

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

December 2020 - Volume 28, Issue 12



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



Hank's Retirement From The TBSK Board



For about the last 20 years I have been on the TBSK board most of those years, being the TBSK president a lot of the time. I really love this club. I love our paddling sport and all the

people associated with it. However, as the song says, "There is a time for every season", and it is time for me to step down and let others lead our club. I will still be around leading trips and helping where ever I can.

I want to thank all the members who have shown that they truly care about our club by their willingness to serve as board members and as trip leaders. I look forward to seeing you on the water and at TBSK social events - when Covid safety permits.

God Bless!!



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TAMPA BAY SEA KAYAKERS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	Dec 1	2 10:00 AM Honeymoon Causeway to South Spoils - Level 2	3	4	5 10:30 AM Pop Stansell to Wall Springs - Level 1+
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 12:30 PM Cooper Bayou to Philippe - Level 1
13	14	15	16 10:00 AM Pelican Cove (Honeymoon) - Level 2	17	18	19 9:30 AM Training Day and EG Simmons Tour
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2



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

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

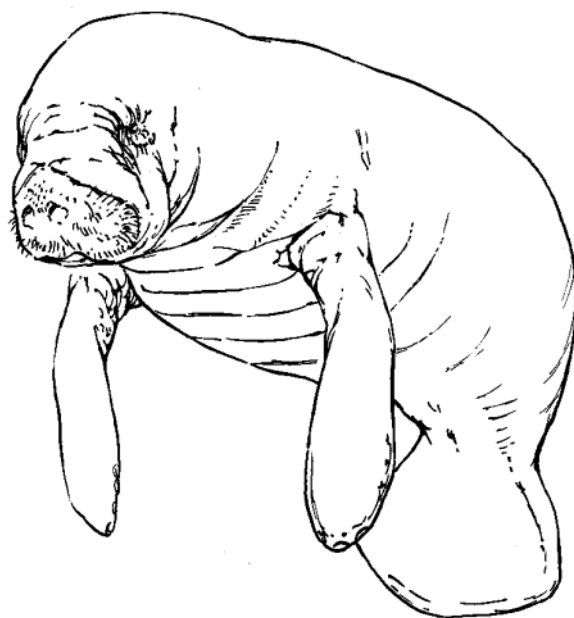


Club Announcements



TBSK Dues To Resume Jan 1, 2021

Thanks for hanging with TBSK thru 2020 and the start of the Covid 19 epidemic. Hopefully a newly announced vaccine will help curtail this disease in the near future. The majority of TBSK expenses will occur at the end of 2020 and the start of 2021. This includes such items as our liability insurance, waiver software and web site software. We have resumed our trip schedule and will be restarting monthly training. Although the monthly picnics are a ways off, we are looking at alternatives there as well. After a lot of discussion, the TBSK board has decided that we need to resume charging dues to our club starting Jan 1, 2021. You will be sent an email when your need to pay your dues. We hope that you understand and will be renewing your membership. We are looking forward to our full TBSK program resuming as soon as possible, keeping safety as a priority. If you have any comments or questions, please contact any TBSK board member.



Ebb & Flow Chassahowitzka Spring Loop

By Therese Eby

Photos By Jan Machnikowski



After feeling trapped for a couple months on dry land, mostly in a dusty woodworking shop, an October outing on the wild Chassahowitzka River would be a joy. Three others joined me – a Homosassa local, Ken Alvord, and Pinellas County compatriots Jan Machnikowski and Dave Schmidt. An unfelt drizzle briefly patterned the still water on our way downstream, but mostly blue skies



prevailed and it was not too hot or muggy. The usual tree full of roosting vultures greeted us. We saw blue crabs and many fish in the clear water near the springs. An eagle flew overhead, and kingfishers, one roseate spoonbill, and plenty of herons dotted the banks. The high tide in the estuary made it possible to paddle above the clawing sea grasses and have fun exploring Salt and Potter Creeks.

We had the place to ourselves until we headed up Bairds Creek to The Crack for lunch. A few recreational paddlers were heading there too – one seated in a lawn chair on a paddle board! We all wondered what had flattened a large swath of reeds along the creek.



We ate lunch on a sandy shelf overlooking the interesting spring. The area had been vegetated the first time I came here ten years ago. Jan enjoyed the pool, toying with the rope swing. The guys picked up quite a haul of cans and bottles from the bushes. We speculated on how an American flag had gotten planted way out on a high oak limb above us.



On our paddle back to the takeout we passed a small motor boat going up little Bairds Creek, tearing up the seagrass with its propeller and heading into the reeds to park. So that is what had flattened the reeds! I noticed new sandy scars in the creek where there once was turtle grass. I felt a spike of anger.



