

The Chesapeake Paddler



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What Are The Most Popular CPA Trips?

By Ralph Heimlich

I've been keeping track of CPA participation via the waivers returned by CPA trip leaders since 2012. Our insurer requires that we collect the waivers in case of any issues, but they also give us a chance to see who is participating and what are the most popular activities. Each year before the Annual Meeting I summarize participation (you can see previous reports at <https://www.cpakayaker.com/about-cpa/community-newsletter/>), but for this article, I summarized trips by location to get a better idea of where trip leaders like to go, and how many paddlers like to go with them. CPA events are categorized into day trips; campers; training; cleanups; Piracies and social events. I analyzed day trips and campers here because the locations of the other events are circumscribed by available venues. Long-term training events like SK102 (Lake Anna, VA) and KIPP (Kent Island) aren't included in either day trips or campers.



Day Trips—The most popular locations for day trips are Eastern Neck (28 trips), Magothy River (24), Patuxent River (23), Potomac River (23), Wye Island (22), and Mallows Bay (15). It's not hard to understand why these are popular locations since they are in reasonable proximity to Baltimore, Annapolis, and Washington D.C. Eastern Neck

was probably **Marshall Woodruff's** favorite place to paddle and he frequently scheduled paddles there three or four times a season. Similarly, **Bill Smith** lived on the Magothy River and often scheduled paddles on his "backyard" river, often paddling from the Magothy out on the Bay and into the Severn River. The Patuxent River is the "backyard" of many CPA trip leaders (**Greg Welker**, **Suzanne Farace** and I to name a few), and gets a lot of CPA trips. I've gone out of my way in 2019 and again this year to schedule paddles the length of the Potomac River from Washington DC to Point Lookout (The Potomac Passagemaker series) so the Potomac racks up all those trips as well as many more. Circumnavigating Wye Island is an iconic paddle led by **Rich**



and Sue Stevens many times. Completing the "top 10" are Columbia Island Marina (13), the Chester River (12), Rocky Gorge Reservoir (12), and Tridelphia Reservoir (11). Mallows Bay is now a National Marine Sanctuary and it's

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Coordinator's Column – Remembering Bill Smith

By Paula Hubbard

I heard the news that Bill Smith, a friend and former CPA Coordinator, passed away. I first met Bill on a CPA paddle when I was still relatively new to Maryland. He immediately became friends with my husband since they both had history in the Navy. It turned out that we had also shared membership in an outdoors group in Florida, Wilderness Trekkers. Here are some of my memories of paddling with Bill, and serving with him on the CPA Steering Committee.

Over the years I was on many CPA paddles with Bill. These included the Kent Island Practice Paddle Series (KIPP), the Pocomoke River, Eastern Neck Island, the Magothy River etc.

Bill was a strong paddler and was always focused on safety. He was always ready and willing to mentor new paddlers, give advice. He volunteered at many events including the Cold Water clinic, SK 101 and SK102. His generosity was limitless. After the opening of Cult Classic Brewery on Kent Island where Bill was a partner and founder, he opened the brewery for many CPA events. In addition to the Cold Water Clinic, and SK101, we also held a Kayak Navigation Class, a Boat Repair Day, and our CPA annual meeting. Cult Classic was the place for paddlers to go after paddles on the Eastern Shore.

Bill served on the CPA Steering Committee in 2016 before becoming CPA Coordinator, a position he held for 6 years. He was dedicated to the club in many ways. In addition to being Coordinator he led many paddles and volunteered for many events. He will be remembered for everything he has



Swim testing dry suits in cold water

done for CPA as well as his paddling skills, his generosity, his sense of humor, and his friendship.

As the current coordinator I send my condolences to his



SK 101 Fashion Show



Observing a rescue during SK102

family and friends that I never met. Please refer to the announcement of a Memorial for Bill Smith in this newsletter.

As always, happy paddling and remember that Bill is paddling the galaxy somewhere.



Paula Hubbard
CPA Coordinator.

Bill Smith



William Montgomery Smith III (Bill)

Chesapeake Paddlers Association and the greater paddling community lost a great friend when current Steering Committee member and former Coordinator Bill Smith passed away on August 10, 2024.

Bill and Vickie moved to Maryland in 2009 and immediately resumed their sea kayaking hobby started in Florida and joined CPA. Active members, Bill was elected to the Steering Committee in 2016 and serving as Coordinator from 2017 until 2022. Bill continued on the Steering Committee to the present.

Bill was born on March 3, 1952 to William Smith II and Jane Smith in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Bill grew up in Westland, MI, as the oldest of nine siblings. He graduated from Stevenson High School and went on to attend Penn State - Fayette Campus from which he graduated with his associate degree in architectural engineering.

