

The Chesapeake Paddler



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October 2020

It's time to vote for CPA Officers for 2021

Virtual Annual Meeting on Nov. 1, vote online or by mail

Voting is now open for CPA Officers (Coordinator, Secretary and Treasurer), the six members of the Steering Committee for the 2021 term (November to November) and a proposal to update CPA's Bylaws ([see page five](#)). Due to COVID-19 concerns, this year's Annual Meeting scheduled for Nov. 1, 2020 will be held virtually so all voting must be done online or by mail. Instructions for logging in to the meeting will be sent to the email address on file with the Club.

Members will be able to vote online at <https://www.cpakayaker.com/chesapeake-paddlers-association-inc-e-voting/> or use the ballot on page six to vote by mail. Members will need their CPA membership number to vote. Your number will be emailed to you in October and it is also on your CPA membership card.

Below are the candidates who have accepted nomination for their respective positions and the "stump speeches" for their candidacies.

Coordinator



Bill Smith: It has been an honor to serve as the CPA coordinator for the past four years and I would be thrilled to continue another year.

I have received a lot of support from our members over the years and appreciate it very much. I enjoy leading trips and plan to continue in the post-pandemic era and am enthusiastic about the upcoming year. Thank you for considering me for another year as Coordinator.

Secretary



Sue Stevens: It is an honor to serve as our Club Secretary and it would be a pleasure to serve again. There is no way I could take on this position without help from our Club officers, members and loyal pirates.

My tasks as Secretary include managing the off-line CPA membership database, the Club meeting minutes, Paddler News e-distribution, Pirates of Arundell weekly paddle notes, and the CPA PO mailbox pickup. An ongoing task is handling our CPA membership renewal and dues status each month starting up again JANUARY 2021!

I am looking forward to a brand new safe, healthy and sane kayaking year in 2021!

Treasurer



Rich Stevens: I have been Treasurer for a number of years now, and would be honored to serve again. Now that the Club is incorporated and on a sound legal basis, I've worked to ensure that all the proper federal and state filings

have been kept up-to-date. I've also worked hard to ensure that members are reimbursed in a timely manner, all payments are properly recorded and deposited, and that the necessary paperwork is kept up-to-date in an orderly fashion.

This spring we updated the people with signatory power

[See Candidates on page three](#)

From the CPA Coordinator

Whether Greenland or Euro, paddle on!

*Bill Smith*

Are you a Greenland paddler or a euro paddler? Well today it is a matter of preference. Since I started sea kayaking, I noticed that more and more people are using Greenland paddles. When I first picked up a euro paddle and started sea kayaking, I found them awkward since I was a lifetime canoe paddler and canoe paddlers really do not have much use for the second blade.

I found the Greenland paddle could be used like a canoe paddle when needed so it suited me the best. I think most kayakers know the history of the two paddles with the Greenland paddle being several thousand years old while the euro paddle only a few hundred. As the story goes, the Europeans looked at the crude inefficient mode of travel by the Inuit's and like everything else, they thought they knew better. After all, the locals were savages who walked around with reindeer fur clothes, chewing on blubber and using sticks for paddles to propel their funny-looking boats.

The Europeans have been exploring the arctic or far north for the past few hundred years and would travel north with the best of equipment and supplies (so they thought) but would barely last six months before starving, freezing to death or dying of scurvy. The

explorers who succeeded were the ones who realized the locals have been living and surviving in that environment for thousands of years. As it turns out, blubber is loaded with vitamin 'C', reindeer fur is extremely warm, and that stick is efficient after all.

The Inuits and people of the north are the ones who invented the first kayaks and other than the materials they made from, little has changed. If the Greenland paddle is used properly it is easier on your joints and can propel you just as fast as a euro paddle. When paddling with a Greenland paddle the load is spread out over the length of the blade rather than all at the tip like a euro paddle. I know many paddlers who still prefer the euro paddle and some that switch back and forth.

I am fascinated with the arctic, so I read a lot about explorations. Two good books I would recommend are *Arctic Dreams* by Barry Lopez and *Dangerous River* by R. M. Patterson, the interesting thing about Patterson is he is writing about himself. Patterson spent several years exploring different parts of Canada's far north mostly by canoe. *Dangerous River* is about his prospecting in the Yukon Territory where his primary mode of travel was by canoe. *Arctic Dreams* is about the history of Arctic exploration and details many of the failed missions.

