

Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 5
June 1993



Hello! It's almost summer. Have you gotten your paddle wet? If not there are lots of opportunities coming up to join other Network members on the water.

We've had two meetings since the last newsletter. In April Jeff Wescott demonstrated safety equipment, and at the May meeting Jeff gave an overview of using charts and compasses for navigation. Thanks, Jeff! Additionally, we planned some trips for this summer, had some good discussions and enjoyed getting to know one another while sharing food and drink.

We've had three Network trips this spring. Our next trip is described below. Hope to see you at a Network event soon. **Happy and safe paddling!**

SMSKN's First Trip to Adopted Island – Crow, Muscongus Bay by Lee Bumsted

The Network's first scheduled trip to our adopted island will be on Saturday, June 19th. We'll be heading out to Crow Island in western Muscongus Bay from a launch site at Medomak Town Landing, about 1 1/2 hours from Portland. Both day paddlers and campers are welcome. Bill Ridlon is the coordinator for this trip; call him at 799-5161 for more details.

Crow offers a few different campsites, a pocket beach on its western shore, and a rocky perimeter perfect for island circumnavigations, sunbathing, or observing the abundant wildlife. It also makes a great base for exploring many other nearby islands.

Crow is one of 72 islands on the Maine Island Trail. The Trail, a waterway linking public and private islands running from Portland to Machias, is maintained by the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA). Of the 72 Trail islands, 40 are state-owned (Crow is one of these) and 32 are owned by individuals who generously share them with MITA members. Members monitor and help conserve these coastal islands in exchange for the privilege of visiting them.

MITA's "Adopt-an-Island" program works to assure that every island in the Trail has at least one steward, or "adopter," who will visit on a regular basis throughout the boating season. Adopters, such as members of the Network, monitor use, help keep the island in good shape, and report back to MITA if the island needs special attention. Please stop by whenever you're in Muscongus Bay and tour around the island, garbage bag in hand!

For additional information on the Maine Island Trail Association's stewardship activities and Guidebook to the islands, please call their Portland office at 761-8225.

August Newsletter

Deadline for entries will be August 1.

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

Worldwide Directory of Paddlesport Clubs

Here is a resource to connect with paddlers all over the world!

This directory, in which we will soon be listed, provides a listing of club coordinators who have volunteered to assist members of participating clubs in locating boats, paddling companions and events in their areas. For a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to B. Carter at the above address.

*Copy 1
Copy 2
Copy 3
Copy 4
Copy 5
Copy 6
Copy 7
Copy 8
Copy 9
Copy 10*

Favorite Paddling Trips

Strawberry Creek To Quahog Bay

by Bill Ridlon

This trip covers about 8 miles (7 nautical miles) one-way, 16 miles round-trip. It's a good weekend trip, especially if you can hit the tides right. The starting point is Strawberry Creek, at the upper end of Harpswell Sound. For a full week-end, start out late Friday afternoon. Strawberry Creek Island (#5 in the MITA Guidebook) is just a few hundred yards from the launch site, about a 10 minute paddle. You might want to have an alternate plan because Strawberry Creek Island has only two campsites. With luck, you'll find the southern site free and you'll have a beautiful view of Harpswell Sound.

Having spent the night on Strawberry Creek you are a 4 to 5 hour paddle from your destination in Quahog Bay. If possible, time your departure for about 2 1/2 hours before low tide. The ebbing tide will help sweep you out of Harpswell Sound and when it changes, draw you back up into Quahog Bay. As you paddle down Harpswell Sound, head East into Long Cove and slip under the bridge between Sebascodegan Island and Orrs Island. If you're riding the tide, the passage under the bridge will be a joy. If you're running against the tide, you'll need to paddle quickly to keep moving. Now in Gun Point Cove, you'll see some extraordinary homes along the eastern shore. You may also see a seal colony. Rounding Gun Point you have the option to paddle to the inside (North) of Oak, Hen, and Long Point Islands where the water is fairly calm or go to the outside to see and feel the surf and waves.

If you've timed it right, the tide will start to come in and you'll be ready to head up into Quahog Bay. Along the way to the inner bay you'll pass Pole Island -- a very pretty island but no trespassing is allowed. Your destination is Little Snow Island (#8 in the MITA Guidebook), a small, friendly island in a beautiful surrounding. Snow Island, next door, is home to Osprey that put on quite a show when they're out fishing. As sunset nears, fish start jumping. When I was there in mid-September, Canadian Geese came flying in and spent the night just a few yards off-shore.

The trip home the next day can be just the reverse of the day before or, for a more strenuous paddle, visit Cundy's Harbor to the east of Quahog Bay. Another option is to return to Harpswell Sound between Orrs and Bailey Islands at the Cobwork Bridge (be careful here, the tidal rip can be very fast!)

GETTING THERE: From Portland take I-295 north to I-95. Take the Rt. 1 exit at Brunswick and follow Rt. 1 north into Brunswick. From Brunswick take Rt. 123 to Harpswell. At North Harpswell take a left turn towards Rt. 24. After crossing the Ewin Narrows bridge you'll reach the Strawberry Creek bridge in about 1/2 mile. There's limited parking on either side of the bridge. Best launching is on the northwest side.

