

# Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium

19-22 July 2001  
Grand Marais, Michigan

17th  
Annual

Sponsored by the

Great Lakes Sea Kayak Club



Misshepezhieu

**S**ponsored by the *Great Lakes Sea Kayak Club* and The Nordkapp Trust and supported by the American Canoe Association, sea kayak manufacturers and retailers, and the town of Grand Marais, the Symposium is designed to expand your knowledge of this unique and rewarding sport.

This Symposium, known for the high quality of its staff, brings together some of the world's most experienced sea kayakers to share their knowledge with you. It is designed to encourage kayakers to interact with these experts and deepen their appreciation of the sport. It also offers fun for everybody: trips to the scenic cliffs of Pictured Rocks, night paddling and bonfire, morning mist paddling in the harbor, a Symposium dinner, wine & cheese party, etc. The Symposium is also an ideal opportunity to try different types of kayaks. Many boats will be available for your examination and testing. Leading kayak manufacturers will exhibit and sell sea kayaks and accessories.

## LOCATION

The Symposium will take place in the small northern Michigan community of Grand Marais on the south shore of Lake Superior. Lake Superior offers the most challenging and scenic paddling of the Great Lakes, an appropriate location to conduct this annual gathering of kayakers. The proximity of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and the Grand Sable Dunes make this an ideal destination for Great Lakes sea kayakers. Guided tours, which are part of the symposium program, will explore high, multicolored sandstone cliffs, arches, sea caves, waterfalls, shipwrecks, lighthouses, and the moonscape of Grand Sable Dunes.

Symposium activities will occur at three locations in Grand Marais: the Community Center for the classes, registration, and manufacturers' display; the High School Gymnasium for lectures; and Bayshore Beach Park for demonstrations, boat trials, on-the-water clinics, and workshops. All these locations are within easy walking distance.

The protected waters of West Bay are ideal for boat testing and lessons. Nearby, the camping area at Woodland Park has an

access to Lake Superior's Agate Beach providing opportunities for surfing on the open lake.

## DIRECTIONS

The Michigan Upper Peninsula town of Grand Marais is located west of I-75 on the north end of Highway 77, 25 miles north of Seney, Michigan, which is on the main east-west road M-28.

## ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

Woodland Park campground, adjacent to the Rec. Building in Grand Marais is the most convenient place to camp. For information on other campgrounds nearby and motels, contact the Chamber of Commerce phone (906) 494-2447 or visit: [www.exploringthenorth.com/gmar/gmbus.html](http://www.exploringthenorth.com/gmar/gmbus.html). The town of Grand Marais has limited food service; many symposium participants prepare their own food (there is a grocery.). The town's high school students will prepare a benefit dinner of pasties on Saturday for \$10.00/person. The proceeds from dinner go entirely to the High School's Senior Trip Fund. You may sign up for the dinner on the registration form and include your payment with the symposium registration fee.

## THE SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM INCLUDES

### On-the-Water

Instruction in Paddling Strokes (Basic & Advanced), Group Rescues, Solo Rescue, Eskimo Rescue, Eskimo Rolls, Advanced Eskimo Rolls, Inuit Techniques, Towing, Navigation, Races, and more!

### Classroom

Seminars in Boat Design, Navigation, Boat Equipment, Paddle Clothing, Paddle Power, Seamanship and Expedition Planning, Group Dynamics, Safety Procedures and Equipment, Wilderness Emergencies, Inuit Paddling and Rolling Techniques.

### Presentations

Featured evening presentations will include talks on trips to Greenland, New Zealand, Lake Superior, and British Columbia.

### GUEST SPEAKERS & INSTRUCTORS

*Ema Chladek* a former white-water World Champion from landlocked Czechoslovakia. Ema with husband Stan were founders of this symposium and very active participants in the Great Lakes Sea Kayak Club and the symposium.

*Trys Morris*, of Great Britain and a BCU coach. Returns for a second GLSKC symposium. Trys is well known for her recent kayak expedition from Great Britain to Greece.

*Andrew Knepley* is an experienced kayaker from the Detroit area. He is a keen student of weather phenomena as it relates to the sea kayaker.

*Andy Knapp* is an intrepid paddler from Minneapolis with many trips, especially on Lake Superior, under his belt. He will present a program on Lake Superior with an emphasis on lesser paddled locations.

