

May 1996



Southern Maine Sea - Kayaking Network Newsletter

OUT OVER THE WATER

It's that time of year when we have our Board of Directors elections. By the time you read this the elections will probably have already happened, which means I'll no longer be on the Board. That's because I feel very strongly that our organization grows stronger by having a steady supply of new talent, new ideas, and new faces, so I bowed out. The new folks on your Board will infuse the Network with their ideas of what's right for the Network. Because of that, I'm looking forward to an even better year in 1996 than the great one we had in 1995.

Before we charge off into the future, though, I'd like to acknowledge some special Network members for what they've done over the past year and continue to do into this year.

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.

Jon Swan has been active with the Network almost from its inception. He's handled our finances over the past two years, taken charge of ordering a new batch of t-shirts, headed the effort to rent waterfront houses on Deer Isle for the past two years, led a number of Network paddles (especially the "First Saturday of each month" trips), and kept the Network Newsline alive



and current. Overall, Jon has had a lead role in keeping the Network active and moving forward.

Lee Bumsted is a charter member and has had a strong hand in making the Network what it is today. Lee has been one of our Members-At-Large since our start. Lee can be counted on to do whatever it is that needs doing to make SMSKN work. Lee comes to all our meetings, she often will coordinate the meeting, she lugs our extensive lending library to each meeting, and she steps in to help whenever asked.

Wayland Linscott is one of our other Members-At-Large who pitches in to make sure that other members have plenty of paddling options. He organizes and runs the Sebago Lake picnic and practice session each year, he leads paddles on a variety of waters, and he volunteers for a number of other jobs as well.

Nikki Kayser is our newsletter editor. She regularly works miracles on short-notice. All of you that contribute to the newsletter have several months to put together your thoughts and ideas. We ask Nikki to put together everyone's work in a matter of days. Plus we want it edited. And spell-checked. Oh yes, and it's got to all fit together right and look great. Somehow Nikki makes it happen.

Mary Jo Armstrong has been our Recording Secretary over

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

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

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

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the past year. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors she has been the curator of the SMSKN photo library. She also leads trips for the Network, puts together other Network events, and volunteers to host pot-luck gatherings at her home. Mary Jo has been one of the spark plugs that has kept us being a Network rather than just a group of individuals that all happen to like kayaking.

Debra Nichols took charge of marketing and promotion over

the past year. A big part of why we've grown from 70 to almost 100 members can be attributed to Debra. If you see us listed in the Casco Bay Weekly, the Portland Press Herald, the Atlantic Coastal Kayaker, or any other publication, it's Debra's work. The business cards? Debra's work. Our new brochure? Debra's work. If you've joined us in the last few months, the odds are good that it's because Debra got our name out where you could see it.

The new Board of Directors will be looking for some of you to

lend a hand this year just as they and others did this past year. If they ask, please help. The Network can be a vibrant and active organization with the help of its members. What's more, I guarantee you'll enjoy being part of a group that keeps the Network moving.

I'm planning to be on the water more this year, now that I'm not president. I'll be looking for you at the SMSKN events. Look for me and we'll paddle together for a bit. I'd like to get to know you.

Bill

T-Shirts for Sale!

SMSKN is still offering for sale the second-generation T-shirts with the SMSKN logo on the front, this time in one color so as to make the silk-screen very light-weight. The shirts come in small, medium, large and extra-large, short sleeved. Available colors are pink, oatmeal, light blue, yellow, natural, honey, rosewood, stonewashed blue, and stonewashed green. The cost is \$12 per shirt and colors and sizes are limited so buy now while selection is good.

THE BOX

The Box is a resource for Network members. It consists of printed materials of interest to kayakers. These materials are currently filed in The Box under these categories: trips, equipment, newsletters/magazines, and miscellaneous. 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 America, 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, the brochures will stimulate your imagination as to where to go and what to do.

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 at RR #1 Box 518, Foster Point Road, West Bath, Maine 04530. Phone: 207-443-3623)

LIBRARY

SMSKN has a collection of 25 books, several newsletters and magazines, and an instructional video. All are available to check out for up to two months.

We have two recent additions. One is Paddling My Own Canoe, by Audrey Sutherland; thanks to Marcia Feller for the donation!

We also have a copy of the premier issue of Sea Paddler, an attractive publication from Great Britain.

For those of you who have overdue books, please return to Lee Bumsted no later than next meeting or call.

GUIDEBOOK

Lee Bumsted is writing a guidebook to accommodations along the Maine Coast that are particularly suitable for sea kayakers. She's looking for recommendations of your favorite spots. Guests should be able to launch boats in close proximity to the property. Please send your suggestions to Lee at 58 Goudy Street, So. Portland, ME 04106 or call. Sneak preview informational inquires are welcome as well.

