Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

June, 2017 - Volume 25, Issue 6

www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers

Ebb & Flow

Calendar for June, 2017

Sun	Monday	Tues.	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						Bullfrog Creek, Gibsonton Level II, 9:30am — Mullet Key, St. Pete Level III, 9am
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Chassahowitzka Homosassa Level II, 8:30 am			Lido Key, Sarasota Level III, 9am
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Weedon Island, St. Pete 9am, Level I	Club Meeting Bill Jackson's Pinellas Park 7pm		Oldsmar Mangroves Level Zero, 9am			Honeymoon Island Dunedin Level II, 7:30aqm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						Club Picnic, Bay Pines Pk, St. Pete All Level, 8:30 & 9am
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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

Join us at the June 12th Club Meeting - Weedon Island

Emma Mason from the Weedon Island Preserve will discuss the preserve, paddling trails and some of the historical perspective about the Weedon people and the 40ft wooden canoe that was discovered in the park.

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 June 3 9:30am	**Level II** **Distance:** 8 miles, open water	**Bullfrog Creek, Gibsonton - A New Place To Explore** Meet at 9:30 at Williams Park off U.S. 41, just north of the Alafia River. If you are tired of paddling the same ole paces, give this paddle a try. We will explore south of the Alafia River in Hillsborough Bay. We will go up Bullfrog Creek and perhaps paddle south of the creek entrance. Bring your curiosity, lunch plenty of water (summer is here) and the usual safety items. Please register on the web site or contact the trip leader to allow notification of any changes. **Difficulty:** Level II because of some open water and about 8 miles distance. See the Skills Self Assessment Chart on the web site and contact the leader with any questions. **Contact:** Hank Brooks jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com 727-724-8983
Sat June 3 9am	**Level III** **Distance:** 12+ miles	**Circumnavigation of Mullet Key, St Petersburg** We'll meet at Maximo Park (Last southbound exit before the SkyWay Bridge) at 9 for a 9:30 launch to paddle around Mullet Key, weather permitting. Bring lots of drink and snack/lunch to eat on the beach. Kayaks must be at least 14' with water-tight bulkheads; wear approved PFD and Spay-Deck. This will be a paddle of about 12 miles at about 3.5 mph - mostly in open water. Please register on the web site or contact the trip leader to allow notification of any changes. **Difficulty:** Level III, more than 12 miles. See the Skills Self Assessment Chart on the web site and contact the leader with any questions. **Contact:** Phil Sheesley philsheesley@hotmail.com 813-695-7395
Wed June 7 8:30am	**Level II** **Distance:** 7 miles	**Chassahowitzka River Springs Loop, Homosassa** Join Therese for an exploration of several springs that feed the "Chaz". This short tide-influenced river is one of the healthiest rivers in west central Florida. The area is rich with wildlife. It is brackish, except at the springs, and dominated by submerged aquatic vegetation. The shoreline is mainly undeveloped lowland swamps. We will visit first and second order springs on the main river and then explore three creeks to visit other springs. Expect twisty shallow sawgrass-lined narrow sections, current runs, short hikes through ankle deep water/mud and mosquitoes, possible snakes, spiders, alligators, low trees, submerged logs, and very few places to get out of the boat. 76 degree water at springs, warmer downriver. We will have snacks/lunch near a spring. Any kind of kayak is welcome but have at least one sealed compartment for flotation. Bring insect repellent. Wear PFD (no inflatables). Feel free to contact trip leader if you have questions about your equipment. You must register on the web site or RSVP to the trip leader to join on this trip. Meet at 8:30am for a 9am launch **Launch**: Chassahowitzka River Campground boat ramp, 8600 W Miss Maggie Dr, (CR 480), Homosassa, FL 34448. $5 parking fee, $7 for vehicle plus trailer. We will meet at 8:30am and launch around 9:00am. **Difficulty:** Level II, distance of 7 miles, 2-3 mph pace. Please register on the web site or contact the trip leader to allow notification of any changes. **Trip Leader:** Therese Eby (425) 802-2281 thereseeby@gmail.com
Sat June 10 9am	**Level III** **Distance:** 8 – 10 miles	**Lido Key Circumnavigation - Sarasota** We will meet at 9:00 a.m. and launch by 9:30 a.m. to circumnavigate Lido Key. Participants need to be able to paddle against strong currents in passes and handle turbulence and possibly breaking waves at the entrance to passes. We will stop somewhere along the way for a picnic lunch and some skills practice. Limited to kayaks 16' or longer with bulk heads or adequate flotation. Spray skirts are required. Please register on the web site or RSVP to trip leader, preferably by email, for directions to the launch site and to be notified in case there is a change in itinerary. Bring lunch. **Difficulty:** Level III - Advanced. This will be a paddle of approximately 8 to 10 miles depending on route. See the Skills Self Assessment Chart on the web site and contact the leader with any questions. **Contact:** Terry Proeger tproeger@comcast.net 941 356-0854 or Carl Boettger paddle123@verizon.net 941 723-7411 to RSVP and for launch specifics.

