



West Michigan Coastal Kayaker

Duck Lake Paddle

Bob Burmania

WMCKA's second annual Duck Lake Paddle is scheduled for Saturday, July 16, 2011, at Duck Lake State Park. Meet at the shelter house in the picnic area. You can paddle either Duck Lake or Lake Michigan. If you have a kayak cart, please bring it. It will make getting kayaks to the water a little easier.

At 5 pm we will meet at the shelter for a for a pot luck stir fry. Please bring your favorite stir fry item.

Hope to see you there! Bring a friend or two. The more the merrier.

President's Paddle

By Steve Adsmond



I can finally say the kayak trailer project is completed. Some of you have already seen it in action at Newaygo State Park. This week I am doing some touch up painting to the paddle tube carriers that were added at the last minute. This trailer has been a project that has taken ideas and parts from many different members of our club. The first trailer I really drooled over that made me think that a trailer was in our family's future was the Bloyd-Peshkin trailer that Alex had made custom kayak gear cabinets for. As the last part of the trailer, I added paddle tubes that Bloyd-Peshkins dropped off at Neptune's Treasures on Monday of Symposium. I used those and added ends and now these each hold two Betsie Bay paddles. I think these originally were what Al Anderson shipped paddles in to the Bloyd-Peshkin family. The second trailer I spent time gawking at was that of Rocky and Char Kimball, because this was pulled by a Jeep, and since that was what I had as well, I thought further about a trailer. Several years ago Rocky came up with a bunch of closed cell foam from equipment shipping at his job, and gave it away

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to WMCKA members, mostly for custom fitting your boats. I used one large chunk, putting it on the table saw and cut it into strips to pad the kayak cradles of the new trailer, which worked very well.

Dave Herrema had a very similar trailer that helped me get to Symposium when I couldn't get time to finish my project and his spare tire and trailer jack stand became part of the new trailer. I greatly appreciate the expert fabrication of the kayak cradles and all the welding on the trailer done by Bob Burmania. Without his help the trailer would still be in my shed as a project in waiting! When I got done with the project, Bob said I really needed to check and probably repack the wheel bearings so I wouldn't be one of the broken down trailers along the side of the highway I so feel badly for... Because we finished the last of the fabrication at Bob's home after midnight I towed it home to Fremont and crashed. As I was about to pull the newly loaded trailer out of the driveway for Newaygo State Park, I remembered Bob's words of wisdom. I jacked up each side and found one bearing almost devoid of grease. On the other wheel I found a wheel bearing nut with a cotter key that wasn't bent. This means the bearing nut had never been tightened properly by me when I put it together right out of the box many years ago when I bought the trailer kit from Harbor Freight. Must have been some interruption to my construction then, so this time I tightened the bearing nut properly and secured it. Good thing it didn't leave me stranded on my late night trip back to Fremont after putting it together! I was very lucky. Thanks to all the club members who were a part of this trailer that will serve us well.

I look forward to seeing you at Duck Lake State Park this weekend! This is a really fun day paddle either on Lake Michigan or Duck Lake, with a great dinner under the State Park shelter, hosted by Bob and Kathy Burmania. Bring a dish to share and come be part of the fun!

Purely Peaceful Paw Paw Quiet river deserves appreciation

From the South Bend Tribune By Joseph Dits 'On the Trail' 5:27 a.m. EDT, June 26, 2011

A group of us are paddling on the murky waters of the Paw Paw River -- with walls of verdant, arching trees around us -- when Jan Bloom talks of Michigan's more noted rivers, like the Pere Marquette. He shrugs, throwing up his arms as he sits in his canoe. Why bother driving to northern Michigan, he asks, when you can have this?

The river is wild and free of much, if any, development. We pass not even a handful of modest houses in two and a half hours of paddling. The Paw Paw is about an hour's drive north of South Bend, running parallel to and just north of Interstate 94. The scenery doesn't change much, but it doesn't have to. As I join seven other paddlers from southwest Michigan, the river does its magic, immediately cooling our minds. No more deadlines or directions..... Copyright © 2011, South Bend Tribune

Article continued at : <http://www.southbendtribune.com/features/ourlives/sbt-purely-peaceful-paw-paw-20110626,0,66546,full.column>



Jan Bloom, left, and Kenneth Nesbitt paddle under an arching branch along the Paw Paw River in southwest Michigan. (South Bend Tribune Photo/Joseph Dits / June 26, 2011)

"Paddle the Pond" Campout

By Kenneth Nesbitt

Several WMCKA members gathered at Newaygo State Park at the Hardy Dam Pond on the Muskegon River for a campout and paddle on the weekend of June 10 - 12. This is a great state park. Each camp site is large, secluded and rustic. What a great escape and so economical.

On Saturday we paddled on the pond from the campsite to the Hardy Dam. We enjoyed lunch at a very nice park. It was such a nice day that one paddler even took a power nap on the shore of the pond. After lunch we lined up our kayaks on the water and asked a local fisherman to snap a photo of our paddle group. He gladly complied since he was anxious for us to move on and stop disturbing the fish he was trying to catch. It was very interesting watching the cars drive over the dam. At one point the cars were actually below the water level as you watched the roof of the car disappear and then reappear.

Since there were a few power boats active on the river, we grouped up as a flotilla to cross from river right to river left on the return journey to camp. We all worked up an appetite on this paddle, but since Steve was paddling for two, (He towed his daughter Lauren on the 4½ hour paddle) he was twice as hungry as the rest of us.

However, Grill Master, Jim Berean, was well prepared for us. He marinated chicken breasts and had the grill hot and ready to go. We all enjoyed the grilled chicken and the 'bring a dish to pass' dinner.

After dinner the tall tales began. Jody, the Queen of Wet Wood Campfires, had gathered a truck load of tree fall and sawed it into campfire lengths. Around this setting we heard of Mike's plans for his upcoming Alaskan Adventure. Steve shared the story of he and Bob Burmania building Steve's new kayak trailer. (Steve seems to think the trailer is much more practical than trying to carry 4 kayaks on the roof of his jeep.) Many others contributed Paddle Tales and Paddle Plans throughout the evening. All too soon the evening faded into the night and one by one we left the campfire and headed to our tents to recharge for the next paddle.



Is it time for the Chicken Dinner?

Carolyn & Jody make plans to enjoy Jim's Chicken BBQ



The Discombobulated Camper

This photo was snapped Sunday morning at the Newaygo 'Paddle the Pond' campout. Looks like Steve had a pretty rough night! But all Steve will see when he looks at this photo is his new kayak trailer that he and Bob Burmania completed on the Thursday night production shift. It was true 'Just in Time Delivery'. The paint was still wet

WMCKA
Board Of Directors

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Vice Pres.	Bill Keith 231.779-4349 eakeith1@gmail.com
Secretary	Julie Stevens 989.828-5763 stevens49@msu.edu
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Non-Board Positions

Symp. Chair	Lynn Dominguez 989.774-7305 domin1a@cmich.edu
Web Guy	Karl Geisel 616.452.3239 karl.geisel@wmcka.org
Newsletter	Steve & Shelley Misenheimer 734.475.3017 shelleymize@yahoo.com

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

July 16, 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 location, cost, and equipment requirements, please see the Events Page at www.wmcka.org

FOR SALE

WANTED

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