

West Michigan Coastal Kayaker



WMCKA is affiliated with the ACA through its Paddle America program

The Newsletter of the
West Michigan
Coastal Kayaker's Association

July-August-Sept 2005

Volume 10 Number 3

Pig Roast

At
WMCKA Annual Meeting
October 8, 2005
6:00 PM

\$5.00 Donation per Adult
Kids Eat Free!

RSVP By September 23rd
bbkayak@betsievalley.net
Or
(231) 352-7774

Kayak for Light 2005 Makes a Big Splash

By Anne Keith

The kayak god was smiling down on all of the paddlers, guides and volunteers who attended the 6th Annual Kayak for Light event, held on July 9, 2005 at Ramona Park in Portage, Michigan. The unseasonably hot and sunny weather, for once, worked in our favor, as it made playing in the water the very best place to be. People turned out in record numbers this year, with about 80 people attending, including about 36 blind and visually impaired paddlers. In addition to the actual blind paddlers, we also had a group of trainees in the Blind Rehabilitation program for Western

Michigan University, who practiced paddling while wearing blindfolds in order to better understand the problems inherent in being sightless. Lee's Fun and Adventure Store, Portage, Michigan, provided a trailer full of suitable kayaks, PFDs and paddles, in addition to three able and willing employees, so that everyone could be on the water in an appropriate boat.

Several attendees and volunteers had comments to make on the success of the day.

(Continued on page 2)

Paddling in the Windy City

By Karl Geisel

Location: Lake Michigan - Chicago
Date: 7/30/05
Time: 11:45AM to 4:30PM
Group: Karl Geisel, Alison White
Route: Diversey Harbor to Northerly Island (the old Meigs Field) and return.

For some time I've wanted to paddle Lake Michigan in the Chicago area. This at the end of this past July I had an opportunity to finally realize that goal.

After a nice breakfast of bacon and eggs at Alison & Mary's we took off for the parking lot at Diversey Harbor. The put in for the boats was not optimal; we had to enter our boats in the water stepping over a steel retaining wall that came out of the water about a foot. Seeing how it was Chicago and the carry was only about 150 feet to the water, we were more than happy to attempt the maneuver.

A few minutes later, we indeed were

able to get in our boats and started on our way passing under Lake Shore Drive headed out to Lake Michigan. The channel traffic out to the lake is one way, controlled by a red light, green light system. Once the light turns green for you, you may proceed through, usually with a group of power boaters and jet-skis.

Once out in the lake we could see that conditions weren't too bad for us. Seeing how it was fairly late in the morning, we were worried that boat traffic might be a major issue. There were quite a few boats, but nothing that we couldn't handle by paying constant attention to our surroundings and playing by a few common sense rules. There was a light wind from the ENE, but the shear num-

(Continued on page 5)



Karl takes a break in front of the Chicago Skyline. Photo by Alison White

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Meeting notice	p. 1
Kayak for Light	p. 1
Paddling Chicago	p. 1
Presidents View	p. 3
K4L Eye Opener	p. 3
Twinkie Event Review	p. 4
WMCKA Board	p. 5
Twinkie Weekend	p. 6
Directory Updates	p. 6
Events/Membership form	p. 7
Classifieds	p. 8

Kayak for Light (Keith)

(Continued from page 1)

Kathy Burmania, a longtime WMCKA member and, along with husband Bob, provider of the lunch:

"It was wonderful to see familiar faces back for this event, along with new 'volunteers' and 'participants.' The quotation marks are appropriate as the distinction disappears within minutes; everyone is a participant. One of the visually impaired participants commented that she would love the opportunity to paddle more than once a year. Something to think about – our events are open to everyone. Perhaps a call to the trip leader for an event could line up a partner for the day. As always, we enjoyed the day and look forward to next year's sunny Kayak for Light."

Sue Fluri, blind paddler and three-year veteran of Kayak for Light:

"I want to say a big THANK YOU to Anne and Bill (Keith), plus Jim (Ellickson), Lee's, and all the volunteers who made the event possible. I think it is so great to have folks come from all over the state and make this happen once a year. I wish it could be held twice during the summer because it is such a great time!



