

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

August, 2016 - Volume 24, Issue 8

www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



Calendar for August, 2016

| Sun | Monday | Tues. | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----|---|-------|-----------|----------|--------|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Little Manatee, Ruskin 8:30am Level I  |
| 7 | 8 Club Meeting Bill Jackson's Pinellas Park 7pm  | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 TBSK Picnic, Safety Harbor Philippe Park 8:30 & 9am, all levels  |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Fort Desoto, Arrowhead Skills and Paddle 8:30am Level II  Paddle Race, Destin, FL Great Bay Scallop Search. Tampa Bay Watch |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Salt Springs, New Port Richey 8:30am Level I  |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

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

There is not going to be a training program at the August Picnic. Training will resume in September.

Join us to learn about Kayak Camping at our August 8th meeting!

Darry Jackson, Co-President of Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure, has extensive experience as an outdoor adventurer. Darry will provide insight and tips into equipment and how it is used, how to select a camp location, food transportation and preparation, and how to follow leave-no-trace procedures.

- ⇒ Sept 12 - Watertribe Everglades Challenge (Andy, Mary, & Keith)
- ⇒ Oct 19 - Gene Keller of the US Coast Guard

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 |
|---|---|---|
| Sat Aug 6 8:30am | Level I, Distance: 5 Miles or so | Little Manatee River, Ruskin We will meet at 8:30 a.m the 24th St launch near Ruskin. Those who register for this paddle on the TBSK web site will receive a Google Map to aid in getting to the launch. We will explore the river and stop for a break along the way. Bring your lunch/ snack and plenty of water. Our goal is to be off the water by 12 Noon. Contact: Hank Brooks jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com |
| Monday, Aug 8 7pm | Club Meeting - Jackson's Shop for Adventure, Pinellas Park Darry Jackson, Co-President of Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure, has extensive experience as an outdoor adventurer. Darry will provide insight and tips into equipment and how it is used, how to select a camp location, food transportation and preparation, and how to follow leave-no-trace procedures. | |
| Sat Aug 13 8:30 am | All Levels Distance: LI: ~5 mi LI/III: ~11 mi | Club Picnic— Philippe Park, Safety Harbor 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. Because of the heat, please arrive by 8:30am so we can be off the water by noon. No skills training at this picnic. Skills training will resume in September. Please RSVP: Level I Paddle: - Easy Paddle - Hank Brooks, jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com Level II & III - IntermediMarek jmarek1@tampabay.rr.co |
| Sat Aug 20 8:30am | Level II Distance: Under 10 miles | Fort DeSoto - Arrowhead Area We will do a short paddle and skills... off water by 1-1:30 p.m. Kayaks must be 16ft or longer, have watertight hatches bow, stern and deck. Spray skirts and USCG approved PFD's no inflatables please. Bring, water, sun screen, hat, and eats. Park Fee \$5 or annual Pass. RSVP please! Weather, storms could cause a change in plans Contact: John Marek jmarek1@tampabay.rr.com cell 813 727 8527 |
| Sat Aug 27 8:30am | Level I Distance: 5 miles or so | Salt Springs State Park - New Port Richey Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Brasher Park in New Port Richey. When you register for the trip on the TBSK web site, we will send you a Google Map to ensure that you find the place. We will explore the park environment from the water. Bring a snack/ lunch. We will be off the water by 12 Noon. High tide is 9 a.m. Contact: Hank Brooks jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com |

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

- Ensure you're logged onto the site before trying to register for a trip or posting a comment on the TBSK Blog.
- 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")



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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www.BillJacksons.com

Kayakers needed to support a race on Sat, November 5th. This is a 10K+ open water swim race around three sides of Fort De Soto. Each swimmer will have a kayak escort to provide safety, navigation, and nutrition. Pilots will be instructed on how to seek assistance. Swimmers cannot hang or rest on the pilot's boat even when feeding.

