

The Chesapeake Paddler



Volume 36 Issue 1

Publication of The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

Jan/Feb 2026

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes— NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Location: Cult Classic Brewery Meeting Hall, 155 Shopping Center Dr., Stevensville, MD 21666

Submitted by CPA Secretary Sue Stevens (edited by Paddler staff)

CPA Coordinator Paula Hubbard opened the Annual Membership Meeting at 11 AM and welcomed all thirty three of our members in attendance.

Paula recognized the 2025 Steering Committee (SC): **Lisa Arrasmith, Marilyn Cooper, Ben Mayock, Ricardo Stewart, Sophie Troy, and Jean Wunder (traveling).** She also recognized the work of Treasurer **Rich Stevens and Secretary Membership Sue Stevens.**

REPORTS

Financial Report:

CPA Treasurer Rich Stevens gave a summary of Club finances as presented in the Annual Meeting Interim Report through 10/15/2025. He reported a summary of the expenses and income: CPA net worth at this time is \$19,040.12 a 20.84% drop from this time last year. In 2025, no CPA logo gear was sold, and no SK101 or



2025—2026 CPA Leadership Team: left to right Paula Hubbard, Sophie Troy, Ben Mayock, Sue Stevens, Lisa Arrasmith, Marilyn Cooper, Rich Stevens Ricardo Stewart (and Jean Wunder—not present)

SK102 were held which negatively impacted income and membership growth.

To date 2025 club expenses included CPA Liability Insurance (\$2,486), general office, printing, and mailing expenses (\$591.50), Zoom subscription (\$164.70) and the 80.9% increased cost for the annual Meetup subscription (\$379.46).

Membership dues collected to date is \$3,187.37 (net after Pay Pal fees of \$169.63) a 17.48% increase from last

year. A copy of the full report is available on request by emailing the treasurer@cpakayaker.com.

Expected additional club expenses for remainder of the year include: Conquest Beach rental of \$800 for SK102 in June 2026; Selby Bay rental \$165 for Fall Out Of Your Boat Day (FOOB) in July 2026, \$2000 for replenishment of CPA logo shirt stock, and reimbursements for the end of season Piracy stipends.

Membership Report: CPA Secretary Sue Stevens:

(Continued on page 3)

Coordinators Column: From Paula Hubbard

The days are getting shorter, the leaves are mostly gone, and the water is getting colder. The Osprey have moved on and geese have arrived. As the temperature drops, many paddlers are hanging up their paddles until spring returns. However, for the dedicated members of our sea kayaking community, winter offers unique opportunities to be on the water. While winter paddling presents its own special rewards, crisp air, dramatic skies, quieter coastlines, it also demands respect for the conditions and thorough preparation. As always, we remind paddlers to dress as if you were going to swim. Paddle with a group, not alone. And finally, stay within your skill limits.

Some of us will continue paddling, some may find pool sessions. Some of us will continue to get together for hikes and bike rides. Some of us will travel to warmer climates. CPA will continue to be active over the winter months.

SK101 is Back!

SK 101 is a comprehensive one-day indoor event designed to introduce participants to the fundamentals of sea kayaking. Whether you're considering taking up the sport, recently purchased your first kayak, or simply want to deepen your understanding of equipment and safety, this event is perfect for you.

The day will begin with an interactive exploration of kayaks themselves. We'll examine different types of sea kayaks, from nimble day-trippers to fully-loaded expedition boats, discussing how length, width, and volume affect performance and stability. We will have multiple kayaks on display so you can see and touch the differences we're discussing.

What about the paddles? Not all paddles are created equal, and understanding your options can significantly impact your paddling efficiency and enjoyment. We'll cover touring paddles, traditional Greenland paddles, Euro blades, and specialized wing paddles used for racing. You'll learn about blade shapes, shaft materials, feathering angles, and how to choose the right paddle length for your body and paddling style.

Safety is paramount in sea kayaking, so we'll discuss fundamental safety concepts including the buddy system, essential safety gear, basic rescue techniques, and how to assess conditions before launching. This foundation will help you make informed decisions every time you head out on the water.

The highlight of the day is our famous fashion show! Club members will model everything from summer paddling gear to full winter immersion protection. You'll see drysuits, wetsuits, layering systems, and proper footwear in action, complete with honest reviews and practical advice. This entertaining presentation combines humor with life-saving information about dressing for water temperature, not air temperature.

The event is scheduled for February 28th. Registration and event details will be posted on the CPA meetup site.

Announcing the Return of SK102

SK 102 is being reinvented. Since we no longer have access to the warm waters of Lake Anna, the event is now scheduled for June 6th at Conquest Beach in Centerville MD. We have made this a one day event and there will not be on site camping. Participants who want to extend the weekend will need to be responsible for their own lodging. This is an on water event designed for those who are relatively new to paddling. We will be covering the basics of strokes, wet exits, and basic assisted and self rescues.

Look for a call for volunteers for instructors and for managing the event that will go out in January.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from Annual Meeting page 1)

The good news a lot of dedicated kayaking families are very active club members!