Jim Ellickson adjusts his sprayskirt before paddling on Ramona Lake.

Photo provided by Jim Ellickson

For me, it was an awesome experience to be in the water controlling this little vessel with a paddle. I felt like I was in sync or harmony with the water. This is a neat feeling for me, because I typically don't feel 100% at ease in water over

my head. I credit my experience to a great kayak (Pungo 100) as well as a great guide (Anne).

The day went so fast! The lunch provided was great and supplied the energy needed to kayak for the rest of the afternoon. A big THANK YOU to those who were responsible for putting it all together. All in all, it was a great day and I have already been talking it up for next year!"

Cyndy Foley, new WMCKA member and first-time volunteer guide:

"I very much enjoyed participating in the event...it is a nice area of Kalamazoo and new to me.

After teaching only *visual* art for so long, it was interesting to work with Saturday's diverse group of folks. The blind paddlers all seemed to be very intent listeners and motivated...eager to try this opportunity for paddling.

Thanks for all your work in making this annual event happen! Glad I found out about it and got a chance to be involved."

Jennifer Armbruster, instructor for the Department of Blind Rehabilitation, WMU, and blind paddler herself:

"Thank you for so graciously letting us attend your event. The students loved it and the educational opportunity was fantastic. I will definitely try to arrange my class to coincide with the event again next year.

The event is wonderful for individuals who are VI or blind. It allows them to show that they can enjoy recreational sporting opportunities just like everyone else.



A VI Paddler and Guide enjoy Ramona Lake.

Photo by Nick Meier

The turnout was fantastic and my students got to witness something they had never seen before. They also got to interact with adults and children with visual impairments, and that was the key.

Also, trusting another person when wearing a blindfold is a scary situation. All of your people were wonderful, and my students found a new respect, I think, for both instructors and individuals who are blind or visually impaired. They got to be the student, and they are used to being the teacher. I think it will help them to teach better, since they have now experienced a small taste of what their students experience every day.

Again, I cannot thank you all enough for the opportunity!"

In conclusion, I would again like to thank everyone who gave a day out of their busy schedules to make this event happen, including Jim Ellickson, who liaised with the blind paddlers to inform them of and get them to the event, Kathy and Bob Burmania, who once again generously provided the lunch for all participants, John and Jan VanWyk, who donated the paper products for the lunch and helped to serve it, Lee's Fun and Adventure Store for donating equipment and employees for the day, the myriad number of volunteer guides, safety patrollers, and workers on the beach, and finally, the blind paddlers themselves for being inspirations to us all. We eagerly look forward to the 2006 Kayak for Light!

The Presidents View from the Bay

By Al Anderson

Ballooning gas prices have not deterred the summer visitors from their frenetic agenda. Giant motor homes and behemoth SUVs have descended on our fair village in record numbers, seemingly oblivious to local prices of \$2.69 a gallon. As I watch hoards of tournament fishermen gassing up their 30+ foot cruisers, I'm once again glad my choice of watercraft runs on Wheaties.

We had nearly perfect weather for the Twinkie Conflagration. We missed quite a few of the regulars due to schedule conflicts, but hope to get everyone together again next year. Special

thanks to Phil and Kathy Smith who once again allowed us to camp on their property. Summer weekends are just packed - too many things to do in such limited time.

We're looking forward to the Platte River Week-end. Of course, the band is booked out of town on Saturday night, so Betz and I will be leaving early. Hope to see you all there. Have a safe summer.



An "Eye Opening" Experience

By Kat Meier

Like any High School student, I was faced with community service hours that needed to be fulfilled so I could graduate. My Dad, who was part of many non-profit organizations, always gave me the option of going with him to fulfill my community service hours. I always declined.

He first mentioned Kayak for Light to me in the summer after my freshman year of high school (2003). He asked me if I'd like to go along with him to that event. At that time, the last thing I wanted to do was to get up and spend a whole Saturday away from friends, fun, and sleeping in. I'll admit I was being selfish, but I didn't think that I could handle being with people with disabilities, such as blindness, let alone try to teach them to kayak. At that time, I decided not to go through with it. Little did I realize, my perspective was about to drastically change.

