

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

February 2021 - Volume 29, Issue 2

www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



Photo By Joe Webb

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**Some Exciting
Possibilities
for
February
2021!
For TBSK!**



TAMPABAY SEA KAYAKERS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 9:00 AM Weeki Wachee River - Level 1+	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 10:00 AM Gandy Beach - Greenland Training Class
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 4:00 PM Apollo Beach Preserve - Recreational	Mar 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

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

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



For the last year or close to it we've all been dealing with COVID-19, something that has impacted every part of our lives. Over the last few months your TBSK Board has worked hard to maintain the club and move it forward. "Google Meets" was our first virtual meeting room and recently TBSK purchased a license for "Zoom".

Zoom is a computer program originally designed for conducting meetings all over the world. Recently it's being used more and more by people working at home, schools, organizations and for fun family get-togethers. For our monthly meeting on January 11th the Board "Zoomed" for the first time and we feel confident using it to start our monthly general meetings within the next couple months. The results from the survey told us that you wanted to meet virtually and we listened! Thank you for all the constructive input!

When we get back to our normal general meetings, it doesn't have to stop there! We can use it to stream our meetings on Facebook. Members and guests who otherwise might not be able to attend meetings at Bill Jacksons can still stay connected. If you're a snowbird or just on vacation you can still Zoom with TBSK.

The benefits of Zoom are:

We can have Board and general meetings during COVID and we can continue when COVID is trounced!

- You can use your computer or smartphone – a camera is not essential.
- Those members who aren't in town can participate.
- Zoom records meetings for people to view later. We can stream on Facebook, possibly encouraging new members to join.
- Speakers can present from anywhere; live talks, videos, PowerPoint presentations, photos, etc.
- You do not have to have a camera or mic on your computer. You can join meetings with just your smartphone.

It would be almost like meeting at Bill Jacksons! Zoom can keep us connected until we can all meet together again.

In next month's newsletter I'll discuss some of the more technical issues. We'll also help you set you up and answer any questions you have. It's EASY!

On behalf of the TBSK Board,

This is a series of Members Profiles that our Roving Paddling Reporter Pat Yadon. She will ask our Trip Leaders to share experiences they have had Sea Kayaking and why they enjoy it!



This month we speak to Al Tillison. Our Roving Paddling Reporter Pat Yadon asked Al to share a few of his experiences as a kayaker

TBSK: How did you get interested in kayaking and what keeps you interested?

Al: In my wild and mis-spent youth, I was a whitewater canoeist in the D.C. area. After switching into bicycle touring during my grad school years in central Texas, I eventually stumbled back into the water here in Florida. I love sea kayaking because of the combination of good exercise and the experience of a natural environment. Although I paddle a lot in Tampa Bay, there are lots of other attractive areas nearby, including the 10 Thousand Islands/Everglades, the “Hidden Coast” north of us, and the Florida Springs. Further away, I’ve enjoyed exploring the Chesapeake Bay region and spent half a summer in the area around Mystic Seaport in Connecticut.

Hopefully I’ll get back to some of these areas and explore some new ones once we get through the COVID crisis.

TBSK: What is your favorite place to paddle and why?

Al: Tampa Bay north and south of Gandy Bridge on the Pinellas side. I like it because it’s close to me, but also because it offers long stretches of undeveloped shoreline, accessible mangrove areas, an abundance of waterfowl, and long vistas across the open Bay. In winter the white pelicans and other migratory birds can be spectacular.

TBSK: What is something you’ve learned from kayaking that you’d like to share with our members?

Al: The importance of safety and the benefits of working on skills development. Although we’re mostly paddling in fairly benign settings, simple errors like not dressing appropriately for cold water can quickly get you in trouble. And time spent improving skills pays off by increasing the amount of paddling we can do and the amount of time we can spend in some beautiful places. I’ve also come to appreciate the importance of a dignified personal appearance.

TBSK: What would you like to accomplish as TBSK’s 2021 vice president?

Al: I hope that we can find ways to paddle and meet together safely while COVID is still with us, and to bring a bigger and more diverse population into the club



Kayaking's Future Growth Aging Paddle Boarders By Hank Brooks



When an old time kayaker like myself, wanders thru a kayak outfitter today to look at the kayaks, he often wonders, and might worry, about the future of the sport of kayaking. Most boats they sell are fishing kayaks and lots and lots of paddle boards. I love the sport of paddling and have nothing against paddle boards. The boards are beautiful and people who paddle them look so graceful as they paddle along. In fact, most kayakers would admit that a paddle board is much more tiring and difficult to handle than kayak. You must balance yourself on the board as you stand to paddle. Young people seem to love it.

