

# The Chesapeake Paddler



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## A Different “Way” to Paddle

By Al Larsen

As many CPA members know, kayaks on the coast of Maine just seem right—aesthetically and functionally. But, head inland to the rivers and lakes of Maine, and I find canoes to be the water vessel that fits. Maybe this is because the early people in both locations had used those respective crafts, and the “fit” is psychically handed down to today. Inuit kayaking the ocean waters, and the Abenaki and Haudenosaunee canoeing on the inland waters.

Supposition or speculation on my part, but I wanted to test my theory by learning and experiencing more and up-close. Our good friends Kevin and Polly at [Mahoosuc Guide Service](#) in Western Maine offer a canoe outing called “[Way of the Wabenaki](#)”, guided by the Penobscots. Four days on the Penobscot River, camping on islands still owned by the Penobscot Nation, a small piece not stolen from them when they lost the much larger area where they used to live.



Photo Credit Al Larsen

I know from conversations with CPA members that many of you, like me, began with canoeing, before taking up kayaks. I continue to have both craft, and had frankly forgotten how much fun, and how different, a canoe outing can be (not least

of which are the much greater meal options available if carrying it in a canoe!). The cultural learning, however, is what drew Anne and me to the Way of the Wabenaki trip, and, wow, was it wonderful.

Let me be very clear that I'm not some instant expert on North American Indigenous culture. I do feel very honored that the Penobscots that we travelled with trusted us enough to open up about the wisdom that's been handed down to them by generation upon generation and to share some of that wisdom with us.

There were two primary native American confederations that lived in and overlapped on the land that is now southern Canada and Northeastern US: the Algonkians and Haudenosaunee. The 5 nations in the eastern confederation of Algonkians collectively are the Wabenaki. The Penobscot Nation in Maine is one of those 5.

The Haudenosaunee were somewhat derisively called “Iroquois” by the French colonists and then also by their competitors the Algonkians. They call themselves Haudenosaunee, and in recent years, have had some success in reclaiming their own name for themselves, rather than Iroquois. The Algonkians and Haudenosaunee moved back and forth across the same lands over many years, sometimes one group controlling one place, sometimes the other, sometimes living mostly in cooperation. They were usually rivals, but not usually at “war” with each other. They share similar creation stories, and practices for how they live in and relate to the world around them.

With the introduction of “ownership” of lands by the colonists, the Penobscot lands were taken away and allocated to colonists. Today, they have managed to retain title to various islands in the Penobscot River north of Bangor Maine, but not the lands on the shoreline.

Our paddling was on a relatively calm stretch of the

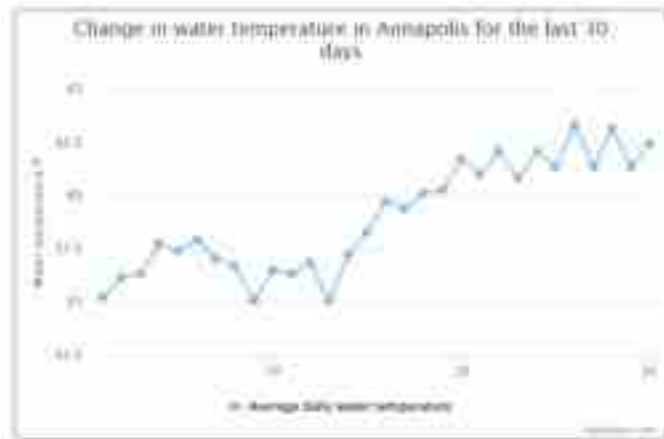
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# Coordinator's Column – Thoughts on Storms on a Rainy Day

By Paula Hubbard

It's late spring and getting close to summer, and the paddling season has already started. There are a few things we need to remember. First, the air is warming but the water temperatures are still low. Especially since we have had several days of rain, most of which seems to have happened on the weekends. This will hold the water temperatures down.

So far, temperatures are still in the low 60s, cold enough to be uncomfortable and to potentially cause hypothermia if the



paddler does not get out of the water quickly and get dry. Cloudy, rainy and cool days make this even more likely. We are still saying dress for the water temperature, not the air. Practice rescues so that you can get back into your boat in the event that you find yourself swimming.

Summer also brings the potential for thunderstorms, and these storms present an additional hazard when paddling.