Three weeks later, I went to the eye doctor for a routine checkup. I had noticed that the vision in my left eye had been slightly blurry so I assumed that I needed glasses. During the examination, my eye doctor found the source of my distorted vision--a detached retina. He immediately sent me to an eye surgeon in Kalamazoo. I was in shock and disbelief. I'd never dealt with a broken bone let alone something like that. Little did I know the true severity of the situation. The Kalamazoo surgeon determined that the detachment required that another specialist was necessary. I was sent to Grand Rapids. There, Dr. Aaberg, told me that I would need to have surgery right away. He told me

that if I had waited merely a week or two to see him, I would have lost vision in that eye completely.

I had never been so scared or apprehensive in my life. Surgery was such a dangerous thing to me. There were so many unknown factors. Even the constant reassurance from the doctor and my family was hardly enough to calm my nerves. Fortunately, just as my family had assured me, the surgery was a complete success. Over the next several months, my vision slowly returned. With corrective lenses, the vision was almost perfect.

When the next July approached, Dad again gave me the opportunity to help with Kayak for Light. That was when a true reality set in for me. That reality was that I was almost one of those visually challenged people that W M C K A served. I was almost, so quickly and easily, a disabled human being. It is terrible to think that I was so quick to refuse to help Kayak for Light and that I took advantage of some-

thing that was nearly taken away from me.

Kayak for Light has been such a rewarding and "eye-opening" experience for me. Everyone who participated was so full of life. I am so blessed that I've become part of something that has truly changed my life. I've come to see that this activity was not just helping the "less fortunate" or the "needy." I've become the student. I've been taught that we are all experiencing first hand the things we're taking for granted everyday.

I've since developed an expected complication from the first surgery—a cataract. As I face a second surgery I know that, despite the outcome, I can face the future because of my experiences at Kayak for Light.



Kat with a new friend at Kayak for Light 2005.

Photo by Nick Meier

Twinkie Conflagration 2005

By Anne Keith

Arriving in Frankfort on Friday from the sweltering wind and heat of Grand Marais (yes, Grand Marais!!), we were pleased to find that the weather had moderated sufficiently to be extremely pleasant – sunny, warm, but not humid. It would be a perfect kayaking weekend for the umpteenth Twinkie Conflagration, held at the Smith/Anderson Wilderness Complex on Sliverville Road. Friday evening was spent pleasantly, with old and new friends, catching up on everyone's lives. We all decided we would be ready to launch at 10:30 am on Saturday morning from the White Owl Street launch site onto Lower Herring Lake.

Saturday morning arrived, and with it, idyllic summer weather – sunny, no humidity, and temps in the 70s – exactly right for kayaking! Quite a few paddlers gathered at the launch site, and lo and behold! We really did launch at 10:30! We headed over to the outlet to Lake Michigan, where we, discovered to our delight, wavy and warm conditions, just perfect for practicing kayak-surfing. Nearly everyone careened around in the surf, practicing braces and sideways beach landings. The water was so warm, no one was concerned about going over – which did happen a couple of times. After we all beached our kayaks, Lori S., Betsie A. and I all plunged into the waves and played happily, looking like little mermaids, or as Diane C. put it more realistically, "little frogmen," since we had all neglected to remove our spray skirts and PFDs!

We broke for lunch at about 12:30, and we all enjoyed our various repasts while chatting companionably. After lunch, we all ventured back into Lower Herring Lake, and did some various practices at what we affectionately refer to as "the playground." One of our new members, Renee, successfully learned how to wet exit with the assistance of Bill K. and Lori S. (and earlier, learned how to play in the waves with the help of Betsie!) Everyone practiced something – I observed Diane C. doing a front sculling brace – which appeared to be very difficult, and I saw Lori S. do the most perfect extended-paddle Eskimo roll I'd ever seen her do. Many of us practiced static braces and regu-

lar sculling braces, while Al and Rik T. did many rolls each. Jack K. spent most of the time at the playground snorkeling, and appeared to be having a grand time doing it. By the time we returned to the White Owl launch site, it was 3:30 pm., and everyone headed back to their campsites to prepare for dinner.