By the time I had reached the raucous black-birds in the reeds along the Chaz I had forgotten the disturbance. But the next time I visit, I may skip The Crack unless I arrive before the yahoos have woken.

But it still beats a woodshop.

P.S. I emailed Crystalriver@fws.gov to inform them about the problem.





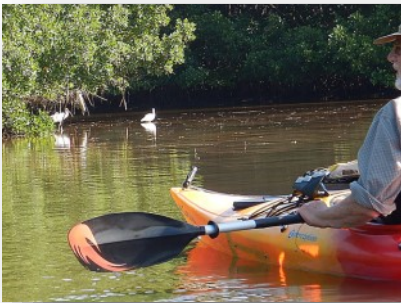
Nice Day For A Paddle & Making Lemonade

By Hank Brooks With Photos By Hank & Anisa Ricci



What did your mom tell you to do when life hands you a bunch of lemons? Why you make lemonade of course. All four of us – Ted Jordan, Anisa Ricci, Mayra Rodriguez and myself were at the put-in on Picnic Island ready to go on time.

However, where was the water? I know I had checked the tides before planning the trip. Low tide was at 7 a.m. and we were supposed to launch



at 10 a.m. It looks like I didn't allow sufficient time for the tide to come in so that we could explore the mangroves – darn it. A post-paddle investigation revealed that you can't use the St. Pete tide chart to predict tides for the Picnic Island area.



It was a beautiful day to paddle, so time to make lemonade! The group was quite adaptable and we switched our launch to the beach next to the Frisbee golf course (about 100 yards away). Launching was easy and we had crisp (as in low humidity) air and a soft breeze of about 7 mph. We decided to paddle around the



peninsula on which the park sits and head over to the area near the mangroves, which is next to McGill Air Force Base. As we approached the mangroves we saw a fairly large group of ibis staying out of the wind. A night heron was prowling the edge of the mangroves – looking for a meal. However, the water was still too low to enter the mangrove trails.



We headed south along the western edge of the mangroves, exploring the different small coves as we went. Then we saw a sign which read, "DANGER! Shooting range, do not proceed". We chose discretion and turned around. It was at this point that we looked west and saw a perfect postcard picture of St. Petersburg. Time to head for our break on "Dead Tree Beach". I call it this because there is – you guessed it – a dead tree is marking the location of the beach. On the way back to the take-out we observed several groups of white pelicans visiting us as "snowbirds" from the



Rescuing Ourselves at TBSK Training Day

by Jill Lingard

Photo's by Jan Machnikowski and Judy Joseph



On the morning of November 21, nine TBSK members gathered at Gandy Beach to practice falling out of their boats and getting back in.

With a hint of fall in the air, little sunshine, and a steady breeze, it wasn't the warmest day to be frolicking about in the water, but that didn't deter these in-

trepid paddlers.

I have an absurd affinity for falling out of and climbing back onto and into kayaks. I feel like a kid playing on monkey bars on a very wet playground. On this day I needed to behave myself a little and coach others on the steps involved in kayak self-rescues. I wasn't alone. ACA-certified instructors



Tom Joseph, Tom Malone, and Scott Jantz joined me to share their wisdom and encouragement.

After demo'ing a wet exit, a cowboy re-entry, and a paddle float assisted re-entry

for the whole group, we split into smaller pods and worked individually on these skills with participants. Some folks had never tried any of these maneuvers.

Many had some familiarity with them, but it had been a while since they'd practiced. So the day was about tuning up those skills.



~Continued on next page~



I was so impressed with everyone's willingness to stretch safely beyond their comfort zones. Just doing a wet exit when you haven't practiced it in a long time can be a nerve-wracking experience. The point of a training day like this is to practice these techniques so that when you go over "for real" you have an ready strategy you can employ to get back in your boat safely and efficiently.

I saw lots of tired, wet smiles at the end of our session. When asked to share some things they learned, participants' answers ranged from "I made the paddle float work for the first time" to "the cowGIRL is for me!" to "I conquered my fears."

Thank you to all the participants and coaches who attended this session, as well as TBSK Training & Safety Coordinator Jean Totz who provides so much valuable mentorship behind the scenes. Our next training day will take place on December 19 and will focus on fine-tuning forward and sweep strokes. We aim to offer kayak training every month, and I'm sure we'll return to rescues again as we ALL need to continue our practice of those. These sessions are open to all levels of paddlers and kayaks.

Speaking of training, there's another wonderful opportunity coming up on December 12 led by TBSK member Steve Henkind. In his new Medical Incident Management for Kayakers course, Steve will apply the basics of first aid to the paddling world. All paddlers will benefit from this training, but I think it would be especially useful for TBSK trip leaders. For more details, contact Steve at steven.henkind@gmail.com.





