



Web Site: [www.SweetwaterKayaks.com](http://www.SweetwaterKayaks.com)

To receive an email newsletter, add your address on the Newsletter or Calendar tabs on our web site.

## Happenings May 2008

### Special Events

#### KAYAK DEMO DAY

- Date: **April 5, Saturday - Weather Permitting**
- Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Location: Gandy Beach, SW side, by the mangroves

Join us on the water to 'try before you buy' the kayaks you are interested in. With the purchase of each new kayak, we offer a free FUNdamentals Class.

#### TBSK Meeting – *Guests are Welcome*

- Date: **May 12, Monday**
- Time: 7:00 pm
- Location: The Shop

Sweetwater Kayaks invites you to attend this month's TBSK meeting. TBSK members receive 10% off on all purchases. There will also be a special sale item to be announced at the meeting. All attendees receive 1 raffle ticket for a mystery item. This month's guest speaker is Dennis Kellenberger from Tampa Bay Watch. Dennis will give us an overview of all the programs that TBW conducts throughout the year. He's also going to be letting us know about some new and exciting future programs & opportunities. As always, pizza & drinks will be served.

**RSVP (727) 570-4844**

### Day Tours *Website has Maps*

Beginners often find they have more fun if they take our 3 hour FUNdamentals Class first, taught on most Saturdays and Sundays.

Trips may be cancelled if insufficient people RSVP.

All but the Egmont Key Trip are for NOVICES and above.

#### EASY PADDLE

*Coffee Pot Bayou and Spa Beach*

- Date: **Sunday, May 4**

- Time: 10 am to 4:00 pm
- Location: Coffee Pot Bayou Boat Ramp
- Fee: \$32 with your own kayak  
\$64 with kayak rental

This is one of our shortest and usually easiest paddles. It can be perfect for beginners. We'll put-in at Coffee Pot Bayou and paddle out into Tampa Bay. We'll probably paddle around The Pier before having lunch at Spa Beach. After our return to Coffee Pot Park we'll enjoy watermelon.

**RSVP (727) 570-4844**

#### TGIF SNUG HARBOR

*And Snacks at Kahuna's*

- Date: **Friday, May 9**
- Time: 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm
- Location: Gandy Beach (Demo Day Spot)
- Fee: \$32 with your own kayak  
\$64 with kayak rental

Our favorite trails are now easier to get through and we'll have snacks at Kahuna's across from the dog track.

**RSVP (727) 570-4844**

#### INTERMEDIATE PADDLE

*Ft DeSoto to Pass-A-Grille*

- Date: **Saturday, May 10**
- Time: 9:30 am
- Location: Put-In at Ft DeSoto, Shelter 9
- Fee: \$60 with your own kayak

We will put in at North Beach on Ft DeSoto, paddle past Shell Island, and on to lunch at The Hurricane Restaurant. Along the way we will go by two passes each with its own unique playground characteristics. Russell will be the "Big Kid" leading this trip and these play sessions. Since this is for intermediate paddlers, let's hope for semi-challenging waves to play in.

**Difficulty: Intermediate Paddle with open water. Spray Skirts Needed**

**RSVP (727) 570-4844**

#### RATTLESNAKE KEY

- Date: **Sunday, May 11**
- Time: 10 am to 4:00 pm
- Location: The Tip of Emerson Point
- Fee: \$32 with your own kayak  
\$64 with kayak rental

The tide gods are blessing this trip. We hope the weather gods bless it as well. We plan to paddle about 8 1/2 miles on this trip, with lunch on a beautiful beach. Then again, with the tides this high, our beach may be underwater. But so what, this section north of Bradenton usually has beautifully clear water to enjoy while we paddle. And, as usual, watermelon post-paddle.

**RSVP (727) 570-4844**

## LITTLE MANATEE RIVER

### *And The Famous Loop*

- Date: **Tuesday, May 13**
- Time: 10 am to 4:00 pm
- Location: Under the Hwy 301 Bridge
- Fee: \$32 with your own kayak
- \$64 with kayak rental

Starting at Hwy 301 the first part of the paddle will be in the shade. This is an intimate part of the river to paddle and very pristine. Our lunch will be served river-side as well as the post-paddle melon. Of special note, energetic paddlers can continue past the take out and take a creek back upstream to "LOOP" back to the take out.