Bill served overseas in Vietnam on destroyers with the U.S. Navy from 1970-1974. Bill was a member of the American Legion Post 175 in Severna Park.

On March 18, 1972 he married the love of his life, Vickie and they had two daughters together. Bill lived in Scottsdale, PA, Livonia, MI, and Windemere, FL before settling in Severna Park, MD with his family.

Bill worked as a project manager in the construction industry before he retired. Bill was an outdoors enthusiast. In addition to sea kayaking, he loved canoeing, fishing and hiking. He also loved beer and was a founding member of Cult Classic Brewing on Kent Island, MD. Bill generously made the Cult



Classic facilities available to CPA for numerous events, including annual meetings, SK101 Intro to Sea Kayaking courses, Boat and Paddle workshops, and others He always welcomed kayakers stopping in after paddling adventures.

He is survived by his loving wife, Vickie Smith of Severna Park, MD; his daughters Melissa Ellis (Ralph) of Severna Park, MD and Patricia "Patty" Chapman (Jay) of Downers Grove, IL; his mother Jane Smith of Liberty, UT; seven of his siblings; and his grandsons Patrick and Liam Ellis of Severna Park, MD.

Bill will be greatly missed by all in the Chesapeake Bay paddling community, his friends and family.

A celebration of life was held at the American Legion in Dearborn Heights, MI on Saturday, August 17, 2024.

A "Toast for Bill" will also be held at Cult Classic Brewing in Stevensville, MD on Friday, September 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM ([see the CPA Meetup here](#)).

A GoFundMe page has been set up for contributions in lieu of flowers Fundraiser by Jay Chapman : Remembering [William Smith: Memorial Fund](#) [https://www.gofundme.com/f/remembering-william-smith-memorial-fund?attribution_id=sl:74cb06c4-fe7d-465e-b388-1953118d43ee&utm_campaign=man_sharesheet_dash_ai&utm_content=amp1v1&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=copy_link]

Funds will be used to have a commemorative bar stool and/or bench placed on Kent Island in memory of Bill.

Homeport Farm Update

[Make your Voice Heard for Future of Homeport Farm Park](#)

Editors Note: Several CPA members along with other interested parties including Homeport Farms Homeowners' Association, Inc; and the Public Water Access Committee sent letters to the Anne Arundel Recreation and Parks in **opposition to support** for locating a private rowing center at the Homeport Farms Park.

The following excerpt is from the Anne [Arundel County Recreation and Parks Capital Projects Calendar of Events—“Homeport Farm Park”](#) to publicly inform the community for status of proposed development at Homeport Farm Park:

“On July 9, 2024, The County Executive and the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) hosted a waterside chat to discuss water access opportunities at Homeport Farm Park - a 25.15-acre park featuring a cartop water vessel launch and parking areas. The County Executive and the Director of DRP spoke for around 20 minutes. After the County spoke, the public could present comments for two minutes, and approximately 25-30 people spoke. A summary of all comments, including those received during the July 9th discussion, will be posted.

The County's position for Homeport Farm Park are:

- *Water and access to the water are fundamental characteristics of life in Anne Arundel County.*
- *The County will respect and adhere to the terms of the deed regarding land use.*
- *Any amenities added to the property would be for the public benefit and use. (There is NO BOATHOUSE)*
- *The Department was asked to explore the possibility of allowing a junior rowing club with racks and a floating dock at Camp Woodlands to move its equipment to Homeport Farm Park to retain access to the South River.*
- *The Annapolis Junior Rowers are being viewed under the same lens as any other youth recreational league in the County.*
- *NO engineering or technical plans for improvements are underway related to this anticipated use.*
- *The Department continues to look for ways to expand residents' opportunities to enjoy the water. The County is exploring expanded use, not eliminating or supplanting use.*

The Department of Recreation and Parks requested feedback from the public on water access opportunities at Homeport Farm Park, specifically those permissible by the deed. The deadline for comments was Tuesday, August 13. The Department thanks everyone who provided comments on this matter. The Department is reviewing all the feedback received. After the review, DRP will post all Homeport Farm Park comments on this site as well as any next steps.”

Rich Stevens, CPA treasurer and Pirates of Arundel co-Captain, in coordination with the CPA Coordinator and Steering committee sent the below letter stating the CPA position in response to the request for feedback:



Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 341
Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341
<https://www.cpakayaker.com>

Mr. Pittman and County Council Members:

I'm the Treasurer of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, an incorporated all-volunteer non-profit with over 600 members. Our Club began over 35 years ago and was based on the South River where the old Pier 7 Marina was. Our mission statement reads 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."

