

# Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

April, 2017 - Volume 25, Issue 4

[www.tbsk.club](http://www.tbsk.club)

[www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers](http://www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers)



## Calendar for April, 2017

Sun	Monday	Tues.	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Alafia Bird Sanctuary Riverview Level 1, 9am
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Dunedin Causeway Level II, 9am		April 7-9: Shark Bite Challenge Paddling races & events at Honeymoon Island	Braden River Bradenton Level II, 9:30am
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Club Meeting Bill Jackson's Pinellas Park 7pm					Hillsborough River Sargeant Park Level Zero, 9am
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
						Club Picnic Fort DeSoto Level I, II, 9am Level III, 8:30am Tampa Bay Clean-up (see page 6)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
University of Tampa Trip Support (see page 3)						Chassahowitzka Homosassa Level I, 9am
30						

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

Jean Totz, experienced open water coach for 20 years, will lead the training at the April 22nd Paddle Picnic:  
*"Different strokes for different folks"*

Join us at the April 10th Club Meeting to learn about effective use of Marine Radios from club member Steve Henkind, Navigation Instructor on board the Coast Guard's training ship EAGLE

At the May 8th meeting, Jill Mosteller will be talking about kayaking in the Sea of Cortez, off the coast of La Paz, Mexico.



# Trip & Event Schedule

## Club Trips (page 1)



Date	Paddle Difficulty	Description <i>(For skill level info go to <a href="http://www.tbsk.club/Skills-Self-Assessment">http://www.tbsk.club/Skills-Self-Assessment</a>)</i>
<b>Sat April 1</b>  9:00 am	<b>Level I in the open bay</b>  <b>Distance:</b> About 5 miles	<b>ALAFIA BANKS BIRD SANCTUARY - RIVERVIEW</b>  Meet at 9am at Williams Park at 9451 S US 41 in east Hillsborough County. After a brief orientation from a representative of Florida Audubon, we'll launch for a trip down the Alafia River and out to the nearby sanctuary islands that Audubon administers. The timing of this trip should enable us to see and possibly briefly photograph unusually large numbers of the nesting roseate spoonbills and hopefully the rare American oystercatcher. We'll paddle about 3 hours at a leisurely pace with a lunch break on shore somewhere along the way. For beginners and up who are comfortable in the open bay. Boats must have bulkheads or flotation and a length of at least 12 feet. Please RSVP with one of the trip leaders or on the club website in case weather requires a change of location.  PLEASE NOTE: local ordinances and common sense require that we keep at least 100 feet away from the islands themselves. This means you should be prepared to stay in your boat continuously for as much as 2 ½ hours.  <b>Contact:</b> Cynthia McGregor ( <a href="mailto:sailingcyn@gmail.com">sailingcyn@gmail.com</a> ; 305-619-8276) and Al Tillson ( <a href="mailto:altillson@yahoo.com">altillson@yahoo.com</a> ; 813-832-3961)
<b>Wed April 5</b>  9:00 am	<b>Level II</b>  <b>Distance:</b> <b>6 to 8 miles</b>	<b>DUNEDIN CAUSEWAY</b>  Meet at Dunedin Causeway west of the kayak rental shop for a local paddle of 6 to 8 miles. Exact destination will depend on the weather and desires of the paddlers. Bring your lunch and plenty of water.  <b>Contact:</b> Hank Brooks <a href="mailto:jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com">jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com</a> 727-724-8983
<b>Sat April 8</b>  9:30 am	<b>Level 1+ for distance</b>  <b>Distance:</b> About 8 miles (a very long Level I trip)	<b>Braden River - Linger Lodge - Bradenton</b>  Meet at Jiggs Landing at 9:30 a.m. for a 10:00 a.m. launch. We will paddle approximately 4 miles to Linger Lodge, eat lunch at Linger Lodge, and then return to Jiggs Landing. Bring money or a credit card for lunch at Linger Lodge. If it is chilly, bring some additional warm clothes for the restaurant. Please RSVP, preferably by email, or on the club web site so we can make a reservation at the restaurant.  <b>Contact:</b> Terry or Charlene Proeger <a href="mailto:tproeger@comcast.net">tproeger@comcast.net</a> (941) 356-2185
<b>Monday April 10</b> <b>7pm</b>		<b>Club Meeting - Jackson's Shop for Adventure, Pinellas Park</b>  <b>Speaker:</b> Club member, Steve Henkind. For the past ten years Steven Henkind has served as a Navigator (Quartermaster of the Watch) and Navigation Instructor on board the Coast Guard's training ship EAGLE. In this capacity, he stands navigational watches and trains Coast Guard Cadets and Officer Candidates in piloting, celestial navigation, and electronic navigation. In addition to his time on board EAGLE, he is also an experienced offshore sailor with over 20,000 ocean miles (including two transatlantics, and a second place finish in the Marion to Bermuda Race) under his keel.  Marine radios can provide an effective means of communication on the water and allow kayakers to contact other paddlers, larger vessels and emergency personnel. Steve Henkind will give a presentation on the proper use of marine radios which will include topics such as radio protocols, common frequencies, and radio use during emergency situations. Attendees of the meeting will also have the opportunity to get a hands-on experience with a marine radio. Steve is a BCU 3-star certified kayaker, ACA L3 Instructor, navigator aboard the Coast Guard tall ship Eagle, and a trip leader for the Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers.