Kayakers get a race t-shirt, great post race meal, special gift, and a goodie bag, not to mention have a great time kayaking around Fort De Soto. <https://>



6493 54th Ave N
St. Pete, FL 33709

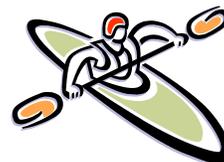


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Friends of the Island Parks (<http://www.islandparks.org>) supports Caladesi Island State Park and Honeymoon Island

- 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.
- Visit caladesidiscoverycenter.com to learn about the forthcoming interpretive facility.



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 FPTA. (Our region is primarily Hillsborough, Pinellas, & Manatee)

- 8/20 Paddle at the Porch, Destin, FL. Kids race. 1, 3, and 6 mile races. [Click Here for Info](#)
- 9/11 Ocean Warrior Challenge, Jupiter, FL. Festival and Race. [Click here for info.](#)
- 9/28-10/2 Hidden Coast Paddling Adventure, Suwanee. [Click here for info](#)



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

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



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

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



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

- Oyster Dome Construction often. Check website. September through April.
- 8/20 Great Bay Scallop Search. pelage@tampabaywatch.org for info



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

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

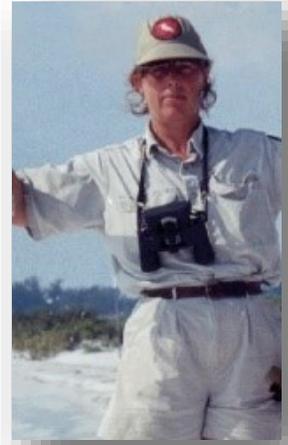
The Florida Caverns Paddle in Marianna Florida is set for the first weekend in November 3,4,5 & 6, 2016. This event has lots of different trips and a variety of challenges so book your site and join us. Make your reservations here: <https://www.reserveamerica.com/>

Kayak Support needed for Open Water Swim Event: Swim Fort De Soto on Saturday, November 5. The race is 6.5 miles from the public boat ramp to Shelter #14 in the park. We have many swimmers who come from out of the area and need kayaker (pilot) support. The kayaker provides the swimmer food/drink, navigation, and safety. Kayakers must have their own kayak and have the ability to kayak for the 6.5 mile distance. Kayakers get a race t-shirt, great post race meal, special gift, and a goodie bag, not to mention have a great time kayaking around Fort De Soto. Pilot registration: <https://www.clubassistant.com/club/clinics/reserve.cfm?c=2237&cid=67612>



Speaker's Corner

Ann Paul, Regional Biologist for Audubon



When the Europeans first happened upon Tampa Bay, there were countless birds living within the protected bay environment. Their population, though, began to dwindle when bird feathers became popular accoutrements, particularly to adorn women's hats. Along with that, collectors were paid richly for wild bird eggs to be used as food. The population dwindled remarkably until the Audubon Society began their efforts in the 1930's. Herbert Mills commented when he came on Green Key in 1933 "I found gun shells scattered around the ground, young birds dead and alive on the ground, empty nests, and other signs indicating that birds had been killed and carried out by the sackful." Sponsored by the society, Fred Schults built a home on Whiskey Stump Key and began working with locals to reduce pillaging of the birds. After only 6 years, he found bird populations grow from 700 to more than 30,000.

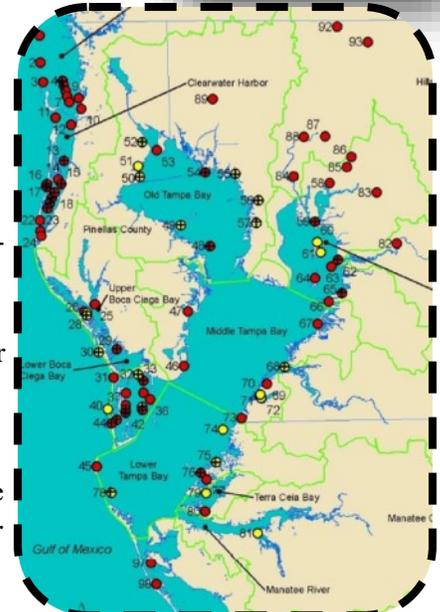
Dr. Mills and Fred Schultz worked with the US Phosphoric Products Corporation who owned the Alafia Bank Spoil Islands to protect the gulls, terns, skimmers, and oystercatchers. The wading birds at Green Key gradually moved to nest at the Alafia Bank as the mangrove trees grew up. Today, the Alafia Bank Sanctuary is the largest wading bird colony on Florida's west coast with 17 species and 12,000 pairs of birds.