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 to there general 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.



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>



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/>)

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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

Support our sponsors!

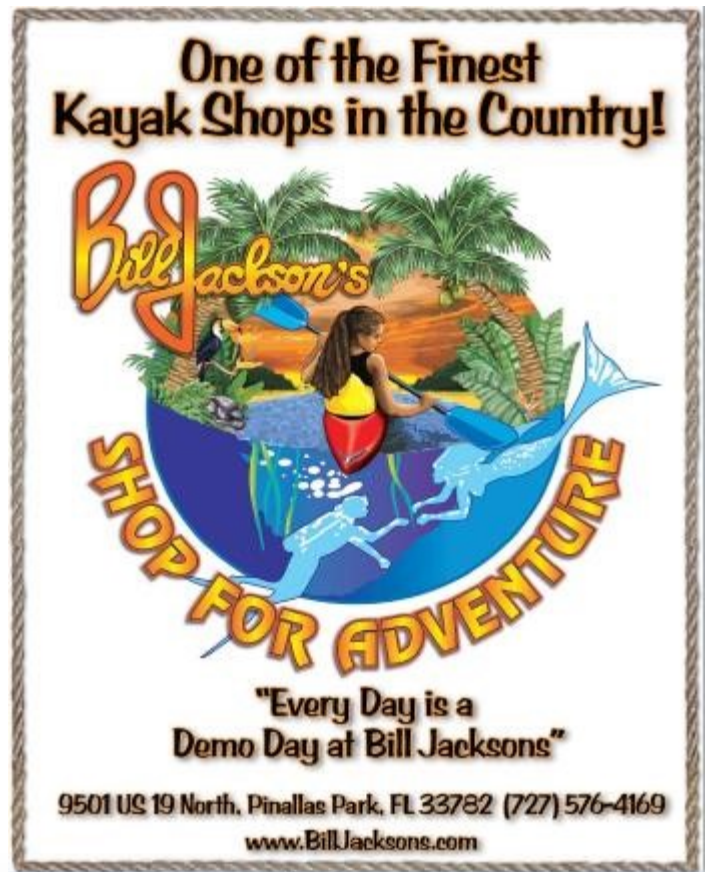


Photo by Bill Biles

Info for TBSK.club

Board Members

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President

Tom Joseph 813-504-5785
tjoseph10@live.com

Vice President

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altillson@yahoo.com

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Jean Totz
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Activities Coordinators

VACANT

Webmaster

Dave Schmidt 608-842-0135
Dave2Kayak@yahoo.com

Secretary/ Treasurer

Mark Bastille 813-417-3434
ketch1800@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor & Social Media

Bill Biles 727 204 5511
wcbiles@gmail.com

Welcome New Members!

- Douglas, Kelly, and Shamus Clark
- Christopher Leff
- John and Nanci Lutz
- Debra Moran
- James Trimarco
- Robert Wilson

Links to Info on Website

Determining your Skills Level
[Skill Assessment chart](#)

Paddle Signals To Use on a Trip
[Paddle Signals](#)

[Safety Tips](#)

[Hypothermia and Heat Stress](#)

Tides and Weather Information

- ♦ NOAA tides for Florida <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/map/index.shtml?region=Florida>,
- ♦ Additional Florida tide data <http://www.saltwatertides.com/dynamic.dir/floridagulfsites.html>,

NOAA forecasts for area, marine zone and point (via map click). In text and hourly graphic formats. www.weather.gov,

Animated radar for Tampa Bay and coast. <http://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/weather>

The Weather Channel, news and fore-

Water Quality Information

Find out if it is safe to paddle

Florida Healthy Beaches Program ~ Florida Department of Health; [Website Here](#)

City of St. Petersburg; [Water Quality website](#)

Tampa Bay Waterkeeper – [Swim Guide](#);

FWC Red Tide Current Status [Red Tide Guide](#)



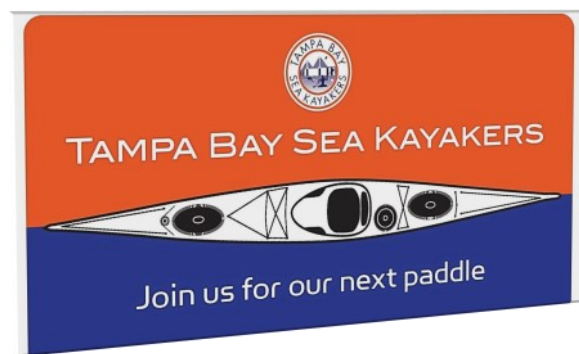


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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**



Photo by Cynthia McGreg-