

October 1996



Southern Maine Sea -Kayaking Network Newsletter

Greetings. This is the first time that I have written this column since becoming president. That is because we decided not to send a summer newsletter. Instead, we sent out monthly calendars that were easier to keep current and allowed us to add events more frequently. I hope that you found the monthly mailings more useful. As president I hope that I can meet the expectations raised by our past two presidents: Barbara Carter and Bill Ridlon.

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.

I write this after spending more time than ever on network trips this season. I was able to do this due to the efforts of other members who stepped forward to organize a record number of trips.



I am grateful to those who led trips and also helped to get mailings together this past summer. Keep in mind that we still have scheduled trips for the rest of the fall. Check the "What's Happening" page.

Call the newsline for weather updates and possible additional trips!

I also want to send a special thanks to Norumbega Outfitters for

hosting many of our meetings. As you may have noticed from our calendars, they also opened up numerous free trips to the network.

I hope that the network is evolving to meet members' needs. The board of directors are all open to your ideas about new activities and services that the network can provide. Feel free to contact any of us to make suggestions. I hope to see you on upcoming trips and at our winter pot-lucks.

Jon Swan

Entries for Next Newsletter:

Debra Nichols will be the next editor. Please contact her for details.

(207) 985-4111

finelines@juno.com

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

Mooselookmeguntic Trip 1996

Again this year, the people of Mexico and Rumford endured the horde of boaters with long colorful kayaks (actually, ten of us) passing through their towns on the way to another delightful weekend at Mooselookmeguntic Lake. It's important to note that Mexico has an excellent roadside ice cream stand; we did quality checks on both our northbound and southbound journeys.

As in years gone by, people showed up at various times Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Club President Jon Swan wins this year's gear-hauling award, requiring two trips with his voluminous Dirigo to get everything over to Student's Island. (We belatedly assign last year's award to Judith Mulligan, whose kayak looked like something out of the Beverly Hillbillies.)

People enjoyed hiking the island, paddling on the lake, swimming, and sunbathing. We gathered Saturday evening for the traditional potluck supper. We sampled shrimp and fine wines (thanks, Bob), and a variety of main courses that would please any palate. After dinner, we relaxed even more with a campfire and toasted marshmallows. The rising moon inspired some of us to go for another paddle to listen to the loons and enjoy the night's stillness.

Sunday morning we packed up early and returned our camping equipment to the mainland. Then it was off to a sunny beach for rescue practice, sunbathing and more food (proof that armies and kayakers travel on their stomachs).

Mark your calendars now for next Labor Day weekend: we've reserved the same three campsites. Suggestions for items to bring next year: fire extinguishers for containing overzealous camp stoves; spare swim suits for other campers (not SMSKN members) who seem to forget theirs; and an inflatable barge to tow the kitchen sink.

by Mark Daniele and Lee Bumsted

Sea Kayaking in the warm weather of Southern Florida
Two room efficiency apartment for rent in Key Largo,
Florida. Inexpensive, great location, easy access to
The Keys, The Everglades, Key West, Miami,
and all parks and beaches in and near the Keys.

Call Jeff Langley for rates and availability.
(508)749-9011-Day
(617)279-9980- Night
email: jlangley@elmsquare.com

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

What's Happening?

Call the Newsline 24 hours for updates 874-2640

10/6, Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Norumbega is holding a fall foliage trip from Bethel Point near Cundy's Harbor. Call Norumbega at (207) 773-0910.

10/12, Saturday, 10:00 A.M. Paddle down the Saco River once again to explore its bends and connecting ponds. Call Jon to arrange car pooling and car shuttles. The route will start at the Route 302 bridge near Fryeburg and end at the Brownfield bridge. The colors should be really good this time of year. Contact Jon Swan at (207) 767-6139.

10/13, Sunday, 12:00 noon. Portsmouth Harbor from Pierces Island. We will explore Little Harbor and perhaps the outer harbor. Call Jon Swan at (207) 767-6139.

10/19, Saturday, 10:00 A.M. Upper Muscongus Bay paddle to Hungry Island and Ben's Island. Wetsuit or Drysuit highly recommended. Departure from Hockomock Point in Bremen, return at about 6:00 P.M. In the event of inclement weather, check the information line (207-874-2640) for cancellation information. For more information call Bill Ridlon at (207) 799-5161.

10/26, Saturday, 11:00 A.M. The annual Pumpkin Hunt at Fort Gorges is happening. Leave from East End Beach and picnic at the fort. We will probably continue the paddle from there. Call the Newsline for more information and weather updates. Any news will be posted by 8:00 A.M.

10/30, Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. General membership meeting at Norumbega Outfitters, 58 Fore Street in Portland. Bring your photos to show around. We hope to get ideas about trips for next year from the past year's pictures.

12/8, Sunday. Pot luck meeting at Mark Daniele's house. Call Mark at 865-9558 for details.

Winter Kayaking????

For those of us who get withdrawal symptoms if we do not get our boats wet on a regular basis and can not get to a reasonable climate, pool sessions could keep the skills learned this year from going stale over the long winter. Due to the cost of pool rental and the difficulty of reserving pools, the Network will defer to the outfitters that are already providing this service. For instance, Norgumbega is planning to start sessions after October. If interested, call Jeff and Steve or one of the other outfitters to get wet this winter with your boat.

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.

Sebago Lake Rescue Practices: What We Learned

This year SMSKN held two practice sessions in the comparatively warm waters of Sebago Lake. Between the two days 14 kayakers got together to practice solo and group rescues. I would like to thank Wayland for organizing these get togethers. He is also to be commended for his ability to stand in the water for hours and instruct us in these techniques.

The July session was the more informative because the lake cooperated and sent a bit of chop for us to play in, adding to the realism and the degree of difficulty. It was interesting to see how fast an inflated paddlefloat could travel in a strong breeze once separated from the kayaker in need. The fix for this was a tether tied to the rear deck to contain the elusive float. Of course there are paddlefloats on the market that have a strap to hold them to the paddle. If I were in the market for one, that is the style I would use. Also, fully inflating the bag on the paddle to increase the pressure makes it grab the paddle firmly. If it slips off, it could ruin your day.

At every practice session some people tried to roll, coming very close to success. Having watched these efforts and having read a few books on rolling, it seems that they would increase their odds for success if they would fit the boat to their hips with foam padding. This would allow the all important hip snap to do its job.

For those of you that missed practices this year, know that Sebago Lake is a great place to practice and have fun with your boat. If you do not get to Sebago, practice wherever you can. Halfway to Jewell Island is not the time to test your equipment or learn new skills.

By Mark Daniele

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

The Network has an extensive collection of books, magazines, and club newsletters for members to check out. We have several instructional manuals and a number of books on kayak building. You can borrow a rescue video, or read up on camp cooking, knot tying or

gear repair. We've even got a few armchair travel books for your offseason reading pleasure.

The newsletters and launch guide from the Metropolitan Association of Sea Kayakers (MASK) are new additions to the library. We have recently received copies of "Sea Kayaking, A Manual for Long-Distance Touring" by John Dowd. One copy was donated by Jim Vicenzi and the other by Jon Swan; thanks to you both! (Perhaps we will give away the autographed copy in an upcoming contest!) Library donations are a great way to share information with other members and give your already-read kayak books a new audience.

Library materials can be checked out at meetings or by contacting Lee Bumsted (799-1855). The loan period is two months, and members may check out up to three items.