

The Chesapeake Paddler



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Nov/Dec 2021

CPA holds productive Annual Meeting



At the Annual Meeting, CPA members elected Officers and Steering Committee members for 2022. From left, Membership Secretary Sue Stevens, Treasurer Rich Stevens, Coordinator Bill Smith and Steering Committee members Marilyn Cooper, Beth Boyd, Paula Hubbard, Gary Trotter, and Katherine Neale (Lisa Arrasmith not in photo).

By Ralph Heimlich

The 2021 CPA Annual Meeting was held in-person (and virtually via ZOOM) at the Cult Classic Brewery in Stevensville, Kent Island, MD. After a varied luncheon of pizza, salads, breads and desserts, Coordinator Bill Smith convened the meeting at 1 PM by welcoming those who made the drive to attend the first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019, and to those attending via the ZOOM link.

Bill extended thanks to all the volunteers (trip leaders, instructors, Piracy leaders, etc.) that kept CPA afloat

during 2021. Activity is up from 2020, but still down a bit from 2019 and preceding years.

Bill recognized the outgoing Steering Committee (Lisa Arrasmith, Beth Boyd, Ralph Heimlich, Paula Hubbard, Katherine Neale, and Shelly Wiechelt) and officers Rich Stevens (Treasurer) and Sue Stevens (Membership Secretary), and noted that two members were stepping down, while two others had stepped up to be nominated for the Steering Committee.

[See Meeting on page three](#)

From the CPA Coordinator

Annual Meeting update and remembering Marshall

This is the time of year when many paddlers call it a season while some continue to paddle with a curtailed schedule, I am part of the latter group.

If you paddle this winter then hopefully, we will meet on the water, either way I am wishing you a safe and happy winter.



Bill Smith

Marshall Woodruff

This fall CPA lost a great friend and mentor for many of our members, Marshall Woodruff. I first met Marshall on my very first CPA paddle. I had just moved to Maryland from Florida when I signed up for one of Marshall's KIPBURRRZ paddles around Eastern Neck Island. As it turned out it was a very blustery day with winds straight out of the north, this turned into a short paddle as expected but it did give me a glimpse of CPA paddles and an introduction to Marshall.

As I was a new member Marshall told me about the KIPP paddles, so it was always in the back of my mind when a new season started. I finally signed up for my first KIPP in 2012 and showed up for the first KIPP of the season launching from Kent Narrows on a sunny but cool April day.

I was surprised when I arrived to find about 25 paddlers with many returning old KIPPERS along to share their learned experiences. Marshall came across as a strict trip leader, but I soon learned that Marshall was teaching you more than just endurance but teaching you to be an independent accomplished paddler and leader. Marshall came across strict, but he also had a heart of gold and soon became a good friend. I can honestly say I am a much better paddler because of his mentorship.

I remember on that first KIPP paddle, this one guy kept flipping over (Robert Golden) but after a while I figured

out it was intentional because the group had to rush to his aid and perform a rescue.

This was all part of the show and a lesson to teach others how to react and to hone their rescue skills. I remember during my first few KIPP practice paddles, I had serious doubt I would be able to complete the 33.6 miles circumnavigation of Kent Island but when the final KIPP rolled around in September, I was so pumped up I felt could have pulled a skier around the island. I have participated on and off the last several years, completing the circumnavigation three times.

Marshall will be sorely missed.

Marshall Woodruff Memorial Paddle

If you would like to honor Marshall, A memorial paddle is planned in May of 2022. Watch the schedule and future newsletters for more detail.

CPA Annual Meeting

The final CPA business meeting of the year was held in November with the election of officers for the 2022 season. Most of the existing officers returned for the next season with two new members to replace two outgoing officers.

On behalf of the CPA membership, I would like to welcome the two new officers, Marilyn Cooper, and Gary Trotter. I would also like to recognize the returning officers, Rich and Sue Stevens, Paula Hubbard, Katherine Neale, Beth Boyd, and Lisa Arrasmith. Volunteers are what keeps us afloat so please thank them when you see them. The two who decided not to return are Shelly Wiechelt and Ralph Heimlich. Ralph will still be active leading trips and co-editor of the CPA newsletter.

