

# The Chesapeake Paddler



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## CPA Holds Annual Meeting at Cult Classic Brewery

Editors Note: Chesapeake Paddlers Association held the 2024 Annual membership meeting at Cult Classic Brewery on November 3. The following article includes highlights from [meeting minutes](#) and reports posted on the CPA web page. See web page for more details.

### Summary of [Meeting Minutes](#)— Sue Stevens

**CPA Coordinator Paula Hubbard** opened the Annual Membership Meeting and welcomed the 29 CPA members in attendance.

Paula highlighted key 2024 activities and recognized volunteers for their contributions:

**Club Officers Rich Stevens** and Secretary Membership **Sue Stevens**.

**Steering Committee** members **Lisa Arrasmith, Beth Boyd, Marilyn Cooper, Katherine Neale, Rick Stewart, and fondly missing Bill Smith**.

[Piracy Captains](#) crews and everyone who participated and supported the Piracies.

[Trip leaders](#) and kayakers who attended and supported these events.

[SK101 team leaders](#) - Laurie Collins, Marilyn



**Cooper** and their team.

**Catriona Miller** and her team, who organized **CPA SK102**.

Hosts **Jesse and Lise Parker** and everyone who assisted at **Fall out of Your Boat Practice session** at Selby Bay Community Beach.

**Jim Zawlocki** and crew the for **KIPP 2024 training** for their 35+ miles circum-navigation of Kent Island.

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# Coordinator's Column – Going South

By Paula Hubbard

Paddling season on the Chesapeake Bay for many ends around the beginning of November. While there are still paddlers who bundle up in dry suits and continue paddling through the winter, others may prefer to head south for warmer waters. One area that is ideal for late fall / early winter paddling is the area around Savannah, Georgia.

Skidaway Island State Park was my base campground for this trip. The campground has spacious sites with options for tents or RVs, most including water and electricity hookups. The sites are shaded beneath a canopy of live oaks and pines, providing a serene setting. There is access to clean restrooms, hot showers, and laundry facilities. From the park there are many areas to go on day paddles within a reasonable drive.

## Tybee Island

For the more adventuresome, there are many paddles in the area around Tybee Island. You can find everything from marsh paddles to open surf. Just be cautious. The tidal range in this area can be up to 10 feet resulting in strong currents and tidal rips. Local knowledge is essential.

Launching from Ally #3 at the south end of Tybee puts you on to Tybee Creek. Currents here can be very strong. Paddling downstream on Tybee Creek brings you to an area known as the Triangle. The confluence of Tybee Creek and the Atlantic Ocean creates powerful and shifting currents, particularly during an outgoing tide, which can quickly sweep paddlers off course or into open ocean. Wind conditions often combine with currents to produce rough, unpredictable waves.

