

CPA Paddler Profiles ~ Jaclin Gilbert

Interview by Rick Wiebush



Jaclin Gilbert on the South River near Church Creek *photo by Sonja Pyle*

Name: Jaclin Gilbert

Lives in: Silver Spring, Maryland

Real job: Library Media Specialist at a middle school

Member of a Piracy? Not yet. Hoping to paddle with the POSLers [Pirates of Sugarloaf] next year.

Paddling Buddies: Wow-I paddle with a lot of people. Not sure I can single out anyone in particular. Maybe Denise Parisi and Lorah Conheim Cusack the most? We came up through the ranks together.

Number years paddling: Informally, around 15 years on an extremely occasional basis. Seriously, for a year and half.

How did you get involved in kayaking? I canoed as a kid, and that led to some kayaking. Then I joined Chesapeake Kayak Adventures and my involvement really took off. I quite quickly bought a long boat and stated getting serious.

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How did you learn to sea kayak? I took lessons from Cross Currents through Chesapeake Kayak Adventures, and watched and listened to my fellow paddlers.

Any formal training or ACA/BCU certifications? Looking at training for L3 maybe next year.

Boat usually paddled: Impex Force Cat 3, Yellow. Delphin 15, Bright Green.

Type paddle used: Have both, lately been paddling more Euro than Greenland. I will go back to Greenland for rolling this winter.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? Not really

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? I hike and bike.

How often do you paddle in summer? As much as I can, two to three times a week if possible.

Do any winter paddling? Yes, when it is over 40 degrees. I don't go out very much below that.

Go to pool sessions? Last year I went to Catonsville, this year we will see!

Favorite local paddling location: I love to be out on the bay. Maybe Kent Island area, right now? That could still be the influence of KIPP [Kent Island Practice Paddles] last summer.

Favorite non-local location: Pine Island area in Florida.

Best paddling trip/experience ever and why: I would say that KIPP was my best paddling experience, though I loved the kayak camping trip I did in Florida last winter. But the day of the actual KIPP paddle I expected a trip that would be difficult and enervating at times, and when the paddle turned out to be one of pure joy, it rose to the position of best paddle ever.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why: Launching with a group after a lunch break as a sudden squall came up on the bay. Launching became a challenge, and a paddler did flip over in the suddenly messy seas. The group I was with did a great job of rescuing the swimmer in difficult conditions, and I learned a little bit more about what I was capable of.

Bucket list trips: Maine Islands, Aegean seas.

Three things you like most about paddling? I love the sense of peace that I get from paddling, seeing what I am capable of achieving, and my fellow paddlers. Paddling does seem to attract a really great group of people.

What do you like about CPA? It's a great knowledge base.

One thing other people find interesting about you: I once sang back up for Barry Manilow.