

CPA Paddler Profile

By Rick Wiebush

Name: Rick Wiebush

Lives in: Catonsville, MD

Real job: (mostly) retired from National Council on Crime and Delinquency. I did consulting work (research, training, planning) with states about child welfare and juvenile justice issues.

Member of a Piracy? If yes, which one? Baltimore

Paddling Buddies: Jaclin Gilbert, Sonja Pyle, Chuck McMillin, Paul Plowright, Laurie Collins, Shelly Weichelt, Mike Hamilton, Greg Hollingsworth, Tom Malone, Mike Thomas, Mike Ward, Rita Scherping, & Liz Marancik

Number years paddling: 15

Boat usually paddled: NDK Explorer, black over white, red trim.

Type paddle used: Euro, 220

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? Some canoeing.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? No, I'm totally one dimensional.

How often do you paddle in summer? 4x/week

In winter? Maybe once or twice a year. Maybe.

Go to pool sessions? Yes, Catonsville Y; occasionally Fairlands

Favorite local paddling location: Kent Narrows/Eastern Neck area

Favorite non-local location: Baja – Sea of Cortez and the Pacific side

Best paddling trip/experience ever and why: February 2015 paddling and playing in the rocks and ledges off the Baja coast on the Pacific side. Huge swell crashing on and through rocks; running the white water through caves and narrow chutes; doing (very) rough water rescues; getting hammered by 5-6 foot breaking waves, and holding my own. Frightening, but also totally exhilarating and confidence-building. Great coaching from Jen Kleck and Todd Wright.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why: the very first time I was in a sea kayak. The instructors showed us how to wet exit on land and we practiced it. After about 10 minutes on the water, I went over after getting hit by a four-inch wave. I totally forgot what I was supposed to do. In fact I never even thought about pulling the spray skirt off. I just panicked and was trying to get my head above water which clearly was not working. I maybe got my eyebrows up out of the water. I was convinced I was going to die and said to myself "well, this is it". After what seemed like an eternity (but was probably 23 seconds), I was so panicked that I actually kicked the spray skirt off with my legs/knees.

Bucket list trip: crossing the Bass Strait (between Tasmania and the Australian mainland).

Any formal training or ACA/BCU certifications? ACA L3 Instructor Trainer; ACA Open Water Instructor BCU L2 coach; BCU 4* Leader; ACA L2 Canoe Instructor

Three things you like most about paddling? 1. Teaching 2. Paddling in rough water 3. The people I meet here and around the country.

One thing other people find interesting about me: that for about 10 years I was going to Australia for work about three times per year, for 2-3 weeks each time. ☺



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Photo by Annica Jansen