

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

May, 2017 - Volume 25, Issue 5

www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



Calendar for May, 2017

| Sun | Monday | Tues. | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----|--|---|---|----------|--------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | | | | | Werner Boyce Salt Springs New Port Richie Level II, 9am |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| | Club Meeting Bill Jackson's Pinellas Park 7pm | | Pop Stansell Pk Palm Harbor 9:00am, Level 1 | | | Bill Jackson's Intro to Kayaking 10:30am |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | | Bay Area Kayak Fish- ing Club 6:30 Bill Jackson's | Phillippe Park Safety Harbor Level I | | | Club Picnic Fred Howard Park Tarpon Springs 8:30/9am |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | | | | | | Trip Leader Training Fort DeSoto 8:30 am <hr/> Bill Jackson's Intro to Kayaking |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

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

Join us at the May 8th Club Meeting - Jill Mosteller

Want to visit a pristine island that offers no cellphone service, just clear blue water, pink cliffs, playful sea lions, and beautiful fish...with a nice sunset to end an adventurous day? Come join Jill as she shares her experiences kayaking around Isla Espiritu Santo, located in the Sea of Cortez, off the coast of La Paz, MX in Baja Sur. This uninhabited island is one of the world's designated biosphere reserves, a place where eco-tourism promotes the harmonious integration of people and nature.





Trip & Event Schedule

Club Trips (page 1)



| Date | Paddle Difficulty | Description (For skill level info go to http://www.tbsk.club/Skills-Self-Assessment) |
|---|--|--|
| Sat May 6 9:00 am | Level II Distance: 8 to 10 miles | Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park Meet at Brashier Park in New Port Richey at 9 a.m. to explore parts of Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park. We will be paddling deeper into the park than normal, looking for take-out rest areas as we go. Bring plenty of water and your lunch. Please register on the web site or contact the trip leader to allow notification of any changes. Paddle Difficulty: A Level II paddle of 8 to 10 miles. See the Skills Self Assessment Chart on the web site and contact the leader with any questions. Trip Leader: Hank Brooks jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com 727-724-8983 |
| Monday May 8 7pm | | Club Meeting - Jackson's Shop for Adventure, Pinellas Park Speaker: Jill Mosteller Want to visit a pristine island that offers no cellphone service, just clear blue water, pink cliffs, playful sea lions, and beautiful fish...with a nice sunset to end an adventurous day? Come join Jill as she shares her experiences kayaking around Isla Espiritu Santo, located in the Sea of Cortez, off the coast of La Paz, MX in Baja Sur. This uninhabited island is one of the world's designated biosphere reserves, a place where eco-tourism promotes the harmonious integration of people and nature. |
| Wed May 10 9:00 am | Level I Distance: 3 miles | Pop Stansell Park - Palm Harbor We'll do some canal cruising and possibly check out a couple of small spoil islands for a snack break. Time on the water will be approximately 3 hours. Please register on the web site or contact the trip leader to allow notification of any changes. No inflatable PFDs please. Please bring sunscreen, hat, water and snacks. See the Skills Self Assessment Chart on the web site and contact the leader with any questions. Difficulty: This trip is Level I, approx 3 miles at a slow pace. Trip Leader: Cynthia McGregor sailingcyn@gmail.com, 305 619 8276 |
| Wed May 17 9:00 am | Level I Distance: Up to 6 miles | Philippe Park, Safety Harbor Meet at Philippe Park in Safety Harbor at 9 a.m. We will paddle the Safety Harbor area, exploring the newly built park in the area. Exact direction of the paddle will depend on the weather conditions and experience of the paddlers. Bring plenty of water and your lunch. Please register on the web site or contact the trip leader to allow notification of any changes. Paddle Difficulty: A Level I paddle. See the Skills Self Assessment Chart on the web site and contact the leader with any questions. Trip Leader: Hank Brooks jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com 727-724-8983 |



