

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

June, 2019 - Volume 27, Issue 6

www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1
			9:00 AM Sunset Beach to Three Rooker Bar - Level III			9:00 AM Brooker Creek/ Lake Tarpon - Level 0
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non- Members Invited	11	12	8:00 AM SpringsWatch Monitoring Day on the Weeki Wachee River - Level 1	14	15
						8:30 AM TBSK Picnic - Anclote River Park
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
						9:00 AM Withlacoochee River/ Silver Lake - Level I+
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Jul 1	2	3	4	5	6

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

[Click here to go to Event Page on tbsk.club](#)

Junes Meeting Speaker

Debbie Wilson, a meteorologist and volunteer with Pinellas County Emergency Management, will give a presentation on Preparing for Hurricane Season to the Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers on June 10th. The public is welcome. Join us to learn how to determine your evacuation zone, put together a preparedness kit and how to understand the weather to plan ahead for evacuations (run from the water) or preparing to stay at home (hide from the wind).



The meeting will be held at Bill Jackson's Adventure Shop on US 19 N in Pinellas Park at 7 PM.



April 27th Edging and Bracing Class Canoe Trail, Fort Desoto Park

By Jean Totz Photos by Jan Machnikowski



One of the challenges of coaching students Edging and Bracing skills is their fear of falling in. I know, “. . . been there, done that!” I finally became comfortable with these skills by practicing each time I paddled over shallow clear water (1-2 feet). I still do this to warm up my back and hips.

When you are learning new skills at any level, capsizing is an important part of the learning process. To help alleviate this learning barrier, I began this class by practicing the wet exit. When I asked my students; “When was the last time you capsized?” One response was “I think it was ten years ago.” There was a student in our class who had just started kayaking and was happy to let me use her to demonstrate all the steps involved in performing a wet exit. At first, everyone was happy to just watch. After the demonstration they realized that there was much more to a wet exit than just exiting the kayak. Everyone then wanted to practice the wet exit. This was quite an eye-opening experience.

One of my goals for the class was to show students how to practice these skills on their own. In addition to practicing in shallow clear water, I found it was very helpful to have a practice partner. The students paired up and helped each other to reinforce their bracing skills. At the end of the session, I had students test their bracing by turning their kayaks over and sit on the hull and paddle. Yes, some fell in. Hey, it’s just water after all. LOL!



Me Rolling, always a crowd pleaser!



A self rescue by wiggling into your capsized kayak and rolling up with a paddle float



Lunch time 'Tow Talk'. Students being shown where to attach the tow line on a kayak that is being towed. Tow Belt, never leave home without it

Continued Next Page



April 27th Edging and Bracing Class Canoe Trail, Fort Desoto Park

By Jean Totz Photos by Jan Machnikowski



continued

Before heading back, the students put their new and improved wet exit skills into effect by practicing assisted and solo rescues.

I would like to thank my coach assistants, Eileen Burns and Tom Joseph, who greatly contributed to the quality of instruction of this class.

I asked the students if they wish to contribute comments to this article. Below are their responses:

“The class was amazing. Learning to explore the edges of stability and how to recover from that point is an invaluable skill. In addition, I saw things I've never seen done with a kayak before. It opened my eyes to what's possible and has motivated me to learn and practice as much as I can.” **Steve Gutke**

“Even when you know how to do something you should never stop learning. It was a great class, learned a great deal and saw many smiles. Thanks all.” **Tom Joseph**



Steve & Tom getting a reality check on how

effective their low brace is by trying to stay up on the hull of their kayak.

That's me behind Tom, trying to un-

Check out that low brace! good job Janet. Tom is staying up, that's a good thing!

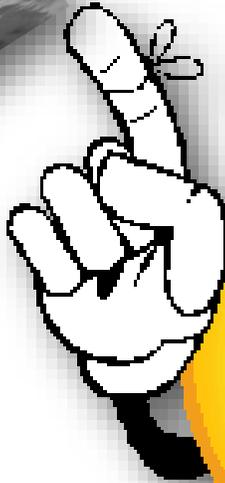


Carrie getting some tips on removing her tight spray skirt when the loop is accidentally tuck in.





**Don't
FORGET!**



**LAST DAY TO SUBMIT
FOR THE MONTHLY**

PHOTO CONTEST IS

LAST DAY OF THE MONTH

SEND THEM TO

tbskphoto@gmail.com



To Read the rules [click here](#)





Salt Springs Park – North

By Hank Brooks with Pictures by Barb Uzenoff



We recently visited Werner Boyce Salt Springs Park located just north of New Port Richey. The park is about one mile wide and five miles long and runs parallel to US 19. In order to explore the northern part of the park, we decided to put in at Hudson and paddle down to the northern part of the park. There were three others on the exploration besides myself – Al Tillson, Jeff Guild and Barb Uzenoff.



