

# Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

May, 2018 - Volume 26, Issue 5

[www.tbsk.club](http://www.tbsk.club)

[www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers](http://www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers)



Month: May 2018

[Switch to List View](#)

Week	Month	Year	< Previous Month			Today	Next Month >		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
29	30	May 1		3	4	5	9:00 AM Anclote River - Level I		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8:30 AM Rainbow River - Level III		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non- Members Invited		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	8:30 AM TBSK Picnic - Fred Howard Park		
27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1	2			

Trips & events indicated by this symbol are led by TBSK members.

[Click here to go to Event Page on tbsk.club](#)

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- This Months Meeting is by Nature Conservancy will tell us about their local Florida programs and successes. So be sure to Join US!



# Hillsborough River Paddle

By Hank Brooks with and  
Photos by Jan Machnikowski and Jim Hoover  
Videos by Jennifer Call and Tom Joseph



This has been goofy weather for Tampa Bay this year. February was too hot and March has been rather cool and very windy. So we thought it was a good time to paddle a river. We met at Trout Creek Park at 10 a.m. to let the sun warm the place up a bit and it turned out to be a perfect paddling day. The first thing we did was to set up a shuttle to Rotary Park, our take-out about five miles down river. The plan was to stop mid way at Lettuce Lake park for a bite to eat and to stretch our legs.

There were eight of us: Jennifer Call, Jan Machnikowski, Tom & Judy Joseph, Ted Jordan, Jackie Simpson, Jim Hoover and myself.



As Jan's picture shows, the hardest part about this paddle for some of us was getting into and out of our boats. It must be done carefully and with some patience. Once we were all in a ready to roll, it was fun to paddle with the flow of the river and watch it's beauty as we paddled slowly along. The river did not disappoint in showing us plenty of critters. Besides the plentiful turtles, there were a few small gators, some Ibis and a Baby Blue Heron. As we approached Lettuce Lake, I peered around a bend and there was this beautiful, solitary Roseatte Spoonbill. The entire group paddle up quietly and observed this graceful bird.



The people at Lettuce Lake were quite friendly, pointing the way to an unoccupied picnic table, and the bathrooms were clean and much appreciated.



[Jennifer Call Video Link](#)  
[Tom Joseph Video Link](#)





## TBSK March Paddle-Picnic – Philippe Park

By Hank Brooks

Pictures By Tom Komar & Hank Brooks



We were blessed with a beautiful day on this Saturday in late March. It started out a little chilly at close to 60 degrees, but soon warmed up close to 70 degrees. The wind was about 8 mph, which cooled things off and put a light chop on the water of less than a foot.

About 30 paddlers showed up, with most going on the Intermediate/ Advanced Paddle - led by John Marek and assisted by Al Tillson. They left close to 9 a.m. and headed to Double Branch Creek, about 3 miles away. The Easy Group, led by Hank Brooks, left about ½ hour later and headed towards the Safety Harbor pier. They explored Mullet Creek, which is next to the Safety Harbor Spa, and then headed toward Cooper’s Bayou where they took out at the Clearwater kayak launch.

Phil Sheesley worked with four members who chose to improve their paddling skills. After a review of forward stroke fundamentals, they covered "boat control" with time spent on edging to lessen weather-cocking, stern and bow rudder, and rapid stopping. When someone asked Phil why they would want to stop rapidly, Phil replied, "So you don't run into an "Oyster Bar". Then came the second question, "Why would you stop at an "Oyster Bar" during a paddle?" They also reviewed high and low bracing. With all that, they still had time for a paddle of about 3 miles, which had them back in good time for lunch.

For lunch, TBSK's "Executive Chef" Clay Kent outdid himself in the preparation of the food. In addition to the usual burgers, Clay had prepared some bacon for our burgers and some brats for those of us who wanted something different. All this extra effort was very much appreciated by all the hungry paddlers.





# Silver Lake/ Withlachochee River

By Hank Brooks  
Photos From Hank & Bob Morris



I really enjoy exploring new places which I have never paddled before. I remember on a paddle on Bullfrog Creek, which is close to Ruskin, Bill Biles, who was paddling point, yelled out, "Cows! I see cows in the creek." We saw no bullfrogs but did see cows. Perhaps they should have named it "Cow Creek".



