

# 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.***