

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

(October), 2018 - Volume 26, Issue 10



www.tbsk.club
www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	Oct 1	2	3	4	5	6 9:30 AM Picnic Island Mangrove Trails - Level 0
7	8 7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non-Members Invited	9	10	11	12	13 8:30 AM Back Side of Honeymoon Island - Level I
14	15	16	17 9:00 AM Chasshowitzka River - Level I	18	19	20 8:30 AM TBSK Picnic - Fred Howard Park
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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

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



Our speaker for the month of October will be Darryl Jackson of Bill Jacksons Shop for Adventure. He'll give us some good insight on some kayaks and equipment. Along with some camping gear and new products. He rarely gets away without a good story or three. Will be entertaining and some good info for all.

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Safety & Training Notes – October, 2018

By Phil Sheesley



Can you save yourself? Probably the most fundamental kayak safety question, but I often wonder if many beginning kayakers have thought of it. I watched recently (from a discrete distance) as a kayaker “of a certain age” was attempting to re-enter his Epic from water over his head. It wasn’t pretty. After several attempts his friend rafted up and helped him in. The fact is, you have no business being offshore alone if you can’t easily re-enter the kayak. Maybe dicey enough to be alone – better to be in a group. But if you might find yourself alone; first, be sure you are comfortable doing a “wet-exit” – now, when the water is warm, is a great time to practice if you haven’t already. Once you’re comfortable with getting out easily, it’s time to practice getting back in. There are a number of ways to do that effectively, and while it’s easier with assistance, you should be sure you can do it on your own. If you haven’t practiced, now is the time. The Club can help you – we always set aside time at our monthly picnic’s for training you may ask for. Better yet, get professional training available from our local kayak shops (think Sweetwater or Bill Jacksons). Finally, use our website. The Safety & Training page of the TBSK website has the following very helpful sections – use them: “Skills Self Assessment” (evaluate yourself honestly), “Safety Tips” (Only takes a moment to check them), “Skill Training Available”, “Skills and Safety Videos” (an extensive listing available training videos from a variety of sources), and finally tips for “Selecting a Kayak”. One caution on the videos. Videos can make it look easy and are no substitute for getting on the water and trying it yourself – with qualified help. Happy paddling!



2019 TBSK Club Officers

Each year, at the annual Holiday Party in December, we elect our club officers for the next year. In order to ensure a full slate of officers, we have asked people to volunteer to be a club officer and serve on the TBSK Board. Any TBSK member can run for any office. Currently no one has volunteered for the Secretary-Treasurer position. If you have an interest in running for any office, please contact any of the current club officers (contact info is on the last page of the newsletter).

Current volunteers for 2019 Club Officer positions are:

- o **President:** Hank Brooks
- o **Vice President:** Al Tillson
- o **Secretary Treasurer:** Barb Uzenoff
- o **Trip Coordinator:** Bob Morris
- o **Safety & Training:** Open
- o **Membership:** Steven Loeven
- o **Web Master:** Dave Schmidt
- o **Activities:** Clay Kent
- o **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Biles





Exploring the Cypress Point Park Area

By Hank Brooks



Helping Hillsborough County better define their paddling trails, Al Tillson and Barb Uzenoff helped me explore the Cypress Point Park area – which is located on Tampa Bay directly south of the International Airport.



Our first impression is that this is a very neat park under the flight path of planes landing at the airport, with the accompanying loud droan of planes landing. I was amused by a sign which read, “No Amplified Sound”. We put our boats on wheels and headed to the kayak launch beach about 50 yards away. It was an ideal launch site – soft sand with few rocks or oysters.



It was an overcast day in late August. This helped keep the heat of direct sunlight away and made the trip more pleasant. The beach at the park is quite lovely, with ample room for many sunbathers who would appear on the weekend. We headed north toward Route 60, only about 2 miles away. Along the way we found some very nice mangroves populated with local wildlife – baby blue, roseate spoonbill and white heron. We turned into Fish Creek but found the way blocked by a low bridge which carried heavy traffic. A search with Google Maps showed that the area beyond the bridge was mostly industrial. At the mouth of Fish Creek, near the Oyster Catcher Restaurant, we did find a place which rents jet skis and kayaks. Unfortunately, later we found out that only Hyatt Hotel guests can rent these boats.



