

Index: Everything I Know About Paddling

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Advice

- Metaphor. Kayaking may become a metaphor for many other things, possibly everything. See [Religion](#).
- Regarding water. See [Falling over](#).

Alias, author's.

- Discipline, Mistress of. Her students' name for their coach.
- Sleepy. Her name in the racing novitiate. See [Technique, falling over](#).

Avatar. River otter (*Lontra canadensis*). Dolphin (Delphinidae).

Bascom, Willard. Authored the saltwater bible: *Waves and beaches: The dynamics of the ocean surface* (Anchor; 1979)

Biolooming. Lurking in boats on dark Indian summer nights watching the starry sparkle of dancing underwater dinoflagellates.

BKD. A self-defeating Bad Kayaker Decision. Example: the predictable outcome of one foot planted in the boat, the other foot on the dock.

Boat.

- Defined. A magic carpet that floats on water and is powered by a double blade.
- Free. In bush behind author's house: one very old delaminating whitewater boat.
- Ownership. The first is just the beginning.¹

Boater². "Kayaker" is a person who kayaks; "paddler" is a person engaged in paddling; "boater" is a member of a tribe. "Old boater" is a weather-beaten survivor of multiple BKDs.

Boating. See [Life](#).

Boats in possession of author.

- At the moment. Seven surfskis, six ICF-regulation flatwater racing boats, one sea kayak, one surf kayak, two whitewater kayaks, one ICF double, one double surfski, one double downriver racing boat. Free tours daily.

¹ Nearly a million California households own nonmotorized boats, averaging 1.75 boats per household. Slightly more than 30% are various types of kayaks, with racing kayaks an infinitesimal minority. *Non-Motorized Boating in California* (California Department of Boating and Waterways & The NewPoint Group, March 2009)

² Nearly 8 million Americans kayaked in 2009, but nearly half of these paddled three times or less that year (*A Special Report on Paddlesports*, Outdoor Industry Association, 2009). The author paddles approximately three times weekly, year round.