**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**August 5, 2025**

**7:00-8:30PM**

Members Participating:

Glen Gordon, President

Cathy Kimball

Ellen Gluckman

Eric Sofen

John Haile

Tom Allen

Don Gorman (representing the Social Committee)

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

The Board call commenced at 7:03 p.m.

1. Welcome.
2. Approval of minutes from 6/11/25 Board call: The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 11, 2025 Board call.
3. Social Committee Update/Summer outing: Don briefed the Board on the Social Committee’s initial activities and plans. Other committee members are Edwina Ducker, Deb Walsh, Harry Nelson, and Aaron Kiander. The committee has organized three events so far which have been well-attended and attracted new SMSKN members to participate. Upcoming events include an evening social in Saco on August 27 and the annual summer picnic on September 27. Glen congratulated the committee on its successful start, and asked that it help organize the end-of-year party as well. In response to Don’s question about outreach to new members, Glen said he sends a welcome email when new members join that encourages them to sign up for all SMSKN activities.
4. Financial Update: Since Kyle was not able to participate in this meeting, this agenda item was deferred to the October Board call.
5. Skills Committee Update: Glen observed that the Simon Osborne/Nate Hanson training sessions went really well. The Board discussed the process of obtaining permits to hold training events like these at Reid State Park, noting the significant lead time required to get a permit.
6. Looking Forward:
   1. Fall/Winter meetings: Eric said he had completed preparations for a presentation on weather forecasting for an October monthly membership meeting. Glen asked him to come up with a specific date by the next Board call. Eric said Tyler Kimbar said he wanted finish photographing lighthouses, so the proposed presentation on lighthouses should be put on the back burner. Glen asked Board members to come up with additional ideas for monthly meeting presentations for discussion at the next Board call.
   2. Feedback session: Board members discussed how to get more feedback from SMSKN members on the value of professional training sessions, social event organized by the Social Committee, and other SMSKN activities. Tom suggested a public membership meeting specifically to obtain member feedback.
   3. Pool sessions: The Board agreed that pool sessions should have the same format as last year, e.g., no limit on the number of participants. Riverton is still not available, and Westbrook is not available at convenient times. Board members will need to check Bowdoin and Wiscasset pools to determine their availability.
   4. Role and Responsibility of Trip Organizers: Tom said SMSKN members need to post more paddling trips to provide additional opportunities for members to paddle together. Cathy observed that people are reluctant to do so because of the responsibility involved. Board members discussed how to encourage members to step forward with paddling trip proposals, exercise leadership during trips, and manage liability concerns. Eric proposed that a membership program during the winter focus discussion on this topic. John suggested asking professional kayak skills instructors for advice. Glen said the Board should work on this issue during its fall Board meetings.
7. Other Business: Eric asked about considering and recruiting new board members. Glen responded that current Board member should decide within the next couple of months if they want to continue to serve on the Board and identify new candidates.
8. Closure and Action Items:

* Board members to come up with additional ideas for monthly meeting presentations for discussion at the next Board call.
* Board members to check on availability of Bowdoin and Wiscasset pools for winter pool sessions.
* Board members to let Glen know whether they want to continue to serve on the Board and to propose new candidates for Board membership.

The Board call concluded at 8:12 p.m.

**Next call: October 7, 2025**