



VICTORIA CANOE & KAYAK CLUB NEWSLETTER

RCABC (www.bccanoe.com), CRCA (www.crca.ca) and CORA (www.canadianoutrigger.com) member
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FEBRUARY 2006



New Year's Day Paddle
(see page 5)

GENERAL MEETING

TIME: February 7th 7:30 PM

Lori Peter & Drew Barnes
present
'The Komodo Dragons'

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Gibb's Rock

We have lost one of our favourite companions. VCKC member, David Gibbs, died suddenly this past Christmas Day in a tragic car accident.

Although Dave is gone, he left us with a memory that is cast in stone. Let me explain.

A number of years ago during a VCKC Moving Water Canoe Course, we started the 'lessons' on the Nanaimo River. David was just one of the eager and nervous neophytes learning the ways of the river. We had run a few rapids and had become more and more confident in our newfound skills. But the river does not allow us to become distracted. Dave did!

As a consequence and with great precision and aplomb, Dave and his solo canoe collided sideways with a rock which bisected the canoe exactly in the centre as if measured by some precise drafting instrument.

The results were astonishing (to the neophytes) as we watched the canoe wrap its laminated royalex hull around one of the only rocks to be seen in that stretch of the river!

The canoe broke into two, Dave broke into depression, and the canoe's owner broke into a sweat. The rock didn't break. In fact, it is still there waiting for the next distracted paddler and canoe.

I am proposing that we dedicate this rock to Dave's memory by calling it 'Gibbs' Rock'. I know that every time I go by it, it will remind me of one of the kindest fellows I have ever had the chance to meet. Next time you paddle the Upper Nanaimo say 'Hi' to Dave and his rock.

Tony Shaw



GENERAL MEETINGS

First Tuesday of each month
(September - June)

MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

February 16th, 2005

Club News

Happy New Year Everyone

First of all, a big thank you to the outgoing Executive who did a stellar job. As with all volunteer boards, it is important to bring in new people to share the workload, and this year we have lots of new faces. The 2006 executive have had their first meeting, and I look forward to working with everyone to have a year of safe and fun paddling.

The voyageur paddlers are gearing up for their first practice in preparation for their annual Paddle to Port Angeles, and the dragonboaters are meeting January 30th to plan for their upcoming season. More international medals perhaps?

VCKC received a thank you note from the Mustard Seed for the food donations from the Christmas Party, and it is heartening to see that our charity is appreciated throughout the year.

That's what separates us from the corporations - we really are a community organization caring for each other.

We encourage you to come out on February 7th and hear Lori Peters and Drew Barnes presentation on the Komodo Dragons - a dragonboat team of mental health clients and staff. Their race season is very short with only 7 practices, but the experience has become an annual event that is one of the highlights of their year.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Cheers

Judi Murakami

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal forms for 2006 are available on the VCKC web site. Please complete the form, sign the waiver, and return it with your payment by personal cheque or money order only (NO CASH PLEASE) to the clubhouse. Kindly ensure that a fully completed form accompanies your payment. Thanks for your cooperation and Happy Paddling in 2006.

Please be sure to note the new membership rates: \$40.00 (single); \$60.00 (family).

Note: The membership renewal form, included with the November newsletter, was recently updated. If possible, please use the on-line version that can be found at: <http://www.vckc.ca>. Click on the member's link.

Hard copies are available at the clubhouse.

BOAT STORAGE

Please remember to include your storage and/or locker renewal fees with your yearly membership fees (which are all due in January). If you no longer need storage or a locker, please contact the storage coordinators (Alex Mann or Lynn Sanderson at VCKCstorage@yahoo.ca or 382-7781), as we are always getting new requests. Anybody wanting storage or a locker can contact us and we will put you on a wait list

The club policy for boat storage is as follows:

Preference for regular paddlers:

The storage is intended to promote paddling within the community. Preference for storage spaces will be given to members who use their boats regularly. Members who use the compound simply as a storage space for their boats, but rarely or never use them, will be asked to find another site to keep their craft. Please consider others who may wish to paddle, and who may not have other options for boat storage.

Unpaid storage fees:

Non-payment of fees will result in the boat being removed and the space given to someone else. Non-payment of either membership or storage fees by the end of January will result in efforts to contact the member (by phone call or email) in February. Non-payment by the end of February will result in the boat being removed and the space offered to a waiting member. Efforts will be made to inform the boat owner of this action, and the boat will be kept in the compound (but not on a rack) for a further month (March).

Note that it is the member's responsibility to keep the club up-to-date with current contact information (e.g. mailing address, contact phone numbers, e-mail). Every effort will be made to reach members throughout February and March, but failure to reach a member due to wrong or missing contact information will not delay the process for unpaid fees.

