

West Michigan Coastal Kayaker



WMCKA is affiliated with the ACA through it's Paddle America program

WMCKA wmcka.org
WEST MICHIGAN COASTAL KAYAKERS ASSOCIATION

The Newsletter of the
West Michigan
Coastal Kayaker's Association

Late Summer 2006

Volume 11 Number 4

How a Twinkie Helped Me Fight My Fear

By Julia Meier

- 1 Step out of your comfort zone.
- 2 Work through your fear.

I have heard these quotes, have seen them on bumper stickers, have read in articles, and boy did they fit my first experience with WMCKA Paddlers during their infamous "Twinkie Weekend" on Kathy and Phil Smith's land. You see, give me a stage (I'm a Sweet Adeline) or a classroom full of hormonal 13 year olds, and I am at home--in my comfort zone. Give me something physical or sports-like, and I am a full-fledged klutz. However, this weekend proved to me that I COULD step out of my comfort zone, work through my fear, and LOVE it!

It all began with a continuous series of crazy scenarios starting with Pam and Dan's near blow-out because of a huge bulge in the side wall of their new front truck tire and their defective spare tire to Julie and David's humongous aircraft carrier (Ooops, I mean their motor home) barely making it up the entrance road. It was so close to blocking it, which would've trapped us campers and the AAA guy (Thanks, On Star!) who was working on those tires. With all the laughter and people helping the ones in need, I knew I was with a wonderful and fun group of people.

Later that evening, good luck returned when about a dozen of us headed for a moonlight paddle on Crystal Lake. Oh,



Moolight Paddle on Crystal Lake

Photo by Kathy Eardley

my--the water was smooth as glass, the moon was glowing, the sky was full of sparkling stars, and a happy group of kayakers were we. What a beautiful intro into night paddling, with a wrap-up around the campfire listening to the songs of the coyotes. There was no fear

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Anne Keith (left) – Turning Julia's world upside down. Photo by Nick Meier

this night.

However, the next morning, Ann Keith announced that we could all caravan to Lower Herring Lake, practice our wet exits and entrances, and then we could paddle across to the big lake- Lake Michigan and...whoa! Did she just say "wet exits and entrances?" Now the fear began to creep into the tiny crevices of my brain, but I kept it at bay as my husband, Nick, and I unloaded the boats.

As I guided my kayak out toward Ann and climbed in, I still tried to keep calm knowing that I needed to do this for my

(Continued on page 5)

Kayak for Light 2006

By Mary Ann Ellickson

Approximately 18 sight-impaired or blind people and 27 guides gathered at Ramona Park, near Kalamazoo, Michigan, for the annual event. It was a day made in paradise, sunny with a slight breeze. The atmosphere was relaxed, and all participants seemed to enjoy the day. This event is so enjoyed by the visually impaired and the guides, as well as the support staff. Following are some quotes from participants.

Adam Huber - 1st year Guide - "Kayak for Light changes your perspective and allows you to appreciate things that are usually taken for granted."

Steve Hope - 4th year guide - "I get so much from the people I guide. Overall, Kayak for Light is such a positive experience."

Janet Short - 1st year Launch Team Member - "As a launch team member we help coordinate getting canes folded, life jackets on, and watching from the shore to make sure everyone is safe, etc. It is such a positive experience and I plan to come again."



Getting ready to launch at Ramona Park

Photo by Chris Huntoon

Rick Klitchman - 1st year Launch Team Member - "I really enjoyed meeting the many nice people. It is truly a great opportunity to interact in a positive way. I intend to come again. It is so neat to witness the sharing that goes on between the visually impaired, their guides and other helpers."

Fred Olmsted - 6th year guide - "It is a fun event to be around, and there is great support from both people and businesses. And, all of us are one step away from living this experience as a visually-impaired participant".

Dave Moreland - 4th year guide and also a guide for Ski for Light (Kayak for Light was born out of Ski for Light, which matches visually-impaired skiers with sighted guides and was started in Norway at the turn of the 20th century) - "This is such a fun event with good company, and I like the attitude the visually-impaired bring, like pushing past their barriers. I enjoy sharing this experience with them."

Georgia Kitchen - 3rd year blind participant - "I like being out-

doors and trying something new and meeting new people. Everyone is so kind and polite and helpful, yet, not too helpful, allowing those of us who are visually-impaired to have this experience by coming along side and helping where needed. I guess it is evident I very much enjoy this, since I got on a bus in Flint to Lansing early this morning, and then rode here with someone who kindly transported me to Kayak for Light. It will



A paddler enjoys the day at Kayak for Light.