Our group was paddling at Janes Island, near Crisfield, Maryland and practicing navigation skills. The day had started stormy with thunder and lightning, but the storm was moving



quickly and the weather radar apps on our phones showed it moving out and clearing by 11 AM. The afternoon was predicted to remain clear. We waited until 11 to launch and started our paddle through the marshes. The sky was clear, winds were calm, and the water was flat. We set off on our journey looking forward to a great time on the water.

About an hour into our paddle, I looked up at the sky and saw what appeared to be storm clouds building to our west. We checked the weather apps and saw that some storm cells had come up and were moving in our direction. No lightning was detected and the forecast was now for light rain starting in about another hour.

We decided to continue knowing that we would have another place where we could make the decision to go back to the



ramp or continue on our paddle. We continued to watch the clouds build, monitored the weather channel on our VHF radios, and watch the weather radar on our phones. We paddled slowly, looking at the scenery, checking the charts for our location and were just enjoying the day when we heard a weather alert on our radios. Decision made, back to the ramp.

The factors that we included in making the decision to cut the paddle short and return to the launch included the people paddling, there were several novices and if winds picked up, some might have trouble paddling. We also looked at equipment, some people did not have good rain gear. It was still cool and if we had to get off the water in the marsh due to

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# CPA Piracies are Back for 2024

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

The below links provide a brief history of the CPA and origination story for many of the CPA Piracies:

[2020 July CPA Newsletter.pdf \(cpakayaker.com\)](#)

[History-of-CPA-II-Aug-2020.pdf \(cpakayaker.com\)](#)

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

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

**PIRATES OF ARUNDELL** The "Mother Piracy", AKA Pirates of Pier 7. its history goes back before 1995, has evolved into a roving piracy using various launches in Anne Arundel County and Annapolis, MD.



Sue Stevens— Pirates of Arundell

Pirates of Arundell are led by committee-pod of **Rich and Sue Stevens, Bill Smith, Greg Welker, and Bela Mariassy**. POA is the only Piracy that does not wait to go as one group. Some go long distances, and others do more casual mileage (3-6 miles) in small groups- and find the others on the water. When the days get long – launching earlier is best: Everyone helps to unload & haul boats to the water. Most launch Wednesdays aim for EARLY AS 4-4:30 PM with later arrivals departing around 5 PM – all return by 6-7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome- they will find you on the water: bring your Marine Radio set at CHANNEL 69! Everyone brings food & snacks- Kayakers DO Paddle to EAT! Post-paddling snacks, subs, cookies and appetizer fare fit for Pirates are mightily appreciated. Some of the usual launch sites are Beverly Triton Nature Park, Galesville Wharf, Jonas Green Park (gate closes at 7), Homeport Farm Park, Solleys Cove Park, Spriggs Farm Park, Shady Side Park, and private launch locations by invitation. Weekly launch locations move! Visit the [CPA Meetup site](#) for schedule, and the [website](#) for complete details.

**PIRATES OF BALTIMORE** We meet every Tuesday evening, launching from various sites around Baltimore City and County. Some favorites include Dundee Creek, Rocky Point State Park, Wilson Point, Mariner Point State Park, and more.



Lisa Giguere —Pirates of Baltimore

Our paddles will be a time to destress, socialize, explore the natural environment of the upper Chesapeake bay area, and from time to time practice basic rescues and specific paddle strokes. Our routine is to paddle till dusk and then go grab a bite to eat at a local restaurant.

On the water time is at 6 pm sharp so please arrive by 5:30 to have enough time to unload your kayak and gear. [Required gear for these events](#) includes: sea kayak (14' recommended for open water paddles, with flotation both bow and stern), paddle, PFD, whistle, spray skirt, paddle float and bilge pump, and kayak deck lights, drinking water, and if you have these: Marine radio, spare paddle, tow rig, and snacks.

The schedule of events with exact locations and dates can be

[\(Continued on page 4\)](#)

[\(Pirates of Baltimore](#) from page 3)

found on the [CPA Meetup website](#) (FYI: Please indicate your attendance on the Meetup site, and please change your RSVP if your plans change. It is very helpful if we know who is coming). We will begin the season on May 7th and paddle through to September.

You must compete one [CPA waiver](#) that will cover all the Tuesday evening paddles and an additional CPA waiver each time you participate in a posted skills session. Waivers must be handed in prior to when you launch.

