



The
Easy Glider
Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

Editor: Peter Oswald (editor@kickngliders.org)

Issue: December, 2014

Meetings are held upstairs at [Center Street Grille](#), 4 Center St, Enola PA, 717-732-6900.

The Center Street Grille is on the east side of Center Street just south of Wertzville Rd (PA-944).

Directions from 581 and Rt 15 interchange:

- Go north on Rt 11/15 about 1.7 miles to N. 21st St stop light
- Turn left on N 21st St and go 0.3 miles to Center St stop light
- Turn left on Center St then continue northward (changes to E. Penn Dr) 2.7 miles to Wertzville Rd stop light
- Turn right onto Wertzville Rd, go 0.1 mile to first right
- Turn right on Center St; Center Street Grille is on the left.

Directions from I-81 and Rt 11/15 interchange:

- Go south on Rt 11/15 about 0.5 mile to Valley Rd stop light
- Turn right on Valley Rd and go 1.8 miles to Salt Rd
- Turn left onto Salt Rd and continue southward (changes to E. Penn Dr) 0.9 miles to Wertzville Rd stoplight
- Turn left onto Wertzville Rd, go 0.1 mile to first right
- Turn right on Center St; Center Street Grille is on the left.

Event Calendar

Program Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, Dec 2, 2014

Steve Runkle: Canals and Canal Life in and around the Susquehanna River Basin - (1-1/4 hours)

This presentation gives an overview of the region's canals and their engineering and construction. Canal boats and their operation are discussed. Additionally, the presentation covers the life of canal families, the various canal occupations, and recreation on the canals. The presentation utilizes the best canal photographs from the archives of the two premier canal museums of the region: the National Canal Museum in Easton, PA and the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse, NY. In addition, pertinent photographs from the personal collection of William Shank, of the American Canal and Transportation Center, are used.

Note: A table listing all canals constructed in the Susquehanna River Basin along with their key statistics is presented as a handout with this presentation. Also included is an

audio recording of canal songs, and a hands-on demonstration of a bridge stick.

Holiday Party

7:00 pm, Wednesday, Dec 17, 2014

Holiday Party hosted by Bill and Sandy Stine, 627 North School Lane, Lancaster, PA

Bill and Sandy are delighted, once again, to host the annual Kick 'n Glider Christmas Party at their home in Lancaster. Join your fellow Kick 'n Gliders for this festive holiday gathering. It's a chance to meet new members, swap stories about past exploits on the ski trails, and plan for an exciting 2015 ski season.

As usual, bring a dish to share with others and a beverage of your choice.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of PA-283 and US-30 near Lancaster:

- Follow US-30 west
- Take the 1st exit, Harrisburg Pike (Park City)
- Turn LEFT onto Harrisburg Pike
- Go to the 2nd light after railroad overpass
- Turn RIGHT onto President Avenue
- Turn RIGHT onto Valley Road (4th street)
- Turn RIGHT onto N School Lane (1st street)
- 627 North School Lane is the 4th house on RIGHT (Tudor style, brick sidewalk)

Any problems? Call 717-392-1675

Note from the President

Things are progressing towards an active ski season. Most extended trips are full. All we need is snow in the northeast. Regarding Day trips don't forget to send your email address to OneDayTrips-subscribe@kickngliders.org if you want to be advised on short notice where and when there is good local skiing. If you don't subscribe to this service you will not be notified when there are good local skiing conditions. This will include conditions at Crystal Lake that will be reported to those on the list by Rick Begley.

Speaking of Crystal Lake there was a volunteer work day on November 8th. The Kick 'n Gliders Club was represented by Pam & Denny Dunn. Pam & Denny worked on clearing brush and debris from the Bear Creek and Whipple Mill Trails. They reported that there were numerous other workers on the trails and working to get the ski rental building set up. A Kick 'n Glider Thumbs Up to Pam & Denny!

See ya soon.

Space A: Laurel Highlands

IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY! Space is still available on the Laurel Highlands February 14-16, 2015 ski trip. Don't miss out, sign up today!

Ron Henry,
Trip Leader

ANOTHER LODGING OPTION NEAR CRYSTAL LAKE

A friend of mine celebrated her anniversary this summer at a relatively newly opened B&B in Hughesville, PA. She said it was very nice and comfortable, the breakfasts were good, and the rates were very reasonable. Here is the info if anyone is interested in trying it out. As far as I

know they don't have a website, as they are very low keyed, thus the low rates:

The Townsend House
Emily Secules, owner: 570-584-4992
160 S. Main Street
Hughesville, PA 17737
Andrea Hospodar

Another Day Trip Process Change

by Bill Stine

The Day Trip process was changed to a special, self-service e-mail list. The Twitter process is abandoned.

