



SMSKN Tide Race Newsletter

January / February 2023



Welcome 2023 and the new SMSKN Tide Race Newsletter!

I once read that "a piece of work is never complete, it just stops in interesting places!" And, so, after much designing, writing, editing, feedback, and many re-edits, here is our first issue of the Tide Race, our new SMSKN Newsletter!

The 2023 season is off to a great start with the launching of the Tide Race and several completed trips in January including post-Christmas camping on Jewell ([See Trip Report!](#)), a gentle paddle around the Goslings, some surfing off Reid State Park, and back to Jewell for skiing! (We've even had our first "incident" regarding missed communications during a Small Craft Advisory!) Crazy...

This is an active club with a lot of love for our sport of ocean kayaking and exploring the Maine coast. Let's jump into our first issue and get things rolling! Please, please, please - let us know what you think! And, we are eager for volunteers to help provide content. More on that in a moment...



Sections

- Newsletter Introduction
- Feature: [Winter Kayaking Tips and Tricks](#)
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- Member Profile: [Vytas Marciulionis](#)
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- Events: Skills - Pool sessions are here!
- Oldies but Goodies - [Previous presentations for today!](#)
- Call for help with ideas and content for newsletter!

Reintroducing the SMSKN Newsletter

From the Editor: Joe Herlihy (joe.herlihy@gmail.com)

While preparing this first edition of the [Tide Race](#), Nananda Col provided us with a large bundle of past SMSKN newsletters published between 2000 and 2010 that have been a great resource! We hope to get them loaded to the smskn.net website so members can review them for past articles, trip reports, general kayak knowledge and stories that are as relevant and interesting today as they were when first written.

It was interesting to see past newsletters used as the main means of announcing trips, before we became spoiled by services like Meetup! However, the result was interesting with more detailed explanations of pending trips *and* more extensive trips including multi-day camping adventures to various places all along the Maine coast. We have not seen as many of those types of trips through SMSKN over the past couple of years, so perhaps these earlier newsletters might inspire us for 2023. We have loaded a bunch of our [past newsletters to our SMSKN.net site](#) for your viewing pleasure!

Another interesting observation is how much technology and social media have changed how we interact with content. Whereas past newsletters were multi-page documents with the full-text of articles and other content, the [Tide Race](#) will serve instead as a jumping off point to bring people to the smskn.net website where they can see all our [articles](#) and other content, which we hope to mature and grow over time.

We hope the [Tide Race](#) newsletter serves to inspire, motivate, educate, and inform our entire community as we embark on another amazing year of paddling the Maine coast. Please feel free to reach to us with ideas and suggestions. And, as always, we are looking for member volunteers to help provide content such as trip reports, etc!



Winter Paddling - Tips and Tricks

The Maine coast in winter is a magical place and easily accessible to those willing to plan ahead and anticipate some of the common challenges. Read this blog post to learn more about how SMSKN members address these challenges and gain access to a rare and special experience.

[Link to article](#)

Also, see this past SMSKN [presentation](#) on cold water safety by Moulton Avery, the founder and director of the [National Center for Cold Water Safety](#).



Trip Report: Winter Camping on Jewell Island

Four SMSKN members undertook a post-Christmas camping trip to Jewell Island to test out some new boats and gear while enjoying the beauty of Casco Bay in winter.

[Link to Trip Report](#)

Also, take a walk down memory lane with trip reports culled from earlier SMSKN newsletters.

[Link to Trip Report listing page](#)



Member Profile: Vytas ("Vick") Marciulionis

The first time I met Vytas was at an early morning SMSKN Meetup launching from East End Beach. He had camped out the night before on Jewel, paddled all the way back to Portland, and was ready to head out again to loop Peaks.

That's Vytas. As one member said, "When you paddle with a guy who grew up playing in burned out Russian tanks, you know you're in for a different experience!" (or something like that...)

[Link to interview](#)



Are you getting your SMSKN Comms??

SMSKN uses the Meetup messaging features as the primary way for our members with each other for everything including trip announcements, member-to-member coordination, equipment / boats for sale, etc.

HOWEVER! Your Meetup profile must be correctly configured to allow this function!

Is your Meetup profile configured to allow this function?

Take a moment to check your Meetup settings by following the [guidance outlined on the SMSKN website here](#).



Events: Pool Sessions!

Anxious to get a jump on your skills for the 2023 season, but not quite ready for winter paddling? Try one of SMSKN's sponsored pool sessions in either Portland or Bath.

Portland Sessions on the following Sundays from 2 - 4 PM:

- 2/12, 2/19, AND 3/19

Bath Sessions on the following Sundays from 3 - 4 PM:

- 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30

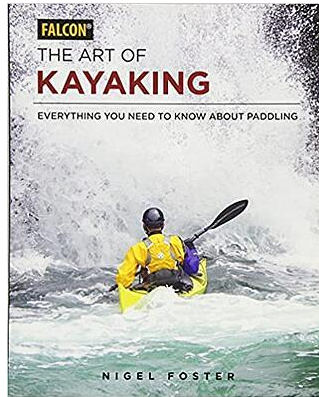
Be on the watch for notifications coming from [Meetup!](#) (After you get your [settings correctly configured!!](#))



Oldies but Goodies ...

We've had some great presentations in the past covering a range of topics to get us ready for the next kayak season. Here are links to some past presentations that are worth reviewing again!

- [Guidelines for Event Organizers](#) (We need you!)
 - [10 Easy Trips in Casco Bay](#)
 - [Traversing the Coast of Maine!](#)
 - [Paddling Etiquette!](#)
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What we're reading

[The Art of Kayaking](#), by Nigel Foster

Everyone has their own favorite book that got them started. But, this one should be in everyone's library as a first place to go for virtually everything related to ocean kayaking.

[Purchase from Sherman's](#), a Maine owned bookstore!

(Also, see the list of materials available to borrow from [SMSKN's Lending Library](#).)



Boat, Gear, & Book Locker!

While we may have different opinions about particular kayak gear, we can certainly all agree on one thing!

We LOVE OUR GEAR!

SMSKN has some great resources for members and a new idea we will try in 2023 depending on the response we get.

1. **Loaner Gear**: SMSKN currently has helmets and several other small items for use by members. If you'd like access to any of this, please contact John Haile (john.h.haile@gmail.com). This is particularly helpful if you are new to kayaking and are interested in trying some of our more adventurous outings such as rock garden play or surfing.

2. **Swap-Tub**: SMSKN also has, literally, a big plastic tub of free stuff that folks don't need anymore that might be of interest to others. Keep an eye out for it at in-person events.

3. **SMSKN Lending Library**: We have a pretty decent library of books, magazine, videos, and other materials that you can check out to take home to read / view. ([Library link](#))

4. NEW for 2023! **Boat / Gear Exchange**: Do you have a boat or gear that you're trying to sell? Or, are you looking for a boat / gear and want to get the word out? Our intent is to create a "bulletin board" on the smskn.net website for folks to make these announcement. Please contact joe.herlihy@gmail.com with items you'd like to see listed.

(Disclaimer: SMSKN does not involve itself directly with ANY transactions between members. This is just to help members get the word out.)



We need your help making this work!

We plan on publishing the Tide Race newsletter every two-months or so and need your help and ideas to make it work.

Looking for a gentle way to become more actively engaged in the club and share your love for the sport? Perhaps an idea for an article, trip report book / article summary?

Let us know. Contact joe.herlihy@gmail.com



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