SK101

During the meeting Paula Hubbard, Laurie Collins, Marilyn Cooper, and Gary Trotter volunteered to chair this year's SK 101/. Stay tuned for more details.

Safe Paddling—Bill Smith.

[Meeting, from page one](#)

Stepping down are Shelly Wiechelt, who has been the chair of SK 101 for the past two years while also serving on the Steering Committee. Shelly did a superb job and will be missed.

Ralph Heimlich has served on the Steering Committee for the past five years after serving four years as CPA Coordinator. He has been the leading trip leader for many years, organizing more trips than any other member, especially multiple kayak campers, host of the CPA Holiday party for more than 10 years and Editor and Co-editor of *The Chesapeake Paddler*. Bill expressed the hope that Ralph would remain active to help CPA continue its current success.

Bill recognized Marilyn Cooper and Gary Trotter for graciously agreeing to run for the SC and fill the vacancies created. Marilyn is co-captain of the revitalized Pirates of the Sugarloaf and Gary has been an active member for several years. Bill reiterated that volunteers are what keeps CPA alive and put out a call for all members to volunteer as trip leaders, event leaders and helpers and to run for office.

Treasurer Rich Stevens presented a [summary of the state of CPA's finances](#) for 2021. CPA continues to be in good financial shape in spite of the continuing pandemic which curtailed many activities. Our cash on hand

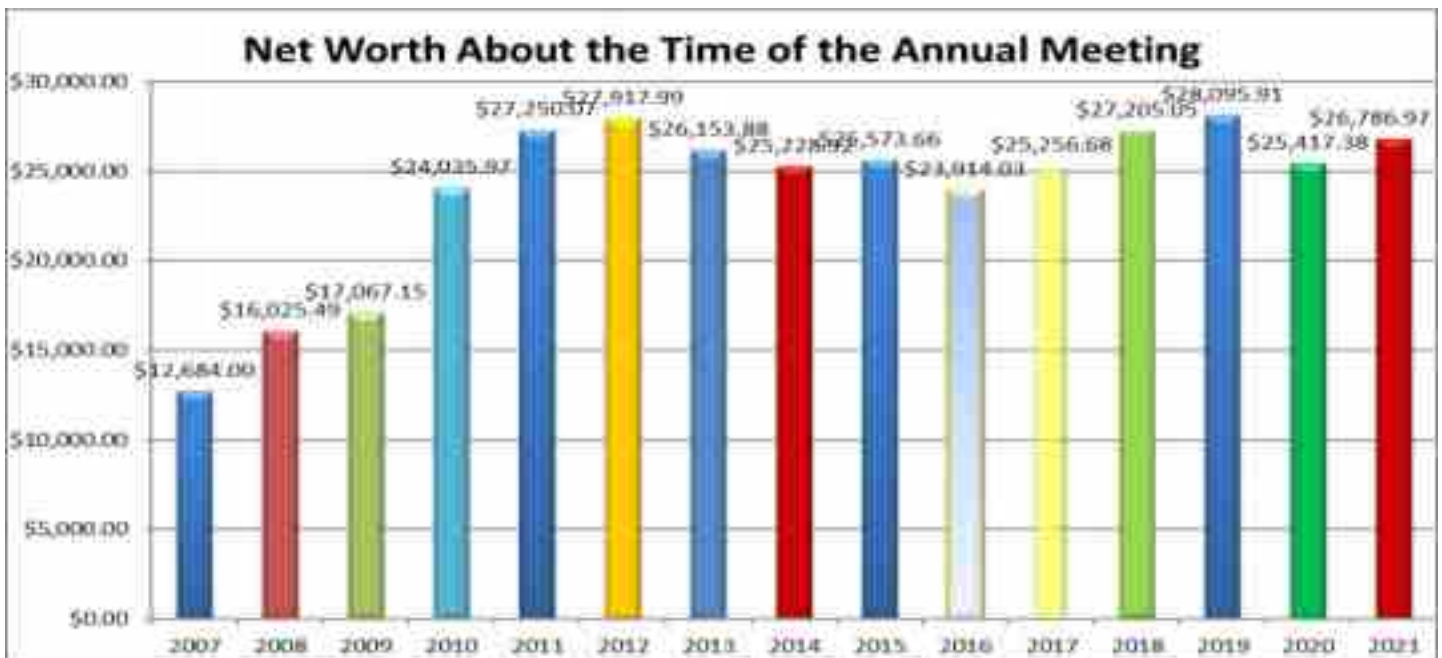
increased by \$1,370 (5%). The closing balance includes \$26,415 in the CPA bank account and \$371 in the PayPal account. Membership dues collected were \$3,417 up 85% from \$1,850 in 2020.