Photo by Chris Huntoon

be a long day by the time I arrive home. Will I come again? Yes!"

This event is so special and so appreciated and could not happen without the support of: Lee's Fun and Adventure Store, Portage, Michigan, that brings in kayaks and equipment, as well as helpers. West Michigan Coastal Kayakers Association, that co-sponsors the event with Lee's. Bob and Kathy Burmania and their crew, who donate their time and the yummy food for lunch at each event.

Thanks for a wonderful Kayak for Light 2006! I hope to see you all next year, and bring your friends!



Picnic Tables + WMCKA = FOOD!

Photo by Chris Huntoon

Nine Days on Georgian Bay

By Val Rossman

It was a lucky weather window that we chose from Aug. 10th to the 18th to paddle the 30,000 island area of the Georgian Bay without a significant drop of rain. Thirty mile per hour winds over a hazardous shoal covered area off the north end of Big McCoy did keep us wind bound for a couple of days. But our memories will be of clear green water, campsites with a view and granite hopping island hiking. It was while listening to Michael Gray at the symposium talking about Great Lakes paddling destinations that I got the bug to head to the Georgian Bay.

We (3 of us, myself, Vera Tiani and Dan Shuppert of N. Indiana) used the Guide to Sea Kayaking Lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario, Route 6, the Mink and McCoys Island Group, as our basic starting reference. We also talked to White Squall, a well known and very well equipped kayak outfitter in the area, a couple of times and stopped by their shop to purchase a great map of the area which a friendly employee marked with some choice campsites for us. We chose the Mink and McCoy Island group over the Massasauga Provincial Park also in the same Parry Sound area as by most reports the Mink/McCoys are more open with a greater feeling of being out on the Georgian Bay while the Massasauga offers very protected paddling and camp site reservations are needed. Differing from the book we launched and parked at Snug Harbor which has free parking but tight launching facilities.

This island chain has "crown land" which is supposed to require a permit for non-Canadians to utilize it but camping is pretty much allowed on any island that doesn't have a cabin on it. The White Squall folks told us that no one heeds the crown land camp permit thing. When we bought our fishing licenses in Parry Sound (a significantly sized town where any last forgotten supplies could be purchased) the store listed crown land camping permits on their sign but employees had no idea what they even were or that they even sold them! Nine days of free parking and free camping too! Helped take the bite out of the gas bill for the 8 hour drive up there!

We paddled the route clockwise and added a side trip south to the Snake islands as well as a total circumnavigation of Franklin Island in addition to what the book laid out. The largest open crossings were exposed mostly to southerly winds but were only about 3 miles long other than that loads of islands and shoals can offer wind and wave protection. We completed what is known as the "big loop" about 1 ½ times (45 miles total) and staying away from Franklin Island (nearest large island

to the mainland) on the weekends. Launching mid-week also kept us a way from some of the weekender traffic crowding the Snug Harbor & Franklin Island area.

Rattlesnakes do inhabit the islands and are protected. Seasoned paddlers we met claimed to never have seen one in 20 years but we did make a brief sighting one morning on a hike. We witnessed from 3 feet away a hungry mink nab and feast on a less fortunate frog and I got video of it. We had a couple significant pickings of wild blue berries with a few black berries for snacking. A few evening mosquitos and nesting spiders were small irritants only. Fishing wasn't worth the price of the licenses. Locals also confirmed that the area doesn't have

great fishing any more. Dan won our big (and only) fish contest with his 2 inch perch the last day.

Camping is all on granite giving a sense of radiant heat floors in your tent and is not nearly as hard and uncomfortable as it sounds. I utilized only 1 tent stake in a week and that was to jam in a granite crack to tie off my tent. Other than that we anchored tent lines to small rocks. Rings of rocks helped us identify from the water sites that had been used by previous campers. Taking basic precautions we had no critter or bear issues with our food. A late afternoon skinny dip in warm water



Granite countertops (and floors) come standard with every Georgian Bay campsite.

Photo by Val Rossman

became ritual.

The first "good thing" of the trip was the "squaller hauler" made famous by White Squall Outfitters. It is a 12 inch chunk of 2x4 you keep handy to throw down on the granite pull-outs to haul the keel line of your boat over to move the boat up and down. Great idea for someone like me pulling a prissy hand made wooden boat up on granite for an extended trip and I used 2 squaller haulers. The second good thing was my friend Vera's home dried little key lime slices—fabulous for the daily water bottles! The 3rd good thing was discovering a great camp recipe for salmon tacos. The final good thing was the great whitefish basket and cold microbrew available at Gilly's (a small restaurant at the launch area) upon our return.