# Trip & Event Schedule Club Trips (page 2)



Date	Paddle Difficulty	Description <i>(For skill level info go to <a href="http://www.tbsk.club/Skills-Self-Assessment">http://www.tbsk.club/Skills-Self-Assessment</a>)</i>
Sat April 15  9:00 am	<b>Level 0</b>  <b>Distance:</b> about 4 miles down stream	<b>Hillsborough River - Level 0</b>  This is Hank's favorite local river because we always see a lot of wildlife including a few gators and birds of every description. Bring your camera because this will be a leisurely paddle. Meet at Morris Bridge Park at 9:00 a.m. to set up a shuttle. We will launch our boats from Sargeant Park and then paddle down to Morris Bridge Park - a distance of about 4 miles. Bring your lunch (we will eat after the paddle) and plenty of water. Please register through the club web site.  <b>Contact:</b> Hank Brooks <a href="mailto:jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com">jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com</a> 727-724-8983
Sat April 22  9am, Training  Level I, II, 9:00am  Level III 8:30am	<b>TBSK Picnic - Fort DeSoto, Shelter 1, North End of North Beach</b>	<b>Training:</b> Training will be taught by Jean Totz. She will share her style and techniques on a variety of paddle strokes. Jean will also offer tips and tricks to maximize the fun factor that kayaking has to offer. Come to the class prepared to have fun and to experiment with your body, boat and blade. You will get wet. Bring a face mask & spray skirt. Because participation is limited to 10 members registration through the web site is required.  <b>Brief background:</b> Jean Totz, a seasoned open water coach of 20 years obtained her advance sea kayaking training in Maine, Wales, Washington State, Mexico and Vancouver Island. She retired as co-owner and Sea Kayak Symposium Director of Sweetwater Kayaks in 2008.  <b>Contact:</b> Jean Totz, 813-839-4783, <a href="mailto:jean.totz@yahoo.com">jean.totz@yahoo.com</a> (Assisted by Cynthia McGregor and Charlene Proeger)  <b>Picnic:</b> Hamburgers & vegiburgers will be provided by the club. Please bring a dish to share. All paddlers bring water, hat, sunscreen. Also, dress appropriately for the weather in "peelable" layers. If the weather looks iffy, check our web site ( <a href="http://www.tbsk.club">www.tbsk.club</a> ) to see whether the picnic will be cancelled. (We'll send an email too, but we know sometimes emails can get delayed.)  <b>Contact:</b> Liz Hogrebe food questions <a href="mailto:elizhogrebe@aol.com">elizhogrebe@aol.com</a> , 727- 421- 4514 Training: Tom Sobocinski and Eileen Burns 9:00am Level I trip leader: Hank Brooks 9:00am Level II trip leader: TBD, 9:00am Level III trip leader: TBD, 8:30am
Sat April 29  9:00 am	<b>Level I</b>  <b>Distance:</b> Less than 4 miles	<b>Chassahowitzka River, Homosassa</b>  Meet at Miss Magie's Marina (end of Miss Maggie Drive - left of intersection of US 19 and US 98) at 9 for a 9:30 launch to explore the crystal clear upper portion of this beautiful river. We'll visit at least two source springs and have time to enjoy the scenery and wildlife in this uncrowded river. Bring drink and a snack or lunch to eat along the river bank and \$5.00 launch fee at this private facility. All boats are welcome, this paddle will be at a leisurely pace, but be sure to dress appropriately for the weather; PFD's must be worn at all times. Plan to return to Miss Maggie's by around 1:00 - 1:30. Please be sure register on web site or respond to Phil if you plan to come so that we can notify you if plans change due to weather.  <b>Contact:</b> Phil Sheesley 813-695-7395 <a href="mailto:philshesley@hotmail.com">philshesley@hotmail.com</a>

