



Southern Maine Sea -Kayaking Network Newsletter

The View From The Cockpit

It's been a pretty amazing paddling season, hasn't it? The weather has been very kind to us right from our Basket Island cleanup paddle on April 30th through the Mooselookmeguntic trip on August 25th, 26th, and 27th. But wait! Don't put your boat away yet! There's more — much more. For those who want to experience autumn from the water, we've got several more trips to choose from. Check the "What's Happening" section to see the list.

I hope you had a chance to join us (or will join us) on one of our trips. It's a great opportunity to meet others with similar interests, to network in anticipation of future trips, and to paddle in an area that perhaps you've never been. Also, if there's a trip you'd like to see happen and

you'd be willing to co-lead that trip, give us a call on the newslines. There are a number of accomplished trip leaders that are willing to assist you with setting up and running the trip.

You may notice a change in the format of the newsletter. Gary Shepard, who has been putting the newsletter together for the past year, has decided to pass the job on to someone else.



Gary did an excellent job in that year, changing the job from one of a lot of cutting and pasting to one of electronic merging of several documents. Gary also increased the visual appeal of the newsletter by changing the format and the graphics. Thank you, Gary, for all you did. It's a tough job with irritating deadlines.

When Gary stepped down from the job of newsletter editor, we were very fortunate to have other members that were willing to pitch in and help. Nikki Kayser has volunteered to take on the task of newsletter editor and this issue is the result of her efforts. It's always difficult to pick up where someone else left

off but I think Nikki will do an excellent job and give us a newsletter that will be even better than what we have now — stay tuned.

Finally, as we move into the "slow" season, please give some thought to what kind of activities you'd like to see during the autumn, winter, and spring, and even next summer. It's never too early to start planning pool sessions, pot-lucks, rescue practice, and next year's trips. Also, if you'd like to become a Member-At-Large, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, or take over my job, let me know. Elections are in April and the Board of Directors are always looking for more paddlers to get involved in the running of the Network.

With all that said, have a safe autumn paddling season. I hope to see you on the water. *Bill*

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.

**Next Newsletter
Deadlines for Entries:
December 15th**

Nikki Kayser: 136 W. Main St.
Yarmouth, ME 04096

Better yet: Nikki Kayser
@LLBean.Com

Padding Partners

Rachel Dufresne - evenings, weekends. Vacation on July 24th and August 14th.
Anyone interested in day trips or overnight camping. -784-0166

Mary Jo Foley - looking to paddle some Wednesdays, weekends and Summer evenings- especially Harpswell to Portland -846-0925

Cynde Clark - Weekdays, evenings, weekends - 865-3603

Steve Smith - anywhere, anytime such as my beautiful put-in spot on Flying Point in Freeport - 865-2289 leave message

Classifieds and Such

(Ads are free for all current members- please, no ads over the phone)

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

"THE BOX"

The Box is a resource for Network members. It consists of printed materials of interest to kayakers received primarily in the mail. These materials are currently filed in The Box under these categories; trips, equipment, newsletters/magazines, and misc. The trips folder is especially provoking for trip dreamers and doers; there are mailings from commercial outfitters for trips from all over the world (Fiji, Alaska, British Columbia, Mexico, Central American, Chile, Virgin Islands, Maine, Nova Scotia,...) including color pictures, prices (some include group or club discounts), and descriptions. If you do not want to go with an outfitter, and the brochures will stimulate your imagination as to where to go and what to do. The equipment folder has vendor brochures for things such as kayak fishing rods and Swedish performance kayak paddles; some vendors note that they give a discount to folks when they show their membership cards (ask before you buy). The newsletter/magazine folder has offerings from Atlantic Coastal Kayaker, Wave-Length, NORUMBEGA, Casco Bay Bulletin, H2O, etc. If you have any written materials of interest that you want to pass on to other members, give them to The Box. The Box tries to appear at each meeting. Items of particular interest will be mentioned in future newsletters. If at other times you want to browse, have a question, or want to make a contribution, contact The Keeper of The Box (currently Steve Winter. Address RR#1 Box 518, Foster Point Road, West Bath, Maine 04530. Phone: 207-443-3623).