This is a dramatic turnaround from the previous three years where membership dues had been steadily decreasing, but still quite a way below pre-pandemic levels. Expenses on a number of usual activities were avoided (SK101 and SK102, the 2020 Annual Meeting and Holiday Party), but additional expenses for the ZOOM account to make possible virtual meetings were incurred.

Membership Secretary Sue Stevens [presented her report](#). Total CPA memberships are 619, with an additional 70 or so "invisible" family members. This has remained steady, partly due to a freeze on membership expiration in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, and partly due to an increase in renewals. 2021 membership renewals nearly doubled from 39 to 77. In 2020, CPA gained 36 new members, even though activities almost ceased. In 2021, new members nearly doubled to 65. A number of people joined or renewed immediately after the popular Zoom Cold-Water Workshops, Water Hazards training, and Basic Kayak Camping workshop, during January- March.

Ralph Heimlich presented the [2021 Participation Report](#).

[See Meeting on page four](#)



Meeting, from page three

Participation in 2021 continued to be impacted by the COVID pandemic, but showed some recovery as participants were vaccinated and returned to outdoor activity. Virtual events and a new category of winter hikes attracted participants. CPA had 25 individual trip leaders, leading a combined 84 trips or events, with 342 individual participants taking part a total of 797 times during the year.

That's 71 percent of our usual trip leader corps, 69 percent of our usual trip participation and 87 percent of our usual individual participants, based on the 2013-2019 averages. 86 people participated in 3 or more events over the season. (Note that participation in Piracies is not well documented as to number of times participating.)

Consolidated annual reports have been compiled and are online at the CPA website at (<https://www.cpakayaker.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Consolidated-Annual-Meeting-Report2021.pdf>).

Old Business

The only old business was the amendment to our bylaws passed as a referendum on the 2020 ballot.

