

# West Michigan Coastal Kayaker



The Newsletter of the  
West Michigan  
Coastal Kayaker's Association

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## Pool Sessions a Wintertime Oasis

During the first two pool sessions in November and December a dozen WMCKA members took advantage of the warm, clear waters of the Grandville Middle School pool to re-learn and practice their rescue, re-entry, bracing and rolling skills.

In December, Doug and Aiden VanDoren brought in their tandem kayak.

Doug was interested to see how the boat would roll. With Aiden hugging the deck, Doug completed the roll without too much difficulty.

The next rolling partner (victim) for Doug was Keith Wikle. After confirming that Keith had indeed signed the waiver, Doug had Keith sit in the front seat and attempted the boat's first roll with two adult paddlers. Again, the boat came up without much work.

Meanwhile, Keith's kids, Gabriel and Isabella and were busy jumping in and



Aiden and Doug VanDoren in their newly completed CLC Sport Tandem

Photo by  
Karl Geisel

finding the sunken rings on the bottom of the pool.

You too could be part and witness such hijinks at future WMCKA pool sessions.

For more information and directions see page 3.

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Jacquelyn and David out for a spin while an Orca Whale dances about the starboard side.

Photo by  
Karl Geisel



Winnie prepares for a day on the water.

Photo by  
Jack Keyes

## What Being a WMCKA Member Means to Me

By Winnie Keyes

I became a WMCKA member one year ago last October when there was an outing at Ludington and Jack Keyes asked me to join him. I always wanted to get involved in kayaking, but I never found anyone who was interested in the sport until I met Jack, who is an avid kayaker. I have been to several of the outings since then which also included the symposium this past spring.

I'm really glad that I have joined the Association because it stresses safety while on the water. I feel very strongly about how important it is to know water safety. I also like being involved in a club which is family oriented; that is very important to me as well. I feel that I have

made a wise decision on being a WMCKA member because it's a wonderful group of individuals.

Every time I'm at an outing I really enjoy myself and feel welcome. I would also like to take this time to thank everyone for being so kind to me when I was recovering from my injuries which I sustained last winter.

I'm looking forward with pride to many great times in kayaking as a WMCKA member.

Keep up the great job!! I have learned a great deal about the sport and will continue kayaking for a long time.

# The Presidents View

By Al Anderson



Here in the Great White North, Mother Nature is having a hard time picking a season. In the span of a week or so we have ranged from blizzard conditions, with two feet of snow accumulation and sub-zero temperatures, to rain and 50's, wiping it all away to bare ground. Winter returned with up to 1/2" of freezing rain accumulation, pretty much shutting everything down for a while. When the weather is like this, it's unfit to do much of anything outdoors except complain as you dash from one shelter to another. (However, Betz walks the cat out in the woods rain or snow...)

2005 will mark the year of WMCKA's 16th Sea Kayaking Symposium, for which planning is underway. WMCKA started out as a small group of paddling friends back in the late 1980's then was

soon made official by adding a newsletter, and eventually by incorporation. Now that we've survived into our second century and third decade, I like to look at what we have accomplished in the past, and what I feel we need to strive for in the future.

WMCKA is first and foremost about enjoying paddling. Sharing quality time on the water and in camp with old friends and new is hard to top. The club also provides much needed instruction, formally and informally, to insure that our paddling friends remain safe. It would be easy to take an "every man for himself" attitude toward kayak safety. Unfortunately, there are people in government, who know little or nothing about kayaking, who would jump at the opportunity to protect us from ourselves.

The Coast Guard sees kayaks as "small boats" in their approach to safety. This

attitude centers on safety equipment, signaling devices and what I call "boat-think". It does not consider much about specific skill development unique to kayaking. Ironically, the Coast Guard itself refers to kayakers as "non-traditional boaters". How's that for an indication of just how clueless they are?

If new kayakers are going to enjoy the sport in safety, it is up to us to provide the instruction, attitudes, and examples for them. Our symposium is our front line in this effort. Please consider volunteering to help. You'll find contact information of Lynn Dominguez and Laurie Levknecht (symposium co-chairs) listed on page 3 of this newsletter. Many hands make light work.

Have a safe and happy New Year!



# Yes, I'm in Africa!

By Adrienne Levknecht

Y e p , that's correct I am most definitely in Africa right now.