**Email:** [pirates\\_baltimore@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com)

**When:** Usually meet at 5:30 to paddle at 6:00 PM Tuesday

**Where:** TBA in [CPA Meetup website](#)

**PIRATES OF GEORGETOWN** — POG paddles the urban waters of Washington, DC. We launch from the car-top launch at Columbia Island Marina on Thursday evenings, launching promptly at 6:00 pm. We meet regardless of weather and make a safety-oriented decision whether to paddle based on real-time weather conditions (any exceptions will be posted on the forum). In the warm weather we generally have snacks at the marina after returning from paddling. Check details at the CPA Meetup site.

**Who:** Tom Heneghan, Jesse Aronson, Rob Pearlman

**When:** Thursday evenings launching promptly at 6:00 PM

**Where:** *Columbia Island Marina*

**PIRATES OF THE NORTH**— You are invited to join the PON on our weekly Thursday evening paddles. We think we have some of the best paddling in the Chesapeake. Our home base is Havre de Grace (HdG), where we have multiple interesting paddle trips to include the Susquehanna River, Garrett Island, the Fishing Battery, Furnace Bay and more. We also launch from other sites to include the Elk River, Charlestown and the Northeast River. In 2023 we are getting our home base, Roberts Park, back after an extensive upgrade to include a new sandy soft launch and a new boat ramp. Our regular launch time is 6PM. Our launch location will be announced on the [CPA Meetup](#). Please come join us. Our first paddle in 2023 will be 11 May 2023.

**Visit:** [Meet Up Email](#)

**When:** Meet at 530, launch at 6:00 PM Thursdays

**Where:** **Home base is** Roberts Park – At the junction of Otsego St, Union Ave N, and Water St. below the Amtrak bridge. Other launch locations as identified in the CPA Meetup

**Who:** [Bob Shakeshaft](#)—[Pirate Captain](#)

[Joan Sweet](#)—[Pirate Co-Captain](#)

[Jerry Sweet](#)—[Pirate Co-Captain](#)

**PIRATES OF OCCOQUAN**—A group of dedicated paddlers from Northern Virginia meet weekly to paddle the **Occoquan** from various Northern Virginia Regional Parks during the evenings. Led by **Jim Zawlocki**, they will launch at 6:00 PM every other Wednesday evening at [Fountainhead Regional Park](#). On alternate

weeks sub-groups of the Pirates will set up peer paddles at other locations in Fairfax County along the Occoquan Water Trail. Other locations will include Bull Run Marina, Pohick Bay Regional Park, and Mason Neck State Park. The POTO schedule is posted at the [Pirates of the Occoquan Discussion Forum](#) for weekly paddling plans. Decisions on locations will be made Sunday night and posted in the Forum and via the Pirates of the Occoquan mailing list.

**Who:** [Jim Zawlocki](#) — (703) 376-8268

**When:** Meet at 6:00 PM Wednesdays

**Where:** **Fairfax, Northern VA**, Launch Location on Meetup

**PIRATES OF ALGONKIAN** — [Algonkian Regional Park, Sterling, VA](#) The Pirates of Algonkian are captained by James Higgins. Congregating Tuesdays 6:00 pm at the Algonkian Regional Park boat ramp. As a group we paddle upstream to the third Potomac island called Van Deventer. This is about 2 miles from the launch. Often we take a break or paddle either farther upstream before returning with the river current. Paddlers must be off the water at or near Sunset due to Park Regulations! The launch fee is \$4 for non motorized watercraft.

In addition to paddling for fun and exercise, the piracy spends time practicing edging, sculling, rescues, radio communication, as well as nature photography.

**Requirements:** PFD, spray skirt, bilge pump, paddle float, drinking water, headlamp/flashlight, and appropriate protection for the elements.

**Optional:** snacks, camera, VHF Radio, and a big friendly smile to share with all. Prepare for the paddle by listening to the latest weather reports and monitoring the Pirates of Algonkian forum for late breaking news.

**Who:** James Higgins

**When:** 6:00 PM until Sunset Tuesdays

**Where:** Algonkian Regional Park: From the Beltway (I-495), take Route 7 west 11 miles to Cascades Parkway north, and drive 3 miles to the park entrance.

**PIRATES OF PATUXENT** — Come paddle the beautiful Patuxent River! Our Thursday evening trips range from open water jaunts to exploring tidal marshes, or sometimes both on the same outing. We'll be shaking off the winter rust with a few easy paddles in May before progressing to our usual six to ten-mile evening paddles.

