

Southern Maine Sea Kayaking News Letter

Volume 1, Number 1

September 1992

First strokes

Another outdoor club in southern Maine? After two meetings and a couple of evening paddles, it appears that there are indeed enough interested folk in the neighborhood to sustain a sea kayaking club.

The first questions that spring to my mind at the start of this kind of venture are "why?" and "is it worth it?". We've spent a fair bit of time kicking around the question of what is to be gained, and I'll try to summarize that briefly in a second. As far as whether it's going to be worth the effort, perhaps that can only be answered by how successful we are. That success will depend on whether or not people actually commit some hard earned currency to membership, some scarce free time and energy to making it work, and use the resources we're trying to create to get together and paddle. And that, dear reader, is the extent of my plug for your time and dollars. If you're interested in expanding your kayaking horizons, this may indeed be a worth while effort.

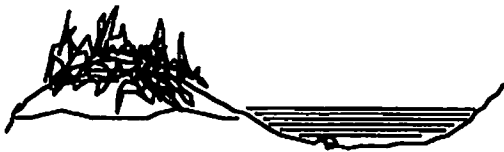
OK, so why do it at all? There are some obvious answers... finding paddling partners with similar interests and abilities, learning from each other, socializing with like-minded folk, promoting safe and responsible practices, building a sense of community, perhaps finding outlets for service, etc. I suppose that there are as many ways to express "why" as there are people involved. My own tend to boil down to the fact that I enjoy being with many of the paddlers that I've met, and I love the sense of having an expanding web of friends and acquaintances.

The priorities of the current membership seems to boil down to providing a way for us to have fun and enjoy safe sea kayaking together, and to promote the continued development of the sport in this neck of the woods.

Meetings:

Sundays, Sept. 20 & October 18 at 7pm, at 1040 Broadway in South Portland; it's a yellow ranch house with a "Counseling" sign in front. Parking is in the rear and on side streets. Call Jack at 774-0074, or Barbara at 772-7750 for directions. Many thanks to David Sanford for the donation of space.

The agenda for the next meeting includes a discussion of safety, and of how to address the nuisance that a strung out gaggle of kayaks presents to other boaters. Anyone who comes up with an open ~~joint~~ ^{bar} to socialize after the meeting wins a free beer!



More business:

Membership dues have been set at \$10.00 from the beginning of August through next May. We'll pro rate later memberships. It is perhaps a little hard to part with the \$'s this late in the season, but look at it as worth while seed money. We have opened a phone line, published a first news letter and networking list, and had a couple of successful trips. So far, so good! Our priorities are to continue to finance these activities, find pool space for winter rolling and self-rescue practice, and determine the most legally responsible and financially realistic way to operate. We are at a stage where input from those of you who work in those fields would be most helpful!

Network News Line:

We now have an active trip and information phone line. The outgoing message will be updated regularly to include trips that people are interested in doing, and other relevant info. Your message will be promptly added.

The number is...874-2640.

Please USE IT!

Equipment discounts

offered by Saco River Outfitters--10% off everything they sell except for boats. Thanks to Art McEvoy. If you wish to take advantage of this for rentals, please plan on doing so midweek and on non-peak weekends. Currently, they are selling everything, including boats, for 15 to 40% off!

Tommy's is also having a blow-out sale.



Who's doing what?

Jeff Wescott (772-5357) is still doing Thursday evening paddles, meeting at 6 pm at the East End Beach (EEB).

David Sanford (767-7135) is looking for partners for Friday paddles.

Rob Travis (775-1034) is interested in doing an overnight trip on the Labor Day weekend. Call for details.

Jack Flanagan (774-0074) is looking for company for his annual pilgrimage to Darmiscove Island off of East Boothbay, on Monday, Sept. 7, weather permitting. If it's too schmooey to venture out into the ocean, a jaunt around Arrowsic Island (across the Kennebec from Bath) is an option.

The Appalachian Mountain Club is hosting an overnight at Knubble Bay on Sat. & Sun., Oct. 17 -18. To make reservations, call Al Hansen at 603-927-4417. Cottages and camp sites are available, as are on-site kayak rentals (we think). Knubble Bay is beautiful, with easy access to the Sheepscoot, Hockamock Bay, the Sansanoa River, the Back River, and the Kennebec near Bath.

A joint paddle with the Boston Sea Kayaking Club is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24. Meet at the EEB at 11 am for a jaunt around the Diamonds. Those wishing to go farther will undoubtedly be able to find company.

The Maine Island Trail Association (761-8225) is sponsoring fall events on the following dates: 5th Annual Conference on Warren Island, reservations required, \$30.00 a head, Sept. 12 and 13; Darmiscove Island Clean up, Sept. 23; volunteers needed for the MITA booth at the Common Ground Fair, Sept. 26 & 27; "Coastweek Clean up of Pen and Casco Bays, Oct. 3 & 4; Casco Bay section meeting, Oct. 8; Muscongus clean up, Oct. 10 & 11; Western Rivers section meeting, Oct. 15; Western Rivers clean up, Oct. 17 & 18; Whittum Island clean up, Oct. 18; Jewell Island end of season clean up, Oct. 24

H2O Outfitters/ MITA (833-5257) is doing a Sea Kayaking skills clinic on Oct. 23, 24 & 25. Cost is \$50 for MITA members, \$90 for non-members. They're great instructors and this is an incredible price. Sign up before Sept. 15.

Stuff for Sale:

Iean Armstrong (879-1886) is selling a Hydra Sea Venture w/ accessories for \$670.00. Call for details.

Jack Flanagan (774-0074) is purging himself of unused "stuff". A down sleeping bag (\$40), ice climbing tools (\$75 for ax and hammer), a Wild Things summit pack (\$50), Asolo leather double boots (\$20 to the first pr of size 9 1/2 feet that fit them), an old Gregory Pack with a lot of life left in it (\$75), Chouniard telescoping backcountry ski poles (\$30), a vapor barrier liner for sleeping bags (\$15), a touring bike with racks and panniers (\$225). It's all "or best offer"...

Used sea kayaks available for Sept. delivery: Mariner XL, \$1250; Seda Glider, \$1200, Seda Swift, \$1100; Seda Tango double w/ rudder, \$1600. Also Diamond Brand four-person Maxi-Spirit tents, \$95. Call Michael Gray at 517-882-6114 ASAP so that he can bring them out from Michigan for your inspection.

Trips so far, and so near:

Thursday evening trip from Cousins Island.. a group of thirteen had a relaxed sunset cruise over to Basket Island. Great socializing and the pizza and beer afterwards at Pat's in Yarmouth went over really well. Next time we'll order a couple more pizzas though.

A dinner soiree to Richmond Island...not as well

attended but fun. An intimate group of three paddled into the gloaming in the face of a nice stiff wind to enjoy a picnic dinner at Richmond Island. Of course, things died down as we came back, so the homeward leg wasn't quite as effortless as anticipated. Close though, and a good time was had by all.

Membership Information

Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network

Name: _____ Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (home): _____ (work): _____

Do you wish to have your phone number listed on updated membership lists?

Please describe your experience level and how far you might paddle on a typical day trip:

Please make checks for \$10.00 payable to the Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network and mail to Bill Ridlon; PO Box 7442, DTS; Portland, ME 04112.