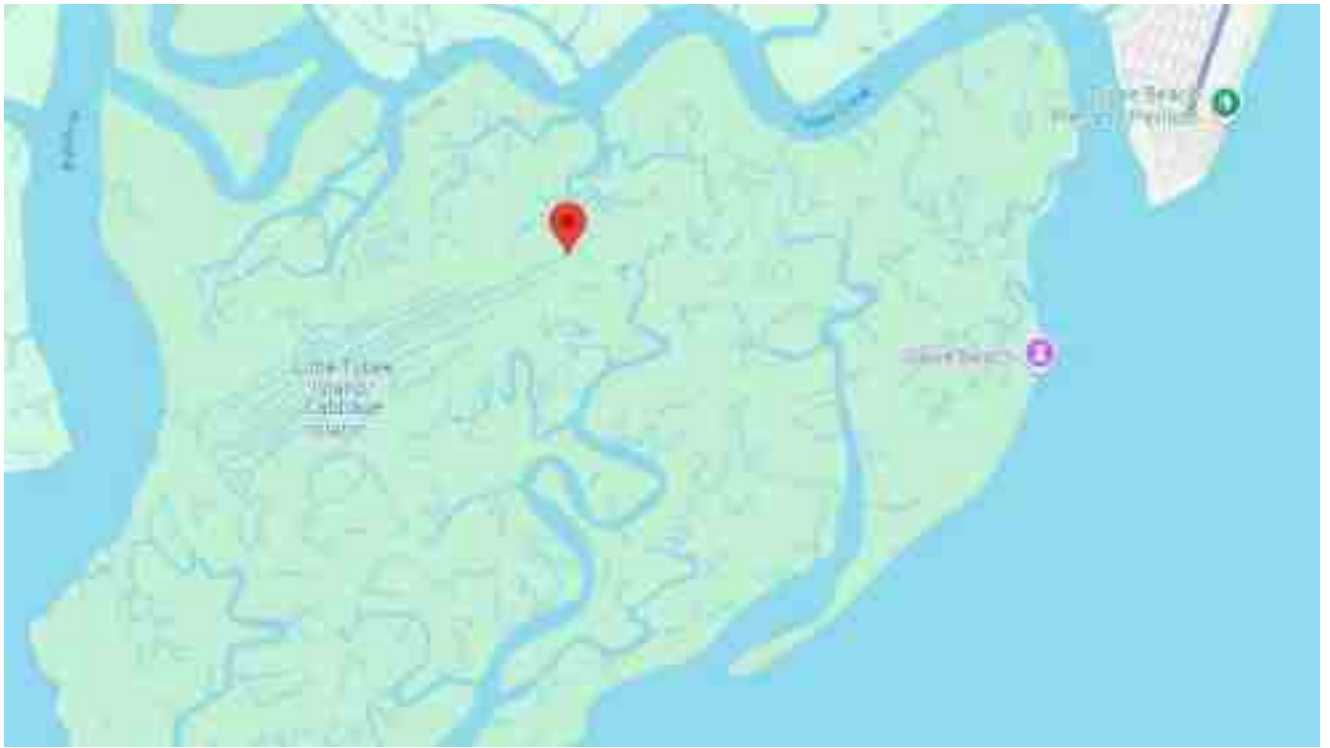


There are many other paddling options though. Paddling across the creek into the marshes of Little Tybee Island provides access to more sheltered waters. Be careful and pay attention to where you are going. The marsh has many creeks and channels many of which are dead ends.



Looking at the map should give you an idea of how extensive this marsh is. Pay attention to the tides and currents in this area.

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## Ebenezer Creek.

For those looking for a scenic paddle with minimal exposure to wind or current, my favorite is Ebenezer Creek launching from Tommy Long Boat Ramp. It is about an hour drive from the



campground, and is well worth making the trip. Ebenezer Creek offers paddlers a unique blend of natural beauty and history. In the late fall, the creek transforms into a scene of quiet splendor, with its mirrored blackwater reflecting the vibrant golds and deep reds of the season.

The paddle from Tommy Long Boat Ramp to the Savannah River on Ebenezer Creek is

approximately 7 miles making it a 14-mile round trip. Typically, there is minimal current and paddlers take time to explore away from the main flow of the creek and into the surrounding swamplands. Depending on the water level, it is possible to paddle into stands of bald cypress and tupelo trees. These stalwart sentinels rise from the creek, their roots forming intricate, knotted buttresses that seem to anchor the past to the present. Spanish moss drapes their

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branches, swaying gently in the breeze, adding an ethereal quality to the landscape.

Ebenezer Creek is more than a paddler's haven; it's a somber reminder of the area's complex history. During the Civil War, this quiet waterway bore witness to one of its most heartbreaking tragedies. As General Sherman's Union forces advanced during the infamous March to the Sea, hundreds of freed slaves followed, seeking safety and freedom.

When the Union army crossed Ebenezer Creek, they removed the pontoon bridges behind them, leaving the group stranded. Desperate to escape the approaching Confederate forces, many tried to swim across the cold, swift creek. Tragically, countless lives were lost in the attempt. The waters we paddle today carry the echoes of their courage and despair—a stark reminder of the resilience and sacrifices made in the pursuit of freedom.

Late fall is an ideal time to explore Ebenezer



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## Share your paddling adventures!

**D**o 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](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com). We look forward to sharing your story.

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Creek. The cool air keeps insects away, and the vivid colors of autumn provide a breathtaking backdrop.

## Moon River

Another area to paddle is Skidaway River and Moon River. The launch at Butterbean Beach is very close to the campground. As you paddle through the calm waters, you'll glide past salt marshes teeming with wildlife and under the sprawling limbs of live oaks draped with Spanish moss that stretch over the shoreline. These iconic trees create a natural canopy, providing shade and a sense of tranquility. Along the way, you'll pass historic landmarks, remnants of old shipyards, and scenic waterfront homes that reflect the area's rich history.

The Savannah area provides a wide range of paddling opportunities. While it may be fun to explore, make sure that you do your homework. Have charts and maps of the area, know the tides and currents. In some cases, it can be helpful to carry a GPS to help find your way through the marshes. There are several local outfitters and guides who can also be useful resources. Know your skill level and know your limits. Above all, be safe.

Have fun, and happy paddling.

Paula Hubbard  
CPA Coordinator.



## 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](#).

## Annual holiday party Saturday, December 14th 6:30 PM

Our annual holiday party will be hosted by Ralph and Beth on Saturday, December 14 at the Heimlich house **3873 Paul Mill Road, Ellicott City, MD**, (look for Kayak Santa and the parking problem)

We will have a white elephant gift exchange and a potluck dinner.

Share your favorite dish, toss back a few, and share the year in review through projected photos.



Ralph has a large heated sunroom with plenty of ventilation, outdoor seating areas, and a firepit,

If you were born in:

**Jan-Apr:** bring a salad (green, fruit, Jell-O, pasta, squid, etc.) and some bread.

**May-Aug:** bring a dessert (cake, pie, cobbler, your honey, etc.)

**Sep-Dec:** bring a casserole or entrée (nothing ALIVE please!)

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

Ralph will supply a spiral sliced ham and a turkey 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)

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We all thanked **Paula Hubbard** who, in addition to her position as **CPA coordinator**, taught the **Navigation Class** in January.

