

Trip Report

Blue Moon Paddle

by Don Polakovics

The sun setting behind the Thomas Johnson Bridge is a familiar end-of-paddle sight for paddlers of the lower Patuxent River, but on this day it marked the start of our second annual Dusk to Dawn Paddle.



Leaving Solomon's Island at Sunset

by Suzanne Farace

Greg Welker, Suzanne Farace and I left a boisterous Solomon's Island heading east into an enormous orange Blue Moon (second full moon of the month). Fish greeted the night with frequent jumps, taking a liking to Suzanne, who fended more than one off with her paddle. Night had completely fallen by the time we crossed the busy entrance to Solomon's Harbor and rounded Drum Point into the Chesapeake Bay.

Friendly people ashore asked us where we were going and suggested we stop to view passage of the International Space Station, which we did. After all, we had all night. At times bioluminescence lit the water around our paddles as moonlight accentuated the texture of Calvert Cliffs. The "Redneck Beach" held a short, but impressive aerial fireworks display as we passed unnoticed by revelers clustered around Tiki torches. Our initial destination for the evening, Cove Point Lighthouse, was clearly visible in the moon light, although the light itself had been replaced with something akin to a blinking streetlamp. Shame. There was something special about the focused beam sweeping the night. We took a short break on the beach at Cove Point before following the shoreline south back to the Patuxent.

As today faded into tomorrow, most shoreline homes went dark, except for a few with the blue glow of late night television. A ghostly procession of sailboats, silhouetted by the reflected moonlight, passed us on their way down the bay. We felt a special kinship with those Governor's Cup sailboat race participants on water with us that night. Staying awake was beginning to require a little effort, as it took us a while to recognize strange creatures splashing in the dark as a group of skinny-dippers seeking to conceal themselves in deeper water as we paddled among them (sorry folks).

During a shore break on Drum Point, the decision was made to visit the Drum Point Lighthouse at the Chesapeake Maritime Museum and while in the neighborhood seek out the "Schooner Hostel". I suppose you could call it a plan. Solomon's Harbor was silent as we, perhaps inconsiderately, paddled among the moored boats on the way to the museum. Incongruously the most notable feature of the museum after dark was a brightly lit Pepsi vending machine. After a short diversion up Mill Creek to attain photographic evidence of our night recon of Suzanne's friend's boat, Greg hurried us back out to open



Cove Point under a Full Moon

by Suzanne Farace

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CPA Annual Meeting: Nominations for CPA Officers Due

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association is a volunteer organization, and the people who volunteer the most are the elected officers: The Coordinator, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and the Steering Committee members. Now is the time to tell us who you think should play an active part in steering the club's activities. As always in recent years, in addition to balloting at the **Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 1 at Chesapeake Bay Foundation HQ in Annapolis**, you will be able to nominate and vote online. Nominate someone who you think will help play an active role over the next year to vote on issues, create fun activities, and keep the participation of the club lively through 2015. The descriptions of the officers in our By-Laws read as follows:

The Steering Committee. The property and business of the club shall be managed under the direction of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will make all decisions about operational activities of the club, unless specified otherwise in these bylaws. As a rule, routine decisions about specific club activities will be the responsibility of the individuals managing those activities, but they may be overridden by the Steering Committee if needed. The Steering Committee will determine which events are to be considered official CPA activities. If appropriate, it may set standards for such determinations so that it need not consider each activity, and it may then delegate to individual club members the responsibility for applying those standards to determine whether specific activities are official CPA activities.

The Coordinator shall have overall responsibility for administration of the club and will be a primary point of contact for the club. S/he shall chair general club membership meetings and meetings of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee may direct the Coordinator to perform other duties consistent with the bylaws. The Coordinator is the only person authorized to speak for the club. This authority may be delegated by the Coordinator.

The Treasurer shall perform all the duties generally incident to the office of Treasurer, subject to the control of the Steering Committee and the oversight of the Coordinator. The Treasurer shall have custody of all the funds and securities of the club, and s/he shall keep full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements. Such records shall be the property of the club. S/he shall deposit all such moneys and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the club. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the club consistent with Section seven of these bylaws. S/he shall provide financial information to the Coordinator or the Steering Committee in a timely fashion as requested.

The Secretary shall perform all duties generally incident to the office of Secretary, subject to the control of the Steering Committee and the oversight of the Coordinator. S/he has primary responsibility for maintaining club membership records, but may delegate day-to-day administration of that task to another club member. S/he shall give notice of all meetings of the general membership or the Steering Committee and all other notices required by these bylaws. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all meetings of the general membership and of the Steering Committee. All records of the Secretary shall be the property of the club.

Our webmasters, have created an online form you can use to enter nominations. Nominations must be entered **BEFORE OCTOBER 1** Use it at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/index.php?page=nominations> Persons nominated can use another online tool to accept or decline their nomination, and to post a "Stump Speech" giving their experience and reasons why members should vote for them. These will be printed in the October issue of *The Chesapeake Paddler* and viewable online. If you see someone already nominated who you would support in November, then second their nomination by clicking on the text at the bottom of their nomination that says *Second Them!*. For each additional confirmation, the nominee will get a blue star to show their populari-

ty. Note that nominations are NOT the same as voting. Nominations will show who is favored for an office or for the Steering Committee, and will eventually lead to the ballot for voting on positions in the coming year. This year, in addition to mail-in ballots and voting at the November Annual Meeting, there will be an online mechanism for voting, and you will need your CPA member number to authenticate your vote. The votes will be tallied at the Annual Meeting and will determine which individuals will hold which positions for the coming year. So, throw your paddling hat in the ring, or throw someone else in the ring, but let the best candidates win! 🌟

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Sunrise from Myrtle Point Park

by Don Polakovics

water. We still had a few miles to paddle to Myrtle Point Park before rush hour on the Patuxent River. It seems that 0430 is the magic time for fisherman to run to their favorite spots.

We lounged on Myrtle Point until the bright yellow sunrise announced breakfast! On the way back, people that Suzanne knew aerially videoed us paddling beneath the Thomas Johnson Bridge (https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=fELXA_oaRx_8). Laurie Collins was waiting for us on the beach in Solomon's after graciously driving down to deliver food that she and Terri Lehman volunteered to bring before they had to back out of the trip. Blueberry pancakes with red potatoes and humungous ham steaks capped a memorable and unusual paddle. 🌟



Blue Moon Drone Shot, courtesy of Aram Nersesian and Ryan Henderson. Balance Productions, LLC