## TIPS FOR REGISTERING FOR A TRIP FROM OUR WEBSITE: [tbsk.club](http://tbsk.club)



- Ensure you're logged onto the site before trying to register for a trip or posting a blog comment
- If you get frustrated, email the trip leader directly. email addresses can be found on the web site under "Member Directory"
- Notify Webmaster Bill Biles if you have problems (see last page of this newsletter for contact info).

Sunday  
April 23

### University of Tampa - Students' Paddle

Student Activities at UT has contacted our club, asking us to support their trip again this year. There could be as many as 30 students and staff. We will be assisting Jean Totz on the water. Trip Leaders and volunteers are needed. Please contact John Marek for meeting time and place specifics. [tampajohn@gmail.com](mailto:tampajohn@gmail.com)





# Events

## Training from Outfitters

<b>Bill Jackson's Pinellas Park</b>	727-576-4169 adventure@billjacksons.com	<a href="http://www.billjacksons.com/classes/">http://www.billjacksons.com/classes/</a> • Introduction to Kayaking - \$78— 4/22, 5/13
<b>Economy Tackle &amp; Dolphin Paddlesports Sarasota</b>	941-922-9671 kayaktoday@gmail.com	<a href="http://www.floridakayak.com/kayaks/kayak-classes/">http://www.floridakayak.com/kayaks/kayak-classes/</a> • Intro to Kayaking: \$60 (Saturdays, Turtle Beach—Siesta Key, RSVP Required) • Intermediate Kayaking—\$75 (Call for date)
<b>Sweetwater Kayaks St Petersburg</b>	727-570-4844 TheS-hop@SweetwaterKayaks.com	<a href="http://sweetwaterkayaks.wordpress.com/skills/">http://sweetwaterkayaks.wordpress.com/skills/</a> • <a href="#">Foundation Skills Kayak Class—\$75</a> (Call) • <a href="#">Directional Control—\$75</a> (Call) • <a href="#">Rolling Clinic</a> (\$50) (Call) • <a href="#">Greenland Kayaking—\$50 to \$85 depending on skills covered</a> (call).

## 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 [gwbarnier@gmail.com](mailto:gwbarnier@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/>



## Member Requested Trips

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](mailto:tbsk@tbsk.club) with "Trip Request" in the subject line.**

1. Put-in and take-out locations
2. Destination and total distance
3. Preferred Date(s) and time
4. Skill level required ([see Trip Planning/Paddling guide on TBSK.club](#))
5. 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.

## New Places To Paddle

Comments from our member survey observed we always paddle the "same old places". We need to get out of our rut! With that in mind, we are encouraging our trip leaders to expand their paddling horizons. All members should note that we have a "Paddle Places" section on our web site which lists places to paddle in the greater Tampa Bay area (see menu on bottom of the home page).

In "Paddle Places" one of the things you will find is the Pinellas County Paddling Guide, which lists about 100 different places to paddle in Pinellas County - where most of our members live. The link to the guide, which TBSK helped create, is found below:

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/blueways/pdf/BluewaysGuide.pdf>

If you have a favorite place to paddle, and it is not listed in "Paddle Places", please contact Hank Brooks at [jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com)



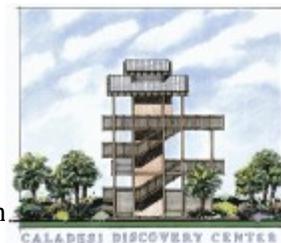
# News & Events Around the State

(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](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](http://caladesidiscoverycenter.com) to learn about the forthcoming interpretive facility.
- **April 7-9: Shark Bite Challenge Paddling Event at Honeymoon Island:** <http://sharkbitechallenge.com/schedule/> Training, Group Paddles, and many different types of paddling competitions.