In line with our mission is to advocate for public water access. For many years Anne Arundell County was known for having the poorest public water access in the state in spite of having over 533 miles of shoreline. Fortunately, this has been changing in the last few years. However, here is still a long way to go.

Homeport Farm Park is still the only public water access point on the South River. I attended some of the earliest public meetings regarding this park. There was a lot of opposition from residents on both sides of Church Creek over traffic, crowds, noise, trash,

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(Homeport Farm Park from page 4)

etc. Fortunately, the park was ultimately approved and I believe that the local residents found the users of this park to be good and respectful neighbors and good stewards of the park and the park itself a valuable asset to the surrounding area. I and many of our members use this park on a regular basis.

This park, as it now exists now is truly a gem with not only an excellent soft launch for watercraft but walking trails and other amenities on its reforested land. As constructed, maintenance and operating costs to the County are minimal in keeping with the natural setting.

For all of the reasons above, I must speak out in opposition of locating a rowing center at this location for a number of reasons. We at CPA have no objections to a rowing center in general. However, this is not the location for it.

An extensive study was carried out in 2016 by Sports Facility Advisory, RowAmerica, and USRowing, for the Annapolis Rowing Club and Annapolis Junior Rowing, two of the main organizations advocating for such a facility. This study considered five possible locations and Homeport was the only one immediately rejected with no further consideration given to it for a number of reasons. An ADA compliant ramp to the water, given the elevation at the existing parking lot, would likely exceed 500' in length, even without considering constructing a suitable level staging area at the base. The ecologically friendly launch area at present is only about 20' x 20' in size. An 8-person rowing shell is 62' long. A truck and trailer to haul these boats is about 20' longer than a normal tractor trailer. To modify the Homeport Farm site to accommodate these and other vehicles and to accommodate public parking for regattas and other events would mean clearing much of the recently reforested and revegetated land, not to mention require very expensive alterations to the Rt. 2 and Homeport Drive intersection.

The site has no public utilities such as water, sewer, and electric. Required docks for these rowing shells would need to be at least 120' long in a creek only 350' wide that provides access to the South River for many residents and their boats. They would also need to be constructed in an existing relatively undisturbed critical area.

Then you have the wish list of the rowing clubs which include boat and equipment storage, meeting rooms, banquet facilities, classroom spaces, food facilities, and all of the associated infrastructure to accommodate these.

Finally, you have a very clearly written deed in addition to easements given to the residents of Homeport Farm. Many of the restrictions placed on this property, in perpetuity, prohibit usage of this park in the ways that the rowing clubs

wish to use it. The rowing clubs, in their own documents are looking for a facility that can accommodate 300-500 people at events such as regattas and other public and private events. They envision being able to use the facilities for banquets, food service, classes, and other uses to offset the expenses of the rowing facility along with their already high membership fees. The deed and easement restrictions have been repeatedly brought up at the meeting on 7/9/2024 and previous meetings with no plan as to how these restrictions can be ignored.

The dawn to dusk daily use of this park by a rowing facility is clearly incompatible with the present use of the park by the citizens of Anne Arundle County and the public at large. A rowing facility in this location would effectively convert a publicly funded park into a mostly private facility. The rowing clubs would not want non-members with their boats wandering through their facility while launching and landing their own 62' shells and other boats and while running public and private events.

As I said earlier in this letter, I and CPA have no objection to a rowing facility being located somewhere else in the County. Indeed, the people who spoke in favor of a rowing facility at the July meeting did not advocate for Homeport Farm as the preferred location. That being the case, I am somewhat mystified by the failure to consider Discovery Village. Perhaps this facility was not available during the 2016 study.

Discovery Village has a very nice new and lightly used boat ramp as well as a separate soft cartop boat launch and a vast parking lot that could easily accommodate the 62' rowing shells, trucks, trailers, and additional public parking that a true rowing center needs. The extensive bulkheaded waterfront would easily accommodate the necessary floating docks needed to launch the racing shells.

