

Paddler Profile:

Joy Chambers

By Bob Browning

Lives in: Annapolis, MD

Real job: Semi-retired arts lawyer in my own firm in Old Town, Alexandria, Va. Received a Doctorate in History of Photography from Georgetown two years ago.

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? No

Number of years paddling? About 30 years paddling. But about a decade was spent sprint kayaking on a masters team at Georgetown's Washington Canoe and Kayak Club with almost no sea kayaking during this period. For the last 3 years or so I have been sculling a lot more than paddling.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I lived in Old Town, Alexandria, Va. and Belle Haven Marina was on the bike path I regularly enjoyed. First kayak fit into back of my Volvo Wagon. A few years later, discovered CPA at Pier 7 and bought a secondhand Derek Hutchinson double-ended that was way too advanced for me. Pier 7 paddlers helped me grow into boat.

What boats do you paddle? WS Tempest 18; white Epic 18

Rudder or skeg? Skeg on Tempest; rudder on Epic

Type paddle used: Euro

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking?

Regularly scull with Annapolis Rowing Club, 2 x / week during the season. Also canoe from our pier.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Biking, sailing, hiking

How often on average do you paddle between May and October?

Probably only about three times a month on the Severn. I live on Saltworks Creek, off the Severn, and have a pier in my backyard.

Do any winter paddling? Not anymore!

Favorite local paddling location? Chincoteague paddling the southern inland islands. I got the heavy Tempest to be able to navigate the Intercoastal waterway from a trailer I was given at a campsite on the Southern end of Chincoteague. I no longer have the trailer, but still occasionally car top the Tempest to site. I paddle alone and have trouble getting kayak off the car, so this campsite always had fisherman around who welcome the distraction of hauling a kayak. My best kayaking is done solo on inland islands, watching

laughing gulls protect nests, herons and egrets up close fishing and ignoring me, oystercatcher and loons a few feet away. Shorebirds by the hundreds, pelicans going home at nighttime.... HEAVEN!!

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: Asseateague kayak camping – loved daytime paddle and nighttime hiking with headlamp.



Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? As a beginning paddler, I had an opportunity to paddle to Penikese Island, part of the Elizabeth Island chain, off Martha's Vineyard (MV) over 4 days, with last day being a 25+ mile day. It was for a MV fundraiser and we stayed at homes on different islands. It was relatively protected ocean kayaking with a small group of Vineyard experienced paddlers. My first year of this paddle, we had 35 mile winds. Fortunately, I had been honest about my lack of serious ocean kayaking experience

with group leader, a Cambridge architect who was not a professional kayak leader but interested in raising money for his charity. He assured me that he had a kayak I could not topple; thankfully, he was right. It had the widest bottom I have ever seen. After a few terrifying minutes, I enjoyed the surfing because of my confidence in the boat design. I learned quickly that not all kayaks handled waves and wind the way my Hutchinson double ended did. I made the trip the next 8 summers, never again getting heavy weather.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? See above

Future bucket list trip(s)? I'm mostly retired. In a few weeks we will spend nine days on a Catamaran in the Galapagos, my second trip, and I don't expect to kayak. I want to photograph as many as I can of the 14 Darwin finches that illustrate "living evolution." In Sept. we rowed (scull) Lago Maggiore connecting Italy and Switzerland, on a six day trip organized by "Row the World" and populated by friends from Annapolis Rowing Club. My current bucket list for kayaking would be Alaskan icebergs. At this stage of life, I am more interested in scenery than excitement or even exercise, which is plentiful seasonally on the waters of Annapolis.

Three things you like most about paddling? Solitude in nature. Intimacy with self and water. (Even in group paddles, you can isolate without offending group members. Or have conversations if you need to get a different kind of energy going. I wear hearing aids and can turn them off if needed to get quiet.) Beauty.

What do you like about CPA? Friendliness on kayak camping trips.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? I can be good at expressing my passion for the arts and experience with serious, successful artists. ♦

Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile?
Contact Bob Browning at:
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