There are dozens of species of flocking birds and several species of territorial nesting birds. (The territorial birds such as the American Oystercatcher eat near where they live, so nests are not near one another.)

Colonial water birds have a long incubation periods of 3-4 weeks when the eggs and chicks are vulnerable to predators. The islands protect them from ground-based predators that find tidal currents to be a deterrent. The young are still vulnerable for another 2-3 months after that until they become independent. This is when the Audubon does their survey work since they know the birds will be 'home'.

Many of our kayak trips approach the most important local bird areas. Kayakers should keep a good distance away from sanctuary islands so as not to disturb the nests. A recent problem, for example, are people selling Nature Photographer Trips that bring their clients right up to the islands.

- Hillsborough Bay: Alafia Bank, McKay Bay, Tampa Port Authority Spoil Islands
- Gulf Islands: Three Rooker, Honeymoon, Caladesi, and Anclote Key
- Lower Tampa Bay: Egmont Key, Passage Key, and the Pinellas County National Wildlife Refuge



The Audubon Society watches over 70 bird colonies manages 29 islands, including over 70,000 nesting pairs.



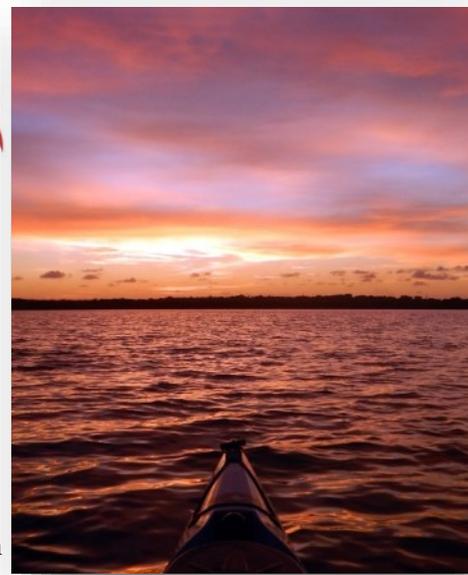
American Oystercatcher chick





Fireworks - July 4th

Story by Hank Brooks. Photos by Bill Biles



For some time I have wanted to view the July 4th fireworks from my kayak out on the water. The first difficulty was finding a place to launch and then recover after the fireworks since most parks close around sunset and fireworks usually start at 9 p.m. Also, we needed to find a place which will not be “overrun” with people - parking their cars and then setting up their chairs to watch the fireworks.

We settled on a small park in Clearwater, on Cooper’s Bayou, not far from the Courtney Campbell Causeway. The launch was a bit challenging. While it does have a sign which says, “Canoe & Kayak Launch” it is nothing more than a drainage ditch which empties into Cooper’s Bayou with a few paving stones. Although there were several other people who had the same idea as ourselves, their sit-on-tops and paddleboards were only a few in number.



We got there by 7 p.m., so we took our time to get our gear together and launched about 7:30 p.m. when there was still plenty of light. There were four TBSKers on this trip. We all had a Coast Guard required white light and we also put the chemical glow sticks on our bows so we could see each other in the dark. We each had head lamps to help load our boats when we returned.

We knew that low tide would be about 9 p.m., just when the fireworks would start. I brought my plastic boat so I could search out oyster reefs in the area to help protect the two fiberglass boats with us. After launching, we paddled up Cooper’s Bayou, which runs parallel to N. Bayshore Blvd. No sooner had I said, ‘be on the lookout for a family of roseate spoonbills’ when suddenly we

found a flock of spoonbills feeding by the water’s edge about 200 feet in front of us. Bill Biles, our photographer, snapped some pictures as we admired their rare beauty – one of my favorite birds because of their colorful pink plumage.