Trip & Event Schedule Club Trips (page 2)



| Date | Paddle Difficulty | Description (For skill level info go to http://www.tbsk.club/Skills-Self-Assessment) |
|---|--|---|
| Sat May 20 Training and Level I, II, 9:00am Level III 8:30am All levels | TBSK Picnic – Fred Howard Park, Tarpon Springs Location: Shelter number 5 | <p>Hamburgers & vegiburgers will be provided by the club. Please bring a dish to share. All paddlers bring water, hat, sunscreen. 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.)</p> <p>May training will consist of members learning how to perform assisted rescues. Attendees will be versed in how to get back into their boat after a wet exit. They will utilize the heel hook and stirrup techniques. Also, the members will perform T-Rescues that will assist another person safely re-enter their kayak. No matter your experience level you should consider taking this class. In an emergency this training may save your life or the life of a friend.</p> <p>The class is limited to 12 participants. Please sign up through the TBSK website. You must have a sea kayak. No inflatable PFDs will be allowed.</p> <p>Contact: Liz Hogrebe food questions elizhogrebe@aol.com, 727- 421- 4514 Training: Tom Sobocinski and Eileen Burns, 9:00am Level I trip leader: TBD, 9:00am Level II trip leader: John Marek, 9:00am Level III trip leader: TBD, 8:30am</p> |
| Sat May 27 8:30 am | Levels II & III | Volunteers needed for Trips Leaders Refresher Volunteer to be a student for to help the Trip Leaders' Refresher training. They volunteer to lead paddles for you! Paddlers are needed for trip leaders to practice rescues, towing and group management. This will also be good for those interested in becoming a trip leader or just general trip planning and management. Ft De Soto, meet at 8:30 (park fee \$5 or annual pass) You will need a kayak with fore and aft hatches and deck lines (mandatory), PFD (no inflatables please), spray skirt and pump. Bring eats, water and sun screen. Program will end about 1:30 – 2:00 pm. Difficulty: Volunteers should be comfortable with in-water activity including multiple exit and rescue scenarios. Please contact John Marek, tampajohn@gmail.com cell 813 952 5650, to sign up! |

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 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).



Events

Training from Outfitters

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Bill Jackson's Pinellas Park | 727-576-4169 adventure@billjacksons.com | http://www.billjacksons.com/classes/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Kayaking - \$78— 5/13 & 5/27 • Intro to Stand-up Paddleboards - 5/6 & 5/20 |
| Economy Tackle & Dolphin Paddlesports Sarasota | 941-922-9671 kayaktoday@gmail.com | http://www.floridakayak.com/kayaks/kayak-classes/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Kayaking: \$60 (Saturdays, Turtle Beach—Siesta Key, RSVP Required) • Intermediate Kayaking—\$75 (Call for date) |
| Sweetwater Kayaks St Petersburg | 727-570-4844 TheS-hop@SweetwaterKayaks.com | http://sweetwaterkayaks.wordpress.com/skills/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation Skills Kayak Class—\$75 (Call) • Directional Control—\$75 (Call) • Rolling Clinic (\$50) (Call) • Greenland Kayaking—\$50 to \$85 depending on skills covered (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 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 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



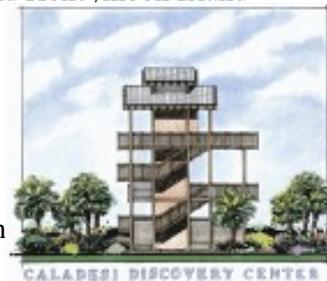
News & Events Around the State

(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:
 - 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.



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



Paddle Florida <http://www.paddleflorida.org/>

- New 2017-18 season will be announced May 1st!



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

- May 12 & 13 — Oyster Shell project at McKay Bay



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/>



Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful: <http://keeptampabaybeautiful.org>

Our mission is to promote a culture of environmental stewardship through volunteer and educational opportunities.



