



Photo: Marla Aron.

Paddler Profile: Sam Jackson

By Bob Browning

Lives in: Essex, Md

Real job: Was once an electrical engineer at Bendix Communications Div. Now retired and loving it

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? Pirates of Baltimore

Number of years paddling? Five years

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? Anticipating some future day when I could no longer handle my sailboat, I wanted a water oriented pastime I could pursue into old age. Today I'm still sailing and my kayaking friends have me working harder than ever.

What boats do you paddle? Inuit made by Native Watercraft, 14.5 ft. yellow sea kayak.

Rudder or skeg? Rudder

Type paddle used? Two years ago I made a Greenland paddle from directions I found on the internet. I use it occasionally but prefer my Euro paddle

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? Only my sea kayak

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? I have a 17 ft day-sailer (a Mobjack) that I race weekly and compete in at least one regatta per year. I recently purchased a decent bike and hope to get back into riding.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? Once per week with Pirates of Baltimore. About every two weeks with Watersedge Paddlers

Do any winter paddling? Only far enough South that a dry suit is rarely needed.

Favorite local paddling location: The upper Gunpowder is always pleasant with much interesting wildlife.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: To date, I've not been on any trips more extensive than SK102 with CPA. That was an excellent learning experience.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? Five days of paddling in the Florida Everglades in March, 2016, with the Road Scholar travel program. It was generally easy but so interesting. We paddled around islands in the bay, through mangrove swamps, down rivers.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? On 7/8/14 nine of us were returning from a short evening paddle when, just ½ mile from our put-in, we were hit with a sudden, violent wind. Everyone disappeared from my view as 2 to 4 foot waves hit from West and South. All my strength and concentration were required to keep my kayak pointed into the waves while the wind threatened to tear the paddle from my hands. Then a white wall of rain hit and I could see nothing. I managed to hold my own until the worst of the storm passed. We all made it back to land safely, some with the help of Fire department and DNR rescue boats. (full account available in CPA trip reports)

<http://www.cpkayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=25&t=8341>

Future bucket list trip(s)? I haven't yet seen enough of Florida's west coast.

Three things you like most about paddling? It can be an exciting workout or a quiet exploration into the wilderness. But always an opportunity to meet new friends.

What do you like about CPA? If I think I'm going to go out paddling someday soon, I might never get out. But with CPA Pirates of Baltimore I know I'm definitely paddling every Tuesday. And there are always additional weekend trips I can join

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? I volunteer as an adult sailing instructor at the Baltimore County Sailing Center at Rocky Point Park.

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