

Paddler Profile by Bob Browning: *Suzanne Farace*

Name: Suzanne Farace

Lives in: Towson, Maryland

Real job: Lawyer, Family Law

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? Not recently. I used to regularly attend Pier 7 and occasionally paddle with the Pirates of Baltimore, but in the last couple of years I've had a hard time getting out of work to make any weekday Piracy.

Number of years paddling: Regularly since about 2004

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I went on a couple of vacations in Nova Scotia/Bay of Fundy and Vancouver Island that involved sea kayaking, long before I had any idea what I was doing, and loved it. Some friends encouraged me to join the Canton Kayak Club in 2004, and then I joined CPA in 2005.

What boats do you paddle? My "go-to" boat is still my 2004 fiberglass Wilderness Systems 165, faded blue over lime green. I also have a fiberglass 17'11" Wilderness Systems Arctic Hawk, white, which is my camping boat, and a plastic 15'3" Necky Eliza, green, which I mostly use as a guest boat.

Rudder or skeg? Skeg, although the Arctic Hawk has neither rudder nor skeg, and the Eliza has a rudder.

Type paddle used: Greenland for most paddling. Carbon wing for bigger water and conditions.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? Nope. They only time I get in a canoe is to do a river clean up.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Some biking and hiking and a fair amount of cross-country skiing.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? 1-2 days per week, usually on weekends.

Do any winter paddling? Hardly ever.

Favorite local paddling location: That's a hard one. Probably the St. Michael's, Oxford, Neavitt, Trappe area.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: Another hard one. Probably our recent Blue Moon all night paddle in Solomons. (See article by Don Polakovics in this newsletter).

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why: Five day kayak camper from the coast to the end of an UNESCO Heritage site fjord, Aalesund to Geiranger, Norway, with my good friend and fellow CPA member, Jennifer Bine, as a celebration of a shared milestone birthday. It is a spectacularly beautiful place and we never saw another kayaker the entire trip. We did see lots of beautiful waterfalls, grass roofed buildings, and adorable tiny dolphins called "Nisse".

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why: Off the coast of Cape Cod, ocean side, I got unexpectedly picked up from behind by a very large breaking wave, and shot at a high speed along the entire length of the crest of the wave, and then deposited some fifty feet away. Failing to stay balanced on top of that wave



Photo by Yvonne Thayer

would have been really ugly. The tail end of that same wave knocked over another paddler who I then helped rescue. And that was a year when there were a large number of Great White sharks in that area, so we were already all a little jumpy. All ended well, but there was lots of adrenaline expended on that one.

Future bucket list trip: There are lots and lots of places I would like to go. The Dalmatian Coast, Croatia. Cobscook Bay, Maine. Florida Everglades. Lake Superior. Scotland. Belize. Galapagos. I would love to go back to Vancouver Island, Nova Scotia, Georgian Bay, and other parts of Norway.

Three things you like most about paddling? 1) The "Zen" of paddling: its amazing ability to clear one's mind. 2. Kayak camping: getting off the grid and enjoying undisturbed wilderness. 3. Seeing large fauna on the water: seals, dolphins, whales, etc. All in all, it's just a terrific way to spend time outdoors.

What do you like about CPA? The people, their efforts, and their dedication to the mission of the club. I greatly appreciate all the hardworking volunteers who make possible all of CPA's great trips and events. Those who lead trips are very careful and conscientious about doing so. I enjoy leading trips myself because I get to paddle favorite places, spend time with friends, and also meet new paddlers.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people might find interesting about you: I am an avid fan of Formula 1 auto racing, and have been attending races in the U.S. and in Canada with my Dad since I was a kid. Forza Ferrari! 🏎️

Bob Browning has graciously volunteered to manage the Paddler Profile Column. When he asks to interview you, please say, "Yes!" This is a favorite column for the Paddler and we want to get to know you!

Thanks Bob!!!