Silver Lake is located about an hour north of central Tampa, right off I-75. The Withlachochee River flows right thru the lake.

Many years ago I had paddled the part of the river which flows north from the lake. This time I wanted to paddle the river which flowed from the south into Silver Lake. The air was crisp (for Florida) at about 78 degrees with little humidity.



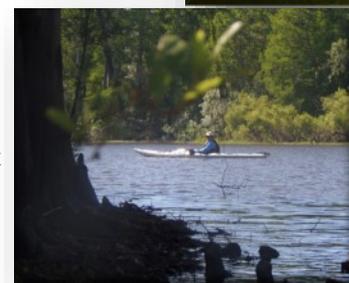
We were quite a collection – Bob Morris, with his 17 ft sea kayak, Greg Martin (a newbie) with his 10 ft Wal-Mart special recreational kayak, and me with my Epic 12 ft river boat (to which I had added an external skeg) to improve it's tracking. The plan was to put in at the Withlachochee State Park boat ramp, paddle about a mile south on Silver Lake, to where the Withalchoochee River enters the lake from the south.



We had a little difficulty finding the river, but a helpful fisherman pointed the way. I was quite impressed by this river. It was graced by very large cypress trees and their cypress knees all around them like many servants around a king. I enjoy the wonderful, graceful shapes that nature shows in her cypress trees. The river was dark to muddy brown and flowing at about 1 mph. It was 50 to 60 feet wide and, for the most part, the turns were gentle and sweeping, making it easy to paddle a sea kayak.



We paddled about three miles upriver observing many turtles, a few birds and a giant alligator. How big you say? He was at least 10 feet long. I must admit that when I see a large gator my eyes start bugging out of my head and I tend to exaggerate their size. But we all agree he was big as we floated by as he sun bathed on the bank. After paddling about three miles we stopped for lunch before returning to our take out.



Unfortunately I jinxed the trip by leaning back in my kayak and saying, "This is a perfect day to paddle. The shaded river, with it's majestic trees, silence, sweet silence except for the chirping of a few birds in the background. Then I hear it. A loud piercing sound! At first from a distance, but it grew in intensity very quickly. I said aloud, "What the heck is that infernal noise?" Then I saw birds flying up the river towards us. They looked like they were in panic mode, flying as fast as their little wings, could





# Events

## Kayak Camping for TBSK Members

Many of our TBSK members are interested in camping, especially from a kayak. If you are interested in camping, please make sure to let Gary Bernier [gwbarnier@gmail.com](mailto:gwbarnier@gmail.com) know. Contact him you need to get in touch with all of the TBSK members interested in camping .

Also, Andy Bartley launched a Facebook Page for TBSK Camping:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1780031405551417/>



## Member Requested Trips

Anyone can request a paddle to a location they want to go and we will see if we can find a trip leader to lead the trip for you. Just submit a Trip Request by the 10th of the month prior to your trip so the next newsletter can advertise it with the trip leaders' name.

**You Can Do This By Emailing [tbsk@tbsk.club](mailto:tbsk@tbsk.club) with "Trip Request" in the subject line.**

1. Put-in and take-out locations
2. Destination and total distance
3. Preferred Date(s) and time
4. Skill level required ([see Trip Planning/Paddling guide on TBSK.club](#))
5. Phone number (should trip leader have questions)

### **Trip Coordinator will:**

- Post this trip request with the monthly "request for trips" which is sent out to trip leaders.
- Notify the person requesting the trip if we can find a trip leader and if the trip can be led exactly as requested, or if some modification to the trip is necessary.