I won't take up any more newsletter space but am happy to talk to anyone in detail about the trip, the salmon taco recipe or share GPS way points of some of our favorite camping spots. We're already discussing another paddle in these "crown jewels." Val Rossman, vrossman@cbpu.com.

The Presidents View from the Bay

By Al Anderson, WMCKA President



As summer reaches the top of the ninth inning here in the land-of-many-waters, the pace of relaxation has hit a fever pitch. Fudgies and Lakies are vacationing as fast as they can, often taxing the servile deportment of the locals who provide hospitality. Fuel prices have reduced the cruise boat population in the bay, but the serious hookers seem able to pony up for gas for the charter boats. I recall charter skippers complaining about "working to break even" back in the days when pump prices were well below the \$2 mark. I wonder if anyone has ever tried to calculate the per-pound cost of sport-caught fish from charters statewide (dollars spent/pound of fish). Next time I crank open a \$1.99 can of salmon, I'll thank my lucky

stars that I'm not addicted to cranking the fishing reel.

The umpteenth annual Frankfort Paddling Weekend and Twinkie Conflagration was a great success this year, with a lot of first timers on hand. The weather was perfect and the food was great. Special thanks to Phil and Kathy Smith once again for the use of the meadow on their property.

The Platte River weekend is Sept. 15-17. We're hoping for fair weather, tons of spawning salmon and a good turnout. Paddle safely, and we'll see you there.

Al

Upcoming WMCKA Events – In Detail

September 15-17 – Platte River End O' Summer Gathering

This event, usually blessed with lovely summer weather, is generally held in Mid-September to coincide with the salmon running up the Platte River.

Most people stay at the Platte River Campground, located on the southern portion of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park. Camp reservations can be made by calling 1-800-365-CAMP or online at www.nps.gov/slbe/camp_res.htm

On Saturday morning, paddlers gather at the Big Platte Lake launch site, located on Arborvitae Road, about ½ mile east of M-22, and just south of the river. After crossing Big Platte Lake, participants float down the Platte River, observing the salmon swimming up-river. Upon arriving at the mouth of the Platte River at Lake Michigan, some paddlers continue out onto the lake, and others enjoy the beach. Bring a sack lunch, which will be consumed somewhere along the river at one of the numerous put-in spots.

On Saturday evening, most people get together and go into either Empire or Glen Arbor for dinner. After dinner, there is usually a campfire and story-swapping back at the campground.

Directions: The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Campground is located along M-22, approximately 22 miles west of Traverse City and along the Platte River. There are two campgrounds in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, but most paddlers stay at the Platte River Campground, which is closest to Big Platte Lake and the paddle the next day. For further information, contact any WMCKA

Officer or Board member listed on page 7.

September 22-24 — Wind, Waves, & Wine

This is the second annual Flotnar, ((Old Norse Word for seafarer)/ assembly. The gang will converge on Wilderness State Park to paddle Lake Michigan, take on the wind, the waves, and camp at the State Park. Make your reservations today. Please note: this is an open water outing with cold water, and possibility for high wind and waves, dress for immersion, and be prepared to get wet.

An attempt will be made at a communal meal in the proverbial mead hall on Saturday Night. So bring out that special back-country recipe to impress your friends and frighten your enemies. If you have questions email: keith.wikle@wmcka.org

October 6-8 — Annual Meeting and Paddling Weekend.

The annual meeting and paddling weekend is generally held the second weekend of October at the Northern Exposure Campground. The campground is located on the Hodenpyle Dam, which is on the Manistee River. The Hodenpyle Dam is approximately 6 miles long and about a mile wide. It is surrounded by beautiful pine and hardwood forests. The dam waters are clean and clear. In addition to paddling on the dam, there is an opportu-

nity to paddle on the Manistee River above or below the dam. This would be an option in the event of extremely windy or inclement weather. For anyone interested in paddling on Lake Michigan, it is approximately 25 minutes to a launch site.

The campground itself will have numerous open sites. During October, very few other campers will be found at Northern Exposure. The campground manager has reserved an entire section of the campground exclusively for the WMCKA event. Each site has piped-in water and electric. There will be reduced rates to WMCKA members, and both tent and RV sites are available. There are excellent launch opportunities at every single waterfront site. This campground has newly paved black-top access roads, and numerous hiking trails on the camp property, as well as access to the North Country trail nearby. The campground management is extremely friendly, and educated by our esteemed member, Lynn Dominguez.