I started sea kayaking while living in Florida and remember frequently passing rec boaters who would always comment on how inefficient our paddles were but then we would point out that we were passing them.

So, whether you are a euro paddler, a Greenland paddler or both, paddle on!

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.

[Candidates, from page one](#)

for our bank account. People with authorization to access our account are now Bill Smith-Coordinator, Sue Stevens-Secretary, Ralph Heimlich-Steering Committee member and holder of our offsite electronic bank records and myself. I plan on continuing to work to seek other ways for the Club to give back to our members and to ensure that Club funds are spent wisely. Although I generally hate paperwork, I've enjoyed my work for CPA. No fame and glory, but a necessary part of a corporation.

Candidates for Steering Committee

(Listed alphabetically)

Lisa Arrasmith



I grew up in Iowa and did not guess that I would fall in love with the water in the middle of my life. I learned to kayak in Baltimore Harbor in 2003 through the Canton Kayak Club (mind the Water Taxi! mind the tugboat! mind the barge! mind the drunken power boater! mind the drunken sail boater!) and lived to tell the tale and buy my first sea kayak in 2005.

My first annual CPA meeting was in Galesville in 2004, where someone sneered at the kind of boat I said I wanted to buy. I bought my Prijon Catalina anyway and still love and paddle it today. The CPA should be a no-boat shaming, sneer-free zone. My favorite CPA paddle was the final KIPP in 2011, the easiest 34 miles I ever paddled in one day, though some of the KIPP training paddles sure had their moments.

The CPA needs more full-day fun events at both easy and advanced levels. I'd like to do a Maryland side season kickoff day in late May. I've also been a leader in the public water access movement for the past six years and together with many other people we jailbroke several closed "future parks" in Anne Arundel County, so now we can all get to the water. We're not yet done jailbreaking parks. Please vote for me and I'll do my best for you.

PS: Pencil in Maryland Fun Day at Downs Park on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

Elizabeth Boyd



I have enjoyed serving on the Steering Committee this year and would be honored to continue to serve.

I have been a CPA member since 2011, regularly paddle with the Pirates of Arundell, have attended two SK102s, am a KIPPer, and served as co-editor of this newsletter for three years.

I am interested in broadening our outreach to attract new members.

Ralph Heimlich



I have been an active member of CPA for the last 18 years, and am honored to be nominated to continue on the Steering Committee.

My particular interests are a) trip leading, particularly multi-day kayak touring trips; b) training new trip leaders to continue the Club's strong programs; c) water access issues, particularly promoting new paddle-in campsites; and d) interfacing with other recreational and environmental organizations that pursue goals congruent with sea kayaking interests. Despite COVID-19, I've continued leading CPA trips, modified as needed for safety.

If elected, I hope to continue these efforts in support of the sea kayaking community.

Paula Hubbard



It would be an honor to serve on the CPA steering committee. I have always been an advocate of skills development, but this year I would like to expand my focus to allow our kayak community to become more inclusive.

This includes having more opportunities for rec boaters to learn safety skills, and also to promote more diversity in our paddling community. We will only grow when we invite more paddlers to join us. I will always encourage paddlers to improve skills through training and practice. I

[See Candidates on page four](#)

[Candidates, from page three](#)

will also encourage paddlers of all levels to join regardless of their equipment.

It's all about the love for our sport.

Katherine Neale



I am honored that several members of CPA have nominated me to be a member of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association Steering Committee.

I have been a CPA member since June 2006 and have enjoyed many of the activities and fellowship that

the Club has to offer.

If elected, some of the things I would like to work on are:

1) Recruiting and training of more trip leaders from the membership so we can offer more trips; 2) Getting more

members more involved in their local Piracies; 3) Promoting the Club to new paddlers; and 4) Helping to support safe and responsible sea kayaking.

Shelly Wiechelt



It has been my pleasure to serve on the CPA Steering Committee and Chair the SK101 Planning Committee over the past two years. I am hoping to have the opportunity to serve for another year. I believe we have a rich

tradition of kayaking safely in the Chesapeake Bay region and I enjoy being part of the community.

If elected, I intend to continue to promote safe kayaking and to work to create a welcoming and engaging environment for all CPA Club members old and new. I intend to work with the Steering Committee during this COVID-19 period to provide online education and opportunities for us to connect with one another.