With Rocky Point right in front of us, we decided to paddle over to Whiskey Joe’s, a local restaurant. Whiskey Joe’s looked quite rustic and ready for guests. We pulled up on a nearby beach and ate our peanut butter sandwiches. On the trip back to Cypress Point Park we watched a dolphin perform. A nice trip of about 6 miles.



ACA Instructor Training for TBSK Members

The TBSK Board has approved a program to subsidize up to 4 members for a portion of the cost of becoming certified as ACA Level 2 Kayak Instructors. There are numerous benefits to becoming certified as an ACA Instructor including, for example:

- Significant improvement in your own kayaking skills
- Learning how to teach others to kayak
- "Instructor only" discounts from major manufacturers
- Access to "instructor only" training events
- Insurance for courses that you may teach
- The satisfaction of being recognized as a proficient kayaker.

Following is a description as to how this program will work for TBSK members:

Steven Henkind, who is an ACAL4 Instructor, has been working towards certification as an ACAIT (Instructor Trainer). He is nearly done with that process and, as the final step, needs to run a three day L2 Instructor Certification workshop. He will be overseen by an ACA Instructor Trainer Educator (ITE) who will assist with, and oversee, the class. Up to five students may sign up for the class. If you successfully complete the various activities (including personal kayaking skills, proficiency at rescues, group management, and teaching) you will then be certified as an ACAL2 Instructor. In addition, in case you have not already done so, you would also be certified as an TBSK trip leader.

The normal price for these certification workshops ranges between \$375 and \$525 (for all three days). Steve Henkind will run the class at a discounted rate (\$300) for TBSK members, and TBSK is willing to sponsor up to four paddlers (\$125 each). Thus, your cost, out of pocket, would be \$175 for the three day workshop – a massive discount. In exchange for this subsidization, TBSK would expect you to run (a minimum) of four trips for the club, during the following year, at which point the club would reimburse you for the \$125.

In addition, Steve will provide preparatory training – in advance of the workshop – at no cost. For those of you who have taken classes with Steve, you know that not only is he a very proficient paddler, he is also an outstanding teacher.

It should be emphasized that participating in the workshop does *not* guarantee that you will be certified – there are specific criteria, and tasks, that need to be accomplished. However, if you already have strong paddling skills, and are willing/interested to do some preparation, you stand a very good chance of becoming certified. Of note, you need to be proficient at paddle strokes (including moving the boat sideways, and backwards), and you need to have a strong T rescue – but you do *not* need to be able to roll in order to achieve the L2 level.

The exact time and location have yet to be scheduled, but we are anticipating doing this workshop, in the Tampa Bay area, during a weekend in late fall/early winter. We will try to arrange a date that is mutually convenient for the participants, the Instructor Trainer Educator and Steve.

Please contact Steve on his phone (914-420-1615), or via email (steven.henkind@gmail.com) to indicate your interest and in case you have any questions.



Hillsborough River – Lowry Park and River Crest Park

By Hank Brooks



It was a nice Saturday morning for a paddle in August. The plan was to launch from Lowry Park, paddle up to the old Water Tower and then down to River Crest Park for lunch, before heading back to our put in – a paddle of about 6 miles. Mayra Rodriguez and one of my old paddle buddies, Ken Kramer, accompanied me on this paddle.



I was a little nervous about planning a launch from the Lowry Park boat ramp on a Saturday because Ken warned me it would be a “zoo” on the weekend. Ken can be a funny guy! We got there about 8 a.m. and there were only a few people there. We quickly unloaded our boats and launched. The first surprise was the speed of the water flow. Because of the recent rains, they were letting a lot of water out of the dam, which is about 2.5 miles upstream from Lowry Park. My estimate was that it was flowing about 2.5 mph, when normally it is about 1 mph. With this new information, I confirmed with my fellow paddlers that we wanted to paddle upstream about a mile to Tower Park and view the old, tall white water tower – which no longer is used. As you would expect, we kept to the side of the river to avoid the strong current and with some effort, were soon opposite the old water tower. I wanted to take a picture of the tower with a kayak at its base. The river was not cooperating – making it quite difficult because the river was moving so fast that I kept floating out of position to take the picture and my fellow paddlers were drifting past at such speed that I had a problem getting it all coordinated – but I did get one decent picture.



