

Meeting Minutes for the Everett Mountaineers Sea Kayaking program
Thursday October 20, 2022 from 7pm to 8pm on Zoom

Attendees: Doug Palm, Debbie Palm, Bill Coady, Michele Coady, Donna Garland, Doug Garland, Dan Hale, Wendi Hale, Cathie Frizalone, Charlie Garrett (class of 2022), Robert Christensen, Sara Rosenbloom.

Welcome back, everyone! After taking a break from Zoom for a busy summer of paddling and other activities, it's time to get back to the business of monthly meetings!

First up, introductions as we have some new members present.

Captured wish list items:

- Most said they wanted something to the effect of "more kayaking," including roll practice and more trips.
- Donna and Doug are interested in an expedition to Broughton Archipelago and Johnstone Strait (DP sez: hope they organize this as a Mountaineers trip!!!)

The group welcomed our newest member, Robert Christensen, an experienced sea kayaker and North Sound Sea Kayaking Association (NSSKA) member. He's also a Mountaineer and recently attained equivalency.

Charlie talked about the wooden Chesapeake Shearwater kayak he's building and shared pix: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/GZw3vUNXPLckgejt7>

New agenda items? You've all had a chance to look over the items on this month's agenda. Before I get started, let me take a moment to ask if there are any new topics anyone wants to add.

No new topics added.

Now, let's move on to our agenda for tonight's meeting: Bill Coady summarized the statistics for the class. Of the initial 16 signed up, two dropped out early, two decided not to complete the requirements, four plan to finish their two required student paddles in 2023, and ten completed their required paddles to earn the Mountaineers Basic Sea Kayaking badge.

- Thanks to those who helped with the EMSK 2022 Basic Sea Kayaking course. First, many, many thanks to Bill Coady for leading the restart of the EMSK's Basic Sea Kayaking course this year. Many thanks as well to all the volunteers who helped with the course. In particular:
 - Cathie Frizalone and Diego Gabrieli, our fearless Coassemble online course development team. They coordinated the conversion of much of the lecture portion of the course to an online format we used this year and something we will continue to use going forward.
 - John Morton, Yana Radenska, Dan Hale, and Donna Garland, our eloquent and meticulous self and assisted rescue trainers. Their clear and patient instruction helped course participants develop self and assisted rescue skills.
 - And the many others who helped with this year's course, including: Wendi Hale, Michele Coady, Tamber & Justin Sylvestal, Marie Mills, Kirsten Morton, Sarah Rosenbloom, Jeff

Bossart, Judith Turley, Doug & Donna Garland, Terence Soh, Bradley Mitchell, and Derek Coffman.

- Plans for the EMSK 2023 Basic Sea Kayaking course - turn over to Cathie Frizalone
- Cathie's comments are captured in this slide she shared.
- Some changes include moving navigation to more formal lecture sessions and use video recordings of sessions like 22 essentials.
- Contact past students for to volunteer to help with the course.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. The main window displays a PowerPoint slide titled "Course Overview - draft". The slide content is as follows:

- Train the trainer
 - 3/25, 3/26, 4/1, 4/2 (?)
- Classroom Session – Taylor Landing (?)
 - Thursday April 6, 2023 (?)
 - Add intro section
 - Remove live clothing demo
 - Increase RR time to 20 min ea, add drysuits ... to station 3.
- Zoom Session - [LINK](#)
 - Thursday April 13, 2023 (?)
 - Add more formal navigation learning?
- Pool Party – Lake Stevens HS (?)
 - Saturday April 15, 2023 (?)
 - Add ability to peel off either strongest or weakest students mid-session?
- Zoom Session - [LINK](#)
 - Thursday April 20, 2023 (?)
 - Add more formal navigation learning?
- Open Water – Lake Sammamish SP (?)
 - Saturday April 29, 2023 (?)

On line modules due at various times during the month

The slide also features an image of a person in a yellow kayak on a wooden dock. The Zoom interface shows a toolbar with options like Mute, Stop Video, Share Content, Participants, and Leave. At the bottom, there are five video thumbnails for participants: Doug Palm, Robert Christensen, Charlie, cathie, and Dan and Wendi Hale.

Review of 2022 EMSK Activities - So far for 2022, EMSK trip leaders have posted and led 14 official Mountaineers activities - for full details see https://www.mountaineers.org/activities/activities#b_start=0&c4=Sea+Kayaking&c6=2022-01-01&c6=2022-12-31

- English Boom to Stanwood February 25 DP
- Train-the-Trainer Clinic March 27 BC
- Skagit/Hope May 15 DP
- Saddlebag Island May 22 BM
- Annual EMSK Baker Lake Camping and Kayaking Shindig July 8-10 DP
- Saddlebag Island July 24 DG

- Chuckanut Bay July 30 BC
- Eagle Harbor to Port Blakey August 10 BC
- Burrows & Allan Islands August 14 BC
- Skagit/Hope Islands August 21 DP
- Camano Island: Cavalero Beach to Barnum Point and back September 1 DP
- Deception Pass: practice in the ebb at Canoe Pass September 3 DP
- Chuckanut Bay September 10 DP
- Camano Island: Tillicum Beach to Camano Head and back October 11 DP

Share your 2022 summer SK adventures! Let us know about other sea kayaking trips and activities you participated in this year!

- Record report outs here.
- Bill, Debbie, and Doug participated in paddle and cookout event co-hosted by the Washington Water Trails Association and the North Sound Sea Kayakers Association at Kayak Point, on Port Susan. They met several Mountaineers paddlers who are members of NSSKA and interested in Mountaineers Basic SK badge equivalency, our newest member, Robert Christensen among them. Inspired the idea for an EMSK group equivalency event to help more of those NSSKA/Mountaineers achieve equivalency that Rob King is now considering.