Security:

In order to make the compound more secure, combination locks have been put on both gates. It is the responsibility of members with boats in the compound to remember the combinations and to ensure that the gates are closed and the locks reset after removing or returning their boat. It is still strongly advised that club members lock their boats to the racks, as well as tying them to prevent blowing off the racks during strong winds. Locked gates will deter casual theft, but the fence is not a barrier to more determined thieves. The club does not carry insurance for losses for the storage area.

It is also best to provide the storage coordinators with copies of your combinations or keys in case boats have to be moved in an emergency.

Club canoes:

There are two club canoes available for members to use. They are stored in the outside compound. One is yellow and the other is turquoise and both are marked "V.C.K.C.". If you would like to use them, please sign them out in the book tacked to the bulletin board next to the locked storage cage in the basement.

All questions concerning boat storage should be addressed to Alex Mann or Lynn Sanderson at VCKCstorage@yahoo.ca or 382-7781.

Membership News

I am Tony Copping, the new Membership Director. I would like to share my experience for new or potential members, of being a VCKC member.

I have been a VCKC member and kayaker for over 5 years. VCKC really got my kayaking experience going by:

- introducing me to other paddlers; many of whom are now close friends;
- providing many inexpensive courses and clinics from paddling skills (CRCA certified, to navigation and wilderness first aid);

- my experiencing first hand and through presentations by others, neat places and wild life all around BC.

We would like your feedback at any time on any topics such as the website, newsletter, etc. Your activity Program Director is directly involved in planning your monthly meeting and events.

Tony Copping
Membership Director
acopping@shaw.ca

WEBSITE NEWS

Electronic version of the newsletter. Get your newsletter before everyone else! The monthly newsletter is posted to the website (www.vckc.ca) a few days before the printed version is mailed out. As a bonus, the online newsletter photos are in colour. If you would like to take advantage of this and save the club both printing and mailing costs, then please contact the newsletter editor. Online subscribers receive email notification that the newsletter has been posted.

Online Calendar. Clubhouse bookings (meetings, seminars, etc) and other events of interest to members (activities, races, social, etc) are now posted to our online calendar. Upcoming events are listed on the main page of our website (www.vckc.ca) If you would like to book the clubhouse for a club event or wish to let other members know of an upcoming event of interest then please submit these details to the clubhouse booking coordinator including your name, the event, date and time, and contact details (phone number, email, web site, etc).

Online Photos. Got some interesting photos you would like to share? The website has the space. We now have a photo album on the website and are looking for some good photos and links of club members in action. Please submit photos to Mike at foxes@shaw.ca , and make sure you follow the guidelines published on the photos page of the website. There are currently a number of pictures and links on the page for the Voyageur Program and the Wake Up the Gorge Event.

Please spend a few moments and check out the website. If you have suggestions for improvement, or would like to see additional features, please contact Mike at foxes@shaw.ca .

Bruce Irving/Michael Fox

SEA KAYAK PROGRAM NEWS

Congratulations to Fred Trudell for taking over as the new Kayak Program director for 2006. I'm sure everyone will give Fred as much support as I received. I hope that we have another busy year with the kayak program. Be sure to check upcoming newsletters and meetings for courses, clinics and paddling events as they become available.

The next Kayak Program meeting is on Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00pm. Our guest speaker will be Mark Reuten of Nomad Boat Building. Mark will present a slide show chronicling the re-introduction of kayak building traditions to the Netsilik Inuit of Kugaaruk.

Over the course of three summers, Mark Reuten and shop mate Rob Morris traveled to the eastern arctic to assist elders and youth in re-developing the techniques of skin-on-frame kayak construction in their

regional style of kayak. The Netsilik kayak is a long, lean craft used primarily for caribou hunting at wide river crossings.

The next series on navigation will be on Thursday, February 23 at 7:30pm. Doug Alderson will speak on 'Local Weather Effects – Wind and Waves'.

Remember, when out paddling, always dress appropriately for the sea and weather conditions as well as your paddling skills. Always paddle with a buddy and file a float plan.

Gary Allen

CANOE PROGRAM NEWS

Due to the Voyageur Canoe practices every Sunday in February and March, the flatwater paddles in these months will be held on Saturdays. Trips are planned for February 4 and 18 and March 4. Details TBA. Meet at the clubhouse at 9:00am. Call Linda at 592-4170.

The next Canoe Program meeting will be on March 20, 2006.

V.C.K.C. PADDLE FOR THE KIDS LIVES ON

This Special Voyageur Canoe Event is our Club's Big Fund raiser on behalf of the Lions Club Society to raise money and assist in the funding of programs for Kids with Disabilities. Its special focus is to support Camp Shawnigan where the children can safely experience the fun of camping and water sports.

