

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

September, 2016 - Volume 24, Issue 9

www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



Calendar for September, 2016

Sun	Monday	Tues.	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						Little Manatee, Ruskin 8:30am Level I
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						Sunset Beach, Tarpon Springs 9:30am Level I Intro to Kayaking Bill Jacksons
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Club Meeting Bill Jackson's Pinellas Park 7pm					TBSK Picnic, Tarpon Springs Fred Howard Park 8:30 am, all levels Saint John's Paddle Battle Orange City, FL
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			The Adventurous Woman Bill Jackson's 6:30pm			Fort DeSoto 9am Level 0 (very very easy)
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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

VERY, VERY EASY (Level Zero) Paddle - 9/24

On our recent club survey, some members asked for really short and easy paddles. In response, we're going to try a leisurely paddle on Sept 24 at Ft. DeSoto to be led by Andy Bartley and Mary Mangiapia. If you are interested in this type of paddle, please show your support by paddling with Andy & Mary. If there is good attendance on this paddle, it would encourage us to have more paddles like this in the future.

Join us to hear about the Everglades Challenge at our September 12th meeting!

Andy, Mary, and Keith will be talking through their experience on this year's Everglades Challenge. Keith and Andy undertook this 300 mile adventure paddle in March. Ferocious winds confronted the paddlers this year making the race a real challenge for all.

⇒ Oct 19 Meeting - 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 Sept 3 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 paddle downstream for about 3 miles, stop for lunch, and then paddle back upstream in a gentle current (e.g. 1 mph or less). Bring your lunch/ snack and plenty of water. Our goal is to be off the water by 12:30 p.m. Contact: Hank Brooks jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com
Sat Sept 10 9:30am	Level 1 Distance: 5 miles or so	Sunset Beach, Tarpon Springs Meet Al Tillson to launch from Sunset Beach on Gulf Road in Tarpon Springs at 9:30AM to launch at 10AM for a paddle along the coast in a direction to be determined by weather conditions and group interest. We'll paddle about 4 hours at a leisurely pace with a stop midway for lunch. Location may be changed if required by weather conditions. Please RSVP with Al Tillson Contact: Al Tillson altillson@yahoo.com or 813-832-3961
Monday, Sept 12 7pm	Club Meeting - Jackson's Shop for Adventure, Pinellas Park Andy, Mary, and Keith will be talking through their experience on this year's Everglade's Challenge. Keith and Andy undertook this 300 mile adventure paddle in March. Ferocious winds confronted the paddlers this year making the race a real challenge for all.	
Sat Sept 17 8:30 am Because of the heat, please arrive by 8:30am so we can be off the water by noon.	All Levels Distance: LI: ~5 mi LII/III: ~11 mi	Club Picnic— Shelter 5, Fred Howard Park, Tarpon Springs 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. Training at September's picnic will not have a specific theme. Members are encouraged to bring their request and the training Personnel will help you on your specific needs. Please RSVP: Level I Paddle: - Easy Paddle - Hank Brooks, jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com Level II & III - tbd
Sat Aug 20 9am	Level 0 Very very easy Distance: About 3 miles	Fort DeSoto - Leisurely Paddle (Level 0) Too hot to paddle 5 or 10 miles? Do you want an easier, slower paddle? Join Mary Mangiapia and Andy Bartley on our first Very, Very Easy Paddle (AKA Level 0). We will meet at 9 a.m. for 9:30 launch at a nice sand beach on Ft Desoto. When you RSVP, we will provide directions to the launch site. We will paddle a short distance to a hidden mangrove tunnel. From there, another short paddle to a nice beach on Shell Key where you can enjoy a snack, swim in the water or walk the beach for a bit checking out the sites. A leisurely return past a camping island and over a deep hole that sometimes harbors manatees. This paddle will be barely 3 miles and is a nice , no-stress paddle. Even so, please be prepared with a PFD, sunscreen, snack and plenty of water. Any kayak is welcome, including sit-on-tops. Sit in kayaks must have at least one sealed compartment for flotation. You may want to bring a small chair for the beach. RSVP IS REQUIRED FOR THIS PADDLE!!! We are launching at a site that the club does not normally use. You must RSVP for accurate directions. Contact: Andy Bartley sailonbear@hotmail.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")

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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://>



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2017 Activities Coordinator Position

The benefits TBSK offers are provided by the volunteers who help run our club. One of the key positions we need to fill for 2017 is the Activities Coordinator position.