Then I saw a picture of chair attached to a paddle board and I asked myself, "Why would they put a chair on paddle board?" Then it hit me, it's a sign that there is hope for growth in the sport of kayaking after all. "Why is that?" you might say? Well, my reasoning goes something like this. Paddle boarders must stand to make the board perform properly.



This works well when you are young, but as you get older, and your muscles lose their tone, you want to sit down and rest-a-bit. Which is best done in a chair.

And a chair on the board is just the start. As people age, they want more comforts. So they will order a cooler for their board to keep their drinks and food.. Of course they need a place to store extra gear and a change of clothes, so a large dry bag will be needed for these. To keep all these items on a paddle board, you need to lash them down. So wouldn't it be simpler if the board manufacturer built a border around the paddle board to keep all the items from slipping off. And then built a small roof on the paddle board to protect everything.

Once the paddler is sitting down, they will realize that the board is much more stable than standing up and easier to paddle – especially if you have a shorter paddle. Maybe even a paddle on with a blade on both ends of the paddle shaft.

So there you have it . My theory that as paddle boarders age, and gravity takes it's toll on their bodies, they will naturally gravitate towards toward a easier, more versatile way of paddling – the kayak. The natural place for tired, older paddle boarders.



YAKKERCHATS

In March the TBSK Newsletter is starting a new monthly article featuring “you” in a monthly article featuring our members. No super kayaking skills or wild adventures are required! We thought it would be fun for all of us to know a little about each other, our kayaks and what we love best about being on the water.

Beginning in February and throughout 2021 be on the lookout for an email from Janet Neff, Membership Coordinator. Every month she'll send emails to 10 people (in alphabetical order from the TBSK roster) with a few kayaking questions. Feel free to reply back if you want to be a “Published Yakker” or feel free not to reply if this isn't your thing – no pressure at all! She'll post your answers in the newsletter in the order they were received, one month at a time. And if you have a digital photo of you and your boat, please feel free to share!

We hope you enjoy getting to know your fellow TBSKers a little better!
Any questions? Feel free to email Janet at jpn630@gmail.com



Should You Try A Greenland Paddle? By Tom Malone



From Tom

Why not? You have nothing to lose. I start all lessons with a Euro blade, since that is what most paddlers use. This makes all paddle demonstrations easier to understand.

As students progress through the lesson, I change to my Greenland paddle. Most students will ask about it and I offer to show them how to use it properly. Some students say “no thanks,” but many give it a try.

I had a student recently who decided to try the Greenland paddle. His first strokes were tentative, but with a little change to his stroke, he took off. I didn't get my paddle back until the end of the lesson!

I tell students the same thing about kayaks. Try every one you can. Most kayakers will let you paddle their boat. Try everything you can while on the water. You may find that your skill level improves with a different kayak or paddle. Or try taking a lesson to improve using what you already use.

From Jill:

I was introduced to Greenland paddling about four years ago at a wonderful annual event called TRAQS, which stands for Traditional Qajaqers of the South. The group was so welcoming to my husband who, at that time, had literally never held a Greenland paddle before... definitely put the “green” in Greenland! Over the weekend, we worked with phenomenal instructors on basic strokes, balance braces, rolling. I had a very tentative roll at that time. I credit the Greenland paddle for helping me gain the body position and confidence to pull off this maneuver more consistently. (Tom Malone shares that credit too!) When I later switched back to a Euro blade for a class, I was delighted to see that much of what the Greenland rolling instructors had taught me transferred over to my regular paddle. All this is to say that I think the experience of beginning to learn how to use a Greenland paddle made me a stronger paddler regardless of what kind of stick I'm holding.

On February 20, Tom Malone will be leading a Greenland paddling class to up to 10 TBSK members. Newcomers to and veterans of this style of paddling are welcome. We'll have some extra Greenland paddles on hand to loan out to those who need one. At this writing, the class is nearly full, but watch the TBSK website for cancellations. If there is further demand for this type of class, Tom has



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Wandering through Weedon

by Jill Lingard

Photos By

Scott Jantz, Jan Machnikowski and Joe Webb



Ten TBSK'ers joined me and my husband Scott for a paddle through the mangrove tunnels at Weedon Island Preserve on Sunday, January 24. Our group included four first-timers to this paddling trail. I fell in love with mangroves and their beguiling tunnels when we moved to Tampa Bay four years ago. Quietly floating through them, I feel like I'm wandering the halls of a museum. What a treat to be able to share the experience with others—especially those new to this environment.