The Day Trip process using Twitter, announced in the November issue of Easy Glider, was discussed at the November 4th membership meeting. Comments during the meeting indicated that people were frustrated with trying to set up a Twitter account and learning how to use it. An alternative method, using a special e-mail list, was suggested by several people in the meeting.

As a result, a special e-mail list was created to replace Twitter. It was put into effect on Nov 7 with a revised One Day Trips page on our website.

Please visit the Day Trip page on our website at kickngliders.org/pages/daytrips.html to learn about how the list works and to add your e-mail address to the list. There are links on the page to:

- Send an e-mail to the list.
- Add your e-mail address to the list.
- Remove your e-mail address from the list.
- Request an e-mail containing a compilation of recent e-mails to the list.

Please be aware that:

- You MUST first add your e-mail address to the list in order to send e-mail to the list.
- This list is NOT moderated. That means no one approves e-mails sent to the list. What you send is what everyone else on the list will see.

It is likely that you will not automatically receive a copy of your own e-mail to the list.¹ So you should

“cc:” or “bcc:” yourself if you wish to receive a copy of your own e-mail to the list.

Twenty members signed up for the list within the first 48 hours of the announcement. If you haven't already done so, please give the system a try and let me know what you think!

Bill Stine
Webmaster & Day Trip Coordinator

¹ *This happens because many e-mail providers, including Yahoo, Gmail, AOL and Hotmail, have implemented a security protocol known as DMARC.org to help prevent “spoofing” of e-mail addresses. Also, as an unintended result of this change, you may receive one or more messages from EZMLM. EZMLM is the software program on our website hosting server that is used for our mailing lists. You can ignore and delete the messages from EZMLM. I am enrolled in a test group with our website hosting service attempting to work around this problem.*

The Neverglades

It was a beautiful, sunny day in Florida. I planned to visit Everglades National Park for some hiking and kayaking at Nine Mile Pond Canoe Trail. I was so excited to use my own kayak since I brought it with me on the Auto Train. I saw a pole across the pond and headed for it but there was no information on it. Beyond the pole was thick vegetation so I looked for an opening that would indicate the trail just like I do in the woods. Almost immediately I ran into tall saw grass but was able to kayak through it and into a small open area surrounded by pockets of mangrove trees. After about 10-15 minutes, I found a marker which was a white PVC pipe with #106. I realized that this was the end part of the loop, so I decided to follow it to the end\beginning. The markers were very hard to spot as the mangrove trees blocked the view of some of them just like some trees block street signs in summer. When I made it back to the pond, I saw a huge alligator in the water and the strong wind started pushing me right towards it so I quickly back paddled. At this point, I should probably admit to you that I don't have a good sense of direction, but

somehow I always find my way back. I went back to the first pole and this time I tried to find the next pole before moving on, but they were spaced too far apart and the 2nd and 3rd poles that I managed to find did not have any numbers on them. I went to the 4th pole and decided to turn back because it was too hard to find the trail. Well, I could not find the previous poles. I searched for about 2 hours and started to worry. I knew I needed to get back since it was getting to be evening. I checked my cell phone to try and call the park ranger but there was no service. I wrote a text to my sister and brother-in-law asking for help. When I checked it later, the phone said "Could not send Message". I continued to kayak for the next 2 hours or so and then realized I needed to find a place to hang out for the night. There is NO land in this area. It is all swamp - slow moving shallow water. I picked an opening about 20x15' and chose a spot along a mangrove stand that was mostly blocking the wind and had no apparent resident alligators. I also knew it was supposed to get unseasonably cold that night. I was wearing zip off nylon pants, Teva sandals, a cotton t-shirt, a long sleeved shirt, my LIFE jacket, and a Tilley hat. I needed to go to the bathroom and I knew I better take care of business before dark. If you want the details, you will have to get that from me in person as there was no way I was going to step out of the kayak into swamp water that I didn't know what hungry critter was lurking below. Then I put the spray deck over the cockpit to help confine my heat inside the kayak. I watched the sun go down, I watched the stars come out, I listened to all of the sounds, and I thought about things. First, I wondered when people might figure out I was missing. I thought it might not happen until the next night since I told Bart I didn't know where I would stay that night. I checked and my texts still had not gone out so I turned off the phone to conserve battery. I kept a constant vigilance for creatures and scrunched as far up into the bow as possible. I still had about 1/3 of a large water bottle left but I did not drink because I knew I needed to conserve it and I didn't want to have to pee again. I also had two granola bars and a bag of cashews which I decided to keep until later. When the wind occasionally stilled, I could sometimes hear a vehicle towards the West if I had correctly located the North Star. My thoughts turned to my previous enjoyable week in the Keys, reflections of my current life, and to all of the people who have been through a lot worse than me and survived. My main