Advanced training for EMSK trip leaders -

- At the end of 2021, the Everett Executive Committee president (Elaina Jorgensen) arranged with HQ to give EMSK a \$2000 credit to be used for advanced training for our trip leaders and prospective trip leaders.
- Dan Hale coordinated the effort and arranged for three sets of courses through Body Boat Blade.
- The first two courses were on Incident Management, conducted in current and windy conditions near Burrows Island.
- The third course was on paddling in current, conducted on a neap ebb at Canoe Pass.
- That third class was used as a model for the Deception Pass area practice in currents activity offered by the EMSK late this summer.
- It seems likely we could leverage what was learned in the Incident Management courses to develop our own new version. If anyone is interested in working on this, please let me know.
- We have no word on whether HQ will grant more funding for such advanced training in 2023 and I'm hopeful to get clarification before the year is out. If we get it, Doug will be looking for someone to coordinate the training for late winter/early spring.

Ideas for incorporating educational presentations in our monthly meetings -

- NSSKA meetings feature educational presentations during the meetings, a popular feature with the group.
- Doug attended one of their meetings where they had invited a member of the Everett Power Squadron to talk about the use of VHF marine radios.
- Offering training segments to EMSK meetings could be a great addition to our meetings and

might help us draw more participants.

- Make training topic the main topic of the meeting. 20-30 minutes.
- Considerations for other in-meeting educational segments might include:
- Crossing shipping traffic lanes
- Kayak & gear manufacturer presentations
- Strategies for paddling in fog or limited visibility (when it can't be avoided)
- Go/no go decision making process
- Trip planning: currents and tides
- Trip planning: Using weather information sources for trip planning
- Trip planning: navigating with chart and compass.
- Trip planning: navigating with apps
- Trip planning: laying out a course
- Trip planning: Camping for sea kayakers
- Trip planning: Considerations for multi-day trip planning
- Trip planning: Getting deeper into DeepZoom
- Suggestions welcome!
- Dealing with multiple information sources on currents, tides, weather, etc.
- Whats in your ... PFD, Repair Kit, Ditch bag.... What to look for when buying... VHF, Garmin
- NSSKA's VHF Radio presentation was by Jim West, an instructor for the Everett Power Squadron. Robert suggests it was a little too powerboat centric and it would be good to get more of a sea kayaker perspective, especially on hand held marine VHF radios and their particulars.
- Volunteers needed to coordinate these presentations. To identify topics and to coordinate how the material would be presented in future meetings.
- Bill Coady will coordinate a VHF presenter for a future meeting.
- Donna will work on getting someone to talk about the Vessel Traffic Service Puget Sound.
- More presenters needed!
- Charlie noted that EMSK members who are unable to attend such training sessions may want to have them recorded. This will require more group discussion; some presenters may not wish to be recorded.

EMSK representation at the upcoming Mountaineers Sea Kayaking Summit on February 11, 2023.

- This is the annual meeting of the Mountaineers organization-wide Sea Kayaking Activity Committee.
- Topics discussed include:
- Developing and revising Sea Kayaking standards used by the branches to inform policies and practices, activity planning, and course development.
- Developing and revising policies.
- Other cross-branch collaboration and coordination.
- Participation is open to anyone interested in representing their branches. Typically EMSK

sends two members to the SK Summit each year. Some branches send several.

- It's a great chance to meet, learn from, and exchange ideas with other enthusiastic sea kayakers in our Mountaineers community.
- Bill Coady and Cathie Frizalone volunteered to attend for 2023.

Change in Mountaineers new trip leader application process -

- Not applicable to current trip leaders, only to new ones.
- Cathie shared this link to the application: <https://www.mountaineers.org/volunteer/volunteer-with-us/leader-applications/sea-kayak-leader-application>

New trip plans in the works and ideas for new activities and clinics-

- This is space left open at each meeting for folks to share plans or ideas for new trips, clinics and other activities.
- Based on the success of the Deception Pass current practice on the ebb activity last month, Doug is looking into a similar one for practice on the flood, based on ideas from Felicia. Welcoming any other ideas and help organizing this activity in the new year.
- Doug is planning a Goat Island trip before the year is out, and possibly several Camano Island based trips as well. Stay tuned.
- Bill Coady - working to lead a paddle the locks this fall.
- Robert Christensen (once he becomes a trip leader) - Jetty Island trips

Growing our corps of trip leaders -

- If you are interested in becoming a trip leader, or if you know of someone who might be interested in becoming a trip leader, please let us know!
- Names from tonight: Robert Christensen asked about applying to become a trip leader. Cathie looked up the link for the new leader application form and he applied the next day!
- If you are interested in applying to become a trip leader, here is the link:
<https://www.mountaineers.org/membership/badges/leader-badges/sea-kayak-leader>
- We're looking for trip leaders to mentor new leaders as they learn the process of planning, posting, and leading successful trips.

Closing -

- Are there any other suggestions for topics for this meeting? If so, list here. None put forward.
- If not, move to close the meeting.
- Who seconded? Bill Coady seconded.
- Meeting adjourned. Thank you for your participation in the Everett Mountaineers Sea Kayaking program!!
- Look forward to seeing you again on Thursday, November 17th from 7 to 8pm.
- Most likely on Zoom and more details as the date approaches.

Doug Palm

EMSK committee chair