**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

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

Members Participating:

Glen Gordon, President

Cathy Kimball

Eric Sofen

Halle Kirsch

John Haile

Tom Allen

Vytas (Vic) Marciulionis

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

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

1. Welcome.
2. Approval of minutes from 1/14/2025 meeting: The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 14, 2025 Board call, with one correction: changing “Tyler Winn” to “Tyler Kimbar.”
3. Ongoing business.
   1. Skills Committee Update. Tom and Cathy reported on plans for the Nate Hanson/Simon Osborne two-day course in August 2025. The course can accommodate up to 48 participants, with half of the slots reserved for SMSKN members. If SMSKN takes all of the 48 slots, with a 40 percent subsidy to members the cost to the club would be $3072 ($160x48x40%). Glen suggested that the Board wait until more information is available from the coaches before committing to this expenditure. He noted that because this is a special event with prominent coaches it will attract a lot of interest, and it is good for the club to be hosting such a high-profile event. Cathy stated the coaches should be paid their fee up front. She said the course will begin with a presentation on July 31, followed by workshops on the weekends of August 2-3 and 9-10.

In other Skills Committee news, Tom said he was in contact with coaches for other courses during the coming season. Cathy wondered whether the committee should look for new members this year. Tom said the committee needs one person with a good skill set. John said Doug Mogill had told him he wants to be more involved in SMSKN , and the committee might consider inviting him to be a member.

* 1. Website Update. Eric reported that Halle and he had met with Vic to go over administration of the SMSKN website and now have access to perform editing and updates. Since then, Eric had done some basic updates and is working with Vic to upgrade links between the website and the SMSKN Meetup page. He said he will need to meet with Glen regarding administration of the Meetup page. In the longer term, they will need to restructure website to make it easier to navigate. Tom offered to help them with any Wordpress issues. On the question of hiring a professional web designer to help with the website upgrade, Eric recommended that we hold off for now. He said they would get buy-in from the Board on any major changes to the website.
  2. Pool sessions. Glen said he had secured additional sessions at Bowdoin on March 2 April 6 at Wiscasset, with the same slots as before. Tom volunteered to run the March session. Glen will confirm with Ellen that she is willing to lead the April session at Wiscasset.

1. New Business.
   1. Treasurer. Glen observed that he had gotten a surprising number of responses from people expressing interest in the Treasurer position. After discussion, Glen proposed to offer the position to Kyle Martin, and the Board approved. Tom suggested that the Board offer recognition and thanks for Chip Woodman’s many years of service as Treasurer, and the Board discussed ways of doing so.
   2. New Committees. The Board discussed the history of SMSKN’s Social Committee and Trip Committee (now inactive), and the pros and cons of reviving them. The discussion eventually focused on the idea of a periodically scheduled SMSKN activity, such as a monthly paddle preceded or followed by a social gathering, and a means of organizing that activity. The Board agreed to discuss that idea further at the next Board call. Tom suggested that the Board test the waters with an email message sounding out members’ views. Halle suggested sending a Google Form with this message to collect and collate members’ responses. She offered to draft a survey form by the end of the week. Glen suggested that Board members try to think of a catchy name for the periodic event.
   3. Monthly events. Glen reported that Joe Gugliemetti is offering a two-hour presentation in the spring on mental health and kayaking. Glen will work with him on developing and scheduling the session. Greg proposed March 26 for his presentation on organizing an easy kayak camping trip. Cathy reported that Joe Berkowitz is willing to do a presentation on using the Floating Trails app. He could combine his presentation with Glen and John’s presentation on how to post a paddling trip on Meetup trip. Glen endorsed this idea, saying that if Joe can do his part in an hour, John and Glen could do the Meetup part in half an hour. He suggested that they aim for a mid-to-late April presentation date.
   4. SMSKN Retreat. John gave the Board a heads up that he is in conversation with Maine Audubon to have a SMSKN retreat at Hog Island in 2026.
   5. Coaching Course. Tom reported that he is talking to John Carmody about teaching a coaching course. It would be a two-day session, mostly on land. It is designed for the Skills Committee but could be broadened to include Board members.
2. Closure and action items.

* Board to discuss the proposal for a monthly event and a committee to organize it at its next Board Call.
* Halle to draft a Google Form to solicit members’ views on a monthly event and a committee to organize it.
* Greg and Glen/John to work on their presentations for March and April.

The Board call concluded at 8:23 pm.

**Next call: Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 7:00pm.**