In 2025, CPA did not hold the annual SK101 or SK 102 classes and as a result the club did not receive the big membership bump usually resulting from these events. Newly interested kayaking students ask for training, and may be finding other venues and training resources.

CPA membership currently totals 504, a 13% decrease from last year. In 2024, the total was 577, in 2023 it was 606. CPA membership includes 90 multiple kayaker family member which increases the club's total actual headcount.

The Club saw 73 renewing memberships in 2025, a 10% year over year drop. Interestingly renewals include 12 who re-upped after a lapse of over a year. In 2024 there were 81 renewals, and 2023 had 153 renewals.

CPA had 37 new members joining in 2025 a 36% year over year drop in new memberships. The club had 58 new members in 2024 and 85 new members in 2023. All larger planned events now require attendees to be CPA members.

By 2025, CPA recognized 86 Twenty Year-Continuous-paid up LIFE members. Life memberships comprise 17% of the total club membership, and are included in the core of the club's active contributors.

The club is looking forward to more kayaking trips and planned training events returning in 2026 generating wider participation and membership growth.

Trip Participation Report:

Ralph Heimlich provided charts of trip member participation which illustrated significant decreases in the number of trips and trip leaders over the last 10 years. He made an active attempt to capture the piracy attendance this year, with most of the piracy leaders attending 10-15 sessions during the season. Seven Piracies and the new Pirates of the Atlantic Coast carry the bulk of the get togethers with weekly participation averaging 4-9. Ralph noted that weekly activity in the Piracies is not well documented unless pirate captains keep their own records or a separate season long tally. He is seeking all CPA waivers to be turned in for CPA insurance requirements. He stressed that CPA needs more trip leaders and more leaders posting day trips. Two folks volunteered on the spot!

Election Results:

Ralph Heimlich tallied the Election Ballots. Twenty two votes were cast online. For 2026 leadership there are no changes for CPA Officers or Steering Committee.

Coordinator Paula Hubbard, Rich Stevens Treasurer, Sue Stevens Secretary, and Steering Committee members:

Sophie Troy; Ben Mayock; Lisa Arrasmith; Marilyn Cooper; Ricardo Stewart; and Jean Wunder

Old Business:

1. SK101 is scheduled for February 28 at Cult Classic Brewery. **Marilyn Cooper** will be the lead contact for volunteers. Some members commented that SK101 content is too much info for newbies and non kayakers. Suggested to consider reducing number of topics and content.
2. SK102 one day event will be held on June 6 2026 on the Chester River at [Conquest Beach Park](#) in Centreville, MD. This is a Queen Anne's county park and no onsite camping is available. We are encouraging anyone interested in overnight accommodations to make their own reservations elsewhere. [Tuckahoe SP](#) or [Martineck SP](#) are potential locations for camping but reserve soon as space may be limited. Paula is reaching out to volunteers and instructors.
3. Paula will be holding her popular Navigation Workshop aiming for January or February 2026. We are seeking a library site with better lighting to utilize the charts. Renee Riley-Adams offered to find a library or community room in the Cape St. Claire community.
4. Fall out of your Boat Day (FOOB) is set for July 11, 2026 at the Selby Bay Community Beach, Annapolis, MD.
5. KIPP 2026 (Kent Island Practice Paddle 2026 edition) reintroducing the practice long distance kayaking clinic potentially led by Greg and Luci Hollingsworth. More to follow.
6. Paula seeking assistance for leading Cold Water Clinic workshop in March-April in Annapolis.

New Business:

Discussion on non-renewing members: Members suggested offering them a survey to find out why they are not renewing. New member Bev Payton offered to help. Sue will follow up.

SC member Lisa Arrasmith introduces the concerns of the Water Access Committee in Anne Arundel County:

- ✖ Spriggs Farm Park improvement re-opens ADA access ramp
- ✖ For Green Haven Park she is again requesting a porta potty on site
- ✖ Development plans for the [Valentine Creek proposed](#) new county park site, with kayak access, is facing

(continued from Annual Meeting page 3)

opposition from the local community. Lisa asks everyone to go online at this time to send their comments supporting the park development proposal

Important Reminder: Anyone can comment on an Anne Arundel County Project Proposal – even if they live outside the local community

Discovery Village boat ramp - County closure – need support

Upcoming events:

☀️ TBD in May? Kayak Repair Work Day needs a lead!

Coordinator Paula Hubbard thanked everyone for their support this year!

Meeting Adjourned 12:20 PM.

(Continued from Coordinator Column page 2)

Navigation Workshop

We are looking for a new location for the Navigation Workshop. The workshop has been held at Cult Classic Brewery, but the room tends to be dark and it is difficult for participants to work on the charts. The date has not been confirmed. Look for an announcement on the CPA Meetup site.

In Summary

Chesapeake Paddlers Association (CPA) remains active during the winter active with programs and events for dedicated members. For those who continue paddling in cold weather, remember safety, dress for immersion, paddle in groups, and stay within skill limits. We thank our volunteers for bringing back SK101, a comprehensive indoor introduction to sea kayaking scheduled for February 28th and reinventing SK102 as a one-day on-water skills with a new venue, Conquest Beach in Maryland, focusing on basic strokes and rescue techniques. Without our volunteers, CPA would not exist.

