

Association of Sea Kayak Guides and Instructors

Spring 2018 Meeting Minutes

Nanuq Kayaks
Maine Wharf
Portland, Maine

21 April 2018

Attendance:

In Person

Zach Anchors, Scott Anchors, Tom Bergh, Suzanne Blackburn, Dan Calahane, Matt Capon (*USCG*), Tom Carr, Richard deCosta, Sam Frankel (*President*), Joe Guglielmetti (*Treasurer*), Maria Jenness (*Vice-President*), Travis Journagan, Harley Lewin, Berry Manter, Dave Mention, Janet Robinson, Scott Shea, Craig Shipp (*Secretary*), Andrew Shiland

Remote

Katie Degrasse, Christina Garland

Membership (presented by Joe Guglielmetti)

- There are 50 paid members as of today
- Also, there are 18 business members as of today

Finances (presented by Joe Guglielmetti)

- Present balance of the organization is \$8140.48
- Over three years the organization has been able to increase assets by \$2000
- Pool sessions this winter were a bit better than revenue neutral
- The Executive Board will investigate ways to provide financial support to the membership for future educational opportunities

Pool Session (presented by Joe Guglielmetti)

- Again this year, three (3) two-hour pool sessions were very successful, held this past winter on 17 December, 14 January, and 21 January
- The pool sessions were held in Portland at the Riverton Pool and were open to all that paid the nominal fee to participate
- These pool sessions were informal, but instruction was available
- Only word-of-mouth (digital and vocal) advertising so far, but appear to be effective
- In the future, consider the use of "pool boat" (i.e., clean boats) for any given venue

- Portland Paddle graciously provided insurance for these events

Wilderness First Aid (presented by Craig Shipp)

- There will be a Wilderness First Aid Afloat on 28-29 April, co-sponsored by Nanuq Kayaks and MASKGI
- The course will be taught at Nanuq Kayaks, the same venue as our meeting today
- The instructor will be Nancy Zane from North Star Adventures, Unity
- Presently, there are 11 participant registered for the course next week
- There was significant interest from membership to continue the same type of offering for next year

MASKGI Survey on Wilderness Medicine (presented by Joe Guglielmetti)

Some of the highlights were:

- There was interest in MASKGI hosting advanced first aid courses (e.g., WFA, WFAA, WFP)
- WFAA was particularly of interest, because of its relevance to paddling activities
- The early spring was preferred as the best time to hold the course
- Most respondents felt that a higher level, than the basic first aid/CPR certification should be required for the Maine Guide licensing

ProDeal (presented by Dan Calahane)

- There are two ways to take advantage of this program - register vs. do nothing
- There was discussion of using the Pro Deal option as a promotion for membership to MASKGI
- You are generally allowed only one purchase a year from most vendors
- It was pointed out that MASKGI members have participated in this type of program in the past, but it was discontinued
- All details of the ProDeal were set out to all members in an e-mail from Sam Frankel (maskgimail@gmail.com) on 4 April this year.
- Some of the high points of the ProDeal are:
 - You need to join *ExpertCity* and as part of MASKGI you'll receive 30%-40% off products from suppliers
Go to: <https://www.expertcity.com>, enter this unique code: 19B2-59CE-6BA4-AFFF, and then click 'Apply.' Then complete the application
 - An example of the suppliers included are:
 - *AquaBound + Bending Branches*
 - *Astral*
 - *Epic Kayaks*
 - *The North Face*
 - *Outdoor Research*
 - *Rhino Racks*
 - *Sea to Summit*
 - *Stohlquist*
 - *Stellar Kayaks*

- *Yakima*
- You will need your Maine Guide's License or MASKGI Membership Card as part of the approval process

Maine Guide Promotion (all)

- This year, the Executive Board, prompted by a business member, decided to list all Maine Guide sea-kayaking training courses on the Homepage of the MASKGI website
- There was a discussion on the merits of promoting other events from our business members
- Additional discussion focused on asking that the Executive Board to consider adding other professional development courses from our business members to the website tabulation

Sea Kayak Guide Course Standards (all)

- There was some discussion of the quality sea kayak guide courses being offered by member outfitters across the state
- Again this year, the concern was raised about the lack of a practical evaluation during the IF&W testing procedures for sea-kayak guides, but it was recognized that the logistics of addressing this issue are not easy implemented
- There was considerable discussion that the sea-kayaking guide course curriculum be standardized in content and a minimum length for the course
- Several members indicated that at the state level there is considerable discussion about apprenticeship programs for guiding
- There exists already a draft of a sea-kayaking guide apprenticeship program, authored by Scott Shea
- It was observed by several members that there is a concern about the continuing trend that many of the participants taking the guide course are young and not overly experienced paddlers
- There was considerable discussion of how does MASKGI promote raising the bar by adding more professional development, which no specific recommendations made yet
- A discussion focused on the possibility of establishing a committee to investigate further aspects of an apprenticeship program
 - There was strong interest by some members of the group for this program to be developed
 - Conversely, there were several members, who voiced alternative views about the idea of the apprenticeship
- No consensus was decided on this topic, which will need additional discussion before a way forward is determined

USCG Report (presented by Matt Capon, USCG Portland Station)

- Walking the Working Waterfront event is scheduled for Saturday, 9 June, 1100-1500 on the Portland Waterfront
- The program for the event this year will again focus on paddle safety
- The program consists of numerous demonstrations and presentations
- There was a request by Matt for MASKGI input and participation for this year's events

- There was a discussion of the difference of on-water Vessel Safety Checks vs. on-land Vessel Inspections

Presentation:

Back 40 by Henry Gilbert

- This presentation introduced a marketing and promotion services for guides
- No sea kayak guides are using the service yet
- Could provide booking service for guided tours, if deemed appropriate
- There was a discussion of having the option to book online, but cancellation would be by phone only
- The problem of having the appropriate liability insurance was also discussed

Post-Meeting Addendum:

- There was a suggestion that the Fall meeting be scheduled for Saturday, 3 November
- The timing and venue are yet to be determined, but location east of Pen Bay is likely

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Shipp
MASKGI Secretary
27 June 2018
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