Trip & Event Schedule
Club Trips (page 2)

Date	Paddle Difficulty	Description *(For skill level info go to http://www.tbsk.club/Skills-Self-Assessment)*
Sun **June 11** 9 am	**Level I** **Distance:** Up to 6 miles	**Back Side of Weedon Island - Saint Pete** Meet Al Tillson to launch from the Pinellas side of Gandy Bridge at 9:00AM to launch at 9:30AM for a paddle south toward Weedon Island and into some of the mangrove area. We'll be close to shore most but not all of the time. We'll paddle about 3 hours at a leisurely pace with a stop midway for lunch and maybe a quick swim. Location may be changed if required by weather conditions. Please register on the web site or RSVP to trip leader to allow notification of any changes. **Difficulty:** For beginners Level I and up. See the Skills Self Assessment Chart on the web site and contact the leader with any questions. **Contact:** Al Tillson (altillson@yahoo.com or 813-832-3961)
Monday **June 12** 7pm	**Club Meeting - Bill Jackson's - Pinellas Park** Speaker: Emma Mason, Volunteer Educator at Weedon Island Preserve and Education Chair for Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges. She will discuss the preserve, paddling trails and some of the historical perspective about the Weedon people and the 40ft wooden canoe that was discovered in the park.	
Wed **June 14** 9 am	**Level 0** **Distance:** 3 miles	**Bicentennial Park, Oldsmar - An Easy Paddle Thru the Mangroves** Meet at 9 a.m. at Bicentennial Park in Oldsmar (I will send you a Google Map if you are coming). We will explore the mangrove trails and then paddle down a creek to Mobbly Bay. Bring your lunch, plenty of water and the usual safety equipment. Please register on the web site or contact the trip leader to allow notification of any changes. **Difficulty:** Level 0 - minimum experience necessary. A trip of about 3 miles. See the Skills Self Assessment Chart on the web site and contact the leader with any questions. **Contact: Hank** Brooks jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com 727-724-8983
Sat **June 17** 7:30 am launch	**Level II plus** for distance **Distance:** 8 miles	**Honeymoon Island – Brunch on the Beach - Dunedin** Join us for a paddle trip to near the end of Honeymoon Island for our brunch stop and a possible circumnavigation, depending on conditions. Trip Leader will provide a breakfast "cocktail" (non alcoholic) for all participants to toast our good fortune at beginning the day this way! Each paddler brings water, food, sun protection and a smile. We will LAUNCH at 7:30 a.m. from the Dunedin Causeway just west of kayak rentals. PLEASE arrive as needed to be ready for launch time, which will immediately follow the brief shoreside safety meeting. **Requirements:** All kayaks, 16' minimum with decklines and bulkheads and appropriate safety gear. No inflatable PFDs please. Please register on the web site or contact the trip leader to allow notification of any changes. **Difficulty:** Level II plus, for distance up to 8 miles. See the Skills Self Assessment Chart on the web site and contact the leader with any questions **Trip Leader:** Cynthia McGregor 305 619 8276 sailingcyn@gmail.com **Tides: High** 6:39 am 2.41' Low 12:58 pm 1.12'
Sat **June 24** Training, Level I, II 9:00am Level III 8:30am	**All levels**	**TBSK Picnic - Bay Pines War Veterans Memorial Park - St.Pete** 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.) Bracing skills will be the topic of June's training. A brace is a pre-emptive self rescue stroke used to stay upright after being caught off balance. Multiple bracing strokes will be taught in a progressive manner that starts out easy and allows you to build your skill set throughout the class. Sea kayaks are required for this instruction. The class is limited to twelve participants. Registration on web site is required. Contact: Liz Hogrebe food questions elizhogrebe@aol.com, 727- 421- 4514 Training: Tom Sobocinski and Elaine 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

