**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2024**

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

Members Participating:

John Haile, President

Glen Gordon, Vice President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

Cathy Kimball

Ellen Gluckman

Eric Sofen

Halle Kirsch

Tom Allen

Vytas (Vic) Marciulionis

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

The Board call commenced at 7:17 p.m.

1. Welcome. JH welcomed Eric and Halle.
2. Approval of minutes from 9/4/2024 meeting: The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 4, 2024 Board call.
3. Ongoing business.
	1. ACA Paddle America Club (PAC) and Insurance update: John reported that he had sent in SMSKN’s application for ACA membership and paid the fee. As a result, SMSKM can now use ACA insurance to cover pool sessions and other SMSN activities. Ellen reminded the Board that SMSKN doesn’t need insurance for Wiscasset pool sessions, because we can use Wiscasset pool’s own insurance. Glen said that in publicizing SMSKN-organized pool sessions we should encourage our members to join ACA as individual members.
	2. Pool sessions. John reviewed the schedule for SMSKN’s seven pool sessions this winter. The three Wiscasset sessions will be 3 hours each, and the four Bowdoin sessions 2 hours each. Members who sign up for these sessions can show up at any time during the session they registered for, but only 10 boats can been in the water at a time. John asked if any Board members could not lead the session he had assigned them to. Ellen volunteered to cover the January 12 session in Greg’s place. Other Board members agreed to lead sessions in accordance with John’s schedule, as follows:
	* 12/8: Bowdoin - John
	* 12/15: Wiscasset – Ellen
	* 12/22: Bowdoin - Tom
	* 1/12: Wiscasset – Ellen (in place of Greg)
	* 1/19: Bowdoin - Glen
	* 1/26: Bowdoin - Vick
	* 2/9: Wiscasset - Cath

John said he would draft standard posting language with modifications from last year’s language, including an explanation of the ACA insurance process. Session hosts should post the session on Meetup 7-10 days in advance. Glen noted the ACA requirement that SMSKN keep a list of attendees and have each participant sign the ACA waiver in addition to having a signed SMSKN participant agreement on file.

* 1. Monthly meeting - November. Tom said he would confirm within a week whether he and Vick will be able to do a Zoom program in November on their Iceland trip, and if so will aim for the last week of November.

1. New Business.
	1. Annual Meeting: John reviewed preparations for the December 14 annual meeting and holiday party at the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) office. John will provide a review of activities in 2024, followed by election of the Board. Then there will be a potluck dinner and gear swap. John also suggested a beer swap, where members bring a couple of their favorite beers to exchange with others. The Board discussed how to organize the potluck and accepted Greg’s suggestion that attendees post what they will be bringing in the comment section of the Meetup event page.
	2. Sea kayaking training: Cathy reported that Simon Osbourne will be coming to the US and will conduct two training classes with Nate Hanson in August 2025. Cathy added that according to Cheri Perry, Nate and Simon are willing to give SMSKN members priority in registering for the classes along with a discount of 20 percent. Tom said he would send an email to the board regarding the class program.
	3. Chip noted he had sent a draft 2025 budget to John along with a report on 3rd quarter finances and some questions.

1. Closure and action items.
* Monthly membership meetings
	+ Tom – Iceland expedition (November)
	+ John and Glen – Annual Meeting/Holiday Party 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).

The Board call concluded at 7:50 pm.

**Next call: December 4, 2024 (if needed).**