*Rowland Woollven*, from Scotland, is a BCU coach with extensive experience in southeast Alaska, British Columbia, Norway and around the British Isles. In real life he is an officer in the British Army.

*Chris Duff* has paddled solo along the East coast of the U.S., and circumnavigated Great Britain, Ireland and New Zealand.

*Scott Fairty* is a BCU Coach, now from Michigan. He has wide experience in both whitewater and sea kayaking.

*Todd Leigh*, President of GLSKC, is a sea kayak instructor with both ACA and the BCU qualifications.

*Dr. Mike Watts* is an avid sea kayaker, originally from England, now living in Ontario. Mike has a passion to paddle in faraway exotic places and is a charismatic and entertaining speaker.

*Dan Winters* is a kayak designer from Virginia who thoroughly understands the factors which influence kayak performance.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

If you have your own sea kayak, paddle, PFD, and cold water paddling gear, bring them. Wet or dry suits must be worn for most trips, rescue clinics and Eskimo paddling sessions... Superior is cold! You need to have your own or rented kayak and gear for all paddling classes, trips, and workshops. Kayaks (personal or rented) must have adequate flotation, deck-lines and pumps.

Sign-up for symposium trips when you send in your registration. **READ THE DESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY (Pages 3 and 4)!** When you check-in at Grand Marais confirm your selections with symposium staff. **Trips will be limited to 6 participants per instructor. YOU MUST BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED AND EQUIPED TO PARTICIPATE THE TRIP YOU CHOOSE.** *Because of our impact at trip put-in sites, car-pooling will be required. Group leaders will meet with all trip participants at the Rec Center Friday morning.* On-the-water activities (trips, night paddling, etc.) may be modified or canceled depending on the weather. All registered participants will receive confirmation and an information letter prior to the Symposium and a detailed schedule, upon their arrival in Grand Marais.

### RENTALS

Kayak and gear rentals are available from *Black Parrot Outfitters* (Ron Smith) (734) 878-3689, [rsmith9999@aol.com](mailto:rsmith9999@aol.com); *Northern Waters* (Carl Hansen) (906) 387-2323; *Rutabaga* (800) I-Paddle; and *Paddle Masters, Coastal Kayaking School* (John Andrew) (651) 227-5747, [info@paddlemasters.com](mailto:info@paddlemasters.com). **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!**

### EXHIBITORS

While confirmation had not been secured prior to this brochure's publication date the following exhibitors (and others) are expected to participate:

*Betsie Bay Kayak, Boreal Design, Chesapeake Light Craft, Current Designs, Dagger, Hardy Products, Nigel Dennis Kayaks, Old Town Canoe, Perception, P & H, Swift Canoe, Simon River Sports, Superior Kayaks, Squeedunk, Valley Canoe Products*

### NOTE:

Volunteers, with their own kayaking equipment, are needed for a free four hour lesson given by B.C.U. instructors as part of their assessment. The volunteers are needed July 19, between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. To volunteer please call: *Great River Outfitters* (248) 683-4770

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Thursday, July 19 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.  
9:00 p.m.

Friday, July 20 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m.  
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 21 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.  
9:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 22 6:30 a.m.  
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
9:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.

Registration, Community Center

Welcome & Evening Lecture, High School Gymnasium

Night Paddle, Star Gazing & Bonfire, Bayshore Beach Park

Registration, Community Center

Guided Paddle Trips (See page 3 for descriptions)

Evening Lectures, High School Gymnasium

Registration, Community Center

Workshops, On-the-Water Clinics and Boat Trials, Bayshore Beach Park

Seminars, Session I and II, Community Center

Workshops, On-the-Water Clinics and Boat Trials, Bayshore Beach Park

Presentations in Community Center

Dinner for participants & Staff, High School Gymnasium

Evening Keynote Lecture, Gymnasium

Wine & Cheese Party, Compliments of Great River Outfitters and GLSKC, Community Center

Morning Mist Paddle, Bayshore Beach Park

Morning Lectures, High School Gymnasium

Races, Bayshore Beach Park

Boat Trials, Bayshore Beach Park

Boat Trials, On-the-Water Clinics and Workshops, Bayshore Beach Park

Inuit Kayak Paddling Technique Demonstration, Bayshore Beach Park

---

## Trip Descriptions and Qualifications for Participants

**Know Your Limits!** – Long paddles, even at a gentle pace, can take a couple days to recover from. Please don't make this your longest trip of the year. Getting into a situation where you are pushing the limit of your comfort range is not the idea. You can't enjoy the great things around you and the great people you are paddling with when you are too tired or tense to look around. Sea kayaking should be fun! There is lots to do and see during the rest of the weekend and you won't get the most out of it if you are tired or recovering from your trip.