Mangroves are not just cool to paddle through; they offer many important ecosystem services. They provide aquatic nurseries for fish and habitat for wading birds, filter pollutants from water, stabilize shorelines, and serve as a buffer against storm surge—crucial in our hurricane-prone state. Mangroves are also powerhouses when it comes to carbon storage. Pound for pound, mangroves can se-

quester four times more carbon than rainforests! Most of this carbon is stored in the soil beneath mangrove trees.



Bucking the TBSK trend, we launched in the afternoon when tides were in our favor. You don't want to paddle the Weedon Island Trail at low tide unless you prefer a muddy hike. In addition to negotiating the twisting narrow tunnels, we occasionally had two-lane traffic to contend with as other weekend visi-



tors were paddling the other way. Speed is not your friend in a mangrove tunnel—it just makes you run into people and prop roots quicker.

As we slowly glided along, some folks took their paddles apart and paddled with just one half like a canoe paddle. Several times, I laid my paddle down on my deck and paddled with my hands. It was fun to try to mimic a paddle with arms and palms. Finally reaching the literal light at the end of each tunnel, we spilled out into more open bays to stretch our eyes and limbs before entering the next dark pathway. Among the bird life we spotted was one flying Roseate Spoonbill and a couple Yellow-Crowned Night Herons roosting in mangrove branches. The herons took little notice of us—I think they'd seen a lot of paddlers that day.

Mayra had asked me before we launched if I thought she needed to bring her headlamp. "Only if things go very badly!" I answered, though urged her to toss it in her dry bag just in case. I was pleased we didn't need it as our group returned to the launch well before sunset. This was a nice, relaxing paddle on a beautiful, unseasonably warm winter day with delightful paddlers choosing nature over professional football. I didn't even know there was a game going on! ¶





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.



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



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!

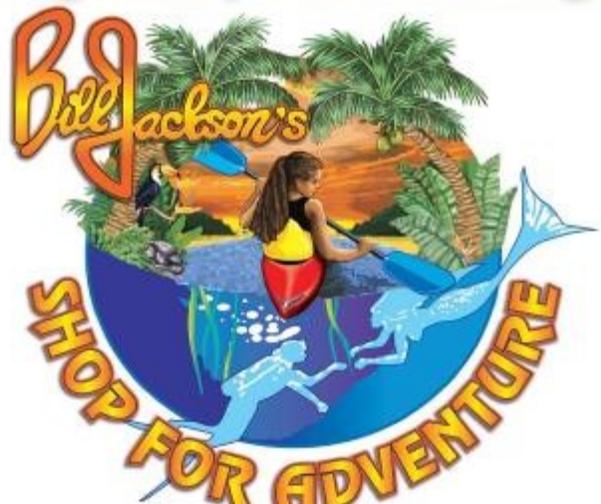
How did new participants find out about the club?

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

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www.BillJacksons.com



Photo by Bill Biles

Info for TBSK.club

Board Members

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Newsletter Editor & Social Media

Bill Biles 727 204 5511
wcbiles@gmail.com

Welcome New Members!

- **Mark and Jean Mandell**
- **Dan Tantalo**
- **Judith Shila**

Members that renewed this month:

- **Jon Hackley**
- **Bryan Katz**
- **Tom Komar**
- **David Monahan**
- **Sharan Nickles**
- **Pamella Settlegoode**
- **George Shukis**
- **Sue Tantalo**
- **Clayton White**
- **Jan Machnikowski**

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](#)

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,

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](#)



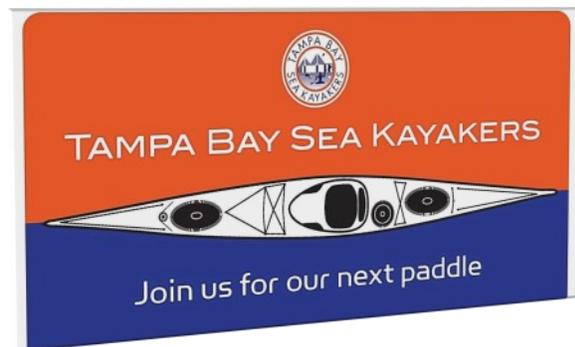


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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-