What's Happening?

Call the Newsline 24 hours for updates

874-2640

Saturday, September 23rd:

Paddle up the Harraseeket in South Freeport to look at fall foliage. The trip starts at 8:30 A.M. Call Cynde Clark at 865-3603 for more information.

Sunday, October 1st:

A day paddle up the St. George River with the tide from Thomaston to Warren and back. This is a fall foliage trip with the Mid-Coast Paddlers for both sea kayakers and canoeists. Contact person is Bud Gilbert at 354-8150.

Saturday, October 6th:

The last First-Saturday-of-the-month day trip with Jon Swan. This one will start at Kettle Cove in Cape Elizabeth. For more information call Jon at 775-3597.

Wednesday, October 4th:

SMSKN Planning Meeting at 7:00 P.M. This is where the ideas for trips, events, meetings, practice sessions, and so forth get started. If you'd like to participate, call Jon Swan at 775-3597 for directions.

Sunday, October 8th:

Full Moon Paddle with Norumbega. Call Jeff or Steve at Norumbega Outfitters at 773-0910 for more details.

Sunday, October 22nd:

General Membership meeting at Norumbega.

Sunday, October 29th:

Annual Pumpkin Hunt at Fort Gorges in Casco Bay. As of publication, this trip is tentative so check the newsline for more information.

Early December:

General Membership meeting at L.L. Bean. Check your mailbox in late November for more details.

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 Mary Jo Foley, 26 Willow St., Yarmouth, Me 04096, at the conclusion of the event.

Annual Mooselookmeguntic Weekend - August 25th through 27th 1995

You'd think lake kayaking would be pastoral, calm, simple, even placid, but when we arrived at Mooselookmeguntic on Friday afternoon there were two to three foot waves with winds gusting above 20 knots! Some of the early arrivals actually paddled out to Students Island in those conditions. By the time our kayaks were loaded, the truck parked, and our check-in with Olive completed, the weather had calmed down somewhat. Four of us paddled around the southern, leeward end of Students but even so, when we rounded the far corner we still were faced with conditions I would more expect to find on the ocean.

When we got to the campsites, nearly half the group had already arrived and were set up and enjoying the last of the afternoon sun near the shore. Level tentsites were at a premium but we all settled in well. On Friday evening we caught up with old friends and got to know new ones. As the sun set and the sky turned from blue to black, millions of stars appeared in the crisp air. With luck, it was a harbinger of the weekend ahead. Later that night, a couple of raccoons gorged on trail mix

and pocket bread — a surprise treat provided by Dave and Dorry.

Saturday morning found us on the water by 9:30 and headed for Cupsuptic Lake by way of Farrington and Griffin Islands. After lunch on the shore of Cupsuptic we headed for Haines Landing in Oquossoc to find ice cream as a treat before the paddle home to Students.

Conditions were perfect all day. The sky and mountains provided a constantly changing backdrop for the interplay of colorful boats and deep blue water. The 10 mile paddle left us tired, content, and hungry. At 7:00 we shared a pot-luck banquet that began with crackers, cheese, and wine, continued through creamy chowder, hot chili, garden fresh vegetables, pasta dishes, and breads, and ended with the amazing desserts of cannoli, blackberry pie, and strawberry-rhubarb pie. Whew! The meal was a bounty of both food and laughter. Before waddling off to our tents we shared one final course to the evening meal of roasted marshmallows around the campfire.

Sunday didn't exactly "dawn". When morning came, rain seemed to threaten from two directions. Optimistically the group breakfasted (I can still smell

Karen's coffee perking - yum!) and was packed by mid-morning. The plan was to leave the gear back on the mainland and head for a picnic (whoops! no picnics allowed!) at the dam. Our departure from Students Island was much like our arrival — ocean conditions of chop, wind, and swell. By the time we'd stowed the camping equipment the weather looked more promising with blue patches showing through so most of the group set off for the dam. Again, the paddle was beautiful. Cloud shadows danced on the mountains.