We'll be launching out of **Hallowing Point** and **Solomons Island** this year. Paddles from Hallowing Point end at dusk. Paddles from Solomons may go past sunset; please plan your gear accordingly. Other locations may be added as the season progresses.

If you are interested in building your own boat you can combine boat building conversation with our leisurely paddles.

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# Paddling The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

By Jan Tarr

In April of this year I met my friend Gary on a biking trip, and told him about a kayaking trip I had done in 2023. He asked me to write a short summary of that experience, Here it is:

I live in Colorado. I do lots of outdoor activities, but kayaking is not one of them. So I decided to take a Sierra Club kayaking trip to Okefenokee NWR in March of last year. I was



Photo Credit [Kelly Patton Thompson](#) - Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

highly intrigued about going to a huge "swamp" area in a state I had never been to. When the trip leader called me for pre-screening, he asked me about my kayaking experience, which was basically none, and also asked me about my comfort level kayaking with alligators around, possibly swimming under the kayak. That was definitely out of my experience level, but I had hiked around bears before-- I thought I would be OK with this.

Okefenokee NWR (being considered for a Unesco World Heritage Site) astounded me. It serves as the headwaters for the St. Mary's and Suwanee Rivers, and is also the largest black water swamp in the country-- I kayaked through channels of hummocks, layers of decaying peat, cypress trees, and all sorts of birds, including 2 baby owls. And yes,



Photo Credit [Kelly Patton Thompson](#) — Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

there were plenty of alligators on the banks. Kayaking put me pretty much eye level with them which was magical. They would sit in the sun and open their mouths- which I learned was a temperature-regulating mechanism, and not that they wanted me for dinner.

The water really did look like black tea because of tannins being leached out and this created a unique reflection of the sky. My words do not describe how in awe I was of this beautiful area- to me its uniqueness is the equivalent of Yosemite, but you kayak or canoe it instead of hike. Okefenokee also has a long cultural history of people



Photo Credit [Kelly Patton Thompson](#) Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

living and taking refuge there. I would love to go back and "backpack" with a kayak, as they have floating platform shelters you can reserve for that specific purpose. I encourage everyone to watch this movie which shows the beauty of Okefenokee beyond my description:

Sacred Waters: The Okefenokee in Peril.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nibDPo96BHc>

As for kayaking, I figured out how to do it. I did not know kayaks had foot rest pedals inside them (!) which, when adjusted, make them pretty comfortable. I loved the quiet paddling through the water, allowing you to hear the birds, insects, and the wind through the grasses. Kayaks put you right in the water-it made me feel as though I was part of the water world. For that moment, I too, was part of Okefenokee. What a gift.

Thanks,

Jan Tarr

Fort Collins, CO

([Pirates of Patuxent from page 4](#))



Jenny Plummer-Welker Photo Credit - Pirates of Patuxent

Many of our crew have built their own boats and hold a fair bit of skin-on-frame, plywood, and cedar strip experience.

You'll need the CPA's [Minimum Required Safety Equipment](#) and a [CPA waiver](#) for the 2024 season.

**Calendar:** [CPA Meetup Calendar](#)

**Who:** New for 2024 [Dan Wells](#) and [Tony Tvaroha](#)

**Email:** [pirates\\_patuxent@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com)



[Tony Tvaroha](#)



[Dan Wells](#)

**When:** *Thursdays at 6:00 PM. Please arrive between 5:30 and 5:45 for a 6:00 launch.*

**Where:**

- 1st Thursday of the month: Hallowing Point Boat Ramp (where route 231 crosses the Patuxent). Our launch site is on the south side, away from the boat ramp.
- 2nd Thursday of the month: Solomons Boat Ramp (under the Thomas Johnson Bridge). Our launch site is to the left of the boat ramps.
- 3rd/4th/5th: TBD. Please check Meetup for location.

### [PIRATES OF POTOMAC](#)

POP paddles on Wednesdays from [Belle Haven Marina](#), Alexandria, Virginia. Led by **Bob Maynes** and **John Gibbs**, They are a small group and are all retired so they go out during the day. Some go out to eat afterwards nearby at Pirmo's. Their season begins when the water temp reaches about 70 deg (sometime in May) and they paddle into October until the water temp gets below 70 degrees. In the spring and fall, they go out at 3:00 PM. During the summer, they go outby 10:00 AM. They go up river or down river on either side of the

river with distance, destination and pace set by desires of the participants, tides and weather. The pace is fairly leisurely as they look for eagles, turtles and other wildlife in places like [Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve](#). Launch fee is \$10 but the seasonal pass of \$100 is much better.