In the last 23 years, the membership of the VCKC has raised over \$150,000 which has contributed hugely to the VCKC's very high standing in our community. This year's paddle to Port Angeles and back will be on **Saturday, April 1st** (weather permitting) beginning from our clubhouse at 6:30 AM and finishing around 5 PM in Victoria's Inner Harbour.

It's a fun day and you do not have to paddle the whole day, as we paddle in shifts, approximately 1½ hours. A Navel escort carries the spare crews in the relative comfort of an 85 foot training ship and the crew changes are made by an 18 person Zodiac provided by the Victoria Marine Rescue Society.

Refreshments are provided by the Port Angeles Lions Society and a Potluck Feast will be waiting at the Clubhouse upon return. This is a wonderful cause and the club needs your support. Encourage family and friends to make a pledge on the behalf of VCKC and the BC Lions Society for Kids with Disabilities. Donations over \$10.00 are tax deductible. Pledge forms are attached to mailed copies this month's newsletter. The pledge form is also available on-line at the VCKC website.

Training begins **Sunday, Jan 29th** with a "Welcome and Briefing" followed by a "Getting to Know You" paddle to and around the outer harbour to get rid of some toxins before stopping at Spinnakers for lunch and refreshments.

The balance of the **Sunday** training sessions are:

- Feb 05th** Pat Bay to Sidney with a stop at the Stonehouse Pub for lunch
- Feb 12th** Sooke Basin, Bring lunch
- Feb 19th** Island View Beach to Oak Bay. Bring a lunch
- Feb 26th** Maple Bay to Cowichan Bay via Cowichan River. Bring lunch
- Mar 05th** Portland Island to Rum Island – Back to Sidney. Bring lunch
- Mar 12th** Thetis and Kuper Island from Chemainus with lunch and refreshments stop at Pub
- Mar 19th** Sidney, James Island. Bring lunch
- Mar 26th** VCKC to Oak Bay. Bring Lunch



Do you have a key to the clubhouse or to the boat storage areas? If so, please let Vice-President, Mile Petrovic know. Mile wants to do an inventory so that there's a record of who has keys to what.

Let Mile know at 893-1904 or email to lorna.petrovic@viha.ca.

Saturday, April 1st Port Angeles and back

Meet at the clubhouse at 6:00am. Bring snacks and refreshments for the round trip.

You don't have to make every practice but you should try to make at least two depending on one's experience and physical condition.

For further information, contact Don Munros at 385-2268 or Alan Thomson at 592-4170.

Sunday Practice Routine:

Meet at the clubhouse at 9am for each training practice. Don't forget to bring a paddle, lifejacket, rubber boots, rain gear, water, snacks and a change of clothes in a watertight container (i.e. dry bag).

OUTRIGGERS WANTED

Need men 40yrs + to paddle Tuesdays and Thursdays 1730-1900, plus the odd race. Come out and get sweaty. Call Doug Linton 727-0216.

Clubhouse & Grounds

House and Grounds helpers are going to apply some TLC to the Clubhouse during this quiet time. We're planning to remove the old carpeting on the back stairs and on the main floor hallway; we'll clean up the floor underneath. It will probably be necessary to place a doormat at the landing and some stair treads to protect the wood. Ditto the hallway. A damp mop/sweepable surface that is able to be kept clean and bug free is the intent.

The next newsletter will have a suggestion for using the two bright rooms on the main floor as Change Rooms (male and female) with benches and clothes hooks or small lockers (after the big lockers are re-organized downstairs). House and Grounds and Boat Storage are discussing the best way to make use of that space this season. A little TLC is in order down there, too. Stay tuned. Any suggestions can be sent to ksgunn@shaw.ca.

Kathleen Gunn

Gorge Waterway Initiative

In January 2005, organizations with an interest in the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet came together to form the Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI). Representatives of these organizations have met monthly and developed a clearer picture of GWI's role:

What: The *Gorge Waterway Initiative* is a collaborative, community-driven group of organizations (including VCKC) dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural features of the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and surrounding watersheds.

Mission: Our mission is to maintain, protect and enhance the health of the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet, their watersheds and communities, for the enjoyment and well-being of present and future generations.

Vision: Our vision is for a healthy environment in perpetuity for all life in the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and surrounding watersheds.

Goals:

To provide and promote education, stewardship and awareness programs, and encourage responsible land and water uses;

To serve as a hub for information sharing and act as a point of contact for waterway issues;

To encourage and advocate for the protection, restoration and enhancement of the waterway and its watersheds.

The **Gorge Waterway Initiative** is pleased to announce a public launch on Wednesday, February 15 between 7 and 9 PM. The launch will feature a presentation by Dennis Minaker, author of 'The Gorge of Summers Gone: A History of Victoria's Inland Waterway'. Dennis Minaker is a noted local historian and author. He will talk about the gorge waterway and its cultural significance to the region. Afterwards he'll sign copies of his book.

