

OPEN POOL PRACTICE IS A BLAST;

HERE'S WHAT ELSE I LEARNED:

- Yes, the doors and hall-ways are wide enough to get a 16' boat into the building without any trouble.
- Both the pool room and the water were warm, but I was glad to have on my farmer jane because it protected my legs when I was practicing wet re-entries.
- I also wore the long-sleeved poly-pro shirt that I usually kayak in and that worked very well. Everyone had paddle clothes on, not just swimming suits. People wore their PFDs, too.
- I had to learn how to get into my boat from the side of the pool. I did it a lot of times, from both sides, and feel lots more confident about entering and exiting my boat from a dock.
- Since last fall I seemed to have slipped a bit on boat handling. It even took a minute or two to re-think how to get it on and off the car. I tried a couple brace turns that I wiffed so badly that I fell in. How embarrassing, but how nice I didn't do it in cold water on a real paddle.
- I stowed my paddle in my front bungee...and the end near me pivoted out away from the boat so far I couldn't reach it. It had never happened before and that's another lesson I'm glad I learned in warm water with people who could paddle over and hand it back to me.
- I should have brought a plastic bag for my wet-suit, PFD and spray skirt; when I rinsed the chlorinated water off of them they got lots wetter than they usually do and they made a puddle in the car.
- I didn't think I could get much exercise in a space the size of a pool, but I was sore the next day, so I guess I did.
- Hope to see you there! If you have questions email: suehughes@yahoo.com



Gary McIntosh and
Brian Hunter at Meyers Pool

Photo: Matt Lutkus