



Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club
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October 2006



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The Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club is a member of:
RCABA (bccanoe.com);
CRCA (paddlingcanada.ca)
CORA
(canadianoutrigger.com)

General Meetings
First Tuesday of each month
(September - June)

November 2006
Newsletter Deadline:
October 16, 2006



**Paddling the Thompson River
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Membership Fees and Form Review

The VCKC Executive conducted a review of the current rate structure at the September Executive meeting. The following changes will be reflected in a revised membership form which will be available shortly. If there are any questions, concerns or suggestions about the form design, fees or other membership issues, please send these to the Membership Director. Please note that VCKC continues to strive for fairness of fees, sound financial decision-making, and a simplicity in process for both members and our (volunteer) executive and program directors.

Changes to the fee structure to take effect January 1, 2007:

For new members, partial year fees will apply only for the period September to December. Full year fees will stay as they are.

For renewing members, there will be no partial year fees. Full year fees will stay as they are.

Clarification of storage policies:

Members must be paid up members to apply for boat and locker storage.

Members must apply for, receive confirmation, and then pay for storage prior to receiving access to same.

Waiting lists for storage are filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Clarification of course policies:

Members must be paid up members to take VCKC courses.

Course lists will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Tony Copping
Membership Program Director
Email: acopping@shaw.ca

Voyageur Report

The outriggers have had a wonderful summer, great weather and calm seas. By all accounts the canoe that was at Caddy Bay was used extensively and enjoyed to the fullest. One member said it was the first time that they have ever been out in open water and they found it very exciting to be in a few waves. Back at the gorge the crews that were not on hiatus with dragon boating, took advantage of the wonderful summer weather. We have exposed the novice members to the wonders of huli training and most new members are up to speed. Throughout the fall we will be offering stroke clinics, and stern clinics for those who are so inclined. The outriggers have our usual monthly meeting at the club on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

I hope to see you there.

Keith Larusson

Content Please ...

You may notice that this month's newsletter is rather on the slim side. That's because I didn't have much content submitted and didn't have time to go about hounding people for it.

Please don't be shy about making a contribution.

Personally I love trip reports. The next best thing to going out paddling is reading about someone else's adventures. And we don't just have to hear about club trips. Surely some of you had some interesting adventures on the water this past summer. Send me an email telling your story. Better still send me an email with some photos attached (large jpg files, please ... I can resize). Or if the literary muse refuses to strike, send me photos by themselves with a short description. There's something to be said for that old saying about a picture being worth a thousand words.

Please. Give your newsletter editor something to edit!

Harold Gillis
VCKC Newsletter Editor
Email: haroldgillis@gmail.com

Trip Report - Thompson River

Fourteen VCKC Club members drove all the way up to the Thompson River on the weekend of the 9th/10th to run from Savona Bridge/Steelhead Provincial Park down to Ashcroft in voyageur canoes. The Club has done this trip some 6 or 7 times over the past ten years, and it has always been a worthwhile effort. What was new this year was the presence of 5 paddlers from the Dogwood Canoe Club in Vancouver. We had heard that they were interested in running this section of the river and so we called their trip coordinator, Ron Johansen, to suggest that they might like to join forces. As usual, there were also a number of paddlers from the local Kamloops club - the Thompson River & Interior Paddling Society - or TRIPS. Wally Makartoff again organised this group, who provided local knowledge, not just of the river, but the history of the area, adding to the enjoyment.

We rented three voyageurs from a contact in Maple Ridge (who knew the Albion Ferry would be so backed up at lunch time on a Friday?) and drove them up to Juniper Beach Provincial campsite where the ranger, Don and his wife Maude, made us most welcome. By 11.30pm everyone had arrived, in cars, vans and motorbike, and we went to sleep under clear but warm skies, waking periodically as the long freight trains passed in the night, hooting mournfully (or in derision/annoyance - call it what you will) as they came to the various level crossings. The earth moved for all of us at night.