Happy Paddling.

Paula Hubbard

CPA Coordinator.



Anne Arundel County Announces Reopening of Public Boat Ramp at Discovery Village From: Anne Arundel County-Executive News

New agreement restores public water access in Shady Side at a reduced cost to the county

Anne Arundel County, MD (October 15, 2025) – Today, County Executive Steuart Pittman announced [a new agreement](#) between Anne Arundel County and Discovery Village Shady Side, LLC to provide public water access by reopening the county's boat ramp at Discovery Village, effective immediately.

The boat ramp at 4800 Atwell Road in Shady Side closed for public use on July 1. Shortly after the closure, the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks partnered with nearby Parish Creek Marina to provide public access to the marina's boat ramp through the end of the 2025 boating season. This new agreement provides public water access at Discovery Village through July 2027.

"This new agreement is good news for the county, our taxpayers, and our boaters in South County," said County Executive Steuart Pittman. "We now have a fair, fiscally responsible agreement that restores public boating access at Discovery Village."

The terms of the new agreement eliminate long-term liabilities that were included in the previous lease. Paired with the lower rent cost negotiated in this agreement, it is estimated to save the county more than \$1.5 million over the next 21 months. The new agreement includes a lease rate of \$292,195 in total rent as well as repaving of the boat ramp parking lot. These costs will be paid from the county's capital budget.

"The county never stopped the conversation with the property owners at Discovery Village," said Jessica Leys, Director of the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks. "We are thrilled to have a new lease that restores public access at this location. We also continue to pursue other avenues to increase public water access in the area and county-wide."

This agreement reflects the county's ongoing commitment to expanding water access opportunities for all residents. The Department of Recreation and Parks currently operates three public boat ramps, 18 car-top launch sites, two indoor swimming pools, and three public beaches.

"This new agreement re-establishes the public water access at Discovery Village, balancing popular public amenities with fiscal responsibility and saving taxpayer money," said County Council Chair Julie Hummer. "The Department of Recreation and Parks has been working tirelessly to increase public water access opportunities throughout the county, and I look forward to residents enjoying the fruits of their labors at Discovery Village and other locations in the months and years ahead."

More water access information can be found on the county's website - <https://www.aacounty.org/recreation-parks/parks/popular-activities/water-access>

CAUTION: Gator Behavior May Be Changing

by Bruce Romanchak

While gator attacks are not something we in the north have to deal with, and they are not the most common danger found in the south, the subject is increasingly worth our attention, especially if you are traveling in the Southeast to paddle this winter. I write as unfortunately I observed an unprovoked attack on a paddler last spring (March 2025).

Obviously safe paddling includes knowledge of local hazards.

Many of us look to traveling south in the winter to continue our paddling adventures. As we do so there are a number of situations we may not face in our home waters, including encountering alligators.

Last spring we were a small group of paddlers, part of a larger group doing a loop from Kissimmee State Park launch through Lake Rosalie, Tiger Lake to Lake Kissimmee and back to the park. Now in the early afternoon of a beautiful day we were on Tiger Creek almost to Lake Kissimmee.

While paddling in the south we have always been told that gators are shy and they stay away from humans, looking for prey the size of a chicken. Just don't provoke them and keep your distance. Gators are found in almost any body of water in the American southeast, especially in Florida, where there is a large population of gators living with a large population of humans.

"Swimmer!" At the call from behind I stopped paddling and turned to look back. About fifty yards back there was an upturned kayak hull and a paddler moving swiftly to help. Someone fell in and someone would help them back in. Others were closer so no cause for concern.

[\(Continued on page 8\)](#)

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 341
Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341
www.cpakayaker.com

To: Anne Arundel County Commissioners

I'm the coordinator of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association ([CPA](#)), an incorporated all-volunteer non-profit that promotes safe sea kayaking. In part "The mission of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. is to help people safely enjoy sea kayaking and to promote safe paddling practices through the education of the local sea kayaking community and the interested public". We are also concerned with the lack of public water access. Anne Arundel County has over 533 miles of shoreline with little public access to that shoreline. While this access has improved somewhat in very recent years there is much room for improvement. For example, the Severn River is about 14 miles long with only two public water access points – Jonas Green Park 6.5 miles downstream and the Tucker Street/Weems Creek 7.5 miles downstream. As such, the mid and upper Severn River is inaccessible to people with car top boats such as kayaks and standup paddleboards (SUPs).

Although I was personally unable to attend the meeting regarding the Valentine Creek Water Access/Trail Project on October 23rd, I received information from members of the Maryland paddling community and CPA. While local residents and homeowners' associations have been in consultations with the County and Parks Department for several years, we would have appreciated more advanced notice. I request that a kayaker and an alternate be added to the Valentine Creek stakeholder committee. I also request that additional public meetings be held to inform and involve the broad range of public water access users in planning the only public water access point on the mid and upper Severn River.