The locale for the Gorge Waterway Initiative launch has not yet been announced but interested VCKC members can check with Don Munroe at 385-2268 or voyageguy@shaw.ca.

Member organizations of the Gorge Waterway Initiative include:

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- Burnside Gorge Community Association
 - Friends of Cuthbert Holmes
 - Gorge Tillicum Community Association
 - Geoge Waterway Action Society

- Portage Inlet Protection Society
- Portage Inlet Sanctuary Colquitz Estuary Society
- Seachange Marine Conservation Society
- Seaquaria in Schools
- The Land Conservancy
- Habitat acquisition Trust
- Veins of Life Watershed Society
- Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club
- Victoria West Community Association
- Capital Region District
- City of Victoria/Victoria Shoreline and Environment Advisory Committee; District of Saanich/Saanich Environmental Advisory Committee; Township of Esquimalt/Esquimalt Parks and Recreation Commission; Town of View Royal/View Royal Parks, Recreation and Environmental Advisory Committee;
- (Financial support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, administered by the CRD)

Also of interest to VCKC members:

Skiing in Eastern Siberia

On Wednesday, February 8 at 7pm, Ocean River Sports is presenting a talk and slideshow by Stu Coleman.

Stu Coleman was one of five Australians who set out in March and April 2004 to climb and telemark ski a group of four volcanoes in Kamchatka located in far Eastern Siberia. It's an area that was just recently opened to foreigners.

The quintet of adventurers was besieged by horrendous weather and temperatures below -30. Nevertheless they succeeded in climbing and telemark skiing two of the four volcanoes.

Stu Coleman will recount his personal experiences from the expedition including the good, the bad and the in-between. He'll also throw in a bit of travel and technical information.

Wednesday, February 8 – 7:00pm
 Ocean River Sports
 1824 Store Street
 (250) 381-4233

If you plan to attend, please call ahead and reserve a seat as space is limited.

The new **Gorge Waterway Initiative** is pleased to announce our official public launch and invites you to attend a special presentation by the first of our guest speakers, Dennis Minaker. Dennis is a noted local historian and author of **The Gorge of Summers Gone: A History of Victoria's Inland Waterway**. His presentation highlighting the history of the Gorge Waterway and its cultural significance to the Region will be followed by a book signing.

Date: Wednesday, February 15th
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Place: ????

New Year's Day Paddle

Taking 3 voyageurs and a few kayaks, the New Year's Day paddlers launched at a very high tide and headed up the Gorge and into Craigflower Creek.

With the wind and the tide at our backs, we wondered about the return journey. At the little falls in the creek, the sun came out and the wind eased so that the tree tops no longer swayed.

Returning was easier than imagined. Upon arrival at the dock, we found the tide even higher than it was earlier. As you can see from the photo, the ramp to the dock was much higher than the public walkway.
 Jean Chandler



VCKC Executive

<p>President Judy Murakami 360-2776</p> <p>Vice President Mile Petrovic 893-1904</p> <p>Treasurer Paul Post 412-4323</p> <p>Secretary Lorna Petrovic 733-2013</p> <p>Past President Paul de la Bastide 598-9611</p> <p>Program Directors:</p> <p>Canoe Program Linda Thomson 592-4170</p> <p>Dragon Boat Program James McBean 813-3456</p> <p>Outrigger Program Keith Larusson 598-7193</p> <p>Sea Kayak Program Fred Trudell 480-0880</p>	<p>Voyageur Program Don Munroe 385-2268</p> <p>Marathon Canoe Program Ron Williams 380-7496</p> <p>Education, Standards & Safety Doug Linton 727-0216</p> <p>Membership Tony Copping 479-1308</p> <p>Clubhouse & Grounds Kathleen Gunn 384-6436</p> <p>Social Coordinator Irena Jazwinski 388-9757</p> <p>Boat Storage Alex Mann & Lynn Sanderson .. 382-7781</p> <p>Newsletter Harold Gillis 598-9488</p> <p>Directors-at-Large Mavis Pillar 384-4390 John Close 384-8077 Joy Newham 385-5876 Fraser Tweedy 380-6952</p>
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VCKC Clubhouse Bookings and Club Activities February 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Canoe Trip - TBA 9:00am Linda - 592-4170
5	6	7 7:30pm General Meeting Judi 360-2776	8	9	10	11
12 Kayak - New Member's Paddle Brentwood Bay 9:30am Lani - 595-6056	13	14 7:30pm VCKC Executive Mtg Judi 360-2776	15 7:00pm Kayak Program Mtg	16	17	18 Canoe Trip - TBA 9:00am Linda - 592-4170
19	20	21	22	23 7:30pm Kayak Program - Navigation Talk Fred 480-0880	24	25
26	27	28 7:30pm Outrigger Program Meeting				