**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Wednesday, September 4, 2024**

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

Members Participating:

John Haile, President

Glen Gordon, Vice President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

Cathy Kimball

Ellen Gluckman

Tom Allen

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

The Board call commenced at 7:05 p.m.

1. Welcome.
2. Approval of minutes from 6/5/2024 meeting: The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 5, 2024 Board call.
3. Ongoing business.
   1. Pool sessions. John reported that through Ellen, SMSKN has reserved three three-hour sessions at Wiscasset Pool on Sunday mornings 9:00am-12:00 noon on December 15, January 12, 2025, and February 9, 2025. The cost of these sessions is $150 an hour. In addition, John has arranged for pool sessions on Sunday mornings 10:00am-12:00 noon at Bowdoin College on December 8, December 22, January 19, and January 26, 2025. The cost of these sessions is $94 an hour. SMSKN will need to obtain its own liability insurance for the Bowdoin sessions. Ellen said that Wiscasset is not requiring SMSKN to obtain its own insurance; it will be covered by Wiscasset Pool’s insurance.

John recommended to the Board that SMSKN become a Paddle America club member of the American Canoeing Association (ACA). An annual club membership in ACA is $175 per year. That will allow SMSKN to get event-specific insurance for $20 per event. Pool session participants who are ACA individual members (for $40 per year) can attend without paying any additional fee to ADA. Participants who are not ACA individual members must pay ACA $10 per session. Tom observed that the Maine Association of Sea Kayaking Guides and Instructors (MASKGI) uses ACA insurance for all its pool sessions. Glen proposed that SMSKN not limit the number of participants at pool sessions and let participants come and go at any time during the sessions. The Boards approved these seven dates for pool sessions and approved joining ACA as a Paddle America member and using its insurance.

1. New Business.
   1. Monthly meetings. John solicited Board members’ ideas for monthly membership Zoom and/or in-person meetings for 2024-25. John relayed a suggestion from Tom Waddell to do a session on how a member can post a paddling trip on Meetup. Ellen suggested a session on exercises for paddling. Tom thought he and Vick could do a presentation on their Iceland trip. Greg said he could prepare a session on how to organize an Easy Kayak Camping trip. Joe said he will contact Joe Herlihy about a presentation recounting his solo Falmouth-Lubec paddling trip. Greg wondered whether Eric Sofen might be willing to do a presentation on making his own Greenland paddles.
   2. Board transition. John asked Board members to let him know whether they would be willing to continue to serve on the Board in 2025. He reminded Board members of Chip’s earlier notification that he would like to step down as Treasurer. John encouraged Board members to contact people that might be good candidates for Board membership, particularly younger members.
   3. SMSKN website. Ellen asked if there were any new developments in regard to upgrading the SMSKN website and replacing Meetup. Board members observed that Meetup appeared to be performing better now and did not need to be replaced. Glen suggested that the Board address improvements to the website later.
   4. Subsidy for professional training. Tom proposed using some of the Rotnem Scholarship Fund to increase the subsidy for SMSKN members who register for professional paddling skills training. He presented cost scenarios for increasing the subsidy from 10% to 20% or 40%. Glen noted in relation to this proposal that the Board would need to fine tune how we get classes for SMSKN members only. John said he was in favor of the proposal, and noted that he was collecting gear donations for a new fund-raising session for the Rotnem fund. Glen said he was philosophically in favor of the proposal, but that it needs to be considered in the context of the whole 2025 budget. John also proposed renewed attention to getting a SMSKN Venmo or PayPal account to enable members to pay for professional training organized through SMSKN.
2. Closure and action items.

* Pool dates: Ellen to follow up with Wiscasset Pool and John to follow up with Bowdoin.
* ACA Membership and insurance: John and Glen to move forward on this.
* Monthly membership meetings
  + Ellen – Exercises for Paddling (tentatively in October)
  + Tom – Iceland expedition (tentatively in November)
  + John and Glen – Annual Meeting and Holiday Party (tentatively December 14).
  + Greg – Easy Kayak Camping (tentatively January 2025).
  + John to contact Joe Herlihy about a presentation on his Maine coast solo paddling trip (tentatively February).
  + Possible Eric Sofen presentation on making a paddle? (March?)
* Board transition: Board members to let John know about their plans and to scout candidates for Board membership.
* Increasing SMSKN member training subsidy: Tom to move forward with this proposal in the process of developing the 2025 budget.
* Venmo or Paypal payment process: Chip to research this.

The Board call concluded at 8:03 pm.

**Next call: October 2, 2024.**