

# The Chesapeake Paddler



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## Paddler's Trip Reports

### Thomas Point Light House From Mayo Beach Park

By Bill Smith, Trip Coordinator

This CPA planned trip on June 21st was originally scheduled to paddle from Beverly Triton Beach but when I found out that Mayo beach had a scheduled opening I was persuaded to change venues. I had 10 pre-registered CPA members signed up for this event but the night before a mother of storms ripped through the area; the marine forecast called for 20 MPH winds with 30 MPH gusts so I woke to 6 cancellations. I decided to continue with the paddle with the attitude that we could always paddle up the South River if the bay looked too rough. The day was a beautiful sunny day with strong off shore winds; I don't believe we ever encountered the 30 MPH winds that were predicted.

The paddlers, Al Tilson, Sophie Troy, Ben Rooper, and me, agreed to venture out but would turn back if it got too rough. We headed out but were soon being pushed by waves. The tail wind from the off shore winds had us at the light house in 45 minutes. After a brief visit we headed back to the beach but had to fight head winds. Overall it was an enjoyable day.

The Mayo Beach Park was a pleasant surprise because I did not expect it to be so nice. This was my first visit and will definitely visit again. The park has a nice sandy beach with some shore protection for easy launch and landing. I highly recommend this park during future open days since this park is rarely open to the public. 🐾



Thomas Point Light House

Photo by Ben Rooper

### Miles River in our Summer Heat Wave

By Sue and Rich Stevens, Trip Coordinators

The week before the event (July 18th), the weather forecasters announced that the weekend was going to be the hottest, most humidity laden weekend of the entire summer; with a scary heat index hovering over 104 degrees; and with more thunderstorms to boot. Not good news again! Our planned CPA June 13 circumnavigation of Wye Island had to be cancelled due to severe advancing thunderstorms; it did dump 3 inches of rain in one day. With our Florida-like daily June thunderstorm's rain and hail events, our Maryland region is now ahead of its normal rainfall annual total by 10 inches. Great for growing corn, melons, weeds, and mosquitoes but not kayaking, as it disappointed 25 CPA kayakers. Everyone was hopeful this weekend. Rich and I were watching to see if it would happen AGAIN. Amazingly, the morning dawned slightly overcast and breezy and it wasn't too hot! We spotted white caps crossing the Bay Bridge before 7 am with steady winds 10-15 mph coming out of the south make for a great sailing day. It was too early for many fishing boats seeking rockfish north of the bridge – but not our kayakers.

Arriving at Royal Oak landing – off MD 33 just a few miles short of the town of St. Michaels, most of our 10 kayakers were already unloading at our very own marked kayak launch spot. There is no county parking permit or fee needed for our car-top kayaks in Talbot County – yeah! [http://www.talbotcountymd.gov/uploads./images/Parks\\_and\\_Rec/Landing%20Brochure.pdf](http://www.talbotcountymd.gov/uploads./images/Parks_and_Rec/Landing%20Brochure.pdf).

We agreed to meet a bit earlier this Saturday morning to beat some of the expected weekend heat wave. Both Tom Heneghan and Al Larson drove over from Virginia from the Pirates of Georgetown, plus Kurt Rodowsky, Bill Smith and Bill McAllister (aka -William of the CPA Orange shirt) from the Pirates of Arundell, and the gals Linda Delaney, Gail Davidson and Nancy Eckert. Our marked kayak launch is a bit of sandy beach at low tide - located at the very end of the long crabbers docking and a paved lot. There is some parking at the far eastern end along with a short fishing pier. No one, except a surprised morning dog walker, was in sight. The crabbing boats were already out and the place was quiet; no one was launching via the nearby boat ramp, and we were not in anyone's way on our own sandy spot. Of course, it was evident local crabbing has been good; a half dozen very large, very dead crabs had washed into the grasses at our launch. The guys tossed some of the crabs to clear an un-stinky path. Those with the closest parking spots to the crabs had a bigger smelly issue: Choose to either step over the crabs or to wade.

This was a trip leaders' dream! During our morning briefing and

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