

# Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

October 2020 - Volume 28, Issue 10

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

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



## Fall Has Arrived

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# TAMPABAY SEA KAYAKERS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			<div data-bbox="721 957 902 1108"> <p>8:30 AM </p> <p>Maximo Park to Skyway - Level 3</p> </div> <div data-bbox="721 1129 902 1281"> <p>9:30 AM </p> <p>Fort DeSoto - Level 1</p> </div>			<div data-bbox="1328 957 1510 1108"> <p>9:30 AM </p> <p>Ft. DeSoto - Level 0</p> </div>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			<div data-bbox="721 1411 902 1562"> <p>9:00 AM </p> <p>Chassahowitzka River - Level 2</p> </div>			<div data-bbox="1328 1411 1510 1562"> <p>8:30 AM </p> <p>Cockroach Bay - Level 1+</p> </div>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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

[Click here to go to Event Page on tbsk.club](https://tbsk.club)



# Special Announcements



Special Announcements from the club or it's members

## 2021 TBSK Officer Elections

In this unusual year in which no TBSK meetings are allowed, we need to pick our club officers for 2021. So, this year we will be having elections via on-line. We still need a volunteer for our Activities Coordinator position (job description can be found in the TBSK Charter on the web site). If you are interested in serving as a TBSK officer please let any of our current officers know.

Members who have agreed to serve on the 2021 board are:

- President: Tom Joseph
- Vice President: Al Tillson
- Secretary Treasurer: Mark Bastille
- Newsletter: Bill Biles
- Webmaster: Dave Schmidt
- Membership: Janet Neff
- Trip Coordinator: Pat Yadon
- Safety & Training: Jean Totz
- Activities Coordinator: **We need a volunteer**

## TBSK Charter Change & Election Notice

Our TBSK club charter requires us to have elections for the upcoming year's TBSK Club officers every December during the in-person general meeting. Unfortunately, government COVID rules won't permit gatherings because of the risk of further spreading the virus. Accordingly, the TBSK Board reasoned that the best alternative available to us for holding the upcoming 2021 club elections would be voting via the internet. Because the Charter currently doesn't permit voting for officers electronically, we will also need a charter amendment to allow this.

In summary, please be advised that we are proposing changes to the TBSK Charter that:

- Will allow remote voting for Charter changes
- Will allow remote voting for the 2021 slate of TBSK officers

## Homer – My Pet Gecko

By Hank Brooks

This is a story about Homer, my pet gecko. Since Homer does not paddle, it is not a paddling story, but I believe that you will find it heartfelt.

In late August I had to go to the store to buy some more parts for my new welding bench. For some unknown reason, I decided to take up metal sculpturing once again. I borrowed a friend's MIG welder and he is helping me design a first rate welding bench for my garage. Just think, you might be the lucky recipient of a metal sculpture made by Hank and then say, "What the heck am I going to do with this weird thing?"

So I hopped into my pick up truck and am about a block away when I notice I have a gecko on my hood – way out front by the grill. When we come to a neighborhood stop sign, I take an extra ten seconds, giving him (I guess it was a him) a chance to jump off. But no, he wants to go for a ride. He seems to be enjoying himself as he leans forward into the wind, just as dogs do when they sit in a car's front seat – nose pointing into the wind. He seems like a friendly gecko, so I quickly adopt him, calling him Homer.



We are going along at 35 to 40 mph winding through the neighborhoods. Homer seems to be enjoying himself as he defiantly points his nose into the wind. Occasionally he shifts his feet and moves about a bit. Sometimes he looks back at me, as if to get approval about how he is doing. I was so proud of my Homer. Then we hit US 19 and without thinking, I picked up speed to stay with traffic. At first Homer seemed to be doing fine. Unfortunately at this time in his ride, he decided to change positions on my truck's hood. On his first attempt to move the airflow picked him up and he landed about 12 inches away on the hood. Then he tried to move again and tragically he was caught in a strong airflow and was – all of a sudden - GONE. It took me several moments to realize that Homer was gone. He had brought so much joy and pride into my life in the short time I had known him, only to be swept away to an uncertain fate on US 19. I hope and pray that he made it and imagine that one day we might go for another ride when I go to market. Homer – where are you? Please come home.





# Snug Harbor – A Fine Place To Paddle

By Hank Brooks



Most of us have been to Gandy Beach. When you arrive there and then head west until you come to buildings, you have arrived at Snug Harbor. Al Tillson had planned his trip for this area because you can “get out of the wind” for some easier paddling. The only major drawback of this area is there is no easy place to “take out” to rest the weary bones or do the necessities.



If I can recall, there were about seven of us on this paddle, including a fairly new member – Joe Webb. Joe lives in the Pensacola area and is the Region A Director for the Florida Paddling Trails Association. He has relatives in the Tampa Bay area, and frequently paddles the area – thus the need to join TBSK.



Included in this trip’s pictures is a link to a video of the trip which Joe made.



When you paddle the Snug Harbor area, you get a little bit of everything – all protected from the winds by the surrounding mangroves. We traveled through some mangrove tunnels and around numerous small islands. And then there are the “house boats” which are moored in the area.