While I sympathize, to a point, with the local residents who view this project as taking away what to them has long been an exclusive private neighborhood park, this public land was acquired by the county with county, state, and federal funds. As such, Valentine Creek must serve not only the local residents, but all county residents and the general public at large. Most county residents don't have the advantage of walking to a park, yet everyone contributes to these public amenities.

The needs of kayakers are minimal. We car-top carry our kayaks. All we ask for is reasonable access to the water, about a 20' wide sandy beach launch with a firm bottom, legal parking, a vehicle access lane to the water with a loading zone near the water, a port-a-john and an ungated park entrance. We do not need a dock or a boat ramp. A kayak can be paddled in very shallow water, and will not interfere with other boat traffic on the creek. In fact, kayaks tend to stay out of channels and avoid interacting with other boaters.

The distance from the parking area to the water is a significant concern. Paddling is a sport that attracts older adults and is also a sport that people with disabilities enjoy. A typical kayak and gear can weigh from 50-80+ lbs. Even with a kayak cart it can be an arduous task to haul that up a long slope on foot, which will make it unusable for some people. A vehicle access lane to the water with a loading zone near the water is necessary for general use and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant access.

Parking is a concern for the paddling community. The proposed 10 spaces are inadequate since the park will support hiking as well as water access. People typically kayak in groups. Not paddling alone is a standard paddling safety precaution. If parking is limited, overflow parking may cause congestion on local streets making it more problematic for the residents of the community. Providing adequate parking in the park, 40 spaces, will prevent the need for overflow parking outside.

About restroom facilities: providing a seasonal portable restroom would actually help preserve the park's natural state. While local residents can return home, visitors from elsewhere need facilities, as experience at other parks has shown. Properly installed facilities, surrounded by fencing and positioned appropriately, serve everyone's interests in maintaining a clean, pleasant environment.

We also request an ungated park entrance. A locked gate discourages people from using a park, even if they can get the code for the gate lock and serves no true security purpose. Additionally, the gate lock system now used at other water access parks like Spriggs Farm Park, Homeport Farm Park and Jack Creek Park results in a substantial permanent undercount of true park use.

Some concerns have been raised about excessive traffic and crowds. Looking at comparable parks like Homeport Farm and Spriggs Farm Park would offer a useful perspective. There will be no large sandy beach for swimming, lounging about, partying, and playing volleyball. No public boat ramp, no pavilions. Valentine Creek public water access will primarily serve kayakers, standup paddleboarders, fishing kayakers and shore anglers. This modest usage is unlikely to create significant traffic concerns. Clear signage can help prevent drivers from getting lost in neighborhoods, and existing sight distance issues on local roads merit county attention regardless of park improvement. The proposed 20-foot road width for the interior park entrance road is simply the standard minimum for safe two-way traffic.

Regarding the nature of the park and concerns that the environment would be damaged, Homeport Farm Park is a great example. This space was originally mostly weed filled open fields with a derelict farmhouse and crumbling outbuildings. To put in water access

for car top boats (kayaks, canoes, and standup paddleboards) there was minimal tree clearing and the new path to the water eliminated erosion. The parking area and new path, except for a short steep stretch, is all permeable surface. In place of weed infested fields, a very successful reforestation effort is ongoing along with invasive plant removal. A similar effort is just beginning at Spriggs Farm Park that was just reopened. It has been repeatedly stated that the existing hiking paths will not be impacted at Valentine Creek Park. When looking at recently opened parks with car-top boat access, according to neighboring residents, both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife have thrived.

in conclusion, the many concerns of the stakeholders have all been successfully dealt with at other county parks that offer water access. The neighbors of these parks have eventually found that their fears were unfounded and indeed came to find the improved park to be a neighborhood asset. The strident resistance to improving this park and opening it up the general public has been seen at almost every similar park. It is natural for people to resist giving up a private amenity, but this park has been acquired using public, not just local funds. As such, it should be open to public use. With few public water access points considering the many miles of shoreline in Anne Arundel County and considering how important the Bay is to the county's financial health, it would be a tragedy to let this rare opportunity not be acted on.

Paula M. Hubbard

Paula M. Hubbard
Coordinator
Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.
<https://www.cpakayaker.com>

From:
Randi Kruger
1906 Catherine Fran Drive Accokeek MD 20607
Mobile 703-407-6014



To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the planning phase of the new public water access point at Valentine Creek on the Severn.

I am the Maryland State Director for the American Canoe Association. The ACA has pursued a 145 year mission of advocacy for people using human powered craft. Many kinds of craft fall into this category, from paddle boards to wide sit-on-top kayaks that can be pedaled. The ACA actively works in the areas of policy and stewardship, as well as education and competition.

Water access for ALL people is the heart of our mission. Simple steps can allow anyone to get on the water; effective planning must be a primary goal.

Every year I ask my constituents, the people of Maryland, what their largest issue is; what would they like me to work on? Invariably they come back with **“water access.”** Our state is a water wonderland and yet we have relatively few access points for the public. Valentine Creek would be an amazing asset. Its location on the Severn River opens the mid and upper Severn to the paddling public. The nearest public water access point on the Severn is 6.5 miles downstream at Jonas Green Park. Paddlers who launch at Valentine Creek will be able to explore the sheltered upper Severn and the other creeks around Valentine Creek.

