



West Michigan Coastal Kayaker

President's Paddle

By Steve Adsmond



Greetings with a new paddling season on us and lots of you enjoying it on the water. Being a slower starter, I am trying to put together a more logical way to get our boats to the water and

2011 WMCKA

events. I have long transported boats on the roof with a Thule rack. Often an overloaded Thule rack, I might add. Several years ago, I delved into the concept of a kayak trailer for the family after looking over the Bloyd-Peshkin and Rocky Kimball rigs that they have had at Symposium and WMCKA gatherings. Being short on storage space I purchased a 4x8 folding trailer frame from Harbor Freight Tool and got that mostly assembled. I hadn't gotten the kayak mounting method figured out and now that we have three kayakers and sometimes four boats needed, depending on who is kayaking with Lauren, our turning six year-old, it is now crunch time. With the help of Bob Burmania doing the welding portion of the extended tongue and kayak carrier ends, I hope to have this completed for our first outing at Ludington State Park on May 6-8. I'll keep you posted on my project.

This weekend we had a chance to visit Chicago, and found time to drop in on the kayaking crew hanging out at the Bloyd Peshkin household following a day of emergency first aid certification. We kind of found the place by the kayaks on roof racks! It was great to walk into a living room containing a kayak – Alec's newly acquired surf boat that hasn't seen white water yet. We also got to talk with Hanna via Skype and she is excited about leading the Kids Program at the

Symposium this year. Our club is so fortunate to have such a great kids program. Please remember to get your Symposium registration rolling and tell all your neighbors and paddler friends about it. Your reward is a Symposium t-shirt or an annual membership for your referral!

Volunteers Needed For Kayak For Light 2011

By Kenneth Nesbitt

Do you enjoy Kayaking? Of course, many of you do. So let's volunteer to help others enjoy the sport of kayaking. By volunteering to help with Kayak for Light 2011, you will make it possible for a group of sight impaired paddlers to enjoy a day on the water in a kayak.

Kayak for Light is a one day event that gives sight impaired paddlers the opportunity to experience the thrill of kayaking. This year's Kayak for Light event will be held on Saturday, July 9, from 10 am to 4 pm at Portage Park's Ramona Park in Portage, Michigan.

We need volunteers who are interested in sharing a day to help others and in turn experiencing a special warmth within themselves! You can help on shore with various duties such as registration, lunch, helping

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Kayak for Light, cont'd

paddlers with equipment and launching, etc. or you may choose to work on the water with a sight impaired paddler. Being an experienced kayaker is not a requirement for Kayak for Light volunteers.

Lee's Adventure Sports, located in Portage, Michigan, provides many kayaks, paddles, etc. for the day. Any extra kayaks and gear that you can bring along for the day are appreciated. We need wide, stable kayaks with large, open cockpits, double kayaks are also helpful, and we also need extra PFDs, especially x-large size.

Kayak for Light is sponsored by WMCKA, Lee's Adventure Sports, Portage Parks System, and You. **Let us know that 'You' will be there to help with Kayak for Light 2011.** Contacts: Kenneth Nesbitt, email TillWeDance@acd.net phone 269.330.1040, or Bill and Anne Keith, email eakeith1@gmail.com phone 231.779.4349.

Meet us by the Water.

In Memorium, Ritchie Newman

By Nancy Newman

At the age of 83, Ritchie Newman died February 3, 2011 in his sleep at peace and with no pain. He was just all worn out with the addition of dialysis to his previous heart problems.

Ritchie could be considered a pioneer in the sport of kayaking though he described himself as a perpetual beginner. This didn't keep him from taking many challenging guided trips. Our son, Bill, gave us the trips to cover Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, and Christmas. On some of the trips our son, Kent, was included.

In 1959 Ritchie started a hobby business named Midland Marine Imports while living in Midland, Michigan, and working in plastics research for Dow Chemical. English folding TYNE boats were imported which led to many interesting people and no bad checks. After being transferred to Little Rock we kept the small inventory for family use. On our return to Midland we started taking some guided trips in Canada with Bruce Lash. Mike Petzold, also a Canadian, took over calling it Caribou Expeditions. Many years ago he spent a night with us, and we went with him to Gaylord where he had a booth. That is where we met John and Jan Van Wyk and joined WMCKA. I think the dues were \$10 for us, the best investment we ever made. We would mark our calendar and try to attend each or the events. Our last club outing was the spring potluck at Ludington State Park. Showing our age we left the boat and tent home but that night went to the bar where Al and Betsy were playing. We drank beer and danced until 1:00 AM, a new record for us. Our last outing was with Bill and Anne Keith the summer before last with

Kayak for Light. We had become owners of a used 23' fiberglass Libra double which was unsinkable, so good for beginners. Ritch paddled around our lake last summer but was indignant when he needed help to get out. We have many wonderful memories that include you all. Nancy

Canadian Trips

By Karl Geisel

Here is information forwarded to me that pertains to any kayakers going to Canada, where there is a group involved. It doesn't mean that the group leader is necessarily a paid leader, but rather these rules pertain to all boats for any group in Canadian waters. The link with the rules is: <http://www.paddlecanada.com/instructors/new-vessel-regulations.html>

