

# West Michigan Coastal Kayaker



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



The Newsletter of the  
West Michigan

Spring 2007

## Symposium 2007 — Almost Ready

By Karl Geisel

With less than a month to go before WMCKA transforms Camp Pentalouan into Camp Kayak registrations are pouring in at a fever pitch. This year the number of registrations seem to be higher than previous years, so if you haven't already registered, do it soon and join the other 200+ kayakers for this great event. We promise that you will come away with a true sense of what the kayaking community is all about!

Our guest speaker for this year, Jon Turk, has been called a "true" adventurer, will be speaking, presenting and teaching this year. We are lucky to have him coming!

Jon Turk received his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1971 but realized that he would ooze into insanity if he spent his life in a laboratory. So he tried carpentry, commercial fishing, chicken farming, horse logging, and finally, writing. To keep the juices flowing, Jon has kayaked across the North Pacific and around Cape Horn, mountain biked through the Gobi desert, made first climbing ascents of big walls on Baffin island, and first ski descents in the Tien Shan Mountains. His two-year voyage around the North Pacific Rim has been named by Paddler Magazine as one of the ten greatest sea kayaking expeditions of all times. Jon's latest book, *In The Wake of the Jomon* explores the role of adventure and migration in both modern and Stone Age cultures. Jon's talk combines a modern adventure with an anthropological quest into



Jon Turk

Photo from [www.jonturk.net](http://www.jonturk.net)

Stone Age migration, skeletal remains, archaeological mysteries, and the eternal urge to explore. He can be reached at [jon@jonturk.net](mailto:jon@jonturk.net). Website is: [JonTurk.net](http://JonTurk.net).

The 18th Annual WMCKA Sea Kayak Symposium will be held this year from May 25-28. Flyers will go out shortly with details. You can also check out details at [www.WMCKA.org](http://www.WMCKA.org)!



Jon Turk

Photo from [www.jonturk.net](http://www.jonturk.net)

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## 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](mailto:karl.geisel@wmcka.org)

**Submissions for the  
Late Spring Newsletter  
need to be received before:**

**June 10th, 2007**

# The Presidents View from the Bay

By Al Anderson, WMCKA President

After a devastating setback, it looks as if Spring may finally be here to stay. It was hard to watch all the hungry robins clustered at the roadsides when several inches (or in some areas, feet) of soggy "heart attack" snow blanketed the area. This wasn't the common overnight spring snow burp, but a real winter blast that lasted two weeks. Our yard now has frost-nipped crocuses and long stemmed daffodils smashed flat trying to recover. Even tougher to endure, somebody at our house had to leave her new Harley parked after just a taste of 70-degree riding weather.

Events conspired to keep Betz and myself from enjoying the weekend at Ludington. Between several last minute priorities and the band working Friday and Saturday nights, we did manage a

quick visit to LSP to say hello. I think if it was Einstein who said that God created Time so that everything didn't happen at once. If time were a desert, and events were people, weekends would be like Las Vegas.

It appears that our Symposium is filling up quickly and planning is on track. If you're planning to volunteer, let Lynn know asap. If you know folks thinking of attending, urge them to register sooner than later to avoid being turned away. Now if the weather will just behave....

Al Anderson



The perfect lunch spot!

Photo courtesy Mike Winegard



Dinner is served!

Photo courtesy Mike Winegard

# Upcoming WMCKA Events – In Detail

## Symposium 2007

**Where:** Camp Pandalouan  
Big Blue Lake  
Muskegon County

**When:** May 25-28

See Page 1 of this newsletter for more Information!

## Kayak for Light

**Where:** Ramona Park, Long Lake  
Portage Michigan.

**When:** July 7th, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

This event sponsored by Lee's Fun and Adventure, and The Ski For Light Organization. Is an outing for Blind paddlers to have a chance to Kayak. For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering to guide a blind paddler email Bill Keith: elfmank@netonecom.net

## Twinkie Conflagration

**Where:** Phil and Cathy Smith's Place,  
Frankfort, MI

**When:** August 3rd-5th

Begin with a Friday night paddle across Crystal Lake. Saturday night's repast is a Mexican potluck followed by the Twinkie sacrifice. Camping is primitive (port-a-john provided), fresh water is nearby.

Directions: Take US-31 to Benzonia. Grace Rd is found at Crystal Plaza. Take Grace Rd about four miles west to Paul Rose Rd and turn left (south). The next road you come to (about a 1/2 mile) is Sliverville Rd (only left as well). Phil and Cathy Smith's place is the first drive on the left. September 17-19

See the full schedule on the back page!

## 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** - 3 years old. Pristine condition. Asking \$2900. Also, misc. gear and kayak cradles. Contact Bill or Anne at 231-779-4349 or email: elfman@netonecom.net

**Betsie Bay Valkyrie**— Wood/epoxy, good condition. One of Doug Van Doren's personal kayaks. Asking \$2,100. Contact Doug at: 616.452.5357, or email: dvdoren@aol.com

## 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)

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.

### 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.

May-07

# 2007 Event Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
4/27-29	Spring Confluence
5/25-28	2007 WMCKA Symposium
7/7	Kayak for Light
8/3-5	Twinkie Conflagration
9/14-16	End-o-Summer Weekend
9/21-23	Wind, Waves & Wine
10/5-7	WMCKA Annual Meeting

If you are not receiving regular WMCKA email updates and wish to do so, please send your **current** email address to:  
karl.geisel@wmcka.org!



The perfect lunch spot!

Photo courtesy Mike Winegard

1900 Clearbrook SE

c/o Karl Geisel

