

MASKGI Spring Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2020 1:00pm via Zoom

21 Participating

Zach Anchors, Alice Bean Andrenyak, Dan Cahalane, Tom Carr, Karen Francoeur, Kristina Garland, Tai Grosjean, Joe Guglielmetti, Nate Hanson, Alicia Heyburn, Cariño Higgins, Maria Jenness, Al Johnson, Liz Johnson, Travis Journagen, Bob Myron, Thornton Ring, Christine Spratt, John Stevens, Rose Weggler, Nancy Zane

1:05 Welcome - Rose

Pool sessions were made free which brought in new members, a few took place before the pool closed. Thanks to all who helped! Other Spring activities had to cancel due to Covid-19.

Treasurers Report - Joe

We did more spending than saving, which was intentional.

Balance ~\$7500 in the bank. Joe's balance is about \$133 less likely due to outstanding checks from the membership refund. **If you are not going to cash your check please email Joe.**

We have a credit for 2 hr pool session with Riverside when the pools are open again.

Current membership -

17 business members (includes couples – about 13 businesses)

~30 guide members

~non guide members

58 members – this is good for MASKGI

FREE membership for paddlers through end of 2020, so spread the word.

Suggestion – Send a second email to all outfitters to invite them again to membership this year.

Website – Liz is keeping up to date with Covid-19 recommendations. Liz will add changes and we are welcome to send them to her. Doing a great job, Liz, thank you! Keep referring people back to the state site – use a link so it is always update.

Facebook feed has been active and useful, keep it up!

Covid-19 Guidelines & Discussion

Governor made an update that groups of 10 are allowed on the water as of now
Need to fill out paperwork, register as open for the season.

State Covid-19 Prevention form: <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/me/covidpreventionform>

14-day quarantine for anyone entering state is currently still in place through July 31.

Up to the outfitter to decide if they want to open and be thoughtful of how to support clients while maintaining social distancing.

Nate suggested having a model of how to adjust foot pegs without reaching into client boats.

Sanitizing – keep it safe without using cleaners that break down the fabrics or hurting the environment.

Karen will share the materials that she has received.

We have a new component for risk assessment. If you have to perform a rescue can you do it safely? Perhaps trips are going to less risky places to minimize risk of capsizing.

Ex: warm water self-rescue training so the client can haul out on shore, and we can stay a safe distance.

We may have a season or two without being able to teach more complex techniques, so there may be a batch of new paddlers who have not learned “normal” best practices.

Cleaning gear:

NRS suggests warm soapy water.

Rotate gear so it is not used hard and can air clean – 72hrs is the recommendation for killing the virus through air and sunshine.

14 Day Quarantine Practices

We have an explicit duty to reinforce this – Nate is having all guests sign a waiver confirming that they have followed quarantine requirements.

All recommendations are changing so the quarantine may change too – be prepared to be more lenient or more stringent as changes come from the State.

We do this for our own safety, as well as that of our staff, clients and community.

Professional Development update - Nancy

[SOLO](#) - For students that have existing SOLO certifications that are about to expire in the upcoming weeks, we are offering a blanket extension on your certification until November 1, 2020.

[WMA](#) – As of 4/19 online certification extension courses. These options are only available to currently certified WMAI WFR/WEMT, WAFA, and WFA graduates whose certification will expire while conventional, open-enrollment courses are being suspended and unavailable because of COVID-19. These courses are open at no charge. If your certification expired in March, you will automatically receive a one (1) month participation eligibility extension.

ACA – will allow you to extend; you must apply for an extension if needed.

Remote Instructors are not able to offer courses now. Nancy will keep us updated with the FB group.

WFA Afloat update – SOLO has had a partnership with Coast Guard. The class is still available, but not affiliated with USCG. It can become more interactive and offered in a wider variety of locations.

Guide Testing

Augusta has reached out to examiners, who would like to come back and do the exams under Covid distancing. If possible, they will re-open the exams.

Miscellaneous

How can the board offer support? We have a Zoom account, can be used for update meetings, check-in, collaboration.

Karen gave a plug for kayaking on a recent Maine Calling program on tourism impact May 29 Karen will offer a Friday Lunch & Learn for MITA – preparing to be on the water safely. Sign up on the MITA website

Next Steps

Let's have another collaborative check-in in June.

Brainstorm on how we are addressing social distancing...

Meeting time: weekday evening

Fall meeting will also be in evening

Deals for Members

MITA – all MASKGI members are offered a free digital membership, access to all sites on the App, no paper guidebook.

Maine Outdoor Brands (MOB) is also offering free membership through 2020

[Wilderness Risk Management Conference](#) in Burlington Oct. 28 - 30, 2020

– Maria will keep us posted on the status. MASKGI usually sends two reps with a stipend.