

Chesapeake Paddler



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CPA Annual Meeting and Paddle—Sunday, November 2

By Ralph Heimlich

Once again, it's time for the CPA Annual Meeting. This is the time that we review the events of the past year, and look forward to what the club plans for the year to come. At this meeting we will visit topics of concern for the direction of the club, but most importantly we will elect the CPA Officers and Steering Committee for 2014.

The afternoon Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, November 2, 2014, at Moyane Reserve Community Center (Swim Club) on Bryan Point Road in Accokeek (2301 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607). The meeting will start at 11:30 a.m. and will run until about 3:00 pm. We will have pizza available as the meeting starts, and we encourage attendees to bring some other yummy snacks that can be shared with the troops: brownies, cookies, chips, veggies and dips, etc.

In a change this year, the meeting will be held a bit earlier, and the ANNUAL MEETING PADDLE will be in the afternoon to let temps warm up and the duck hunters go home. Coordinator Ralph Heimlich is organizing the paddle, which will be on Piscataway Creek. We will meet at Farmington Landing (14200 Wharf Road, Accokeek, MD 20607) immediately after the meeting concludes. Daylight savings time falls back at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 2. There is a gravel beach, lots of parking, and no launch fee. We will paddle for about two hours. This is a cold-water paddle so thermal protection (at least a wet suit, dry suit preferred) is required. All CPA required gear (PFD, spray skirt, paddle float, pump) will be required. Print out, sign and BRING a CPA Waiver (see <http://www.cpakayaker.com/uploads/resources/CPARelease.pdf>).

CPA logowear shirts, stickers, patches, and other stuff will be available for purchase. Logo Meister Béla Mariassy will have the entire trunk of CPA Logowear. Come and enjoy the food and meet your fellow CPA paddlers wearing clothes that aren't neoprene. For more information about the structure of the club, the annual meeting, and voting, refer to the club's bylaws at <http://www.cpakayaker.com/about-cpa/bylaws/>.



CPA Members at the 2013 Annual Meeting Paddle kayak Ego Alley in Annapolis, Maryland

Photograph by Ralph Heimlich



Happy Harbor in Deale, Maryland

Photograph by Lisa Arrasmith

Come Get Happy! A Memorial Day Recon Paddle from Rose Haven to Deal

By Lisa Arrasmith

Four of us explored new water out of Rose Haven Park in southern Anne Arundel County on Memorial Day 2014. Karen Gibson, Mark Fisher, Steven Jahnce and I paddled to Deale and had lunch at the Happy Harbor Restaurant on busy Rockhold Creek with the support of our Location Scout, Tom Blount. Most of the trip was on the open, unprotected Chesapeake Bay. It was about 10 miles round trip from Rose Haven to the Happy Harbor and about 14 miles roundtrip to the end of Rockhold Creek at Swamp Circle Road.

Rose Haven Park is just north of the Anne Arundel County–Calvert County line. The park has three small, sandy beaches inset in the riprapped shoreline. It has two small parking lots, one with parking for four+ cars, the other with room for

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two cars. You can also park on the street in the neighborhood across the main road from the park. The park has trash cans and picnic tables but no toilets.

We launched from one of the park beaches, passed Herrington Harbor marina and headed north across big Herring Bay towards Deale. Herring Bay was uncrowded on the way to Deale. The shore rises to the high Fairhaven Cliffs and then slopes down towards Deale and its complicated harbor. Deale is actually located on Traceys Creek. Two long stone jetties with a narrow channel between them protect the mouth of Traceys Creek. The crash of big boats running into those jetties at night is a Deale tradition. Luckily for kayakers, there is also a narrow gap between the south shore and the south jetty. We went through that gap rather than play chicken in the busy main channel.

Deale was a glorious maelstrom of boats. Just looking at all those sailboats made me happy. Maneuvering through that boat traffic mosh pit – not so much. Remember, it was Memorial Day. We carefully worked our way clockwise around the main Traceys Creek basin and up Rockhold Creek on the right side of the basin.

Tom Blount, temporarily beached by an arm injury, was our most excellent Location Scout. Tom cheerfully checked out the waterfront restaurants—Skippers Pier and the Happy Harbor—in Deale for us. He let us know via VHF radio that Happy Harbor on Rockhold Creek was ready and waiting for us.

The Happy Harbor is on the left/west side of Rockhold Creek just before the Deal Churchton Road Bridge. It's a friendly waterfront bar and restaurant with a great crowd. It caters more to real bikers than weekend gentleman motorcyclists. It has good food, live music and most importantly, a new low floating dock on the upstream side of the restaurant.

The Happy Harbor was crowded. Bemused small children hung over the deck railing and gawked at us inefficiently getting out of our boats at the low floating dock. There wasn't a lot of room and it took a while to get rope through our decklines and push the kayaks out of the way under the high dock. I'm surprised Tom, ex-Navy, didn't pretend he didn't know us.

The five of us settled in at a table on the deck and took full advantage of the \$5 Monday burger special and lots of ice water. The tiki bar was hopping and live music was starting. It was a great change from the usual hardy kayaker lunch.

After lunch, bemused beer drinkers looked over from the fishing boat next door and gawked at us inefficiently getting back into our boats. Although we felt bad about abandoning Tom on shore, we waved good-bye and continued under the bridge and up Rockhold Creek to Swamp Circle Road. Upper Rockhold Creek was quiet and serene, an abrupt change from lower Rockhold Creek. There was little boat traffic because the bridge is fixed and sailboats can't get past it. We saw an eagle near Swamp Circle Road.

The return leg was exciting because of the crowd of big boats returning to Deale after being out on the bay for the holiday weekend. We got out of the harbor and headed across Herring Bay and ran into the beauty parade. There is a shoal—an underwater sandbar—east of the mouth of Deale harbor and the Herring Bay channel goes up the coast inside of the sandbar and then jogs west into the harbor. It made for an interesting traffic pattern.

We made back to Rose Haven. Someone had decorated the park for Memorial Day. We loaded up our boats and sat at the picnic table talking for a while. We had to eventually reluctantly decide to let the holiday weekend end and head home.

Links: MD Tides: <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/Tide-Finder.aspx>

Nearest Tide Point: Western Shore, Rose Haven

NOAA chart 12270: <http://www.charts.noaa.gov/OnLineViewer/12270.shtml>

Rose Haven Park: <http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/parks/community/rosehaven.cfm>

Happy Harbor Restaurant: <http://www.happyharbordeale.com/>



**Sandy Beach Launch at Rose Haven,
Anne Arundel County, Maryland**
Photograph by Lisa Arrasmith



Always Wear Your Life Jacket, Newtowne Neck Open House