New Business

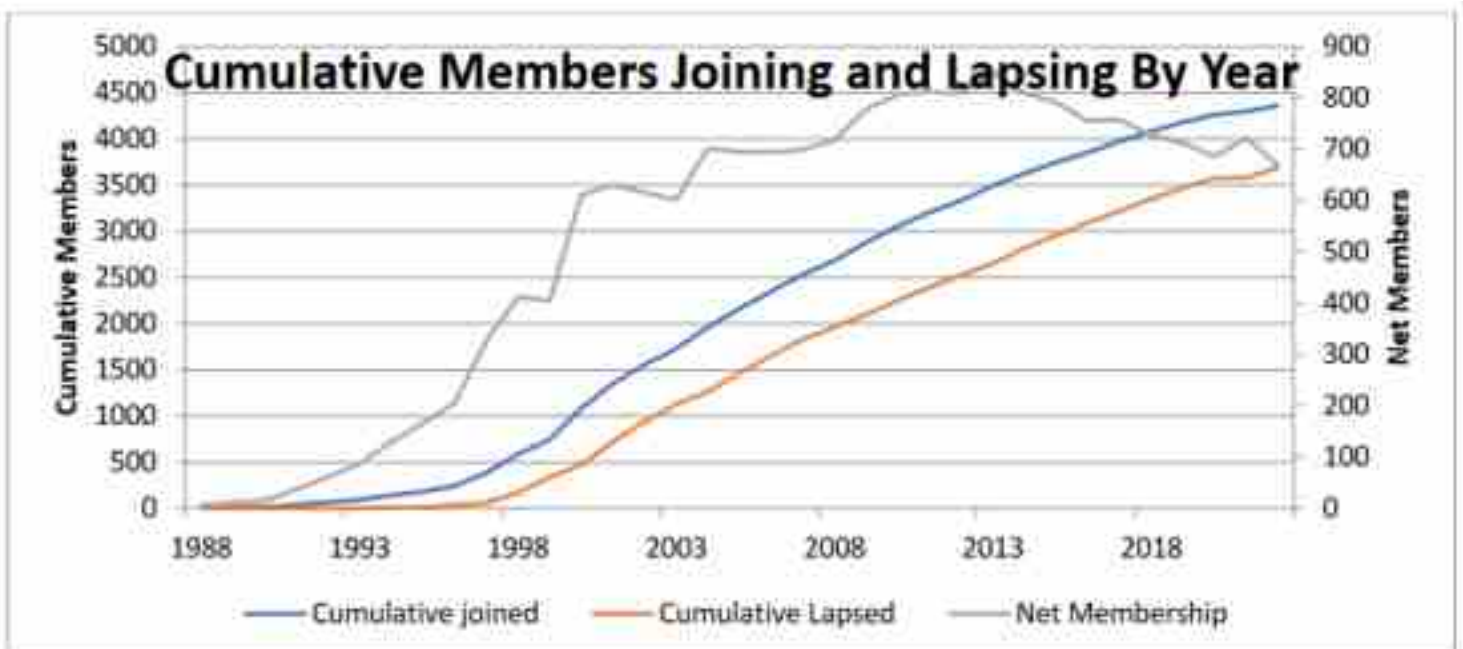
A committee of volunteers led by Laurie Collins

(including Marilyn Cooper, Paula Hubbard and Gary Trotter) have stepped up to replace Shelly Wiechelt in leading the planning for SK101, our introductory class for new and wanna-be kayakers. Look for more info to come.

SC Member Lisa Arrasmith (who was absent on vacation), sent a note promising that the proposed Maryland Fun Day at Downs Park will be rescheduled in 2022. The new reservation date is sometime in June 2022, depending on the availability of the Fernwood pavilion. Construction on Beverly Triton Beach Park is scheduled for November 1 with the arrival of the construction trailer and installation of silt fences. Talbot County kayakers are pushing back against restrictions on parking at the county public boat ramps. It's on the agenda of the Talbot County Recreation Advisory Board meeting in November. Lisa encourages all Talbot County kayakers to make their views known at the meeting.

An extended discussion was prompted by Bill Smith's observation that we need to encourage more CPA members to lead day trips so that we have a robust calendar of events in 2022. Suggestions included a simplified one-day informal course for prospective trip leaders (vs. the more detailed SK203 Trip Leader Training Course that has not been held for at least 5 years), a mentoring program and recognition of Assistant Trip

[See Meeting on page five](#)



[Meeting, from page four](#)

Leaders who can step up to being Trip leaders after a few trips, and a renewed emphasis on shorter, flat-water beginner-level trips for new kayakers, especially those with recreational kayaks.

Bob Maynard agreed to write up a summary of the key points for the mentoring program.

Election Results

103 ballots were cast, including on-line, mail-in and in-person ballots. The slate of officers and SC members nominated was overwhelmingly elected, with no write-in nominations. The newly elected officers stood and were applauded by the audience.

Awards

Coordinator Bill Smith presented three awards recognizing outstanding service to the club.