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

- Volunteer Work Day, May 20



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>

Top Gun Triathlon Kayak Support

Bill Jackson's is looking for volunteers with kayaks and paddleboards to help support the triathletes during the swim portion of the annual Top Gun Triathlon at Fort De Soto Park. Meet July 22, 2017 at 6 am at Shelter 10. Launch is at 6:15 am.

Call the shop at 727-576-4169 to sign up.



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 |
| Essential Requirements | | | | | | |
| Be Able To Swim | | | • | • | • | • |
| Physically fit to paddle | | | • | • | • | • |
| Entry/ Exit Boat | | | | | | |
| Without Assistance From Shore | | | • | • | • | • |
| From Low Dock | | | | | • | • |
| Surf Launches & Landings < 2 ft | | | | | • | • |
| Surf Launches & Landings > 2 ft | | | | | | • |
| Paddling Skills | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | • |
| Cruising | | | | | | |
| Distance Up To | Speed | | | | | |
| 3 Miles | 1- 2 mph | | • | • | • | • |
| 5 Miles | 2 - 3 mph | | | • | • | • |
| 10 Miles | 3 - 4 mph | | | | • | • |
| 18 Miles | > 4 mph | | | | | • |
| Wave | Current | Wind | | | | |
| Calm | < 1 mph | < 4 mph | • | • | • | • |
| < 1 foot | < 1 mph | < 6 mph | | • | • | • |
| < 2 feet | < 2 mph | < 12 mph | | | • | • |
| < 3 feet | < 4 mph | < 15 mph | | | | • |
| Rescues | | | | | | |
| Wet Exit | | | • | • | • | • |
| Assisted Rescue | | | | • | • | • |
| Self Rescue After Wet Exit | | | | | • | • |
| Towing | | | | | • | • |
| Wet Re-entry in Rough Water Assisted by Partner | | | | | | • |
| Roll | | | | | | • |

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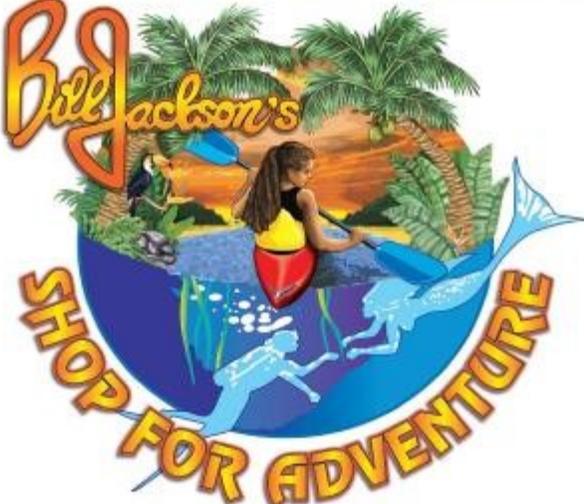
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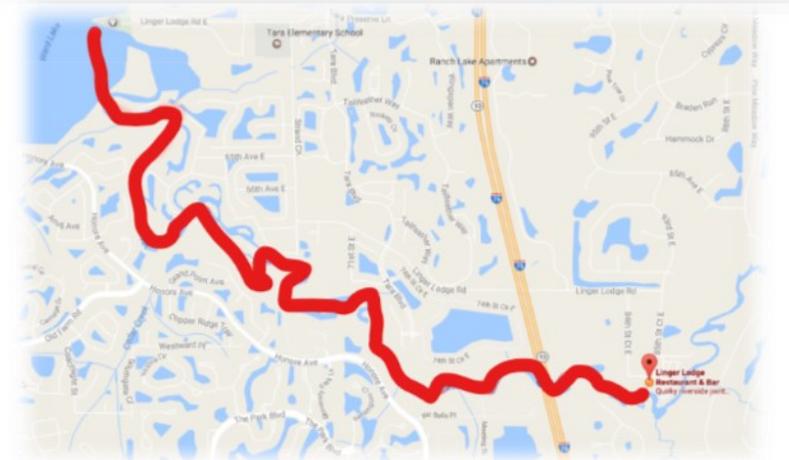
On a beautiful spring day, eleven paddlers met at Jiggs Landing for a paddle 4 miles up the Braden River to Linger Lodge. The plan was to stop for lunch and then return to Jiggs Landing.

