

CPA Paddler Profile

By Rick Wiebush

Name: Reggie Reid

Lives in: Silver Spring, Md

Real job: Software Engineer

Member of a Piracy? No

Paddling Buddies: Catriona, Jim Zwallowki, Gina and Peter. Really I'm not picky – will paddle with anyone who will invite me on a multi-day camping trip.

Number years paddling: 7

How did you get involved in kayaking? Ex-mountaineer, backpacker – got injured wanted to continue back country camping.

How did you learn to sea kayak? The hard way... trial and error with no direction.

Any formal training or ACA/BCU certifications: no

Boat usually paddled: I'm a total boat slut – I paddle anything – hope to be seen in a frankenboat P&H Cetus LV or self-designed wooden stitch and glue boat a lot next year. (both have been in my basement "getting repaired" for years)

Type paddle used: Wing, Greenland, euro in that order – but I broke my favorite wing so that might change.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? no – except maybe surfski...

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? used to cave, big wall climb, mountaineer, winter backpack, mountain bike.

How often do you paddle in summer? I randomly do day paddles and get talked into lots of multiple day backcountry camping trips.

Do any winter paddling? I randomly will paddle locally and do occasionally travel south (NC, Florida) to paddle

Go to pool sessions? Yes, Fairlands

Favorite local paddling location: None

Favorite non-local location: Apostle Islands, Lake Superior; Georgian Bay. You can paddle big water without having to carry fresh water.

Best paddling trip/experience ever and why: My favorite trip was paddling Otter Cliffs on a Deer Island Archipelago and Mt Desert Maine trip – mostly because it was our first kayak camping trip and we were too stupid to know how dangerous conditions were as we played in rock gardens, practiced seal landings, went into Thunderholes, and bounced around without helmets, with no roll, no radios, no practical experience with tides in 55deg water without drysuits, etc. We did everything wrong and had an absolute blast, and made it into many tourist's highlight reels.

A close second was sharing an island and lunch with four elderly gentlemen on Lake Superior who had been boating and fishing together for 60+ years. One of their fishing partners had died, and they brought his 60 something year old son "Junior" along to spread his ashes and commemorate his life on their yearly outing. They old men spent the whole time harassing "Junior" for bringing the wrong beer, not knowing how to filet a fish properly etc... But you could feel the love they all had for each other.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why: It's not very scary or dangerous but somewhat disconcerting to be lost in a salt marsh maze at night, only hundreds of feet from your paddling partner in total darkness (within earshot of each other) but knowing that it could take hours of backtracking and/or bushwacking to meet up again and longer still to find a suitable campsite. We've had the same experience in mangroves, and in glacier carved rock mazes where getting out and scouting offered a reasonable fallback plan.

Bucket list trips: Las Roques, Venezuela; Scotland; West Coast of Baja California; West Coast of Vancouver Is (Tofino, Broken Islands group); New Caledonia; Solomon Islands (see Vangunu and Kavachi); the Great Ocean Road, Darwin to Yirrkala Australia, Elliot Bay to Port Esperance, Tasmania; Freycinet Tasmania; Gordon River to the Sea, Tasmania; The Skook.

Three things you like most about paddling? 1) The ability to explore isolated waterways and coastlines on a human scale. 2) The luxury backcountry experience. 3) Accessibility, just about anyone can sea kayak and safely go on amazing adventures – that isn't the case for many other outdoor activities.

What do you like about CPA? I thank CPA for helping me be a safer and more responsible kayaker. CPA members are always willing to take time out and teach newer kayakers. I think that due to how much more accessible sea kayaking is for beginners versus, say for instance, caving or winter mountaineering, there needs to be a consistent voice expounding safer practices.

One thing other people find interesting about you: I completely planned out and worked out logistics for a self-supported Antarctica trip using kite skis and kite-powered sleds when I started kitesurfing back in 2001 (while dating a Polar scientist) – and was both thoroughly bummed-out and elated when it was done in by some Canadians in 2006. I'd make a great Bond villain - I never seem to actually complete my plans....

