

CPA Paddler Profile

By Rick Wiebush

Name: Randi Kruger

Lives in: West Springfield, Virginia

Real job: Retired, Veterinary Tech/Management

Member of a Piracy? Nope, I'm kind of a "guest star."

Paddling Buddies: "Mustache" Brian Stevens, Gulfstream Dennis, Marc and Rose, my husband James, Derek and Karen Miller

Number years paddling: 8

How did you get involved in kayaking? A girl friend took me out at Piscataway Bay. Instant love.

How did you learn to sea kayak? Many classes, symposiums and private coaching with Brian Stevens

Any formal training or ACA/BCU certifications: not yet, this year Brian Stevens will assess me as a paddler and I am seeking an L1-L2 teaching cert.

Boat usually paddled: NDK Romany Surf, 16'2", Ivory with blue stripe and deck lines

Type paddle used: Euro blade, Werner Ikelos

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? canoe

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities: mountain and trail biking, hiking, dog walking, barefoot style running

How often do you paddle in summer? 3 to 5 times a week

Do any winter paddling? Yes, crazy. 1-3 times a week.

Go to pool sessions? Yes, through Regional Parks at Lee District Pool

Favorite local paddling location: Leesylvania State Park, Occoquan Res for exercise

Favorite non-local location: Southport NC--woohoo! Cape Fear, Bald Head, Oak Island, Frying Pan Shoals, tide races, you name it, Southport's got it!

Best paddling trip/experience ever and why: January of 2014 found me in Islamorada, the Keys, Florida. I paddled with Mike Aronoff, Brian Stevens, and a group of clients. I went down to fight the winter blues. What I ended up doing was setting myself on a life changing course of exploration by and for sea kayaking.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why: Launching from Beverly-Triton Beach, five of us headed first across the West River and then took a break. Two paddlers split off from us, whether by design or accident. We could not raise them on our radios. The only other gal on the trip experienced what could only be called paralyzing fear. James and I were forced to nurse/tow her four miles across the windy inlets in two foot chop. It was not exactly frightening, more like challenging and exhausting. I re-injured my left rotator cuff assisting as the "nurse."

Bucket list trips: New Zealand, Australia, Seattle, Vancouver, another trip to the Bay of Fundy, the Big Island of Hawaii

Three things you like most about paddling? peaceful contemplation, challenging conditions, my water clan

What do you like about CPA? With some cross-over between clubs I have found a great group of people whom I really trust to paddle with me.

One thing other people find interesting about you: Interesting or tolerable? "Everything I know about raising a child I learned from dog training: positive reinforcement, correction without anger, never issue a command you are not willing to back up."



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