**Look For Variety** – The most interesting things you experience from a sea kayak are the changes that occur. Different views, different geology, different flora and fauna on shore, different wind and wave patterns and especially new people. Make sure you can enjoy what's going on around you.

**Start At The Bottom** – Don't do the advanced trips until you've done all the basic and intermediate ones. The widest variety of things to see and experience are on the intermediate trips from Sand Point.

**Pictured Rocks** – is an area of amazing variety. While the cliffs that make up Pictured Rocks themselves are beautiful perhaps more interesting is the ability to pass through and by so many distinctly different types of land formations and water conditions. From the protection of Munising harbor with its sand beaches, tucked in the hills and shielded by Grand Island, it is only a mile or so to the start of the sandstone cliffs that quickly become the Pictured Rocks with nothing but the open horizon of Lake Superior on the other side.

**Grand Island** – Crossing the harbor to Grand Island allows one to visit a totally different geological formation, and to observe the total length of Pictured Rocks, an immense formation that will slowly come into view.

## Skill Levels

### Novice

No experience in a kayak or limited shoreline experience

### Beginner

Completed an open water crossing of at least 3/4 mile. No self or group rescue skills

### Intermediate

Completed open water crossing of at least two miles with some wind and waves. Limited self and group rescue skills.

### Advanced

Extensive open water experience in both wind and waves. Solid self and group rescue skills.

## Safety is Our First Concern

Boats used on trips must be properly equipped with:

Flotation (either watertight bulkheads or air-bags that are secured in place)

Deck-lines (for hanging on to your boat if you have wet-exited)

Pump

You must be properly equipped.

PFD (worn, not stowed)

Dress for immersion in Superior's cold water: wet or dry suit, dry top or fuzzy rubber outfits may be required.

***Trip leaders may change trip plans and exclude participants  
for the safety of individuals and/or the group!***

---

# Trip Sign-up

# Name Length (miles) Skill Level  
**1 Grand Island .....10-12.....Intermediate**

Trip starts at Grand Island Landing (North of Munising) and crosses a channel to Grand Island. Explores the shoreline with views of the lighthouse, rock formations and the mile long beach of Trout Bay. Lunch/snack break at the end of the bay and then return.

**2 Pictured Rocks .....12 .....Intermediate**

Trip starts at Sand Point (See parking below), and travels north along the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore's sandstone cliffs. Most of this 12 mile round trip is in water open to the wind and waves of Lake Superior and subject to rebounding waves off the cliffs. There are limited landing places among the rocks at the base of the cliffs. There are great views of the many colored rocks that give Pictured Rocks their name.

**3 Pictured Rocks .....18 .....Advanced**

Trip starts at Miners Castle Beach and travels north east along the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore's sandstone cliffs to Chapel Rock, through the impressive Grand Portal and back. Most of this 18 mile round trip is in water open to the wind and waves of Lake Superior and subject to rebounding waves off the cliffs. There are limited landing places among the rocks at the base of the cliffs.

**4 North Point.....16 .....Advanced**

Trip starts at Miners Castle Beach and crosses the channel to Grand Island. Travel is north along the western shoreline of the island. You will see rugged cliffs covered with coniferous forest. Driving time 1 3/4 hours (quickest route... 77 to 28 to Munising).

**5 Murray Bay.....8-10.....Intermediate**

Trip starts at Grand Island Landing, adjacent to Munising Tourist Park west of Munising on M-28. It starts with a short open water crossing to Grand Island, explores the island shoreline, then returns. Driving time 1 3/4 hours (quickest route... 77 to 28 to Munising).

**6 Grand Sable Dunes.....8 .....Intermediate**

The trip starts at Hurricane River Campground travels east past the Grand Sable Point Lighthouse and along the Grand Sable Dunes, then returns to Hurricane River. Driving time is about one hour along Pictures Rocks Lakeshore road.

**7 Harbor Tour.....4-6.....Novice**

Trip starts at West Beach Park in Grand Marais. Harbor is largely protected from wind and waves of the open lake, while still providing a Lake Superior paddling experience. Grand Marais Harbor includes views of commercial and pleasure craft, sandy beaches and lakeshore cottages.

