

Paddler Profile: Sue Sierke

By Bob Browning

Lives in: Cranford, New Jersey

Real job: Veterinarian

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? No, all are too far from me.

Number of years paddling? 4 years

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? A friend of mine had a kayak that she was no longer using. I tried kayaking and got hooked.

What boats do you paddle? I have 6 boats:

- 18 foot 10 inch orange and white CD Nomad
- 16 foot red, white and blue NDK Romany
- 16 foot Kevlar Wilderness Systems Sealution
- 15 foot orange P&H Delphin 150
- 10 foot 4 inch green, yellow and orange Pyranha Fusion II
- 7 foot 2 inch blue Pyranha Nano

Rudder or skeg? I have a boat with a rudder, and boats with skegs.

Type paddle used? I most often use an Aleut paddle.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? I also do whitewater kayaking.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? Also enjoy hiking and sailing.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? Paddle on the average of 2x weekly between May and October.

Do any winter paddling? Yes, I do paddle in the winter.

Favorite local paddling location? Sandy Hook is my favorite local paddling location.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? My favorite CPA trip was the full moon overnight paddle.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? My coolest paddling trip was a Sandy Hook circumnavigation in mid-winter. It was my first paddle in the ocean. I loved the challenge of



the waves. The best part was the seals following and watching us. They were totally unexpected.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? My scariest trip experience was in my first six months of paddling. I was paddling solo. The wind was 20-25 knots and blowing onshore. I managed to launch, but I only lasted about 30 minutes. I had no control of my boat and felt lucky

to make it back to shore in one piece!

Bucket list trip(s)? I would like to paddle in Malta.

Three things you like most about paddling? The things I like most about paddling are being on the water, the peace and quiet, and the challenge.

What do you like about CPA? The things I like the best about CPA are the willingness of people to teach new paddlers and the multitude of trips for all levels.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? I am Canadian. ♠

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

Do you enjoy reading of the paddling adventures, local and distant, of other members? Do you like getting new ideas for paddling trips? Are you advocating for paddling access or amenities in your area? Have you pondered questions relating to kayak gear? Variety is the spice of life, and of newsletters. Please write an article reflecting your thoughts, experiences, and discoveries to share with our paddling community. We all become a bit wiser and excited to be on the water again. We need your input to make *The Chesapeake Paddler* the best it can be. We look forward to your contributions to this publication. ♠