[FACEBOOK Page](#) content & support team: **Catriona Miller, Suzanne Farace, and Greg Welker.**

Webmaster **Gregg Banse** for his **ongoing IT support** and for completion of the CPA webpage redesigned.

CPA webpage Content manager **Ralph Heimlich .**

Editor [CPA Community Newsletter](#) **Gary Trotter.**

Rich Stevens administrator of the [CPA Forums](#).

[Meetup webpage](#) updates handled by **Ralph Heimlich and Paula Hubbard.**

**John Gibbs** CPA librarian.

**Sue Stevens** manager for the CPA LOGO GEAR sales.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Election Results:**

64 ballot were cast, Kathy Neale and Ralph Heimlich counted the ballots.

### **2024-2025 CPA officers-**

- Coordinator Paula Hubbard, -
- Treasurer, Rich Stevens
- Secretary: Sue Stevens

### **Steering Committee Members:**

- Lisa Arrasmith,
- Marilyn Cooper,
- Ben Mayock,
- Rick Stewart,
- Sophie Troy,
- Jean Wunder;

**Congratulations to our new Board!**



2024-2025 CPA Board Members l-r Sue Stevens, Marilyn Cooper, Rich Stevens, Ben Mayock, Paula Hubbard, Jean Wunder, Sophie Troy, Lisa Arrasmith. Not shown Rick Stewart

### **Treasurers Report—Rich Stevens:**

The figures and charts presented is a interim report are based on the period from 10/16/23 through 10/15/2024. The Annual Meeting financial report is provide as an overview for planning purposes. The final annual financial report will come out toward the end of January.

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. is in fair financial shape. However, year over year, our cash on hand decreased by \$3,059.06 or 11.28%, from \$27,111.72 to \$24,052.66, the second year we have had a decrease in club assets.

The detailed report presented at the Annual Meeting, and posted on [CPA web page](#), covers the major income and expenses of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. Any questions please e-mail CPA treasurer at [treasurer@cpakayaker.com](mailto:treasurer@cpakayaker.com)

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## CPA Participation Report 2024—Ralph Heimlich:

CPA had 14 individual trip leaders, leading a combined 75 trips or events, with 373 individual participants taking part a total of 769 times during the year. That's 86 percent of our usual trip numbers, 33 percent of our usual trip leader corps, 79 percent of our usual trip participation and 85 percent of our usual individual participants, based on the 2014-2023 averages.

Detailed reports, as posted on [CPA Web Page](#), point up the continuing need to develop more trip leaders. Here's hoping 2025 will continue to improve, and that more trips and trip participation will be forthcoming.

## Old Business:

1. Paula will offer a ZOOM refresher in January how to set up trips on Meetup open to all.
2. Paula will be holding her popular Navigation Workshop – February 22, 2025 at Cult Classic Brewery.
3. SK102 2025 — We are concerned for its future especially since this is our signature event and helps boost membership. For it's 27th year we decided to discuss it's future with Cat Miller and the SK1102 team regarding expenses, group

size, budgeting, and whether there is possible alternate parking at the present location in Lake Anna.

4. City of Annapolis Truxtun Park boat ramp and beach launch area: we discussed that the city's warning signs for electric shock risk at the waterfront appears to have been changed to use water at "own risk"



## New Business:

1. 2024 In Memory- Paula shared the CPA plaque in memory of Bill Smith (1952-2024)
2. Seeking shared kayak winter inside storage options: Dave Battey will research if getting a rental self-storage facility locked storage unit is feasible.

## **Upcoming events— Look for details and registration to be posted on the CPA Meetup Site:**

December 5 Zoom NOAA Chart class – offered by Ralph Heimlich

December 14 Holiday Party - hosted by Ralph & Beth Heimlich

February 22 Navigation Workshop — Paula Hubbard

Spring 2025 CPA TRIP PLANNING MEETING - Coordinator Paula Hubbard: details TBA

March 1, 2025 SK 101: Basics of Sea Kayaking workshop at Cult Classic Brewery.

April 2025 = SK102 Lake Anna VA -tentative/+ changes in parking capacity

May Kayak Repair Work Day TBA — needs a lead!

June 2025 — On water Skills Practice /Gear Swap /Potluck -Sue Stevens Coordinator



## 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** — Sue Stevens [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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### Email Distribution, Dues Payments and Ad policy

All *Paddler* newsletters are sent via email with a link to the current monthly issue. Please be sure to keep your email address current to keep receiving the *Paddler* newsletter and for reminders of when your membership is up for renewal by contacting the [CPA Secretary](#).

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

Display advertising that relates to the interests of our readers is accepted, contact the editor at [news\\_editor@cpakayaker.com](mailto: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.

### Pirate Groups

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VACANT — Please consider volunteering

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