

# 2023 Sea Kayak Summit - Meeting Agenda & Minutes

**Date:** Saturday, February 11, 2023

**Time:** 9am-1pm

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89523486009?pwd=c3VMSnF0cG5sZnFzM3FJMxFiNEZDUT09>

- Meeting ID: 895 2348 6009
- Passcode: 221406

## Attendance:

- Everett: Bill C (proxy for EVE), Cathie F
- Tacoma: Charlie M (proxy for TAC), Michael E, Lori S
- Seattle: Duncan C, Tom U, Alan M
- Olympia: John D, Henry R
- Kitsap: Barney B



9am - Meeting Open

- Welcome & Introductions

9:15am - Q&A on Branch Updates

- Attendees should review Branch Updates in advance of the summit, all included at the foot of the agenda.

9:45am - Annual review of [Clubwide Activity Standards - Sea Kayaking](#) & [Sea Kayak Council Charter](#).

- Approved:  2023 Updates - Sea Kayak Standards
  - Changes to Basic Course requirements
  - Addition of minimum party size (pending agreement from Tacoma)
  - **Action Items:**
    - Tacoma to discuss addition of minimum party size with their committee and circle back to SK Council with final input
    - Once addition of minimum party size confirmed, Sara will send to BLC for review/approval.
    - 3/3/23 Update: Tacoma does not agree to minimum party size of 2. This proposed addition will be removed from the standard and other updates will be submitted to BLC for review/approval.
- Tabled for future workshopping:  Future Revision Discussion - Sea Kayak Standards
  - Equipment standards

- **Action Item:** Tom Unger will organize a sub-group to work on updating/reformatting the equipment standards using this document:
    - SK Standards Equipment
- Equivalency
  - **Action Item:** Tacoma will organize a sub-group of Equivalency chairs to propose updated Equivalency standards
  - Several other hanging questions/feedback items in comments
- No updates proposed to Sea Kayak Council Charter
- Notes from Sea Kayak Standards discussion:
  - SK Standards Equipment: I suggest reviewing the required equipment. There are a number of “required” items that are commonly not carried. To add confusion, wording in the initial paragraph (“as appropriate and determined by the leader”) makes everything optional, which adds confusion. We should update with current practice. Equipment listed as “required” should be so because it is actually required. If an item is discretionary, it should be listed as “suggested”. A document with [some suggested changes](#). (Tom U)
    - Group workshopped updates using Tom’s working document
    - Group will do some research to confirm US law; outline what is required for US, link to Canadian requirements, then note that leaders are expected to follow requirements of local jurisdiction
    - Group discussed retaining leader discretion for what items are required for a trip - but want a baseline requirement
      - Once standards are updated, Sara will update in the trip template and activity description
    - Discussion about the 10 Essentials. The 10 Essentials are not required by the club, required equipment is dictated by applicable Mountaineers Activity Standards.
    - We’ll use the revised format that Tom outlined, the group will workshop offline for consideration/approval at future time
  - Discuss adding a minimum party size to standards. (Duncan C)
    - Agreement on a minimum party size of 2 from EVE, SEA, OLY, KIT. TAC to discuss as a committee and circle back with decision.
  - Addition of perform wet exit “both with and without use of the grab loop” to course competencies and Equivalency; and clarifying “paddle-float self-rescue” for Equivalency. Suggested language added to 2022 draft (Charlie M)
    - Agreement from all branches.
  - Updates to Basic course standards
    - Updates carried forward from discussion at 2022 summit.
    - Agreement from all branches