Events

Training from Outfitters

Bill Jackson's Pinellas Park	727-576-4169 adventure@billjacksons.com	http://www.billjacksons.com/classes/ • Introduction to Kayaking - $78— 5/6/10 & 7/8 • Intro to Stand-up Paddleboards - 6/17 & 7/1
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, RSVP Required) • Intermediate Kayaking—$75 (Call for date)
Sweetwater Kayaks St Petersburg	727-570-4844 TheS-hop@SweetwaterKayaks.com	http://sweetwaterkayaks.wordpress.com/skills/ • Foundation Skills Kayak Class—$75 (Call) • Directional Control—$75 (Call) • Rolling Clinic ($50) (Call) • Greenland Kayaking—$50-$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 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/

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. Jill Lingard is the FPTA President, and Hank Brooks is this Region's Director for FPTA. (Our region is Hillsborough, Pinellas, & Manatee)

Our 2017-18 season of paddling adventures:

- October 20-25, 2017: Suwannee River Wilderness Trail
- December 1-5, 2017: Ocklawaha Odyssey
- January 18-23, 2018: Wild, Wonderful Withlacoochee
- February 10-16, 2018: The Great Calusa Blueway
- March 10-16, 2018: Choctawhatchee Challenge
- April 6-8, 2018: Suwannee River Paddling Festival

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/

- To register for trips: http://www.paddleflorida.org/services/preview-and-register-for-trips-5165.html

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

- Tarpon Rodeo, June 8-9: http://www.tampabaywatch.org/edalbertarponrodeo.html (Catch and release tournament and banquet).
- Summer Clean-up, July 8th

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

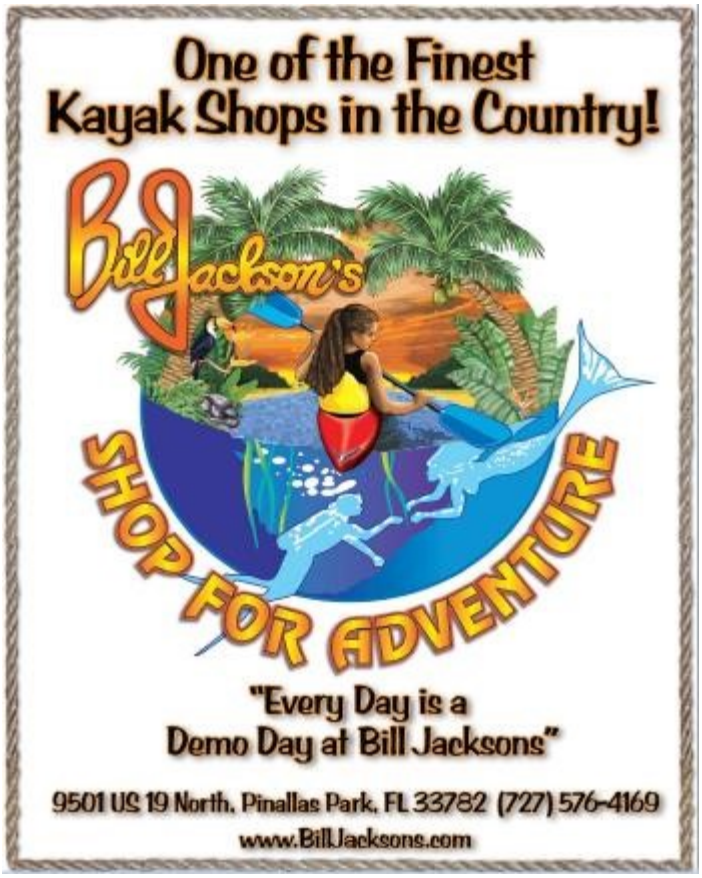
Our mission is to promote a culture of environmental stewardship through volunteer and educational opportunities.

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

- Volunteer Work Day, June 17

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

Visit our Sponsors for the Best Kayaking Equipment and Advice!



How did new participants find out about the club?

Since early April we have been tracking how new members found out about TBSK. The results so far are:

- Outfitters 3
- Internet Search 3
- A Friend 3
- Other 3
- Facebook 3
- Brochures 3

Support our sponsors!

Up the Spring Creek With A Paddle

Article by Hank Brooks and Photos by Tom Komar

Phil sent out an emergency email to trip leaders that said something like, “Help!!! I have some very inexperienced paddlers coming on my Chassahowitzka River paddle and I am not certain I can handle the group by myself. I need back up!” Both myself and Tom Kolmar volunteered.

