

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

July, 2016 - Volume 24, Issue 7

www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



Calendar for July, 2016

Sun	Monday	Tues.	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Safety Harbor Fireworks, Evening Paddle, Level I 7:30pm					Back Side of Weedon Island Level I 9am Mere Mortals Paddling Race, Live Oak
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Club Meeting Bill Jackson's Pinellas Park 7pm		Fred Howard, Tarpon Springs Level III 8:30am			TBSK Picnic - Anglote River Park Holiday, FL 8:30 & 9am Dolphin Paddlesports Kayak Demo Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			Rainbow River Dunellon Level II 9:30am			Florida Gulf Coast Paddling Championship, Pensacola
24 & 31st	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Frog Creek Nature Theme Terra Ceiga 9am, Level I			

Trips & events indicated by this symbol are led by TBSK members.

Training for Assisting a Rescue at July 16th Paddle Picnic!

Join us to learn about Bird Sanctuaries at our club meeting on July 11th!

One wonderful thing about Florida's coastal kayaking are the birds you can see, such as the reddish egret, the rarest species of heron in North America. The beaches in the St Pete/Clearwater area are one of the few spots in SW Florida where beach-nesting birds can nest. How can we share the beaches and islands responsibly? Are any area birds imperiled? At our July meeting, we will learn about how Audubon helps the birds of our coast survive.

- ⇒ August 8 -- Darry Jackson from Bill Jackson's on Kayak Camping
- ⇒ Sept 12 - Watertribe Everglades Challenge (Andy, Mary, & Keith)

We're always looking for speakers for our meetings. Send suggestions to Therese Eby (thereseby@gmail.com.)



Trip & Event Schedule

Club Trips



Date	Paddle Difficulty	Description
Monday July 4 7:30pm	Level I, Night Paddle Distance: Under 5 miles.	Night Fireworks Paddle - Safety Harbor <i>For control purposes, the paddle is limited to 7 people. For those who register I will send a Google map to the launch point</i> Meet at a small park next to Cooper's Bayou, off Bayshore Blvd (0.5 miles north of where Drew St. dead ends into Bayshore) at 7 p.m. (sunset is 8:30 p.m.) We will paddle out from Cooper's Bayou about 7:30 p.m. for a short paddle. The fireworks should start at 9 p.m. Because this is a night paddle, you must bring a white light in addition to your usual safety gear. Head lamps work best for packing your gear in the dark when we return. Don't forget your bug spray. Contact: Hank Brooks jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com
Sat July 9 9am	Level I Distance Approx 5 miles	Back Side of Weedon Island - Saint Petersburg Meet at 9 a.m. to launch from the Pinellas side of Gandy Bridge at 9:30AM for a paddle south toward Weedon Island and into some of the mangrove area. We'll be close to shore most but not all of the time. We'll paddle about 3 hours at a leisurely pace with a stop midway for lunch and maybe a quick swim. Location may be changed if required by weather conditions. Please RSVP. Contact: Al Tillson (altillson@yahoo.com or 813-832-3961)
Monday July 11 7pm Jackson's Shop for Adventure Pinellas Park		<p>One wonderful thing about Florida's coastal kayaking are the birds you can see, such as the reddish egret, the rarest species of heron in North America. The beaches in the St Pete/Clearwater area are one of the few spots in SW Florida where beach-nesting birds can nest. How can we share the beaches and islands responsibly? Are any area birds imperiled? At our July meeting, we will learn about how Audubon helps the birds of our coast survive.</p> <p>Ann Paul, Regional Coordinator for Audubon Florida, will talk about the Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries. She will concentrate on the bird habitat islands in estuaries in Tampa and Sarasota bays, Clearwater Harbor, and St. Joseph Sound. She will share the efforts that Sanctuary staff undertake to manage these islands, describe the birds that use them, and outline the conservation of these species and the habitats that support them.</p> <p>Ann Paul has worked for Audubon's Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries (FCIS) since 1991 and is the Tampa Bay Regional Coordinator. She received a BS degree in Biology from Cornell and an MS in Biology from Trinity University in Texas. She has worked for the Texas Nature Conservancy as Assistant Land Steward and Hillsborough County Parks managing conservation lands. Ms. Paul is an expert in waterbird populations and management of coastal habitats for wildlife and an active participant in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Reddish Egret, American Oyster-catcher, and Wood Stork Working Groups. She currently serves on the board of the Tampa Bay Conservancy and is past president of the Tampa Audubon Society.</p>
July 13 Wed 8:30am	Level III Distance: 10+ miles on open water	Fred Howard Park to Anclote Key - Tarpon Springs Meet at Fred Howard Park beach (Tarpon Springs) at 8:30 a.m. for a 9:00 launch to paddle to Gulf side of Anclote Key - about 10 miles open water. We'll plan to stop at the carry-over for lunch/snack and some practice time before returning by 1:30. Must RSVP so you can be notified if plans change. Boats 14 feet or longer with water-tight bulkheads, spray skirts. Bring plenty of water (sports drinks are better), hat, sunscreen. Contact: Phil Sheesley philshesley@hotmail.com 813-695-7395

