

## **Paddler Profile**

# Ron Kleiman: Poetry in motion

*CPA members are a diverse and interesting bunch. Editor Ralph Heimlich has brought back the Paddler Profile series to introduce some of our many members who have generously taken the time to answer questions about themselves and kayaking.*

**This month:** Ron Kleiman

**Lives in:** Williamsburg VA

**Real job:** Retired, having recently promoted myself to the well-earned title of Chief Visionary Officer and principle Seer.

**Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy?** No.

**Number of years paddling?** I've been paddling in earnest for 17 years after a lengthy sabbatical from paddling canoes as a Cub Scout.

**How did you get involved in sea kayaking?** I became reacquainted with paddling after paying off my four kids' braces, education, weddings, etc. and unexpectedly realizing that there was now available some money for ME.

**What boat(s) do you paddle?** I own four Kayaks: a 17' Looksha IV with rudder; a 12' Crossover with skeg; a 12' Umiak for my grandkids; and an eight foot sit on top for the smaller (but not for long) grands.

**Rudder or skeg?** Either.

**Type of paddle used?** My preference in paddles is bent shaft euros, 220cm for ocean and 180cm for white water.

**Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking?** White water kayaking. Other than kayaking my passions, in no apparent order, are: Haiku and other short form poetry; studying religion, philosophy, and history; shooting sports; ham radio; and photography.

**Do any winter paddling?** I paddle year round as long as I can find liquid water and have even paddled down snow covered sledding trails when I couldn't.

**Favorite local paddling location?** My favorite paddling spot is Jamestown Island, often using the



circumnavigation as a workout paddle. If you haven't done that paddle you really should. There is a small harbor with full size reproductions of the three ships that Captain John Smith sailed on when he established the Jamestown settlement in the late 1500's. Paddling under those ships and shouting up "Ahoy Matey" to a young child looking down from the railing is always a high spot.

**Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why?**

Though not a "trip" I believe my favorite CPA experience is the SK102 instructional weekends at Lake Anna. There is a comradery that develops over the course of such an event which is enhanced by both the skill level and dedication of the instructors, the personalities of the participants and the obvious efforts of those organizing the weekend.

**Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?** My "Coolest" paddles are those that I take

with any of my 11 grand kids, ages five through 21. Introducing a young person to the joys of paddling and the natural world in which it is immersed is always special and being the cool Zadie is priceless.

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