In addition, the property also has a very large building on site that appears largely unused. I understand that the county at present has a 30-year lease on the property that does not include the building. The building has all the necessary utilities as well as ample interior space to boat storage, meeting rooms, and any other uses that the rowing clubs might want after suitable renovation. I would suggest that renovation of that building would be far less than expensive and better suited than establishing a rowing center from scratch at Homeport Farm. I assume that the owner of the building would be more than happy to lease the building on good terms if the County and the rowing clubs financed the renovation. The county could probably also come up with other uses for space in the building. The alternative is that a

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[\(Popular CPA Trips from page 1\)](#)

“Ghost Fleet” attracts a lot of interest from paddlers and trip leaders. It used to be much harder to access, but since 2010, paddlers can launch directly onto the Bay from



Charles County's Mallows Bay Park. **Tom Heneghan** has for many years led trips from Quantico Marine Base across the Potomac to visit the Ghost Fleet. In addition to being the home of the Pirates of Georgetown, Columbia Island Marina is a great launch for urban paddling. In particular, I've led many Cherry Blossom Paddles early in each season from there, and **Tom Heneghan** has led DC Skyline and 4th of July Fireworks paddles from there. The Chester River has many nice paddling locations, but two recurring events that attract paddlers are the Chestertown Tea Party and Downrigging the Sultana. Rocky Gorge and Tridelphia Reservoirs on the Patuxent River are easy and beautiful places to paddle (in addition to being home-base for the revived Pirates of the Sugarloaf) and they were the venue for several Annual Meeting paddles when we used WSSC facilities for the meeting. These top 10 paddling venues attracted 48 percent of all day trips and day trip participants since 2012.

Campers—Campers give trip leaders scope to venture farther afield and sample more varied paddling venues. Many are “car campers” running from state parks or other established campsites and some are true kayak touring where all gear is loaded in the boats and paddle-in campsites are used.

The top ten camper locations are Potomac River (13 trips), Chickahominy River (12), Patuxent River (12), Eastern Bay (11), Pocomoke River (9), Upper Potomac (5), Assateague (5), Nanticoke (5), Belle Isle, VA (4) and St. Jerome Creek (4).

Camping on the Potomac River was limited prior to 2014 when the Virginia DCR established a premier paddle-in campsite at Caledon State Park. Others followed at Leesylvania SP, Widewater SP and Westmoreland SP and together with existing paddle-ins at Chapel Point and Friendship Landing in Maryland and newly established sites at Newtowne Neck SP and Point Lookout SP, the Potomac is now much friendlier to kayak touring. I've led kayak campers on the Potomac as part of the Potomac Passagemaker series, as have **Linda Delaney** and others using these sites. The Chickahominy River has been the venue of an annual Fall trip first led by **Bill Dodge**, and then taken over by me each year at the Veteran's Day Holiday. The Chickahominy and surrounding launches on the James River, such as Chipokes SP, offer a wide variety of paddling experiences. Another serial paddling effort was mounted by



Dave Wilson and Bob Shakeshaft (Chesapeake Voyagers) that aimed to paddle the entire eastern shore of the

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(Popular CPA Trips from page 6)

Chesapeake Bay in 2014-15. Of necessity, many of these were car or kayak campers, especially as the paddle reached farther down into the Virginia part of the Delmarva peninsula.

The Pocomoke River and its major tributaries Nassawango Creek and Dividing Creek have been prime paddling locations for years, based at either the Shad Landing or Millburn Landing locations of Pocomoke State Park. Both **Suzanne Farace** and I have led many trips there over the years in all seasons, but she especially at the July 4th Holiday. The Upper Potomac (above Great Falls) has been the location of several kayak (or canoe) campers over the years, beginning with **Chip Walsh**, and succeeded by **Suzanne Farace** and I. Assateague National Seashore is also a prime kayak camping location, and many CPA trips have been led there over the years by **Jim Zawlocki**, **Chip Walsh** and I, among others. The Nanticoke River is a wonderful paddling venue, especially down near the mouth of the river at Tangier Sound. I have led trips based at Roaring Point Campground at the mouth of the river, and in the upper reaches based at Trap Pond SP in Delaware. Belle Isle, VA, became a state park in 1993, but camping was not added until 2007 and shortly thereafter **Bill Dodge**

and I began leading kayak trips there. Saint Jerome Creek is one of the least known creeks for paddling on the Chesapeake Bay. Paddling up from Point Lookout SP is possible, but is often not feasible because of the windy conditions on the Bay. I found private camping at Buzz's Marina, which is the only public launch on the creek and have led trips there over the last several years.

These 10 locations account for 73 percent of the CPA camping trips and 77 percent of the participation in camping since 2012.

Resources—The full lists of CPA day and camping trips since 2012 are online [here](#). If you are looking for someplace to paddle, they are a great place to start. Trip reports over the years from *The Chesapeake Paddler* can be found at <https://www.cpakayaker.com/about-cpa/community-newsletter/community-newsletter-trip-reports/> and at my website <https://chesapeakekayaking.heimlichfamily.net/>. You can also find an interactive map of launch locations and paddle-in campsites at <https://www.cpakayaker.com/resources/places-to-paddle/chesapeake-bay-access-and-paddle-in-campsite-map/>

Wanted: More Paddler Profiles

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

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

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

(Homeport Farm Park Update from page 5)

valuable building, if unused, gradually deteriorates into a public eyesore.