TIPS FOR REGISTERING FOR A TRIP FROM OUR WEBSITE: tbsk.club

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- If you get frustrated, you can email the trip leader directly. All email address can be found under "Member Directory"
- Notify the Web Master, Bill Biles, if you continue to have problems (see last page of newsletter or "Member Directory")



Trip & Event Schedule

Club Trips



Date	Paddle Difficulty	Description
Sat July 16 8:30 & 9am	All Levels Distance: L1: ~5 mi LII/III: ~11 mi	<p>Club Picnic— Anclote River Park (just north of Tarpon Springs)</p> <p>The main courses will be provided by the club, and members should bring a side dish to share. All paddlers bring water, hat, sunscreen, and wear pdf at all times. If the weather looks iffy, check our web site (www.tbsk.club) to see whether the picnic will be cancelled. (We'll send an email too, but we know sometimes emails can get delayed.) Activities coordinators: Keith & Paula Fowler red68tr250@gmail.com. Contact Trip Leader in advance to let them know you're coming.</p> <p>Location: Anclote River park just north of Tarpon Springs. Drive to the shelters along the river and look for the cars with kayak racks. Remember to bring a dish to share.</p> <p>Please RSVP: Skills Training. July's training theme is "assisted rescues". Assisted rescues should be on every member's list of skills. If you are a beginner, intermediate, or advanced kayaker, and you don't feel confident with your assisted rescues, it is highly suggested you attend the July 16 class. These skills may make the difference between a wonderful paddling day and one where a friend is lost. Eileen Burns and Tom Sobocinski will be teaching these skills at the picnic for one and one half hours. The training will be followed by a one hour paddle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level I Paddle: Meet at 9am. Gary Bernier/Phil Sheesley philshesley@hotmail.com • Level II - Intermediate Paddle - tbd. Meet at 8:30am • Level III - Advanced Paddle - tbd. Meet at 8:30am. John Marek jmarek1@tampabay.rr.co
Wed July 20 9:30 am	Level II Distance ~13 miles, half against current	<p>Rainbow River Springs - Dunnellon</p> <p>Meet at the Dunnellon city boat ramp on the Withlacoochee River at 9:30 A.M. for a 10:00 A.M. launch. We will paddle upstream to the Rainbow River springs, have lunch at the canoe landing, and return. Total Distance about 13 miles, half against the moderate current. RSVP required. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, and a hat. No inflatable PFDs please. Also no disposable bottles, plastic bags or snack bags per county rules. Contact me for directions.</p> <p>Contact: Eileen Burns ebbtide.171.337@gmail.com 727-565-1037</p>
Wed July 27 9am	Level I Distance: Just a couple miles	<p>Nature Themed Paddle - Frog Creek, Terra Ceia</p> <p>:Meet at the Terra Ceiga Aquatic Preserve, 130 77th Street East, Terra Ceia, FL 34250 (Near Palmeto in Manatee County) at 9 a.m. In our recent member survey, some of you said that you would like some different, themed paddles which give you a opportunity to explore nature at a more leisurely pace. This paddle is led by two Florida Master Naturalists with Cynthia having 12 years experience leading eco-paddles in the Florida Keys. Besides exploring Frog Creek, the master naturalists will point our interesting flora and fauna along the creek. If interested in coming, contact Hank for explicit directions.</p> <p>Contact: Hank Brooks jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com or Cynthia McGregor sailingcyn@gmail.com</p>

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Events

Kayak Camping for TBSK Members

Many of our TBSK members are interested in camping, especially from a kayak. If you are interested in camping, please make sure to let Gary Bernier gwbernier@gmail.com know. Contact him you need to get in touch with all of the TBSK members interested in camping .