We arrived at the Chassahowitzka Campground & boat launch to find that on this Saturday morning, it was not an original idea to go kayaking. At 9 a.m. the parking lot was almost full. While Phil had labeled this a Level I paddle, we truly had an eclectic group. This was going to be an adventure because our group had the most variety of boats and skill levels that I have ever seen on a single paddle. We had several sit-on-tops, a few sea kayaks and some recreational kay-aks. I asked one paddler how long he had been paddling and he said he had three hours of experience. It seems that Phil had convinced him that it would be a great paddle and that he should join TBSK – which he did right before the paddle. He did great, and said he's looking forward to more trips with the club.

Phil explained that this paddle would be more about exploration than paddling speed or distance. After exploring several nearby spring heads, we headed to the Mother of All Springs – the Crack. It can be found by paddling up a narrow, twisting, spring fed stream. You pad-dle until your boat runs out of water and then you walk about 50 yards and there it is – a spring fed swimming hole. I was told that it’s call the “Crack” because the spring comes thru a crack in the rocks. I’m a believer! A dip in the cool water was refreshing.

Paddling back to the river we found a nice place to take out, have lunch and exchange stories – some of them even true. On the way back to our take out we saw two otters at play – always a treat on this river.

The Crack—clubkaayak.com

Paddling In Molasses … or .. Don't Mess With Mother Nature

Article by Hank Brooks and Photos by John Carter

In early May we had a trip scheduled for open water on the Gulf when we learned that the wind would be blowing up to 15 mph with gusts over 20 mph. Not great paddling conditions for open water. My next thought was, why don't we go on the Hillsborough River. I was there several weeks ago and there is not enough water. Then I thought, how about the Anclote River. The wind was supposed to come from the North, so it would hit us broadside. The paddle from Craig Park to Anclote River Park is only 2.5 miles, but just in case, I left the paddle as a Level II paddle.

There were five of us that showed up for the paddle. As we started to unpack our gear, it became apparent that Mother Nature did not get the memo that the wind should be coming out of the North. There it was coming directly out of the West, right up the mouth of the river, making all the flags stand out straight. I figured that if we paddled between the south shore and the small islands in the river, we would never be more than 50 yards from a take-out. Even though the wind was strong, there were no waves created by the wind on the river. So our only task was to put our heads down and paddle into the wind.

After a quick look at Cross Bayou, where the Greek Orthodox Church celebrates their New Year by having their bishop throw a cross into the bayou where it is retrieved by a lucky young man. After this, we were heading directly West, downriver, into the wind. With each stroke we inched slowly toward our take out, lunch and rest. Along the way, we frequently found some shelter from the wind by hugging the south shore and of course we took breaks. We did find an osprey nest, but with the wind, the birds were keeping their heads down. It took us about 1.5 hours to paddle 2.5 miles, a little over 1.5 mph. On the positive side, the trip back took less than half the time as the wind push us to our take out.

The Crack—clubkaayak.com

Beware of Heat Stroke

Article by Hank Brooks

The possibility of heat stroke increases as the temperature and humidity increase. For Hot Weather we have **The 103 Rule of Thumb:** When the sum of the air temperature and relative humidity is **more** than 103, you are in danger of heat stress. See heat index chart. The National Weather Service recommends "extreme caution" when the heat index exceeds 103, and "danger" when it exceeds 113.