Of the many items on the rowing clubs wish list this location could easily accommodate nearly all of them with no problem. The only item on their list that I can see that is not met is for a spot that is closer to a more developed area and is highly visible to the public. However, the Anne Arundel waterfront is highly developed and very expensive. You have to make some compromises.

All this being said I'm opposed to spending an exorbitant amount of County money on a project that will mostly benefit a couple of relatively small well financed private clubs. The main impetus of this push for a rowing center seems to be the fact that Annapolis Junior Rowing is losing their lease at Camp Woodlands on Gingerville Creek. While this is unfortunate, Annapolis Junior

rowing only has about 80 members. Estimates for a full rowing center runs as high as \$25 million dollars and well over \$150 thousand has already been spent on preliminary studies up to this point. This rowing center facility if it only costs half as much as some estimates show will deprive the Parks & Rec budget for years to come of money that could be better spent developing additional water access facilities such a Homeport Farm Park.

Rich Stevens – treasurer@cpakayaker.com
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Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.
<https://www.cpakayaker.com>

Upcoming Events for Sep/Oct

See [CPA Meetup Page](#) for Details of these and other events be sure to RSVP

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Pirates of Georgetown | Thursday, Aug 29, 2024 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM EDT Every week on Thursday until October 24, 2024 | Columbia Island Marina George Washington Mem Pkwy · Arlington, VA | Jesse and 2 others |
| Pirates of the North (PON) Paddles - Charlestown Wharf, Charlestown, MD | Thursday, Aug 29 2024 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM EDT | Charlestown Wharf (Long Wharf Park, Stone Wharf) Charlestown, MD | Joan S. and 2 others |
| Pirates of Baltimore Weekly Evening Paddles -- Wilson Point | Tuesday, Sept 3, 2024 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM EDT | Wilson Point Park 950 Beech Dr · Middle River, MD | Suzanne F |
| Pirates of Arundell: Exploring Solley's Cove Park' nearby ship graveyard | Wednesday, Sept 4, 2024 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM EDT | Solleys Cove Park 7360 Carbide Rd; Curtis Bay, MD | Sue Stevens |
| Pirates of Arundell: Exploring Galesville creeks | Wednesday, Sept 11, 2024 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM EDT | 4822 Riverside Dr | Sue Stevens |
| Pirates of the Patuxent - Solomons | Every 2nd Thursday of the month until October 31, 2024 | Solomons Island Boat Launch 14195 Solomons Island Rd S · Solomons, MD | Tony T and Daniel D |
| Bill Smith Celebration of Life | Friday, Sept 13, 2024 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM EDT | Cult Classic Brewery & Taproom 1169 Shopping Center Road, Stevensville , MD | Paula H. and Marilyn C. |
| Potomac Passagemaker #9: Newtowne Neck SP to Piney Point Ramp (shuttle) | Sunday, Sept 15, 2024 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM EDT | Newtowne Neck State Park 21308 Newtowne Neck Rd · Leonardtown, MD | Ralph H. |
| Potomac Passagemaker #10: Piney Point Ramp to St. Inigoes SF beaches and return | Saturday, Sept 21, 2024 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM EDT | Piney Point Landing 17139 Piney Point Rd · Piney Point, MD | Ralph H. |
| Potomac Passagemaker #11: Camper and series finale | Friday, Sept 27, 2024 at 1:00 PM to Sunday, September 29, 2024 at 3:00 PM EDT | | Ralph H. |
| 2024 Kent Island Paddle Series (KIP) Final | Saturday, Sept 28, 2024 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM EDT | Kent Narrows Public Boat Ramp 100 Piney Narrows Rd · Chester, MD | Jim Z. |
| Emory Landing Campsite Cleanup and Camping RSVP NLT Oct 20 at 3PM | Friday, Oct 25, 2024 at 10:00 AM to Sunday, Oct 27, 2024 at 3:00 PM EDT | Patuxent River Park - Jug Bay | Greg W and Jenny P. |
| SAVE THE DATE: Annual Meeting, Meet & Greet & POTLUCK | Sunday, Nov 3, 2024 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM EST | Cult Classic Brewing 1169 Shopping Center Rd · Stevensville, MD | Sue Stevens and 3 others |

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

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

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

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VACANT — Please consider volunteering

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