For an update on this year's Sea Turtle Baby Boom, see this article: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/wildlife/baby-boom-sea-turtles-set-new-record-for-nesting-on-pinellas-beaches/2307517>

**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 Hillsborough, Pinellas, & Manatee)



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

**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](http://www.floridasee.org/docs/Florida_SEE_Assessor_Position_Description_2015.pdf)



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

- April 7-9, [Suwanee Festival](#)



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

- Oyster Dome Construction often. Check website. September through April.
  - April 4, 11, 13, 19, 25, 27
- McKay Bay Shell Bar: April 6-8



**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/>)



On March 21 researchers and archaeologists from the Seminole Tribal Historic Office came to Egmont with ground-penetrating radar and other equipment to continue the survey of the island for possible burial sites and artifacts. They put down a grid in the cemetery and used the GPR to scan the site. They found a couple of points of interest and the data will have to be studied to find out if further work needs to be done. Others went to the south end and looked for artifacts near the newly rediscovered Weather and Radio Station Building. Another one of the researchers went around the island looking at various plant habitats and identifying plants that are on the island, both natives and invasives. She is getting a copy of our Nature Guide as a reference for the wild-life on the island and in the surrounding water. Finally, they toured the north end of the island to identify sites for investigation in upcoming visits.

**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>



## ***Great America Clean-Up***

Hillsborough County - April 22 - [www.keeptampabaybeautiful.org](http://www.keeptampabaybeautiful.org)

Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful recruits volunteers, Site Captains, Area Managers and local sponsors to foster unity and strengthen community bonds through beautification and improvement efforts across Hillsborough County. For more than twenty years, this locally activated community improvement program brings the power of volunteers and sponsors together to inspire change and build sustainable, vibrant communities.

The theme – Clean Your Block Party– is a call to action to create more sustainable communities by focusing volunteer efforts on activities that impact individuals in need, aesthetic community improvements and environmental impact. Volunteers of all ages are welcome and any individual, family, school, group, place of worship, business or government entity can coordinate or participate in an average of 80 simultaneous projects around the area.

Projects may include Litter cleanups (waterways, roadways, shorelines, parks and underwater



## **Hope For Kayaking**

By Hank Brooks

Many of us have been bemoaning the decline of kayaking, especially sea kayaking, as a sport. Just look at most outfitters' boat inventory and they are mostly selling sit-on-tops and recreational kayaks. However, it is the stand up paddleboard (SUP) which is taking the younger generation by storm. Most outfitters have them stacked from floor to ceiling - because that's what is selling.



Regardless of what you are paddling, most of get out on the water to enjoy nature - being so close to the water that you can dip your hands in it and observing the plants and animals around us.. I saw this picture of the SUP with a chair on it and realized that there is long term hope for kayaking. As these SUP owners age, their knees will get creaky, their balance will be off a bit and their back will not be able to put up with the strain of paddling while standing. They will slowly come to realize that it is much easier to paddle while sitting down - especially if you have foot pegs, are sitting at or below water level and have a paddle with blades at both ends of the paddle. The picture shows that they have added a chair to the SUP. Fairly soon, someone will realize that if you add sides to the SUP it will allow you to paddle in rougher water and will help protect your gear on extended trips. Then they will connect the sides by adding a top/ deck to the SUP. And "voila" they have created a kayak - to which most SUP paddlers will migrate as they get older. Hurrah!



# TBSK Skills Self-Assessment

TBSK has recently undergone some changes, including the introduction of Level 0 paddles. TBSK guidelines for both trip participants and trip leaders can be found in the Paddling Guide on our web site under "Trip Planning". It is loaded with information for all TBSK members. One of the features of the Paddling Guide is the Skills Self Assessment Chart. It has been updated to include the Level 0 paddles.

The Skill Self Assessment Chart is meant to be used by a paddler to let them know the skills they should expect to perform and conditions they should expect to handle when going on a TBSK paddle. A paddler who wants to go on a paddle where they might not have all the skills listed (e.g. a roll for a Level III paddle) should contact the trip leader, because they may have excellent bracing skills to be able to make the trip. As always, the trip leader has the final decision on whether a paddler has the proper skills and boat to go on a paddle.

