

Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 4
April 1993



Happy Spring! A time for renewing. Renewing? Yes, our memberships expire in May. Please renew; we need your continued support. We are beginning a new season, the Network's first spring. With your support we can continue to publish newsletters and to keep the Network Newslines working for you 24 hours a day.

It has been a productive few months since the last newsletter. At last we have sent in our incorporation papers. Several members met regularly through the winter to complete the incorporation process. This involved some research, writing By-Laws and electing officers for the Board of Directors. Eek! This all sounds so serious! But, a necessary task. Now we can get down to the business of having a fun kayaking season together. And speaking of fun, just look at **What's Happening ?** and see all the trips we generated at the March meeting! And speaking of meetings, we have had two since January.

Our **February meeting** was held at Norumbega Outfitters, and thanks to Steve Gent who took copious minutes, I can report to you the content of that meeting. In addition to having a guest speaker, nominations were made for the five officers required for incorporation, and the Network's By-Laws were made available for those interested. If you would like a copy of the By-Laws contact Bill Ridlon. Thanks to those of you who brought snacks to the meeting. Mike Detscher delighted us with a blue cake decorated with a yellow kayaker.

"**BayKeeper**", Joe Payne, employed by The Friends of Casco Bay, talked to us about his work as a professional steward for Casco Bay and about volunteer opportunities in which Network members are invited to engage. Several members were intrigued by The Water Quality Monitoring Program and have since received a day of training and an assigned site for biweekly monitoring through October. Other programs involving habitat preservation may include projects in eel grass preservation, wildlife rehabilitation and monitoring parts of the bay by observing and reporting changes that may occur. Call Joe if you are interested in any of these programs. Additionally, it is Joe's job to know what resources are available to help with any concerns about Casco Bay. Call him anytime with questions, concerns or observations --799-8574.

Our **March meeting** at the L.L. Bean Discovery Room was a great success. About a dozen people gathered at Crickets beforehand to enjoy food and conversation. More than 30 turned out at Bean's. A brief election was held and the following officers were elected: Albert Kolodgi and Lee Bumsted as Members at Large, Bill Ridlon as Treasurer, Jeff Wescott as Recording Secretary and Barbara Carter as President. Bill Ridlon presented a financial report and a discussion of membership dues followed. It was agreed that \$15. a year was a reasonable amount and was necessary to keep up with expenses including the newsletter and other mailings, the newslines, post box and bank charges. Lee Bumsted led the group to planning trips and other events, and as a result we have two meetings planned for the spring and several trips. (See What's Happening?)

Our speaker, and Network member, **Jon Cons** did a stupendous job showing us what gear to take for day and overnight kayak trips. The hour was getting late, and he had to stop short of actually packing it all into the kayak. Hmmm. Do you think he *really* fits it all in? One invaluable little trick he showed us was to tie thin nylon lines onto those items that you stuff way up into the bow, like your sleeping bag and tent, so that you can pull them out. Thanks Jon!

B. Carter

Favorite Paddling Trips

Monhegan Island

by Chuck Jones

A small group of paddlers (mostly from Maine) have been paddling out and back from Monhegan since the early 80's. It is only about 12 miles from Port Clyde, and there is a good half-way lunch stop at Burnt Island. We usually go off-season (May or October) to avoid the heavy tourist traffic on the island in mid-summer. We like to plan a three day trip; one day out, one day on/around the island, and the third day to return. It can be done in two; but it is more frantic than fun.

The vessel "Laura B." and her captain/owner Jim Barstow make several trips a day with freight, mail and passengers from Port Clyde. In bad weather Jim has, several times, saved our butts by putting the kayaks on deck and letting us ride with the seasick passengers! We don't fight his judgement, as he knows these waters and, by now, our capabilities.

There is no camping on the island, but even in the "fringe seasons" of May and October, shelter and meals are available to those who plan ahead and send in deposits. The Trailing Yew Inn, the Monhegan House (an old hotel), and various private homes and cottages do usually fill up on the weekends, especially the long weekends in May and October.

