

Paddler Profile

Meet Alan Mindlin

Lives in: Fredericksburg, VA.

Real job: I am retired.

Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy? No but I try to go a few times a season.

Number of years paddling?

I have been paddling for 20 years.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking?

I enjoy photography and I like to take photos of birds. Shore birds were always on the other side of the river so I thought if I could get a kayak and paddle to the birds I would get great photos.



My theory was flawed: I did not expect them to use their wings. It took a bit of refining to get it right.

What boat(s) do you paddle? I have a Swift Bering Sea and a Warren Light Craft Little Wing 15.5.

Rudder or skeg? I prefer a skeg since a skeg can also help stabilize a kayak in rough water.

Type of paddle used? I prefer a Greenland paddle since they are easier on the shoulders and help control a kayak better. I have a one piece Beale paddle, a 2 piece Joe-O-paddle Greenland and a Mitchell Hybrid Coastal. They also look cool.

Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking? I used to live on Long Island and paddled the bay, sound and on a rare occasion the ocean. There is less choppy water where I live so I paddle the Rappahannock River, Lake Mooney (near house) and Lake Anna. I paddle sometimes to photograph nature.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Aside from kayaking I like to bike and do some hiking, lap swimming in my local pool, and photography.

How often do you paddle between May and October?

I average 2 times a week kayaking. I need to bike to keep flexible.

Do any winter paddling? I usually paddle about 2-3 times a month in the winter. Paddling in the winter is different in Virginia than Long Island. We paddled to see the seals on Long Island and had salt water which did not freeze as fast as fresh. I paddle here with a great group of CPA paddlers during the year and the winter.

Favorite local paddling location? My favorite place to paddle is Widewater State Park. I like it because it is never crowded, it is clean with heated bathrooms and it is the closest park on the Potomac that is near my home.

I can paddle in many different directions: I can go across the river to Maryland, down south to Potomac Creek or Crow's Nest, down Aquia Creek to Government Island, or up north to Quantico.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? My

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