

ISK Halloween Paddle, October 31, 2014

Participants: Dana D. Lynette W., Mike W., Steve D. and Lisa D.

Trip Leader: Lisa Dau

Location: Big Marine Lake

This was a night paddle that began at sunset on Halloween. Dana outfitted himself with the appropriate Halloween attire. It was also soon discovered that a drysuit was forgotten and Mike, Lynette and Dana busily exchanged dry and wetsuits so everyone could still paddle. The water temperatures were barely above freezing. There was not a breath of wind, and the water was dead calm.

We barely launched, and the sun quickly set and we were soon paddling in darkness. We each had headlamps, along with glow sticks that were attached our life vests and/or boats. We quickly came up on the little island that sits roughly in the middle of the lake, and then turned east to paddle around a large bay. The south side of the bay is lined with homes and summer cabins, while the north side is woods, reeds and cattails. A dog must have heard us paddling and talking (as there was no other sound to be heard) and it kept us serenaded with its barking. One member of the paddling group felt there must have been a Sasquatch out there somewhere as well that activated the dog.

While making our way back out of the bay on the north side, we came upon a man-made inlet and decided to follow it. This was the treat of the trip. It was a narrow and winding swath cut through the reeds and cattails, along with the appropriate undulating Halloween fog. After a few minutes of paddling, we came upon an ensconced marina. We took a few minutes to explore, and made our way back to the bay. Lisa thought she saw a dead spotted creature in the water, but only turned out to be the root system of a water plant thanks to Lynette's knowledge of plant life.

We paddled another 45 minutes or so, and landed back at our launch site. It was quite chilly by this point and it was around 9 – 9:30pm. Lisa shared popcorn balls, we all shared our well-wishes and headed home.

