

Paddler Profile: Timothy Dole

by Bob Browning

Lives in: Alexandria, Virginia

Real job: Environmental Protection Agency/Risk Assessor

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? No. It is difficult for me to get out during the week.

Number of years paddling: 12

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I rented kayaks at Mattingly Park in Indian Head, Maryland and at Jack's boat-house. I bought my first kayak (a grey Necky Narpa) for \$500 at a kayak swap in 2004.

What boats do you paddle?: I have a Yellow Current Designs Solstice GT HV that I bought used from Tom Heneghan in 2008. I use this boat for long distance paddles such as the KIPP. In 2014, I bought an Orange Wilderness Systems Zephyr 160 which I use for rougher water paddles and general messing around.

Rudder or skeg? The Solstice has a rudder which I only use to prevent broaching if I am running downwind. The Zephyr has a skeg which I use when I am with a group and I need to paddle in straight line.

Type paddle used: My favorite paddle is a Wolfgang Aleut paddle that I bought due to the influence of Marshall Woodruff.

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

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities I ride my bike to work a few days a week and I occasionally go hiking and cross country skiing.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? Usually I paddle most weekends and I occasionally slip out during the week.

Do any winter paddling? Yes, I paddle a couple times a month during the winter and I go to the pool sessions.

Favorite local paddling location? I like to paddle the Chesapeake out of Galesville or Shadyside. The recent opening of the new parks in this area has greatly improved access.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: The Assateague Island trip of 2014. I had been on this trip three times before and fought the winds coming back each time. In 2014 the wind was in our favor for both the outgoing and return trip. That was also the trip where a couple of kite boarders dropped out of the sky to check out our kayaks.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why: That would be The Florida Keys Challenge which is organized by PaddleFlorida.Org. This was my first time paddling in the Florida Keys. PaddleFlorida has done this trip for several years and they provide access to camping sites that would be difficult to obtain as an individual. They also provide excellent land support and really good food.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why: On Labor day 2010 I launched out the Breezy Point Marina to paddle to Parker Creek and back. I had done this trip before without incident but on this particular day there was a strong wind out of the southeast that was creating 2 foot waves. I paddled into these waves for about a mile before I decided that I should turn back.



Timothy Dole

Photo by Earl Grey

On the way back, the waves did not seem that bad so I passed the marina with the intention of paddling just a little further... I was still doing okay when I reached the naval radar facility but then the waves reflecting off the riprap distracted me and allowed a big wave from the bay to knock me over. Fortunately, I was close to shore so I was able to get back in the boat and paddle my shaken self back to the marina.

Future bucket list trip: I would like to go back to the Keys during better weather so I can see what is swimming under the water.

Three things you like most about paddling? 1. The ability to get to places that are inaccessible by land. 2. The feeling of buoyancy. And 3. It's much cheaper than powerboating.

What do you like about CPA? The CPA has some great people that I have learned a lot from over the years especially during the Kent Island Practice Paddles (KIPP).

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you: I was born via caesarian section so it was a new experience for me when I had to stick my head through a dry suit neck gasket. ☹

We would like to know about you! Contact Bob Browning if you are interested in a being featured in the Paddler Profile or if you know of someone else he can contact. Contact Bob at: BBBrowning43@verizon.net