
SOUTHERN MAINE SEA KAYAKING NETWORK NEWSLETTER



July 2001

SMSKN Celebrates 9th Anniversary!

August 4, 9:30 - 3:30

A special day is planned to celebrate SMSKN's 9th anniversary on August 4 at Winslow Park in Freeport from 9:30 to 3:30. There will be a number of paddling-related activities, games, and contests for paddlers to choose from, or you can just come to hang out with your kayaking friends. The activities, appealing to all levels, range from a quiet paddle, to rescue games, to water fights with bilge pumps.

Come early and sign up for the activities of your choice. There will be both calm and competitive things to do beginning at 10:00 a.m. sharp. Bring your own lunch and we can all eat together at noon and celebrate the success of the morning's contestants. We will have charcoal for those who want to grill their lunches. A different set of fun activities will be available in the afternoon beginning at 1:00 p.m., followed by recognition of contestants at 3:00 p.m.

continued on page 3

Surf Skills Presentation and Membership Meeting

August 16, 7 PM

Please join us at our next membership meeting on August 16th at 7 p.m.

We'll have a presentation by Ken Fink entitled: "**Surf—what it is and how to paddle it or survive it.**" Ken is a popular kayak symposium speaker and we're delighted that he's traveling down from Walpole to speak to our club. He has a wealth of paddling experience and he's a dynamic presenter. After Ken's talk, we'll plan some late summer and early fall paddling trips.

Directions and dinner: The Falmouth Memorial Library is located on Depot Road, 2/10 mile west of Route 1 beyond the Shops at Falmouth Village complex, which includes Ricetta's and Staples. If you'd like to get together for supper at Ricetta's before the meeting, please plan to arrive at the restaurant at 5:30 p.m. For additional information, call Bob Murray at 846-3997.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 President's Notes and Trip Planning Aid
- 3 Rescue Practice and Volunteer Spotlight
- 4 Calendar of Club Events
- 5 Membership Application



President's Notes

Bob Murray

We are well into the kayaking season and I would like to thank all the volunteers who have made it another successful one. Special thanks to Lee Bumsted (Secretary), Dorry Shaw (Treasurer), Kristen Woodberry, Laura Blutstein, Bob Collins, Berry Manter, Bill Ridlon (Membership Coordinator), and Bob Arledge (Website Manager). Your board has volunteered many hours of their time, and most importantly their ideas and energy, to make this another great year.

For the last two plus years I have had the enjoyable and rewarding experience of being your club president. I believe it is time for someone else to come forward and help lead our organization. Next season will be an exciting time with new opportunities to improve our communications, and with the explosive growth in kayaking we can increase membership growth. Elections are this fall so please consider being a club board member either as an officer or member at large. You can submit nominations for yourself or a friend to any of the board members.

Staying on the volunteer theme, we still have two months of kayaking left and would appreciate your assistance in organizing paddles and events. Think it as sharing a favorite paddle of yours with friends.

Trip Planning Aid

Bruce J. Howes

We all know the importance of consulting tide tables, weather forecasts and other guides before leaving on a trip. But do you know that the Casco Bay has its own weather station in the form of a buoy anchored offshore?

Thanks to NOAA Station 44007 you can obtain current data such as current wind speed and direction, water temperature, wave period and height, and even the barometer reading. In addition, the station's weather stats for the last 24 hours are recorded, allowing you to view the changing conditions! Information is updated each hour, or in the case of wind speed and direction, every 10 minutes.

The URL for the site is www.ndbc.noaa.gov/Maps/Northeast.shtml. From this site you can select the Portland buoy, 44007, or one of several other buoys close to your paddling area.

In case you left your computer home, try the "Dial a Buoy" service. By calling (228) 688-1948 on a touch-tone phone and following the voice prompts, you can obtain the same information over the telephone!

Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network Officers

President

Bob Murray 846-3997

Secretary

Lee Bumsted 799-1855

Treasurer

Dorry Shaw 798-7915

Members At Large

Laura Blutstein 775-4431

Bob Collins 985-4900

Berry Manter 773-0790

Kristen Woodberry 775-5480

Membership Chair

Bill Ridlon 799-5161

outdoors@gwi.net

Newsline

874-2640

SMSKN Website

www.smskn.org

Newsletter Editor

Bruce J. Howes 828-0248

bhowes@maine.rr.com

Submissions: We appreciate your articles, photos with a SASE, or in digital format. Thanks!

Mission Statement

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 promote safe and responsible practices and, at the same time, have fun!

SMSKN Celebrates 9th Anniversary -cont.

Our anniversary party is open to members, family, and friends. You won't want to miss any of the activities, so remember to bring your paddling gear. Winslow Park has easy water access and lots of room. High tide will be at 12:30 p.m. so there will be plenty of water. Picnic tables and grills are available.

Our anniversary party is open to members, family, and friends.

Directions: Winslow Park is located on the Staples Point Road in Freeport. Turn off Route 1 at the Big Indian onto South Freeport Road, then right onto Staples Point Road about 1 mile in.

There will be a \$1.50 per person park use fee that you'll pay at the entrance gate. Sunday, August 5 will be a rain date if the weather prevents the event from being held on Saturday. For any questions about postponing the party, check the event list on the web site or call Bob Collins at 985-4900.

Range Ponds Rescue Practice

Lee Bumsted

Twelve hardy souls braved sunny skies, warm water, and calm conditions at Range Ponds State Park on a recent Saturday. We kept falling out of our boats and getting back in, sometimes with assistance from a passing club member, sometimes all on our own.

Actually, it wasn't so bad as all that. We were falling out of perfectly good dry boats on purpose, to practice various means of reentering them. Some people worked on getting comfortable with their wet exits and paddle-float reentries, others worked together on group rescues, still others tried to develop the semblance of a roll. Mark Daniele (the brains behind the operation), Jon Cons, and others coached us on whatever rescues we had in mind, and even a few we hadn't considered, such as the "all in" scenario.

Some members of the group progressed from rescues to activities that might instead require rescues. Jon Swan and Jake Daniele showed off their standing-in-the-kayak skills, with Jake taking top honors by balancing on one leg. (Only an 11-year-old would think of trying this, and then be successful!)

Volunteer Spotlight on Bill Ridlon

Lee Bumsted

Back when the club started in 1992, updating the address list for our 25 members wasn't too tough. Organizing information on 230 members, such as their e-mail and postal addresses, their preferences for paddling midweek and in the winter, plus their renewal dates, is a different story. Our membership chair, Bill Ridlon, has been up to the task of keeping track of us all since the club's inception, and he is one of the unsung heroes of SMSKN.

As membership chair, Bill not only manages our database, he also prepares labels for postal mail and sends you all those great e-mail reminders of upcoming events. He sends renewal notices to current members and welcome letters to new members. He even graciously pitches in and helps get mailings out the door. Bill does this work behind the scenes; so most folks don't realize how big a role he plays in keeping our club running and our members informed of the latest club news.

Bill is not just our membership wizard, either. He leads trips up the Fore River for Level 1 paddlers, and expeditions to Monhegan for the hardy. He ably served on the board of directors as our first treasurer, our second president, and later as a member-at-large.

Why not shake his hand and say, "Thanks, Bill," next time you see him?