We reconvened at 6 pm for the best Mexican potluck I had ever experienced at a Twinkie gathering. Unlike some potlucks, it was a perfect balance of various food groups, and everyone ate until they were stuffed. It was too good to stop! After dinner, we all gathered around the campfire to practice the annual Twinkie sacrifice. We set up chairs in the "missing man" formation to pay tribute to Phil and Kathy Smith, and Leon and Tina Hayward, who are usually mainstays of this event, but were unable to attend this year. New members Dave and Cindy F. arrived just in time for the campfire, as did Michael G. As usual, Al regaled us all with the story of the origination of the Twinkie Conflagration, but we were unable to read the traditional poem, as no one remembered to bring it! Of course, story-swapping began, and we all visited, laughed and renewed our friendships until late into the perfect, starry evening.

On Sunday, everyone gathered once again at the Smith/Anderson campsite, and we sat around and talked for another couple of hours. Several of the group decided to go paddle on Crystal Lake, while Bill and I rode our mountain bikes on the pathway from Frankfort to Beulah and back again. We met the paddlers at the Mayfair restaurant in Elberta for a late lunch and more good companionship. Luckily for us, we did not have to leave Frankfort until Monday morning, so we had one last treat – Al and Betsie accompanied us to Kilwins in beautiful downtown Frankfort



Al shows the newbies how to execute the perfect beach roll.

Photo by Jack Keyes

for ice cream and a walk to the beach to watch the sun go down.

All in all, it was a perfect weekend.

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

**Submissions for the
Fall WMCKA Newsletter
need to be received before
October 23, 2005**

Kayak Haiku

(Pilfered from the San Francisco Bay Area Sea Kayak Newsletter)

Hmm...surf skills needed.
Rough water also a must.
Palms sweat as I dial

Life's Dreams whittled down.
Cedar, ash and Kevlar glass,
Take me to the end.

Bryant Austin, 1997

Chicago (Geisel)

(Continued from page 1)

ber of big boats was kicking up quite a bit of confused wave action at about 2-3 feet.

Our plan was to head South to 12th Street beach and then return back to Diversey Harbor. We decided to head out a bit from shore since most of the big power boats seem to like to be seen from shore. This left us with mostly sailboats, which from personal experience are usually a bit more dependable in keeping a heading. With both of us scanning all 360 degrees around us, we could identify and potential collisions.

It was pretty cool to paddle and see the big city in front of you. The water quality looked pretty good, although not crystal clear like most places around here, it looked to be just stirred up a bit more. The beaches are scattered about every 2-4 miles, in between the beaches it's mostly retaining walls made up of either poured concrete walls or large chunks of busted concrete. A walking/running/bike path runs the full length of the lakeshore as well. Overall the lakeshore is very friendly for athletes wanting to use the area.

It took us a little over an hour to reach the jetties in front of Navy Pier. There's a gap about 1000 feet wide where about half of the boat traffic enters and leaves the immediate pier area. There's a lighthouse at the end of the North Jetty and I thought it would make for a nice photo. Alison had taken my camera when I spotted the dreadful "SeaDog" - a high power catamaran that takes about 80 some customers on tours of Chicago. Alison had warned me to pay attention to where the two "SeaDogs" were since

last year one of them had run down a swimmer and cut his leg off. We scrambled to get out of the way and made sure we kept all of our appendages.

When we arrived at the 12th Street Beach a "Beach Nazi" (or lifeguard) made sure that we didn't come close to landing at any other spot then the area prescribed by the Chicago Water Trail. Once we landed, we found a nice flat piece of old cement at the end of the beach to eat lunch one. Once again, the lifeguard informed us that we couldn't sit on the rocks, but had to sit on the sand. We walked up the beach a ways and found a retaining wall and sat on it -- apparently, that was safer then the other piece of cement.