There are some 40 foot sail boats, a few houseboats and a few half-sunken boats which didn’t make it thru the last storm.

It was a nice easy paddle to limber up our muscles, atrophied from staying at home in this Covid era.





## Upper Tampa Bay - Getting Lost Again!

By Hank Brooks



We advertised this as a fairly easy, Level I trip through the mangroves, during which we will probably get lost. This turned out to be a prophesy. There were five of us that showed up for the trip. One forgot her paddle, but I will not mention her name because I once brought two halves of two different paddles to a trip for which I was the trip leader. Of course they didn't fit together.



We had a new member, Janet Traynom, come for her first TBSK paddle. This was a Level I trip and she brought her 12 foot sit-on-top. She asked, "Will I be able to keep up?" I explained that that most of us had sea kayaks and the shorter and wider the boat, the slower the boat. Janet was open to forward paddle stroke instructions before we started. I am not sure if it was the instructions or her innate ability, but she really got her boat moving at a Level I pace and kept it up for the entire paddle. Well done Janet!



There is a marked trail from the Upper Tampa Bay Park launch to the bay. We followed the trail for a bit and then purposely decided to go "off trail" into



the mangroves to see if we could get lost a bit. We spotted some radio towers and knew approximately where we were. After poking about a bit we were back on the trail and no longer lost. OK, time to head to the beach for our break. On the way back we decided to "stay on the marked trail", making it easier to find our way back. We were doing fine until we reached a bend in the creek and could not spot a trail marker. So we paddled a bit further and ended up in a dead end in the mangroves. By golly, just as advertised, we were truly lost.



We then spotted the radio towers and knew approximately where we were. Ten minutes later we were back on the trail. As Bill Biles said, "we just went exploring".



## TBSK Training Days

by Jill Lingard, ACA L3 Kayak Instructor



One of the things my husband Scott and I have most enjoyed about our move from Gainesville to Tampa Bay a few years ago is the opportunity to develop our paddling skills in different kinds of water. It was mostly rivers and springs for us in North Central Florida. Our proximity to the Gulf now has introduced us to more bump and wind and the need to meet those conditions with better knowledge of the environment and the skills to deal with them effectively. We've also been delighted with the availability of excellent paddling instruction in our region. We have sought and earned some ACA instructor certifications, met others along the way who have done the same, and now all of us would like to share what we've learned with TBSK's membership.

Starting in November, we will offer monthly training days, likely on weekends. In the current climate of COVID, these sessions will be small. At the moment, four ACA-certified instructors have expressed interest in participating and we will pair each up with just two students per session. Our initial focus will be on stroke refinement and activities where we can more easily maintain social distancing. We'll save the assisted rescues and other closer-contact stuff for healthier times. Hopefully, as the pandemic gets under better control, we can eventually grow the size of our sessions a bit while still retaining the ability to give personalized attention.

By the way, these will not be formal ACA classes resulting in a certification. Our sessions will be more informal opportunities to learn and practice techniques that will increase your confidence and enjoyment on the water. And for goodness sake, let's have some fun doing it!

Does this opportunity interest you? If so, I'd love to hear from you about the kinds of paddling skills you're interested in working on. Send me an email at [jill.lingard@gmail.com](mailto:jill.lingard@gmail.com).

## Hillsborough County Greenways Committee

The Hillsborough County Greenways Committee hopes to appoint an alternate for the canoe/kayak seat now held by Al Tillson. The alternate, who must be a Hillsborough County resident, would vote in Al's place when he cannot be present and would be encouraged to attend and participate in all meetings. The committee normally meets quarterly and is meeting virtually rather than in-person for the present. For more information, contact Al at [altillson@yahoo.com](mailto:altillson@yahoo.com) or 813-832-3961.





**ALL PHOTO SUBMISSIONS**  
**FOR THE MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST**  
**MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE**  
**LAST DAY OF THE MONTH**  
**SEND SUBMISSIONS TO**  
**[tbskphoto@gmail.com](mailto:tbskphoto@gmail.com)**





# Events

## Kayak Camping for TBSK Members

Many of our TBSK members are interested in camping, especially from a kayak. If you are interested in camping, please make sure to let Andy Bartley email: [sailonbear@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:tbsk@tbsk.club) with "Trip Request" in the subject line.**

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

### **Trip Coordinator will:**

- Post this trip request with the monthly "request for trips" which is sent out to trip leaders.
- Notify the person requesting the trip if we can find a trip leader and if the trip can be led exactly as requested, or if some modification to the trip is necessary.

## New Places To Paddle

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

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

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

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



# News & Events Around the State

(updated info in red)

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](http://caladesidiscoverycenter.com) to learn about the forthcoming interpretive facility.



CALADESI DISCOVERY CENTER

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



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

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**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!