Rather than just sit there and wait for the fireworks, we decided to paddle over to the Courtney Campbell Causeway where we could take-out and stretch our legs. On the paddle back toward Safety Harbor you could see the beautiful sunset – with the pink glow of the setting sun highlighting the low hanging clouds – making a picture ready for framing.

As we sat in our boats and waited for the “official” Safety Harbor fireworks, we chatted about our families and what a beautiful evening it was. Deb Schroeder connected several luminous plastic ties and stuck them in the back of her hair – like Indian feathers. We jokingly called her “Princess Deb”. As darkness slowly overcame us, we noticed small demonstrations of fireworks all across the Old Tamp Bay area – Oldsmar and Clearwater. For a moment, because of the darkness, I lost my visual horizon and felt a bit of vertigo. Then Safety Harbor started their display with the various types of fireworks streaking across the sky in a variety of colors and shapes and visual affects. All too soon (about 25 minutes) you could tell the grand finale was approaching because of the sheer speed of the boom, boom, boom and the spectacular display.

When we paddled back, it was easy to tell that the tide was out as our paddles where constantly dipped in mud. We did see a bit of bioluminescent as the water would often light up as we pushed our paddles thru the water. At one point I was counting boats and was not sure I could see Deb until I spotted here purple princess feathers.

Everyone remarked that they had good time. We might do it again next year.





Back Side of Weedon Island - July 9th

Photos by Bill Biles

Al Tillson led this Level I trip on Saturday, July 9. They launched from the Gandy Bridge and paddled towards Weedon Island to explore some of the Mangroves. The trip stayed close to shore most of the time.





State Park Paddlesports Training Program

Liz Sparks, Paddling Trail Coordinator, Office of Greenways and Trails
Division of Recreation and Parks
Ph: 850-245-2079 email: Liz.Sparks@dep.state.fl.us

Would you like a chance to share your passion for Florida's outstanding waterways with future generations? Please consider joining Florida State Parks Volunteer Paddlesport Program. Our upcoming November 15-18 training session is a great opportunity for paddlers to receive excellent American Canoe Association (ACA) Day Trip Leader Instruction at less than half the usual cost. Join us for top-notch training and a chance to create future generations of safe paddlers.

Our Goal

Florida's State Park System has a long-range goal to help families and kids get connected with nature. Addressing "nature-deficit disorder" as coined by Richard Louv in his book, 'Last Child in the Woods', we are aware of the growing disconnect between children and nature with the average child spending up to 8 hours a day immersed in digital media. In response to this challenge DRP is recruiting paddlers to participate in a Volunteer Paddlesport Program based in Florida's award-winning state park system. Volunteers who become ACA-certified Trip Leaders will lead short workshops and nature tours that will expose families to outdoor recreation by empowering them with basic paddling skills. The goal is to help people feel safe and comfortable in a kayak while building a connection with the outdoors and ultimately encouraging protection of our natural resources.

Training Opportunity

Our top-notch instructors are extremely experienced and committed to our mission of connecting people to the nature by training volunteers to share basic paddling skills through public workshops. They donate their time and the low workshop tuition just barely covers their travel costs. Carl Ladd, owner of Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures in Rhode Island, and Russell Farrow | Sweetwater Kayaks joins us from his excellent outfitter business in St Pete. Two more highly-experienced instructor volunteers may join us, Wayne Douckhoff and Gil Hidalgo, making this an outstanding opportunity to receive trip leading and group management instruction in a small group setting. The curriculum we will be using is the ACA Coastal Kayak Day-Trip Leading Course. This course is intended to provide the minimum skills and training necessary for an adult leader possessing basic paddling to lead a trip for participants with beginner level paddling skills, in gentle conditions, with apparent wind not exceeding 10 knots, waves not exceeding 1 foot and currents to 2 knots. The emphasis of this course is trip leading, safety education and rescue, not paddling instruction. In exchange for this super low cost training we ask that volunteers commit to a minimum of three half-day public workshop/tours in a park near their home over the course of a year. Of course, we are hopeful that the experience will be rewarding and volunteers will develop a relationship with a nearby park to make it an ongoing opportunity. There are other volunteer opportunities that come up through the year that you may have interest in participating in as well.