Beth Boyd—For outstanding service to the Chesapeake Paddlers Association in serving on the Steering Committee from 2020 to the present, and editing, publishing and managing our newsletter, *The Chesapeake Paddler*, from January 2017 to October 2019. Beth has been an active member of the Pirates of Arundell and has participated in many activities and



Long-time CPA members Beth Boyd, left, and Lois Wyatt, right, received Outstanding Service Awards for their volunteer efforts including stints as editors of the CPA newsletter.

events since joining CPA in 2011.

Lois Wyatt—For outstanding service to the Chesapeake Paddlers Association in editing our newsletter, *The Chesapeake Paddler*, from January 2017 to October 2019. Lois has been an active member of the Pirates of Arundell and the Gunkholers, and has participated in many activities and events since joining CPA in 2005.

Marla Aron—For outstanding service to the Chesapeake Paddlers Association in managing ordering, inventory and sales of CPA logo gear from 2015 to the present. Marla has expanded the options for colors, fabrics and sizes (especially ladies' sizes) and found new manufacturers for our logo gear.

She has also been an active member of the Pirates of Arundell, the Gunkholers, the ADK Loons, and has participated in many trips and activities since joining CPA in 2004.

All awardees were present and received their plaques to thunderous applause. Coordinator Smith adjourned the meeting at 3 PM. 25 members attended in person, and 3 virtually via ZOOM.



Marla Aron also received and Outstanding Service Award for managing the CPA logo gear program.

Remembering Marshall Woodruff

May 2, 1944 - September 24, 2021

By Ralph Heimlich

One of CPA's most beloved paddlers, Marshall Woodruff of Kensington, MD, passed away from a long-term battle with cancer on September 24, 2021.

He attended the University of Maryland in College Park and started several businesses there, including The Joint Possession, Illusions, Sagebrush, and First Impressions, selling handmade sandals and leather goods, as well as posters, jewelry and paraphernalia.

Marshall led what many might call an "alternative" lifestyle: He served two years of alternative service as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, was arrested for pornography for selling The Washington Free Press in his store, which was reversed on appeal in 1971, and his stores carried a variety of goods associated with the hippie lifestyle and drug culture.

After his College Park businesses closed, Marshall



opened The Cobbler Shoppe in Georgetown, voted best shoe repair shop in Washington many years running. He also made custom shoes and leather goods and constructed leather costume pieces for the Kennedy Center, Washington Ballet, and the Opera Center.

Marshall later worked at Auto Assist/Wheelchair Getaways in College Park, owned by his high school friend, Bob Kitts.

Marshall became interested in sea kayaking and joined CPA in 2003. In 2006, he launched the Kent Island Practice Paddles (KIPP) which involved a series of distance paddles each year that culminated in circumnavigating Kent Island.

KIPP was instrumental in taking a large number of CPA paddlers beyond basic skills to greater levels of

[See Marshall on page seven](#)

[Marshall](#), from page six



Marshall, far right, with the members of the 2019 KIPP series.

endurance, safety and confidence.

Marshall was also known for a series of paddles around Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge in every season. He didn't let the cold weather stop him and also led KIPBURRRZ paddles during the winters. His love of kayaking led him to do a solo trip to Glacier Bay in Alaska in 2008 and to the Arctic in 2010 with fellow paddler Dave Isbell.

While living briefly in the San Francisco Bay area, Marshall was diagnosed with neck cancer in 1999. More diagnoses of cancer followed: Lymphoma stage 4 in 2008 right after the Alaska trip and then kidney cancer in 2010 after the Arctic trip.

His last cancer diagnosis of recurring neck cancer happened in early 2021. Marshall tackled each cancer head on and worked closely with his "team" of doctors and caregivers. He was extraordinary in his ability to survive three cancers for 22 years despite having a feeding tube and tracheotomy.

He is survived by his daughter, Samantha Stoughton; grandson, Leo

Dunleavy; sisters, Rosemary Polons and Anne Brown; several nieces and nephews; his companion of 35 years, Margaret Pully and many, many lifelong friends. He will be missed.

