

## Paddler Profile: Meet Peg Barratt



**Lives in:** Arlington, VA

**Real job:** Professor of Psychology at George Washington University

**Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy?** No, but I have paddled with Pirates of Georgetown.

**Number of years paddling?** I started paddling sea kayaks in approximately 1990.

**How did you get involved in sea kayaking?** I was looking for something to do with my teenage son. I had grown up canoeing, and had brought him up canoeing. I signed us up for a weekend of introductory sea kayaking and camping in Door County, Wisconsin. We practiced for a bit close to shore and then paddled a mile or two across from Washington Island to Rock Island to camp for the night. The next day we played in the waves and paddled back. There was no going back to a canoe! In fact, my son went on to lead sea kayak trips with Camp Manitowish in Wisconsin.

**What boat(s) do you paddle?** Arluk 1.9 by Necky. I also have a 21 ½ foot Seascape 2 double kayak by Northface with a large hatch in the middle, and a plastic Umiak that is a great first boat for 8-12 year-olds.

**Rudder or skeg?** rudder

**Type of paddle used?** Werner Kalliste

**Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking?** No.

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities?** Hiking, backpacking, camping

**How often do you paddle between May and October?** Maybe a dozen times.

**Do any winter paddling?** No.

**Favorite local paddling location?** When I arrived in the DC area in 2002, I went to REI and asked for a suggestion. Mason Neck State Park has been my home waters ever since. My youngest grew up thinking eagles were an every-day bird.

**Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why?** August 2021: a week of paddling with a base camp at Roaring Point Campground, Nanticoke MD. Every day was a different paddle with a great group of folks!

**Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?** Massasauga Provincial Park, Canada (Georgian Bay, Lake Huron) One week paddling from campsite to campsite in my large double with my husband and I

paddling, and my youngest son (maybe age 5) in a lounge chair in the gear hatch in the middle. Spent the night listening to a beaver splashing. Saw a huge snapping turtle with a fish in its mouth. Water was fairly sheltered from wind, skies were clear.

**Scariest/most dangerous paddling trip/incident and why?**

Trying to paddle to Cumberland Island off the coast of Georgia in the spring. We turned too soon, got back among some wetlands and when the wind came up, were not strong enough to paddle against the wind and get out. Eventually we called for help and were brought out by Search and Rescue. Embarrassing. Not life threatening, but needed better navigation and better planning around the wind.

**Bucket list trips?** More in Florida. Actually, these are places I have already put my kayak in the water: Florida Keys, North Manitou Island (Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Lake Michigan), Apostle Islands (Lake Superior), Georgian Bay (Lake Huron), Capers Island (South Carolina), Assateague Island (Maryland), Cayo Costa State Park (Florida, Gulf side), Bay of Fundy (Nova Scotia), Newfoundland (paddled out and around an iceberg), and of course, the Potomac and Chesapeake. I particularly like kayak camping – you can carry so much more than when backpacking!

**Three things you like most about paddling?** Feeling one with the water, one with the sky and living fully in the moment!

**What do you like about CPA?** Friendly, knowledgeable, safe.

**What other paddling clubs/groups do you belong to?** None

**One unusual non-paddling thing we'd be surprised to know about you?** In the course of two voyages teaching for the program "Semester at Sea", I have been around the world by ship.