
SOUTHERN MAINE SEA KAYAKING NETWORK NEWSLETTER



November 2001

A Note Of Thanks

Bob Murray

It has been a rewarding experience to have been your club president for the last two plus years. During that time I've enjoyed the friendship and support of our board. They have, through their willingness to donate their time, skill, and enthusiasm, made my role as president very satisfying. Together we have implemented some positive changes in the club and have had very full calendars of trips, guest speakers, and training sessions.

I am also grateful to you, our members, for participating in events, leading trips, and for your overall support. I plan to remain active in the club and to participate and help with future events.

I am very pleased that Bob Arledge has been elected to be our new president. He along with an excellent board will be in a great position to grow our club. My best wishes to them all in the coming year. We have two new members—at-large, Dameron Midgette and Jim Vicenzi, joining returning board members Berry Manter, Bob Collins, Dorry Shaw, and Lee Bumstead.

Kayak Repair Demonstration and Membership Meeting

November 13, 2001 at 7 PM in Freeport

Come learn about kayak repair from a pro!

Sandy Martin, owner of Lincoln Canoe and Kayak, will show us techniques for repairing fiberglass kayaks. The demonstration will be at his retail and manufacturing facility on Route 1 in Freeport. We'll also have a short membership meeting.

Directions to Lincoln Canoe and Kayak: From Interstate 95, take Exit 19, the Desert Road exit. Follow Route 1 north less than 1/2 mile. You will see Lincoln Canoe and Kayak on your right, and then the Blue Onion Restaurant.

Turn right immediately after the restaurant onto Varney Street, and then turn right into Sandy's driveway.

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President's Notes

Bob Arledge

Well the Supreme Court has turned down my last appeal for a recount, so I guess I'm the new SMSKN president. First I would like to thank all of you who did not vote for me and assure all of you who did vote for me that I will eventually get over it. I feel that I have a mandate from the membership, having received the votes of nearly 18% of the members. The doctrine of my administration will be to spend as much time on the water as possible and to do as little harm as possible.

Bob Murray is going to be a tough act to follow. He has provided the club with a professional management style and a calm friendly presence at meetings that I am afraid will be sorely missed. Luckily, however, we have some thoroughly competent and dedicated people that have been keeping SMSKN going smoothly for the past decade and are going to continue to do so.

Dorry Shaw, as treasurer, will continue to look after the money as she has been doing for years. We may not have a lot of money, but by keeping the size of the transactions small we can increase the number of transactions thereby simulating the workload required of the controller of a much larger organization.

Lee Burnsted, a past president of SMSKN, succeeded me as secretary last year. She instituted several innovations. For example, she takes notes at the board meetings, types them up and distributes them to the board members. I will say that I had thought of doing this when I was secretary, but couldn't figure out how to do it without either setting down my wine glass or running the risk of spilling the wine, so I gave up on the idea. Lee also lines up speakers for club meetings, organizes events and volunteers for many other tasks that wear me out just thinking about. Lee will continue to serve as secretary in the upcoming year.

Bill Ridlon has been the membership chairman since time out of mind. I don't want to make too much of this because it can only make the rest of us look like slackers in comparison. Bill takes in all of the new and renewal membership forms, maintains the club database and handles the e-mail and snail-mail communications with the members. He is kind of like Scotty on the Enterprise; he runs SMSKN's engine room and keeps the operations moving.

Bruce Howes is SMSKN's Perry White; he is editor-in-chief of the SMSKN newsletter, and does another in the list of thankless jobs the club has to offer. People get paid a lot of money for doing this type of work in the real world.

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Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network Officers

President

Bob Arledge 422-9730

Secretary

Lee Burnsted 799-1855

Treasurer

Dorry Shaw 798-7915

Members At Large

Bob Collins 985-4900

Berry Manter 773-0790

Dameron Midgette 729-7270

Jim Vicenzi 846-1057

Membership Chairman

Bill Ridlon 799-5161

outdoors@gwi.net

SMSKN Website

www.smskn.org

Newsletter Editor

Bruce J. Howes 828-0248

bhowes@maine.rr.com

Submissions: We appreciate your articles and 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!

Presidents Notes –Cont.

