

Paddler Profile

Meet Jean Wunder

Lives in: Baltimore, Maryland.

Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy? Yes, I'm one of the Pirate Captains for the Pirates of Baltimore (POB) with Suzanne Farace and Bob Shakeshaft.

Number of years paddling?
About 12.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I started with the Meetup groups. The purpose was leisure with the provision of being on the water under safe conditions.

What boat(s) do you paddle? I have an NDK Sportive and a P&H Quest.

Rudder or skeg? Skeg.

Type of paddle used? Primarily Greenland paddle.

Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking? I've been doing some river runs in my plastic kayak out on the Potomac. It's a good way to practice certain paddle strokes.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities?
Hiking and gardening.

How often do you paddle between May and October?
2 – 3 times per week.

Do any winter paddling? I started paddling all season just this winter (thank COVID for that). I really enjoy it and hope to continue this coming winter.

Favorite local paddling location? Anywhere around Kent Island, especially the circumnavigation of Eastern Neck. It offers some beautiful scenery, and the conditions can sometimes be challenging.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? The Pocomoke camping trip. This trip offered paddling opportunities both on the Bay and river. I'll never forget paddling around Mill Island and seeing these weird, worm-like creatures sticking to our paddle and kayak.



We discovered later that they could have been leeches! The camping trips are also a time to relax with fellow paddlers, go out for some eats, and learn more about the sport.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? I had the chance to paddle in British Columbia two times on a guided trip for a week. Of course, the scenery is magnificent, and the abundance of wildlife is just amazing.

We got to see eagles, orcas, sea lions, kelp forests, and even got to see a whale breach about a ½ mile away. The "why" is always to have that

close connection to nature that is not really as possible in a motorboat.

Scariest/most dangerous paddling trip/incident and why? This story has certainly circulated within the kayaking community. It was the day of the total Solar Eclipse in 2017. Our plan was a short paddle out of Middle River over to Hart-Miller Island.

There, we would watch the eclipse and paddle back. Towards the afternoon, unanticipated thunderstorms started to come through, keeping us on the island for several hours due to intermittent lightning strikes on the mainland.

Watching the radar, we finally made a decision to just make the 1-mile crossing to Essex. Lesson learned: Be willing to change the plan.

As soon as we got on the water a squall came in, splitting up the group. Long story short, we ended up with five paddlers back at the dock, two in the water, one kayak with no deck lines, and a rescue from the Coast Guard. Lesson learned: Know the skills of your paddlers and the kayaks they are paddling.

In the end everyone arrived at the Island View

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