



Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club
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May 2007



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President's Message

The General Meeting for April went well. After the reports of Directors and break, John Close gave us a picture presentation on training and paddling voyageur canoes to Port Angeles in 1984/85. I liked his memories, his sense of humour and his way of telling a story.

At the Executive Meeting it was decided to have the five-year budget plan implemented. We are working on forming a committee which will deal with that. The final proposal will be brought back to the executive and membership in general.

I am both glad and relieved to tell you that our five-year lease with Saanich is about to be signed. It only awaits approval from both sides and final signatures. I would especially like to recognize Linda Thompson for her efforts in communicating with Saanich about this matter and for helping to get it resolved.

"Wake Up The Gorge" went well. Keith Larusson and his volunteers did an excellent job in making it fun and a smooth race. Kama'Aina (Hawaiian for Islanders) out of VCKC won silver in the Senior Masters group. The team, made up of Bonnie Irving, Jacque Macdonald, Earl Cherrington, Richard Krieger, Brigitte Krieger and Bruce Irving had the fastest single race out of all the Senior Masters but lost out on total time to the Dragonauts Senior Masters crew. The Senior Masters Pistols, also out of VCKC, won bronze, finishing close behind Kama'Aina in their head to head race. The Pistols were Wendy Randall, Barb McEvoy, Mike Fox, Phil McEvoy, Joan Fox, and Bob Randall. The Ageless Wannabees of VCKC finished fourth in the Senior Masters group. Congratulations all you "Islanders"

and everyone who participated in such a successful event.

We are now into the Dragonboat Season and Mike Fox, our Director, tells us that he has a number of committed teams as well as the possibility of the formation of another team a little later in the year. We are also happy that the Komodo Dragons will again be paddling out of VCKC at the Victoria Dragonboat Festival.

With the Summer coming, I encourage members who are not involved in kayaking and canoeing to take advantage of very reasonable rates for courses, which will, in turn, improve their paddling skills and qualify them for paddling out with the teams and the use of the Club boats.

We still have people who are active in the Club but have not paid their membership dues. The running of this Club and our ability to provide new boats and related equipment depends on your contribution in the way of your annual dues. If you have not already paid, please do so.

I have noticed Doug Linton's willingness to lend a helping hand to different people. To me he comes across as someone who is very reliable, sharing his expertise with very little fuss. When I grow up, I want to be just like him!

I miss Alex Mann and Lynn Sanderson who headed up Boat and Locker Storage last year. This year Maris Ratel, with assistance from Alan and Linda Thomson, is doing an excellent job of dealing with unpaid boat storage fees and is in the process of having new racks built for boat storage.

Yours truly,

Mile Petrovic
President, VCKC

General Meeting Tuesday, May 1 – 7:30pm

Former naturalist and sea kayak guide Dave Giuliani will host an evening focusing on the natural history of the Victoria area. He will present a slideshow of his photos of some common, local plants and animals that paddlers share the water with. Hear some interesting stories about the critters you bump into out there and share some of your own. Dave will also bring along some popular books and ID guides for marine life for you to browse. Bring your favourite guidebook to share with others (if you have one), along with any burning questions of "What was that thing I saw the other day...?"

Parking

In the past when attending VCKC events at the clubhouse, members have parked across the street from the clubhouse on Gorge Road. However, last year the City of Saanich did some work on Gorge Road and added a dedicated bicycle lane. One VCKC member wondered if parking (especially in the evening) was still allowed on Gorge Road. Here's the reply that she received from the city's Transportation Manager:

We did complete some repaving last year due to the condition of the existing pavement. This was an opportunity to also add new lane markings along the road

as part of our ongoing efforts to add designated bicycle lanes on Gorge Road and other routes that have been identified as Commuter Cycling Routes.

Since there is now a designated bicycle lane, similar to that of a special use or "reserved" lane marked with a bicycle stencil and a diamond symbol, parking or stopping a vehicle is not allowed on or over a bicycle lane as stipulated in Section 7.10 (r) of Saanich's Streets and Traffic Bylaw ... The intent is to provide a reserved area for cyclists to safely travel on without sharing a lane with or potentially impeding other traffic.

So NO PARKING on Gorge Road across from the clubhouse.