My school and I left out of the Atlanta airport for the longest flight ever...19.5 hours. We got to Africa after 3 days of travelling and drove to Livingston, where Victoria falls is, one of the seven wonders of the world. We hung out in Livingston having class and paddling on the Zambezi river every day for 2 weeks.



and so many other things I cant name them all. I took very many pictures.

After 13 days on the overland truck with 12 very smelly boys we made it to Jinja, Uganda. The first three days we were just driving for 12 hours a day still in Zambia we drove all the way up to Kenya in 3 days. Boarders are interesting and very fun to be at because there is always so much going on there, and we passed 3 different boarders it was fun.

We got to Kenya and kept driving until we got to the Ngorongoro crater and the Serengeti. We then stopped driving on the overland and gave Matt our driver a 3 day break and we went into the Serengeti for a day and drove around, found lions, cheetahs, zebra, giraffe, leopard

We then drove down into the crater where we saw rhinos also. The next day we got to go to an orphanage for orphaned (sick or hurt) baby rhinos and elephants. Oh my lord, they are so cute there was a 7 day old baby elephant there whose mother got stuck in a ditch after she gave birth. It was so fun to watch them all play and I touched one – Ha Ha!

We also went to a place where orphaned giraffes go and we got to feed them and play with them. It was so neat! We then got all the way to Uganda after 13 days we are staying at Nile River Expeditions. It is so fun, the sun shines

every day and it rains at night.

There have been 4 bouts of malaria here so far 2 teachers and 2 students, 3 food poisonings and nothing else as far as I know. So we have had a rough beginning to Uganda but everyone is feeling better now. I myself am holding up very well...very sore from surfing at the Nile Special and Malalu for 4 hours straight 2 days in a row so I am taking today off to do work. :-)

Hot and humid here, just the way I like it. I will talk to you all soon, I head home from Uganda on the 14th [December] but I'm most definitely not counting the days – Ha Ha!

I hope that everyone is doing well. See you soon

I'm in Africa :-) Adriene

## SUBMISSIONS

Articles, photos, trip reports, announcements for trips or any other materials relating to kayaking or the environment are welcome for submission. Electronic media is preferred (plain text, or MS Word format please). Materials are subject to editing.

Send to: karl.geisel@wmcka.org

# WMCKA Pool Sessions

WMCKA Pool Sessions will be held again this year at the Grandville Middle School (address below) on the following Saturdays from 3-5 PM.

January 8, 22  
February 12, 26  
March 5, 19

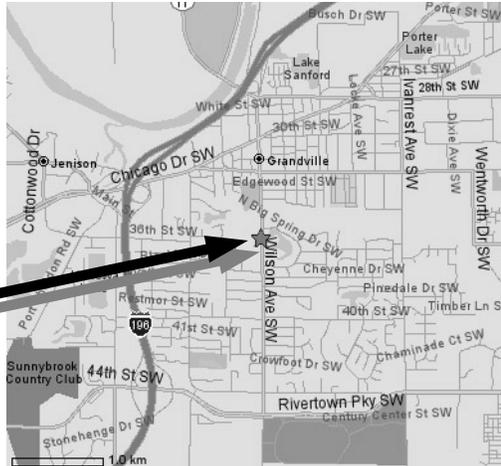
Rates are:

WMCKA/ACA Members	\$10.00
WMCKA, non ACA	\$15.00
Non WMCKA members	\$20.00

Grandville Middle School is located at:  
3535 Wilson SW  
Grandville MI 49418

The pool entrance is at the rear, NW corner, of building next to the athletic field.

**Please clean your boat thoroughly before leaving home. Boats that are not free of dirt, sand, leaves and other debris will not be allowed in the pool!!**



Formal instruction is available this year for an additional charge. You must sign up in advance for this instruction – contact Karl Geisel at [karl.geisel@wmcka.org](mailto:karl.geisel@wmcka.org).

# Event Calendar

January 8, 22  
February 12, 26  
March 5, 19  
WMCKA Pool Sessions  
Grandville Middle School  
More info on front page and to the left.

March 5  
LOAPC – 10th Annual Quietwater Symposium  
The QWS is a great collection of exhibits, speakers, demonstrations and other opportunities. Visit [www.homestead.com/qws](http://www.homestead.com/qws) for more information.

April 29-May 1  
WMCKA – Spring Chili Confluence  
Ludington State Park  
Bring your favorite pre-cooked **Chili** recipe and add it to the bubbling communal cauldron with other WMCKA chefs. No two bowls are quite the same, but each bite is guaranteed delicious!

