

# Paddler Profile: Chris Kyriakou

By Bob Browning

**Lives in:** Havre de Grace, Maryland

**Real job:** Attorney

**Do you regularly attend a Piracy?** I frequently paddle with the Pirates of the North.

**Number of years paddling:** I started canoeing and kayaking more than 15 years ago. About three years ago, I became more serious about kayaking after buying a house near the Susquehanna Flats.

**How did you get involved in sea kayaking?** I bought my first kayak, a 1996 Perception Spectrum, in 2002 to fish from and paddle the Chattahoochee River. I still own it and use it for fishing and some CPA trips.

**What boats do you paddle?** The Perception Spectrum is dark green. I also paddle a blue on white 2002 Current Designs Kevlar Andromeda. I joke that I own the oldest boats in CPA.

**Rudder or skeg?** Both. The Spectrum has a rudder and the Andromeda has a skeg. I prefer a skeg.

**Type paddle used:** Both. I like to start the paddling season using a Greenland paddle until I build more shoulder strength. I use a Euro paddle on trips with more challenging conditions, e.g. waves.

**Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking?** I enjoy canoeing. I am looking forward to paddling the Delaware River upriver of the Delaware Gap National Recreation Area with my ten year old son. I also hope to take him canoe camping in the Boundary Waters in the next few years.

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities?** I try to get out and hike as much as my schedule allows. My son and I do an orienteering-type activity within the Maryland State Park system called Maryland Park Quest. We camp at least a few times a year.

**How often on average do you paddle between May and October?** At least once a week. The most I have paddled is 4 times in one week with CPA and Waters Edge and 4 consecutive days on a Boundary Waters trip.

**Do any winter paddling?** No, not much. I am from the South and concerned about cold weather and water. I did buy a dry suit that I would like to use more often.



**Favorite local paddling location?** I really like Principio Creek in Cecil County for quiet and wildlife sightings. I also like Muddy Creek and the Susquehanna River north of Cold Cabin for the challenging currents and rock structures. The Octoraro in Cecil County has some fun rapids for whitewater.

**Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why?** My favorite CPA trip is the trip I am currently on. I have not been on enough trips to choose but will mention Thomas Point Lighthouse as challenging and rewarding. The day started out cloudy, rainy and looking terrible (see current cover photo on our CPA Meetup page). The sun eventually came out and it ended up being a great day. Life and paddling hold pleasant surprises.

**Coollest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?** No one location sticks out. I went with Trout River Newfoundland just outside of Gros Morne National Park. It was remote, with spectacular cliffs and the opportunity to see minke whales. I did not see any whales until taking a sight-seeing tour in L'Anse aux Meadows. All the same, it was exciting to be paddling in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and so far north. On that particular day, the Gulf was warmer and calmer than I expected it ever to be.

**Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why?** Once I got stuck on a mud flat late in the evening paddling back to my launch site after fishing in Swan Creek. It was dark, mid/late fall and the temperatures were getting problematic. My fishing buddy was having his own issues and was not within yelling distance. I could see people in their homes watching television, unaware that I was having difficulty. I thought about calling for help but decided to rescue myself by exiting my kayak and dragging it off the mud flat. I sank in the silt up to my upper thighs, but eventually I was able to get out. Recently, a kayaker was rescued by our local fire department from, what I assume, was the same mud flat.

**Future bucket list trip(s)?** Circumnavigating the Greek island of Kalymnos where my mother is from, anywhere else in the Mediterranean, the Baja Peninsula and the Sea of California, Rapa Nui, and New Zealand. I would go just about anywhere. It does not have to be warm.

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