Further details, phone numbers, even photos, may be had by contacting me (Chuck Jones) or Jon Cons. I believe we are the only two current SMSKN members who are veterans of this trip. The east coast of Monhegan from the cliff tops, or wave tops, is unforgettable. The interior forests and trails offer a different type of sanctuary. The seals are friendly, and (off season) so are the natives!

For further information you may contact the following:

- o Charles Jones, 65 Jordan School Road, Auburn, ME 04210 #784-2721
- o Jon Cons, RFD#1, Box 94, Kezar Falls, ME 04047 #625-4695
- o Capt. James Barstow, P.O. Box 238, Port Clyde, ME 04855 #372-8848

- o The Trailing Yew, Monhegan Island, ME 04852 #596-0440
- o Monhegan House, Monhegan Island, ME 04852 #594-7983
- o Shining Sails, Monhegan Island, ME 04852 #596-0041

*Thanks to Chuck Jones and David Sanford for submitting the first two entries for our **Favorite Paddling Trips** feature. Please help keep this feature alive by describing a favorite trip for a future newsletter. Include: special features of the trip, distances covered, cautions and special conditions to note and directions to launch sites.*

What's Happening? (Call the Newsline 24 hrs. for updates)

*** 874-2640 ***

Sunday, April 18, 6:00 PM

Network Meeting at Norumbega Outfitters, 127 Marginal Way, Portland

Jeff Wescott will demonstrate **Safety Equipment**, and Maria McGrane will discuss **Hypothermia**.

Sunday, May 2, Contact Jeff Wescott, 773-0910

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Day trip to Damariscove Island

David Sanford

Sunday, May 2 and Saturday and Sunday May 8 & 9

Paddling Series offered to Network members by H2Outfitters

For new and experienced paddlers. Improve your skills. \$140.

Register by calling 833-5257 eves.

Thursday, May 13, 7:00 PM

Planning Meeting at Lee Bumsted's in So. Portland / 799-1855

Saturday, May 15, Contact Barbara Carter, 772-7750

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Picnic at Fort Gorges, 12:30 PM

Bring camping stoves and favorite kayak camping recipes to share.

*Suban club?
Bill*

Sunday, May 16, 6:00 PM

Network Meeting at Norumbega Outfitters

Jon Cons and Jeff Wescott will teach **compass/navigation skills**.

Sundays, May 16 and 23, 10 AM to Noon

Network Rolling Clinics with H2Outfitters at the YWCA in Portland

\$35. Register by calling 833-5257. Max 6 people.

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Saturday, May 22, 11 AM at East End Beach, Portland

Joint Paddle with the Boston Sea Kayak Club

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Friday, June 4, Contact Daryl Kelly, 345-9844

Full Moon Paddle

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Saturday, June 19 (maybe overnight) Contact Bill Ridlon, 799-5161

Crow Island, Muscongus Bay

This will include a clean-up of Crow, our adopted MITA island.

3 or 4 days in Mid July

Matinicus Island

A 14 mile paddle each way with stop mid way on another island.