These times do change as the group avoids bad weather. They are a small group and can more easily use email rather than the forum or the club email. **Please contact them** at the email and/or phone numbers below if you are interested to join the email list for a weekly notice and other info.

**Who:** Bob Maynes, Pirate Co-Captain at 703-527-5299 or John Gibbs at 703-922-7686

**When:** Wednesdays,— Spring and fall at 3:00 PM; Summer at 10:00 AM

**Where:** *Various, Contact by email for paddle time and locations.* [<pirates\\_potomac@cpakayaker.com>](mailto:pirates_potomac@cpakayaker.com).

### [PIRATES OF SUGARLOAF](#)

The Pirates of Sugarloaf meet on Tuesdays, usually between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. at several beautiful locations in either Howard or Montgomery County. The Montgomery County locations include Riley's Lock, Seneca Lake in Black Hills Regional Park. Howard County launches are out of Scotts Cove or Browns Bridge on the Rocky Gorge Reservoir.



photo credit Ralph Heimlich —Pirates of Sugarloaf

Triadelphia Reservoir is another launch site for this Pirate group, either on the Montgomery or Howard County side of the reservoir. The Sugarloaf Pirates enjoy casual paddles, skills nights, two moonlight paddles (with later launch times) and a few accompanying potluck picnics. As the days grow longer, we may return at or after dusk, so be sure to bring a light. The Sugarloaf Pirate paddles are led collaboratively by: Laurie Collins, Marilyn Cooper, Luci Hollingsworth, Ben Mayock and Ricardo Stewart.

**Who:** Laurie Collins, Marilyn Cooper, Luci Hollingsworth, Ben Mayock and Ricardo Stewart

**mailto:** [pirates\\_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com)

**When:** Tuesdays 5-6:00 PM until Sunset

**Where:** Some launch spots require a put in fee or permit; we will post this information along with the location and confirmed time for the paddle on the [CPA MeetUp page](#).

*(A Different "Way" to Paddle from page 1)*

Penobscot River, with riffles but no real rapids, Our canoe trip put in on the Penobscot River north of Old Town, and we paddled to one of the larger islands (Sugar island) where the Penobscot have a semi-permanent camp--lean-tos, fire pit,



outhouses, trails. The Penobscots didn't know us, so there was some real risk and trust for them to open up to us. They shared not only skills and culture, but also, what it's been like--what has been lost, what is slowly being regained, what has been handed down in recent years from the elders about what was, before those elders are gone and their knowledge and wisdom would have been lost.

They called this cultural excursion using a canoe trip "The Way of the Wabenaki". The best condensed explanation I can come up with for the Way of the Wabenaki is living as part of the world, practicing gratitude for that world in which they live as but one part, not exercising "dominion" over it.

Our guides introduced us to their long-practiced plant lore: How to find plants for medicine and eating. How they harvest them sustainably--so they take enough to reinvigorate the patch, but not decimate its survivability. How, just as Robin Wall Kimmerer writes in [Braiding Sweetgrass](#), when they do find something they think they would harvest, they first have a conversation, not necessarily out loud, with the plants, explaining why they are there, and what they would do with

the harvest. Sometimes they get the sense that the answer is "no", you shouldn't do this, and they won't. If they sense the answer is yes, they then make the reciprocal commitment to preserve and protect the remaining plants.

Other members of the Penobscot community demonstrated how to find birch trees suitable for use in making canoes and other devices. They brought a beautiful birch bark canoe, and we got to paddle it. As a longtime canoeist, I can say these were lightweight, agile, sturdy, steerable--very well thought out



and made, through skills handed down over generations.

They described sustenance hunting of Moose, which they have rights to do. When someone gets a moose, the extended family is happy as that means meat for the winter. They told and showed the use of music, drumming and dancing as a way to ensure that the oral histories, creation stories, historical events, are accurately passed down from generation to generation.

After settlers took much of their land, many of the colonists, as well as folks back in Europe, were very keen to acquire baskets and other items that the Penobscots made by weaving ash strips. That became, and remains, a very important source of income, as their ability to live off the land was greatly diminished. Jennifer Neptune led us through a

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basket-making session, where we learned how they identify suitable brown ash (here we call those black ash), strip bark in a way that doesn't kill or harm the trees, pound the strips to render them usable for weaving. We then made baskets, following Jennifer's expert instructions. I was actually very proud of my modest achievement, and it's a wonderful remembrance of the sharing by our Penobscot guides.