Skills Self Assessment Chart			Paddle Levels			
			Level 0	Level I	Level II	Level III
<b>Essential Requirements</b>						
Be Able To Swim			•	•	•	•
Physically fit to paddle			•	•	•	•
<b>Entry/ Exit Boat</b>						
Without Assistance From Shore			•	•	•	•
From Low Dock					•	•
Surf Launches & Landings < 2 ft					•	•
Surf Launches & Landings > 2 ft						•
<b>Paddling Skills</b>						
Forward Stroke			•	•	•	•
Sweep Strokes For Turning				•	•	•
Reverse Stroke				•	•	•
Edging & Low Brace Turns					•	•
Sculling Draw Strokes					•	•
Bow Rudder & Bow Draw						•
Brace Strokes In Rough Water						•
Rolling						•
<b>Cruising</b>						
<b>Distance Up To</b>	<b>Speed</b>					
3 Miles	1- 2 mph		•	•	•	•
5 Miles	2 - 3 mph			•	•	•
10 Miles	3 - 4 mph				•	•
18 Miles	> 4 mph					•
<b>Wave</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Wind</b>				
Calm	< 1 mph	< 4 mph	•	•	•	•
< 1 foot	< 1 mph	< 6 mph		•	•	•
< 2 feet	< 2 mph	< 12 mph			•	•
< 3 feet	< 4 mph	< 15 mph				•
<b>Rescues</b>						
Wet Exit			•	•	•	•
Assisted Rescue				•	•	•
Self Rescue After Wet Exit					•	•
Towing					•	•
Wet Re-entry in Rough Water Assisted by Partner						•
Roll						•

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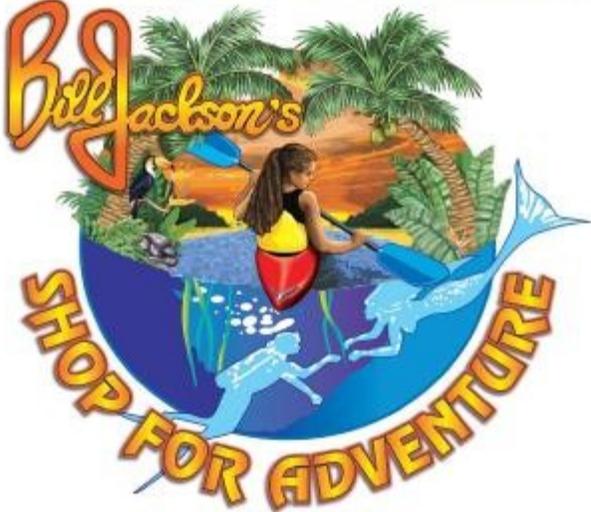

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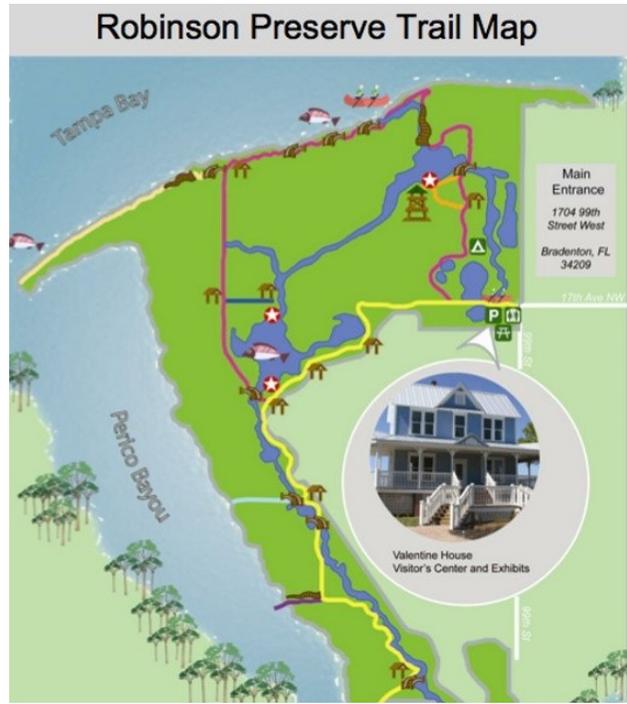