Avoidance Is The Best Option

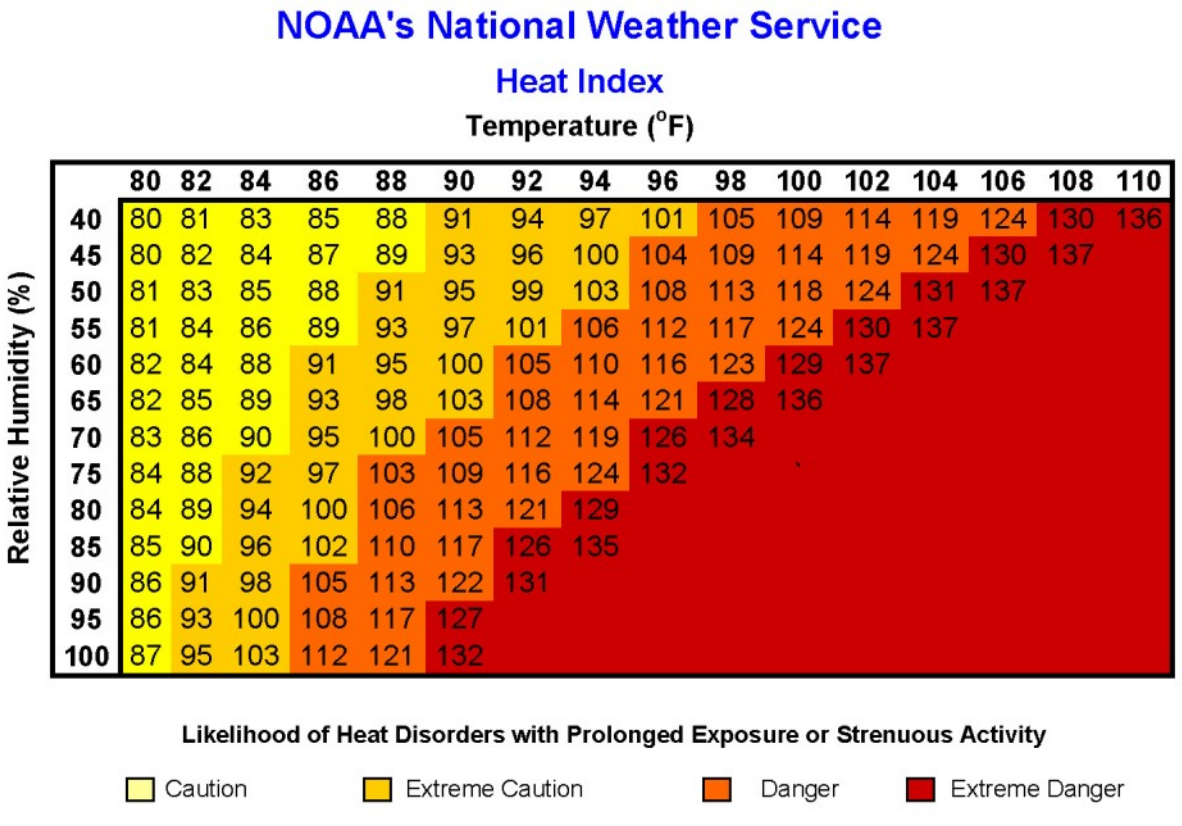
The best way to avoid the heat stroke during Florida's hot summer months is to paddle early in the morning. Once on the water it is important to stop frequently to drink water and to wet your clothing frequently to keep cool. Another option is to paddle rivers or estuaries where there is shade

Signs of Heat Stroke

Symptoms of heat stress include; profuse sweating, headache, pale or red skin, nausea, muscle cramps, weakness, dizziness, lose of coordination, and many others. Once a participant starts to succumb to heat illness, it will be very difficult to cool the victim down and reverse the process. Towing a victim will hazard the rescuers to overheating.

If you, or anyone else in your group, have symptoms of heat stress, it's essential to immediately get out of the heat and rest. If you can't get inside:

- Find the nearest cool and shady place and have the victim lie down
- Remove any tight or unnecessary clothing
- Have the victim drink plenty of fluid (avoid caffeine and alcohol).
- Pour water over him/her to aid in the cooling process
- Seek medical help



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Ebb & Flow

Info for TBSK.club

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TBSK MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: Kayak rack- Yakima locking 58 in.for 4door car with hully rollers/thule. Complete assy. for one boat. $100 Sharan 727.868.6470

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	$4005
INCOME	
Dues	495
EXPENSES	
FPTA Membership	$50
Emergency Cards	$56
Ending Balance	$4395

Welcome New Members!

- JoAn Cline
- Eddie Margineanu
- Goti Mullersman
- Alford Poole
- Harrison Smith

Members that renewed this month:

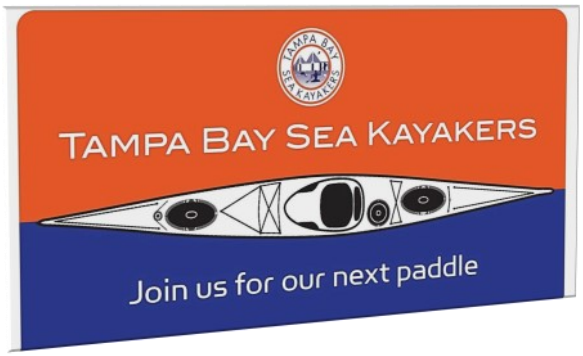
- Raymond Van Loon

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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