Wake Up the Gorge

Though windy and very cool on Saturday, 29 teams raced in the OC6 Sprints and the race results can be found on the VCKC web site. Sunday was a perfect day for the small boat competitions and for the first time included a Junior K1 category. A complete pictorial page of the weekend events will be published shortly. The Program Managers for both days were especially pleased with the degree of participation from all over the province, with the strong support of sponsors (listed on the Outrigger web pages) and with the many volunteers who prepared and managed both events.



“MY FIRST PADDLE TO PORT ANGELES”

Last year my good friend Chark Nipp told me about his recent “paddle” to Port Angeles. I’d heard something previously about a bunch of crazies who actually did the crossing from Victoria to Port Angeles in open canoes. But not in my wildest dreams did I ever expect to participate in such an endeavour.

In January of this year Chark reminded me again and gave me a copy of the weekly paddling schedule. In some weak moment I mentioned that this seemed interesting and maybe I’d join up.

My wife Diane and I still live most of the time in Vancouver . I was transferred there for work back in 1992. We keep a small suite here in Victoria and we come back regularly and do some some runs with Chark and other long-time buddies. When I surveyed the 2007 schedule for Sunday paddles I mentioned to Chark that I could only make two of these training sessions. He said that two satisfied the minimum requirement and thereafter I was committed.

We first went to the Saturday afternoon “Rescue” training session in the Esquimalt pool. Diane was there only as a spectator and had a great laugh watching from the jacuzzi as the rest of us lurched over the gunnels and swallowed all of that pool water.

The next day we did the paddle to Pearson College and I had my first time as an ocean paddler. Several weeks later I was back in town and able to join the paddle down Saanich Inlet. That completed my training.

On Saturday, March 24, Chark picked me up at 5:10 am for the ride to the Gorge Clubhouse. I was assigned to the Northwest Territories canoe as Wave A. We departed in the dark and commenced our way down the Gorge waterway. I was on a team with Captain Eric, Irena, Pauline, Donna, and Dave on the bow. Once we reached the open ocean the water was smooth as a pond. We were only a mile or so out in the Strait when we saw a small pod of porpoises. There was a switch of paddlers after two hours or so and I had my first experience aboard a “YAG”. These Coast Guard people were most hospitable and I hope that I didn’t ruin their backs when they had to haul my large frame up out of the Zodiac.

After a rest we were returned to the canoe and did the final stretch into Port Angeles. That paddle around the Spit seemed to take forever and we all salivated for the lunch that the local Lions Club had ready for us. It had been raining pretty much for our entire second shift aboard the canoe and we were pretty drenched once we arrived ashore.

But the lunch was great (they found a last piece of chicken for me) and that very hot chili really hit the spot. In a weak moment I even had a helping of that wonderful cake that the Lions had made to welcome us. Then it was all aboard the Zodiac for the high speed return to YAG306.

Before we knew it we were being switched back into our canoe which was now somewhere out in the open Strait for the return paddle to Victoria. Under the trusty command of Captain Eric and Bowsman Dave we knew no fear. The swells turned into four foot waves (at the time we were calling them nine feet high). Indomitably we paddled through the torrential seas and we sang to entertain our friends in the other canoes. The folks in the Shawnigan (including Chark and my other running friend Jeff) paddled their best to get away from the cacophony emanating from our canoe. The Portland visitors in the Blue Heron let out their best “aaarghhh’s” in response to what we believed were our truly dulcet tones.

After several hours of paddling in this third shift we seemed to be “parked” just off the coast of Colwood and were making little progress in getting back to the Ogden Point breakwater. The Zodiac arrived to extricate us and return us to our YAG.

Then the seasoned veterans of the VCKC took over to complete the paddle back to Victoria and up the Gorge to the Clubhouse.

The wind-up party was fantastic. My wife Diane joined us and brought her famous Caesar Salad for the pot-luck. The array of food was splendid and the progress of my year-to-date Weight Loss program went down the drain (not helped by the cake at lunchtime). The energy of the group was fabulous as all of the awards and draw prizes were handed out.