# Club Picnic at Robinson Preserve - Feb 25

## Level II Paddle (Terry Proeger)

Although we started under overcast skies, the clouds soon disappeared and the rest of the day was sunny, but with mild temperatures. It turned out to be a beautiful day for paddling. The Robinson Preserve is a busy park, especially at the launch site. In addition to those who bring their own kayaks or stand up paddle boards, there is a large rental fleet of sit-on-top kayaks and stand-up paddle boards that also use the kayak launch. The preserve is also popular with walkers, dog walkers, runners, and bicyclists, which adds to the business.

We combined the Level II and Level III groups at the start and ended up with eleven paddlers. Phil Sheesley volunteered to lead the Level III group on a paddle to Anna Maria Island and back, while the Level II group did a loop which included paddling out into Tampa Bay, then into Perico Bayou, a very shallow area, and then back into the Robinson Preserve via a mangrove tunnel. We were lucky that the water was clear, because Perico Bayou involved dodging oyster beds and trying to find enough water to avoid having to portage. John Marek, our club president, graciously volunteered to help out as the sweep on the Level II paddle despite his dislike of paddling in extremely shallow water. In addition to the individual paddlers, we had two couples in the group which is always nice to see. Best of all, we managed to arrive back at the launch site in time for lunch.



## Level I Paddle (Photos by Bill Biles)





## To Infinity and Beyond – Exploring the Little Manatee River

By Hank Brooks With Photos by Bill Biles

“To Infinity and Beyond,” is what Buzz Lightyear used to yell before charging off onto one of his adventures in the movie “The Toy Story”. Hank Brooks was leading an expedition to explore the lower Little Manatee River. Once all kayakers were on the water, he shouted, “Follow Me!” in a confident voice. After about a dozen strokes, Bill Biles, yelled, “Hank, you’re going the wrong way!” What an inauspicious start to my exploring career. If I had been leading Columbus’ voyage, perhaps I would have stumbled into the real India – much to the relief of all native Americans.



There were nine TBSKers on this voyage of discovery. Ian & Deb Brown, Sue Tantalo, Bill Biles, Joe Griffin, Terry Proeger, Steve Loeven and Richard Wood were captains of their boats, loaded with provisions to last the entire voyage. We shoved off from Commongood Park in Ruskin, leaving the people in the park inspired by these brave paddlers – going off into the unknown. All of us were looking forward to exploring new territory. Perhaps we might even lay a claim to an island and establish a TBSK colony! I had printed out several maps of the lower Little Manatee from Google Maps. The night before I had sent Bill Biles an email asking that he look over our proposed route of discovery. I thought that we might head toward Snake Island, then on to Goat Island, Whiskey Key. Keeping Negro Island and Chicken Island off to our right, we should run into Tropical Island. On the return trip we would go via Whiskey Key and make the turn for home via Devil’s Elbow. When I explain all this to Terry Proeger, he thought I was making it all up.

Bill had done himself proud as our principle navigator. He showed up with a GPS along with water proof navigation charts. My printed Google Maps were soon a pile of mush. In any event, Bill got us headed in the correct direction. In about a mile the group stopped and Bill proclaimed, “That’s Snake Island” as he pointed to the large growth of mangroves. No habitation here, no natives and no gold, so we moved on. Passing to the right of Snake Island, we crossed the channel to Goat Island. We were soon paddling in water which was deep enough for our kayakers, too shallow for the larger motor boats. Shortly, we found Tropical Island, which is at the mouth of the Little Manatee. As we stared across Tampa Bay, we were a little surprised, but very pleased to discover St. Petersburg. So there you have it folks! If you look under “Alternative Facts”, St. Petersburg was discovered by our TBSK Exploration Party. It was now time to look for a nice take-out for lunch. We headed toward the north end of Cockroach Bay. There we saw what looked like a beach from a distance, but it turned out to have small sharp rocks covering it. A paddle of another quarter mile revealed a small mud flat which would do nicely for our exploration party.

The way back was on the south side of Whiskey Island and through the Devil’s Elbow. We were pleased to report that none of the crew was lost to scurvy. I was a little disappointed that not one of the paddlers were interested in establishing a TBSK colony on any of the islands we explored. Maybe next time.