thought was "please don't let me die by reptile". Every time I heard a noise I would peer around intently ready to grab my paddle and do battle. At times my whole body was shaking but the only noticeable cold spots were my hands and my nose. I made a plan for morning. I would pee, consult the map, turn my phone back on, study the sun location and head west.

There was only one problem with my plan. It was not possible to go due west. I kept having to go north, south, and east to try to get west. I got to a point where I thought the road had to be close because the vehicle sounds were louder, but the vegetation was extremely thick. I realized the only way to get through was to get out of my kayak and pull it, so I unlaced my parachute bracelet, tied it to my bow grab handle and stepped out of my kayak with my paddle as a walking stick like I learned in my swift water rescue class. I had taken my pant legs off so I wouldn't get them wet. The vegetation was dense and sometimes when I took a step in the swamp I sank up to my crotch. I put my pant bottoms back on to protect my legs and tried to use my body and then my kayak as a battering ram. I was getting cuts from the saw grass but I kept trying to smash my way through. Then I heard my phone ding and saw I had received some texts, but it still said "no service". I typed a couple of texts asking for help and let them know I could hear a road, then put the phone back not knowing if anyone would get them. I decided to abandon my kayak and just try to get myself to the road, but soon realized it was impossible. I wanted to get back to my kayak but I could not see it. After some frantic searching, I found it. I was a mucky mess and had to stumble and drag my kayak back to an open area where I could get back in it. I reread the texts and it seemed as though my brother-in-law and husband realized I was in trouble. I knew I absolutely had to get back out to an open area so I could be spotted by air. I worked to get the debris off me and out of my boat including the spiders. I was so happy I had my BMO sponge to smash the spiders. About 11:00ish I heard a helicopter so I paddled to the middle of the open area and waved my paddle. They hovered and a person slid the door open so I knew I was spotted. I was grateful and also embarrassed that it had come to this. The helicopter came closer and they started to lower a person down. Suddenly the wind from the rotors flipped my kayak and, even though I tried to brace, my paddle sunk in the mud.

I had to abandon ship and then try to grab my stuff. The rescuer introduced herself as Bridget and asked me my name and if I was the one who was lost. She also asked if I needed to go to the hospital which I declined since I had no injuries. She then explained the procedure of getting harnessed. We were both having trouble staying upright and kept sinking into the muck and at one point I lost my shoe. I noticed that she had released bright green dye in the water around us. Then the helicopter came back over us. I squeezed my toes tight and my feet pulled out of the muck with my shoes on! It started moving and we were slowly lifted up. They got me in the helicopter and unhooked me. My entire body was shaking because I was completely soaked so they put a blanket over me. Then they landed in the launch parking lot where the police and park rangers were keeping spectators at a distance. Some park visitors came over to ask me questions when I had my changing cover on and all my clothes off! The policewoman said she found a spot that got a signal and she let me call Bart on her phone. I thanked all of the police and rangers and apologized for the trouble.

Some things I learned: A “pond” in the everglades is NOTHING like a pond in Pennsylvania!! Make sure someone knows where you are and when you will be back. Yes, I’ve heard this before and always thought I’ll be fine. 99% of the time, you will be. It’s that 1% that’s a problem. It was smart that I had the following: cellphone, water, food, bug spray, sun screen, whistle, sanitary wipes and map. Except for the water, cell, and map, all of this is always in my dry bag. I also wore my PFD the entire time and it definitely helped to keep my core warm so I did not get hypothermia. I found out it had gone down to 48 degrees during the night. It truly is a LIFE jacket. I should have also had a thermal blanket, flashlight and first aid container (which was in a different dry bag).

So now I’m going to start saving for a new kayak, paddle, and gear- And hey, I know where there’s a free kayak if you want to go get it. At least I think I know where it is..... It’s in a swamp in Everglades National Park, which is one place I will never kayak alone again-the Neverglades.

Lisa Baer



KICK 'N GLIDERS
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

In this Issue of Easy Glider:

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