Take a trip down the C&O Canal

If you want to see what it was like to travel on the C&O Canal back in the day, check out a Thomas Edison film from 1917 featuring a coal barge trip from Cumberland to Washington DC.

The video shows the barge being towed by a "trusty steed," lock operators opening the large wooden lock doors for the approaching traffic, entering the Paw-Paw tunnel and more.

Throw in the scenery alongside the Potomac River, including Great Falls and Harpers Ferry, and you have a good idea of what it was like to travel the canal and bring old photos of the canal to life.

The video is courtesy of the [Lovettsville Historical Society and Museum](#).



A Thomas Edison film from 1917 shows what a trip from Cumberland, MD to Washington, DC on the C&O Canal was like.

Proposed update to CPA's Bylaws

By Rich Stevens

Earlier this year the Steering Committee began a review and discussion of our Club's bylaws which has not been done since 2009. Several people had pointed out some shortcomings and a careful review uncovered some errors and inconsistencies.

We initiated an online discussion and arrived at several revisions. This resulted in a final version that was voted on and approved at the Steering Committee meeting held immediately prior to the Trip Planning meeting on March 8, 2020.

The existing bylaws can be found [here](#) and the proposed updated version can be found [here](#). Our present bylaws require that any proposed changes to the bylaws be voted on by the full membership at the next Annual or general membership meeting.

The revised bylaws will be on the ballot for an up-or-down vote at the next Annual Meeting, which is presently scheduled for November 1, 2020. The links for the present and proposed bylaws will be repeated on the ballot and election notifications as the time for the Annual Meeting approaches.

The proposed changes and the reasoning behind them are described as follows:

Section 3. Membership

Revocation of membership. The requirement for a 75% vote of the Steering Committee shall be changed to two thirds. This just makes more sense with a nine-member board.

Examples of reasons for termination membership are changed from (1) brings a discredit upon the CPA, or (2) endangers others, to (1) *brings a discredit upon or otherwise harms the CPA*, (2) *endangers others*, or (3) *bullies or harasses another member*. Harassment has become a significant issue in many organizations and our liability insurance does not cover it.

There was an error regarding life membership. It has always been twenty years of continuous membership, not ten.

Section 4.1. General Powers of the Steering Committee

The section that allows members to override a Steering Committee decision by referendum is eliminated. This was based on legal advice that such a provision can be divisive and is not really suitable for an all-volunteer organization like ours.

Section 4.5. Meetings

Changed the time for notification of a Steering Committee meeting from three to fifteen days to give members more notice and make it consistent with the notice required for a general membership meeting. Notice for the Annual Meeting remains at 30 days.

Section 4.8. Removal of an officer or Steering Committee member from the board.

This is a new addition. Prior to this, the only way a Steering Committee member could be removed was by revoking their membership. Full text of this section can be found [here](#) in the proposed update.

Section 8. Amendment to the Bylaws

The section regarding amendment by petition has been removed. Any member in good standing may propose an amendment to the Steering Committee for consideration. If approved by the Steering Committee, it will then be presented to the entire membership for a vote as further described in this section.

Reporting Accidents and Incidents

While CPA seldom experiences accidents or incidents, any that occur should be reported as soon as possible and in detail to the Coordinator and the Steering Committee.

The Coordinator or Treasurer will forward these documents to our insurance agents. Fillable .pdf forms for reporting incidents are online [here](#).

The first page contains the complete procedure for completing the report.

Vote for CPA Officers and Steering Committee Members

At the CPA Annual Meeting, we will discuss CPA business, elect the association officers (Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer) and the six Steering Committee positions for the 2021 term (November through November) and vote on a proposed update to CPA’s Bylaws (see page five).

Potential candidates were asked to send in their nominations and a brief stump speech by October 1 so they could be listed on the ballot below and their speeches printed in this newsletter and posted on the CPA website at <https://www.cpakayaker.com/cpa-officer>

[-election-stump-speeches/](#)). Any member may also conduct a “write-in” campaign.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, all voting this year will be done online or by mail. You may vote online at: <https://www.cpakayaker.com/chesapeake-paddlers-association-inc-e-voting/> or vote by mail by using the ballot below.

You will need your member number to vote. An email will be sent in October to your email of record with your member number. It’s also on your CPA membership card. Only one valid ballot per membership, including family memberships.