Jiggs Landing was opened as a fish camp in 1944. It is located on Evers Reservoir, which was formed when the Braden River was dammed many years ago. Jiggs Landing is now a Manatee County Preserve and includes a boat ramp, canoe/kayak launch, café/concession stand, and rental cabins.

The Braden River is an “urban” paddle, but about half the river is undeveloped and provides for plenty of natural beauty. Wading birds are usually prevalent along the river. Since the river is dammed, there is always sufficient water for paddling and little or no current to contend with.

Linger Lodge is an “Old Florida” restaurant and is known for its stuffed animals. Linger Lodge began as a campground in 1945 and was purchased by Frank and Elaine Gamsky in 1968. Frank was an amateur taxidermist, hence the hundreds of preserved Florida animals decorating the walls and ceiling. In addition to a huge alligator and giant rattlesnakes, such “Florida critters” as the Jackalope, Blue Billed Orthodock, and Alaskan Fur Fish are on display.

The Linger Lodge menu is a little unusual. While I myself was conservative and opted for alligator chowder, it appeared that many in our group feasted on other Linger Lodge specialties, including an impressive variety of road-kill – always guaranteed to be fresh. I’m not sure what was more popular, the fried possum, blackened coon, or sautéed squirrel. Everyone left the restaurant satisfied, however, and enjoyed the lazy, old Florida river ambiance on the return paddle.



Twelve intrepid paddlers (actually it was 6) met at the Emerson Point Park canoe / kayak launch determined, despite whatever conditions might arise, to circumnavigate Snead Island. After paddling through a very scenic mangrove tunnel, which opened onto Terra Ceia Bay, the group was confronted with what felt like near hurricane force winds (actually around 10 mph). Undaunted the group paddled east into the wind across what felt like an endless expanse of open water (actually maybe a half mile) and into a channel that opened onto the eastern portion of Terra Ceia Bay.

Looming over the group of determined paddlers was the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (actually it was in the far distance, but clearly visible). Once back into Terra Ceia Bay, the group turned south and paddled through a cut into the Manatee River. After dodging what seemed like a parade of speeding motorboats while paddling through the cut (actually one motorboat at no wake speed), the group turned west with Anna Maria Island on the distant horizon.

What felt like dozens of miles later (actually about 4 miles into the paddle), the group arrived at the lunch stop, known to many TBSK paddlers as the Emerson Point Park picnic pavilion. While there, the group got to have lunch with what felt like about a thousand elementary school children who were on a field trip (actually it was more like thirty, but they sounded like a thousand). After a noisy lunch and with the group's determination to circumnavigate the island renewed, the group again launched into what seemed like near hurricane force winds (actually around 10 mph) and happily paddled toward the mouth of the Manatee River with the wind at their backs.

Rounding the point, the group was again faced with paddling into the wind. Fortunately, the near hurricane force winds had quieted a bit and it was a pleasant paddle back to the mangrove tunnel that lead to the launch site.

Once everyone had safely arrived back at the canoe / kayak launch, the champagne was opened and the trip leaders were toasted for successfully leading the group around Snead Island through what felt like a tough 26 miles of shark infested waters (actually 7.5 miles).





Training Session at Club Picnic

Photos by Bill Biles

I can't express how much I appreciate Jean and everyone else in the group who helped me with my very first learning skills. I'm looking forward to many more! Sincerely, Julie



"Fantastic trainers and skills practice, calm and clear waters, beautiful blue sky especially from the balance brace position!"