Over the course of our time together, the Penobscots rather gently showed us, not with in-your-face speeches, that living with the world is part of each day's life. You don't take all the plants out of a field, all of the ash and birch out of the forest, all of the moose you can track down. When you do use these things, you do so with the knowledge of your impact and a return or reciprocal commitment to the other non-human inhabitants of the land that you will care for them in return.

We ended our trip with the final day's paddle down the Penobscot to Indian Island, which is the present-day headquarters of the Penobscot Nation. There, we were honored to be shown a representative sample of artistic and functional (often one in the same) items that have been a traditional part of their lives for centuries—clubs, boats, paddles, etc. Many of those were stolen, taken by force or otherwise moved outside of their control but are now being reacquired and “coming home”.

I certainly enjoyed being in nature in a beautiful part of Maine, and paddling and camping in a way that reminded me why I used to canoe before even being introduced to a kayak. But the cultural exposure of the Way of the Abenaki trip took that to a whole different level of learning and enjoyment. Mahoosuc Guide Service will be offering this trip several times this coming season. You can learn more at <https://mahoosuc.com/canoe-trips/way-of-the-wabanaki/>.

Al Larsen

### 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](#).



# 2024 Pennsylvania Sojourns

## Lisa Arrasmith

What is a Pennsylvania sojourn? An organized group one or more day paddle down a river or creek in Pennsylvania. A planned Pennsylvania paddle where someone else does the organization and you register, show up and have fun. A chance to paddle new waters with people who love the water as much as you do.

I first heard of the Pennsylvania sojourns in 2019 on a Wicked Fun Kayakers paddle on the upper Choptank. Another paddler told me how much she loved the Schuylkill River Sojourn, and that I should check out the assorted Pennsylvania sojourns all over the state. By a Friday night in September I was wheeling my kayak over a pedestrian overpass to the Schuylkill River for the Walnut2Walnut Challenge: a paddle from Walnut Street on the Schuylkill down the Schuylkill and up the Delaware to the Independence Seaport Museum on Walnut Street on the Delaware. It was a long great day on the water doing a trip I would not have done on my own.

The pandemic kneecapped the Pennsylvania sojourns for a few years. In 2024 many of the sojourns are back. Listed below are eighteen opportunities to paddle a Pennsylvania sojourn in 2024. (The Walnut2Walnut, alas, is still on hiatus.) These 2024 seven multi-day sojourns and eleven single day sojourns are a way for you, your family and your friends to paddle new water all over Pennsylvania without doing your own trip planning heavy lifting. So pick a sojourn, load your boat and paddle a Pennsylvania river!

Saturday May 4, 2024

### Swatara Sojourn 2024

<https://swatarawatershed.org/swatara-sojourn/>

1 day 15 miles \$25 pp

Saturday May 18, 2024

### 10th Loyalhanna Sojourn 2024

<https://www.loyalhannawatershed.org/index.php/events>

1 day 9 miles \$25

Saturday June 1, 2024

### Oakland Dam Removal Celebration Paddle

#### Susquehanna Sojourn Series North Branch

<https://emheritage.org/event/oakland-dam-removal-celebration-paddle/>

1 day 12 miles \$60

Saturday June 1, 2024

### Perkiomen Creek Sojourn

<https://www.perkiomenwatershed.org/perkiomen-creek-sojourn>

1 day 10 miles \$50

Thursday June 6 – Sunday June 9, 2024

### Stony-Kiski-Conemaugh Rivers Sojourn 2024

<https://conemaughvalleyconservancy.com/news-events/stony-kiski-sojourn-2024/>

4 days 3 nights 44 miles \$45 pp per day

Thursday June 6 – Monday June 10, 2024

### Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) Susquehanna River North Branch Sojourn

<https://emheritage.org/event/emhrs-susquehanna-river-north-branch-sojourn-june-6-10-2024/>