Our first pleasant surprise was that we were able to launch from the beach at Hudson Beach. The parking lot was right next to the beach. Al had his charts and Jeff and I had GPS devices, so we were relatively sure we could find our way back. The water was calm and soon we were off to explore.

Our first stop was at the end of a breakwater, located next to some large, yet stylish condos.

This was about 1.5 miles from our put-in, so we knew that we already had at least 3 miles invested in this trip so far (including return trip). Al pulled out his charts so we could determine which direction to probe what looked like an almost endless shore of mangrove trees. We headed south and soon came upon the wall of mangroves. We were close to high tide so had high hopes. Soon a very large opening appeared in the mangroves. It was about 50 feet wide and appeared to go on for quite a distance. The tide was flowing in and whisked us along with little paddling effort. This path twisted and turned a bit, but re-



mained remarkably wider than expected. The shores was lined by mangroves and sea grass.



Continued Next Page

Salt Springs Park – North

By Hank Brooks with Pictures by Barb Uzenoff
continued



After we had paddled over three miles it was time to take out, rest our joints and have lunch.



Though we had been on the lookout for a break spot since entering the mangroves, no obvious spots could be found.

That's when I headed for the tall grass along the mangroves, where you can often find shallow water.



We found some success, with Barb finding an underwater "rock" where she took out. Hank found a yellow bucket which Al attached to Hank's rear deck. On the way



back we observed some playful dolphins. And no kayak trip would be complete without a



head wind of about 10 miles to guide us on our way home. A successful 7 mile trip.

Egmont and Passage Key

By Phil Sheesley, Pictures by Tom Komar

On a beautiful Saturday in late April, Therese Eby led a small group of TBSK paddlers on a LIII paddle that was intended to circumnavigate Egmont Key at the mouth of Tampa Bay. The winds, that were predicted to be light, were in fact just about non-existent, the sky was clear, and boat traffic, that can be a concern on this paddle, was minimal. Our crossing from Fort DeSoto's Gulf Pier took under a half hour to the north end of Egmont. If you plan to make this trip, please keep in mind that it's critically important to check for shipping traffic before crossing the channel. The ships come much faster than you might think – and they don't stop for kayaks!

The first picture here is part of the group (Therese, Carl Boettger, and Tom Sobocinski) passing the ruins of the old artillery battery at the south end of the key. Things were going so (unusually) smoothly, that we found ourselves at the south end of the key in just over an hour. Continuing our circumnavigation would have us back at the Gulf Pier before lunch; so after a quick consultation, we elected to keep paddling across the south channel to Passage Key. This is a favorite paddle this time of year when the water has warmed enough to be comfortable, the sun isn't too hot, and the chance of

thunderstorms is much less than we find in Summer. The approach to Passage Key is over an extended submerged sandbar where we usually are treated to some sizeable rays (this day was no exception) and less frequently to (fortunately) small sharks (non on this trip). As you can see by the condition of the sign notifying everyone that the key is a bird sanctuary, the key has it's share of rough weather. From the key to Anna Maria Island is not more than ten or fifteen minutes more, but we had already extended our paddle by about three miles so after rounding the key we made our way back north to the



Egmont and Passage Key

By Phil Sheesley, Pictures by Tom Komar

continued

Bay side of Egmont. Most of the lower section of Egmont Key is also a posted bird sanctuary, but after passing the Tampa Harbor Pilots station and dock it's not far to the open beach near the Egmont Key Light.



Good spot to relax and have lunch with a nice view of the Skyway Bridge and Ft DeSoto back across the bay. If you haven't been there before, be sure to allow time to walk inland to explore the Lighthouse and the historic ruins of the old fort that used to occupy most of the Key. After lunch we had an easy half hour paddle back across the Bay to the Gulf Pier. When the conditions are perfect, as these were, this 11-12 mile paddle can be just plain enjoyable. There are times though when conditions can change quickly and this one can be a real challenge – there is really only one way to get back, and when the wind increases and shifts, or when the thunderheads appear “all of a sudden” it's a different story. But on this day it was just fun and another great day in the Gulf for all of us.

I think one of the things I enjoy about kayaking is the constant ability to learn, whether it is proper strokes or rescues. But there is more than just being on the water in a kayak even though that is a big plus in itself. I have been thinking for a year now how neat it would be to make my own paddle in the way it was done in the birth of kayaking.

So, when Ed Mann came to our TBSK meeting and talked about it I jumped at the chance to sign up. I heard there was only a couple of openings available in the Lake Placid event. I tell you that was the fastest check I ever wrote, I missed out last year.

