

West Michigan Coastal Kayaker



WMCKA is affiliated with the ACA through its Paddle America program

WMCKA wmcka.org
WEST MICHIGAN COASTAL KAYAKERS ASSOCIATION

The Newsletter of the
West Michigan
Coastal Kayaker's Association

Spring 2006

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2006 WMCKA Sea Kayak Symposium

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS/INSTRUCTORS

By Lynn Dominguez, Symposium Chair



Simon Osborne during his 2002 UK circumnavigation (BBC Photo)

Simon Osborne: Born and raised in Britain, Simon is an experienced expeditioner as well as a skilled white-water paddler. In 2004 he completed a solo circumnavigation of Ireland to raise money for cancer research in honor of his brother. He circumnavigated the UK in 2002 raising more funds for leukemia research. He has paddled the American Northwest coast as well as locations in Central and South America. An accomplished instructor, he has led whitewater river trips in the French, Swiss and Austrian Alps. He was recently asked to compete for Wales in the World Surfing Championship competition.

Ken Fink: A retired oceanography professor, Ken is one of the East Coast's most experienced sea kayakers. His expedition experience includes major trips to Labrador, Newfoundland, Iceland, Hudson Bay, West Indies, Hebrides, as well as trips to most of the interesting paddling regions in the

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United States. He has been featured on instructional videos and on public television's Trailside series about the Maine Island Trail.

Laurie Levknecht: ACA & BCU certified instructor, Laurie has especially been appreciated for her strong support of the women's instructional program. Laurie is from the Grand Rapids area, but has kayaked in Wales, Australia, Mexico, Lake Superior and along the East Coast.

Ron Smith: BCU Coach, ACA instructor trainer and owner of Black Parrot Paddling. When not teaching, Ron races kayaks competitively.

Doug Van Doren: BCU Coach and nationally known for his research on and teaching of traditional paddling. Doug has also produced the instructional video "Greenland Style Kayaking."

German-Fest at Ludington Spring Event

By Anne Keith



As most WMCKA members know, last fall the venue of the fall paddling event was changed from Ludington State Park to Northern Exposure Campground, Mesick, Michigan. At the same time, it was suggested that we change our menu from a "stew confluence" to a pig roast. The new menu was so successful that several members put their heads together and came up with a new food idea for the spring event at Ludington State Park, and the WMCKA Board decided that was a great idea.

The new Spring menu will consist of bratwurst and buns, obtained and grilled by Bob Burmania; sauerkraut, provided by Nick Meier; and garlic mashed potatoes, delectably prepared by Karl Geisel, as the starting-off point. WMCKA is requesting a \$5.00 donation per person for the brats, buns, etc. Members are asked to bring side dishes of salads, vegetables or desserts to complement the main menu.

We look forward to seeing old and new friends at Ludington State Park for the spring WMCKA paddling event.

Lederhosen are optional. :o)

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The Presidents View from the Bay – and other thoughts

By Al Anderson, WMCKA President



The calendar says it's spring, and so far, the weather is not disagreeing. As I write this in the final days of March, I realize that the month of April; in Michigan can be pretty vile weather-wise. With all the snow gone except for dark shadows in the woods, the optimist in

me wants to get out the summer car and bicycles, but the pessimist has left the snowblower on the tractor.

We're looking forward to the spring event at Ludington State Park, with the new German food fest on Saturday evening. LSP is getting pretty crowded, even this early in the season, so it might be wise to phone in a campsite reservation if you haven't already.

Much to my chagrin, I witnessed two "kayakers" being rescued from Lake Leelanau on the 11:00 news last night. The two paddlers, according to the report, both capsized and "were unable to re-enter their kayaks." Fortunately, one of them called 911 on a cell phone (the phone failed before rescuers arrived). At least a dozen rescuers, including police divers appeared to be on the scene. The paddlers were fished from the Lake suffering from hypothermia. The reporter stated, "both paddlers were wearing personal flotation devices, but were not dressed for the cold water." From the glimpse I got of one rescuee, it looked like blue jeans and sweatshirt. Air temp was in the low 60's that day, with strong winds, probably over 20 mph. While I do not know any more detail than what was given in the new clip, I think it is fairly safe to say that these paddlers were unaware of, or indifferent to, some pretty fundamental rules for paddling. Without the cell phone (which survived immer-

sion long enough for the 911 call) the outcome of this incident could have been tragic rather than merely embarrassing.

The 2006 Frankfort Paddling Weekend and Twinkie Conflagration is on tap for August 4-6 at the Smith/Anderson Wilderness Complex just outside of scenic Frankfort. We're tentatively planning the traditional Mex potluck dinner on Saturday, and possibly live music to follow. We'll update as plans gel.

BetsyBaye and PocketChange will be playing at Stix Bar, just south of Ludington State Park on Saturday, April 29 at 9:30pm. Betz pulled some strings to get the band scheduled with our spring outing to give everybody a chance to dance off some of the German cuisine.