Also, Andy Bartley launched a Facebook Page for TBSK Camping: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1780031405551417/>



Training from Outfitters

Bill Jackson's Pinellas Park	727-576-4169 adventure@billjacksons.com	http://www.billjacksons.com/classes/ • Introduction to Kayaking,—\$78— (call)
Economy Tackle & Dolphin Paddlesports Sarasota	941-922-9671 kayaktoday@gmail.com	http://www.floridakayak.com/kayaks/kayak-classes/ • Intro to Kayaking: \$60 (Saturdays, Turtle Beach—Siesta Key) • Intermediate Kayaking—\$75 (Call for date)
Sweetwater Kayaks St Petersburg	727-570-4844 TheShop@SweetwaterKayaks.com	http://sweetwaterkayaks.wordpress.com/skills/ • Foundation Skills Kayak Class—\$75 (Call) • Directional Control—\$75 (Call) • Rolling Clinic (\$50) (Call) • Greenland Kayaking—\$50 to \$85 depending on skills covered (call).

Member Requested Trips

Trip Requests

To add a little “jazz” to TBSK, we thought we would try something new – we call them Trip Requests.

How Will It Work: Anyone can request a paddle to a location they want to go and we will see if we can find a trip leader to lead the trip for you. Just submit a Trip Request by the 10th of the month prior to your trip so the next newsletter can advertise it with the trip leaders' name.

You Can Do This By:

Emailing tbsk@tbsk.club with "Trip Request" in the subject line. Include the following details:

1. Put in location
2. Destination and total distance
3. Take out location
4. Preferred Date(s) and time
5. Skill level required ([see Trip Planning/Paddling guide on TBSK.club](#))
6. Phone number (should trip leader have questions)

Trip Coordinator will:

- Post this trip request with the monthly “request for trips” which is sent out to trip leaders.
- Notify the person requesting the trip if we can find a trip leader and if the trip can be led exactly as requested, or if some modification to the trip is necessary.

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Florida Paddling Trails Association

Training for State Park Instructors & Tour Guides

Seasoned paddlers who have been trained through the Florida State Park's Volunteer Paddlesport Program are now leading Kayak 101 clinics and nature tours in parks across the state. Grateful participants are treated to free instruction and an interpretive tour on a variety of scenic waterways. The goal of the program is to connect youth and families with nature by sharing basic paddling skills and leading short trips within our award-winning state park system. In the bigger picture, we hope to inspire the conservation stewards of the future by igniting a passion for paddling and creating connections to our diverse waterways.

In an effort to train more volunteers and expand the program's reach, we'll hold our next ACA training session **November 17-21** at Lake Louisa State Park in Clermont. Please contact Liz Sparks at (850) 245-2079 if you would like to be placed on the list for the next training session.

6493 54th Ave N
St. Pete, FL 33709



(727) 545-4554
canocountryfl.com

"A KAYAK FOR EVERY NEED"






News & Events Around the State

(updated info in red)



Friends of the Island Parks (<http://www.islandparks.org>) supports Caladesi Island State Park and Honeymoon Island

- Osprey Trail Walks every Wed, Sat, Sun at 11
- Beach Walks every Friday at 11
- Monthly Shell Show. 3rd Saturday each month at Nature Center, 1pm
- Wildlife Status: http://www.islandparks.org/weather/wildlife_updates.htm
 - Osprey: 15 Active Nests in March, and first chicks spotted March 28th
 - Eagles: 2 Eaglets fully grown and ready to Fledge in March
 - Great horned owls: Owls are not anticipated to nest in the parks this season
 - Sea Turtle: Season runs from May through October. 43 nests were spotted last season.



