

Paddler Profile

Meet Marilyn Cooper

Lives in: Silver Spring, Maryland.

Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy? I am one of the co-captains, along with Laurie Collins, of the new Sugarloaf Pirates who mostly paddle at Rocky Gorge and Tridelphia Reservoirs near Laurel, Maryland.

Number of years paddling?
About five.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I joined with a friend on a beginner paddle with a rented boat.

What boat(s) do you paddle? I have an NDK Romany Classic and a Necky Chatham 16.

Rudder or skeg? Skeg.

Type of paddle used? Euro (Werner, Epic and on order Lendal).

Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking? Nope.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Biking.

How often do you paddle between May and October?
Three to four times per week.

Do any winter paddling? I have a dry suit, so I now winter paddle a couple times each season.

Favorite local paddling location? Scott's Cove at Rocky Gorge Reservoir during the week. On weekends, I like to find bumpy water.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? No trips yet, only weekday paddles.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? Ebenezer Creek near Savannah, GA. This black-water paddle is done between Cypress and Tupelo trees and the water was high enough to go in and around the trees submerged in the creek. It was very different from



any other paddles I have done. I liked hearing the stories of the settlement and civil war, and the horror story of the drowning of newly-freed slaves.

Scariest/most dangerous paddling trip/incident and why? Ocean City MD. We went outside the inlet into large swells and breaking waves, which are normally not an issue for me, but with these I felt for the first time that I was out of my comfort zone. I felt sure that if I came out of my boat, I would be OK since I was with other seasoned paddlers.

Bucket list trips? Baja, Maine and Croatia.

Three things you like most about paddling? Adventure, adrenaline, and most of all the people.

What do you like about CPA? The people, paddling different locations and the respect for the environment.

What other paddling clubs/groups do you belong to? CPA and Waters Edge. I do training with Cross Currents Sea Kayaking.

One unusual non-paddling thing we'd be surprised to know about you? I enjoy volunteering at large events, from national events (political conventions) to regional events (marathons, NCAA playoffs).