**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

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

Members Participating:

John Haile, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

Glen Gordon

Janet Robinson

John Contas

Tom Allen

Vytas Marciulionis

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

The Board call commenced at 7:04 p.m.

1. Welcome
2. Approval of minutes from 3/1/2023 meeting: The Board unanimously approved the minutes as amended.
3. Old business
   1. Meet-up/Stripe dues payments: John H. thanked Chip for preparing the SMSKN yearend balance sheet and income statement. Chip reported that the problem with Meetup’s transfer of membership payments to the club has been resolved.
   2. *Tide Race* newsletter: Board members expressed enthusiastic praise for Joe Herlihy’s production of the first two editions of the newsletter. In response to John H.’s question as to who edits Joe’s work, Janet said Glen and Cathy Kimball reviewed each edition before publication. To make sure all members receive a copy of the newsletter, Vic said he would work with Joe on the newsletter mailing list. John H. noted that he has to do a paddler profile for each edition, and asked Board members for suggestions.
4. New Business
   1. Skills Committee update: Tom reported that the first SMSKN skills session of the season would be on May 10. All subsequent sessions are set, with the topics as follows:

May 10, Harpswell 4pm: Boat control.

May 17: Racing.

May 24: Towing.

May 31: Skills practice.

June 7: Recovery.

June 14: Introduction to dynamic water.

June 21: Rolling.

June 28: Surfing.

Janet asked why no sessions were scheduled for weekends, when members who worked Monday-Friday would be more available to attend. Glen said these dates were based on the availability of Skills Committee members to run them, and that the committee was working on doing weekend sessions. The last newsletter had a Save the Date notice for all these sessions. Tom suggested doing Save the Date notices in Meetup as well. Janet suggested that the club talk to Meetup about how to do such announcements without actually creating an event for each program.

* 1. Quick updates
     1. SMSKN T-shirts: John H. said he will check with the vendor to find out how many T-shirts members have ordered. Members can either pay for shipping or pick up their shirts at the store once they are available. John C. suggested that members post a notice in Meetup when they go to pick up their shirts, offering to pick up other members’ orders at the same time if they request it.
     2. Business cards: Janet asked for photos of members in long boats to insert in the new design for SMSKN business cards.
  2. Trip reports: John C. explained that he proposed this as a means of getting members more engaged in SMSKN. Greg suggested that trip organizers or other participants post a brief description recounting the trip in the comment section of the Meetup event page for the trip. John H. said Board members could take the lead on this to encourage others to post reports. Janet pointed out that this approach wouldn’t create an archive of trip reports that members could consult in planning future trips. Tom suggested that a Trip Reports section could be added to the newsletter as a simple way to create an archive. John H. proposed that Tom ask newsletter editor Joe Herlihy to survey trip report comments in Meetup event pages and reprint them in the newsletter.
  3. Boat storage ideas: John H. proposed that the Board discuss during its May Board call whether or not SMSKN should pursue this.
  4. SMSKN rep at MASKGI annual meeting on Saturday, April 29: Janet volunteered to do this.
  5. SMSKN table at MITA/Rising Tide event on Saturday, April 8: Janet volunteered to manage a SMSKN table at this event. John C. said he could come for some of the event.
  6. MITA Splash, May 18: Janet and John H. will represent SMSKN at this event.
  7. Georgetown Recreation Department possible program in May: John H. reported that he and Nananda met with Rec. Department representatives to discuss the Rec. Department’s interest in organizing a program to introduce sea kayaking to Georgetown residents. The Rec. Department is considering inviting SMSKN to run the program, which would involve a 90 minute session on land to talk about safety, equipment, and techniques, and possibly a second session on the water to practice wet exits and other techniques. The ball is in the Rec. Department’s court to make a final decision on holding this program. If it invites SMSKN, the club will need to put out a call for volunteers to run it.
  8. Pool no-shows: Vic reported that this year no members on waitlists for pool sessions were denied a chance to participate because of no-shows. Tom pointed out that even so, there were as many as seven empty slots (out of 20) at pool sessions due to no-shows. In response to John H.’s questions, Vic said he could do a report for the Board on the number of new members among the attendees at pool sessions.
  9. Where are we with social media: Vic reported that SMSKN’s Instagram account has more than 170 followers. He encouraged members to post more photos of paddling trips to the club’s Meetup page and its Instagram account. He pointed out that Instagram appeals to a younger demographic and doesn’t dilute our online presence on Meetup and the SMSKN website.

Closure and action items:

* Board members to send Janet photos of members in long boats to insert in the new design for SMSKN business card.
* Vic to work with Joe Herlihy on the newsletter mailing list.
* John H. to check with the vendor to find out how many T-shirts members have ordered.
* Tom to ask Joe Herlihy to survey trip report comments in Meetup event pages and reprint them in the newsletter.
* The Board to discuss at its May call whether to help members find storage for their boats.
* Vic to do a report for the Board on the number of new members among the attendees at pool sessions.

The Board call concluded at 8:25 p.m.

**Next call: Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 7 pm.**