10:45am - BREAK

11:00am - Group Discussions

- (Tom U) Discussion of developing guidelines for using emergency communication devices other than handheld marine VHF radios for SK trips. When to “push the button” and what to expect and do afterward, etc. In particular, in light of the increasingly popular Garmin InReach Mini and similar status and emergency communication devices. Here is a link to the [InReach SOS FAQ](#). If we are to write guidelines we may want to include:
  - Advise on rescue cost insurance
  - Advise on leaving a trip plan with a safety person.
  - Not much discussion on this topic. Idea proposed to have a Zoom discussion amongst SK community.
- (Lori) Learning from and sharing “sanitized” (identifying information removed) SK incident/safety reports across branches.
  - Does each branch SK committee receive their incident and safety reports as they occur? (Either directly sent to branch SK safety rep, or indirectly from branch safety officer or branch chair)
    - EVE, OLY - Yes
    - SEA, KIT - Sometimes yes, sometimes no
  - Once processed, how are learnings from these reports being shared with your trip leaders, and beyond to all leaders and paddlers in all branches?
    - EVE - Review/discuss at monthly committee meetings, puts a summary email out to trip leaders
    - SEA - Summary from Safety Committee shared with committee
    - OLY - Discussed with committee, which includes many leaders
  - How can we share these learnings more broadly within our sea kayak community after the branch committee receives and processes a report, and identifies learning points?
    - Option 1: Share these points with your branches’ trip leaders via email (or quarterly ZOOM meeting?, or?), and share them with other branches’ SK safety reps
    - Option 2: Consolidate incident and safety reports from all branches annually, including identified learning points, and discuss at a meeting of all interested SK leaders. In-person or zoom? Or invite all interested paddlers?
    - Option 3: Annual safety item for Summit agenda.
    - Option 4: Include sharing opportunity at events with lots of trip leaders, such as April rodeo.
    - Other ideas, combinations of the above...
  - [SK Incidents 2019-2022, all branches, brief version](#)
  - **Action Item:** Lori to work with other branch Safety reps and discuss/decide the best ways to share/flow information
    - SEA: Jeanette Powell
    - EVE: Donna Garland
    - OLY: Doesn’t have an active SK Safety Rep (John Dunlap in interim)
    - KIT: Alan Marshall
    - TAC: Lori Stole

- SK reps could form a sub-committee of SK Council to make recommendations for changes to SK procedures, based on report analysis
  - This group will discuss and propose a cadence for sharing - at annual Summit or otherwise
- Lori proposing to Safety Committee that branch or committee reps could help with sanitizing reports
- Idea for Safety Committee, a way for reporter to indicate whether they're comfortable with report be shared (ex: if it is a lesson learned)
- (Charlie/Tacoma) Tacoma Branch has noted discrepancies in SK ratings as listed on individual trips. At last year's Surf Zone and Beyond, there were trips to the Cape posted at SK3 when, based on the SK rating matrix, this should be SK5.
  - Responsibility of committees to review trips and check-in with leaders if they notice concerns/discrepancies
  - Committees will share reminder to leaders to be mindful of ratings
- (Michael) How are branches running clinics and other "practice session" opportunities? Are we consistently charging?
  - At past Summits, we've discussed a set fee for instruction (\$40/day)
    - SEA: \$50-\$75 for full day, \$25 for a half-day
  - Difference between community/social event (peer learning, practice session) and a clinic; with current website functionality, we only have a "clinic" activity type to capture everything across these categories
    - [We have a website suggestion to add practice sessions](#)
  - Committees will discuss their fee structures
    - **Action Item:** Sara will share out [pricing recommendation matrix](#)
  - Consistency is challenging when committees are running different types of clinics, seeing a challenge org-wide with inconsistency
- (Michael/Sara) Inter-branch communication - how can we better communicate opportunities (clinic and others) to other branches.
  - The Mountaineers organization is working on a forum (or similar) platform to improve communications across branches/activities
  - Proposal: Two Groups IO, one for course graduates and one for leaders
  - Could take Seattle platform and make it org-wide, then make sub-lists for each branch
    - Challenge - individuals need to sign-up
    - Olympia/Tacoma send invitations to new graduates
  - Have key people from each branch involved in all branch list serves to help distribute cross-branch info
  - SEA, TAC, OLY have different email distribution lists (Groups IO)
  - EVE maintains an email list
  - KIT doesn't have a specific distribution plan
- (Bruce) Have noticed individuals coming in through Equivalency not meeting "group dynamics" expectations for M's trips. Suggest including discussion of group dynamics in Equivalency course/evaluation across all branches.
  - [3 Equivalency Talking Points](#)