On Saturday evening, WMCKA will provide a main course for dinner for a donation, and attendees are requested to bring a side dish, such as salads, potatoes, vegetables, or desserts.

Although there should be no problem with last-minute arrivals, campground management recommends calling ahead for reservations and using the WMCKA name to ensure that everyone is in the same area. Normally, there is a \$4 fee for day visitors, BUT this fee has been waived for the WMCKA event. There are no parking restrictions at Northern Exposure, so we should have no problem accommodating any day visitors.

Night Kayaking in a Bioluminescent Bay

By Steve Adsmund, WMCKA Vice President

Brenda and I had an awesome vacation to Puerto Rico that we will not soon forget. This was our first trip without kids so I imagined prior to the trip that we would relax and get plenty of sleep on this vacation. That idea was out the window the night we arrived. We were at a resort located near Fajardo, a city located at the northeast corner of Puerto Rico. Since we don't often get to take night paddling trips, we signed up for a kayak tour to the Bioluminescent Bay.

We misunderstood the meeting spot for this tour and arrived at the ocean side park almost an hour late, having missed the kayak101 safety class. After convincing the guides that we were experienced and could handle the sit-on-top doubles that the tour group was using, the group of twenty people in ten kayaks headed out across a bay into a narrow river through the mangrove swamp. This is the only inlet of water to the lagoon, which supplies the correct mixture of fresh and salt wa-

ter to the bioluminescent bay. The narrow river was about a half mile in length and as we got closer to the bay we smelled sulfur and began to see a glow in the water as our paddles churned the water. It was a florescent green color that you couldn't miss.

We arrived at the bay and rafted up all the kayaks. As we sat still on the water the fish began to feed. Everywhere the fish darted you would see a bright green jet stream streak across the water. We didn't see the fish, just the streak of light as they darted through the water. We had an excellent guide who explained that the florescent color is actually bioluminescence generated by microscopic organisms in the water. It is believed to be part of a natural defense system triggered by the movement of predators. Many scientists believe the tiny organisms light up so their predators can see more desirable prey – and thus leave them alone.

Twinkie

(Continued from page 1)

own safety. As Ann was explaining the first step, I remember I took a few calm, deep breaths, knowing that Nick and Ann were right there; and, just did it--went over! WOW! It was not as bad as I had imagined at all. And we practiced many more times. Ann also told me that every time I go out in the future, I should do these wet exits and entrances until they become automatic. (Thank you, Ann!)

The rest of the day was both exhilarating (LOVED those Lake Michigan waves, right Kathleen?!) and relaxing on the beach for lunch while listening to stories of those more adventurous types (That's you Val and Dottie!). There were around a total of 35 people that day, ages ranging from 14 weeks old (Yes, 14 weeks!) to about 63 years old. How cool is that?

Well, the grand finale was our evening Mexican potluck, 50's music, and "The Conflagration of the Twinkie." Bonfire! Torches! Looked like the set of "Survivor!" Al told the history of the Twinkie, how around 1988, someone brought a case of Twinkies to share, but there were no takers, resulting in the sacrifice of one lonely Twinkie to the flames. Thus the WMCKA Annual Twinkie Weekend was born. It all ended with Bill Keith reading [Jack Voss's] parody of Robert Service's

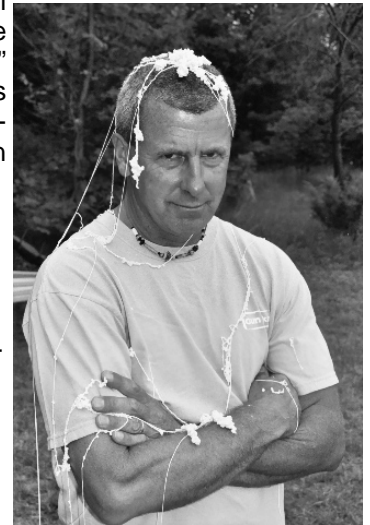


Bill reading "The Cremation of Same Twinkie"

Photo by Nick Meier

"The Cremation of Sam McGee" to "The Cremation of Sam Twinkie." What a hoot this all was. We were even visited the next morning by "Sam Twinkie" himself. So many felt this was one of the best Twinkie Weekends yet, and in the anticipation of even better ones in the future.

As for me---a novice to kayaking---I fought the fear and survived. So did the Twinkie. In fact, I am planning on going with Nick up to Platt River in September for the annual kayaking with the salmon. So, look out salmon, here I come!



