

## **John Craun – Stripbuilder – “That Crazy Kayaker” (I’ve worked hard to deserve this title)**

Newton, Iowa

Married to Linda with three children.

Presently: semi-retired, working part time at Bass Pro, making kayaks and canoes, and paddling a lot! BS in Aviation Engineering Technology from Western Michigan University and a Master of Divinity from Gordon Conwell Seminary

I grew up in and around canoes, and we always had one in the garage. My favorite way to fish has always been from a canoe.

Twelve years ago, I began making and paddling kayaks and have paddled them over 15,000 miles since then. In the past 10 years I have not missed paddling in a single calendar month. Yes, I’m one of those crazy ones out paddling on New Years Day -- even when the wind chill is below zero.

I have been blessed with health and endurance that has allowed me to do many kayaking trips on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico. Last year I kayaked two major adventure races: the 300 mile Everglades Challenge, and the 100 mile North Carolina Challenge.

I plan to “Paddle Across Iowa” this spring as a fundraiser for Hickory Ridge Wilderness Camp. Then, I’m signed up to kayak the Missouri River 340 race in July, and I’d like to do the North Carolina Challenge again in September.

You can find out more about my paddling trips and Newton business, Royale Canoe and Kayak, at <http://www.royalecanoeandkayak.com/>