

## **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.

**Cooldest 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.