- Collaboration of Equivalency coordinators to discuss criteria for talking points with equivalency
  - **Action Item:** TAC Sarah Barnhard will lead discussion with this subgroup about Equivalency standards, best practices, resources
    - OLY Brian Hollander
    - SEA Linda Cooley
    - EVE Rob King
    - KIT Barney, Alan, Linda
- Considering adding as an additional educational criteria to the equivalency process
  - Could offer a Coassmemble module (EVE)
- Possible “partnership” between Mountaineers and SSTIKS (South Sound Traditional Kayak Symposium) - Greenland paddling is prominent in all of our kayak branches and the SSTIKS symposium has been a key PNW center for Greenland skill and cultural training for over 20 years. The pandemic has endangered SSTIKS ability to continue due to the loss of an adequate volunteer community to plan and conduct the event. We are hoping to discuss whether some members of this council are interested in discussions about how the club and/or members might participate and help. (This isn’t about money. It’s about finding people willing to help, and whether the club might play a mutually beneficial role.)
  - Branches shared names of folks who might be interested in Zoom chat
  - John will follow-up with Sara on any additional questions about partnership
- (Sara) Rental boats for Basic Sea Kayaking courses
  - With group rental/delivery availability changing, is a brainstorm of ideas helpful as folks think about courses?
    - **Action Item:** Sara will follow-up with group in the fall to discuss how things went this year, ideas for future
- (Sara) Review how independent contractor relationships work
  - Quick discussion, make sure you are planning to get paperwork in order. Reach out to Sara if/when you have questions. Make sure you leave some buffer of time to get paperwork squared away

#### 12:45pm - Wrap-Up

- Good of the order.
- Summarize action items, Sara will send follow-up in Basecamp
- Schedule 2024 Summit Meeting.
  - February 10, 2024.
  - Keep Zoom from 9am-1pm

#### 1pm - Meeting Close

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# Branch Reports

## Everett (EMSK)

After a two year hiatus from training we resumed our annual Basic Sea Kayaking course. Many thanks to the tremendous efforts of Bill Coady as course coordinator and Cathie Frizalone and Diego Gabrieli who put in long hours to create the new Coassemble-based online learning environment to augment the lecture portions of the course. Special thanks to the wonderful work of our many, many Basic SK course instructors, mentors, and assistants who volunteered their time to help make the course a success! And congratulations to the course graduates on earning your Basic SK badges!

In addition to the course, EMSK trip leaders posted 17 trips in 2022, nearly double what we did last year! Plus another great weekend of camping and kayaking at our annual Baker Lake Shindig! We also added a new trip leader and have another candidate on track.

A number of our trip leaders, and potential trip leaders, took incident management and paddling in currents courses in 2022 from Body Boat Blade.

In October 2022 we started doing a short training session inside our monthly meetings. Hoping to build meeting attendance. The first one was on using a handheld marine VHF radios and was very well attended. Upcoming sessions include "Doing More with DeepZoom" and a repeat of the VHF radio presentation in the spring.

On the schedule for 2023: our next Basic SC course in April, updating the EMSK committee charter, establishing equivalency events (for multiple candidates at a time instead of one at a time), election of officers, leadership development, and Baker Lake Shindig 2023.

- [ ] Bill Coady and Cathie Frizalone volunteered to represent the EMSK at the 2023 Mountaineers Sea Kayak Summit.

Doug Palm  
EMSK Chair

## Kitsap

We were not able to arrange a location for any pool sessions last year.

For 2023 we've lined up the Rodeo in Rich Passage in April, for leaders and budding leaders, headed up by Alan Marshall.

The Kitsap Branch added a trip leader to our leadership Committee, and they led 5 paddles in 2022. Two additional prospects are poised to be advancing to trip leader in early 2023.

