

Crystal River Kayak Trip

Saturday, January 27, 2018

Over 40 folks gathered and traveled from Hudson to Crystal River on a beautiful late January day to celebrate our first kayak trip of 2018. The temperature was warm, and the air was calm as we launched from Captain Mike's Marina into Kings Bay to paddle to Three Sisters Springs to see the manatees gathered there to escape the cold water of the Gulf. During the process of launching our boats, we had a significant mishap when Bill Sloan slipped and broke his wrist. Bill and a couple of ladies went to the emergency room while the rest of us continued to the Springs.

Just off the launch area was the King Spring which had several manatees nearby as we left. The one mile plus paddle was easy and uneventful. As we approached the entry to the Springs area, we encountered kayakers and power boats coming from north as well as boats leaving the area. The closer we got, the more crowded it became. We saw a few manatees, but the crowd cut down on the enjoyment. There were many snorkelers, swimmers & sightseeing boats as well as a multitude of kayaks and canoes.

We didn't stay long at the spring before we paddled back to Captain Mike's and loaded our boats to go to lunch. While we were loading up, Bill and the ladies returned

and were able to join us for lunch at Charlie's Fish House. We had a great meal and a lot of fun conversation before heading back home after a successful first outing of 2018.

Check the club's Facebook page for pictures:

(<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.1446625698784879&type=3>).

Next up Weeki Wachee River on February 24.

**George Spiggle
Kayak Director**