Then it was time to paddle downstream about 3 miles to River Crest Park. It felt like we had jet assist as we zoomed along with the current. As we paddled past the Lowry Park boat ramp, you could see activity starting to pick up, with a parade of boats launching. As they sped past us going downriver, we got experience adjusting to riding the waves hitting the side of our kayaks. We paddled past the many lovely homes on the river, most had manicured lawns and look quite splendid in this serene setting. We soon arrived at River Crest Park. It's a small park with a floating dock, and a handicapped kayak launch. It also has an extremely nice sand beach which is about 30 feet long with a shallow ledge next to shore, making it ideal



Ebb & Flow Shultz Preserve & Kitchen Report - Hillsborough County Trails

By Hank Brooks Photos by Hank and Mayra Rodriguez



On Sept 8 three of us, Bill Johnson, Mayra Rodriguez and myself, launched from



the Apollo Beach Preserve to explore the Shultz Preserve and the area known as the "Kitchen". The first obstacle was the trek from the parking lot to the beach - about 175 yards along a mostly paved path. The beach made a nice launch area and I got to experiment with putting my yak wheels tied to the back of my kayak while I paddled. Low tide was at 6 a.m.



and we launched by about 9 a.m.



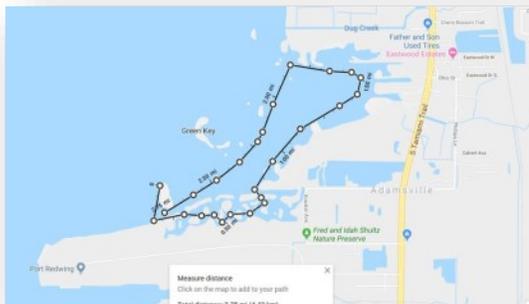
Our first objective was Whiskey Stump Key, just off the coast from the Shultz Preserve. After paddling a short distance, we soon realized that there was a no-boat security zone around the power plant - which we quickly remedied. The paddle from Apollo Beach Preserve to Whiskey Stump Key is about 2 miles, almost the same distance as from the Bullfrog Creek launch on Rt 41. As we paddle over, I mentioned to Mayra and Bill that one of the most important things was to find rest stops for our trip.



When we arrived at Whiskey Stump, Mayra asked, "When do they start serving the whiskey?". Bill replied, "The bar does not open until 11 a.m." Just south of Whiskey Stump we found a great beach take out, which we



would later use. It was then on to explore Shultz Preserve. As we entered the preserve we encountered buoys which read, "Boats Keep Out". We were not sure why there were signs there. We ignored the





Five TBSK paddlers (Al Tillson, Barb Uzenoff, Pat Yadon, Mary Jo Woodward, and Ron Lee) set out on Sunday September 17th to explore the now-closed Weedon Island kayak trail. As noted on the preserve website the signed trail has been closed until further notice while Pinellas Parks and Conservation Resources works with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to update the trail signs to conform to state code. Not only all signs but also all poles have been removed.

Because of these circumstances, we decided to carefully paddle the former trail through the first three lagoons before retracing our steps. For two of the paddlers it was their first exposure to this area (and for one, her first TBSK paddle). The trail was as beautiful and twisting as ever, with lots of small crabs but fewer birds than usual due to the high tide level. As we discovered on our return, enough other kayakers were still using the trail to create small traffic jams at a few points.

Upon returning to Bayou Grande, we paddled down the north shoreline toward Tampa Bay, exploring some additional mangrove areas along the way before stopping for a lunch break at a beach near the lower end of Googe Island where we found at least one gopher tortoise burrow on higher ground nearby. After lunch we returned back up the Bayou to the park's launch area, and Al and Barb paddled on a bit further up into Riviera Bay for a brief swim (well, float actually), before returning to the take-out.



Afterward we emailed the preserve to seek further clarification and reached Mr. Lyle Fowler, the South District Ops Manager of Pinellas County Parks. As he explained, the trail came to the attention of the FWC when the existing signs were replaced in a volunteer Boy Scout project within the last year. As best can be determined by anyone at either state or county level, the trail has operated for about a quarter century without ever getting a required permit. The Coast Guard's guide to navigation, the Florida Administrative Code (Ch68D), and Florida Statute 327 mandate that such signs must be 3 feet square, reflective white in color with an international orange border, black block lettering, and a crossed paddle icon. The poles must be wrapped in a 3-inch reflective tape. Consequently Mr. Fowler is applying to the FWC for a permit for the already established trail, and he then plans to petition for a variance to reduce the size of the

signs. As he points out, a 3 by 3 foot sign would completely block the trail in many places. He is confident that the process should be completed in a few months.