Marshall's obituary and other remembrances are online at <https://www.goinghomecares.com/obituaries/Marshall-E-Woodruff?obid=22474884>

An interview with Marshall was featured in the [Who's Paddling series in 2018](#) and Marshall's reflections on the KIPP series appeared in the [Nov/Dec 2020 Paddler](#).



KIPPERS share remembrances of Marshall

Marshall's spirit inspired many CPA members and we are sharing some of the tributes to him that were submitted to the editors and from Marshall's [obituary page](#).

Robert Golden

"I learned a lot about kayaking from many, but I consider Marshall my mentor. Aside from the technical aspects we spent memorable times talking about leadership on the water and responsibilities to others out there with you, how the group could always be stronger than the best individual.

"Marshall was ALWAYS in teaching mode if the opportunity presented itself. Whether it was a KIPP or CPA outing, Marshall always took the time to recommend a better paddle stroke, setup, gear, whatever he thought someone could improve upon.

"Once I amusedly watched (now fondly remember) a short outing on the Potomac. We crossed paths with some rec boaters and exchanged greetings. Opportunity spotted, he mentioned that one of them had their paddle upside down.

Having corrected that he then moved onto teaching a better paddle stroke to try, and finished up by speaking about the basic safety gear and why he recommended it. A spontaneous SK102 to total strangers."

Marshall created the KIPP patch that is worn with pride by those who complete the KIPP series, including the 34-mile circumnavigation of Kent Island.



KIPPERS with Marshall after surviving the trip around Kent Island. From left, Mike Naito, Robert Golden, Kathy Kozub Marshall, Bill Upton, Carol Collins and Jay Perry.

Kathleen Kozub

"I would never have made it through the KIPP series had it not been for Marshall's patience and guidance. I have a KIPP patch to prove it. His dedication to KIPP, the paddlers and promoting kayaking in general was endless.

"The friendships and wonderful memories of those paddles are locked away in my heart forever. Jesus has His arm around you dear friend. No more pain or suffering...and that should bring joy to those of us whose lives you've touched."

Jay Perry

"Paddle on Marshall. I will be forever grateful for my association with Marshall through my participation in the KIPP program. KIPP was more than building the endurance to paddle 30 miles around Kent Island. Marshall taught me the importance of paddle teamwork and obtaining the skills to help myself and others in all types of sea conditions. Marshall was my mentor. I will always cherish my memories of Marshall."

Paddler Profile

Meet Alan Mindlin

Lives in: Fredericksburg, VA.

Real job: I am retired.

Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy? No but I try to go a few times a season.

Number of years paddling?

I have been paddling for 20 years.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking?

I enjoy photography and I like to take photos of birds. Shore birds were always on the other side of the river so I thought if I could get a kayak and paddle to the birds I would get great photos.



My theory was flawed: I did not expect them to use their wings. It took a bit of refining to get it right.

What boat(s) do you paddle? I have a Swift Bering Sea and a Warren Light Craft Little Wing 15.5.

Rudder or skeg? I prefer a skeg since a skeg can also help stabilize a kayak in rough water.

Type of paddle used? I prefer a Greenland paddle since they are easier on the shoulders and help control a kayak better. I have a one piece Beale paddle, a 2 piece Joe-O-paddle Greenland and a Mitchell Hybrid Coastal. They also look cool.

Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking? I used to live on Long Island and paddled the bay, sound and on a rare occasion the ocean. There is less choppy water where I live so I paddle the Rappahannock River, Lake Mooney (near house) and Lake Anna. I paddle sometimes to photograph nature.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Aside from kayaking I like to bike and do some hiking, lap swimming in my local pool, and photography.

How often do you paddle between May and October?

I average 2 times a week kayaking. I need to bike to keep flexible.

Do any winter paddling? I usually paddle about 2-3 times a month in the winter. Paddling in the winter is different in Virginia than Long Island. We paddled to see the seals on Long Island and had salt water which did not freeze as fast as fresh. I paddle here with a great group of CPA paddlers during the year and the winter.