Jean is an excellent trainer and has a great way of teaching skills as building blocks, with each skill serving as the foundation for the next. She also did a great job of teaching a class of trainees that had a wide range of skill levels. And she only yelled at me when I was under water! Many thanks to Jean and her assistants!!!



It was a very enjoyable training session and I walked away feeling that I had learned something. Jean made the training fun and the attendees participation added to the fun.

Bill



Keeping fingers above the waterline for a balanced brace was a small but crucial point for my success! Thank you Jean!

There were eleven paddlers who explored some very small mangrove trails on the way to visit the Scharrer homestead on the south end of Caladesi on Wednesday April 26th. The takeout was one boat wide so it required a bit of boat moving to accommodate everyone but the smiles at the lunch table show that we had a great time. There is a partial fireplace and part of the foundation remaining at the homestead site.

“The ruins before you are the remains of homestead constructed and occupied by Henry Scharrer and his family from 1892 to 1934. A Swiss immigrant, Scharrer settled here at the age of 32 after roaming the American Midwest working odd jobs. In 1892, Caladesi island was known as “Hog Island”. Following construction of the homestead, the island was affectionately known as “Scharrer’s Island”. The small bay just west of the ruins, beyond the mangrove, is “Scharrer’s Bayou”, where remains of a dock are visible.

Educated as a schoolmaster at the University of Zurich, Scharrer married Catherine McNally, an Irish immigrant, in 1894. The couple was married in the prominent palm grove just north of the ruins. They had one daughter together, Myrtle, in 1895. Scharrer sustained himself largely by working odd jobs on the mainland and by trading fish, fruit, and vegetables obtained from his homestead.

In October 1921, South hog Island was created after a Category 3 hurricane separated it from the northern half of Hog Island, thus creating “Hurricane Pass”. Hence, what had been known as “Hog Island” became South Hog Island and North Hog Island. South Hog Island was later named Caladesi Island and North Hog Island was later named Honeymoon Island.

While hospitalized in Dunedin in 1934, Scharrer’s residence was pillaged and burned. Although the perpetrators were never identified, it is widely believed they were certain hunters who had stolen and poached from Scharrer over the years. An account of the incident was documented in a December 1934 issue of the Clearwater Sun. Heartbroken from the loss, Scharrer succumbed to this illness in Dunedin at the age of 74 and was buried next to his wife.

Other homesteaders have occupied the island, but none so prominently as Scharrer. Over a period of 15 years, prior to her marriage, Scharrer’s daughter Myrtle recorded many varieties of wildlife, including over 158 species of birds on the island.”





Go North and Paddle!

Story & Photos by Mercedé Rogers – MHO Adventures

Editor's Note: Are you tired of always paddling in the same places. We have invited Mercedé Rodgers to write this brief article to spark your imagination about alternative paddling places.

For a paddling enthusiast, growing up in Ontario, Canada has its perks! There are about 62 000 miles of rivers to be explored and thousands of lakes nearby. You can choose between remote locations or paddle through urban areas and explore for weeks. One of the most popular ways to head out on the water is with a group of friends - or soon to be friends as was the case for me when I first set out on a trip with MHO Adventures.

A friend and I booked a trip to one of Ontario's most Northern Rivers. The Missinaibi and flows towards James Bay- the largest estuary in the world. We began our trip with a flight over Thunderhouse Falls, and landed on the River 40 miles north of the last road, and the last portage.

From here it was a downstream paddle to the town of Moosonee and the historic Cree settlement of Moose Factory on the James Bay coast. After exploring these native frontier villages we returned to a little Northern town called Cochrane aboard the famous Polar Bear Express Train. This adventure combined the unique natural history of the James Bay Lowlands with the colorful cultural and human history of the aboriginal and early European inhabitants. We were joined by company owner and guide Erin Pehar as well as two other female clients. Our small group laughed and ate our way downriver.