I arrived Thursday afternoon signed in with Ed received my ID badge and t-shirt. Unloaded my kayak and took it down to the beach by the lake. I then helped a few others get their kayaks unloaded and down to the water's edge.

Friday was the day I was most interested in, making a Greenland paddle with Ben Fontenot. He greeted us and everything was all ready to go on our own stations. In the class there were two others from TBSK Therese Eby and Cynthia

McGregor. Over the next few hours it was carving, sanding and coating a 2 x 4 hoping it would come out resembling a Greenland paddle. And to our amazement they did for our first paddles they were not perfect, but we were proud of our achievement. Another TBSK member was Jill Mosteller she took a couple of the other courses

Other events they had on Friday were some great instructors Cherry Perry, Alison Sigethy, Greg Stamer and Ben Fontenot. They taught different rolling techniques in the Greenland style. I took a class with Greg Stamer on Saturday who came in Friday night from doing the EC on forward strokes.





My Weekend with TRAQS 2019

Story and Photos By Bill Biles

continued

On Friday night we all got together for an auction and a guest speaker who was Mia Kanstad Kulseng from Tromsø, Norway. She told us about how it was kayaking and living in her home in Norway. After we all broke up into teams and made a skin on frame kayak from 1 x 2's and plastic wrap was entertaining to say the least. We named ours the "Blood Vessel" due to one of the team members cut himself.

On Saturday it was more of the same instructors working with people in groups. Later in the afternoon we took the hand-built kayaks and raced them and you got bonus points if they could do a roll in them. The winner of the event was "Blood Vessel" extra points and all. That night we gave them a somewhat a Viking burial..we burned them in the fire pit made for a nice closing ceremony.

Sunday, we had a free day where instructors worked with you one on one for a few hours. I took another class with Greg Stamer on strokes with the Greenland Paddle. Then we all went home, but such a fantastic weekend I encourage anybody to go. I know I will try to next year and work on rolling. The





Apollo Beach and Shultz Preserves

By Hank Brooks With Picture By Barb Uzenoff

In an effort to paddle those areas infrequently visited by our club, our goal on this late April morning was to visit the Apollo Beach and Shultz Preserves. These two very unique preserves flank the TECO Apollo Beach power plant with it's towers which loom over the area. We went with the idea of exploration and found some unique things about this area.



The first unique thing about this trip was the launch from the beach at Apollo Beach Preserve. While the beach is quite nice, it is located about 100 yards from the parking area down a sloping path, which is paved about half the way. You need to make sure that you have all your gear, because a trip back to your vehicle is not quick or easy. Preserves are cre-

ated and maintained with the primary purpose of keeping the area's environment as close to it's natural state as possible, with the secondary purpose of providing some recreational benefits. To create a parking lot close to the beach would have required major changes it's natural state.

We first explored the backside of Apollo Beach Preserve which has a large grouping of small mangrove islands. This area is very shallow and tide sensitive and we found that without much effort it is easy to get lost among the islands. To get from Apollo Beach Preserve to Shultz Preserve we needed to go into Tampa Bay and around the power plant because it has a restricted boat zone around it. Along the way



we found clear waters with many small sharks and some manta rays darting around beneath our boats. That was a unique experience. Al Tillson wisely did not choose this time and place to do his "cool off" roll. The wind did pick up which required us to paddle into a strong wind of about 12 mph with some lumpy seas.





Apollo Beach and Shultz Preserves

By Hank Brooks With Picture By Barb Uzenoff
Continued

I have always wanted to use the word “juxtaposition” in a story and now I have that opportunity. Juxtaposition is defined as having two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect. This was a nature preserve next to a TECO power plant. As we approached the power plant from Tampa Bay, we could see not only the large plant itself, but next to the plant were huge mounds of chemicals which were three or four stories high. These were used in the process of generating electricity and cleaning the gasses generated. At this time an ocean going ship which unloading sulfur onto the top of a huge yellow mound. The wind was blowing and some small particles got into our eyes causing a burning effect. The water was covered with this dust. It was at this point that we realized what a large industrial complex a power plant is and all the effects of this plant has when it is producing electricity.



After paddling past the entrance to the power plant, you come upon the welcoming Whiskey Stump Key. Where they serve free whiskey? NOT! Well, at least one can dream. The entire area is undeveloped and in it's natural state. There is a lovely little beach there for a take out and rest. There are also quite a number of small mangrove islands, similar to those on the back side of Apollo Beach Preserve. After a lunch break it was time to explore the area a bit before heading back. The wind was supposed to be at our back on the return trip – but it died as I thought it would. The other option was for the wind to change direction so that we would have to paddle into it on the way back. We saw the glint of sun off the dorsal fin of a dolphin about 50 yards away, showing us the way back to our take out. A trip of about 7 miles, with some wind and waves.





