

## CPA Paddler Profile

By Rick Wiebush

**Name:** Pete Hohmann

**Lives in:** Woodbridge, VA

**Real job:** Recently retired pastor, now working part-time for Prince William County Parks as a paddler instructor and "Science in the Park" teacher

**Member of a Piracy?** Until recently I lived too far away from any Piracy to join. I will join one this summer.

**Paddling Buddies:** Brian Stevens, Brian Blankenship

**Number years paddling:** 10

**How did you get involved in kayaking?** My church, where I was a pastor, bought me my first kayak on my 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of working there (Mechanicsville Christian Center near Richmond, VA)

**How did you learn to sea kayak?** A set of Nigel Foster DVD's and Derek Hutchinson's "The Complete Book of Sea Kayaking."

**Any formal training or ACA/BCU certifications:** ACA L-3 kayak instructor, ACA L-4 kayaker, ACA Adaptive Paddlesports Instructor, and BCU 3 Star Paddler, ACA L-2 SUP Instructor

**Boat usually paddled:** NDK Romany, Carbon/Kevlar, Black Deck and clear hull

**Type paddle used:** Euro, Greenland, and a wing paddle with my Epic 18x

**Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking?** SUP and canoe instructor for Lake Ridge Park and Marina

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities:** I enjoy hiking and backpacking. I will be walking the Camino Santiago next September (500 miles across Spain)

**How often do you paddle in summer?** 6 or 7 times a week. I teach kayak camps for kids during the weekdays, adult stand up paddleboard classes on Saturday, and I lead paddles with my Meetup Group on Sundays, Lake Ridge Park Paddlers <<http://www.meetup.com/Lake-Ridge-Park-Paddlers>>

**Do any winter paddling?** I help lead paddling trips in Florida and the Bahamas in the winter (Burnham Guides and Kayak Voyagers). I paddle here whenever the water is not frozen.

**Go to pool sessions?** Not usually.

**Favorite local paddling location (within 1-2 hours of your house):** I love paddling from Annapolis Canoe and Kayak to Thomas Point Light-house. I paddle Occoquan Reservoir several times a week since I live in walking distance of Lake Ridge Park and Marina.

**Favorite non-local location:** I spend two weeks in the Bay of Fundy every June.

**Best paddling trip/experience ever and why:** My most impacting trip was when I paddled the length of the Chesapeake Bay in 2009 (western side). It was my 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a pastor at my church and the church gave me the time off and paid my expenses. The entire church followed my journey through my SPOT and daily blog. The journey renewed me emotionally and spiritually.

**Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why:** The scariest moment was right after I committed to paddle through Reversing Falls in Cobscook Bay (part of the Bay of Fundy in Maine) during full flow. It was intense tidal whitewater and a whirlpool sucked the stern of my kayak downwards, but my 10 mph momentum keep my going forward through it. Even though I was a pastor at the time, I screamed, "Oh sh\*t, I'm going to die" more times than I can remember. There were a lot of spectators on the shoreline of Reversing Falls Park when I did it and I'm not sure if they were hoping I would make it or wipe out in a spectacular way.

**Bucket list trips:** Paddling above the Arctic Circle, probably Norway.

**Three things you like most about paddling?** I paddle to meet people and I enjoy introducing others to the sport. I feel closer to God on the water and paddle to maintain physical fitness (performance paddling). This coming year I also am looking forward to providing people with disabilities a chance to regain their freedom on the water. Lake Ridge Park just completed a new dock system that will accommodate paddlers with disabilities.

**What do you like about CPA?** Great opportunities to both give and receive training, the connection with others, especially during the over-night events.

**One thing other people find interesting about you:** I am famous for the question I ask all new paddlers on the water. I ask them, "Tell me about your life?" I have a professional counseling background, and people seem to feel a freedom open their lives up to me on the water.

