



SOUTHERN MAINE SEA KAYAKING NETWORK

March 2005

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, to have fun.

Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network
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Officers

Michael Charek	President
Chick Carroll	Treasurer
Jayne Engel	Secretary
Sandra Hodge	Board Member at Large
Sarah Knock	Board Member at Large
Reed Markley	Board Member at Large
Anne Weigel	Board Member at Large

Newsletter Editor

David Lay

Membership Committee

Reed Markley	Chairman, Database Mgr.
Susan Payne	
David Lay	

Librarian

Lee Bumstead

President's Notes

Mike Charek

The winter this year seems more endless than usual, doesn't it? We have a few programs lined up to make the waiting for warmer weather a little more bearable. This month, on March 17, Chick Carroll will be teaching us how to tie a few "Indispensable Knots for Kayakers." Knowing how to tie the right knot for the situation can sometimes be a life-saver, or at least make life a little easier.

April 21 is our Trip Planning meeting. Please come with your ideas for trips you'd like to take, and perhaps organize, for this season. We want to fill the calendar so we all have plenty of opportunities to paddle in good company.

May 19 will bring David Lay and Dennis Leiner to show us what kinds of gear they bring with them in their boats. A great chance to see what other people paddle with, and why.

On June 16 the Maine Island Trail Association will be coming to talk to us about their organization and what they do, and more generally about public access to Maine Islands.

Backing up a bit, we have scheduled Pool Sessions for April 2, 9, 16, and 23, at the Bath YMCA. On those four Saturdays from noon - 2:00 pm up to 12 SMSKN members can bring their boats into the pool to try out those rescues they've heard about, polish their roll, or just get wet. It only costs \$20.00. Sign up with David Lay (drlay@gte.net 829-4747).

Backing up a bit more, on Saturday, March 26th, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Cape Elizabeth Fire Station, you can attend the third annual Cape Elizabeth Kayak Safety Seminar sponsored by the Cape Elizabeth W.E.T. (water extrication team), in collaboration with Maine Mountain Works, Maine Island Kayak Co., Seaspray Kayaking, the US Coast Guard, and EMS. The event will be held at the Cape Elizabeth Fire Station (Rte 77, on right hand side just before the Pond Cove Shopping Center). Observe pool demonstrations on bracing, safety and rescue techniques; attend lectures/discussions on small boat safety, trip planning, weather, tides and currents, GPS use for kayaks; gain greater insight into hypothermia, safety equipment and kayak design. This event is free - just show up at the C.E. Fire Station by 5:30 and join in the fun.



So, until it warms up enough to go paddling, we'll have a few things to keep us busy!

As always, if you have ideas or suggestions for the Board, let me know at president@smskn.org or call me at 761-0556.

Library Stuff

Attention all book lovers and bargain hunters: book sale and magazine giveaway. Would you like to add to your personal kayaking library for very little money? Would you like to help generate funds for new additions to the SMSKN library? At the March 17th meeting, we will have a selection of titles from the SMSKN library available for sale; see the list below. These books are duplicates or ones that are checked out infrequently, so we'd like to find them new homes. We'll also have lots of FREE back issues of Sea Kayaker and Atlantic Coastal Kayaker up for grabs.

The sale will be conducted as a silent auction, with \$1 minimum bids and subsequent bids in \$1 increments. Please bring cash in small, unmarked bills to this event, to reduce the need to make change. For those who cannot attend the meeting, but who would really like to join the bidding, here's the deal: you can e-mail the club librarian, Lee Bumsted, with your bid(s) before 9 p.m. on March 16. Her e-mail address is LBumsted@cs.com. For e-mail bids, the minimum bid is \$3 and there will be a \$3 shipping and handling fee per book. Keep in mind that someone present at the meeting may outbid you, so bid accordingly!

Just to remind members, we do have a library of books which the club has collected and which you, as members, can borrow. Lee usually brings a selection to the meetings, but if you would like more information about what is available, please contact her.

Pool Sessions

Pool sessions are again scheduled for April. If there is interest, we will hold up to four events, one each on the first four Saturday of the month at Noon. This is your chance to practice water safety and rescues in a controlled situation early in the season, so take advantage. Get together with other members and practice your rescue skills or rolls. The shared rent cost per participant is \$20. See additional

information below in the Events List. Call or email David Lay soon to sign up.



A Trip Along the Georgia Coast

Chick Carroll

In early December of 2000, Ann and I were in Georgia to keep a long standing date to paddle the entire coast of Georgia. I had guided several Maine trips for Sea Kayak Georgia, and on those trips Dale Williams and Debbie Kearney, the owners of the company invited us to sample their paddling waters in Georgia. We had hoped to do the entire coast, but only a couple of paddlers did the entire 110 miles; Ann did about 70 miles of it, while I had to take out before completion to meet other commitments.

As it was December and chilly, we decided to take the inside route, which uses portions of the Intracoastal Waterway. The best place to put in is not far from Savannah, at Little Tybee Island; there is public camping there. A day's paddle from there stops at Ossobaw Island and on the second night at St. Catherines. The third night would be spent on Sapelo, a fascinating island where, I think, the Congress set aside land for former slaves, after the Civil War. The Gullah dialect is still spoken there. Ann and I joined the group there, and were fortunate to be able to spend the night there at Hog Hammock, with friends of Dale and Debbie. We were introduced there to a Low Country boil, a slow simmering concoction of veg and whatever else, which I liked a lot. Ann, who is vegetarian, liked the vegetables, but recoiled at the "whatever else".

