

# Paddler Profile: Andrew Blischak

By Bob Browning

**Lives in:** Edgewater, MD

**Real job:** Electrical Engineer with Northrop Grumman

**Do you regularly attend a Piracy?** Pirates of Arundel

**Number of years paddling:** Eight

**How did you get involved in sea kayaking?** Kayak fishing is what caught my interest, initially. I found that kayak fishing wasn't for me, so I started just paddling around. If you want to go places with open water, a sea kayak was the next logical step after a sit-on-top.

**What boats do you paddle?** P&H mostly, but I'll buy and trade around. My current boat and perhaps the one boat I'll never part with is a blue and yellow (just like the Swedish flag) Capella 173.

**Rudder or skeg?** Skeg 95% of the time. There's that 5% of the time I wish I had a rudder boat. I find that the P&H skeg boats are responsive to edging and rewarding to paddle. Rudders are cheating. :)

**Type paddle used:** Euro. Carbon fiber, please.

**Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking?** I do not.

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities?** I enjoy hunting and fishing. I am thinking about doing some squirrel hunting out of a kayak.

**How often on average do you paddle between May and October?** Weekly at best for the last couple years. I bought a house, and I don't think there's anything left that could break that hasn't yet. So this next year should be better. Should be.

**Do any winter paddling?** Nope. I can't stand dry suits. The neck gasket makes me start to lose it after a bit.

**Favorite local paddling location:** Probably Assateague. Sound side, not ocean side. I like ocean landscapes with sandy beaches and such, but protected. However, there's a bunch of Maryland's Eastern Shore I have not been to, so this might change. Honorable mention to the Tuckahoe River simply because it's amazingly scenic with the overhanging trees and crazy number of turtles.



**Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why:** I went on a car camper to the Nanticoke River maybe 5 years ago that was a great trip, a combination of scenic paddling and camping. Nice campfire and really good food after paddling.

**Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?** Oh, I don't know that I have anything too amazing for this. Probably one of my Assateague trips simply because the weather was perfect.

**Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why?** I was paddling in southern Nags Head NC around the Oregon inlet channel. I went just a little too far south and almost got sucked out by the outgoing tide. Oregon inlet is no joke. I was just paddling along and turned a corner, and bam, out to sea I was headed. I managed to turn and get to land.

**Bucket list trip(s)?** Scotland first. Go google image search "kayaking Scotland" and look at the pictures. Possibly somewhere tropical, though I don't have a place in mind. I was in Roatan, Honduras for a week, and was thinking it would be amazing to paddle a sea kayak around the island. Alas, the only thing I could get my hands on are what I call "floating trash cans" (8 ft sit on top).

**Three things you like most about paddling?** I can go places that would otherwise be inaccessible. The pace at which you do it is such that you have time to look around and notice things. I also like gear, and it's a gear intensive hobby. You can buy and or build your own.

**What do you like about CPA?** The people. I am and have been a member of many different clubs for different activities. All clubs are quirky, have personalities, and drama. CPA, despite its quirks, is pretty low drama.

**One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you?** I think many people are surprised by some of my redneck tendencies. For example, that I enjoy hunting. ♠

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