Sam Twinkie after a cream filling malfunction.
Photo Nick Meier



Paddlers take a break at Lake Michigan.

Photo by Nick Meier

South Manitou Island

By Jack Keyes

One of the reasons I got into Touring Kayaks is my two loves; the first is camping and the second is seeing new places and things. I am planning on island hopping with my wife in our kayaks as soon as we are ready. So I took my wife to South Manitou Island May 19th to the 22nd to show her what real backpack camping was like. We didn't paddle, but took the ferry out of Leland. We stayed at the Bay campsite and were the first ones to go to South this year. The island is a carpet of the greatest variety of trilliums in the great lakes; it is also home of the largest white cedar trees in the world. Some of the highest perched dunes in the great lakes are found here as well as the highest lighthouse in the great lakes. The island is home to one of the largest gull rookeries and shipwrecks around the island are due to the channel being one of the most dangerous passageways for shipping in the world. It is also part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. I took some photos that I will be posting on the website soon to show you why this is one of my most favorite places in the world.

Winnie is now pricing out a new full frame pack and wants to go to North Manitou. She is also training hard with me, when we can, to get our paddling skills to where we feel comfortable paddling large stretches of open water. We might not reach these goals right away, but we are working on them.

Classified Ads

Non-commercial "For Sale" and "Wanted" ads are available for WMCKA members and other area clubs. Each ad will appear for **two issues** unless the individual placing the ad notifies the editor otherwise. Ads should be submitted in electronic format to the editor at:

karl.geisel@wmcka.org

Betsie Bay Recluse - Fiberglass. \$1100. Kayaksport round hatches. Cockpit cover. Towline eye and cleat. Contact: Steve at adsmond@comcast.net 231-924-3719.

Folbot Expedition Greenland II – Folding tandem kayak. Excellent condition, lots of extras. Asking \$1,200. Contact Vikki at 248.666.2224 or vmaks@comcast.net for more details.

Wilderness Systems Sparrow Hawk. Fiberglass. 16'6" Off white top and bottom with teal trim. About 40 to 45 pounds. Used slightly. Neoprene spray skirt & cockpit cover included. \$1,500. Contact Susan at 616-538-1759.

Annual Meeting – Pig Roast!

Here are some additional details for the Mesick Event in October 6-8:

Annual Meeting Saturday night at 6:00PM at Northern Exposure Campground. Pig Roast – Potluck to follow (at approximately 6:30PM). \$5 donation for adults, kids under 12 eat free. **You must RSVP by September 22nd to Bill/Anne Keith 231.779.4349 or elfman@netonecom.net.**

Campground rates at Northern Exposure are the best bargain in town!

Back sites - \$11 per night
Waterfront sites - \$13 per night
Pull-through sites - \$16 per night
Please be sure to call for reservations 800.563.7425.

The daily fee for non-campers has been waived for the WMCKA event. Unlimited free parking, also for WMCKA.

For those of you who'd rather sleep in a solid framed building (with heat), there are two motels in Mesick:
- The Mushroom Cap (Ph# 231.885.1222)
- The Village Motel (Ph# 231.885.1370).

Paddling, hiking and biking throughout the weekend.

Sunday – 10 mile hike w/ WeMOGs (see events on last page).



Never too Early.

Photo by Nick Meier

Bioluminescence Bay

(Continued from page 5)

Our guide explained that these organisms are all over the world, but only in a few locations do they number 1 million organisms per gallon, to light up the water so vibrantly. We reached into the water and stirred it up, creating a glowing pool in the water that disappeared the second we stopped disturbing the water. The guide also explained that certain things like boat motor exhaust and DEET kill off the organisms, which have caused other bioluminescent bays to lose their ability to glow. They continue the conservation effort to make motor boats and swimming in the bay illegal to protect the water for future generations to enjoy. Even with these efforts, we were exposed to a stinky outboard motor moments after leaving the bay on our return voyage.

The paddle back up the narrow river through the mangroves was the grand finale for the trip. When we reached a point about halfway, our guide told the person in the rear of each double to turn on the flashlight located near their seat and shine it up in the overhanging trees. His light located a Tree

Iguana sleeping on a horizontal branch overhanging the river. As I slowly paddled the kayak from the front, Brenda hunted the Iguanas with her flashlight. They varied in size from about 15 inches up to the size of medium alligators! With their jagged spines on the back and tail, they resembled Komodo Dragons. Brenda spotted a dozen of the beasts and they were simply lying on the branches, dangling their legs off the sides as they slept. She kept warning me to not paddle underneath them, just in case they lost their balance!