12th Street Beach is located next to the old runway at Miegs Field Airport, which is now called Northerly Island. Seems the mayor of Chicago never really liked the old airport and after 9/11 he didn't think it was a good idea for small planes to be taking off and landing so close to all the tall buildings in Chicago. So, late one night he lined up a bunch of bulldozers and sprayed a few big "X's" on the runway had had the runway demolished. Goodbye Airport, Hello Recreation Area! Gotta love Chicago politics!

The return trip back was pretty uneventful. The boat traffic had picked up a bit for the afternoon, so we once again kept our heads up and eyes open. When we



Alison prepares to launch at Diversey Harbor.

Photo by Karl Geisel

got back to the entrance of Diversey Harbor it was very busy. The red light was showing on our side and about 8 power boats and 6 jetski's came racing our of the channel fanning out in all directions. After a ten minute wait, the light turned green for us and we made our way back into the harbor.

It was definitely a memorable trip. The boat traffic on weekends along with all of the added wave action makes the area a bit hectic if you haven't paddled in heavy traffic before. I'd suggest maybe paddling in the off-season after Labor Day weekend. The boat traffic would be less and the "Beach Nazis" are back in school so you can land (and eat your lunch) anywhere on the beach that you find comfortable.

Chicago along the lakeshore is very beautiful and it's incredible to be able to see it from your kayak.

WMCKA Board of Directors

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) 828-5783	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

WMCKA Non Board Positions

Web Guy	Keith Wikle	(269) 657-6763	kjwikle@turtleneck.net
Newsletter	Karl Geisel	(616) 452-3239	karl.geisel@wmcka.org

Visit WMCKA On-line at:
www.wmcka.org

Club Information	Kayaking Links
Membership Information	Symposium Information
Event Calendar	On-Line Registration
	Photo Galleries

WMCKA Paddler Directory Update

Several additions and/or changes have been made to the WMCKA Paddlers Directory that was sent out to WMCKA Members in the last issue. Here the listing of members with new/changed information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
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Not published on the web.

* Denotes New Member Listing in Directory

The Twinkie Weekend

By Jack Keyes

Winnie was having a rough morning as a combination of vodka tonic toxemia from the night before combined with a McDonald's greasy hash brown produced some volatile results. I of course was picking on her unmercifully as all husbands should in these circumstances. We paddled out to the lake and had a short lunch on the Big Lake. Renee one of our new paddling friends got a great start paddling in surf for the first time with Betsy. She also did her first wet exit at our practice spot near the exit from the lake.

The food back at the campsite was great, as was the conversation, (Why is Crystal Lake Adventure Sports for sale and is EMS really going to be leaving the Traverse City area?) Winnie again gave me an opportunity to laugh. During the repast she got this strange look on her face and came over to ask; are you supposed to eat the covers on the tamales? Lori Stegmier had brought some great tamales. I said, "Most people don't eat them, but some might for extra roughage." Sun, kayaks, great

food, and friends what else can you ask for? Thank you again to our gracious hosts the Andersons for a wonderful day.

When we got back home Winnie said she wanted to paddle West Bay the next day, so we left the boats on the Yukon. She had never paddled on large open water so I figured I would make it interesting and combine the paddle with an open water crossing to Power Island. We entered the water at Bowers Harbor Public landing and proceeded to paddle the North portion of the small harbor to Neatawanta Point. At this point you have about a mile crossing of the chan-



Ric Tooker inspects the food before digging in.

Photo by Jack Keyes

nel from the green to the red buoys. It gets really interesting when you have never experienced chop before. Chop is when you have waves come from two different directions, the bay and the harbor, combined with the reflections from the point and the island. There is no set wave direction. Now add to this the wakes from power boats and Winnie had her hands full. She was doing fine until she heard the 38' Scarab

(Continued on page 8)

Event Calendar

September 16-18

Paddle with the Salmon @ Platte River

Sleeping Bear Dunes (Platte River NFCG)

Saturday's trip down the Platte River is one of the oddest experiences you'll have in a kayak. Watch hundreds of salmon swimming upstream as you take a leisurely trip down the river.

