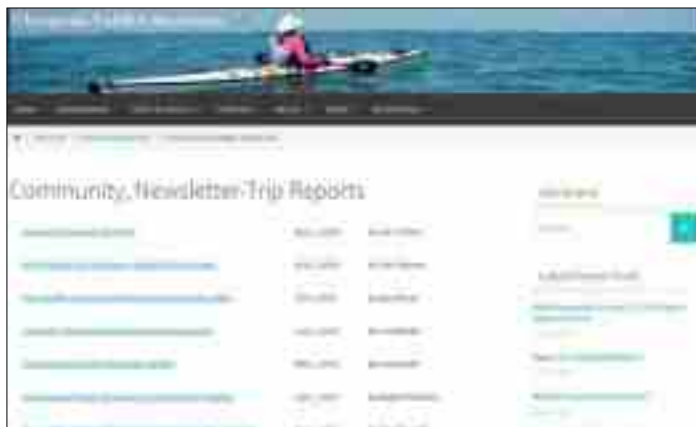
If you are interested, contact CPA Coordinator Bill Smith at: [coordinator@cpakayaker.com](mailto:coordinator@cpakayaker.com) or me at [heimlichfamily@comcast.net](mailto:heimlichfamily@comcast.net).

## Upcoming CPA Events

### Piracies Are BACK!! Check Out the One Nearest You!

[Piracies](#) are back, your destination for "hump day" paddling near you. Check out the [plans for the season](#) from the April 24th Planning Meeting. Check the [CPA Meetup page](#) for details and for notices of CPA events such as trips, classes, Piracy paddles and registration info.

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



## Get info on cool paddling trips

It's spring and time to plan some new places to paddle. CPA Trip Reports are descriptions of trips other paddlers have taken that are handy for guides others. Did you know that you can look up archived Trip Reports at <https://www.cpakayaker.com/about-cpa/community-newsletter/community-newsletter-trip-reports/>.

If you've taken a cool trip, with CPA, another club, or on your own, you can write up a trip report and share it with other paddlers. Just contact Ralph Heimlich ([heimlichfamily@comcast.net](mailto:heimlichfamily@comcast.net)) and ask! The CPA Website, it's more than you think!



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

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VACANT — Please consider volunteering

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Laurie Collins, Marilyn Cooper

## Email Distribution, Dues Payments and Ad policy

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 at [membership@cpakayaker.com](mailto:membership@cpakayaker.com).

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](mailto: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.

## 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. Articles and illustrations (graphics, photos) should be submitted as separate attachments to: [news\\_editor@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com)

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