

Paddler Profile by Bob Browning: Dick Rock

Lives in: Alexandria, Virginia in the Mt Vernon area on the original Mt Vernon Estate.

Real job: I am a retired Certified Security Professional and a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel.

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? I regularly attend paddles with the Potomac Pirates. In fact I have been the Potomac Pirates' Captain for 15 years.

Number of years paddling: I have been an avid paddler for 18 years.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I had a friend of mine who was a member of the Chesapeake Paddlers who introduced me to the rewards of joining a group of individuals who enjoyed paddling and welcomed new comers.

What boats do you paddle? I have three kayaks, An Aquaterra, Kodiak Sea Lion, 17 feet ,yellow; A Preception, Eclipse, 17 feet 3 inches, yellow and white; and a Current Design, Solstice GS Titan, 17 feet 7 inches, turquoise/white.

Rudder or skeg? All my boats have rudders.

Type paddle used: Use Greenland paddles normally, but I have euro paddles too.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? Have paddled canoes but not often.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? I walk and hike on a regular basis,

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? During the regular paddling season from March to November I try to paddle two to three days a week.

Do any winter paddling? I do winter paddling less frequently and always try to get to Florida for two trips of about 10 days duration.

Favorite local paddling location? The Potomac River in metropolitan Washington and Pohick Regional Park and Fountain Head Regional Park are my favorite places locally

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? I have been on many, many trips with the CPA and to name one as favorite is impossible. There is an annual Chickahominy Trip in November that normally ends the official CPA season. I was on the original trip with Bill Dodge as leader and I have been on ten led by Ralph Heimlich. These are my favorite series because there are old friends and always new people on the trip. We have a great pot luck dinner. That area of Virginia is beautiful in late fall with numerous choices for different paddles every year.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? I have had some great trips including a camping trip in the Republic of Palau, in Micronesia in the Rock Islands and the Pacific Ocean. And a great trip in Alaska and Canada on the Stikine River for 7 days. Both of these trips had unique and beautiful scenery and unforgettable geography. But what made them best was that I was joined on these trips with my family.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? I cannot recall any moment or time as "scariest." I guess I have been lucky. Of course there are some paddles that were challenging and others were lessons learned. I guess a lesson learned was on a paddle on the Potomac River on Martin Luther King's holiday. The temperature was 32 degrees, 12 mph wind, and it was raining and



Dick Rock

Photo by Unknown Paddler Friend

sleeting. I noticed shortly after paddling about 15 minutes ice was forming on my kayak and paddle. It was not a pleasant trip. I vowed not to repeat a paddle in similar conditions. Maybe my stupidest paddle would be more appropriate.

Future bucket list trips: I would like to paddle in the Florida Keys in January and maybe Baja Mexico.

Three things you like most about paddling? I enjoy paddling because I can have extraordinary experiences on any trip by observing the natural beauty and abundant wildlife one encounters up close on the water.

What do you like about CPA? I have met hundreds of paddlers because I go to CPA trips and activities. I find that there are so many kind and interesting paddlers on the water that give me great pleasure as they share their stories and knowledge.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? It's not about me, but on some CPA overnight trips with a pot luck dinner, some people want to know what I brought to the pot luck meal because my son and wife like to cook good things for pot luck meals. Remember the CPA motto "We paddle to eat."



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