**RSVP (727) 570-4844**

## BISHOP HARBOR

- Date: **Sunday, May 20**
- Time: 10 am to 4:00 pm
- Location: Ft DeSoto Gulf Pier Parking Lot
- Fee: \$32 with your own kayak
- \$64 with kayak rental

We finally have favorable tides for one of our favorite nearby paddles, Bishop Harbor, just south of the Skyway Bridge. This tour is to the South end of the Harbor and includes Moses Hole and possibly the Terra Ceia River. As usual, we will have a post-paddle watermelon.

**RSVP (727) 570-4844**

## PEACE RIVER

### *Memorial Day Paddle*

- Date: **Monday, May 26**
- Time: 10 am to 4:00 pm
- Location: Brownville Park Boat Ramp
- Fee: \$32 with your own kayak
- \$64 with kayak rental

We've paddled the Wauchula area of the Peace River several times. Now we are going to kayak a section further south, from Brownville to Arcadia. We'll feed you lunch along the river and have watermelon at the take-out.

**RSVP (727) 570-4844**

## **Kayak Classes**

Classes at Sweetwater Kayaks are taught by certified coaches. The classes are taught in shallow, clear water just minutes from our shop. Most classes have one coach for each four students.

**REGISTER at (727) 570-4844**

### **Surf, Wilderness First Responder, and Celestial Navigation Training**

If you want to join us, call the shop at (727) 570-4844 and give us your name and phone number.

## FUNDamentals - *Introduction to Sea Kayaking*

- **Most Saturdays and Sundays**
- Meet at Sweetwater Kayaks at 9:30 am
- Fee: \$75.00 includes kayak, paddle, and PFD
- Semi-Private Classes – up to six students.

Get started with the basics in sea kayaking. Learn to launch your boat, get out & in your boat in deep water, basic paddle strokes and safety tips. And, we will have fun, too. The class is about three hours long. **REGISTER at (727) 570-4844**

## TGIF EVENING ROLLING CLINICS

- When: **Friday, May 9, 16, 23, & 30,**  
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Where: The Shop a half hour before your session
- Fee: \$50 with your own kayak (1st lesson)  
\$38 with your own kayak (more lessons)  
\$40 additional for kayak rental

This class is tailored to your needs. First time roller – this is for you. Refining an existing roll – this is for you. Want to learn an off-side roll – this is for you. Individual hourly sessions will be scheduled on this day.

**REGISTER at (727) 570-4844**

## BCU 2 STAR TRAINING

- When: **Sat, May 10 & 30,** 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
- Where: The Shop at 9:30
- Fee: \$99 with your own kayak
- \$40 additional for kayak rental
- **Prerequisite: FUNDamentals Class.**

Take your skills to the next level. We add edging for control, new strokes (stern rudder, low brace turn, sculling for support, high recovery) and Eskimo rescues to what we covered in the FUNDamentals Class above.

**Bring Lunch**

**REGISTER at (727) 570-4844**

## NEW BCU 3 STAR TRAINING

### *(Coastal Skills)*

- When: **Sat, May 17,** 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Where: To Be Determined
- Fee: \$99 with your own kayak
- \$40 additional for kayak rental
- **Prerequisite: BCU 2 Star Training**

Take your skills to a new level as we move from sheltered to open water. Basic navigation and boat control in wind and currents are explored.

**Bring Lunch.**

**REGISTER at (727) 570-4844**

## SIT-ON-TOP FUNDAMENTALS

- When: **Sun, May 25,**
- Meet at Sweetwater Kayaks at 9:30 am
- Fee: \$75.00
- Semi-Private Classes – up to six students.

**REGISTER at (727) 570-4844**

## **PRIVATE COACHING**

- Fee: \$65 per hour up to two paddlers
  - (2 hour minimum)

Call to set up your session

***REGISTER at (727) 570-4844***

## **VACATION-TO-HELL**

### ***The Baffin to Ellesmere Challenge***

Keep checking the team Sweetwater BLOG to keep abreast of the new developments of this expedition. Just go to

<http://devon.irtovacationtohell.com/>