

Paddler Profile

Name: Pete Mead

Residence: Traverse City, MI

Years as MCRA member: 9 year

Age: 28

Canoe #: 8



1.) When you started, which MCRA member(s) provided you with the most instructional help?

Mainly the Grayling paddlers. Jeff Kolka, Mo Harwood, Colin Hunter, and of course the legend Al Widing Sr.

2.) How did you get started in the MCRA?

Just like everyone else in this crazy sport. Watching the "Marathon" as a kid and helping feed other paddlers.

3.) Why do you continue to be an MCRA member?

For the money.

4.) Who is your biggest supporter and why?

My Wife Becky, and of course Mom and Dad.

5.) Favorite paddling memory.....

Breaking the top ten in the "Marathon."

6.) Favorite race and why.....

The "Marathon" simply because it is so darn long.

7.) Goals (if any) for the 2009 season.....

To be better than last year.



8.) If you could paddle one race with anyone who would it be, what race, and why?

Any paddler that enjoys this sport as much as I do. As for the race, Indian river if it was still in existence. Ryan Bennett for the Paradise Race to make up for my poor performance last year.

9.) Any tips for training when you are not by a river to paddle on?

When I am not on the water training, mainly in the winter time, I cross country ski, lift weights, or mountain bike. Skiing is by far the best workout for paddling muscle and cardio workout.

10.) If you could give one tip to a paddler just starting to race, what would it be?

Do not, I repeat, do not do the Marathon your first year of paddling. It takes hours of training and good technique to accomplish this event and a small percentage finish on their first attempt. Plus I have seen a number of paddlers attempt the Marathon their first year and never paddle again.

11.) Do you train all year for racing?

A typical year will consist of about 11 months of training.

12.) Any tips for someone just starting out on how to find a partner to race with?

Don't hesitate to ask someone to paddle. What's the worst that can happen? They will say, "No." Big deal, you want to paddle ask the questions.

13.) Brand of C-2 you prefer and why.....

Every boat and boat maker has their advantages and disadvantages. I like any boat that goes fast and stays upright.



Last comments: "Thank You" to all of the race directors and volunteers that make these weekend races possible. For those who just race, you have no idea what it takes to put a race a together and come up with the funds year after year.