5 days 4 nights 63 miles \$350 full sojourn, less for part sojourn

Friday June 8 – Tuesday June 11, 2024

### Lehigh River 28th Annual Sojourn

<https://www.wildlandspa.org/lehighriversojourn/>

4 days 3 nights 31.8 miles cost varies per day, this is a canoe focused sojourn

Saturday June 9, 2024

### Pride on the Conestoga

<https://conestogariverclub.org/>

<https://events.humanitix.com/pride-on-the-conestoga>

1 day 8 miles \$15

Friday June 14 – Saturday June 22, 2024

### 29th Annual Delaware River Sojourn

<https://delawareriversojourn.com/>

9 days 8 nights 88.54 miles \$100 per day full sojourn, can do partial sojourn

Saturday June 15 – Friday June 21, 2024 (optional Friday

June 14, 2024, kickoff party)

### Schuylkill River Sojourn

<https://schuylkillriver.org/programs-projects/schuylkill-river-sojourn/>

7 days 6 nights (optional 8 days 7 nights with kickoff) 112 miles \$720 full sojourn, daily rate available for partial sojourn

Saturday June 29, 2024

### Susquehanna Sojourn Series Middle Section

<https://susquehannagreenway.org/event/susquehanna-sojourn-series-middle-section/>

1 day 6.8 miles \$40

Saturday June 29 – Sunday June 30, 2024

### 4th Annual Conestoga River Sojourn

<https://conestogariverclub.org/>

2 days 32 miles, \$150

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(Con't [From 2024 Pennsylvania Sojourns page 9](#))

Sunday June 30, 2024

**Allegheny 2024 River of the Year Sojourn**

<https://www.threeriverswaterkeeper.org/>

1 day 9 miles \$25

Saturday July 13 2024

**Summer Heritage Benefit Paddle 2024 Susquehanna River**

<https://emheritage.org/event/summer-heritage-benefit-paddle-2024/>

1 day 12 miles \$60

Saturday August 17 2024

**Susquehanna Sojourn Series Lower Section**

<https://susquehannagreenway.org/event/susquehanna-sojourn-series-lower/>

1 day 6.5 miles \$40

Saturday September 21 2024

**Susquehanna Sojourn Series West Branch**

<https://susquehannagreenway.org/event/susquehanna-sojourn-series-west/>

1 day 6.3 miles \$40

Saturday October 4 2024

**Annual Fall Heritage Benefit Paddle Susquehanna**

<https://emheritage.org/event/annual-fall-heritage-benefit-paddle-2024/>

1 day 11 miles \$60

Saturday October 12 – Sunday October 13 2024

**Lackawaxen River Sojourn**

<https://www.waynefoundation.org/>

2 days ?miles \$TBD

**(Coordinators Column  
from page 2)**

lightning it would be very uncomfortable.

We paddled back to the launch ramp, just as some light rain started. We noticed that the wind picked up bit not enough to make paddling back a challenge. Then of course, as we were getting off the water and loading boats, the sun came out again. That lasted for about 10 minutes. As we were finishing talking about the weekend, there was a gust of wind, rain started coming down sideways, and there were even a few minutes where it seemed like there was some small hail. No one regreted the decision to turn back early.

How can we tell storm clouds from fair weather clouds? Watch for vertical development, clouds that billow upward, as a storm can follow. If the atmospheric conditions are favorable, a towering cumulus cloud like this can develop into a powerful thunderstorm within an hour. This is what I was observing when I first noticed clouds building. Look at the color, there is a lowered cloud base with a threatening bluish-black underside.

We watch the weather forecast, but the weather doesn't always read what is predicted. We are much better at predicting weather and we have tools that we can use to monitor weather, but conditions can change rapidly. Be aware of changes in the environment, changes in wind or clouds building. Be ready to change your plans if weather comes in unexpectedly. Make decisions sooner rather than



waiting for a storm to strike. It's OK to error on the side of safety.

What do you do if you are caught in a storm and can't make it back to your take-out point? If it's just wet, no thunder and lightning you can keep paddling. You will get wet and it may not be fun but it is generally safe enough. But if there is lightning or you hear thunder, first, get off the water and onto hopefully dry land. Stay low, and minimize your contact with the ground. Sit on your PFD. Separate.

Always bring rain gear, even if it seems like a beautiful, hot summer day. Its

better to carry it and not need it than need it and not have it. Storms can drop the air temperature rapidly. Rain may be cold. Wind can make it feel even colder.

So happy paddling as days get warmer and afternoon thunderstorms seem to be in the forecast almost every day. Stay safe.

Happy Paddling.  
Paula Hubbard  
CPA Coordinator.