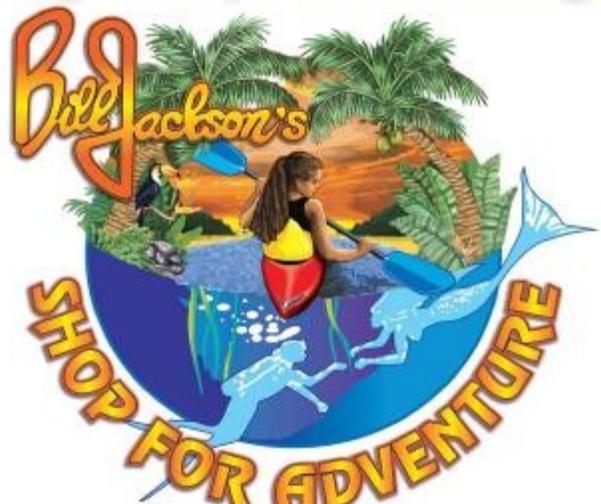
## How did new participants find out about the club?

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!

One of the Finest Kayak Shops in the Country!



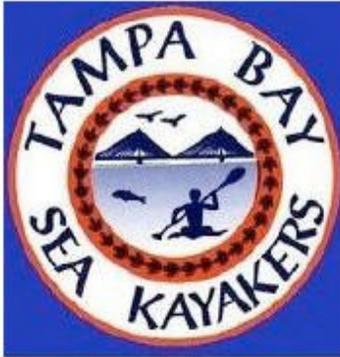
Bill Jackson's  
SHOP FOR ADVENTURE

"Every Day is a Demo Day at Bill Jackson's"

9501 US 19 North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782 (727) 576-4169  
[www.BillJacksons.com](http://www.BillJacksons.com)



Photo by Bill Biles



**TBSK  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
AUGUST 2020**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$4,309.09</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
<b>Dues Payments</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
<b>AffiniPay's transaction fees for dues</b>	<b>\$2.06</b>
<b>Fraudulent Debit Card Charges</b>	<b>-\$39.10</b>
<b>Bank of America Reimbursement</b>	<b>+\$39.10</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2.06</b>
<b>Bank of America Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$4,407.03</b>

**Submitted by Barb Uzenoff  
TBSK Secretary/Treasurer  
September 2, 2020**

# Info for TBSK.club

## Board Members

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### President

**Hank Brooks** 727 724 8983  
[jbrook1776@gmail.com](mailto:jbrook1776@gmail.com)

### Vice President

**Al Tillson** 813-832-3961  
[altillson@yahoo.com](mailto:altillson@yahoo.com)

### Trip Coordinator

**Pat Yadon** 832-392-3074  
[pyadon2000@gmail.com](mailto:pyadon2000@gmail.com)

### Membership Coordinator

**Janet Neff** 516 401-474-4970  
[jpn630@gmail.com](mailto:jpn630@gmail.com)

### Training/Safety Coordinator

**Jean Totz**  
[jean.totz@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.totz@yahoo.com)

### Activities Coordinators

VACANT

### Webmaster

**Dave Schmidt** 608-842-0135  
[Dave2Kayak@yahoo.com](mailto:Dave2Kayak@yahoo.com)

### Secretary/ Treasurer

**Barb Uzenoff** 813-447-1750  
[barbaraku@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraku@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor & Social Media

**Bill Biles** 727 204 5511  
[wcbiles@gmail.com](mailto:wcbiles@gmail.com)

## Welcome New Members!

♦ Janet Traynom

## Members that renewed this month:

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## Tides and Weather Information

- ♦ NOAA tides for Florida <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/map/index.shtml?region=Florida>,
- ♦ Additional Florida tide data <http://www.saltwatertides.com/dynamic.dir/floridagulfsites.html>,

NOAA forecasts for area, marine zone and point (via map click). In text and hourly graphic formats. [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov),

Animated radar for Tampa Bay and coast. <http://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/weather>

The Weather Channel, news and fore-

## Water Quality Information

*Find out if it is safe to paddle*

Florida Healthy Beaches Program ~ Florida Department of Health; [Website Here](#)

City of St. Petersburg; [Water Quality website](#)

Tampa Bay Waterkeeper – [Swim Guide](#);

FWC Red Tide Current Status [Red Tide Guide](#)

## Links to Info on Website

Determining your Skills Level  
[Skill Assessment chart](#)

Paddle Signals To Use on a Trip  
[Paddle Signals](#)

[Safety Tips](#)

[Hypothermia and Heat Stress](#)



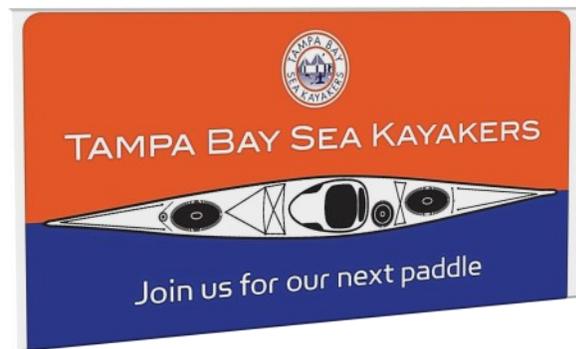


## Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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**  
**P.O. Box 8682**  
**Seminole FL 33775-8682**



Photo by Cynthia McGreg-