The training location is at Lake Louisa State Park west of Orlando. Free lodging will be provided in shared cabins for Tuesday – Thursday nights, checking out Friday morning. The cabins are for 4-6 people. Each cabin provides a queen bed, two twins, and a pull-out couch with full size mattress which means you may be sharing a room or bed with another person. If you don't like this much cabin 'coziness' you may prefer to make your own Reservations in the campground and or find a nearby hotel. A group meal will also be offered (\$5 donation) for the first night (Tuesday, November 15th). Please arrive by 6 p.m. Tuesday night, you can check in as early as 4 p.m.

Getting Started

Prior to the workshop you will need to become a member of the ACA (American Canoe Association) for \$40 and we recommend you purchase an instructor's manual, \$25. The cost of the 3-day workshop is \$140 which will be collected at the beginning of the workshop by Russell Farrow. Checks, credit card, cash OK. A brief background check is conducted on all applicants at no charge, which is standard for all state park volunteers. An application form is attached, please fill in and return asap to liz.sparks@dep.state.fl.us

Once we have our class roster complete I will send out syllabus, gear list and more detailed information about the event. If you have any questions please call 850-245-2079. Thanks again for your interest and support.



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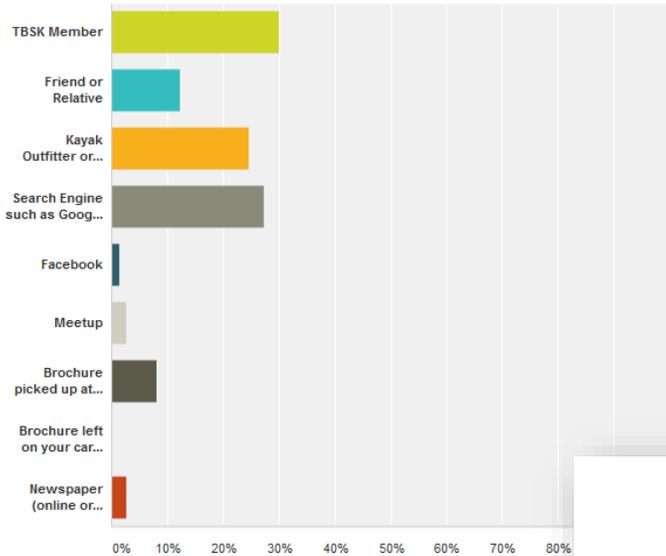


Survey Results

The exec board is still looking through the survey data. They've analyzed the results and are now working on an action plan. You will get an update at the meeting. In the mean time, here is a bit more of the data:

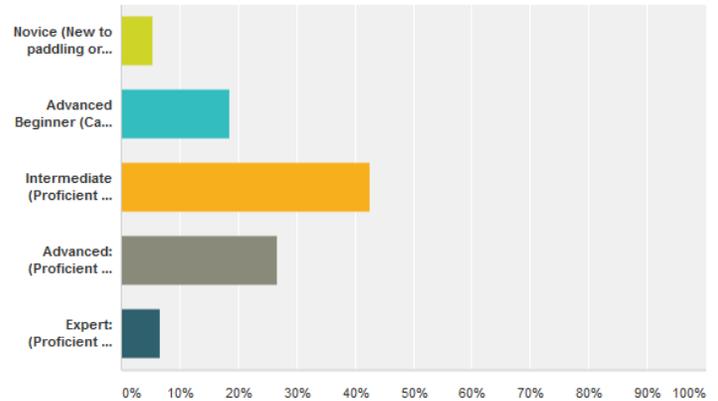
How did you learn about TBSK? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 73 Skipped: 3