## Wear your wrist band to the put-in!

### Trips leaving from Sand Point (Munising)

Allow 1 1/2 hours drive time to get to Sand Point (quickest route is south on 77 to Seney, then west on 28 into Munising. Follow signs to Pictured Rocks, Munising Falls and Sand Point. Sand Point is on North East side of Munising. Allow at least an additional half-hour to take the shorter, scenic route along the lakeshore.) Limited parking at the point and at the Park Headquarters (adjacent) **REQUIRE** car pooling. Make these arrangements with trip leaders at the Rec Center in Grand Marais before setting out (7:00-7:30 a.m.).

### Make your 1st and 2nd choices for trips

Make your choices carefully. Remember, trip leaders may prevent your participation if you are not properly clothed, quipped and skilled for the trip/class you have chosen

Friday TRIP Selection:	1st Choice	2nd Choice
	# <input type="text"/>	# <input type="text"/>

*Keep this sheet for your reference.*

Mark your choices on the registration form (back page of this flyer).

Every effort will be made to schedule your first trip choice.

# On-the-Water Classes

Sign-up for on-the-water classes will take place when you check-in at the Rec Center in Grand Marais. To improve the quality of the experience, symposium participants will be limited to **two on-the water classes** during this year's symposium. We hope that this will enable us to keep class sizes small enough for everyone to get the maximum benefit from each class. Use the information below to choose the classes most appropriate to your interests and skill levels. Note that most classes are offered in more than one time slot. Have alternative plans ready in case your first choices are not available.

\*Late registrations (at Grand Marais) will be allowed to register for on-the-water classes starting at 5:30 on Friday.

## Tentative Class Schedule

### Saturday 7/21

10:00-12:00

Inuit Paddling  
Solo Rescue  
Towing  
Kids Class

1:00-5:00

Beginning Paddling  
Advanced Paddling  
Group Rescue  
Solo Rescue  
Rolling  
Inuit Paddling  
Women's Clinic  
Kids Class

### Sunday 7/22

12:00-2:00

Beginning Paddling  
Advanced Paddling  
Group Rescue  
Solo Rescue  
Inuit Paddling

12:00-1:30

Rolling

## BRITISH CANOE UNION (BCU) COURSES

The symposium will be preceded by sea kayak courses for kayakers who want to advance their kayaking and instructional skills under the aegis of the BCU's rigorous training system. The courses will be directed by BCU Coach Scott Fairty. The following courses will be offered: *4 Star training & assessment, Coach 2 assessment, Coach 3 training, 3 Star Assessment, Canoe Safety Course.*

Since several courses will be run simultaneously, the coach candidates must have prerequisite qualifications.

The courses (which are not part of the symposium) will commence on July 17 in the morning and end on July 19 before the Symposium program begins. The courses are run by *Great River Outfitters*, please call *GRO* directly for registration information at (248) 683-4770.

## SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS — GREAT LAKES SEAS KAYAKING CLUB and THE NORDKAPP TRUST

The Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Club is an informal association of kayakers interested in kayaking on the Great Lakes and united in their quest to preserve the unspoiled environment.

The club has a loose structure governed by a steering committee whose current members are listed on page two of the *GLSK Newsletter*. The membership of the club varies from 150-250 kayakers, mostly from the Great Lakes states and Ontario but including members from as far west as Alaska and as far east as New Jersey. The current membership dues are \$8.00 per year and include a subscription to the club's newsletter *Great Lakes Sea Kayaker*.

Club members meet several times per year on sea kayaking rendezvous held at different locations on the Great Lakes, rendezvous are "no charge" events open to all club members and their friends and provide opportunities for various skill-level kayakers to interact. Attendance at some of the rendezvous is quite large (40-50 people). Kayakers usually split into groups for trips of various lengths and difficulties. The best attended rendezvous, The Gales of November, was established 13 years ago by Stan Chladek, a founding member of the club and newsletter. This rendezvous traditionally takes place in Agawa Bay on Lake Superior's north shore in Ontario on the first weekend of November. Its tradition goes back to 1986 when the first group of hardy kayakers came to battle gale force winds, waves and the huge surf of the Inland Sea (see *River Runner*, April 1988, p. 28). A more recent rendezvous, September's Beaver Island Rendezvous, has been organized by club members from northwestern Michigan.