What's Happening?

Call the Newsline 24 hours for updates 874-2648

Tuesday, May 21st — General meeting at Norumbega Outfitters, 58 Fore Street, Portland at 7:00 P.M. Jeff will be giving us a demo of all the new '96 paddling gear similar to what L.L. Bean did for us at our March meeting.

Saturday, May 25th-Monday, May 27th--Camping at Somes Sound on Mount Desert. Call Jon Swan.

Sunday, June 9th — General meeting at Jones Landing on Peaks Island. Meet at East End Beach in Portland; on the water and paddling at 10:30 AM; brunch at Jones Landing at about 12:00.

Saturday, June 15th - Saturday, June 29th — Waterfront house rentals on Deer Isle. There's only room for 14 SMSKN members, but there is a waitlist. The views are tremendous, the paddling is some of the best on the East Coast, and the houses are wonderful. Call either Jon Swan at 767-6139 or Bill Ridlon at 799-5161 for information. Cost is \$127. Contact Lee Bumsted soon if interested in renting an additional week.

Saturday, July 27th — Annual Crow Island (Muscongus Bay) cleanup. Join other Network members for our annual cleanup of our adopted island. The paddle over takes about 10 minutes, the cleanup takes about 30 minutes with everyone joining in, and the rest of the day is available for paddling in pretty Muscongus Bay. May be an overnight. For more information contact Lee Bumsted at 799-1855.

Friday, August 16th - Sunday, August 18th — Fifth annual Mooselookmeguntic trip. Camping on the northern end of Students Island. Great place to swim, practice rolls and enjoy fresh water.

Steve Winter is doing several joint sea kayak trips with the Maine AMC in June, July, and Aug. Contact Steve at 443-3623 if interested in the following.

Sat. June 8th is the first trip. We will be sea kayaking in mostly protected estuaries of Casco Bay. Launch in Brunswick @ Rt. 1 & New Meadows River. Paddle the upper New Meadows River toward Harpswell Sound. See the effects of tidal flow imbalances at Gurnet Strait. Approx. 9 miles.

Sat. July 13th is the next day trip. We will paddle the lower New Meadows River from Foster Point to Cundy's Harbor and the Basin.

August 3rd/4th is the last in the series. We will go on an overnight to a private island off of Hermit Island (North Casco Bay, Phippsburg) with excursions to Small Point and Small Point Harbor (maybe Ragged Island ...).

Jon Swan will lead a trip the first Sunday of each month! We will meet at Lookout Point in Harpswell. Go West on Lookout Pt. Rd. off Rt.123 out of Brunswick. You will see the Bed & Breakfast sign. Be on the water at 10:00 A.M. so you do not get left behind.

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 can be obtained from any of the Board members and should be sent after the event to: SMSKN, P.O. Box 4794, Portland, Maine 04112-4794.

**Geographic
Information
Database**

If you are thinking about visiting any of the locations mentioned here-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 Armstrong:
442-7450**

**Saco Bay
Joe Redshaw: 934-2568**

STILL PLANNING:

**Mount Desert Island overnight trip
A second Jewell Island day trip
A Jewell Island weekend trip
A Biddeford Pool day trip
An Isle-Au-Haut weekend**

**Web site for tide information
[http://www-ceob.nos.noaa.gov/
makepred.html](http://www-ceob.nos.noaa.gov/makepred.html)**

*The following article comes to us from
Jim through the internet.*

**The article on Rock'n'Roll 95 has some
24-bit jpeg images linked to it
if you iced-in northerners want to see
sand, sunshsine, blue skies and
people messing around in boats generally
having a good time.**

**The electronic version of the just released Issue 25 of the
'NSW Sea Kayaker', that erudite journal of poignant
commentary on our noble sport, is now available for
Internet kayakers. Point your WWW browser at
<http://155.187.10.12/jrc/kayak/newsletter.html>
or more specifically at
<http://155.187.10.12/jrc/kayak/ma/contents.html#NO25>**

The following are items from the Table of Contents:

**Editorial - Mark Pearson
Crossing Bass Strait - Gary Edmond
President' s Report - Dirk Stuber
Secretary/Treasurer's Report - Arunas Pilka
The things that matter (gear) - Jim Croft
Old Sea Dog's Gear Locker - Norm Sanders
Simon's Epic Adventure - Simon Stenhouse
Flotsam & Jetsam - Mark Pearson
We don't talk anymore! - Norm Sanders
Bad day at Tuross Bar - Mark Pearson
Rock' n'Roll 95 Postscript - Dave Winkworth
Workshop Review - Dave Winkworth
South Coast News - Mark Pearson
Internet News - Jim Croft
Wreck of the 'St Martin de Porres' - Dave Winkworth
Poets' Corner**

-jim