# Viewing Tampa From The River

By Hank Brooks with Pictures by Hank Brooks & Cynthia McGregor

One of the great things about kayaking is that as you explore, you get to see things from a much different perspective. You are low in the water and are going slow, compared to most other modes of transportation. Add to this, when you view things from the water, most other people do not get the same perspective. That's one of the reasons I really enjoy exploring downtown Tampa from the Hillsborough River, which flows through the city.

We usually plan club paddles up to six weeks in advance. You plan a trip where you want to go and cross your fingers that the weather will hold up. March weather can be fickle. Some weather channels were predicting winds of 14 mph with gusts up to 25 mph. Then one of the paddle participants let me know that there was a music festival next to the river and predicted the possibility of hoards of motor boats in the river, hoping for a free concert. I checked and double checked the weather, factored in the possibility of motor boats, and determined that the trip was a "Go". The plan was to get on the water fairly early for a weekend (by 9:30 a.m.), when most motor boaters are still in bed, and get to the restaurant (Ricks On the River) before most people break for lunch.

We were launching from a beach on the southern tip of Davis Island, next to the Yacht Club. Paddling up the west side of the island would give us protection from the wind (which turned out to only be 10 mph). As you paddle north, toward the city, the first thing that you notice are the houses built on the island. A 3000 sq ft home would be a small one. Most looked like 10,000 to 20,000 sq ft, worth multi-millions. We chided one another by saying, "If you bought that one, we could have club picnics there." Someone else said, "That house is not perfect. Where is the floating dock where you can launch a kayak?"

Before long we were crossing under the bridges from the mainland to Davis Island. When you clear the bridges, all of the giant downtown buildings, in all their glassy splendor, suddenly loom over you. It's quite impressive! Heading up river, we were pleased to only see a few motor boats. I was pleased with the great job Tampa has done to build a very visitor friendly walkway along the river, which included many overlooks. It's also great for people watching. Another several miles and were at Ricks. Their boat ramp had shallow water around it, thank goodness, which made getting out very easy. Ricks had great bathrooms (after being on the water for several hours) and good food.

After lunch the challenge was to see how many motor boats we would encounter on the way back. As we launched, we saw a faux paddle wheel boat, which was serving beer to a young crowd as their music blared. Unfortunately they were going the same way that we were. After going about half a mile we started encountering motor boats, mostly coming up river. The small ones were no problem, but the large ones created a wave about a foot and half high, which rebounded when it hit the wall. The water was quite confusing, with waves & rebounded waves coming from several directions. Since this was a Level II club paddle, everyone had sufficient skills to handle the waves with little problem. As we paddled past the music festival, you could hear loud music, but it was very garbled and no boats were in the river hoping for a free concert.

On the way back, we each selected a house to buy if we hit the lottery. Mine had a floating dock so I can launch my kayak.





## An Oil Tanker vs Five Kayakers

Story By Tom Sobocinski,

Pictures – Pilot Boat: John Marek,

On a beautiful March day five TBSK advance paddlers left the Ft DeSoto Gulf Pier for a leisurely trip around Egmont Key. Half way to Egmont we noticed that a 600 foot oil tanker was leaving Tampa Bay. Being sane people, we decided to not play chicken with the boat that was a little larger than our kayaks by a scale of about 100 to 1.

As we patiently waited outside the channel for the tanker to come by us, we were surprised by a large pilot boat heading toward us at a high rate of speed. The first thing out of my mouth was “holy s....”. I thought that we were going to kayak heaven. The pilot boat did slow to a stop next to us and told us that the pilot on the tanker thought we were in danger. He sent out the pilot boat to warn us and watch over us. The pilot was worried that we wanted to cross the channel in front of this mammoth piece of floating iron.

We dutifully waited and the large pilot boat stayed with us to make sure we followed his directions. We came to the conclusion that he didn't know that TBSK paddlers take safety seriously. We were grateful that they thought enough of other people on the water that they would send out the pilot boat to warn us of the danger. On the other hand we had a few laughs while the pilot boat stayed with us until the tanker went by. We have been paddling this route for over ten years and no TBSKer had ever deemed it necessary to test our man or womanhood to race a tanker to near death. Another fun day on the water.