# Upcoming Events for May-June

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

<a href="#">Potomac Passagemaker #2: Belle Haven Marina to Pohick Regional Park (shuttle)</a>	Sunday, May 26, 2024 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM EDT	<a href="#">Belle Haven Marina Inc - Mariner Sailing School</a>	Ralph Heimlich
<a href="#">Potomac Passagemaker #3: Marshall Hall to Sweden Point Marina (shuttle)</a>	Saturday, June 1, 2024 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM EDT	<a href="#">Marshall Hall Landing</a> — Marshall Hall Boat Ramp · Bryans Road, MD	Ralph Heimlich
<a href="#">2nd Annual DNR Paddlefest @Janes Island SP-non-CPA</a>	Saturday, June 1, 2024 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM EDT	<a href="#">Janes Island State Park</a> — 26280 Alfred J Lawson Dr · Crisfield, MD	Sue Stevens
<a href="#">Circumnavigation of Janes Island</a>	Sunday, June 2, 2024 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM EDT	<a href="#">Janes Island State Park</a> — 26280 Alfred J Lawson Dr · Crisfield, MD	Lucinda H.
<a href="#">Potomac Passagemaker #4: Mid-Potomac Kayak Camper</a>	Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 9:00 AM to Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 4:00 PM EDT	<a href="#">Mallows Bay Park</a> — 1440 Wilson Landing Rd · Nanjemoy, MD	Ralph Heimlich
<a href="#">Magothy River Leisure Paddle</a>	Saturday, June 8, 2024 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM EDT	<a href="#">Spriggs Farm Park</a> 965 Bayberry Drive · Arnold, MD	Bill Smith
<a href="#">Kayakin' Hancock's Resolution Lavender Appreciation - via Downs Park launch</a>	Sunday, June 9, 2024 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM EDT	<a href="#">Downs Park</a> — 8311 John Downs Loop · Pasadena, MD	Sue Stevens
<a href="#">Non-CPA Event: Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers Training Session</a>	Tuesday, June 11, 2024 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EDT	<a href="#">3400 Bryan Point Rd, Accokeek, MD 20607</a>	Ralph Heimlich
<a href="#">CPA SKILLS Practice/FALL OUT of YOUR BOAT DAY , Sat, Jun 15, 2024, 9:30 AM   Meetup</a>	Saturday, June 15, 2024 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM EDT	<a href="#">Selby clubhouse</a> — 3715 1st Ave · Edgewater, MD	Sue Stevens and three others
<a href="#">Celebrate Juneteenth @ Melissa's Beach-join our casual paddle</a>	Wednesday, June 19, 2024 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM EDT	<a href="#">3899 Ponder Dr</a> — 3899 Ponder Dr · Edgewater, MD	Sue Stevens and three others
<a href="#">Patuxent "Practice" Kayak Camper</a>	Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 9:30 AM to Sunday, June 23, 2024 at 3:30 PM EDT	<a href="#">Jug Bay</a>	Suzanne F.
<a href="#">Potomac Passagemaker #5: Chapel Point SP to Popes Creek and return</a>	Saturday, June 29, 2024 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM EDT	<a href="#">Chapel Point State Park</a> — Chapel Point Rd · Port Tobacco, MD	Ralph Heimlich
<a href="#">Fourth of July Holiday Pocomoke River Trip with Optional Car Camping</a>	Thursday, July 4, 2024 at 3:00 PM to Sunday, July 7, 2024 at 1:00 PM EDT	<a href="#">Pocomoke River State Park</a> — Route 113 · Snow Hill, MD	Suzanne F. and MaxineM
<a href="#">Potomac Passagemaker #6: Popes Creek to Swan Point and return</a>	Saturday, July 13, 2024 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM EDT	<a href="#">11535 Popes Creek Rd</a> — 11535 Popes Creek Rd · Newburg, MD	Ralph Heimlich

## The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

The mission of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association is to provide a way for people to enjoy sea kayaking within the Chesapeake Bay area and to promote safe sea kayaking practices through educating the local sea kayaking community and the interested public.

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

### Officers

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#### **Gear Volunteer** — Marla Aron [Gear Page](#)

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Sue Stevens — Digital Distribution

### The Chesapeake Paddler

The *Chesapeake Paddler* is published 10 times a year, with combination issues in Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb. The deadline for submitting copy is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles and illustrations (graphics, photos) should be submitted as separate attachments to: [news\\_editor@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com)

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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.

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VACANT — Please consider volunteering

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