I became so enamored with MHO Adventures that when an opportunity came up to work with them I jumped at it.

MHO Adventures has been guiding and outfitting wilderness holidays and expeditions for over 20 years. Northern Ontario's foremost River Guiding Company, MHO Adventures leads expeditions on Canada's finest paddling areas including, the Missinaibi, Abitibi, Moose, Chapleau, and Bonaventure Rivers as well as in Killarney, Haliburton and anywhere else people would like to go.

From Introductory wilderness paddling weekends, fall colors photography weekends to multi-week expeditions on beautiful and challenging 'Bay' rivers, we have a trip for you. Our highly trained, experienced and personable guides bring an abundance of knowledge and skill to every trip. With a delicious menu, beautiful scenery and great company we are sure you will have the time of your life.

Have you ever thought about exploring the many waterways Canada has to offer? This year Canada is celebrating its 150th Anniversary and what better way to celebrate than on a wilderness river expedition with us?! There are many ways to contact us - but the BEST way is to give us a call and let's get moving on your next adventure!
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Clean Water Rule To Be Reviewed And Replaced

posted March 1, 2017, by Kevin Colburn, Reprinted from "American Whitewater"

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/33728/>



President Trump just issued an order to the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to review and replace a federal rule that protects our rivers from pollution. This action will start a multi-year public rulemaking process that will decide the safety and health of our nation's waterways. Paddlers will have an important role to play in speaking up for the value of clean water and healthy rivers.

The Clean Water Act is a 45 year-old federal law that governs how much and which

kinds of pollution can be dumped in rivers, and how much water dams must release, while protecting the health and rights of all those who live downstream. The Clean Water Act is largely responsible for restoring many US rivers from toxic waterways devoid of life to thriving waterways that support safe drinking water, diverse aquatic life, and booming recreation economies.

Following years of ambiguity about exactly which streams and wetlands are covered under the Clean Water Act, the Obama Administration passed the Clean Water Rule based on extensive public outreach and scientific review. The Clean Water Rule regulates the discharge of pollution into all streams with a defined bed and bank (since water flows downstream) as well as certain types of wetlands. American Whitewater supports the Clean Water Rule and helped defend it from previous challenges. The nation's preeminent scientists likewise actively support the Clean Water Rule, as voiced in letter to the President this week.

The new Executive Order requires that the Clean Water Rule be replaced with a new rule that promotes economic growth and that does not cover channels that are intermittent, ephemeral, or only flow after rains. While this is the outline of the proposed new rule, the details remain to be seen and could further limit protections. This new rule will be pitched to the public and there will opportunities for review and public input.

As paddlers, we know that pollution dumped in creek beds that occasionally run dry will end up downstream when it rains. The Clean Water Act must apply to our Nation's headwaters if the goal is to protect downstream states, people, fish, and property rights. Paddlers also know that healthy rivers attract and inspire new businesses, revitalize communities, and create boons to public health, fitness, and happiness.

Americans overwhelmingly support clean water and healthy rivers, and we are confident that there will be a massive public response to the forthcoming rulemaking. When the new draft rule is released American Whitewater staff will review it with open minds and through a scientific lens, and let the paddling community know what we think.



Life Jackets in the New World Order

Reprinted from Paddling.com

<https://paddling.com/learn/life-jackets-in-the-new-world-order/>

Tom Watson reviews some of the changes that are in store for defining "Life Jackets" and "PFDs"? It's called "harmonization" and it'll make choosing the right buoyancy device much easier.

There is a process going on right now between U.S. and Canadian regulatory agencies that is looking at upgrading, standardizing and otherwise enhancing the whole process of developing and certifying life jackets on an international scale. It's called "Harmonization" and is being undertaken by agencies who regulate the use of life jackets and personal flotation devices in their waters - waters that up until this effort had different standards and requirements for the types of safety gear by which paddlers and other boaters had to abide. Here in the states that lead is being taken by the United States Coast Guard, the head regulatory agency for LJ/PFDs. The ultimate goal is to standardize safety gear, make it as safe as possible and provide the consumer with useful and understandable information about that gear so they can make a responsible decision in their choice of life jacket or PFD.

