

Memorial Day Rendezvous 2010

Once again we had great weather and a great turnout for the Memorial Day Rendezvous in the Apostle Islands. This year we reserved the group site at the campground on Little Sand Bay, so we had a fire pit and shelter available if needed.

Several folks arrived early enough to go for a paddle on Friday. Sandy launched from Meyers Beach and visited the mainland sea caves. Mike O, Tony S, Steve, Mike and Lynette paddled in Little Sand Bay to the estuary.

In the early evening, the club tent was hung under the shelter as a mosquito protection barrier, and although it was never used, it's always good practice to put the tent up. Got to practice those knots.

Mike W. took on the master firebuilder role, and as dark fell on Friday evening and more club members trickled in, we enjoyed the first of our evening fires.

On Saturday morning, 10 paddlers headed out to Sand Island -- Sandy, Tony E, Tony S, Steve, Fran, Mike W, Lynette, Mike O, Peggy, Pete, Doug, We paddled up the eastern shore as far as the lighthouse and returned. Jeff and Michelle arrived in the afternoon, and were returning from a short paddle just as the Sand Islanders got back to Little Sand Bay.

Chris G. arrived just before the Saturday night potluck with Jeff's boat, into which he had installed a new seat. Naturally, the boat had to be placed on the ground and several people had to sit in it (one at a time) to check out the splendid new seat.

The culinary talents of the group were showcased at the pot luck dinner on Saturday night. Baked fish, pasta, sausage and peppers, desserts, rice, bread, desserts... Nobody went hungry! Tom C arrived in time for dinner; Sam joined us in the evening in time for the bonfire. Three (almost four!) year old Nandini came until bedtime and was a delight.

On Sunday, smaller groups formed up and headed different directions. Some spent a shore day in Bayfield, getting another seat replaced by Chris G. There was another estuary trip and a chance for Ajit to try out his boat for the very first time (what better place than Lake Superior?). A group went to Raspberry. Sam, Jeff, Peggy and Pete headed towards Devils, but turned around at the north end of Bear in consideration of the oncoming front that could bring severe weather.

Folks started returning home Sunday night, but one final bonfire was held that night, with the requisite laughter and conversation that go with all bonfires. More people left in the morning, and one last group (Sam, Pete, and Tom?) headed out for a morning paddle before heading home.

Until next year!