May 27-30  
WMCKA – 15th Annual WMCKA Symposium  
Definitely a “Must Do” Event. Two full days of classes. Great Instructor/Student ratio. Great slides of great places to paddle.

<b>WMCKA Board of Directors</b>			
Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Al Anderson	(231) 352-7774	bbkayak@betsievalley.net
Vice Pres.	Steven Adsmoond	(231) 924-3719	adsmoond@comcast.net
Secretary	Julie Stevens	(989) 828-576	steven49@msu.edu
Treasurer	Frits Kwant	(616) 956-6125	frits@iserv.net
At Large 1	John Van Wyk	(616) 669-1565	jjvw@earthlink.net
At Large 2	Keith Wikle	(269) 657-6763	kjwikle@turtleneck.net
At Large 3	Fred McConkey	(616) 396-5036	fmcconkey@macatawa.com
<b>WMCKA Non Board Positions</b>			
Symp Co-Chair	Lynn Dominguez	(517) 669-1565	dominla@cmich.edu
Symp Co-Chair	Laurie Levknecht	(616) 123-1234	kayaklaurie@aol.com
Web Guy	Keith Wikle	(269) 657-6763	kjwikle@turtleneck.net
Newsletter	Karl Geisel	(616) 452-3239	karl.geisel@wmcka.org

**For group paddling opportunities from WMCKA members**  
Visit the Forums/Message Board at  
[www.wmcka.org](http://www.wmcka.org)

Visit WMCKA On-line at:  
[www.wmcka.org](http://www.wmcka.org)

Club Information	Kayaking Links
Membership Information	Photo Galleries
Event Calendar	Message Board

## WMCKA Membership Form

- Address change only
- New Member
- Renewal

Select a Membership option:

- WMCKA Individual (\$10/yr)
- WMCKA & ACA Individual (\$30/yr)
- WMCKA & ACA Family (\$35/yr)  
(Dual WMCKA/ACA Memberships  
Include 1 year of Paddler Magazine)

Please make checks payable to WMCKA.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my name, phone # and e-mail address included in the membership directory.

Mail To: WMCKA  
c/o Karl Geisel  
1900 Clearbrook SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

### A word about WMCKA events

These events are gatherings of paddlers who share an interest in kayaking and spending social time together. They are open to all interested individuals of any (or no) skill level. There are no leaders, lifeguards, or anyone else responsible the safety of those who choose to participate. Everyone is responsible for his/her own safety and is expected to use common sense and good judgement both on and off the water. Neither WMCKA nor any of its individual members can be responsible for the safety of those attending club events.

# Classified Ads

Non-commercial "For Sale" and "Wanted" ads are available for WMCKA members and other area clubs. Each ad will appear for two issues unless the individual placing the ad notifies the editor otherwise. Ads should be submitted in electronic format to the editor at:

karl.geisel@wmcka.org

**Betsie Bay Valkyrie** – Fiberglass. \$900. Built in 1993. 17'x22" and approximately 45 lbs. Photos can be seen at: [www.iserv.net/~geisel/boats4sale](http://www.iserv.net/~geisel/boats4sale) Contact: Karl at: karl.geisel@wmcka.org or 616-452-3239

**Cascade**. Kayak Ultra-light 37 lbs. 14'6"x26"x15" Yellow over White. All equipment – value \$3,000 – Offer. Grand Rapids, Mich – Contact: Paul 616-706-7771

**Blue Heron** racing kayak made by Eddyline. Very good condition. \$795 or may consider a trade for a Sunfish or similar small sail boat or two person sea kayak. Contact: Rich at 269-646-3229.

**Perception Phat** for \$425. Contact Rich at 269-646-3229.

**CLC West River 180**, never been paddled, deck needs varnish, \$1200, call Jim at (269)349-3642

**CLC North Bay**, 18.5'x20", 8" Beckson pry out hatches, ep-



Four geese at Ludington State Park doing stunning impressions of Cleopatra's Needle. Photo by Jack Keyes

oxy white paint on hull and clear coat on deck, safety lines, 47 lbs, foam padded knee, seat and hip areas, compass, bulkheads front and rear with neoprene spray skirt and key-hole cockpit. Very carefully built and used little. \$1200 OBO. Boat is in Lake Isabella, 15 miles west of Mt. Pleasant. Call 616-292-5070 for questions on the boat and ask for Scott. Call 989-644-6655 to see the boat ask for Jim.

Grand Rapids MI 49508  
1900 Clearbrook SE  
c/o Karl Geisel