The next night we camped on a hammock along the way, behind Little St. Simon's Island. A gray and chilly night. But, as is often the case there, the next day was splendid. At the end of that day, Dale arrived to pick Debby and me up, but Ann, Steve, and Marlin were able to carry on, camping that night on Jeckyl Island. A final day's trip put them into the warmth of the south, on Cumberland Island, which all by itself is worth the every mile of paddling. After camping there, they paddled next morning to St Mary's, Georgia- almost into Florida- where I picked them up.

In another season, I am told that a route that goes outside the island is the way to go, still camping along the way. This route would entail surf landings, depending on conditions. The inside route is scenic and, of course, better protected in bad weather, but tides are an issue. The Georgia coast gets tides of up to 9 feet, and since the tidal passages are frequently narrow, the tidal currents can be very strong.

Impossible to paddle against; so one has to plan to work with them.

We were very fortunate to be with Dale and Debby who have permission for a number of non-public camping spots; if there is a drawback to this trip, it is the lack of good, publicly available camp sites. We in Maine are spoiled by the number of public and MITA islands, with the camping they offer.

Notwithstanding that, the Georgia coast is, to us, the best preserved coastline south of Maine, and makes a wonderful spring or fall trip. If a group went together, our friends at Sea Kayak Georgia could probably put together a package for the group that would take the worry out of the camping shortage.

(I do not remember all the details of this trip, as we made it in 2000. If you'd like more information than I can give, contact Dale Williams, a friend, a paddler who loves Maine, and who owns Sea Kayak Georgia in Tybee Island Georgia, at 1-888 529-2542, or email at seakayakga@aol.com. They also have a nice website at www.seakayakgeorgia.com)

Return To Matinicus

Chuck Jones

In late August of 2004, the "Matinicus Two" decided, again, to venture eastward, against lots of sound advice offered at home. At age 52, Bob Porter was highly motivated knowing that he might not have many years of strong paddling remaining. The fact that his paddling partner was 75 and still recovering from prostate surgery was only a minor distraction.

The weather report the third week of August was promising. Little rain or fog were predicted Tuesday through Thursday.

We decided to take two single kayaks and not the Pygmy double that Chuck had prepared. Our stroke styles were different and synchronized paddling might prove tough.

The town hall ladies in Tenents Harbor kindly provided parking for our two vehicles and we launched our boats about 12:00 Noon on Tuesday after having come north from Auburn, Maine.

Shortly after leaving the harbor, we realized we were fighting a strong foul tide/current that we had not considered. The lobster pot buoys were vibrating in a two-three knot current and some wind, both trying to push us north of our course. Bob, leading the parade as we struggled on, began correcting our course toward Little Green Island. Further south, Metinic Island was visible on our right. It seemed to be moving off shore with us as our

progress was so slow. The approximate ten mile distance to Little Green took us about three hours of hard paddling. We took a brief rest on a rocky beach and began to worry about getting to Matinicus before dark!

We went finally from the north side of Large Green to the south end of Matinicus. The adverse tide and light wind plagued us until we went up the east coast of Matinicus to the harbor which is close to the north end. It was about 6:00 PM and we beat the sunset. However, we were exhausted.

After a restful night at Bill Hoadley's Tuckaneck Lodge, things improved. Wednesday morning Bob had recovered enough to paddle to Matinicus Rock and to Criehaven. I chose some walking therapy to the post office, Markly Beach (north end), and to the airstrip. My kayak also seemed happy to rest on the path by the post office and harbor.

Thursday morning we headed out for the north end of Matinicus and from there to the north end of Little Green Island. We were about to land on its rocky beach when a "hostile native" came up in his lobster boat and said: "Private property! No landing! Etc., etc., etc.... Go to Little Green." This was not our first encounter with this hostile clan. We did go on to the Messy Stone Beach on Little Green Island and had a humble lunch.

The second leg of the return trip from Little Green to Tenants Harbor gave us some rolling seas and head winds toward the end, but not like on the trip out.

We retrieved our vehicles from the town hall, loaded up, and headed for Moody's Diner in Waldoboro. As we later came out of Moody's, a young couple from Bar Harbor was inspecting my Pygmy "H.P." (High Performance) in its rack on my truck. They were building an "H.P." like mine at their home! They told us that they hope to start a kayak-outfitters venture by next year. We wished them well and told them to visit Matinicus some time!

I told Bob at the end of our trip that Monhegan Island might be on my "maybe list" next year, but that Matinicus was now on my "fly out only" list, if at all, interesting as it may be. It is like a siren, luring some ancient paddlers to watery graves. This year, I escaped.

Upcoming Events

3/17/2005 Thursday Membership Meeting

March Membership Meeting. Chick Carroll, experienced sailor as well as sea kayaker, will be giving us instruction and hands-on training in "Indispensable Knots for Kayakers". The right knot for a given situation is easy to