Weedon Island – South Paddling Trail Level 1

By Chad Maynard

Weedon Island is one of Saint Petersburg's little gems. It comprised about 3,190 acres just south of Gandy Boulevard, boarded by Tampa Bay and Pappy's Bayou. Once in the preserve there are two good places from which to launch. The first is by the rental operation and the other is the fishing pier. For this trip we opted to launch from the fishing pier at the end of Weedon drive. There are 12 parking spaces by the launch area; otherwise paddlers launching at the pier will have a short ¼ mile hike to and from the parking area located by the Nature Center. Some of the advantages of putting in at the pier include you can take your time loading and unloading, a wash rack, and available restrooms.



The weather this past Saturday was perfect with a slight wind, 8 mph, from the south west and a rising tide just coming off of slack water. Launching from a step down area by the pier (far right side of photo)



we preceded south following the temporary orange ribbons that mark the trail and headed for the northern section of the trail known for its long mango canopies. For those club members who are familiar with the trail we opted to use the canopy entrance where sign number two was located; however, there is a newer entrance about 40 yards to the northwest.

Continued next page



Weedon Island – South Paddling Trail Level 1

By Chad Maynard

~continued~

Continuing towards the entrance to the long mango covered section of the trail, we slide up the left side of the little back bay area, avoiding the sandbar that blocks the entrance to the tunnels. As we made our way through to the first lagoon, there were a number of kayaks returning towards us. It is not uncommon to have two-way traffic in this section of the trail.

After passing the second lagoon, and a minor detour because of a missed makeshift trail maker, we didn't see another paddler until we reached the southern end of the trail. From here we paddled further south and out to the main channel where we were greeted with a refreshing southwest wind and a stronger incoming tide.



High tide was still several hours off; however, we were looking forward to a very lazy return up channel with both wind and tide in our favor. However, before continuing a break and snack seemed like a great idea, so we put-in on a small beach area on the west side of Googe Island. After putting back in we headed back up channel from Googe. Along the way we had the pleasure of seeing a dolphin heading down channel.

They say that it isn't necessarily the trip but rather the interaction with those who you paddle with that really makes the trip. With that, thanks Joel for a great paddle.



Events

Kayak Camping for TBSK Members

Many of our TBSK members are interested in camping, especially from a kayak. If you are interested in camping, please make sure to let Andy Bartley email: sailonbear@hotmail.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)

Click on items logo to go to there general website



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>

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)

<http://www.floridapaddlingtrails.com>



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 Paddle Florida is a non-profit corporation that promotes water conservation, wildlife preservation, prings restoration, and waterways protection via fun and educational multi-day paddling trips in Florida's most spectacular river and coastal environments. For trip details and registration, visit <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>



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>

- [Hillsborough River & Coastal Cleanup](#) Saturday, September 15, 2018

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



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

- Regular Work Day June 20, 2019 10 am to 3 pm [more info](#)



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

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Photo by Bill Biles

Info for TBSK.club

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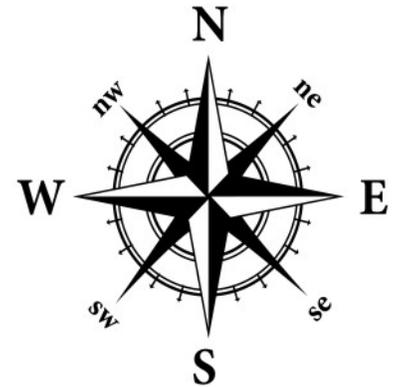
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TBSK MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

.No classifieds submitted this month. 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.



Welcome New Members!

- Daniel Honig
- Judy Joseph
- Susan and Terry Lorenz

Members that renewed this month:

- Joan Cline

Treasurer's Report

2018

Beginning BALANCE	\$374 3
INCOME	
Dues	\$337
EXPENSES	
Smart Waiver Fees	\$129
Postage	\$13
Printing Costs	\$11
Ending Balance	3927



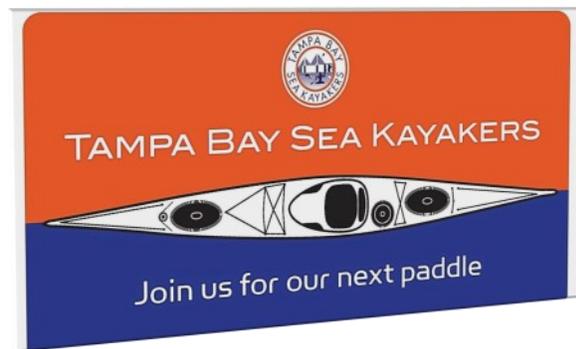


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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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Seminole FL 33775-8682**



Photo By Tom Komar