Saturday morning saw us on the river by 10am, shuttles done. Three voyageurs and four tandems headed down the river. It is the lowest we've ever run it, in fact the lowest that the TRIPS group had seen, so some areas were smoother, some had more rocks and waves. Everyone came through the first rapids below the rail bridge intact, albeit with plenty of water to bail, and then it began to rain. We've never had rain before that I can remember, so this was unexpected. By the time we hit Juniper Beach at 12.45, most of the group were cold, all were wet, and 4 paddlers decided that they'd had enough water for the day. We took an hour

or so to warm up and arrange who was paddling where, then off on the second leg. The weather improved and we could see the great scenery - cliffs, sandbanks soaring high on the right side, sere grass and few trees on the left. As everyone was paddling to keep warm, we reached Ashcroft in less than 2 hours - faster than usual, and so had time to drink beer in the pub and still get home in time to cook in daylight.

Sunday was dry, mainly clear and we ran the upper half again. Tom Staebell's voyageurs carved out a reputation as fearless eddy grabbers, beating their own estimation of only being likely to be successful sixty percent of the time. In fact, they didn't tip once, although it was a close call on occasion. Plenty of osprey and herons, lots of salmon, many floating dead on the surface of the river. We hit the campsite at 12.45 again, as had the Kamloops group and headed home on the evening ferries.

Overall a successful trip in spite of the rain. Could it be that the Dogwood Club members brought it with them? Only one way to find out - invite them again next year. Once is happenstance; twice would be circumstance; three times would be?

The trip is not cheap. Ferry and gas costs can reach \$75 to \$100 per person, renting the boats added \$300 and camping was \$10 per person. But there is no water of the same volume on the Island, and it seems worthwhile to carry on, especially if we can meet paddlers from other clubs and get to know their trips and habits.

Thanks to Wally Makartoff for organising the TRIPS members, to Ron Johansen for arranging the Dogwood paddlers who took part; to Eric Sperrer and Tom Staebell for sterning the big boats, and to Don Munroe for recording the second day on video.

Submitted by Alan Thomson

Trips & Courses (Canoeing)

Flatwater Paddles for October

Meet at clubhouse at 9am. Bring lunch and a change of clothing.

Saturday, October 7th (or another day on the Thanksgiving Day weekend)

Destination to be announced. Please let Alan or Linda know if you are interested in coming by the evening of Thursday before. Let us know if you need paddles/partner/canoe etc.

Phone: 592-4170

E-mail: 3135thom@islandnet.com

Sunday, October 22nd:

This trip will be led by Peter Kabel, so please contact him as above. Destination? Possibly Shawnigan Lake.

Phone: 479-3934

E-mail: plebak@telus.net

Upcoming Moving Water Paddle:

November 11th: Cowichan River

The group will have a 2 minute silence at the memorial at Stoltz Pool to commemorate our war veterans. Meet at the Millstream Park and Ride for carpooling. Novice paddlers are welcome providing there are sufficient numbers of experienced paddlers to assist them. This will be determined by water levels.

If interested please contact Tom Staebell.

Phone: 655-7113

E-mail: thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca

Safety Guidelines:

Trips are usually 4 - 6hrs plus paddle time, so bring food/hot drinks etc. Newcomers are welcome. It is preferred that paddlers have

taken a Lakewater 1 course. Meet up at the clubhouse at 9am unless informed otherwise by the leader of the trip.

Bring along a waterproof bag with a change of clothes, rain gear, lunch, water bottle and snacks. When carpooling, riders can offer the car driver an appropriate amount to cover gas costs.

Courses

Each course consists of 2 full days of instruction, including classroom and on the water. Bring along a waterproof bag, with a change of clothes, rain gear, lunch, water bottle and snacks. For the classroom session, bring notepaper and pen.

Please contact Tom Staebell to register for the courses listed below:

Phone: 655-7113

E-mail: thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca.