- **Can you help by volunteering for this position for 2017? (usually we have two members to share the workload).**

Let us hear from you. If you are interested, if you need more info, or if you have some suggestions, please respond to our president John Marek at jmarek1@tampabay.rr.com

TBSK Activities Coordinator Position

We need help deciding how we will run our TBSK monthly picnics in 2017. We WILL have monthly picnics. We are deciding how they will be run. The major duties of the Activities Coordinators are

Schedule the monthly picnics for the year, making sure we have sufficient water (tides) and reserve the necessary shelters

- Handle the logistics for providing the food and drink at the monthly picnic. This means:
 - Buying the hamburgers Buns, Condiments, Plates, Utensils and storing them
 - Arrive early at the picnic grounds to “claim” our shelter and set up for the picnic
 - Cooking the burgers and cleaning up after the picnic
- Handling the logistics for the end of the year Holiday Party (renting tables, chairs, organizing food)

In the past we have found that it works best if we have two members handle this, each trading off with the other. Because the food preparation takes some time, the members who have this position have NOT been able to paddle at the picnic. Because the food and condiments must be purchased, stored and brought to the picnic, getting all these supplies transferred to many different members (e.g. a different member for each picnic), has been judged not to be practical.

We're looking for input on whether we should we alter the picnic (e.g. TBSK not provide the burgers & condiments) to make the work easier for the Activities Coordinators.



Invitation to visit the US Coast Guard Training Ship - the Eagle

EAGLE is going to be in Charleston, South Carolina from September 9 - 12. During that period, TBSK Club Member Steve Henkind will be onboard as a QMOW (Quartermaster of the Watch). If you happen to be up in that area, he offered to provide tours of the ship (e.g., below decks, sail locker, rigging shop, engine room, officers quarters, etc.). Contact Steve at steven.henkind@gmail.com





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 9/10 - \$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)

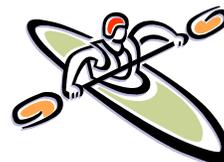
Trip Coordinator will:

- 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.



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



CALADESI DISCOVERY CENTER

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)

- 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 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. September through April.
- **9/23-24 Annual Photo exhibit at Tampa Bay Watch's main building**



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:** 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>

Saint Johns Paddle Battle

This is a Florida Competition Paddlers Association point-series race sponsored by The Friends of Blue Spring State Park and Travel Country Outfitters. The race starts at Blue Spring State Park in Orange City, Florida. September 17th

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-paddle-battle-tickets-26037946198>



Frog Creek – An Exploration Into Nature - July 27

Story and photos by Hank Brooks

When planning for this paddle we wanted some place different where we could use the talents of our newly minted TBSK Trip Leader and Master Naturalist – Cynthia McGregor. Frog Creek came to mind because I knew that it was in the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve, which is in Manatee County, very close to the southern end of the Sunshine Bridge. An Aquatic Preserve is like a state park whose major mission is to protect the environment. The other Aquatic Preserve in the Tampa Bay area is Cockroach Bay, near Ruskin.

Because Cynthia is new to the area, I needed to remember where we put in (it had been almost 10 years since I was on Frog Creek) and we would have to avoid getting lost in the mangrove trails. Then Carl Boettger called and said that since Frog Creek was in his “back yard”, he wanted to come. What a God-send: someone who knew the area like the back of his hand!

There were seven TBSKers on this trip. Besides Hank, Cynthia and Carl, the others who came were Rich Cavanaugh, Deb & Ian Brown and Rob Shea. We parked next to the Bishop Harbor Rd bridge which crosses Frog Creek. While parking was limited, we didn’t have much difficulty in putting in. We first paddled upstream for about a mile past the bridge and were treated to an old fashioned South Florida river. It had moss filled trees which overhung the river, providing shade as well as beauty.