Egmont Key Wildlife after Tropical Storm Colin: "A good portion of the Terms have survived. Pelicans, Ibis, & Gulls did not seem to be affected. Possibly 5 Sea Turtle nests may make it, but 12 were completely washed away.

Florida Paddling Trails Association (FPTA). We are the steward of all of Florida's water trails. Our mission is to develop water trails, protect the environment along the trails, and be a resource and voice for paddlers. Hank Brooks is this Region's Director for FPTA. (Our region is primarily Hillsborough, Pinellas, & Manatee)

- **Mere Mortals Paddling Race:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1087218448003811/>
- **Florida-Bama Gulf Coast Paddling Championship, Pensacola:** <https://paddleguru.com/races/2ndAnnualFloraBamasGulfCoastPaddleChampionship2016>



Society for Ethical Ecotourism: Florida SEE is looking for volunteers to help vendors become certified. See info about SEE on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FloridaSEE.org>. Info on the volunteer position can be seen here: http://www.floridasee.org/docs/Florida_SEE_Assessor_Position_Description_2015.pdf



The Adventurous Woman. Fishing, Camping, Kayaking, Hikes for women of all skill levels. Meets the 3rd Wednesday at Bill Jackson's. 6:30pm.

Paddle Florida <http://www.paddleflorida.org/> 2016-17 Season

- October 17-24 - Suwanee
- December 2-6, Ocklawaha
- January 9-15, Florida Keys
- February 11-17, Calusa Byway
- March 11-17 Ochlockonee
- April 7-9, Suwanee Festival



Tampa Bay Watch: <http://www.tampabaywatch.org>

- Oyster Dome Construction often. Check website. Tampa Bay Watch builds oyster domes onsite at the Marine Center in Tierra Verde from September through April. Ten to 20 volunteers are recruited on weekday mornings.



Keep Pinellas Beautiful strives to keep our community clean and beautiful. We have many volunteers and adoption programs available in which you can participate. <http://www.mykpb.com/>



Egmont Key Alliance (<http://www.egmontkey.info/>)

- **Workdays on the Island are the 3rd Saturday:** 7/16, 8/20, 9/17, 10/15, 11/19, 12/17
- **Discover the Island 2016:** 11/12 & 13



Florida Water Environmental Association: Over 70 years after its creation, FWEA continues to make historic differences in the advancement of the water environment, science and technology, making it a leading professional water organization in Florida. Our history says a lot about the leadership, dedication and hard work. <http://www.fwea.org>

Florida Paddlers Roundsvous: December 2-4 2016, Flamingo Campground, Everglades National Park: <http://www.bushpaddlers.org/Rendezvous.html>

Florida Natonal Parks Challenge: Can you Paddle 100 miles in a Florida Natonal Park during 2016?
Click here for Info: <http://www.nps.gov/bisc/paddlechallenge.htm>

The Florida Caverns Paddle in Marianna Florida is set for the first weekend in November 3,4,5 & 6, 2016. This event has lots of different trips and a variety of challenges so book your site and join us. Make your rervations here: <https://www.reserveamerica.com/>



New Trip Leaders - June 2nd

Story by Phil Sheesley Pictures by Tom Komar

TBSK has two new Trip Leaders ! On June 2nd, Gary Bernier and Cynthia McGregor Completed their Trip Leader Orientation and Assessment at Fort DeSoto, and were approved as new Trip Leaders by the TBSK Board at their meeting on June 13th. Cynthia has several years kayaking experience leading Ecological kayak tours in the Florida Keys. Gary has been paddling with TBSK for the past couple of years and is looking forward to leading TBSK trips concentrating in the Tarpon Springs area.

Our club depends on dedicated Trip Leaders to provided a wide variety of paddling opportunities to our members. To qualify, a member does NOT need to be an expert kayaker; but at the same time there are requirements that the club has established to ensure both consistency in the way club trips are conducted and certain safety standards are maintained. Trip Leader standards are the responsibility of Tom Sobocynski, our Training and Safety Coordinator, and Hank Brooks, our Trip Coordinator.

The day of our latest Trip Leader Orientation and Assessment began with a review of the proposed Trip Plans that Cynthia and Gary had prepared ahead of time. The plans outlined a proposed TBSK trip as would be listed in the club's newsletter. Additionally we discussed weather conditions expected for the day as well as tide and current predictions.