A vehicle access lane to the water with a waterfront unloading area is necessary for any well-planned car-top launch. For example, fishing craft are heavy; the long carry from the parking area would create a genuine barrier. A long carry would also present difficulties for the less-able, the elderly, and those who need a bit of accommodation. A vehicle access lane is necessary for this to be an effective car-top launch.

Careful consideration must also be given to parking and sanitation. The original plan called for forty spots. This is an adequate number. Cutting the number of spaces down to ten will prevent usage to the point of “barely an option.” Additionally, any area that is meant

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

to serve the public needs some form of sanitation. A simple Porta-Potty will do the trick. Updated parking and sanitation must be a part of this plan.

I understand that a gate is being considered for this project. Having dealt with gated parks here in Maryland I have often observed that they provide no meaningful security while creating a significant barrier to entry for the less-able. They are an expense and has-sle no one needs.

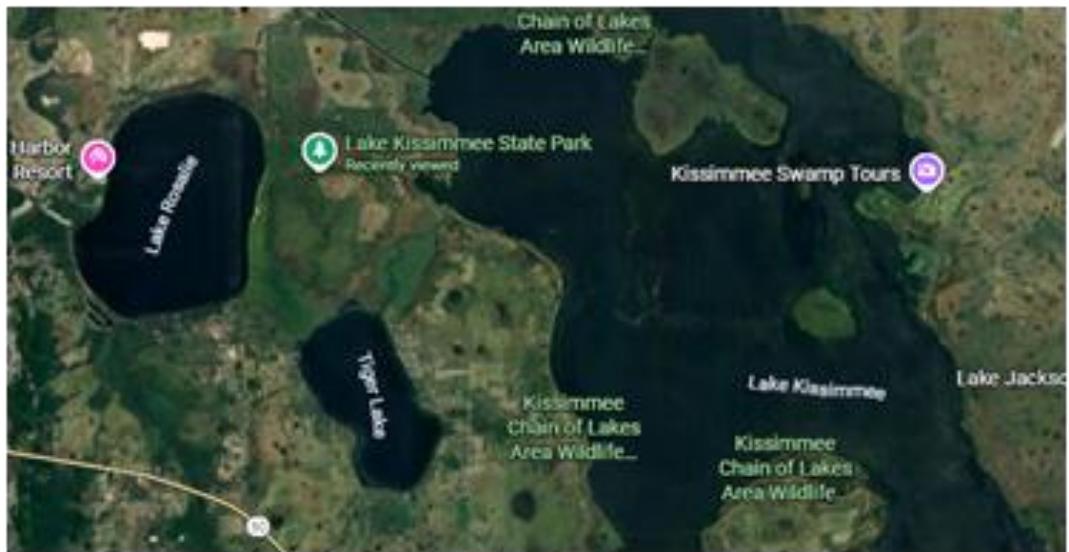
Human powered craft serve a wide variety of people. Every form of human powered craft and the people who use them will benefit from Valentine Creek. If the Pandemic taught us anything, it is that people need to get outdoors to enjoy the freedom that has brought so many people joy and health. Please, let us put this park into use, and allow the people of Maryland access to their waters.

Sincerely,
 Randi Kruger
 Maryland State Director Coastal
 Instructor Trainer American Ca-
 noe Association

(Continued from [Gator Behavior](#) page 5)

Gators are obviously dangerous in water but they can also attack (and move fast, at least for short distances) on land. From what I can find most recent fatalities appear to be people provoking gators or people near bodies of water trying to rescue their pets from gators.

The responding paddler reached the overturned boat and he reached into the water. Unexpectedly he fell in and now there were two upside down kayaks. Everyone in the area started paddling towards the scene.



It is suggested that if one encounters an alligator on land that appears threatening the best option is to runs straight away as fast as one can. In the water, if attacked, attack its sensitive nose or eyes.

The first to now respond had grabbed the back of her (the first paddler to go in) PFD and was holding her head out of the water. He asked that others help push him to shore. As two others moved to help, the other paddler in the water popped up by the shore (curiously minus his PFD) and shouted for someone to grab his now down stream kayak. Seeing others standing in the water trying to help the victim he shouted that she had been attacked by a gator and it was still in the area. "GET OUT OF THE WATER!"

Safety rules for paddling in gator areas found online include staying away from shoreline alligator nests, alligator slides or anywhere you see small gators. Mothers may respond aggressively. Alligators are more active at dawn and dusk. Do not feed alligators. Do not swim except in designated areas. Do not paddle alone.

At this point we noticed his PFD about twenty feet away moving in a circle. Unfortunately our side of the creek had a very steep shore densely covered in impenetrable brush. People helping the victim had had to stand in the water. They slid a paddle under her feet to keep them out of the water. She was bleeding from damage to the inside of her elbow and obviously in a great deal of pain. Luckily her partner was trained in wilderness first aid and another of the group was a retired (I think) nurse. All three of the people attending her were amazingly calm and effective.