Al Anderson

WMCKA News

To reflect increases in insurance costs, the ACA increased it's dues in January. **This increase as been passed along in the dual ACA/WMCKA dues as well. The new costs are \$45 for individual and \$60 for family memberships.** The dual memberships are still a bargain when compared to an ACA membership on it's own.

A current WMCKA **Paddler's Directory** can be found on line at www.wmcka.org/images/PaddlersDirectory.pdf. WMCKA Members can download and open the document using the password:

WMCKA member **Joe Simon** was able to get a change in the City of Wyoming regarding water access and paddling on City park lakes.

After writing the city a letter challenging the "no boating" policy that was in place, Joe was given an audience at a Parks and Recreation meeting where he stated his thoughts about paddling and boat ac-

cess at **Battjes Lake**. From that meeting the facts were reviewed by the City Attorney, the Police Department, the Fire Department, The Finance Committees, the Planning Department, and the City Council, (and probably more).

Joe writes that he sees the change being driven by the people who work for the city and who saw this as a good thing. Without their energy and drive it would have never made it past the first meeting.

April 4, 2006 the waters of Battjes Lake were opened to canoes and kayaks.

Longtime WMCKA member and Symposium Staff instructor **Mary Roberts**, was elected to the Cook County (Chicago) Circuit Court as a judge in the March 21st elections. She is to be sworn in next January. I'm sure she will still spend significant time teaching kayaking also as an ACA certified instructor!

The Kalamazoo Canoe and Kayak Club is hosting a **Kayak Rodeo** at the Kala-

mazoo Central High School Pool on Saturday, April 23 from 1-5 PM. For more information email **Keith Wikle** at keith.wikle@wmcka.org or check out their flyer at: www.wmcka.org/news/KayakRodeo.doc.

If you have attended a **WMCKA Symposium** and would like to be involved as a **volunteer** on Memorial Day weekend this year, please contact **Kathy Burma** e-mail kburm@aol.com or phone any board member to find out about opportunities.

The staff of 351 meteorologists at the Grand Rapids based **WONT-TV STORM-TEAM 80** [insert sound & graphics here] have assured the Symposium Planning Committee that there will be at least a 50/50 chance of clear skies and 80 degree weather during at least part of the entire symposium weekend. Chief meteorologist Ginger Steffen-DeBoer says, "I predict that if we're wrong, we'll hire another meteorologist!"

Membership Information

Your membership expiration date is printed in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label on your newsletter.

For those of you with email...

If your WMCKA membership has expired, we will notify you by email.

When we receive your payment, we'll also notify to confirm the payment and to confirm your name, address, phone, etc.

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

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.

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
Spring WMCKA Newsletter
need to be received before:**

June 12, 2006

WMCKA Board of Directors

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Al Anderson	(231) 352-7774	bbkayak@betsievalley.net
Vice Pres.	Steven Adsmund	(231) 924-3719	adsmund@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	Bill Keith	(231) 779-4349	elfman@netonecom.net

WMCKA Non Board Positions

Sympos. Chair	Lynn Dominguez	(989) 644-8224	domin11a@cmich.edu
Web Guy	Keith Wikle	(269) 657-6763	kjwikle@turtleneck.net
Newsletter	Karl Geisel	(616) 452-3239	karl.geisel@wmcka.org

WMCKA Membership Form

Address change

New Member

Renewal

Please 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.

Apr-06

Event Calendar

April 23 — 1-5pm

Kalamazoo Canoe & Kayak Club
Kayak Rodeo

Kalamazoo Central High Pool

Email keith.wikle@wmcka.org or see:
wmcka.org/news/KayakRodeo.doc

April 28-30

Spring Confluence
Ludington State Park

Paddling on Lost Lake, Hamlin Lake and
Lake Michigan. See Page 1 for more
info.

May 26-29

17th Annual WMCKA

Symposium

Camp Pendaluan – Big Blue Lake
Whitehall, MI

See page 1 for more info.

July 1-2

Camp Douglas Smith

Hamlin Lake, Ludington, MI

Come see the “other” side of Hamlin
Lake during a laid back weekend.
Burger/Hotdog potluck on Saturday night.

July 8

Kayak for Light

Romona Lake, Kalamazoo, MI

Help the sight impaired experience
paddling. Contact Bill or Anne Keith at:
(231) 779-4349 or elfman@netonecom.
net

August 4-6

Twinkie Conflagration

Frankfort, MI

Paddling on Crystal and Lower Herring
lakes as well as Lake Michigan. Tex-
Mex Potluck on Saturday evening.

September 15-17

End-o-Summer

Platte River Campground

Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L.

More information to come.

October 6-8

WMCKA Annual Meeting

Manistee River —

Northern Exposure Campground

Mesick MI

More information to come.

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