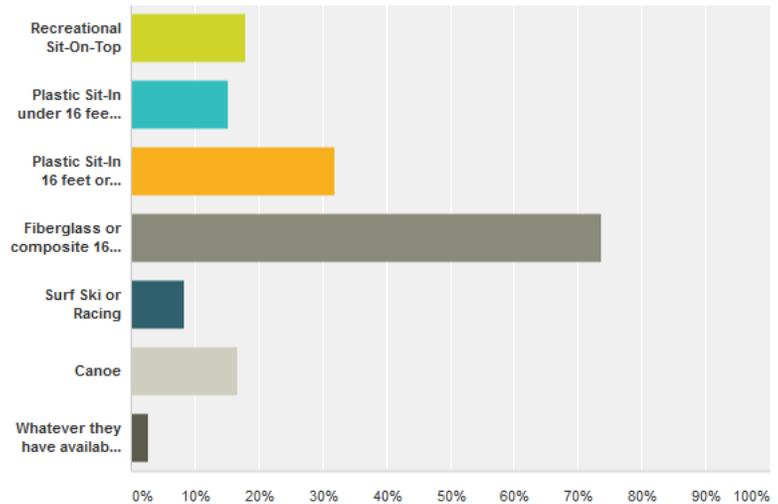
How would you assess your skill level as a paddler (check one that most describes your skills)

Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



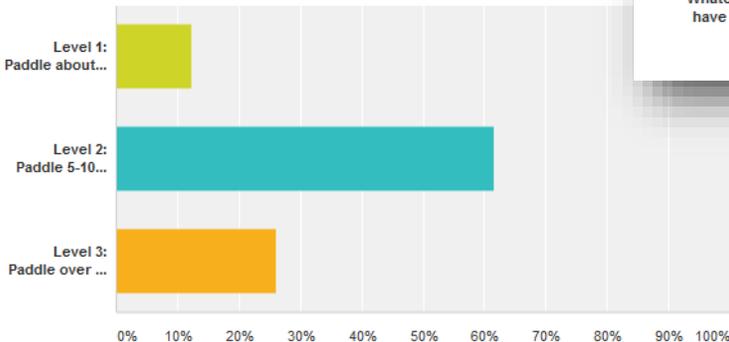
What type of boat do you paddle? (check all that apply)

Answered: 72 Skipped: 4



What type of paddling do you most enjoy?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 3



TBSK Club Info

Board Members

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jmarek1@tampabay.rr.com

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Newsletter Editor

Bryan Katz 813 501 7270
bkatz@alum.rpi.edu

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. mlawsonsailor@yahoo.com (exp 1/31)

For Sale: Kelty Screenhouse, 12'x12' floor-less 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

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 5/31 BALANCE | \$4829 |
| INCOME | |
| Memberships Dues | \$259 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Marketing | \$71 |
| Picnic | \$98 |
| Postage | \$10 |
| Printing | \$113 |
| Ending Balance | \$4796 |



www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers

Or on our website
tbsk.club

3 Rooker Island



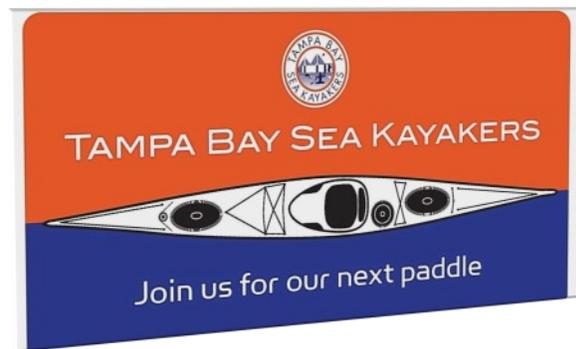


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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
P.O. Box 8682
Seminole FL 33775-8682**