Following a discussion of pre-planning, we went through the set-up of participant's boats and the gear that each Trip Leader is expected to carry; then we got on the water for what turned-out to be an enjoyable day of paddling skills, rescue, and practical trip leading demonstration and practice. We also reviewed basic navigation and chart interpretation.

If you have an interest in becoming a TBSK Trip Leader, please take a look at the Trip Planning section of the Club's website. There you can see what is expected and you can get an idea about your own readiness. Tom Sobocynski and/or Hank Brooks would be glad to hear from you. There are many resources in the club to help capable and interested paddlers develop the skills needed to lead trips in our area. Just do it !



Reviewing "draft" trip plans prior to going on the water (LtoR, Cynthia, Gary, Therese Eby, Eileen Burns, John Marek, Phil)



Gary practicing his "T Rescue" technique



Cynthia completing Gary's "T Rescue"

Cynthia's Background

I began kayaking in 2001 in Key Largo and enjoyed it enough to buy a plastic sea kayak to explore the area. In 2003 I began helping with 3 hour tours for Florida Bay Outfitters of Key Largo when they were shorthanded. After taking some ACA courses, I came a certified instructor, but I much preferred leading the tours. The tours consisted of individuals, families and/or large groups of school children - we would often have over 40 preteens on the water in tandem sit on tops with multiple guides. I continued working part time until summer of 2015, by which time I had completed well over 1,000 tours.

Along the way I upgraded to a fiberglass kayak and later to my current boat, a composite Avocet. To escape from the summer heat for a bit I began taking kayak camping trips including to Glacier Bay AK, Thousand Islands CN, Iceland, Portugal and Greece. While I love the remote places, one of the most interesting trips was a circumnavigation of Manhattan. Key Largo to Key West trips are always great but I especially enjoy the solitude and wild-life of the backcountry mangrove islands and flats.

Gary's Background

I have kind of come full circle. While I'm originally from Connecticut, I grew up on St. Pete Beach (Lakewood HS, class of 1969 (yea, that old)). I was back in Connecticut for college. From there I lived in a lot of states and worked a for number of companies as a senior manager, mostly in the field of automotive glass. Now semi-retired, I work with a friend as an independent sales representative for outdoor living products and occasionally do some consulting work. (Which is to say my time is usually very flexible with work occasionally interfering with my play time.)

I enjoy water sports. I do a bit of scuba diving, sailing and try to cycle regularly. I bought my sea kayak from Sweetwater back in 2004 when I first moved back to Florida. My kayaking has been pretty casual and local - mostly level 1 and level 2 paddles. I've paddled with a number of different area groups over the years.

I currently live in Tarpon Springs near Fred Howard Park and Sunsets Beach, but will shortly be moving to Holiday and will be close to Anclote River Park and, more importantly, Miss Vicky's on the River.



Therese's "Happy Dance" at the conclusion of the morning's activities



SHARKS! - May 9th Club Meeting

Story and photo by Therese Eby

At our May meeting, shark expert Brent Winner from Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation taught us that sharks are not the man-hungry monsters typified in the movie *Jaws*. Sharks are apex predators needed to maintain the marine ecological balance.

Sharks grow slowly, reproduce late in life, and have few offspring, making them vulnerable to overfishing. Sharks are now protected by regulations in both state and federal waters, and are making a slow recovery. Their population levels are a fraction of what they once were.

The increase in attacks in recent years (30 in Florida in 2015) is related to an increase in human visitors and the slow rebound in shark population. Unprovoked shark attacks are usually of a bite-and-release nature, and rarely fatal (1% in FL). You are 33 times more likely to be killed by a dog. Surfers, who spend the most time in the water, get bitten the most. TBSK member Mary Magliapia, who kayaked 1,500 miles around Florida, recounted how she was harassed once by a shark once during her long trip.

There are over 13 shark species that commonly use the near shore areas in Florida, migrating in and out of our waters. Most are small species, only a few feet long. Winner told us how to use a dichotomous key (which he helped develop) to identify them. Then we all practiced what we learned on the four preserved sharks he brought in.



