

CPA Paddler Profile ~ Carol Collins

Interview by Rick Wiebush



Carol at Mattapeake
Photograph by Tom Dole

Name: Carol Collins

Lives in: Beltsville, Maryland

Real job: Freelance bookkeeper

Member of a Piracy? No

Paddling Buddies: Mike Naito, Marshall Woodruff, Kathy Kozub, Robert Golden, Tim Dole, Deb Schmiel, Katie O'Meara and many fellow KIPPers!

Number years paddling: 5

How did you get involved in kayaking? My daughter was telling about her kayaking trips in Alaska, and it sounded like a lot of fun.

How did you learn to sea kayak? I started with classes from Potomac Paddlesports.

Any formal training or ACA/BCU certifications: SK102, SK203, CPA Navigation

Boat usually paddled: Impex Montauk 16 feet, yellow over white and orange trim

Type paddle used: Aleut

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? I have tried SUP and hope to get out and do it more. I took some whitewater classes and decided it wasn't for me. I love whitewater rafting!

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Cycling, running

How often do you paddle in summer? Usually twice a week.

Do any winter paddling? Yes, I purchased a drysuit last year, and it was wonderful getting out during the winter. There is a totally different vibe on the water. Wish I had heated foot pegs though!

Go to pool sessions? Fairland is my pool of choice. It is real close to my house and it has a hot tub.

Favorite local paddling location: The Potomac River is one of my favorites. The upper section is nice and quiet, and the lower section by Columbia Island Marina is a neat view of the city from the water. I am a fan of urban paddling.

Favorite non-local location: Maine near Camden. That is the only non-local place I have paddled so far.

Best paddling trip/experience ever and why: They have all been great. I had a really good time at SK203 leadership training this year. It was my first camping experience. The instruction was great, and it was such a fun group to work with.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why: Got caught out on the Chesapeake Bay in a thunderstorm. Our group got separated, and the wind forced us to head to Cloverfield Beach where we were greeted by a group having a crab feast. Trying to get to the beach was difficult in the wind and waves. Was thinking if either of us went over, we were going to have to put out a mayday. The storm came up after paddling about 20 miles. Too tired to eat the crabs that were offered!

Bucket list trips: Anyplace new!

Three things you like most about paddling? I love being on the water with good friends and nature. I like the challenge of different conditions. It clears my head.

What do you like about CPA? Everyone I have met in the CPA is so friendly and helpful. CPA is an organization that does so much to promote this wonderful sport. Many people give up their time to volunteer and teach skills to make us better paddlers and safer paddlers.

One thing other people find interesting about you: I have been blessed with five wonderful children and a husband who supports my kayaking habit unconditionally. He is always ready to help me load my gear to go and unload it when I get home.

Qajaq Guru of Back Creek

CPA member Dave Isbell was featured this summer in Chesapeake Inspired in an article written by Jeff Holland. Dave builds traditional kayaks and paddles on the Chesapeake Bay and beyond. Link: <http://www.chesapeaketaste.com/index.php/out-about/boating/adventurous-spirit/1058-qajaq-guru-of-back-creek>. Photograph from Mr. Holland's article.