Your CPA Member Number _____ (required for a valid ballot, it will be emailed to you in October).

Officers (choose one of each)

Coordinator (vote for one)

- Bill Smith
- (Write-in Candidate) _____

Secretary (vote for one)

- Sue Stevens
- (Write-in Candidate) _____

Treasurer (vote for one)

- Rich Stevens
- (Write-in Candidate) _____

Steering Committee (choose six)

- Lisa Arrasmith
- Elizabeth Boyd
- Ralph Heimlich
- Paula Hubbard
- Katherine Neale
- Shelly Wiechelt
- (Write-in Candidate) _____

Proposed Update to CPA Bylaws

- Approve
- Reject

If voting by mail: please print out this page, vote, place the ballot in a stamped envelope, and mail it to:

**The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.
Attn: Ballot
P.O. Box 341
Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341**

Ballots must be received by October 31, 2020 to be counted.

CPA paddlers clean up Pax River site

By Ralph Heimlich

A couple of years ago, [Anne Arundel County Parks and Recreation](#) created two new paddle-in campsites on the Patuxent River Water Trail. One of these is on the Riggleman property, directly across from the Jug Bay HQ at Jackson Landing. In early September, Greg Welker and three other CPA paddlers organized a cleanup of the site to help the County keep it ready for paddlers.

Greg, Jenny Plummer-Welker, Bill Smith and I paddled down to the site from a nearby AA County site that requires special permission to launch.

We collected trash (including two sealed dock float barrels), cleared greenbriar, dismantled an impromptu brick firepit, obstructed a short-cut social trail from the landing that promised to increase erosion and last (but certainly not least), muscled a new picnic table from where it was dropped by truck over a narrow footbridge and 300 yards to its location at a bluff overlook on the trail.

All work makes for some dull paddlers, so on Saturday afternoon when the work was completed, we paddled downriver to Mattaponi Creek. We moved up past White Oak paddle-in campsite and well beyond where the long-standing beaver dam had been washed out.

I don't think I've ever been that far up Mattaponi Creek. We also enjoyed camping at the newly refurbished Riggleman site, and declare it fit for further use.

Things have been a little confusing on the Patuxent Water Trail under COVID-19. All of the campsites



Greg Welker with the trash haul from the shoreline cleanup at the Riggleman paddle-in campsite on the Patuxent River.

administered by [MNCPC](#) (Iron Pot, Selby Canoe Camp, Selby Ramp, White Oak, Spice Creek, and Milltown Landing) and Charles County (Maxwell Hall) have been closed for the entire season.

AA County thought they had closed down as well, but the website for reservations remained functional, so folks had and used legitimate reservations until that oversight was remedied.

It does seem a bit contradictory that launch sites are open and outdoor recreation with masks and social distancing is encouraged, but the paddle-in campsites are not open for use.

Let the administering agencies, especially Rick Anthony, the Director of Recreation and Parks for Anne Arundel County (rpanth49@aacounty.org), know what you think of this inconsistency and maybe we can get the campsite opened up for next season.

Meet Marshall Woodruff, Craftsman

By Ralph Heimlich

Many of you know Marshall Woodruff as a sea kayaker and the creator of the fantastically successful paddle training program known as the Kent Island Practice Paddles (KIPP).

What you may not know is that he has been making custom leather goods since starting out in the 60's in College Park, next to the University of Maryland campus. His shop made thousands of sandals, purses, belts, vests and other leather accessories popular with the "hippie" crowd in the 60's.

Later, Marshall opened the Cobbler Shoppe of Georgetown on Wisconsin Avenue where he repaired shoes and leather goods and expanded to custom dress shoes. The Shoppe was voted "Best in DC" by the Washington Magazine and the City Paper year after year.

Marshall was mentored by a French master shoemaker who had owned an exclusive salon in Paris. Gaston apprenticed Marshall...in Marshall's own shop for several years and greatly increased Marshall's skill and

confidence in his trade.

Marshall expanded to leather costuming for many institutional customers, including the Washington Opera, Washington Ballet, Broadway shows such as Miss Saigon and the Phantom of the Opera playing the Kennedy Center, and movie companies shooting in DC.

While the leather work has been on hiatus due to some medical issues which are now in recovery, Marshall once again has a small shop and is back to creating leather goods for craft fairs and special orders.