Photo: Brent Winner observes while Eileen and Cathy use his dichotomous key to identify a shark at the May TBSK meeting



Weedon Island - May 28th

Photos by Bill Biles

Just floating and chillaxin



AI
←

Manatee ↑





Weeki Wachee - June

Photos by Tom Komar



Manatees visit here even in June



Picnic & Training - June 11 - War Memorial Park

Photos by Bill Biles



The Easy paddle



Tom leads training on edging and leaning your kayak.





HURRICANES! - June 13th Club Meeting

Story and photo by Therese Eby

This shows inundated areas in worst case scenarios for different storm categories. Note by Cat 3, the county is cut in half through Pinellas Park and separated from mainland through Lake Tarpon and becomes a couple of large islands

Storm Surge is the Number 1 killer with Hurricanes.

Flood information can be found at pinellascounty.org/flooding

Category 1: 4-8'

Category 2: 8-

Category 3: 14-

Category 4: 19-26'
Surge

Category 5: 26-29'
Surge



Honeymoon Island - June 5th

Story by Therese Eby. Photos by Tom Komar

Fourteen paddlers enjoyed calm turquoise 83 °F water on a leisurely 8.8 mile trip from Dunedin Causeway to Honeymoon Island. The causeway was crowded, but we all found parking (it's free!). Be mindful where you park; the tide had peaked while we were out paddling and put one truck's wheels in a little water.



The original plan to circumnavigate the island was changed to an out-and-back on the gulf side, to try to catch any breeze on this sunny day of 93°F heat index and low wind. We stopped every 20 - 30 minutes for water breaks, regrouping, or to dip or roll for some evaporative cooling.



A few large fish splashed offshore during our paddle, not far from lone boats poled by tarpon fishers. The water was just clear enough to watch schools of bait fish and lone rays swim by. We stopped shy of the north end of Honeymoon, 4.4 miles from start, avoiding the fenced-off bird nesting area. The north half of the island is secluded. Several people practiced rolls and rescues, others waded in the shallow water, soaking up the big gulf views.



After eating lunch and wading while watching inland clouds build, we reluctantly headed back. Into the slight breeze and wet from the swim, the paddle back south was more comfortable and a little quicker. Honeymoon SP beach, replenished last year with sand, was crowded with loud beachgoers, and a long line of boats were anchored north of the swim area.



There was plenty of traffic in Hurricane Pass (so named from the 1921 hurricane that cut the barrier island in two), so we regrouped not far from the causeway bridge to safely cross the busy channel to the takeout -- all but one outlier, anyway, who made an early bee-line to the takeout. He survived, as did we all, with many smiles.



The upper Hillsborough River is one of my favorite places to paddle. Besides the abundance of wildlife, the upper Hillsborough is unique because of the canopy of trees which line the river. The trees also provide protection from the cold winds, and in the summer it offers shade from the hot sun.

On this summer day in June we met at Trout Creek Park to set up our shuttle to Sargeant Park for the eight mile paddle down to Trout Creek, with a stop at Morris Bridge for lunch. There were four TBSKers on this trip besides myself: Gary Zavada, Deb Schoeder, Jackie Simpson and Steve Loeven.

One of our major objectives was to avoid paddling in the heat of the day. So by 8:45 a.m. we had piled all the boats onto three cars and were heading to our put-in so we could be on the water by 9:30 a.m. The river was running a little high, going close to 1 mph. We wanted to enjoy the sights of the river and the wildlife, traveling slow enough to allow us to “drink it in” or “enjoy the moment”. As we glided along the ever bending river, you could see streams of light coming thru the trees, lighting up patches of the forest along the river. We found several gators sunning themselves, oblivious to our passing.

This part of the river is fairly narrow, about 20 to 30 feet across and the river bends are from 30 to 270 degrees – almost bending back on itself. There are many logs, branches and snags in the river. You will be cruising along and all of a sudden, a branch, hidden just below the surface of the water, will grab your boat and suddenly move your boat in another direction. Almost as if there were a river monster beneath the waters. There were many trees across the river, although we did not need to portage around any of them. The idea is to watch where the lead boat has problems and then avoid that route.

