

## Who's Paddling? Tom Heneghan

by Dave Biss



Tom lives in Falls Church, VA and has been a member of the CPA since mid 2004

**What got you started paddling?** I found the club through the web. That is the club's greatest asset. I inherited a boat from my brother in law; everyone knows this story. My brother in law says "Keep this boat". I said I won't keep this boat unless I can play with it. So I kept the boat and started using it. I didn't know what I was doing and went looking for other people to paddle with and ways to learn about the sport. That lead me to some of the schools in the area and to the CPA.

**If you could describe your ideal boat, what would it be like?** I haven't found my ideal boat yet, but I'll keep looking. It would be the boat that goes upside down only when I feel like it and comes right-side-up every time I want it to. I'd like to find a boat that is really fast and really stable; two points

that are counter intuitive. And not a little people boat. I need a boat that will fit me. I'll keep looking.

**Do you have a most memorable trip with the CPA which you can describe?** I like Marshall's Eastern Neck Trips. They have a nice mix of people. You can get varying conditions. Sometimes it's calm and another time it can be choppy. You can get a crew that is fast one time and then a crew that takes it's time on another trip and diddles around a little. I like these trips because they change so much. You never know what to expect every time and that makes it the most interesting.

**What season(s) do you most enjoy paddling in?** I like the summer because of the camaraderie and the friends and the more opportunity to get out there and play around, but I really like the winter too just because I have more of the river to myself. I like to paddle at night and see how pretty it is downstream; to experience things that you cannot during the day. I think I like all season for different reasons.

**I have not seen you do any type of kayak camping or destination trips, but I know you did other things like that in the past. Does that idea interest you?** Yep. I already have it in mind (and even on my calendar) to go on a trip to the Thousand Islands area. I have done backpacking and camping a lot in my past and am anxious to apply this to kayaking. It would be a way of merging two things that I have enjoyed. It seems like a good time to try this out.

**If you had a paddle philosophy, how would you describe it?** When I think I've learned it all, I am probably in trouble!

**Is there anything else about paddling you would like to add?** Well, I must say that I have gotten the most out of my membership with the CPA. There is something for everyone in the club, whether you want to dink around with paddling or fully immerse yourself into it, head first. There are lots of opportunities.

Interview for this *Who's Paddling?* was conducted on March 13, 2008