

Paddler Profile: Patty Jones

By Bob Browning

Lives in: Bel Air, Maryland

Real job: Retired, but considering going back to work for a rest!

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? Try to attend Pirates of the North or Pirates of Baltimore

Number of years paddling:

Three or four years sea kayaking; three or four decades rec kayaking

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? Find your people with Meetup.com! I did!

What boats do you paddle?

17' Neon Necky; 17' Current Designs, Red/White/Scratched Cypress, small fleet of plastic rec kayaks that are mostly faded (Did you know you can heat a putty knife and melt pieces of plastic tarp to fill cuts on plastic boats?)

Rudder or skeg? Skeg

Type paddle used? Both, but mostly Greenland.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? Some canoeing but favorite water activity besides sea kayaking is creek paddling.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Have not yet taken a mortgage out on a dry suit, so I try to stay busy with hiking and biking during cold weather months. Also enjoy downhill skiing.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? Often enough that the gear doesn't have a chance to dry out.

Do any winter paddling? Only in my dreams.

Favorite local paddling location: I absolutely love paddling out of Cold Cabin in Pennsylvania. Paddle up the Susquehanna River as far as possible toward Holtwood Dam, enjoying the awesome rock formations, other scenery, and wildlife as I paddle among the islands. On the way back down the river, enjoy a different type of scenery by paddling up Muddy Creek. It is beautiful!

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: I absolutely love SK102. I love the camaraderie, the instruction, the camping, the excitement of new people getting hooked on sea kayaking, and the

venue. It is a great way to get psyched for the new kayak season and great to learn and practice skills in chilly April with the advantage of warm water. Thank you, CPA!

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?

When my son graduated from the University of Miami, we went down to Key West for a celebration. We did a sailing/kayak/snorkeling trip on a day that had the most fantastic water visibility I have ever seen. Even the trip leaders hopped into the water with cameras. The people on the trip were great fun and the music, food, and drinks were superb. Kayaking seems to draw people who know how to have fun

and who don't require a lot of amenities.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why?

On one trip with a small group of just five people, the conditions became quite challenging with wind, waves, and tide challenges. Suddenly we realized that we were missing one person who had decided to turn around and go back without letting anyone know. Don't do that!

Future bucket list trip(s)?

Everywhere that I have not yet been!



Photo/Ralph Heimlich

Three things you like most about paddling? Being outside on the water, getting exercise, and socializing with great people.

What do you like about CPA? I really appreciate their commitment to growing the sport and emphasis on safety.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? Two of my favorite toys are my Kubota tractor and ATV with a dump bed. ♡

Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile?

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