We know these rules but just to recap, always have a means to contact 911 and be ready to share your exact location (turn on location sharing for texts). Also the facts of the event and the extent of the injuries. Make sure they understand you are in kayaks. In this situation we used the word boats and for a while the operator could not understand why we didn't just put her back in the boat and power back to the park.

So yes we called 911 and they were very helpful. Fortunately while the injuries were extensive there was not heavy bleeding. For various reasons it took almost an hour for the emergency services to reach us but then they quickly got her into a helicopter and to a hospital.

(Continued on page 11)



Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. 2025 Annual Meeting Financial Report

The figures in this interim report are based on the figures from 10/16/2024 through 10/15/2025, not annual figures. CPA is on a calendar year fiscal basis as set by the Club bylaws and by our federal and state corporate charters. The Annual Meeting financial report is designed to provide an overview for planning purposes. The final annual financial report will come out toward the end of January.

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. is in fair financial shape. However, our cash on hand decreased by \$5,012.54 or 20.84%, from \$24,052.66 to \$19,040.12, the third year we have had a decrease. The closing balance includes \$18,906.14 in the CPA bank account and \$133.98 in the PayPal account.

From the time of the last annual meeting to this one, through the hard volunteer work of a number of our members, we successfully offered or sponsored a number of events for the Club's members and the interested general public at large. Ralph Heimlich ran Zoom custom chart workshop, a father and child paddle, a Boat & Paddle Workday at the brewery with the help of many others, and with his wife Beth hosted a Fifth of July and Holiday party. Suzanne Farace offered a practice kayak camper on the Patuxent. We held Gear Day/Fall Out of your Boat Day hosted by Jess and Lise Parker at Selby-by-the-Bay Community Clubhouse in June with the help of Sue Stevens, Paula Hubbard and numerous other organizers and volunteers. Paula Hubbard also ran a kayak navigation class at the Brewery. Jim Zawlocki organized a Cold-Water Workshop held at Annapolis Canoe & Kayak and the Kent Narrows boat ramp. Cathy Smith offered a free zoom class on Getting Your Body Ready for the warm water kayaking season. Luci Hollingsworth and Jean Wonder led a classroom trip leader class. Sue and Rich Stevens organized the 21st edition of the Loons of the Adirondacks at Blue Mountain Lake. The Piracy stipends were funded. The 2024 Annual Meeting was held at the Brewery. Susan Stevens is still managing, ordering, and stocking of our logo gear and attending many events to make our hats and shirts available to our members. We covered the ongoing banking and office expenses. Our insurance liability policy is paid and up to date. We are current in filing the necessary state and federal tax returns. I apologize if I've missed recognizing any of the many others, including trip leaders, that contributed to a very successful year.

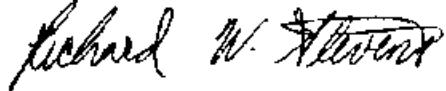
The following is a condensed listing of most of the major account transactions for the period from the last Annual Meeting plus some financial charts. Some of this year's highlights are the following:

- **Beginning Balance:** Reported as of last year's Annual Meeting was \$24,052.66. The ending balance was \$19,040.12 as of 10/15/2025 for a decrease of \$5,012.54 or 20.84% for the comparable period last year. Last year at this time there was a decrease of \$3,059.06 or 11.28%.
- **Membership Dues:** Collected, \$3,187.37; \$194.00 by check or cash and \$2,993.37 net by PayPal. PayPal fees for online membership were \$169.63. From the last Annual Meeting report over same period, we collected \$2,713.14 in dues. This year saw an increase \$474.23 or 17.48% from the previous year.
- **SK101 and SK102:** Were not held this year, but are already scheduled for next year. For SK102 we have already paid \$800.00 to reserve a new venue at Conquest Beach on the Corsica River. \$200.00 of this fee is refundable.
- **Trip Leader Training:** Led by Luci Hollingsworth and Jean Wonder. Expenses were \$41.40 for food.
- **Navigation Class:** Offered to CPA members by Paula Hubbard and sponsored by CPA, expenses were \$322.16 for food, coffee, and printing.
- **Cold Water Workshop:** Run by Jim Zawlocki and held at Annapolis Canoe & Kayak. Pizza, soda, and other items cost \$117.17.
- **CPA Gear Day/Fall Out of Your Boat Days:** An event run in June hosted by Jess and Lise Parker at the fabulous Selby-by-the-Bay Community Clubhouse with the help of numerous other organizers and volunteers was a hit again this year. This event was entirely sponsored by CPA and was open to interested members of the public. Expenses were \$165.00 for the venue rental and \$31.81 for food and supplies, for a total of \$196.81.
- **Meetup and Web Site:** These were some of our major expenses over the last year. We spent \$379.46 for a 12-month Meetup subscription, up from \$209.76, an increase of \$169.70 or 80.90%. Our Zoom account was \$164.70; Moniker Services for Email and hosting was \$75.19; SendLayer, an email support service was \$60.00; Wordfence, a web editing program was \$149.00; and \$480.00 to Gregg Banse for web hosting and technical support. Total expenses were \$1,308.35 down from \$1,497.96 last year, a decrease of \$189.61 or 12.66%.
- **General Office, Printing, and Mailing Expenses:** Including post office box, printer supplies, membership cards were \$591.50, down \$26.68 or 4.32% from \$618.18 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 \$164.53 and the Post Office box rental was \$282.00. Office supplies included a file tote and printer supplies were \$144.97.
- **Logo Gear:** Sales were \$315.00 with no expenses. Last year there was a net profit of \$1,356.10. Sue reports that we currently have \$845.00 in retail value of shirts in stock plus a large number of magnetic stickers that sell for \$3.00 each. Logo gear is sold at or near cost.
- **Liability Insurance:** Cost was \$2,486.00, for our policy that covers camping in addition to kayaking. Last year our liability policy was \$2,252.00, a decrease of \$234.00 or 9.41%. Camping insurance was required for SK102 and would cover other events involving camping.
- **Last Year's Annual Meeting:** Was held at Cult Classic. Expenses were \$214.20 for pizza.
- **Piracy Expenses:** From 10/16/2024 to 10/15/2025; Pirates of the Patuxent \$114.45, Pirates of the North \$280.00, Pirates of Sugarloaf \$420.00, Pirates of Arundell \$262.50, and Pirates of Baltimore \$350.00, all in 2024. Total Piracy stipends for this time period were \$1,426.50. This is up from \$1,247.49 in 2024, an increase of \$179.46 or 14.39%.
- **Holiday Party:** Hosted by Ralph and Beth Heimlich in 2024. Expenses for food and supplies were \$89.46. Thanks to the Heimlichs for allowing a raging hoard of Pirates to swarm up the driveway and pillage their home.
- **Credit Card Cash Back:** \$38.97.
- **Charitable Donation:** \$20.00.
- **Future Major Expenses for the Fiscal Year:** Holiday Party, Annual Meeting, and Piracy Stipends. Some of these are pending, and will come due before the end of the year. Income and other expenses for the next two months, aside from