Favorite local paddling location? My favorite place to paddle is Widewater State Park. I like it because it is never crowded, it is clean with heated bathrooms and it is the closest park on the Potomac that is near my home.

I can paddle in many different directions: I can go across the river to Maryland, down south to Potomac Creek or Crow's Nest, down Aquia Creek to Government Island, or up north to Quantico.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? My

[See Profile on page ten](#)

[Profile, from page nine](#)

favorite trip was not really a trip. When I moved down from New York I did not know many people and I needed some refreshing of my skills. I signed up for SK102 and got to know the members of the CPA while I improved my skills. Much thanks to some wonderful instructors.

Coollest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? When I lived in New York, I ran a kayak trip to Connecticut to the Thimble Islands and the Connecticut River. About 20 of us paddled between Deep River and Old Lyme in Connecticut.

It was fall and the colors were amazing. The Connecticut River is a scenic river and we paddled past Selden Neck State Park, which is an island. It was a beautiful trip.

Scariest/most dangerous paddling trip/incident and why? If you paddle enough something is bound to go wrong sometime. I had a rule for paddling in the winter: The temperature had to be over 40 and the wind under 15.

I broke the rule once when my friend and paddling buddy Marc, his son Justin and I decided to paddle with a 20-25 mile per hour wind because we realized we most likely would not paddle together for a long time.

Reynolds Channel, which is the final leg of the 8 mile trip, is an ocean channel and with the tide and wind we all were worried. Even though we were dressed in dry suits and wet suits it was a rocky ride. It was a challenge for all of us, with fast current and choppy water. None of us fell in, but my friend gave up winter kayaking.

Bucket list trips? I would love to paddle in Hawaii on the ocean.

Three things you like most about paddling? I started paddling for photography but I have met and made more friends paddling in the last 20 years. I love the adventure because no matter how many times you go on the same trip, something different always happens.

What do you like about CPA? The CPA is an organized group that encourages improving one's skills, providing interesting and "safe" trips and having friendly enthusiastic members.

What other paddling clubs/groups do you belong to? I will always be a member of the Long Island Paddlers and I am a proud member of The Bucket List and the Lake Ridge Paddlers.

One unusual non-paddling thing we'd be surprised to know about you? I used to collect Lionel trains and still have quite a few.

The CPA Navigation Class is back!

By Paula Hubbard

On a cold winter day, there is nothing like talking about kayaking. The CPA Navigation class is back and will be held in January, in person, and free for CPA members. Nonmembers can join CPA the day of the class. This class is an introduction to navigation concepts.

During the morning we cover reading charts, using a compass, planning a trip using charts. In the afternoon we talk about tides and currents and wind and waves.

This class is designed to be an overview and is suitable for all levels. The event will be held at Cult Classic Brewery and the dates will be announced on the [CPA Meetup Page](#). Participants must be vaccinated. Masks are optional.



