**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

Members Participating:

John Haile, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

Glen Gordon

Jenna Ginsberg

John Contas

Nananda Col

Tom Allen

Vytas Marciulionis (Vic)

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

The Board call commenced at 7:08 p.m.

1. Welcome: John Haile welcomed Board members to the first Board call of 2023, and paid tribute to Janet Robinson for all her contributions as SMSKN president 2019-22.
2. Old Business
   1. 2022 Financial Report: Chip reported before the Board call that SMSKN held $19,311 in assets (CDs and checking account) at the end of 2022. The club had an operating loss of $416 in 2022, though Chip noted that this included prepayment of 2023 pool fees at Riverton.
   2. Skills Committee update: Tom reported that each member of the committee had been assigned to find a coach to work with in relation to training for SMSKN members. The committee will meet next month to discuss this and other skills issues. John H. noted that John Carmody is willing to do a navigation course in 2023 for the club.
   3. Quick Review to 2022-23 monthly programs: John H. pointed out that Board members still needs to pick dates for the three monthly membership programs:

* March: Cheri Perry Turner on Greenland paddling, organized by Janet;
* April, Natural History of Casco Bay, organized by Nananda;
* and May, Regional Highlights of the Maine Coast, organized by Tom.

In regard to Doug Cooper’s January 26 program on paddling in Greenland, John noted that Doug will be speaking from his home in Scotland, five hours ahead of EST (i.e, a 7pm EST program start would be midnight in Scotland). John proposed that the program start earlier – 5:30pm, and the Board agreed. John will confirm the time change with Doug and post on Meetup. In response to John C.’s question, John H. noted that Doug would receive the club’s standard honorarium of $150.

* 1. Pool Scheduling status confirmation: Vic reported that SMSKN pool sessions at Riverton Pool were set for January 29, February 12, February 19, and March 19, 2-4pm. Pool sessions in Bath will be April 16, 23, and 30. John said he would send a “save the date” message to the SMSKN membership about the pool sessions, and that each session would be posted on Meetup two weeks ahead of time. The Board discussed language regarding voluntary donations for these sessions. John H. said he would draft language to circulate to members after the Board call (see addendum below).

1. New Business
   1. Monthly Meeting time confirmation. Board members confirmed that the first Wednesday of the month works for all of them for the monthly Board call.
   2. Website funding. Jenna reported that Nic Scott had updated the website with new GDPR privacy protection software, which will raise the annual cost of the website from $120 to $240. John H. thanked Jenna for continuing to manage the website, and asked her to send Chip the web services bill once she receives it.
   3. Bylaws review and VP role. Glen reviewed the amendments and updates he has proposed to the SMSKN by-laws. He will forward an updated version including Janet’s suggestions to Board members ahead of a discussion and voting on the proposed changes next month.
   4. Board member roles: John H. said he had discussed with Janet and Glen a “cabinet-style” approach to the role of President and the Board’s work. He said he would like Glen to fill the newly created role of Vice President. Glen had also agreed to be chief record-keeper for the club.

In regard to other tasks and roles:

Review of the SMSKN website: Janet offered to look at the website and Vic offered to work with her on content and verbiage. John H. noted that Janet had also volunteered to be responsible for coordinating club communications.

Newsletter – John H. reported that Joe Herlihy has volunteered to do this, and has experience in the field; Janet is interested as well. Chip mentioned that there is a file of old SMSKN newsletters, and that a lot of the content can be recycled. Tom observed that a monthly newsletter is too much to ask, and suggested that a bi-monthly or quarterly newsletter would be sufficient. John H. suggested that the Board discuss this again on its next call.

John C. said he would be happy to continue as membership coordinator.

Nananda said she would be happy to continue to organize Bath pool sessions. John H. suggested that she also serve as the Board’s mid-coast regional coordinator, to which she agreed.

* 1. Goals for 2023: John H. said that if any Board member has specific goal suggestions for 2023, he would like to hear them. John C. suggested enhanced engagement with members: how do we increase new member participation? He suggested that club members organize more paddling trips appealing to more people. Tom said there should be one flat water paddling trip a month, and the trip description on Meetup should emphasize language that would attract less experienced paddlers. Chip drew attention to the descriptions of five different levels of difficulty posted on the SMSKN website. John C. and Vic offered to help Tom with organizing easy paddling trips. John H. said this should be on the agenda for next month’s Board call to rough out a schedule for these paddling trips.

1. Closure and Action Items

* Board members need to pick dates for the March, April, and May monthly membership programs they are responsible for.
* John H. to send out a notice to members on pool session dates and draft language on voluntary donations to be included in the Meetup notice for each session.
* Glen to forward to Board members an updated version of bylaw amendments.
* The Board to discuss at next month’s Board call a schedule for monthly flatwater paddling trips and other goals for 2023.
* Janet & Vic to review the website for things that need changing/updating.

The Board call concluded at 8:31 p.m.

Next call: **Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 7 pm.**

Addendum: John Haile’s suggested common language for inclusion in SMSKN Meetup postings

**Pool sessions:**

**Portland**: Please join other SMSKN paddlers for a two-hour session in the Riverton pool. The session offers the chance to work on rolls, self and assisted recoveries and other activities designed to strengthen skills for our open-water paddles. Though no specific instruction is offered, you will always find others willing to help with skills and offer top tips. While these sessions are free to SMSKN members, donations in any amount are welcome to help defray the cost to the club (and thus allow us to offer more sessions). Donations may be made in cash or check (made out to SMSKN) and given to the coordinator at the start of the session. Please do arrive with clean gear.

**Bath:** Please join other SMSKN paddlers for a one-hour session in the Bath YMCA pool. The session offers the chance to work on rolls, self and assisted recoveries and other activities designed to strengthen skills for our open-water paddles. Though no specific instruction is offered, you will always find others willing to help with skills and offer top tips. While these sessions are free to SMSKN members, donations in any amount are welcome to help defray the cost to the club (and thus allow us to offer more sessions). Donations may be made in cash or check (made out to SMSKN) and given to the coordinator when you arrive. Please allow plenty of time to unload clean gear and be ready to enter the pool at the start of the session.

**Sheltered water paddles:**

This paddle is designed for those relatively new to ocean paddling, or who just prefer to paddle in more sheltered conditions. If you’re wondering what to bring or what to expect, helpful information can be found on the club web site ([www.smskn.net](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.smskn.net%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc2397df05b01410baee008dafe1a4106%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638101685960652776%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=N%2BGuui3q77TOmOJNGBmAShLKs0%2FmrFjpVZosQkhML64%3D&reserved=0)). The trip coordinator will give a thorough briefing before setting out, so bring your questions. Particularly if you’ve not been on an ocean paddle recently–or ever–this is a great opportunity to become part of the community of SMSKN paddlers!