## New Places To Paddle

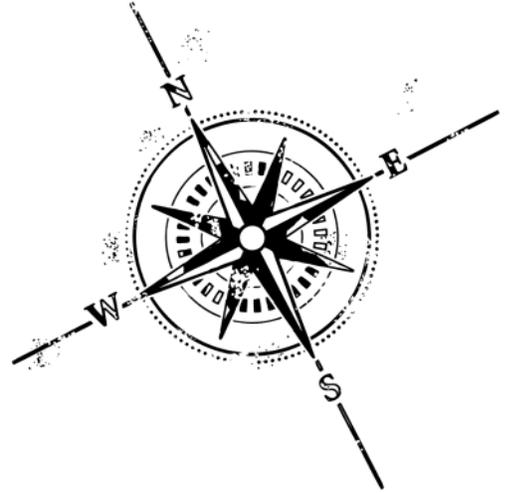
Comments from our member survey observed we always paddle the "same old places". We need to get out of our rut! With that in mind, we are encouraging our trip leaders to expand their paddling horizons. All members should note that we have a "Paddle Places" section on our web site which lists places to paddle in the greater Tampa Bay area (see menu on bottom of the home page).

In "Paddle Places" one of the things you will find is the Pinellas County Paddling Guide, which lists about 100 different places to paddle in Pinellas County - where most of our members live. The link to the guide, which TBSK helped create, is found below:

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/blueways/pdf/BluewaysGuide.pdf>

If you have a favorite place to paddle, and it is not listed in "Paddle Places", please contact Hank Brooks at [jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com)

## TBSK Needs A Web Master



We are fortunate to rent web site software which was created by a company called Wild Apricot. We need your help to keep a portion of the site updated.

**Responsibilities:** From time to time we need to update some information on the site using web site commands. Examples of this are posting the monthly newsletter and then sending an email notice to membership that the newsletter is ready. Another example is changing the names and email addresses of the TBSK officers each year. Wild Apricot has excellent procedures and TBSK has written procedures on how to perform the commands and we have people within the club who can help coach you through the training phase and if you run into problems. Because this can be done from your home, a "snow bird" could do this.

### **Position Requirements:**

- Must have good computer skills and a high speed internet connection.
- Time required is about several hours/ month
- Normally this is a TBSK board position. However, we can waive this requirement if you have no desire to be on the board.

If interested please contact either John Marek or Hank Brooks (contact info is on page 10 of newsletter).





# News & Events Around the State

(updated info in red)



**Friends of the Island Parks** (<http://www.islandparks.org>) supports Caladesi Island State Park and H. Frankland Island

- Osprey Trail Walks every Wed, Sat, Sun at 11
- Beach Walks every Friday at 11
- Monthly Shell Show. 3rd Saturday each month at Nature Center, 1pm
- Wildlife Status:
  - Osprey: 15 Active Nests in March, and first chicks spotted March 28th
  - Eagles: 2 Eaglets fully grown and ready to Fledge in March
  - Great horned owls: Owls are not anticipated to nest in the parks this season
  - Sea Turtle: Season runs from May through October. 43 nests were spotted last
- Visit [caladesidiscoverycenter.com](http://caladesidiscoverycenter.com) to learn about the forthcoming interpretive facility.



For an update on this year's Sea Turtle Baby Boom, see this article: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/wildlife/baby-boom-sea-turtles-set-new-record-for-nesting-on-pinellas-beaches/2307517>

**Florida Paddling Trails Association (FPTA).** We are the steward of all of Florida's water trails. Our mission is to develop water trails, protect the environment along the trails, and be a resource and voice for paddlers. Jill Lingard is the FPTA President, and Hank Brooks is this Region's Director for FPTA. (Our region is Hillsborough, Pinellas, & Manatee)



**The Adventurous Woman.** Fishing, Camping, Kayaking, Hikes for women of all skill levels. Meets the 3rd Wednesday at E Jackson's. 6:30pm, February-November.

**Society for Ethical Ecotourism:** Florida SEE is looking for volunteers to help vendors become certified. See info about SEE on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FloridaSEE.org>. Info on the volunteer position can be seen here:

- [http://www.floridasee.org/docs/Florida\\_SEE\\_Assessor\\_Position\\_Description\\_2015.pdf](http://www.floridasee.org/docs/Florida_SEE_Assessor_Position_Description_2015.pdf)



**Paddle Florida** <http://www.paddleflorida.org/>

To register for trips: <http://www.paddleflorida.org/services/preview-and-register-for-trips-5165.html>



**Tampa Bay Watch:** <http://www.tampabaywatch.org>



**Keep Pinellas Beautiful** strives to keep our community clean and beautiful. We have many volunteers and adoption programs available in which you can participate. <http://www.mykpb.com/>



**Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful:** <http://keptampabaybeautiful.org>

Our mission is to promote a culture of environmental stewardship through volunteer and educational opportunities.