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

***** 874 - 2640 *****

Saturday, June 19-20, Contact Bill Ridlon, 799-5161

Crow Island, Muscongus Bay

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

Thursday, June 24, 7PM, 56 Summit, So. Port.

Planning Meeting

Contact Bill Ridlon, 799-5161

Sun., June 27, Sebago Lake, 10AM - 2PM

Practice paddling/rescue/rolling skills, Enjoy the beach, Cookout lunch

We have reserved Cub Cove for the Network. Come share skills, learn and have fun!

Contact Wayland Linscott, 655-7442

Tuesday, June 29, East End Beach, 6PM

*****First Annual Network Boat Trials*****

Bring your boats and paddling equipment / Let others try yours and you try theirs!

Saturday, July 10, 6PM Freeport Town Dock (by Haraseeket Lunch and Lobster in So. Free.)

Paddle and Party with Jeff

Back to Jeff's place in So. Freeport for munchies etc. BYO

For more info/directions, Contact Jeff, 773-0910

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

Sunday, July 18, Contact Wayland Linscott, 655-7442

New Meadows River Trip

Thursday, July 29, 6:30PM, L.L.Bean Discovery Room

Network General Membership Meeting

Saturday, August 14, Contact Bill, 799-5161

Overnight on Jewell Island

Fri.- Sun., August 27-29

Students Island on Mooselookmeguntic Lake (nr. Rangely)

Three sites are reserved on this beautiful island which is part of The Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve.

Contact Chris Robinson by Aug.15 to reserve space, 828-1629. A pretrip meeting will be scheduled.

~~~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, Sundays and evenings. He is willing to share knowledge. 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.

~Bill Ridlon is interested in spur-of-the-moment summer evening paddles in the Portland area. 799-5161.

What Else is Happening ?

Sat. and Sun., June 26-27, Peaks Island

Paddlefest with Ken Fink and Maine Island Kayak Co.

Sat: The basics of paddling and rescues / Sun: Wind, waves, navigation and more

Contact Tom Bergh, 766-2373. \$110. Tom is offering Network members a generous discount of \$15.

Sunday, June 27, Odiome Point Beach, NH. Contact Jon Cons, 625-4695

Amer. Canoe Assoc. Disabled Paddlers Workshop

Kayakers in escort boats needed / Also need plastic kayaks with large cockpits on lend for the event

July 10 - 15, Peaks Island

British Canoe Union's Nigel Dennis and Dave Ide - Series of 3 training courses

Register with Tom Bergh, Maine Island Kayak Company - 766-2373.

Fri. - Sun., August 20-22

Weekend on Mt. Desert with the AMC and The Acadia Sea Kayak Club

Contact Forrest Dillon for info. and to reserve camping at Seawall, 244-5087

~~~~~

## *PADDLING TALKS*

### **JOINT PADDLE WITH THE BOSTON SEA KAYAK CLUB**

by Bill Ridlon

On Saturday, May 22nd, several members of the Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network joined the Boston Sea Kayak Club for a paddle in Casco Bay. We started out with 7 paddlers; three from BSKC and four from SMSKN. Since it was close to high tide we decided to head for the outer side of Long Island between the two Diamond Islands. It was a very smooth trip from East End Beach to Little Diamond -- there was very little wind. We passed through the Diamonds with about 3 feet of water under our kayaks and continued on toward Hussey Sound. As we neared Pumpkin Nob at the end of Peaks Island we saw a porpoise playing in the shallow water. Shortly, we arrived at our chosen destination, Vail Island, on the ocean side of Long Island, for our lunch stop.

After an extended stop on Vail, we paddled around the outside of the island to play in the ocean rollers and then pressed on around the North end of Long Island. To this point it had been an easy paddle as the wind had been coming in from the south. Now, as we rounded Long Island and began paddling back south, we had to push against the wind. It made for a good aerobic workout rewarded by a stop at Jones Landing on Peaks for some refreshment before returning across Portland Harbor to East End Beach.

### **FULL MOON PADDLE**

by Jeff Wescott

Yes, the moon did rise on the 4th of June for a dozen paddlers. We launched from the South Freeport Town Dock with calm and quiet waters. We paddled up to the NE tip of Bustins Island as the moon rose like a giant pumpkin above us. Some of us continued around the island, while others turned back.

Wayland was the hit of the evening with his homemade bread. Daryl was a close second with Snowflake, his dog, along in the cockpit. We all returned to the dock about 10 PM looking forward to another paddle in the light of the silvery moon.

~~~~~

Boston Sea Kayak Club now has a newsline! (617) 545-2135

Classifieds

	if purchased separately	
Body Glove/Farmer Johns	\$93.	
Wet Suit Hood	\$26.	
Water Boots	\$36.	
NRS Naturals/Gloves	\$20.	Michael Arenstam, (207) 283-9375
See 20 Slow Bag/LL Bean	\$12.	
Stahl Sac Lg/LL Bean	\$15.	
Extransport Hi Float	\$68.	

Total Value \$270. (\$240. will take the entire lot.)

Werner San Juan Paddle, 7' 6", 2 piece, custom color blades and ferrules. \$135. Hiram Garber - 772-3821.