If your travels take you to Puerto Rico, don't miss this amazing kayak adventure.

WMCKA Board of Directors

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Al Anderson	231.352.7774	bbkayak@betsievalley.net
Vice Pres.	Steven Adsmond	231.924.3719	adsmond@comcast.net
Secretary	Julie Stevens	989.828.5783	steven49@msu.edu
Treasurer	Frits Kwant	616.956.6125	frits@iserv.net
At Large 1	Bob Burmania	616.682.0640	
At Large 2	Keith Wikle	269.342.0442	keith.wikle@wmcka.org
At Large 3	Bill Keith	231.779.4349	elfman@netonecom.net

WMCKA Non Board Positions

Sympos. Chair	Lynn Dominguez	989.774.7305	Domin1LA@cmich.edu
Web Guy	Keith Wikle	269.342.0442	keith.wikle@wmcka.org
Newsletter	Karl Geisel	616.452.3239	karl.geisel@wmcka.org

SUBMISSIONS

Articles, photos, trip reports, announcements for trips or any other materials relating to kayaking are welcome for submission. Electronic media is preferred (plain text, or MS Word format please).

Materials are subject to editing.

Send to: karl.geisel@wmcka.org

Submissions for the Spring WMCKA Newsletter need to be received before:

October 28, 2006

WMCKA Membership Form

- Address change
- New Member
- Renewal

Please select a Membership option:

- WMCKA Individual (\$15/yr)
- WMCKA Family (\$20/yr)
- WMCKA & ACA Individual (\$45/yr)
- WMCKA & ACA Family (\$60/yr)
(Dual WMCKA/ACA Memberships
Include 1 year of Paddler Magazine)

Please make checks payable to WMCKA.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- I would like my name, phone # and e-mail address included in the WMCKA membership directory sent to members each year.

Mail To: WMCKA
c/o Karl Geisel
1900 Clearbrook SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

A word about WMCKA events

These events are gatherings of paddlers who share an interest in kayaking and spending social time together. They are open to all interested individuals of any (or no) skill level. There are no leaders, lifeguards, or anyone else responsible the safety of those who choose to participate. Everyone is responsible for his/her own safety and is expected to use common sense and good judgement both on and off the water. Neither WMCKA nor any of its individual members can be responsible for the safety of those attending club events.

Aug-06

Event Calendar

September 15-17

End-o-Summer

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park. It begins with a paddle across Big Platte Lake, followed by a float down the Platte River to Lake Michigan. It is timed to hopefully coincide with the running of the salmon up the river. For more information, contact any WMCKA officer or Board member.

September 22-24

Wind, Waves, & Wine

Wilderness State Park

This is the second annual Flotnar, (Old Norse Word for seafarer) assembly. The gang will converge on Wilderness State Park to paddle Lake Michigan, take on the wind, the waves, and camp at the State Park. Make your reservations today. Please note: this is an open water outing with cold water, and possibility for high wind and waves, dress for

immersion, and be prepared to get wet.

An attempt will be made at a communal meal in the proverbial mead hall on Saturday Night. So bring out that special backcountry recipe to impress your friends and frighten your enemies. If you have questions email: keith.wikle@wmcka.org

October 6-8

WMCKA Annual Meeting

The final event of the paddling year. Along with paddling and camaraderie, we hold our annual meeting at this time. We gather on Friday night at the Northern Exposure Campground near Mesick, Michigan, and a number of paddling venues are available for kayaking on Saturday. Saturday evening will consist of a main course supplied by WMCKA for a donation, followed by the annual meeting. For further information, contact either Bill or Anne Keith at 231-779-4349, or email at elfman@netonecom.net

October 8

WeMOG 10 Mile Hike

10 mile hike along the Manistee River between Seaton Creek Camp Ground & Red Bridge on Coates Rd.

The trail is along the river bluff & there are 4 small water falls that tumble into the river. It also includes an approach to a suspension bridge known as "Little Mac" which leads to the North Country Trail on the opposite side of the river. Hopefully the leaves will have turned & the trail will provide magnificent views.

We will be ready to spot a car @ about 10:00 a.m. & begin hiking shortly thereafter.

Carry lunch & water.

Contact Mary Payne @ 231-773-6986

Winter Pool Sessions

Details to come!

80508
Grand Rapids MI 49508
1900 Clearbrook SE
c/o Karl Geisel

