

## CPA Paddler Profile ~ Tina Ehrig

Interview by Rick Wiebush



Tina at Peacock Bridge, Schuylkill River, Reading, Pennsylvania

**Name:** Tina Ehrig

**Lives in:** Mertztown, Pennsylvania, Southeast Pennsylvania 60 miles north of Philadelphia

**Real job:** Retired middle school teacher

**Member of a Piracy?** Yes, Eastern Shore

**Paddling Buddies:** Members of Keystone Canoe Club. I hope to paddle more with CPA folks around the Chesapeake.

**Number years paddling:** 11

**How did you get involved in kayaking?** During a trip to a lodge on Prince William Sound, Alaska, I saw interns in kayaks documenting orcas. Couldn't wait to return home and try out a boat or two.

**How did you learn to sea kayak?** CPA of course, SK101-102

**Any formal training or ACA/BCU certifications:** Working on ACA L2 instructor certification.

**Boat usually paddled:** Classic 16' Romney, green/white

**Type paddle used:** Euro

**Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking?** Whitewater in Pennsylvania: Lehigh, Muddy Creek, etc.

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities?** Bike riding

**How often (per week or month) do you paddle in summer?** Two times per week

**Do any winter paddling?** New Year's Day paddle on the Schuylkill River with my club.

**Go to pool sessions? If yes, where?** Muhlenberg High School pool near Reading, Pennsylvania

**Favorite local paddling location:** Schuylkill River near Reading, Lehigh River, also Rock Hall, Maryland

**Favorite non-local location:** Stonington, Maine, and 1,000 Islands, New York

**Best paddling trip/experience ever and why:** With Keystone Canoe Club members, we paddled from Old Quarry Campground, Maine and enjoyed visiting islands near Stonington. Each island is unique and interesting for various reasons. We paddled around half of Isle au Haut which is part of Acadia. So gorgeous!

**Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why:** One of our members had a seizure while paddling in windy conditions near Wye Island and capsized. It didn't last long (petit mal) but she was disoriented and absolutely helpless in the water. I have relived that experience many times and acknowledge the importance of practicing quick rescues and carrying the gear to help keep people safe.

**Bucket list trips:** Vancouver Island, Apostle Islands in Lake Superior, Cumberland Island, Georgia, Florida Keys

**Three things you like most about paddling?** The variety of experiences with different kinds of paddling. I like exploring various places to scout out trips for my club. I really enjoy the sense of camaraderie among paddlers.

**What do you like about CPA?** I enjoy the professional attitude and determination that all of you show to paddle well and learn more. You have an outstanding attitude about safety.

**One thing other people find interesting about you:** My husband and I used to travel to fur-trade era (1750) rendezvous, where people wear historic outfits, camp in tipis and shoot flintlock rifles. I also am currently working on becoming a Penn State Master Gardener.