

CPA Paddler Profile

By Rick Wiebush

Name: Paul Plowright

Lives in: York, Pennsylvania.

Real job: Software Engineer with Red Lion Controls.

Member of a Piracy? I am not a member of a piracy.

Paddling Buddies: CKA paddles (Jaclin Gilbert, Becky Martin, Lorah Cusick Conheim amongst others), Rick Wiebush, Jay Gitomer).

Number years paddling: Around 2.

How did you get involved in kayaking? Having never kayaked before, I naturally decided to build a CLC design, Shearwater 17 (hybrid) in an upstairs bedroom in my house as I liked the lines and was intrigued by the strip build process. <http://www.clcboats.com/newsarchives/okoumefest-chesapeake-small-boat-festival-2011-page2.html>



How did you learn to sea kayak? During the first few solo excursions after the 2 year build, I realized how little I knew and how much there is to learn about paddling so sought out and found an active group (CKA), paddled on some great trips locally, then discovered rolling and excellent courses offered by Cross Currents Sea Kayaking.

Any formal training or ACA/BCU certifications: Some select skills courses including pool sessions and open water paddling but no formal qualifications, as yet...

Boat usually paddled: CLC Shearwater 17 hybrid, white hull, deck stripped with Pawlonia and cedar accents.

Type paddle used: Primarily Greenland (self-built of course), Euro as a spare.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? I am part way through a SUP build (CLC Kaholo 14) and a Skin on Frame Kayak in the aforementioned bedroom, but presently exclusively sea kayaking.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? I am an avid mountain biker, road rider, hiker, sailor and tentative skier... rock climber/mountaineer, orienteer and mountain marathoner in former life.

How often do you paddle in summer? I usually shoot for a weekday evening and a weekend day or two.

Do any winter paddling? No dry suit so no winter paddling although I intend investing in one shortly, so this will change.

Go to pool sessions? Yes, I did rolling sessions last winter at the Catonsville YMCA Pool.

Favorite local paddling location: Lake Clarke (dammed portion of the Susquehanna River) various locations on the Chesapeake Bay.

Favorite non-local location: The only non-local paddling venue to date is 10,000 Islands region in Florida, which would definitely be a favorite.

Best paddling trip/experience ever and why: I think the portion on the 10,000 islands (Florida) trip when we camped on a couple of the islands, which was my only kayak camping experience to date. Just the idea of packing a kayak with everything you need and nothing you don't and setting off appeals to the outdoor adventurer in me. Getting lost and having to make an unplanned stop on a tiny island as the rain started and the swarming no-see-ums only added to the adventure. Feeding Dolphins herding fish, sea turtles, little sharks, rays and clear blue gulf water all made for the best paddling experience ever.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why: Not a great deal of experience to draw upon but one occasion springs to mind. With a little more confidence than ability, I took myself out one cloudy evening alone at Long Level with the intention of crossing the mighty Susquehanna. Side-waves, increasing winds and a grey green white-capped sea soon had me scurrying for the put-in having not even left the shore. Water is to be respected.

Bucket list trips: Greenland, a circumnavigation of something significant, Abel Tasman National Park, NZ.

Three things you like most about paddling? Technical aspect of the equipment, the intimate interaction with Mother Nature in all her moods and of course the shared experience in the company of like-minded individuals

What do you like about CPA? I have not had much exposure to CPA.

One thing other people find interesting about you: I was born in New Zealand, although I spent the bulk of my adult life in the UK. I have the best cat, Mangu.