Some of his latest work is illustrated in this article. His



Besides being an avid CPA paddler, Marshall Woodruff is an accomplished leather craftsman



[See Craftsman, page nine](#)

Some of Marshall's handmade leather goods include custom-made heirloom quality bags and wallets.



[Craftsman](#), from page eight

leather goods are unique, custom made to your preferences and of heirloom quality that will last for decades. Made of the best leather and findings, each piece is one of a kind.

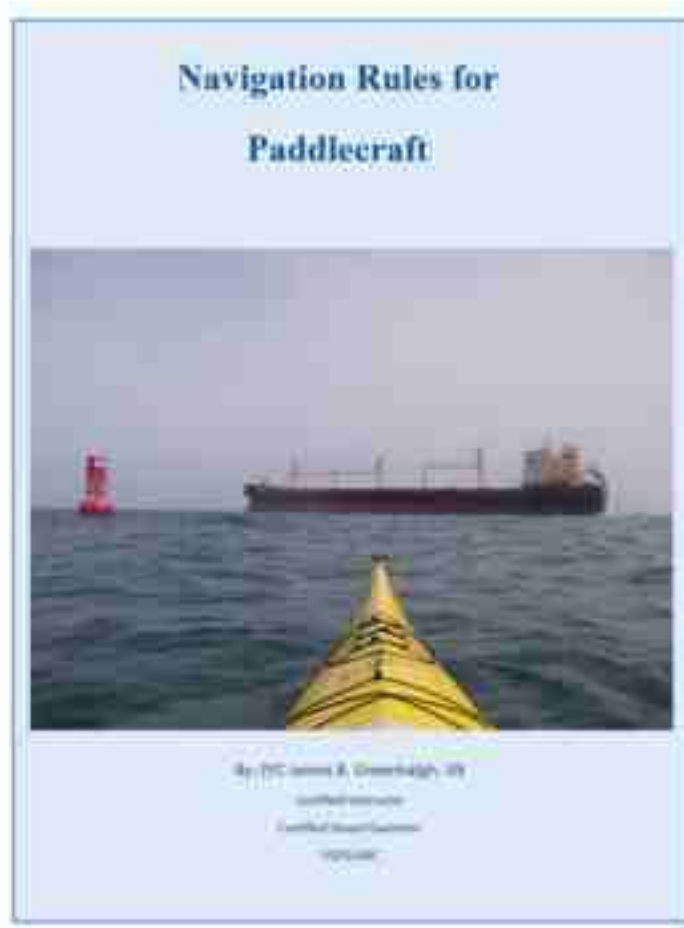
Dyes are hand rubbed into the leather, bringing out the natural texture of the hide. Items are hand stitched or machine stitched for durability.

His work is created with a love of the craft and the best materials, done right because Marshall values repeat customers who come back year after year.

If you are interested in obtaining a unique gift or item, contact him at marshall.woodruff@gmail.com or call him at 202-345-0606 (see ad on this page).



Download a handy guide to kayak navigation rules



Did you know that when you are on the water in your kayak or paddleboard you are the operator of a vessel with the same responsibilities as any other vessel operator be it a kayak or cruise ship?

The “rules of the road” for vessels can be overwhelming. Thanks to Jim Greenhalgh of the [Kayak Adventure Group](#) in Florida there’s a handy guide to make it easier to understand those rules.

Greenhalgh is a life member of the United States Power Squadrons/America’s Boating Club and an instructor who has taught boating safety and navigation courses since 1991. He is a lifelong boater with vast experience in both power and sail, and is an avid sea kayaker.

His guide summarizes the navigation rules and makes them easier to understand. Greenhalgh stresses that navigation rules are only part of safe operation and that developing common sense, skills training and taking boater safety courses are all part of being responsible members of the paddling community.

Download the guide at: <https://sites.google.com/view/kayakadventuregroup/safety-training>.

Friends gather to remember Marc Bernardo



Members and friends of the [Washington Kayak Club](#) gathered to clean up trash on Riley's Lock Road followed by a paddle on the Potomac to remember their late Commodore, Marc Bernardo.

"Thanks to everyone who came out to help honor Marc's life and remember times with him on the water," reported organizers Heather Heller and John Houghton. "Thanks again to everyone who participated and to those who were with us in spirit."