Lakewater Level 1 & 2

October 14 & 15

October 28 & 29

Lakewater Level 3 & 4

November 4 & 5

Paddling Clinics

The canoe program will be offering short clinics to introduce paddlers from other programs to flatwater canoeing in tandem/solo canoes. Stroke improvement clinics will also be offered, for newer paddlers wanting a refresher on their paddling techniques. Stay tuned for more information.



Trips & Courses (Kayaking)

New Members' Paddle

Brentwood Bay

When: Saturday, October 7

Where: Put in at park near Mill Bay Ferry on Verdier Rd.

Time: Beachtalk – 9:45
On the water - 10:00am

Organizers: Marnie and John Phillips

If you are joining us please contact us ahead of time at:

Phone: 598-8820

Email: johnmarnie@shaw.ca

Guidelines:

New Members' Paddles (NMPs) allow new members to meet other members; to paddle in a safe environment and to introduce new members to Victoria area paddling locations. They are tailored to beginner paddlers although experienced paddlers are welcome to attend.

All those who plan to attend NMPs need to wear immersion gear (i.e. drysuit or wetsuit OR insulating clothing such as fleece. ALSO remember to bring a change of clothes in a drybag. The trip leader has the right to deny your participation in the paddle if he/she thinks you are not adequately prepared for the possibility of immersion. If you are unsure about the suitability of your equipment or clothing, please contact the trip leader for advice prior to the paddle date. It is also expected that you will bring adequate food and water for the duration of the paddle.

VCKC

Fall Work Party

Coming up November 4 & 5

Details will be posted at the clubhouse later this month

New to Kayaking

During the last five of the fifteen years I spent living in Calgary, I was introduced to river canoeing and camping. My love affair with paddling had begun. When I moved to Victoria last summer, I had set aside a fund to finance the purchase of a sea kayak and gear. I was sure that this would be my next paddling passion. My first few experiments in a kayak took place in the relatively safe waters of Elk Lake. My reading on kayaking in the Victoria area had quickly made me cautious of the ocean waters around the city and around Vancouver Island in general. From my paddling in glacier fed rivers in southern Alberta, I was more than familiar with the dangers of cold water. Add to that the dangers of tides, currents and ocean waves and I wondered if I would ever be brave or skillful enough to venture onto salt water.

Recently I was invited out to dinner where one of the guests described **his** first outing in a sea kayak. Some 'friends' had invited him along on an outing they had planned. They put in at Cattle Point and paddled across the channel to some of the islands off shore. My dinner companion described the warm sunshine and his surprise at how stable his kayak seemed and how easy it was to paddle. The group he was with spent an hour or so pattering about on the island where they'd landed. When they decided to begin their return trip the wind had picked up and the waves had gotten bigger. They decided to wait to see if the wind might subside. It didn't. And not wanting to paddle in the dark and being unprepared for an overnight stay, they decided to head out.

The return trip sounded very scary. This first time kayaker was not equipped with a wet or dry suit and was quickly wet and freezing cold from the waves that the wind was whipping up. As well, the group was paddling into the wind and having trouble making much progress. Worst of all, from my point of view, was that his friends were paddling ahead of him so that if he'd dumped they might not have noticed for several minutes. He said that several days after his close call with hypothermia he still hadn't warmed up.

Getting back to the beginning, I'm happy to say that my 'kayak' fund has now been spent on an Ascenté from Seaward Kayaks in Chemainus. I've also had my first lesson through VCKC ... the Flatwater Kayaking Skills Course with the very capable and encouraging Ian and Nancy Doherty. I am, as they say, good to go and I hope to see some of you on a New Members' Paddle sometime soon.

Harold Gillis
Editor – VCKC Newsletter

VCKC Executive

<p>President Judi 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 October 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2	3 General Meeting 7:30-9:00	4	5 Dragonboat Meeting 7:30pm	6	7
8	9	10 VCKC Executive Meeting 7:30pm Judi 360-2776	11 Gorge Waterway Initiative 7:00pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Kayak Program Meeting 7:00pm	19	20	21
22	23	24 Outrigger Mtg. 7:30pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				