# Info for TBSK.club

<p><b>Board Members</b> .....</p> <p><b>President</b> John Marek 813 951 5650 tampajohn@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Vice President</b> Mary Mangiapia 941 539 3537 mamagia@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Trip Coordinator</b> Bob Morris 727 804 3636 rmmorrisfa@aol.com</p> <p><b>Membership Coordinator</b> Steve Loeven 516 729 3297 sl72056@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Training/Safety Coordinator</b> Tom Sobocinski 727 348 1184 Sobocinskithomas1@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Activities Coordinators</b> Liz Hogrebe 727 421 4514 elizhogrebe@aol.com</p> <p><b>Webmaster</b> Bill Biles 727 204 5511 wcbiles@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Secretary/ Treasurer</b> Hank Brooks 727 724 8983 jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com</p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> Bryan Katz 813 501 7270 bkatz@alum.rpi.edu</p>	<p><b>TBSK MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS</b></p> <p><b>Stolen Kayak:</b> Seaward stolen from home in Holiday, FL. It's an older boat. Bought used about 2005. It's about 18', yellow, white and black. Sweetwater and Shadow decals on the bow. Contact Gary Bernier: gwbernier@gmail.com (exp 4/30).</p> <p><b>For Sale:</b> THULE roof rack locking crossbar system with coated square bars. Accommodates accessories that clamp onto bars. Used, but sturdy, good condition. \$50. Contact Pamella 727.520.7903. (exp 6/30)</p> <p><b>For Sale:</b> Nigel Dennis Romany Kayak. Missing one hatch cover, but otherwise in excellent condition. Has been garage kept. Asking \$1700. baltman2121@verizon.net (exp 6/30)</p>  <p><b>A Day on Florida Whitewater:</b> I'm planning a day trip up to Big Shoals State Park in North Florida to play in the rapids. The level should be about right a couple weeks after the rains start - I suspect it'll be some time in late April. Let me know if you're interested: Bryan Katz, bkatz@bkatz.us</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Beginning BALANCE</b></td> <td>\$4708</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>INCOME</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dues</td> <td>\$450</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>EXPENSES</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Picnic</td> <td>\$123</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Liability Insurance</td> <td>\$595</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Web Site SW</td> <td>\$432</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office Supplies</td> <td>\$27</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Ending Balance</b></td> <td>\$3981</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Welcome New Members!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Bates</li> <li>• John Shinner</li> <li>• Mayra Rodriguez</li> <li>• Mary Jo Woodward</li> </ul> <p><b>Members that renewed this month:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carol Behnken</li> <li>• John Benton</li> <li>• Jackie Simpson</li> </ul>	<b>Beginning BALANCE</b>	\$4708	<b>INCOME</b>		Dues	\$450	<b>EXPENSES</b>		Picnic	\$123	Liability Insurance	\$595	Web Site SW	\$432	Office Supplies	\$27	<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$3981
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**Proposed Charter Change**

Several times last year we could not have a regularly scheduled, monthly board meeting because both our president and V.P. could not attend. To handle this situation in the future, the following TBSK Charter wording is proposed. Current wording reads: "To conduct business for the club a quorum must be present. A quorum shall consist of three (3) voting members and the President or Vice - President." Additional proposed wording will be added: "If neither the President nor Vice President can attend a regular board meeting, either the President or Vice President can authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to run the meeting." This will be discussed and voted upon at the April TBSK general meeting. Please contact the TBSK President if you have any comments at this time.

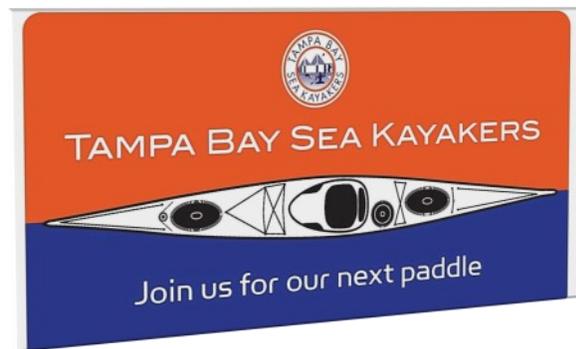


## **Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member**

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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