

Paddler Profile: Meet James Higgins

Lives in: Lake Ridge, Virginia.

Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy? Yes, I'm the chapter Captain for the Pirates of Algonkian in Sterling, VA. I had been in charge of the Pirates of Sugarloaf from 2006-2011.

Number of years paddling? About 16.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? By accident, I had seen several people using boats referred to as kayaks for fishing. So, I asked and then I was down at the local Hudson Trail Outfitters in Rockville, MD. I signed up for the Potomac Paddlesports introductory class in the spring of 2005.



What boat(s) do you paddle? Stellar 16 foot with rudder; Stellar 18 foot with skeg; P&H Scorpio with skeg; Current Designs Kestrel 16 foot with rudder.

Rudder or skeg? Both.

Type of paddle used? Werner Ikelos carbon fiber. I do have a Greenland paddle, though I like my big blade Euro paddle best.

Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking? Yes, I prefer calmer water.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Cycling, tennis, hiking, archery, target shooting, walking, photography.

How often do you paddle between May and October? 2-3 time per week, usually, depending on the weather and my other activities.

Do any winter paddling? Nope.

Favorite local paddling location? Planet Earth.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? Most camping trips because I like the extended time outside.

Scariest/most dangerous paddling trip/incident and why? Learning how to get back into my boat. I still haven't tried rolling.

Bucket list trips? Europe, Ireland, Germany—for the history, the beauty and to get a better understanding of where I come from.

Three things you like most about paddling?

Being Outside, being active, people, making friends, the beauty of nature, being a part of something different.

What do you like about CPA? Safety, knowledge about paddling, the people, their stories, sharing a common thing.

What other paddling clubs/groups do you belong to? I have inherited a Tennis meetup, I used to belong to an Archery group and a pool shooting group. Plus, I belong to several other kayaking groups, some passive and one active.

One unusual non-paddling thing we'd be surprised to know about you? I used to work at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre in Rockville, for about 12 years. I started out as a dishwasher, and then moved up to busboy, waiter, bartender, assistant service manager. I used to help in striking the sets and rebuilding the next stage. I played on the HS soccer team in the junior varsity for 2 years. I ran cross-country in HS, too. I used to own a 1969 GTO. I'm still single and own a condo in Lake Ridge, VA.