

Paddler Profile: Rob Pearlman

Interview by Bob Browning

Lives in: Garrett Park, MD

Real job: Head of Global Real Estate & Facilities Management for the International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group.

Member Do you Regularly Attend a Piracy? Yes, Pirates of Georgetown and I am one of four Pirate Captains.

Number of years paddling: Fifteen

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? We had next door neighbors who kayaked and canoed. It sounded fun and looked interesting. But with a young child, spare time was limited. In 2000, our neighbors moved to Franklin, Maine, just north of Acadia National Park. The following summer we visited them and went paddling in the Mount Desert Narrows. They took us on a night paddle with headlights, and several day paddles in real sea kayaks. Hanging out in Taunton Bay around some rocks, harbor seals began to pop up all around us, checking us out. We checked them out as the sun set. It was . . . mesmerizing. We were hooked.

What boats do you paddle? Epic 18x Sport, White – 18', CLC Petrel (strip built by hand), Natural light cedar - 17'

Rudder or skeg? Epic – rudder, Petrel - skeg

Type paddle used: Greenland. Even with my Epic – everybody laughs, but I don't care.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking: Rarely. I want to try SUP and I have canoed, but always come back to kayaking for the "precision" feel.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities: Downhill skiing, cross country skiing, telemark skiing, ice skating, hiking, camping, bicycling, drinking.

How often on average do you paddle in summer? 2-3 times per week.

Do any winter paddling? Occasionally – but generally, I'd rather ski or hike in winter.

Favorite local paddling location: Rocky Gorge Reservoir. It feels like being in a western national park.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: A number of years ago, I did a small group four-day trip led by Peter Henry and Brian Blankenship. Chrisfield to Smith Island to Tangier Island to Cow Point (I think). We had a variety of conditions, ate Smith Island Cake, paddled with cownose rays to Tangier, ate awesome crab cakes on



Photo: Daniel Pearlman

Tangier Island, camped on the beach at Cow Point, and on our last day in gleaming sunshine, paddled with dolphin back to Chrisfield.

Coollest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere Best paddling trip/experience ever and why: A small group kayak camper in the Adirondacks for about 5 days of perfect weather in an always spectacular place. The fun included harvesting fresh water mussels for dinner, viewing Milky Way vistas in crystal clear skies each night, lying on our own little beach, listening to howling coyotes, kayak exploring, and perfect sleeping weather without 7 am wakeup calls. We laughed till our sides split about whatever. The camaraderie of a well-oiled (in more ways than one) team was highly satisfying and magical.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why : Supporting what was to be an all-night swim in Lake George off of a pontoon boat this past fall. This was a marathon swim event that should never have been started due to the conditions; full overcast on the night of a full moon, swim direction heading into 20 – 25 mph winds, very rough water, and swim organizers & motor boaters with limited

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