

Paddler Profile by Bob Browning: Bob Maynes

Lives in: Arlington, VA

Real job: Retired but spend extensive hours on the board of a non-profit

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? Potomac

Number of years paddling: 4th year

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? My youngest daughter and her husband bought a house on the Erie Canal and the seller left them a canoe and a kayak. My daughter and I were paddling the canoe and my son-in-law was in the kayak. I was intrigued by the speed and the quickness with which he darted in and out of places I was interested in, but could not reach. Had to try it. Immediately capsized, but tried again and was captivated.

What boats do you paddle? Regular boat is Current Designs Solstice GTS, 17'7" by 22", "Mango". Starter boat was Wilderness Tsunami 145, 14'6" by 24.5", yellow, which is now my visitor boat.

Rudder or skeg? Rudder

Type paddle used: Euro now but getting a Greenland

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking: No.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities January through March I mostly ski in the Rockies and Canada and with grandchildren at their local mountains.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October?

When I am in town, one to two times per week

Do any winter paddling? No, that's ski season.

Favorite local paddling location: Going out of Belle Haven on Wednesdays is great but I have liked all the other trips I have taken too. As I am relatively new to this, every trip is an adventure. I do find I am being drawn more to longer trips and kayaking camping trips to any place.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: This year's Potomac Passage trips. They were longer trips on which I was able to focus for long stretches on improving my technique and efficiency. In addition I had the opportunity to paddle places I had never been.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why: Had all 5 grandchildren in a house on Cayuga Lake and got all of them to try kayaking. This became a problem as they all loved it and there were only 3 kayaks. I was kept pretty busy with shift after shift going out and the youngest usually needing to be towed back. They all had a great time. It did cost me since I eventually had to buy some kid kayaks.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why: Nothing really scary or dangerous so the closest I can come to this is the most unnerving trip. Went on Jesse Aronson's Cherry Blossom paddle and when I got back my wife asked me how the blossoms were. Told her I had no idea but that everyone else said they were great. I was always looking straight ahead and focused on staying



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Photo by Greg Welker

upright in wind I had not experienced before—close to 20 and gusts over 25. It was a great trip that really pushed my envelope and I might have bailed without encouragement from Ralph.

Future bucket list trip: No specific place, just objectives. I want to keep extending my ability to deal with more difficult conditions so next time I can look at the cherry blossoms. I want learn to roll and to use a Greenland paddle. I want to improve my technique/efficiency so I am not holding up the better paddlers.

Three things you like most about paddling? 1. I have always been a mountain person but paddling opened up a whole new world of water that I had pretty much ignored for most of my life. 2. It's healthy. 3. I used to be a bit down at the end of ski season but not anymore.

What do you like about CPA? Really helpful and knowledgeable people. There are so many really nice folks who always seem ready to share their knowledge one-on-one or in formal settings at CPA events. The focus on safety and education is impressive.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you: As a volunteer I have been involved in youth soccer for over 30 years. I was the Director of Coaching for McLean Youth Soccer for 22 years and have been on the Board of Directors of Virginia Youth Soccer since '99 as VP, Finance Chair and as the leader of the effort to build our \$15 million training center in Fredericksburg. Phase 1 at about \$8 million is done.

We would like to know about you! Contact Bob Browning if you are interested in a being featured in the Paddler Profile or if you know of someone else he can contact. Contact Bob at: BBBrowning43@verizon.net