Let's do a little background associated with the terms "Life Jacket" and "PFD/personal flotation device." First, both types work on the principle of buoyancy - they help keep you afloat. The average person requires between 7-12 pounds of buoyancy to keep afloat with their head out of the water. LJ/PFDs provide that additional "lift" in varying amounts based in part upon design and anticipated environments.

Buoyancy devices are either "life jackets" that are designed (in most cases) to turn a face-down wearer over, even when unconscious, so the victim's head is out of the water. Unless what you are wearing for buoyancy support is capable of doing this specifically, it's not a life jacket, it's a Personal Flotation Device. As such it's only required to assist a person in staying afloat - a swimming aid if you will.

In Canada only buoyancy devices that turn the wearer face-up with head out of the water are termed and referred to as "life jackets". All other devices are considered PFDs. Those classified as a "flotation" device offer less buoyancy, limited or no self-righting capabilities and can be offered in a variety of colors.

In that regard, in the US, buoyant seat cushions are classified as Type IV (throwable) PFDs. In Canada, however, they are NOT approved as a classified/authorized buoyancy device.

These are just a few of the differences - all the result of years of research, inspections, approvals, trials, legislation and other necessary and regulatory interferences - that the USCG and its counterpart regulatory agency, Transport Canada, are dealing with in order to "harmonize" standards for buoyancy devices throughout North America, and possibly more in line with standards used in of Europe.

Up to now, development in PFDs and Life Jackets in Canada and the US have faced several hurdles: different standards across their markets; unique labeling and point-of-sale requirements for each country; varied approval requirements by national regulators. To further slow and muddle this standardization are the processes by which these standards themselves have been developed.

Some aspects of these disjointed efforts have been resolved and while some duplication of efforts and separate processing are still part of the system, progress is being made. Standards in labeling for products sold in both countries now allow for a common label on both US and Canadian PFD/LJ devices.

The label's format and style - what is presented and how it's present - has been designed to better express the specifics of the device in terms and symbols the consumer can better understand. Replacing much of the former wording with understandable icons, the new label design and layout consists of three panels, each providing the following information:

- Selection/Warning - information on size, performance information, intended use and other warnings;
- Certification/Approval - includes the USCG Approval number, Third Party Certification Body Mark, manufacturer's information and product model/style;
- Care/Maintenance - service and maintenance information.

An important icon will inform the user of the turning ability of that particular life jacket. One of three symbols will be highlighted, indicating whether the device has the ability to turn over the wearer or not, and if so, to what degree. Refining the current "Think Safe Pamphlet" is also being updated into a more refined mechanism for display on devices at the retail level. Often criticized for having too many pages and seldom read by consumers, its information will now be presented on a simple, two-sided placard. Considered the "decoder ring" for all the changes in life jackets, the placard will be brightly colored and provide much of the same information as listed on the actual label. Consumers will be able to better compare life jackets and have quick reference to their use/activity levels and water environment for their anticipated and intended usage.

Taken together, the type and format of information to be presented will inform the user of the conditions in which a particular life jacket should be used based on calm, inner waters vs. outer, rougher conditions, therefore considering all the factors such as the time it may take to rescue the wearer. The new label will better express which performance level device should be purchased.

Other information on the new label includes information relating to water safety facts, inherent buoyancy and maintenance issues. It is being recommended that all the other information that had been provide by the "Think Safe Pamphlet" will now be included in the manufacturer's user manual or on consumer education websites. "I don't think the 16-page booklet will ever go away," says Edmonston, "though it is due for a heavy redesign as well."