September 23-25th

Wind, Waves, & Wine

Wilderness State Park

This is the 2nd annual Flotnar, (Old Norse Word for seafarer) assembly. The gang will converge on Wilderness State Park to paddle Lake Michigan, take on the wind, the waves, and camp at the State Park. Make your reservations today. Please note: this is an open water outing with cold water, and possibility for high wind and waves, dress for immersion, and be prepared to get wet.

An attempt will be made at a communal meal in the proverbial mead hall on Saturday Night. So bring out that special backcountry recipe to impress your friends and frighten your enemies. If you have questions email: keith.wikle@wmcka.org

October 7-9

Annual Meeting Manistee River Mesick, MI



(Northern Exposure Campground)

Paddle the Manistee floodwaters behind the Hodenpyle Dam. WMCKA will have a block of campsites reserved at the waters edge with easy access to the water. On Saturday night the Annual Meeting will be held and afterwards we'll enjoy a pigroast. **(Pigroast is RSVP – See page 1 for more information.)**

To post and/or read about paddling opportunities from other WMCKA members visit the Forums/Message Board at www.wmcka.org

Cadillac, and M-115 north to Mesick, etc.

More information on Northern Exposure Campground can be found on the web at:

www.northernexposureinc.com

Directions: From Grand Rapids area, take 131 north to Cadillac.

Then, take M-115 northwest to Mesick. About a mile north of Mesick, after crossing the Manistee River, there is a sign at the Hodenpyle Dam Road for the Northern Exposure Campground. Go west approx. one mile and follow the signs into the campground.

Directions from Holland/

Muskegon:

US 31 to Manistee, then M-55 east to

Northern Exposure Campground



WMCKA Membership Form

Address change

New Member

Renewal

Select a Membership option:

WMCKA Individual (\$15/yr)

WMCKA Family (\$20/yr)

WMCKA & ACA Individual (\$35/yr)

WMCKA & ACA Family (\$45/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 WMCKA membership directory sent to members each year.

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 for 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.

Nov-06

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

BBK "Betsie Bay" - Rare opportunity to own a piece of history: BBK "Betsie Bay" model, serial number #001, 1980's vintage. Re-furbished by BBK in 1997, this kayak is in mint condition. The owner is no longer paddling due to age/health issues and would like to find new owner. Priced reasonably. I will field inquiries for him and pass serious ones on. Boat is here in Frankfort are now - winters in Chicago area. Al Anderson 231.352.7774 or bbkayak@t-one.net

CLC North Bay, 18.5'x20", 8" Beckson pry out hatches, epoxy 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 keyhole 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.

Wilderness Systems Sparrow Hawk. Fiberglass. 16'6" Off white top and bottom with teal trim. About 40 to 45 pounds. Used slightly. Neoprene spray skirt and cockpit cover included. \$1500. Contact Susan at 616-538-1759.

Wanted: Two person sea kayak. Appearance not critical issue. Contact Cliff @ 269 686 7792

Twinkie Weekend (Keyes)

(Continued from page 6)

coming down the bay at full throttle. She froze up. With some coaxing and hollering she made it across, but she still wasn't too happy with paddling in chop. It was about a two and a half hour paddle into the wind to the island. We landed on the North shore where the rocks keep the boats away. Sandy beaches, no people, and plenty of baby waterfowl. The sign on the beach explaining the rules of the wilderness park (no fires allowed on the beach) was located halfway between two recent beach fire pits. After a short rest we paddled around the island to the leeward South shore. You couldn't fit another power boat anywhere and the cove is about a half mile or better across. They do however have pit toilets.

The wind had started to pick up a little as it does nearly every afternoon on the bay. I said to Winnie that we had better get out our spray skirts. We used the power boats as a slalom course back to the channel. At this point the miracle that is my wife happened again. I heard this whee coming from beside me. She figured out how to paddle chop and pretty soon was surfing two and a half foot waves across the channel and down the harbor. We made it back in less than two hours. I am blessed with a great partner who does things with me and loves most of the same things.

I couldn't ask for more.

80508
Grand Rapids MI 49508
1900 Clearbrook SE
c/o Karl Geisel

