

"The Western Peninsula is a world-class paddling paradise during the season, with any kind of water you desire; the inland sea that is Lake Superior, small and protected inland lakes, and creeks and rivers ranging from flat water to Class V. Dean's presentation will focus on the class I-III rivers, and the Lake Superior coastline. Dean is close to many unique and unheralded rivers, offering diverse day trips and wild natural beauty. A paddler for as long as he can remember, Dean incurred a spinal cord injury in 1991 that left him completely paralyzed from the bottom of his rib cage down. In 1999 he decided to get back into canoeing. By the fall of that year, he realized that with his disability, kayaks were more effective than canoes. By the paddling season of 2000, kayaking had become Dean's midlife passion." One of Dean's goals last summer was to be the first paraplegic to ever perform the Eskimo Roll! People told him that without leg strength, he'd never be able to do it; that the risk of drowning would be too great. I think that the "you can't" had the opposite effect!