**Egmont Key Alliance** (<http://www.egmontkey.info/>)

[May 19, 2028 Regular workday](#) Regular workday the third Sat of the month Follow link for more info



**Florida Water Environmental Association:** Over 70 years after its creation, FWEA continues to make historic differences in advancement of the water environment, science and technology, making it a leading professional water organization in Florida. Our history says a lot about the leadership, dedication and hard work. <http://www.fwea.org>

*Visit our Sponsors for the  
Best Kayaking Equipment and Advice!*

**One of the Finest  
Kayak Shops in the Country!**



**"Every Day is a  
Demo Day at Bill Jackson's"**

9501 US 19 North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782 (727) 576-4169

[www.BillJacksons.com](http://www.BillJacksons.com)

Picture Taken a couple of miles upstream from Lowery Park on the Hillsborough River



# Info for TBSK.club

## Board Members

.....

### President

John Marek 813 951 5650  
tampajohn@gmail.com

### Vice President

Cynthia McGregor 305.619.8276  
sailingcyn@gmail.com

### Trip Coordinator

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### Membership Coordinator

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sl72056@yahoo.com

### Training/Safety Coordinator

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philshesley@hotmail.com

### Activities Coordinators

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Irm Lukanik 727.557.4880  
llukanik@gmail.com

### Webmaster

Hank Brooks

### Secretary/ Treasurer

Hank Brooks 727 724 8983  
jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com

### Newsletter Editor

Bill Biles 727 204 5511  
wcbiles@gmail.com

## TBSK MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

.Classified Ads Policy: Any TBSK member may place a classified ad. The ad is free for the first six months. After six months ad expires. May be maintained for \$5 per month. Please notify the editor when item is sold.

### KAYAKS FOR SALE!

I have 2 Neckys, a Chatham 17 & a Chatham 16 with full deck lines, spry skirt, with NEW 3 bow / stern c

I have 2 Neckys, a Chatham 17 & a Chatham 16 with full deck lines, spry skirt, with NEW 3 bow / stern covers, & all other covers, with all the gears including each with each with compasses and 1 with GPS loaded. They also both have graphite paddles. Little use. I need to sell them as soon as possible. I also have a new 10 ft. kayak & a new paddle board that I need to sell. I've been ill

Al Pollak  
[abpollak@msn.com](mailto:abpollak@msn.com)



## Treasurer's Report

March 2018

<b>Beginning BALANCE</b>	3640.
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues	200
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Smartwaiver Acct	153.
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$3687.

## Welcome New Members!

- Mickey Schwartz
- Cherie King
- Carol Williams
- Greg Martin

## Members that renewed this month:

- John Shinner
- John Carter
- Jill Lindsey
- Mary Santos
- Robin Newcomer
- Louis Farrell
- Mark Bastille
- Pamella Settlegoode



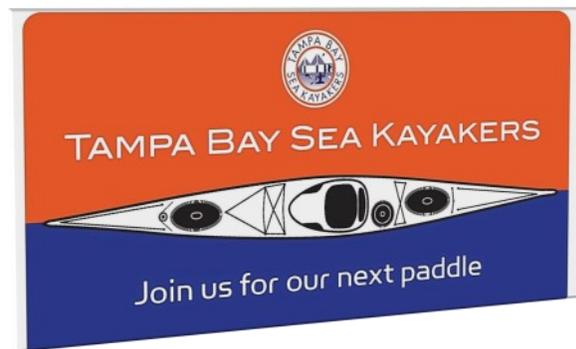


## **Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member**

You may join TBSK online using your web browser. Just go to the link <http://www.tbsk.club> and click "Join Us" at the top of the page. You can pay club dues at the end of the process.

To join the Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers by mail, click on "Join Us" at the top of the TBSK web site. Click on the Liability / Waiver Form. Print the form and send it to the address listed at the bottom of this page. The application and waiver form are also available at TBSK meetings held at Bill Jacksons Store on the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm.

We hope to see you at our next TBSK event!



**Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers  
P.O. Box 8682  
Seminole FL 33775-8682**