We rounded a bend in a dark part of the forest and I was in the “sweep” position at the rear of our group. I noticed that people were paddling to the left so they could scoot over what looked like a stump. I looked to the right and the water seemed placid, so I thought, why not paddle over there. So I picked up a bit of speed and as I got closer I realized why people were paddling on the left. The right was a dark log which could not be seen from 20 feet away. By the time my brain processed all this information, I was stuck, I mean really stuck on this log with about 1/4 of my boat over the log. I couldn’t go forward and couldn’t go backward and the river keep me pinned there. Deb came back to see if she could help. By rocking the boat and using my paddle as a prod, in about five minutes I worked my way off the log. We quickly caught up with the group, which had waited for me around the next bend. When I thanked them for waiting, they said they had realized I was stuck when they heard shouting and some expletives. Expletives!??? Who me?

The Hillsborough River is still one of my favorite places to paddle in this area. We were off the water by 12:30 p.m.



Ebb & Flow Club Survey

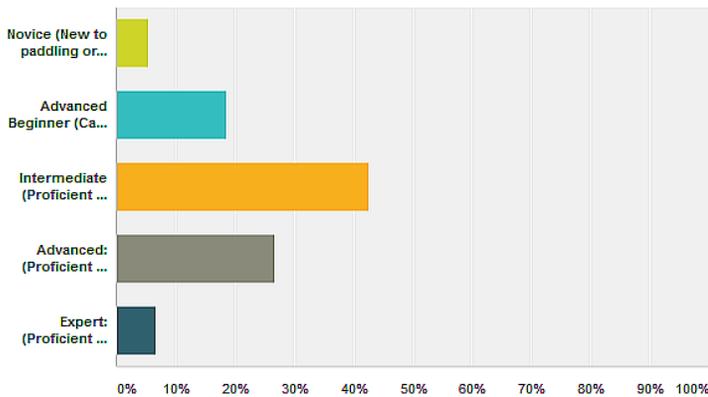
The executive board has observed decreasing membership and a shifting of interest in events and paddles. They decided it was time to check in with the club in a structured survey to see what we're doing right and what we might need to focus on improving. The survey just closed the day before this newsletter was completed, and the results are still being analyzed. We expect to have a first discussion at our next board meeting.

Thanks to all that took the time to answer! Over half of those of you contacted gave us responses to the survey. This is an excellent response rate for surveys of this kind. It shows great interest in our club.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Pinellas	56.00%	42
Hillsborough	25.33%	19
Pasco	8.00%	6
Manatee	2.67%	2
Other (please specify)	8.00%	6
Total		75

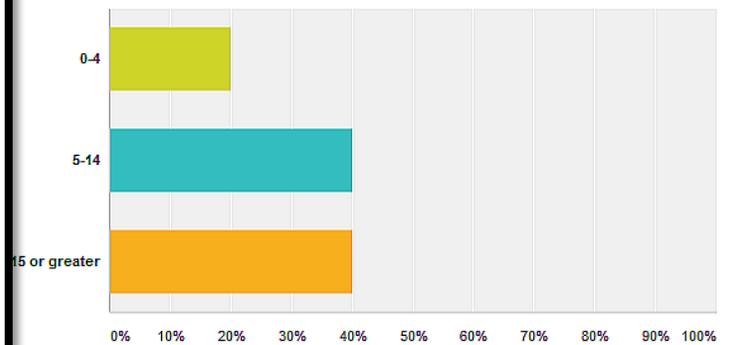
How would you assess your skill level as a paddler (check one that most describes your skills)

Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



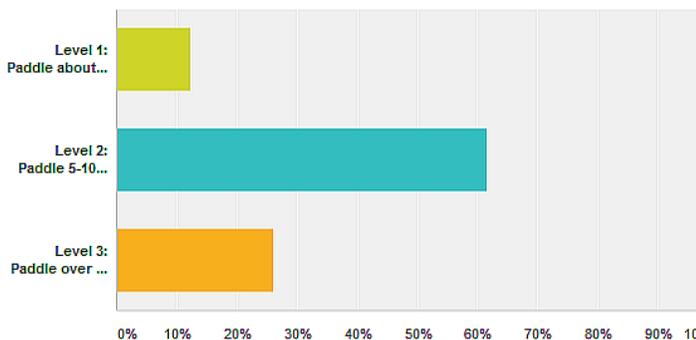
How many years have you been a kayaker?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



