

Paddler Profile: Denise Parisi

Interview by Bob Browning

Lives in : Severna Park, MD

Real job : Retired from UPS and MD Army National Guard

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? No. Periodically attended POSL and POA.

Number of years paddling:
17

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? My first several kayak trips were eco tours in Cape Cod using a sit-on-top. After a couple years, I decided to get my own kayak. I rented boats at Quiet Waters Park from Amphibious Horizons and I was hooked, so I decided to purchase my own boat.

Being relatively new, I sought assistance from Dave at Springriver (ACK) with help determining the right boat for me to grow into with my limited skills. Fast forward a few years and I discovered CPA and Chesapeake Kayak Adventures.

What boats do you paddle? P & H/Cetus/17.5 ft./ yellow over white with red coaming and trim.

Rudder or skeg? Skeg

Type paddle used: Euro, but I recently purchased a Greenland paddle.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? I took some whitewater lessons for a couple of years.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? walking dog, hiking, biking.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? I paddle quite a bit from May through October. I am on the water nearly every weekend and during the week when I can. Over the past few years, I have been taking more weekend kayak trips including RI, CT, VA, DE and week-long trips to Maine.

Do any winter paddling? Yes, now that I have a dry suit.

Favorite local paddling location ? My favorite local paddling location is Beverly Triton beach to Thomas Point Light.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: My first year at SK102 was probably my favorite CPA trip. I decided to do KIPP that year and attending SK102 was the first time I had any sea kayak instruction. Lake Anna was a wonderful location for spring paddling and learning. Paula Hubbard taught me how to do a proper forward stroke. I also learned how to roll my boat after a few minor adjustments.



Photo/Chuck McMillan

Coollest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why ?: My favorite kayaking trip was in Baja several years ago with Aqua Adventures. It was my first time paddling in the Pacific and among rocks. I gained a whole new perspective for a type of kayaking that is not locally available. Backing my boat into a huge blow hole (La Bufadora), navigating caves, and riding pour overs were a few favorites in Baja. We saw plenty of wildlife including a pod of dolphins

that swam amongst our group for a while. This trip was over the New Year so the surf and swell were pretty high. Exciting. Beautiful. Lifetime memories.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why : I would say that paddling the inlet at Nauset Marsh in Cape Cod was probably one of my most dangerous experiences. Great White sharks are often seen off the beaches in Cape Cod. I have seen seals in Nauset Marsh so it is not a place to capsize. There had not

been any local shark reports on this particular trip so we went just outside the marsh to surf small waves at the inlet. We saw quite a few seals hauled out a respectable distance from where we wanted to surf. Next thing we knew, many seals were in the water and they kept swimming closer to us. I wasn't really worried since we were in small waves, shallow water and very close to the inlet. My paddling partner said she saw something which I brushed off. Then, she saw it again...a large fin a bit further out from where we were surfing. It was time to beeline back into the marsh and land so we could watch for other potential shark activity. Once safe, we headed back into the marsh not wanting to be mistaken for a tasty seal.

Future bucket list trip: Alaska, New Zealand, and the Amazon.

Three things you like most about paddling? I enjoy a peaceful paddle that allows me to get very close to nature. I like the thrill and challenge when paddling in bumpy water, rock hopping or surfing. Many times, the people make the paddle, so I would say paddling with friends.

What do you like about CPA? CPA is a structured organization that offers a lot of opportunities.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you: I volunteered for the Red Cross Disaster Action Team and helped people in Florida after Hurricane Wilma. ♦

*Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile?
Contact Bob Browning at:
BBBrowning43@verizon.net*