

This Month's Paddler Profile: Kathy Reiner Martin

Lives in: Perry Hall. I kayak mainly in the Gunpowder and Bird Rivers including Dundee Creek.

Real job: retired from University of Maryland, School of Dentistry. Currently a wanderer, poet and outdoors advocate.

Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy? Planning to when the weather warms up.

Number of years paddling? All my life. I grew up on the Gunpowder River, swimming, rowing, canoeing and motor boating. Started sailing in the 1970s. Started paddling in the late 1990's when we won some kayaks at a local kayaking event. So, decades of river and creek paddling.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I had to call my friend to understand what sea kayaking actually meant, as I didn't know the difference or designation but I just enjoyed paddling the river and back to the creeks I remember rowing to as a child.

What boat(s) do you paddle? My family, who lives in Oliver Beach on the Gunpowder River below the Amtrak bridge, has 1-Wilderness tandem that converts to a single, 1-12' Perception, 1-16' Ocean. Also a 10' kids sit on, another 12' kayak that is hard to keep on track and 1 old leaky fiberglass boat we can't seem to part with. I have a friend with 5 other kayaks when I host friends and church youth group for paddling. When you live on the water, you collect things and use what you have.

Rudder or skeg? neither

Type of paddle used? Lots of them. Not sure what type.

Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking? I paddle in rivers and creeks. No white water.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? We host weekly gatherings at our waterfront shore. When everyone else is hiding in the AC, I'm outside looking for things to do, year round. Hiking, gardening, birding. Fishing, minnow seining and crabbing when the grandkids are in town. I'm on the board of [Neighbor Space](#), a urban land trust in Baltimore County, so I'm outdoors a lot at their parks.

How often do you paddle between May and October? Now I'm retired, 2-5 times per week.

Do any winter paddling? Not yet.

Favorite local paddling location? Day's Cove (Gunpowder) and Dundee Creek.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? Anxiously awaiting my first CPA outing.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? This is a hard one, as I've had a few great experiences. But I think my favorite was the day I finally took my phone. I fully intended to leave it in the case but every few yards, more photos called to be taken. Coming into Day's Cove, rounding the bend, I spy an egret and he spies me. Very quietly and slowly I glided by while he kept watching and fishing. My hubby who is a plein air painter decided [this experience that needed to be caught on canvas](#). An amazing day full of egret, turtle and eagle sightings.

Scariest/most dangerous paddling trip/incident and why? Paddling the Dundee on a day when the wind and waves picked up, between the Dundee and Saltpeter split and the mouth. I was too far out when the chop got too much to just turn and head to shore, so I paddled on to get behind the land at Battery Point. I mostly hugged the shore to return to calmer waters. I can't say I thought I would fall out or was scared but it was late September so not as much boat traffic, so I knew I needed to make it back on my own. Yeah, I kayak too much on my own. This was probably the paddle that convinced me to take my phone the next time, but how one makes a phone call while in the midst of waves and wind, escapes me. Another paddle a few years prior, the thunderstorm was not due for another 3 hours. When it hit, I was pretty far into the Gunpowder, past Days' Cove, when the downpour started. Not much cover and luckily not much wind and wave action. The creepy part was seeing about 20 wings-up cormorants on a tree snag at the marsh entrance. That sight helped me paddle a bit faster.

Bucket list trips? Hmm. I've traveled a lot but nothing as beautiful and fulfilling as the Dundee and Day's Cove when the eagles and osprey are flying, kingfisher calling and the heron's fishing. That said, I think I joined CPA to learn about more places to go with a group and learn to be better prepared. I walked 50 miles raising money for MS, when I turned 50. I paddled 60 creeks over the summer before I turned 60. I'd like to find another kayak challenge for that next decade opening in a few years.

Three things you like most about paddling? Sometimes it's the challenge. Most times it's the peacefulness and beauty, and always 'just messing about in boats'.

What do you like about CPA? The opportunity to meet new people and kayak in new places with knowledgeable folks.

What other paddling clubs/groups do you belong to? Just joined Watersedge but no trips yet.

One unusual non-paddling thing we'd be surprised to know about you? I'm a computer geek who writes poetry. I can share on request.