We ate lunch (no picnics!) by the dam between Mooselookmeguntic and Richardson Lakes and were headed back to our put-in at Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve when suddenly Bill flipped over into the lake to give the group a chance to practice an assisted rescue. Dale and David had Bill back in his boat in just a few minutes. As always, for me the last hour of the paddle was bittersweet. The last hour of a perfect weekend with people who understand when the phrase is uttered, "I went kayaking". The last hour of trying to see all the clouds, all the mountains, all the colors, all the movement and change of the water. The last hour of feeling the wind and motion of the water.

And then, all of a sudden, we were back and there were hugs and good-byes and we were on our way back home.

To those who couldn't be with us, Mike, the canoli was excellent! Chris, we missed you. And to everyone else, sure hope you can make it next year!

Debra Nichols

**Next Meeting:
October 22, 1995
@ Norumbega**



Geographic Information Database

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

Southern Casco Bay
Bill Ridlon: 799-5161

Muscongus Bay
Lee Bumsted: 799-1855

Monhegan, Matinicus, Seguin
Chuck Jones: 784-2721

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

Muscle Ridge, Matinicus
Jeff Wescott: 773-0910

Flagstaff Lake
Mary Jo Foley: 846-0925

Saco Bay
Joe Redshaw: 934-2568

Your Favorite Spot
Your Name & Phone

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

Card Catalog Of The Southern Maine Sea-Kayaking Network

Items may be checked out at meetings, or by contacting Lee Bunsted. Loan period is two months with a three item limit per member, so that materials will be available to other members. Contact Lee with suggestions of reading/viewing materials you'd like the Network to acquire.

The Aleutian Kayak: origins, construction and use of the traditional seagoing baidarka; by Wolfgang Binck (3 copies).

Atlantic Coastal Kayaker- back issues.

Beach Cruising: an illustrated guide to boats, gear, navigation techniques, cuisine and comforts of small boat cruising; by Douglas Alvord.

Building Your Kevlar Canoe: a foolproof method and three foolproof designs; by James Moran.

Canoes and Kayaks for the Backyard Builder; by Skip Snaith.

Common Sense Outdoor Medicine; by Newell D. Breyfogle.

Complete Folding Kayaker; by Ralph Diaz (2 copies).

Eskimo Rolling; by Derek Hutinson.

The Essential Outdoor Gear Manual: equipment care and repair for outdoors people; Annie Getchell.

The Essential Sea Kayaker: a complete course for the open water paddler; by David Seidman.

The Intercoastal Waterway Chartbook: Norfolk, VA to Miami, FL; John & Leslie Kettlewell, editors.

The Kayak Shop: three elegant wooden kayaks anyone can build; by Chris Kulczycki.

Knots & Splices; by Cyrus L. Day.

The Lightweight Gourmet: drying and cooking food for the outdoor life; by Alan S. Kesselheim.

The Magnificent Peninsula: the only absolutely essential guide to Mexico's Baja California; by Jack Williams.

The One Pan Gourmet: fresh food on the trail; by Don Jacobson.

The Outboard Boater's Handbook: advanced seamanship and practice skills; David R. Getchell, editor.

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

Sea Kayaking Along the New England Coast; by Tamsin Venn.

Sea Sense: the handbook of offshore seamanship; by Richard Henderson.

Walking the Yukon: a solo trek through the land of beyond; by Chris Townsend.

What's Now? Sea Kayak Rescue Techniques and Aided Rescue Techniques. Video.

Wood and Canvas Kayak Building; by George Putz.

Book Review

Add one more item to your kayaking checklist: The Ragged Mountain Portable Wilderness Anthology published by Ragged Mountain Press. This paperback is packed full of enjoyable reading — an anthology of wilderness literature from authors such as Keats, Emerson, Thoreau, Muir, Dickinson, O'Keefe, and Whitman. Over 100 different pieces, including excerpts from journals and books, poems, proverbs, and Indian teachings, focused on nature and the outdoors, provide delightful island reading. Read to yourself and then read to a friend, this book is great company to have along in the outdoors.

Dorry Shaw