The club has started its own sea kayak instructional program using the highly developed British Canoe Union (BCU) coaching system. Several club members are instructors certified by both the American Canoe Association (ACA) and BCU.

In the past the club has undertaken several actions of interest to the paddling public. Member Gary DeKock has spearheaded the club's effort to preserve Grand Island in Lake Superior by getting it transferred to the federal government and striving to preserve its natural character. In 1989 John Landreville led a successful campaign against registration of kayaks and canoes in Michigan. We have also been involved in efforts against attempts by the U.S. Coast Guard to assess users' fees on kayaks and canoes.

Because the Great Lakes cover such a vast area, the primary vehicle of communication between club members is the newsletter, *Great Lakes Sea Kayaker*. A handful of sea kayaking enthusiasts from the Detroit, Michigan area started the newsletter back in 1986. The newsletter continues to improve and be a fine informal publication for the exchange of views, trip reports, kayaking news, announcements, a schedule of sea kayaking events, etc. The newsletter publishes a roster of members to foster the horizontal communication between kayakers and to facilitate local trips. Further, the newsletter provides a free advertising service for club members selling boats or equipment. No commercial advertisements appear in the newsletter nor is its membership list made available to businesses.

The newsletter is published five times a year, members submit articles for publication, and editorial changes are kept to a minimum. The editorial staff also reprints articles from other newsletters if deemed of interest to club members. The newsletter is always looking for good articles about sea kayaking. The current editor is Larry Merx, 39 West Judd Rd., Milan, Michigan 48160, phone: (734) 439-0049 fax: (734) 439-3184, e-mail: [lmerx@nkfm.org](mailto:lmerx@nkfm.org). Newsletter subscriptions are available for a calendar year and midyear new member/subscribers get the current year's back issues.

A sample of the newsletter is available upon request.

If you need further information, please call or write:

*Great Lakes Sea Kayak Club*  
Larry Merx, 39 W. Judd Rd., Milan, MI 48160  
(734) 439-0049 • e-mail: [lmerx@nkfm.org](mailto:lmerx@nkfm.org)

## 17th Annual Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium

Grand Marais, Michigan  
Thursday, July 19 - Sunday, July 22, 2001

# Join the Great Lakes Sea Kayak Club TODAY!

Keep up with — Club, National and International Kayaking Events, Safety Information and Instruction, Environmental and Regulatory Issues, the latest in Training and First Aid Techniques, Nutrition, Equipment, Destinations, and MORE!

INCLUDE A SUBSCRIPTION TO **Great Lakes Sea Kayaker** WITH YOUR SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION!

## REGISTRATION

Please register early — To register for symposium fill out and send the attached form (below) and your registration fee to Great Lakes Sea Kayak Club membership chair, Larry Merx (address below). Add \$10.00/per person to include Saturday's pastie dinner. Please make your check payable to "GLSKC" and mark it "Sympo."

Only registered participants are allowed in kayaks. Trips and instruction will be limited to 250 participants. **MAIL-IN REGISTRATION** (Before June 23) fee is \$100. Indicate your 1st and 2nd choice of trips below, check-in before 5:00 p.m. Thursday for best class and trip selections. Sign-up for classes starts at 2:00 Thursday. **LATE REGISTRATION** (At Grand Marais) fee \$120. Sign-up for trips begins at 5:30 p.m. Thursday and for classes at 5:30 p.m. on Friday.

..... Clip and Mail .....

## REGISTRATION 17th Annual Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium • July 19-July 22, 2001

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee (\$100/person before June 23, \$120 at symposium): \_\_\_\_\_

Pastie Dinner (\$ 10.00 each participant) Must be ordered in advance!: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription & Membership – Great Lakes Sea Kayak Club (\$8): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

### Friday TRIP Selection

1st Choice #

2nd Choice #

Include a Subscription to  
**Great Lakes Sea Kayaker** & Membership in

*Great Lakes Sea Kayak Club*  
5 issues (one year) \$8



Please make checks payable to "GLSKC," mark for "Sympo" and Send to:  
Great Lakes Sea Kayak Club, attn: Larry Merx • 39 W. Judd Rd., Milan, MI 48160 • (734) 439-0049



GREAT LAKES SEA KAYAK CLUB  
39 W. Judd Rd.  
Milan, MI 48160

Address Correction Requested