When we started to see civilization (some buildings), we turned around and headed downstream toward Bishop Harbor & Tampa Bay. At our first stop, Cynthia talked about the air plants which make their home on trees and get their nutrition and water from the air, therefore they are not a parasite to the trees. Carl expertly guided us along the creek and then thru the mangrove trails which surrounded the creek. When in the mangrove tunnel, Cynthia talked about the many benefits of these plants and how they survive in salt water.

After a tour of some more mangrove tunnels, it was time to head to the take-out so that we could meet our commitment of being off the water by 12 Noon. Everyone enjoyed themselves and learned a bit. I’m sure that we will go back, especially if we have Carl guiding us. Did we learn anything? Besides learning about nature, at the end of the paddle I described to the group the premise of the Sci-Fy flick “Shark Nado”. A tornado goes over the ocean and sucks up sharks and then goes over land and spits them out – of course they eat people when they land. Besides the air borne sharks, the movie has incredibly bad acting and no script. The movie is so, so bad, it is hilarious!





Manatee Attack - August 13 Paddle Picnic

Story and photos by Hank Brooks

ALERT! ALERT! We have put out a B.O.L.O. (Be On the Lookout) for a suspicious looking group of manatees, especially if the group has a manatee wearing a Panama style hat. (Please do not get technical and ask me what a suspicious looking manatee looks like.)

This mid August day for the TBSK paddle-picnic started very nicely at our Philippe Park sandy beach put-in. Everyone arrived by 8:30 a.m., with the goal of getting off the water by 12 noon. A 10 mph breeze was blowing, which helped keep us cool, but made it a little difficult for paddling.

We had five paddlers on the Easy Paddle with all paddlers having a fair amount of paddling experience. After paddling several miles, we stopped off at an Oldsmar Park for a rest room break and to stretch our legs. Bill Biles observed a nice looking osprey in a nearby tree, squawking at us to get out of it's territory.

It was then time to go up a nearby canal to observe Jack Willi's restaurant – a local burger, fries and coke joint which is on the water. Before heading back, we decided to paddle under the Road 580 bridge which connects Safety Harbor with Oldsmar. The wind was hitting our boats from the side with waves of about 1 feet. We hadn't gotten far, when I noticed this large swirl in the water off the right side of my boat. I remember thinking, that must be a very large fish to do that. Then I remember the back of my boat being pushed up out of the water. As I started to tip over, I suppose I should have instinctively braced – but I didn't because I was so confused as to what was happening – so over I went. We think that we scared a manatee which was under water and out of sight. It acted in an aggressive or defensive manner when my boat accidentally bumped it - it rose up and dumped me – but we never actually saw the manatee. I have had many encounters with manatees, and the gentle giants have always showed curiosity about me, but never aggression. We believe it was just scared.

We were so close to the shore, I could stand up. With Bill's help we were able to empty the water out of my boat and within several minutes we were ready to resume our paddle, except I could not find my Panama style hat. When I bought the hat I realized it did not have floatation, but then I hadn't capsized in over 10 years.

On the way back, one of my fellow paddlers said that they would keep a sharp eye out for any manatees wearing a Panama style hat. Someone else said that I had developed a new "Manatee Roll" – except I hadn't perfected the part where you come back up. For me, I guess it's back to a Tilly hat that floats.



TBSK Club Info

Board Members

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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: 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

56/30 BALANCE	\$4796
INCOME	
Memberships Dues	\$314
Advertising	\$150
EXPENSES	
	\$0
Ending Balance	\$5260



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Or on our website
tbsk.club

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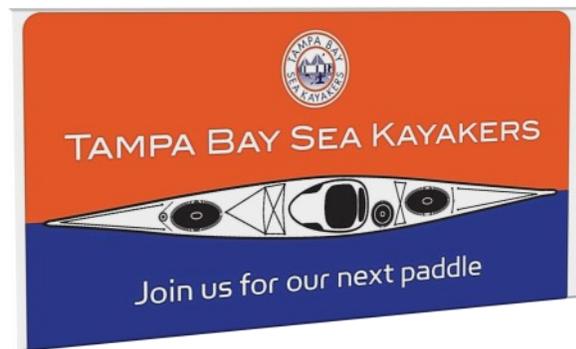


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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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