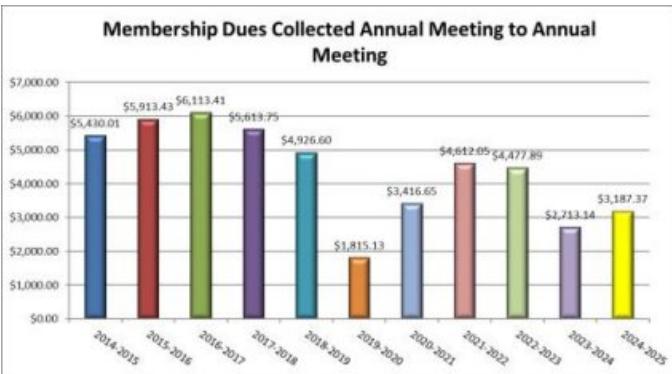
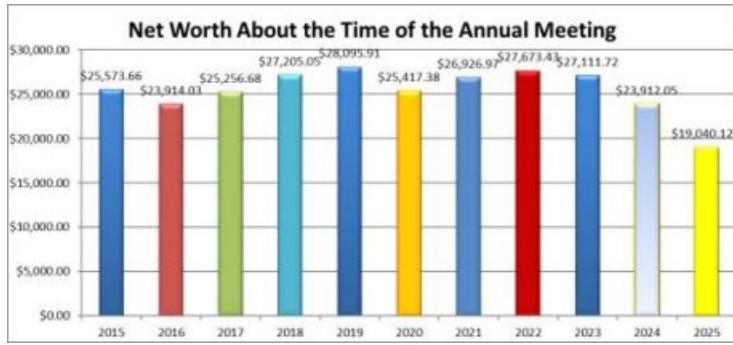
those enumerated above, are variable but relatively small. Fortunately, we were in a good financial position going into this period and hopefully the coming year will remain the same.

Of note, during this time period we spent \$800.00 to reserve the venue for next year's SK102. We are also considering going back to a liability policy that covers only kayaking related activities and not camping. Coverage for camping was required as SK102 was held on private property. Ordinarily camp grounds have their own liability policy. Next year's SK102 will not include camping. Going to a kayaking only related policy will save about \$1,200.00. We have cut some expenses and plan for more next year. We have not given out any appreciation awards this year and plan on cutting back on food expenses for events. We also plan on charging at least a nominal fee for some of our special events where we incur expenses.

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 .



Richard Stevens
Treasurer
Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.



Announcement from Randi Kruger:

A KAYAKER'S LIFE YARD SALE

Randi Kruger has found herself under a virtual MOUNTAIN of used gear.

Randi and Rob have plenty of gear they've used that can be passed on.

As students have retired and moved away they've handed on gear that still has lots of life.

In addition Randi receives gear for testing.

As a result of all these factors, she has piles used and also demo gear that needs new homes.

Carts, neoprene, drysuits, paddles, booties, kayak storage racks...

If you can think of it she probably has it.

Please help Randi clear out her stock room so she can do a massive re-organization in spring.

Cash, checks, and cards that tap will be accepted.