This is just a broad overview of a process that has a long way to go before regulations are all standardized and bureaucratic wrinkles are ironed out. Still it's a process, with the ultimate goal of increasing the wear rates and saving more lives

CHOOSE THE DEVICE YOU WILL WANT TO WEAR

SIZE & FIT

- Check label for user weight and chest size.
- Different body types float differently.
- Try your device on in the water to ensure your airway is clear.
- A good fit is secure, comfortable, and adjustable.

TRY IT ON

PERFORMANCE

- Lower level number generally offers greater mobility, comfort, and style with good flotation for most people.
- Higher level number generally offers greater flotation, turning, and stability in the water.

50 70 100 150
Near Shore (Calm) (Waves) Offshore
Increasing time to rescue

No Turn Turns Some Turns Most

CONSIDER YOUR ACTIVITY & ENVIRONMENT

WATER SAFETY INFO *

- In over 80% of boating fatalities the person was not wearing flotation.
- Most of these are sudden falls overboard or capsize of a small boat.
- The first moments in the water are critical, even for experienced swimmers.
- Cold water shock causes involuntary gasping, loss of muscle control and swim failure.
- Long term immersion in cold water causes hypothermia and requires thermal protection and flotation in the HELP position to conserve energy.

FLOTATION DEVICES SAVE LIVES

DESIGN TYPES

- **INHERENT** – built-in flotation (always buoyant).
- **INFLATABLE** – activated gas canister inflates chamber(s) (no buoyancy until time of inflation, requires canister replacement, may be manual, may require secondary action to don).
- **HYBRID** – combination of flotation and inflation (some immediate buoyancy and supplemental when inflated, may require canister replacement).
- **SPECIAL PURPOSE** – your activity may require special features (safety color, harness, straps, etc.) and accessories (whistle, lights, reflectors, etc.) for certain conditions.

YOUR DEVICE ONLY WORKS WHEN WORN

MAINTENANCE

- Over time, exposure to sun, salt, fuel, and mildew can damage device.
- Allow to air dry, inspect and test regularly.
- Inflatables require replacement rearming, repacking and regular servicing.

READ, SAVE AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

WARNINGS

- Devices must be fastened correctly and securely.
- Some devices were not designed for certain activity or conditions such as water skiing, towed sports or use on personal watercraft.

CHECK LABEL FOR LIMITATIONS OF USE

APPROVAL

- Some devices are approved only when worn.
- Check federal, state/provincial and local requirements for carriage, use and wear.

US Coast Guard Transport Canada

WEAR IT

* For more info on the right choices for yourself, your family and friends...
Visit www.XXXXX.org

Info for TBSK.club

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TBSK MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: THULE roof rack locking cross-bar 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)

For Sale: 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)



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

March 2017

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Beginning BALANCE | \$3891 |
| INCOME | |
| Dues | \$25 |
| EXPENSES | 0 |
| Ending Balance | \$4005 |

Welcome New Members!

- Dana Bennett
- Gary and Karen Bethune
- Angela Frommann
- Bill Johnson
- Jill Lindsey
- Bonner Rust

Members that renewed this month:

- CPamella Settlegoode
- John Carter
- Mark Bastille
- Lois Farrell
- Ian and Deborah Brownarol Behnken
- John Benton
- Jackie Simpson



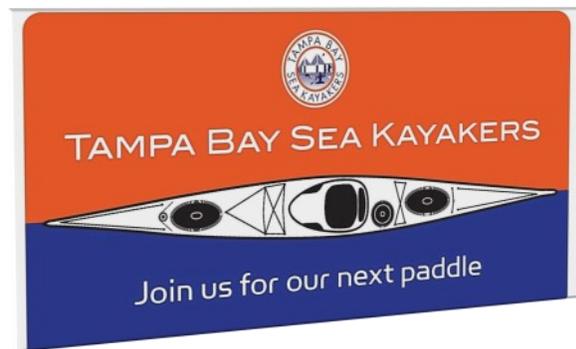


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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!



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