

Minutes from EMSK Zoom meeting of November 17, 2022 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Dear members of the Everett Mountaineers Sea Kayaking program and friends:

Thanks to all who participated in last night's meeting! We were fortunate to have Jim West from the Everett Sail & Power Squadron join us to talk about hand-held marine VHF radios.

Jim's presentation was titled: VHF Radio Communications and Training- Learn it for the first time or relearn it as a refresher! The focus was on handheld devices like we use in sea kayaking and Jim covered the best and proper way to communicate on a VHF Radio.

Many thanks again to Bill Coady for coordinating this in-meeting training opportunity!

NOTE: For those interested in a longer session of this presentation, including information about fixed based VHF units, one is being held this coming Monday, November 21, 2022. To sign up, email Brian Rachal at rachal.brian@gmail.com.

After the presentation on VHF radios, we moved on to EMSK business.

Agenda with notes from the meeting:

The minutes from the October 20th EMSK meeting were approved with a note from Cathie Frizalone that 2, not 4, students from the 2022 course were allowed to carry forward on their student paddle requirement. (<https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/everett-branch/committees/everett-sea-kayaking-committee/documents/minutes/emsk-meeting-minutes-for-october-20-2022.pdf/@@download/file/EMSK%20Meeting%20Minutes%20for%20October%2020,%202022.pdf>)

Safety Committee Report out - Donna Garland, EMSK's representative on the Mountaineers Safety Committee, went over the statistics from the safety report from the third quarter. There appeared to be no reported incidents involving EMSK members. A general lesson learned from the incidents in the report is the importance of having someone keeping an eye on the overall situation when a rescue is in progress. Those involved in the rescue need to concentrate on that work. They may not be aware of the bigger picture, however, such as where the group may be drifting and other important developments. It is good to have someone keeping an eye on what's happening, someone not involved in the hands-on part of the rescue, who can direct or otherwise assist the activity as needed without losing sight of the bigger picture. Another lesson learned was a reminder to keep track of how people are doing as a trip progresses so you can address any problems early on (essentially a reminder for leaders to remember the "evaluate group" points on the EMSK leader checklist cards for the "on land" and "on water" portions of any trip).

Updated COVID-19 Guidance from the Mountaineers - quick review of what's changed according to HQ. "Guidance for All In-Person Programs -- As of November 1, 2022, Washington State has rescinded all remaining COVID-19 emergency proclamations. The Mountaineers has suspended all COVID-specific guidance for in-person programs. Leaders may continue to follow more restrictive COVID-19 precautions, so long as they are not in conflict with our Member Code of Ethics. Please review the Frequently Asked Questions for additional information." For more details, check out: COVID-19 Response — The Mountaineers

Scheduling the Baker Lake Kayak Camp weekend for 2023. If there is no particular preference for

the weekend, the chair recommends July 7-9 for the 2023 shindig. It will be a neap tide weekend so it won't compete with exciting current trips in Puget Sound that folks may be planning. Plus, if its anything like 2022, it may be a quieter weekend to do the event. In any case, we'll review the date at our January 19th EMSK meeting and make the final date determination at that time. Many thanks to Patty Freeburg for stepping up to send reminders to members when its time to make individual reservations and to remind folks to bring side dishes and/or desserts to the Saturday night cookout. The chair still needs someone to step up to keep track of who has which campsites and who has room for others at their site. The chair will make arrangements for the hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, and condiments for Saturday cookout. At least two barbecue grills will be needed so contact the chair if you can help with that.

2023 Basic Sea Kayaking course update (if any)- Cathy Frizalone, our new Basic Sea Kayaking Course coordinator, will be giving an update at our next meeting (January 19th). Meanwhile, Dan Hale would like to train someone up to take over the narration of the self and assisted rescues during the class pool and open water sessions. Contact Dan directly if you are interested in stepping up to take on this important role.

2023 Trip leader/instructor training opportunities. We have some funds budgeted for training our leaders and instructors. What should we focus on in 2023? Incident Management? Paddling in current? Rolling classes? Coastal kayaking? ACA/BU certification? We need someone to step up to coordinate this (many thanks to Dan Hale for coordinating last year's special training for trip leaders/instructors). If you have ideas and/or are interested in helping coordinate this work, please contact the chair.

2023 Trip leader candidates/volunteers. This is a standing item about expanding our trip leader corp. Thanks to Robert Christensen for stepping up to become a trip leader! Bill Coady is helping Robert work through the process. Meanwhile, if you're interested in becoming a trip leader, here's the application: <https://www.mountaineers.org/volunteer/volunteer-with-us/leader-applications/sea-kayak-leader-application>

2023 Equivalency events - Our equivalency coordinator, Rob King, could not be here tonight. He is interested in working with others to organize special equivalency events for small groups of experienced sea kayakers looking to participate in Mountaineers paddles. Anyone interested in helping should contact Rob King.

What about our next in-meeting training topic? What should it be??? What's in your PFD? What's in your chart case (besides a chart)? Getting more out of DeepZoom? Review of weather apps? Looking for volunteers to do the presentations or to coordinate them. Contact the chair if you are willing to put on a 15 to 30 minute presentation at our next meeting on January 19th. See a list ideas generated at our last meeting here: <https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/everett-branch/committees/everett-sea-kayaking-committee/documents/minutes/emsk-meeting-minutes-for-october-20-2022.pdf/@@download/file/EMSK%20Meeting%20Minutes%20for%20October%2020,%202022.pdf>

Reports on recent trips: the recent trip to Mysterious Goat Island was grand! See the trip report on the Mountaineers website or the EMSK Facebook group. No other trip reports were discussed.

New trip plans in the works - standing item to generate ideas for new activities. Skagit Hope paddle set for this Saturday, November 19th. Sign up on the Mountaineers website. Christmas lights paddle 2022: stay tuned - we need a calm clear night in the first few weeks of December. What

about kayak camping trips for 2023? Practice in current clinics? Multi-day expeditions? Wish list of venues? No one came forward with ideas but if one pops out in your mind please let the chair know!

New clinics, courses, seminars (in addition to the annual Basic Sea Kayaking course offered in April) - standing item to generate ideas for new learning opportunities - Rolling class? Navigation? Planning for multi-day trips? No one came forward with ideas or to volunteer as yet.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday January 19th.

Training topic for next meeting? No one volunteered to put on a training topic for the next meeting. Anyone interested in putting on a short presentation should contact the chair before the next meeting. (15 to 30 minutes but shorter or longer is fine)

Other topics for next meeting? Bill Coady received some REI gift cards from HQ to hand out our most active volunteers. He will coordinate with the chair to figure out how to allocate those.

No other topics were brought forward tonight. If you think of something between now and the next meeting, please contact the chair.

Thanks to everyone who attended tonight's meeting and thanks to all who used the meeting RSVP process to help me keep track of participants!

Thank you for your support of the Everett Mountaineers Sea Kayaking program!

Happy holidays!

Doug Palm
EMSK Chair