(photos: Dom J. Manalo)



Greenland festivals to hold online auction



For Greenland festival fans sidelined by the pandemic this year, you can at least have some fun participating in an online auction hosted by the Hudson River Greenland Festival (HRGF) and the [Delmarva Paddlers Retreat \(DPR\)](#).

The event kicks off on October 17 at 6:30PM (EST). The planned 6 PM opening with short films had to be scrapped due to technical limitations of ZOOM meetings.

Registration is \$10 at [Eventbrite](#). Proceeds from the auction will be split between DPR and HRGF. HRGF will donate a portion to the Native American Rights Fund. DPR will donate to the Camp Arrowhead Dining Hall Fund.

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.

www.cpakayaker.com

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CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising Rates:

We accept display advertising that relates to the interest of our readers.

Monthly rates are as follows:

size	cost	dimensions (col)
1/8 page	\$20	2.4" x 3.5" (1)
1/4 page	\$32	4.9" x 4.7" (2)
1/2 page	\$50	7.5" x 4.7" (3)
Full page	\$80	7.5" x 9.75" (3)

A 5% discount will be given for ads supplied as electronic files in acceptable formats (i.e., .tif, .gif, .jpeg, bit-map). Email news_editor@cpakayaker.com for more information and for a 10-month discount.

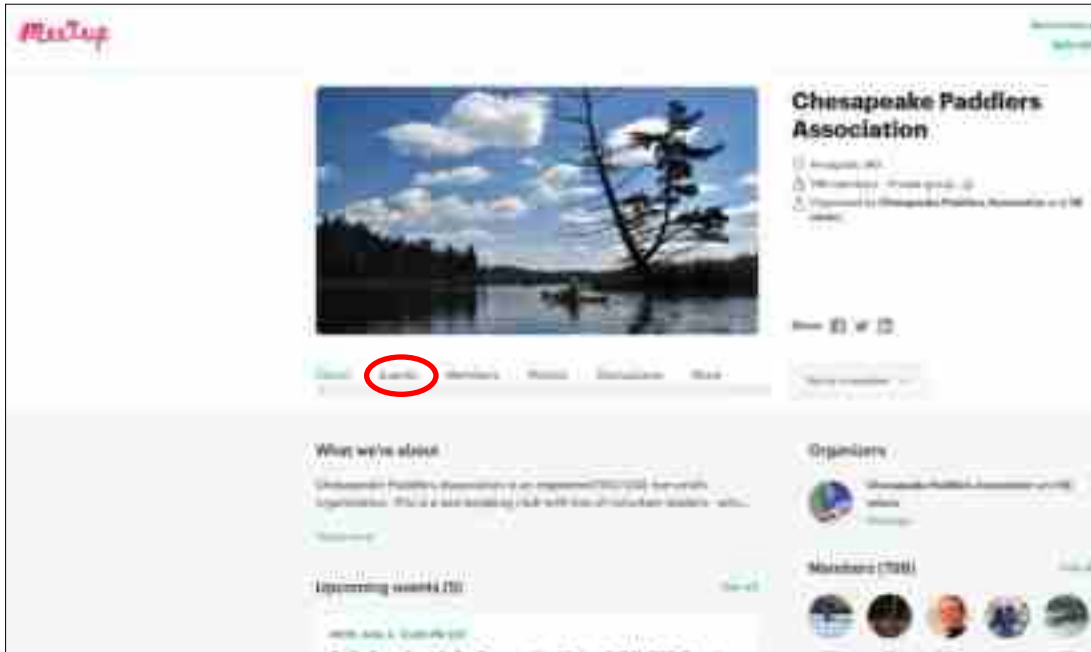
Public service announcements and personal ads to sell kayaks/ accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for three months. Ads dated three months before the date of this issue will be pulled unless a new request is received by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. And if it has sold... please tell us!

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.

Upcoming CPA events



CPA is currently scheduling some Club activities. Due to the rapidly changing environment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, members should refer to the [CPA Meetup page](#) for the latest event information.

Also, all participants should read the [CPA COVID-19 event guidelines](#) before participating in any Club activity.

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 341

Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341

ATTENTION CPA MEMBERS!

EFFECTIVE January 2021, all Paddler newsletters will be sent via email with a link to the current monthly issue and no printed copies will be mailed to members.

Please be sure to keep your email address current to keep receiving the Paddler newsletter by contacting the CPA Secretary: membership@cpakayaker.com.