The Kitsap Branch had 14 successful paddle outings.

We had six candidates earn their equivalency badge this year with two additional prospects testing next weekend.

Barney Bernhard  
Kitsap Sea Kayak Chair

## Olympia

### **Olympia Branch SK Report – Jan 2023**

- Basic Class: successfully complete two “compressed” format Basic course session in May and June. Students seem happy with full course taking less than a week as opposed to 3. However, several students had difficulty demonstrating rescue skills and needed additional work before graduating. We think this might be due to the shorter schedule so we are adding additional practice time and requirements. We continue to offer our course in partnership with the City of Olympia who provides our course kayaks.
- Pool Sessions: In January we were able to resume winter pool practice sessions after being unable to find any affordable solutions for several years. Session are in Shelton.
- Ran a successful series of our summer Wednesday evening paddles. For many years these were drop-in session, but we are continuing to require pre-registrations in order to manage participant numbers. Leaders can, and do, often leave registration open until close to the day/time of the event.
- Offered an Incident Management on-water session in what turned out to be fairly rough and cold weather last Spring.
- Relaunched Olympia’s Intermediate SK course/program. We intend to continue to work closely with Tacoma’s more established program. New course leader is Caleb Fitts.
- We have gained a large number of experienced paddlers (mostly through equivalency) from southern Washington and Oregon. These folks are bringing an infusion of new energy and experience from a region we’ve not typically had participation.
- Many trips led and several new leaders – emerging from the pandemic!
- Offered an on-line Leader training titled “Breaking the Halo” about psychological traps in the Instructor-student relationship. Training is excellent and has been offered by a club member.

## Tacoma

### Tacoma Branch SK Report-Jan 2023

In 2022 our basic SK course returned to an all-day live classroom session plus an all-weekend on-water session, followed by a series of basic paddles through the summer. Thirty-five students enrolled - 17 graduated.

Basic chair, Bruce Durham, expects changes this year will lead to a higher completion rate. It will include 1 weekend for classroom session/pool session, one weekend for on-the-water sessions including a paddle, and a final paddle day.

We were not able to arrange a location for any pool sessions last year. For 2023 we've lined up Tukwilla Pool to use with the basic course and a November roll class.

We had six candidates earn their equivalency badge this year.

Clinics (other than basic class) held in 2022 – from Tacoma Training chair (Michael Everett)-.

Clinic	When	Graduates
Strokes and Maneuvers	2-day, April	3
Intro to Kayak Camping	May	5
Kayak Navigation	Classroom + on-water days, June	13
Intro to the Surf Zone (twice)	June / June	16
Intro to Rock Gardening	June	4
Incident Management (twice)	June/June	13
Intro to currents	June	7
San Juan 7-day leader development (twice)	July / August	6
Do you have your kit together/tow belt assembly	Nov, classroom	10

The branch had 49 successful paddle trips (includes single and multiple day), and hosted the Surf Zone and Beyond event at Hobuck.

This past April we hosted a ZOOM presentation from Calvin Kroll about his winter solo circumnavigation of Vancouver Island. It was well attended by paddlers from all branches (over 55 attendees), and was much appreciated, based on attendee comments.



Tacoma has not had a safety rep for some years. Lori Stole has recently taken this on, and is exploring how the club's safety communication channels work, and looking at how to improve learning and cross-branch sharing from incident reports. You'll be hearing more on this.

Submitted by Lori Stole, Tacoma SK Committee

## Seattle

We held a successful basic class along with our essential skills series building on various strokes and skills on Lake Washington.

Additionally we held our usual Wet Wednesdays at Concrete Beach including an hour or so of training and then some play followed by a potluck.

Our leadership development continues which includes an incident management class by Body Boat Blade, we will continue to work with outside entities to bring new ideas to our training.

We added a formalized training reimbursement process for active leaders giving each of them up to \$250 of training funds each year.

In addition to our usual trips we also held a successful paddle camp weekend at Deception Pass in October which included clinics and trips along with a provided meal one of the nights.