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 Andy Bartley email: sailonbear@hotmail.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 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



News & Events Around the State

(updated info in red)

Click on items logo to go directly to there website



Friends of the Island Parks (<http://www.islandparks.org>) supports Caladesi Island State Park and Honeymoon 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 season.
- Visit caladesidiscoverycenter.com to learn about the forthcoming interpretive facility.
- **October 26 & 27 Halloween in the Park**
- **December 1 Honeymoon Island Bluegrass Festival** [more info click here](#)



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>

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)



<http://www.floridapaddlingtrails.com>

The Adventurous Woman. Fishing, Camping, Kayaking, Hikes for women of all skill levels. Meets the 3rd Wednesday at Bill 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



Paddle Florida Paddle Florida is a non-profit corporation that promotes water conservation, wildlife preservation, prings restoration, and waterways protection via fun and educational multi-day paddling trips in Florida's most spectacular river and coastal environments. For trip details and registration, visit <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>

- **Oyster Dome Building October 9th, 11th, 16th and 30th** [for info click here and Here](#)



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://keeptampabaybeautiful.org>
Our mission is to promote a culture of environmental stewardship through volunteer and educational opportunities.



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

- **Oct 20 10am to 3pm Work Day** [for Information click here](#)
- **Nov.3rd & 4th Discover the Island** – [for Information click here](#)



Florida Water Environmental Association: Over 70 years after its creation, FWEA continues to make historic differences in the 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!

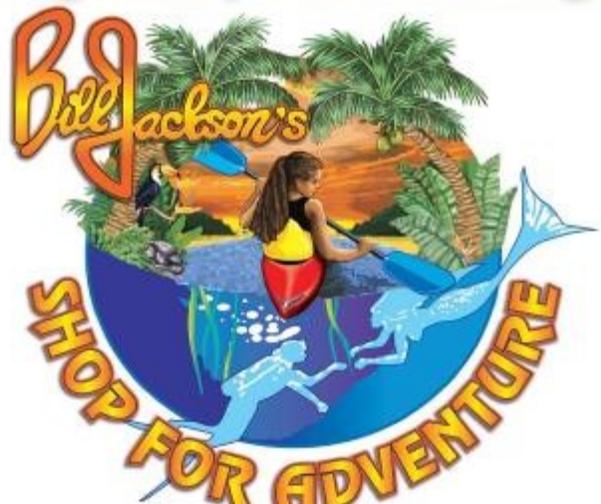
How did new participants find out about the club?

Since early April we have been tracking how new members found out about TBSK. The results so far are:

- Outfitters 3
- Internet Search 3
- A Friend 3
- Other 3
- Facebook 3
- Brochures 3

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Photo by Bill Biles

Info for TBSK.club

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TBSK MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

.No classifieds submitted this month. 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.

Welcome New Members!

- **Ronald Lee**
- **Pat Yadon**

Members that renewed this month:

- **Kenneth Hiller**
- **Melodi Roberts**

Treasurer's Report

2018

Beginning BALANCE	\$4705
INCOME	
Dues	\$65
EXPENSES	
picnic	\$195
Postage	
supplies	
Ending Balance	\$4575



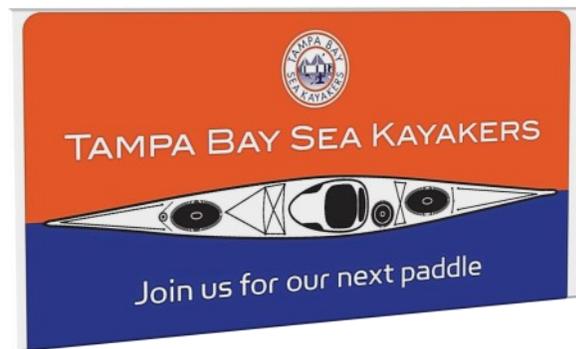


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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
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Photo By Tom Komar at
3 Rooker Bar