

Paddler Profile

Meet Ed Johnson

Editor's Note: Ed is a well-kept secret in CPA, he has been a member since 2000, but a busy life meant he hasn't paddled as much as he liked.

Lives in: Harwood, Maryland (southern Anne Arundel County).

Real job: Scientist with NOAA's Ocean Service (retired May 2021).

Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy?
No. Now that I'm retired I plan to paddle with Pirates of Arundell.

Number of years paddling? Kayaks since 1999. Canoes since I was a kid growing up in the Finger Lakes region of NY.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I bought my son (7yo at the time) a 9ft kayak, a child-size paddle, and a dip-net, in an attempt to get him interested in canoeing. At the same time, I got myself a Wilderness Systems Pamlico. I was hooked; he wasn't.

What boat(s) do you paddle? 1. Multiday excursions: CD Nomad GTS (rudder), 2. Playboat: Tiderace Xcite (skeg), 3. All-round: CD Gulfstream (skeg). Retired boats: Necky Elaho (2000), P&H Sirius (1992).

Rudder or skeg? Both.

Type of paddle used? Aleut, Greenland, Euro.

Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking? I love canoeing, especially wilderness canoe camping in the Adirondacks, Boundary Waters, and Canadian Parks of Ontario and Quebec.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities?
Skiing (alpine mostly, but getting back into XC), sailing J22s.

How often do you paddle between May and October?
Once a week. Soon to be more, now that I'm retired.

Do any winter paddling? Yes, usually several times each season.



Favorite local paddling location?
Patuxent River, West River (Galesville/Shady Side), Kent Island/Eastern Neck.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? KIPP – Kent Island Practice Paddles and the final 34-mile circumnavigation. Great fellowship.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? Cold water: Day trips in coastal Maine where tides and fog are cool. A few days of solo exploration of Kutka Bay and other parts of Kachemak Bay, Alaska where beauty, wilderness, and thrilling whale and other wildlife

encounters abound. Warm water: 100 miles of the Everglades– Flamingo to Everglades City

Scariest/most dangerous paddling trip/incident and why? [Tidal reversing falls Hancock, Maine](#) – yes a bit scary during the tide race but thrilling. Not really dangerous with a skilled guide, e.g. Nate Hanson of Pinniped Kayaking.

Bucket list trips? Apostle Islands, Isle Royale, San Juan Islands, Deception Pass, Gulf of California, Glacier Bay-Alaska.

Three things you like most about paddling? Can be done solo or groups. Great way to explore and leave no trace. Basic skills are easy to master; artfully executed advanced skills if there's a desire.

What do you like about CPA? The people. Great opportunities to paddle, build skills, and good fellowship.

What other paddling clubs/groups do you belong to?
WatersEdge, Downtown Sailing Center, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club- Ski Touring Section, Club Crabtowne.

One unusual non-paddling thing we'd be surprised to know about you? Dived all of the Great Lakes and the Detroit and Niagara Rivers as part of my former work for NOAA.