

Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club  
Steering Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 12, 2021 by ZOOM

Present: George Ottenhoff, Sue Hughes, Tim Fletcher, Jim Dlouhy, Marsha Dougherty, Clark Strickland, Dave Hustvedt of the Steering Committee

Chris Arcenaux, member

George called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Dave reported that the budget information has not changed since the last meeting of the Steering Committee.

COVID-19 makes firm planning for spring, summer and even fall events somewhat problematic.

Sue suggested that we get as many of the paddle dates onto the calendar so that members can plan their spring and summer paddles. This includes the regularly monthly paddles even though some of their locations might be changed to provide variety and to seek optimal paddling conditions.

Clark noted that he and Brian will not be doing Girl Scout Water Camp this summer. Dave has said that he might be interested. We will ask the membership at the potluck if anyone is interested.

Jim asked whether we should continue along the line of improving skills so that members who wish to undertake more challenging and longer paddles will feel comfortable doing so. This will also provide trip coordinators (this term was agreed to rather than "trip leaders") with a better baseline of knowledge about the skills of those on their trips. The SC agreed to this and to encourage experienced trip coordinators to find a partner to participate in planning in order to grow the stable of people who are capable of leading trips.

Additional trips are being looked at for the Red Rocks country along the Green River (Tim) and perhaps Maine (Clark and Matt Lutkus). George asked about paddling in the lakes of eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. The Niobrara River came up as a possibility.

Clark led a review of plans for the annual potluck, to be held on Sunday, February 21 at 2:00 as a ZOOM meeting. Clark can host on his ZOOM account and George will preside. SC members will give brief presentations or create documents for screen sharing. Sue's PowerPoint slideshow will be a key part of the presentation. Clark will ask the membership to send him 3 electronic file photos of favorite paddles, some of which will be used as a quick review of recent activities. Clark will try to organize some door prizes.

George led an extensive discussion of the benefits of ACA Paddle America Club (PAC) membership. The primary benefit is insurance. Clark obtained and George circulated copies of the ACA liability policies that include RMSKC as co-insured. George conducted some investigations into other possible sources of insurance and concluded that the type of activity of RMSKC/ACA is not something that is underwritten by typical insurance companies. There was general agreement that for the price, ACA was not a bad deal, although ACA does impose a \$40 per individual membership fee. Clark and Jim stated that they would be ACA members regardless of an RMSKC requirement because of the training standards and national advocacy work. All agreed that ACA does not do a great job of responding to member concerns. Marsha noted that first-time ACA/RMSKC members have difficulty navigating the enrollment/documentation/waiver process; she works around that by allowing and encouraging the use of paper rather than electronic waiver forms. George noted that ACA affiliation was a perennial subject of conversation. The sense of the SC was to leave matters as they stand at present: RMSKC will maintain its PAC membership and expect RMSKC members to be ACA members in good standing.

Clark asked whether the SC would encourage an outreach to Backpackers, an outing organization that arranges outdoor experiences. He will make initial contact, but not set up anything firm until pandemic restrictions are removed and we can safely congregate.

George adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.