

West Michigan Coastal Kayaker



WMCKA is affiliated with the ACA through it's Paddle America program

The Newsletter of the
West Michigan
Coastal Kayaker's Association

Fall 2006

Board Mulls Spring Move

By Karl Geisel

For as long as many of us can remember, WMCKA has held it's Spring event at Ludington State Park. Some of us remember being able to show up at 6:00 PM on Friday night and get a nice waterfront site next to the other half-dozen WMCKA folks that had beat you up there!

Well, times have changed and it's become increasingly difficult for WMCKA to maintain it's cohesion at a group as the State Park has become busier and WMCKA has grown to more the 60+ members who show up each year for the event.

The BIG PLUS of Ludington State Park is that it features Lost Lake, Hamlin Lake, the Big Sable River and Lake Michigan all within easy walking or driving distance from the campsites.

During the Annual Meeting at Mesick, it was suggested that we investigate the possibility of moving the Spring event from Ludington to another location. A campground in East Jordan was brought up as a possibility.

To make sure that all people have a chance to voice their opinion, in Mid October the Board approved an on-line survey to tally how the WMCKA membership felt about the possibility of moving the event. Members were notified about the survey via emails. If you did not receive an email and/or you would like to voice your opinion, please contact one of the board members listed on page 3.

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Renew On-Line!

By Karl Geisel

WMCKA Webmaster Keith Wikle recently added the WMCKA On-Line Membership page to the WMCKA.org website. With the click of a button you can start or renew a WMCKA Membership.

Payment is secure, via PayPal (it's the service that eBay uses). You don't need to have a PayPal or eBay account, and you can use your credit card to pay for the membership fee. PayPal does charge WMCKA a small service fee, and that is added to the membership fee.

To use the service, go to the "Member" section at www.wmcka.org and follow the On-Line membership link.



By Car, Truck, Boat and on foot, WMCKA members convened at Mesick.

Photo by K Eardley

The Presidents View from the Bay

By Al Anderson, WMCKA President

The Annual Fall confluence at Mesick was a great success, thanks in no small part to the weather. Once again, Roastmaster Bob Burmania provided 75-plus hungry campers and paddlers with a feast. Nighttime temperatures were brisk, but seeing the sun cut through the thick fog on the reservoir in the morning was a worthwhile payback. All the officers serving the club's board volunteered to serve another term, and the attending boards members met to discuss plans for events in 2007. We had a good number of non-WMCKA visitors share the weekend with us and everyone seemed happy to be participating. All in all, a super weekend.

The fall color season here in Michigan's lower northwest was pretty much canceled

due to weather. By the time the trees reached about 3/4 full color, record-breaking snow, sleet, rain, cold and misery moved in for three weeks. Freezing winds ripped off all;; the leaves and discouraged even hardcore outdoor enthusiasts from doing anything good outside. The economic impact here to tourist businesses was almost as serious as a snowless winter. I suspect there will be some good paddling weather in November, so I'm not ready to mothball my gear for the season yet.



Al



David & Megan invent Crackers w/ Cheese Wiz... and Skittles.

Photo by Kathleen Eardley

Burmania Roasts Competition

By Karl Geisel

Past WMCKA President Bob Burmania was elected to one of the three "At Large" Board positions at the 2006 Annual Meeting October 9th in Mesick. Rumor had it that earlier in the day Bob "did in" his competition, a pig and a turkey, and served them up for dinner to the 65-70 WMCKA Members who were present – thus ensuring his victory. The rest of the WMCKA Board remains the same.

Bob replaces John VanWyk who served on the WMCKA Board since it was incorporated in 1995. John is the only person that was on the WMCKA Board for that eleven year span.

I think we all owe John a big "Thanks" for all the work that he has put in to that Board position and in helping to make WMCKA one of the best kayaking clubs in the region!



Paddlers enjoy full color and warm weather on the Manistee.

Photo by Kathleen Eardley

SUBMISSIONS

Articles, photos, trip reports, announcements for trips or any other materials relating to kayaking 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:**

February 1, 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	Bob Burmania	616.682.0640	
At Large 2	Keith Wikle	269.342.0442	keith.wikle@wmcka.org
At Large 3	Bill Keith	231.779.4349	elfman@netonecom.net

WMCKA Non Board Positions

Sympos. Chair	Lynn Dominguez	989.774.7305	Domin1LA@cmich.edu
Web Guy	Keith Wikle	269.342.0442	keith.wikle@wmcka.org
Newsletter	Karl Geisel	616.452.3239	karl.geisel@wmcka.org

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 Recluse - Fiberglass. \$1100. Kayak sport round hatches. Cockpit cover. Tow-line eye and cleat. Contact: Steve at adsmund@comcast.net 231-924-3719.

Folbot Expedition Greenland II - Folding tandem kayak. Excellent condition, lots of extras. Asking \$1,200. Contact Vikki at 248.666.2224 or vmaks@comcast.net for more details.

Wilderness Systems Sparrow Hawk. Fiberglass. 16'6" Off white top and bottom with teal trim. About 40 to 45 hours. Used slightly. Neoprene spray skirt & cockpit cover included. **SOLD** \$1,500. Contact Susan at 616-538-1759.

Truck Xtender - Fits standard 2" trailer hitch receiver. Allows carrying kayak on topless pickup, quick on/off. Cost \$120 new, \$75 obo. Al Anderson, 231.352.7774

WMCKA Membership Form

- Address change
- New Member
- Renewal

Please select a Membership option:

- WMCKA Individual (\$15/yr)
- WMCKA Family (\$20/yr)
- WMCKA & ACA Individual (\$45/yr)
- WMCKA & ACA Family (\$60/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

Upcoming WMCKA Events – In Detail

Winter 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. Call any board member to confirm the date, or check wmcka.org.

- November 18
- December 16
- January 6,20
- February 3,17
- March 3, 17

Rates are:

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

Formal instruction may be available this year for an additional charge. You must sign up in advance – contact Karl Geisel at karl.geisel@wmcka.org.

Grandville Middle School is located at:

3535 Wilson SW
Grandville MI 49418

The entrance to the pool is at the rear (NW corner, near the football field) 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!!

Map Showing Grandville Middle School



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

