**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Tuesday, March 4, 2025**

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

Members Participating:

Glen Gordon, President

Kyle Martin, Treasurer

Cathy Kimball

Ellen Gluckman

Eric Sofen

Halle Kirsch

John Haile

Tom Allen

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

The Board call commenced at 7:02 p.m.

1. Welcome.
2. Approval of minutes from 2/4/2025 meeting: Deferred until all Board members have had an opportunity to review the minutes.
3. Ongoing business.
	1. Pool Sessions Update. Tom asked if anyone attending pool sessions has had a problem with SMSKN members bringing non-member guests. Glen pointed out that insurance coverage could be an issue for non-members. At Bowdoin pool, non-members would be covered if they registered and paid a fee to the American Canoe Association (ACA). Ellen noted that at Wiscasset all participants would be covered under Wiscasset’s insurance. Board members generally agreed that pool sessions should be reserved for SMSKN members, and non-members who wish to attend pool sessions should be encouraged to join. Tom asked whether non-members visiting from out of town could attend; Cathy suggested that they could be requested to make a prescribed donation. Board members agreed.
	2. Presentation/Meeting Schedule. Glen reviewed the schedule of upcoming SMSKN membership meetings, including Greg’s March 26 presentation on Easy Kayak Camping and the annual “Stone Soup” gathering on May 17. Cathy said Joe Berkowitz told her early May would be the best time for his presentation on Floating Trails. Eric said he has a presentation on weather forecasting for sea kayakers ready to go. Glen said that he will follow up with Joe Gugliemetti on Joe’s proposal for a presentation kayaking and mental health. Glen thought it might be best to save Eric’s presentation for next fall. Glen will sort out the schedule after talking to Joe B. and Joe G.
	3. Treasurer Transition Update. Glen welcomed new treasurer Kyle Martin to the Board. Kyle reported that he had been in contact with his predecessor Chip Woodman, but hasn’t gotten Chip’s Quickbooks file yet. Kyle wants to convert the SMSKN account to Quickbooks online for ease of use, pointing out that we can turn off its monthly fee temporarily if we are not using Quickbooks for a few months. Glen noted that SMSKN needs to transfer ownership/access for its bank account from Chip to Kyle, and that he (Glen) needs access, too. John reviewed how he did the transition from former President Janet Robinson. Glen noted that once this transition is completed he needs to be reimbursed for Meetup and Zoom fees he paid on behalf of the club.
	4. Skills Committee Update and Simon Osborne Training Discussion/Approval. Tom reviewed preparations for the two Nate Hanson/Simon Osborne-led two-day classes for SMSKN members in August. The total cost per participant will be $385 or $400, with ten participants per course. SMSKN is responsible for handling registration, collection of fees, and payment to the coaches. Ellen has volunteered to handle registration. The two coaches are offering a ten percent discount; the Board needs to decide how much of an additional subsidy it is willing to pay for each participant. With 20 participants at a cost of $385 each, a 40 percent SMSKN subsidy would cost the club $3,000. That is more than the club’s annual total operating budget, though there are sufficient funds in SMSKN’s cash reserve to pay for it. Board members expressed concern about the size of this expense, and thought that SMSKN members would still register for all 20 available slots with a lower subsidy. Tom wondered about interested club members who might not be able to afford the course with a reduced subsidy. Ellen pointed out that members could apply to the Rotnem scholarship fund for assistance. Glen proposed that SMSKN provide a 20 percent subsidy for these courses, and the Board approved.

Tom said that Nate wants to conduct the courses in Ellsworth. Board members pointed out that participants coming from southern Maine would have a difficult time finding accommodation in or near Ellsworth in August, and it might be hard to get 20 people to sign up because of that. Glen said that Nate knows southern Maine well, and we could offer the coaches accommodation here. Glen asked Tom to go back to the Skills Committee and request that both courses be taught in southern Maine. If needed, we could consider a compromise with one course in southern Maine and one in the Ellsworth area.

* 1. SMSKN Website Updates/maintenance. Glen and other Board members commended the work Eric has done to organize and streamline the SMSKN website. After discussion of whether the website needs an extensive “About Us” section, Greg offered to help make it more concise. Eric said he also could use some help pruning and organizing the website’s large photo collection. He asked that if people have content to contribute, they should let him know. Eric also proposed that SMSKN upgrade to Meetup Pro because of its greater capabilities, at an estimated cost of $39 per month. Glen asked Eric to confirm the cost, and if it is greater than that, come back to the Board to discuss it.
1. New Business.
	1. Social Committee Questionnaire. Glen reported that Halle had put together a Google survey for SMSKN to assess their views on reviving the Social Committee. He will send the survey to all members through Meetup. Halle suggested that there be a two-week deadline for responses, and Glen said he would put that in the email.
	2. Other Business. Kyle asked if there was any recent interest in the Richard Rotnem scholarship fund. Glen said not recently, but SMSKN should promote the fund as the summer paddling season approaches. He said he would mention the fund in upcoming membership meetings.
2. Closure and action items.
* Glen to sort out the spring monthly membership meeting schedule after talking to Joe B. and Joe G about their proposed presentations.
* Tom to report back to the Skills Committee on the Board’s decisions on the SMSKN subsidy for participants in the Nate Hanson/Simon Osborne courses in August, and the location of the courses.
* Greg to help Eric edit the “About Us” section of the SMSKN website.
* Glen to send the survey on revival of the Social Committee to all members through Meetup.

The Board call concluded at 8:01 pm.

**Next call: Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 7:00pm.**