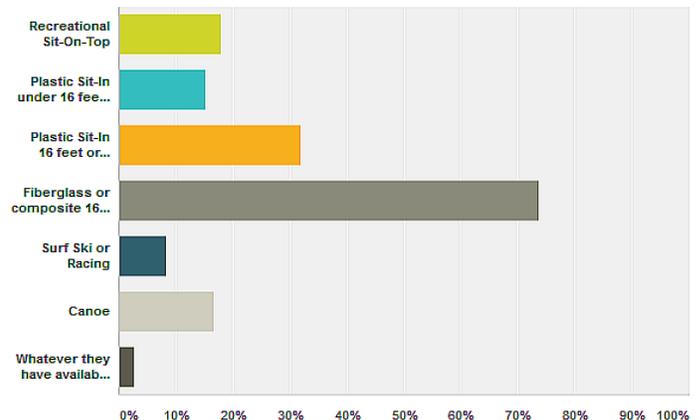
What type of paddling do you most enjoy?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 3



What type of boat do you paddle? (check all that apply)

Answered: 72 Skipped: 4



TBSK Club Info

Board Members

President

John Marek 813 951 5650
jmarek1@tampabay.rr.com

Vice President

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TBSK MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: 17' Wilderness Systems Tempest Kayak - red. Complete kit: new NRS spray skirt, kevlar red paddles, tow rope package, separate compass, NRS PFD red large, \$1200. mlaw-sonsailor@yahoo.com (exp 1/31)

For Sale: 17' 2", Valley Pintail kayak, fiberglass, turquoise top white bottom. Skeg works. \$950 negotiable, contact Marilyn at gordoj48@yahoo.com or 727-612-1713, (exp 6/30)

For Sale: Medium Camaro dry top. In good condition. Bought new for \$260. Yours for \$40. Firm. Outgrew it. May fit small frame depending on what you wear under it. Jennis4@tampabay.rr.com. (exp 7/31)

For Sale: Kelty Screenhouse, 12'x12' floorless freestanding screened shelter with drop-down privacy panels, 2 doors, 2 aluminum poles. Lightly used. \$65. Eileen 813-260-9463. (exp 12/31)

For Sale: 17 ft. Current Design Kayak. Great condition. \$500. Cris Payne, 813 943 8006 CPayne51@tampabay.rr.com (exp 12/31)

Classified Ads Policy: Any TBSK member may place a classified ad. The ad is free for the first six months. After six months ad expires. May be maintained for \$5 per month. Please notify the editor when item is sold.

Treasurer's Report

3/31 BALANCE	\$4866
INCOME	
Memberships Dues	\$306
EXPENSES	
Website Expenses	\$105
Program Expenses	\$50
Picnic Expenses	\$188
Ending Balance	\$4829



www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers

Or on our website
tbsk.club

3 Rooker Island



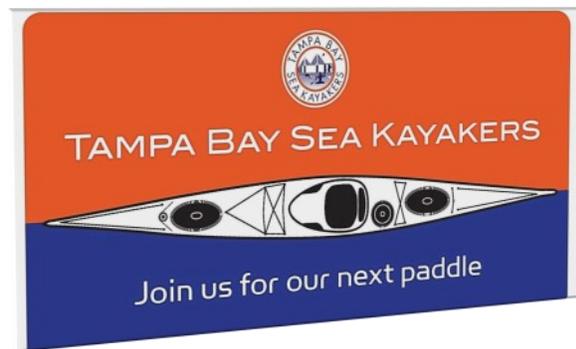


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

You may join TBSK online using your web browser. Just go to the link <http://www.tbsk.club> and click "Join Us" at the top of the page. You can pay club dues at the end of the process.

To join the Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers by mail, click on "Join Us" at the top of the TBSK web site. Click on the Liability / Waiver Form. Print the form and send it to the address listed at the bottom of this page. The application and waiver form are also available at TBSK meetings held at Bill Jacksons Store on the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm.

We hope to see you at our next TBSK event!



**Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers
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