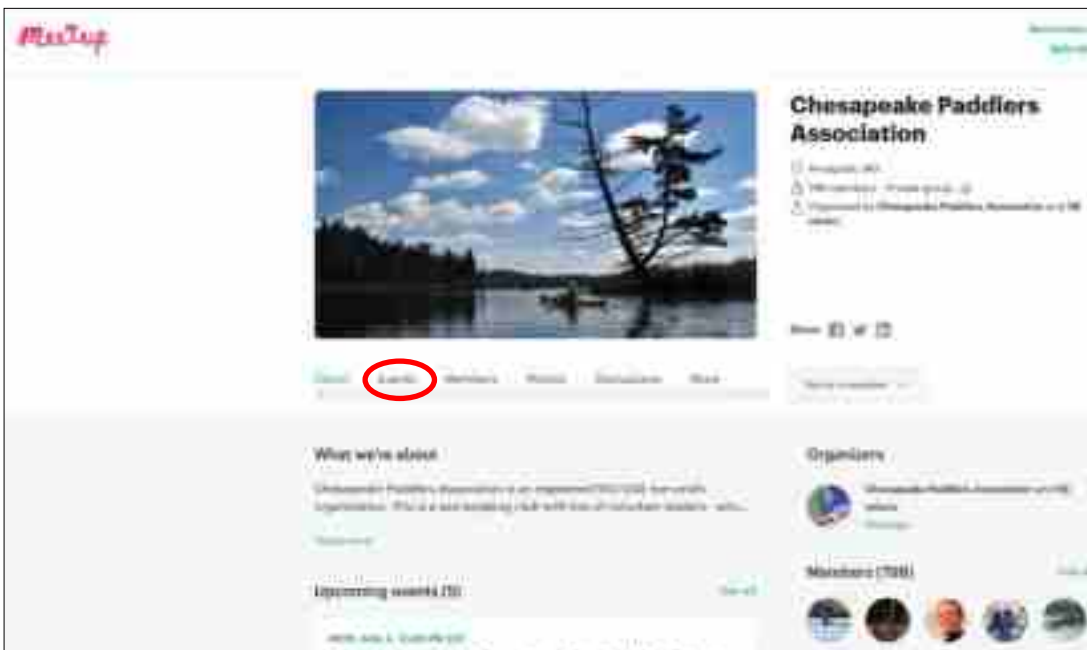
Tune up your navigational skills at the popular CPA Navigation Class in January, 2022 hosted by Paula Hubbard.

KIPPERS gather for Marshall Memorial paddle



KIPP series co-leader Jim Zawlocki, center of back row, and nine other KIPPERS gathered at Kent Narrows in November for an informal paddle to remember KIPP founder Marshall Woodruff. Paula Hubbard and Bill Upton attended to send off the group but did not paddle. There will be a more formal paddle and tribute in May, 2022. (Photo: Bill Upton, [click here for more photos](#))

Upcoming CPA events



The Annual CPA Holiday Party is scheduled for December 11, 2021 ([see page 12](#)). Notices and sign-up information about CPA activities, trips and Piracy paddles are posted on the [CPA Meetup page](#).

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

Save the date**Make your plans for the Annual Holiday Party Dec. 11th****By Ralph Heimlich**

The Annual holiday party will take place Saturday, December 11th 6:30 PM at the Heimlichs' DIGS at 3873 Paul Mill Road, Ellicott City, MD.

Share your favorite dish, toss back a few, share the year in review through projected photos and get a nifty present in a white elephant gift exchange.

We have a large heated sunroom with plenty of ventilation, outdoor seating areas, and a firepit, so you can

choose which environment you are comfortable with in terms of COVID exposure. Masks are required unless we are actually eating. Fully vaccinated participants only, please.

Here are the driving directions and crucial details, including your potluck assignment.

If your last name begins with:

A-K bring a casserole or entrée (nothing ALIVE please!)

L-S bring a salad (green, fruit, Jell-O, pasta, squid, etc.) and some bread.

T-Z bring a dessert (cake, pie, cobbler, your honey, etc.)

Plan to feed 4 people (trust me—we'll have plenty)

I will supply a couple of pans of pulled pork and brisket from Mission BBQ and non-alcoholic beverages, but you should bring your own beer, wine, or other beverage of choice (supplying booze to you lot would even break a pirate!!).

We'll have a white elephant gift exchange for those



wishing to participate. Bring a wrapped, kayak-related treasure of modest value, worth less than \$10 if possible. Re-gifting is an art form!

Driving Directions:

From I-95 between Washington and Baltimore:

Take exit 43B west towards Ellicott City on Route 100.

Continue to left exit for Rt 29 South toward Washington. Immediately cross three lanes of southbound traffic to exit 21 B Rt 108 west (Clarksville Pike), then take first right on Columbia Road at the light.

Continue 1 mile on Columbia Road to left turn at Greyrock Drive. Continue 1 mile to left on Paul Mill Road.

Continue .3 mile to 3873 Paul Mill Road at streetlight on right and look for the parking problem.

Or put this in your GPS: 3873 Paul Mill Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Phone: 240-472-8825 (cell)

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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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.

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

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