

Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network Newsletter

Hello!

Despite the mild weather this winter, my new yellow Solstice (Agh! Yes, I gave up my attachment to blue and submitted to my better judgment) has been untouched since the grand pumpkin hunt. Sunny blue skies can certainly be deceiving in luring one out onto the ocean this time of year. I'm not so daring as I used to be, especially after an experience I had last fall.

On a beautiful day in November, Bill and I went down to Phippsburg to walk the trail in to Morse Mountain, where neither of us had been before. It happened to be an unusually high tide that morning and the trail was underwater for more than 100 yards. We were disappointed and about to turn back when a small group, who arrived after us, began to take off their shoes and socks and roll up their pant legs. We looked at each other with questioning eyes, shrugged, and off came our footwear. After all, we had driven all this way. We began the crossing, and it was COLD. We had to move slowly because of the sharp gravel underfoot. We were up to our knees, and it was intensely painful. I complained bitterly and experienced fear about permanent damage I might be doing to my feet. Nevertheless, we made it across, dried our feet and let them soak up the warm rays of the sun for a bit before dressing them again and moving on. It was a long time before they thawed and came back to life. I still have them and they work just fine.

However, I guess the point of this story was that I thought quite a bit that day about dumping a kayak in the ocean and how, if my hands were that cold, they would be useless in performing

the necessary tasks for re-entering my boat, pumping it out, etc.

In any case, we'd sure like to hear from those of you who are going out. It must be a different experience from the "busy"ness of the summer on the water. Send us a story and/or photos for the next newsletter.

We had a good turnout at our recent meeting in January and generated some ideas for future events: a group repair session in May, a house rental on Deer Isle in June, a regular Monthly day paddle to be led by Jon Swan, our 3rd annual Crow Island Cleanup/Campout in June, our 4th annual Mooselookmeguntic trip in August. Look for details on these in future newsletters.

Jay Westra intrigued us with wonderfully warm slides of Baja. He has loaned us a detailed guidebook for planning trips to that area entitled, *The Magnificent Peninsula: The Only Absolutely Essential Guide to Mexico's Baja, California* by Jack Williams. This will be available from the Network Library at membership meetings or by contacting me.

All of our T-shirts have homes on the backs of our members and friends. We did make a profit and, as promised, made a donation to The Maine Island Trail Association.

**Happy and safe
paddling-**

Barbara

April Newsletter— Deadline for entries will be April 15th.

Please send all kayak related stories, articles, book reviews, jokes, cartoons, photos, artwork and classifieds to: Gary Shepard, 57 Marlborough Dr., Portland, ME 04103.

The Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network in 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 feel free to contact any of the following members with your questions or ideas concerning the Network.

Barbara Carter, President Jeff Westcott, Secretary Jon Swan, Treasurer
Lee Bumsted, Member at Large Wayland Linscott, Member at Large Bill Ridlon, Membership
Gary Shepard, Newsletter Editor Mary Jo Foley, Photography Organizer



What's Happening?

Call the Newsline 24 hours for updates 874-2640

Sunday March 12th

General Membership Meeting at Norumbega Outfitters — 58 Fore St., Portland. Tin Smith, who dazzled us at last fall's meeting with his slide show and quick wit, will be back to entertain us with images from a recent month long sea kayaking trip along the central coast of Labrador. Be sure not to miss it! *This one's for you, David Sanford!*

Monthly Pool Sessions

Joe Redshaw and a group of 4 or 5 paddlers are scheduling monthly practice sessions at the YWCA and having a great time learning lots from each other. They welcome others to join them. Call Joe for dates 1-207-934-2568

Please note: If you are listed as the contact person for an event, it is your responsibility to bring waiver/release forms to be signed by all participants. These forms should be sent to Jeff Wescott, c/o Norumbega Outfitters, 58 Fore St., Portland, ME 04101, at the conclusion of the event.

Classifieds and Such

(Ads are free for all current members)

Pentax wide field binoculars 8x40 - 9.5degrees. Exceptionally bright, clear image. Case, dust caps, strap included. \$100.00. Call Bill 772-7750

Thule rack, with locks, for VW Golf or Jetta 1985 - 1993. Cost \$128.00 new, used two seasons — \$65.00 Jon Swan 775-3597

Patagonia Scanorak paddling shell. Men's medium. Teal: \$100.00

Nikonos IVa 35mm underwater camera. (perfect for kayaking). \$275.00

Call Gary Shepard @ 797-5325

Please note: Commercial advertisers can obtain rate information by contacting Bill Ridlon — 799-5161

So. Me. Sea Kayaking Network Library

(can be checked out at meetings or by calling Barbara Carter)

Hutchins, Derek
Eskimo Rolling

Kulczycki, Chris
The Kayak Shop
Three Elegant Wooden Kayaks Anyone can Build

Putz, George
Wood and Canvas Kayak Building

Seldman, David
The Essential Sea Kayaker:
A Complete Course for the Ocean Water Paddler

Snaith, Skip
Canoes and Kayaks for the Backyard Builder

Cyrus L. Day
Knots & Splices

Don Jacobson
The One Pan Gourmet: Fresh Food on the Trail

Alan S. Kesselheim
The Lightweight Gourmet: Drying and Cooking Food for the Outdoor Life

Chris Townsend
Walking the Yukon: A solo trek through the land of beyond

Douglas Alvord
Beach Cruising (An illustrated guide to boats, gear, navigation techniques, cuisine and comforts of small boat cruising)

Ragged Mountain Portable Wilderness Anthology (Views of the natural world from Thoreau, Melville, Muir, Dickinson, Sandburg, Lewis and Clark and others).

Ralph Diaz
Complete Folding Kayaker

David R. Getchell
Outboard Boaters Handbook: Advanced Seamanship and Practice Skills

Videos

What Now?
Sea Kayak Rescue Techniques
(Viewed at our August Member Meeting, "A Step-by-Step introduction to self rescue and aided rescue techniques")

Paddling Far and Near

Would others be interested in sharing a house rental on Deer Isle next July?

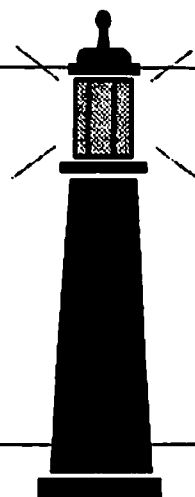
If six people share a house, it would cost about \$100.00 per person for the week.

I will investigate soon. Jon Swan 775-3597

Paddling Partners

Mary Jo Foley - *nights, weekends.* 846-0925

Gary Shepard - *weekdays (warm ones!)* 797-5325



Geographic Information Database

This is our first attempt at offering to our members info on specific places for kayaking.) If you are thinking about visiting any of the locations mentioned below—please call the appropriate individual for details and other nuggets of wisdom. Also, if you are familiar with any great kayaking spots, please volunteer your name and number at our next meeting and join the ranks of the GEO GURUS!

East Casco Bay - New Meadows - Small Point **Steve Winter 443-3623**

Muscongus Bay **Lee Bumsted 799-1856**

Lakes Region - Casco, Raymond, Naples **Wayland Linscott 655-7442**

Flagstaff Lake **Mary Jo Foley 846-0925**

Southern Casco Bay **Bill Riddon 799-5161**

Monhegan, Matinicus, Seguin **Chuck Jones 784-2721**

Muscle Ridge, Matinicus **Jeff Wescott 773-0910**

Saco Bay **Joe Redshaw 934-2568**

Campobello Island, N.B. **Gary Shepard 797-5325**