PADDLE ON THE POND

By Steve Adsmund

Come paddle the backwaters of the Hardy Dam. We are camping at Newaygo State Park on the south side of the pond. This location has 11 miles of open water paddling in length alone. There are a lot of coves, beaches, and swimming or fishing spots all along the coast. For those who have paddled at Mesick, this open water area is about 10 times the size. There is also great river paddling on the Muskegon River below the Hardy Dam. A great river paddle is from Hardy to Croton Dam. The following day you can paddle from Croton Dam on down river to Newaygo. Another great option for river paddlers is the Little Muskegon River which is close by. If weather permits there will be a Friday night paddle on Hardy Pond so make sure you bring light sticks or comparable devices and bug protection. During the day this body of water is often windy.

Newaygo State Park is a rustic campground with large sites. This state campground is usually not crowded or smoky. You may make reservations at www.midnrreservations.com and choose Newaygo State Park, Poplar loop. There also is an Oak loop of campsites. For off the water fun, the park has a new disc golf course.

Host Jim Berean's phone is 231-519-3544. Jim's email is straydog57@gmail.com.

Directions to Newaygo State Park are very simple: Take the Morley Exit #125 off US-131 and head west 5 miles. Turn North on Beech Ave. to the State Park. 2793 Beech Ave., Newaygo, MI 49337.

Paddle On The Pond

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Plan on a group fiesta on Saturday Night! Please bring a dish to share with the group. Chef Jim Berean will be making roasted chicken on the grill. He needs a good people count for this Saturday night meal so please RSVP to Jim via email or phone. We will be passing the hat for donations to cover the costs of the chicken.

Please be aware that cell phone reception at this park is poor. Please use an emergency number of 231-856-4452 which is the Newaygo State Park office. Please bring marine radios for communication on the water if you have one.

Lake Michigan Water Trail to be Dedicated

National Recreational Trail Designation Day Event
By: Kenneth Nesbitt

On June 4, 2011, you will have a chance to help celebrate the National Recreational Trail (NRT) dedication of phase one of the Lake Michigan Water Trail. The dedication will officially designate the 75 mile stretch from Chicago to New Buffalo as being a recognized National Recreation Trail. Paddlers (ranging from highly skilled to beginner), NRT supporters who provided letters of support, and the media will be present to celebrate the designation of the trail.

Lake Michigan Water Trail supporters will be invited to Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk to take part in the dedication ceremony. The dedication activities will include sea kayakers, river kayakers, bicyclists and hikers converging at the lakefront park. The ceremonies will honor the original water trail developed over thousands of years and reconnect people to the trail. Participants will also include national and local business, environmental, and political leaders.

The day will conclude with a reception and the unveiling of a "Kayak the Lake Michigan Water Trail along the South Shore" poster.

Details are still being worked out as to the times and routes. Information will be posted on the Lake Michigan Water Trail website <http://www.lmwt.org/> as it becomes available. Whether you paddle, pedal or hike, there will be plenty of opportunity for you to actively participate in the first phase of the dedication of the Lake Michigan Water Trail. This trail will circumnavigate Lake Michigan and include the lake boundaries in four states. As mapping, inventorying, development of the public access sites and public support continues, additional stretches of the trail will be dedicated.



RACE
VOLUNTEER
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The 5th annual
Chicago Shoreline Marathon
is the only world-class race to paddle Lake Michigan and the shores of Chicago.

Our event includes three races:
Beginner relay, which includes local media personalities
8-mile, two-beach race for intermediate paddlers
20-mile, multi-beach, race along the Chicago shoreline

Race date: 08.20.2011

More info at our website >>>

www.chicagoshorelinemarathon.com

Are you registered for the 2011 WMCKA Symposium scheduled for May 28-30? You don't want to miss it! Go to www.wmcka.org for registration information.

WMCKA
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Submissions

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

Send to: wmcka.news@Yahoo.com
Submissions due by 15th of the month

UPCOMING PADDLES

Paddles on the WMCKA Web site

Remember that the events marked with an asterisk (*) are non-WMCKA sponsored events.

Calendar

May 6-8, 2011 at 12 - Spring Confluence
Ludington State Park, Beechwood, Loop

May 27-30, 2011 - 22nd Annual WMCKA
Sea Kayak Symposium

June 3-5, 2011 - Nature Trails Weekend*

June 10-12, 2011 - Paddle on the Pond,
Newaygo State Park, Jim Berean,
coordinator, straydog57@gmail.com

July 9, 2011 - Kayak for Light, Ramona
State Park, Portage, MI

July 15-17, 2011 - Duck Lake Day

July 29-31, 2011 - Lake Michigan Water
Trail*

August 27-29, 2011 - Green Lake
Rendezvous, Interlochen State Park

September 16-18, 2011 - End-O-Summer
Weekend, Platte River CG, Sleeping Bear
Dunes

October 7-9, 2011 - Annual Meeting at
Mesick

FOR SALE

WANTED

WANTED: Articles and photos about your kayaking adventures! Send to: wmcka.news@Yahoo.com