9 AM to 1 PM February 21, 2026

1906 Catherine Fran Dr, Accokeek, MD 20607

Email questions to Randi@capitalcitykayak.com

Guidelines for Posting Events on Meetup.

Our Meetup site can be accessed by many of our trip organizers. Occasionally events are posted that do not fall within the mission and values of CPA. CPA is an inclusive group and we have many diverse members. While we welcome open, polite discussion on many topics, we are non-political non-partisan organization. Events should not have a connection to any political activity, even if they are listed as Non CPA Events. Events that do not meet these guidelines will be deleted.

What you can and should post:

- Day Paddles
- Kayak Camping Paddles
- Kayak Car Camping trips
- Educational opportunities (non- commercial)
- Other Kayak Related Events Run by non-profits. (for example swim support, special Olympics kayak support, etc.)
- Public meetings involving water access that may be of interest to kayakers

Posts should not include

- Advertisements for paid trips, instruction or equipment
- Political events, even if they include kayaks
- Anything that promotes violence
- Anything that could be perceived as offensive or discriminatory.

(Continued from Gator Behavior page 8)

Florida appears to have the most gator attacks, but they also have the greatest number of alligators and the largest population living close to their habitat. While it is illegal to feed alligators there is anecdotal evidence that this is an increasing activity. Unfortunately this appears to be often done by those in power boats eager to attract and see gators. It is suggested that this behavior may lead to cause gators to associate boats with food.

After several surgeries to clean the wounds and fix broken bones and ten days in hospital our friend was able to fly home. We were later told that a trapper had been sent out and the offending alligator have been removed. On site we were interviewed by numerous agencies.

Everyone who responded to the 911 call was puzzled by this attack. She was at least twenty feet from shore when the gator must have grabbed her paddle, breaking it in half and pulling her into the water. It then must have grabbed her arm. When her rescuer, not knowing about the gator, tried to pull her up by her PFD the gator must have pulled her down bringing him down with her. He may have saved her life by distracting the gator whose teeth then snagged on his PFD. He had the presence of mind (while underwater face to face with a gator) to unbuckle the (side) buckles of his PFD which allowed him to escape.

What caused it to attack? The victim was at the back of our pack, the gator must have been aware of our presence. The paddler was not near a nest, she did nothing to provoke it, she did not have any food on her kayak deck.

Please keep in mind that gator attacks are relatively rare and there are numerous other dangers that are more likely to happen. However it appears that these gator events may increase due to the irresponsible behavior of some boaters.

The worst possible scenario. A few weeks later in almost the same location on Tiger Creek a couple in a canoe floated over a gator in shallow water. The gator responded and the canoe overturned. The woman was killed by that gator.

Resources:

Human – alligator incidents in the United States: risky human behaviors cause most “attacks” – Winter 2023

<https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1885&context=hwi>

Human-Alligator Incidents Fact Sheet Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Last Updated: December, 2022

<https://myfwc.com/media/1776/human-alligatorincidentfactsheet.pdf>

Do Alligators Eat Humans and the Risks of Encounters – 27 August 2025

<https://www.nahf.org/article/do-alligators-eat-humans>

news coverage of March attack – 5 March 2025

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/03/05/alligator-attack-kayaker-florida-tiger-creek-preserve/81568917007/>

coverage of later fatal attack

<https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2025/06/26/florida-gator-attack-death-details-lake-kissimmee-polk-gatorwise-website/84348869007/>

and more coverage

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/06/26/alligator-attack-canoe-cynthia-diekema-killed-florida/84367042007/>

Upcoming CPA Events

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

SK 101—Basic Skills Classroom	Feb 28, 2026	Cult Classic Brewery	Marilyn Cooper
Save The Date			
Navigation Class	TBD (Jan or Feb 2026)	TBD	Paula Hubbard
How to Choose a Kayak Based on How It's Made.	TBD (January or February)	Zoom	Rich Stevens
Cold Water Clinic Workshop	TBD (March 2026)	TBD	Looking for Assistance
Kayak Repair Workshop	TBD (May 2026)		Looking for Lead
Kent Island Practice Paddle	TBD (May 2026)	TBD	
SK 102— Basic Skills on Water	June 6, 2026	Conquest Beach Park on the Chester River, Centreville	
KIPP 2026	Various Sumer 2026	Various	TBD
Fall Out of Boat Day	July 11, 2026	Selby Bay Community Beach; Annapolis, MD	Sue Stevens
Local Non CPA Events			
Sail250 – America's 250 Maritime Celebrations	2026 June 25th to 2026 July 1st—	Baltimore Harbor	Sail Baltimore

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.

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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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

The newsletter may be reprinted whole or in part if credit is given to this newsletter and any identified author (unless an article is specifically copyrighted), and a courtesy copy is sent to the Editor. The download link or file for the electronic version of this newsletter may not be posted or forwarded to non-members without the express consent of the Coordinator or Editor.

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](#).

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 kayak/ accessories are published at no charge; non-members pay \$10 per ad.

Pirate Groups

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vacant /under construction

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VACANT — Please consider volunteering

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