Contact Chuck Jones, 784-2721

~~~PADDLING PARTNERS~~~

-Doug Calhoun is an intermediate paddler looking for paddling partners for Saturdays and Sundays. He is also looking for partners for the last two weeks of July. 846-5172

-Albert Kolodgi would like to paddle Saturdays and Sundays. He likes to paddle HARD. 781-7321

-Jon Cons (625-4695) and David Sanford (767-7135) are available to paddle Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. David is also interested in a week long trip. either summer or winter.

June Newsletter

Deadline for entries will be June 1.

Please send kayak related stories, articles, book reviews, jokes, cartoons, artwork, and classified to: B. Carter, 7 Gilbert Lane, Portland, ME 04101

"An Act to Require Safety Identification for Sea Kayaks" Defeated in Maine Legislature

Chris Robinson

This bill, sponsored by Senator Pam Cahill of Wiscasset, would have made "operating" a sea kayak without safety markers a crime with a maximum penalty of 67 days in jail and a \$4,000 fine. The bill did not specify what type of safety markers would be required; it called for the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to determine that.

A hearing on the bill was held in Augusta on March 30th. Senator Cahill spoke alone in favor of the bill. She explained that she filed the bill at the request of a constituent whose powerboat had a near collision with a sea kayak in rough seas last summer.

Several sea kayakers spoke in opposition to the bill and were quite convincing. They included Jeff Cooper of H2Outfitters in Orrs Island, Gay Atkinson and Gary Mesheau of Explorers at Sea in Stonington and Craig Worthing of Brunswick, an LL Bean sea kayaking instructor. They argued that sea kayakers are a safety-conscious bunch--who practice responsible boating, steer clear of other boats and wear bright colors. Requiring any type of an elevated marker, such as a flagpole on the stern of a kayak would interfere with righting an overturned kayak and create a serious safety hazard. Gary Mesheau cinched the debate when he stated that it's impossible to legislate common sense. This seemed to strike a chord with the committee. The bill was voted out of committee "ought not to pass", which means it's essentially dead in the water.

Pool Sessions

Pool sessions were held on February 21 and March 21. Nine hearty souls crawled out of bed on each of those chilly Sunday mornings to make their way to the Portland YWCA pool. Thankfully, it was well worth the effort. The pool was warm and comfortable and they all learned a lot. People were at all different skill levels--some were learning wet exits and self rescues, others were practicing variations of the eskimo roll--and all were willing to offer suggestions and assistance. Thanks to Ted Myers, Jon Cons and Michael Parr for organizing the sessions. (See *What's Happening ?* for info on Rolling Clinics with H2Outfitters in May.)

Classifieds ** Classified ads are free to members.**

For Sale:

~Hydra Sea Runner with rudder, sprayskirt, life jacket and Lendal paddle. Good, stable beginner's boat. \$850 or best offer. Chris, 828-1629.

~Wetsuit, small unisex farmerjohn. \$45. Rob Bryan, 443-8655

Wanted:

~Used plastic kayak. Call Jon Swan (775-3597) and Maria McGrane (879-7005).

~ Aquaterra Sea Lion w/ a rudder. Call Bill Shouse (871-7028).

MEMBERSHIP

The Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network is an association of paddlers interested in connecting with others who enjoy the sport of sea kayaking. Our purpose is to have fun while, at the same time, promoting safe and responsible practices. PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY AND SIGN.

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network
Acknowledgement of Self-Responsibility and Release**

I, _____ (printed name) understand that sea kayaking involves significant potential risks to my health and equipment, in part due to cold and/or turbulent water. I agree to assume these risks in their entirety when participating in Network events. I also understand that while others may have skills and/or knowledge greater than mine, they are not responsible for my well being. I agree to inform my fellow paddlers of any significant aspects of my physical condition or medical history that might increase the risk to myself or others. I give my permission to participants to seek emergency medical treatment for me should I require it during a Network event. I agree to exercise all necessary caution during Network events and to exercise my personal judgement in a manner consistent with my skill level, knowledge and experience.

Network Trip Paddling Guidelines

- *Self rescue skills are essential. Do not count on being saved by someone else.
- *Consider tide and weather information before launching.
- *Discuss a float plan among the group before launching.
(Plan your paddle and paddle your plan.)

Advised equipment:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| PFD | pump |
| sprayskirt | compass/chart |
| paddle float | flares |
| proper flotation | whistle |
| wetsuit or drysuit | spare paddle |
| water-proof light | water/food/matches |
| complete change of clothes | reflective tape on boat, paddle and PFD |
| first aid kit | weather/VHF radio |
| strobe light | tow line |

I have read this statement and fully understand its content. I am aware that I am releasing certain rights on behalf of myself and my family in return for being permitted to participate in Network events. I totally and completely release and absolve SOUTHERN MAINE SEA KAYAKING NETWORK, all its members or officers, and all trip/event participants from liability of any sort relating to bodily injury or damaged equipment.

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Signature of parent or guardian if under 18 _____

Witness Signature _____

In case of emergency notify _____ phone _____

Membership Information

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone(home): _____ (work): _____

Do you wish to have your phone number(s) listed on membership list? _____

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

Please make checks for \$15.00 payable to the Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network and mail to:
SMSKN; PO Box 4794, DTS; Portland, ME 04112-4794
Memberships are renewable after one year.