Mark Daniele has been SMSKN's *ex officio* dean of education. He organized the Greenland style paddling class, the paddling strokes clinic, the rescue practice at Range Pond and three rescue practice pool sessions. This is in addition to organizing the Mooselookmeguntic weekend and leading paddles. If Mark will continue to let us abuse his willingness to take on the events that require a lot of work and organization I will promise to take on some of the ones that do not.

Berry Manter is returning as a member-at-large. Berry has operated the phone line and answering machine and has been working on a fundraising campaign for the club. She has also started a campaign of her own to encourage paddlers to put blaze orange tape on their paddle blades to help make them more visible.

Bob Collins is returning as a member-at-large. Bob organized the "Kayak Muster" this summer and led a number of trips.

We have two new board members, Dameron Midgette and Jim Vicenzi, which is nice. But we are losing Kristen Woodberry and Laura Blutstein, which is not. In addition to working on various tasks, Kristen and Laura helped make the board meetings fun. They will be missed, but it is only fair to let someone else have a turn in the barrel. Welcome aboard Dameron and Jim.

Finally I want to welcome all of the SMSKN members to another season of paddling. If anyone has any ideas of things to do or places to go, or more importantly, wants to organize an event or lead a paddle, don't be shy, step forward, it is your club. And just as important, get out on the water, that is what it is all about.

Bob Arledge

bob@arledge.cc

Telephone Newsline Update

Lee Bumsted

Soon after we started SMSKN back in 1992, we established a telephone newsline. Its purpose was twofold. The answering machine provided members with a recording about upcoming events, and it provided an easy way for prospective members to leave us a message requesting information about the club.

These days we're finding that many members are using our web site instead of the newsline for event listings. The web site's dynamic nature allows trip coordinators to add their own trips, and include much more detail than we could put on the telephone newsline. People looking for a local paddling club are starting to find us via our web site.

The telephone line costs the club about \$24 each month. We'd like to let our web site take over the functions of the newsline, so we can save that expense.

We plan to establish a few e-mail addresses, so prospective members can get in touch with us about membership or other questions. We will print up new business cards with our web address in place of our phone number, for those of you who like to hand out the cards to paddlers interested in SMSKN.

We'll still have our post office box; so prospective members without web access can contact us using postal mail. And we'll continue to mail out hardcopy event lists and meeting notices to members without e-mail.

We'd like to terminate the phone line at the end of this year. We are interested in your comments in favor or in opposition before we do so. Please call or e-mail any of the board members with your thoughts.

Kick Off the Holidays with a Kayak Club Potluck

Date: Friday, December 7

Time: 5:30 PM – til we're tired – it's the weekend.

Location: Marcia Feller and Bob Murray's home on Cousins Island

39 Ashland Avenue

Phone: 846-3997

RSVP: mfeller@maine.rr.com or call 846-3997

Join us for our annual winter potluck –this year just in time to get you into the holiday spirit.

Bring your favorite main course item, or salad or dessert. It's the holidays so if we end up with one salad and 20 desserts we will manage. We always do.

Please bring a beverage to share as well.

Directions:

Follow route 88 (coming from the north or south)

Look for the blue signs to Cousins Island

Go over the bridge

About 8/10 of a mile from the Cousins side of the bridge you will notice a community center and Chapel on your left –

Our road – Ashland Avenue is on your right.

Turn right onto Ashland and then we are the fifth house on the right.

It's number 39 Ashland – a gray house with a white lattice carport

PS – the Cousins Island Road is 25mph – take is seriously – unfortunately many friends have found out the hard way.

Special Acknowledgement

Bob Murray

Many people have made this past year a great one. I would like to acknowledge at least a few who have been club officers and/or led a trip or event during the year. Our system for capturing who has led events is not perfect so I apologize in advance to anyone I've missed.

- Bob Arledge
- Lee Bumsted
- Dorry Shaw
- Bob Collins
- Berry Manter
- Kristen Woodberry
- Laura Blutstein
- Bill Ridlon
- Mark Daniele
- Bruce Howes
- Bob Murray
- Ray Houlihan
- David Lay
- Ken Friedman
- Mike Marino
- Sandy Martin
- Jon Swan
- Erin Avalone
- Diana Brown
- Howard Kessler
- Scott Lowicki
- Alice McKenna
- Lyn Suggs
- Carolyn Welsh
- Small David