We got back to our little suite sometime after 10:00pm. I was still cold, a little wet, and more than a little achy and tired. But I’d do this trip again and have spent the days since our return telling everyone that we know about the fabulous experience of our trip across of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and back.

Count on me to be back next year. Maybe I’ll retire the old gardening boots that I wore for this year’s paddle and invest in something a little more “chic”.

Submitted by John Schmuck

Note: More Photos on Page 6

Program Reports

Dragonboating

Strange things have been happening with the Dragon Boat Program this year. Or, perhaps better said, would be “a moving and a shaking.” In 2006, we had four regular teams and one tired looking boat that put slivers up one’s backside if one moved the wrong way in the seat. This year that same boat had more than a Martha Stewart “good thing” happen to it. More like a Holmes moment. In a very short time in March, with much help from volunteers, it was stripped of its varnish, sanded to baby bum stage, re-varnished, fiberglassed and painted. It looked so good when it was put in the water that it was mistaken, by more than a few, for the new boat the program is getting. Yes, there will be a new dragon boat coming sometime in June. And just in time.

With the new boat, the program can begin to accommodate the increasing interest from new wannabe paddlers. There’s already a new team forming—June 1 (TD Bank) and there are expectations that the training program for new paddlers that begins on April 21 will result in another new team in time for the local August festivals. Not to mention that our four regular teams are back and practising with most of their rosters intact and rapidly filling in registration forms to participate in festivals on and off the island.

Coincidental with these happenings is the inspired leadership of the Dragon Boat Program’s new director, Mike Fox. Under his direction, there is an active dragon boat program committee made up of representatives of each team which meets often. The complete makeover of the old boat is one standout outcome; the purchase of a new boat, another. More will come from the concerted efforts being made to get a.s.a.p. training and certification for our steers and new coaches. This will not only increase efficiency and safety but ensure that we have what is needed in place for new teams. In that respect, the program committee will be working closely with Water’s Edge in Vancouver, and Dragon Boat Canada. (There was an open forum with a Dragon Boat Canada rep at the clubhouse in mid-April.) If there is one word that describes what is taking place in the dragon boat program, it is commitment: commitment to the teams and commitment to the club. A great start to the year? Wow! It’s only April.



Mike Fox and refurbished dragonboat



Refurbished dragonboat is launched

Program Reports (Continued)

Kayaking

April has been a very busy month for the Kayak Program with clinics, paddles, courses and our first go at a fundraising event, "Paddlers Wear Prada". On our overwhelmingly successful evening, we managed to raise nearly \$4000 to help send children to Camp Shawnigan. Watch the next newsletter for a complete description of the event, a final tally of funds raised and some pictures. Kayak Program members really came together to work as a team! Heartfelt thanks to all of you who made us proud!

We are encouraging everyone to participate in a survey that will be sent to you soon for a Five Year Plan for VCKC. The executive is compiling information from all club members to give direction to the club, both strategically and financially, for the next five years. As kayakers we have specific needs and this survey should allow you to voice your concerns, accolades, desires and disappointments. Please take a few moments to fill this out as it will give us a clear idea, hopefully, of the direction you wish your club and program to take. You should receive it by e-mail shortly. If you do not have email available, please contact Susan or Glynis and we'll get a paper copy to you. We will take the survey results to the executive meeting in May, where the other programs will also present their collection of data. This is your club and your program, so have your say!

After a short business meeting on Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00pm, our May Kayak Program meeting will turn into our first ever "Meet Your Fellow Paddler Social". Come meet other VCKC kayak members, both old and new. This is your chance to discover the best kayaking locations, where to go for holiday adventures, get advice about boat purchases and meet others for future paddles. Come prepared to wear a name tag that introduces your interests, or asks your question, for example "Ask me about paddling in" or "I own a wooden boat" or "Victoria newbie! where can I paddle safely?" or "Help me pick the right kayak". So come and share your experiences, expertise, and of course, crazy escapades! Whether you are an extrovert or eavesdropper, you will come away with great ideas, inspiration and perhaps new paddling buddies. Beverages and appys will be supplied. See you

there!! Contact Jan and Knut at janfirstbrook@hotmail.com for more information.

Check out the Trips and Courses section for upcoming paddles, clinics and courses in May.

See you on the water, and keep safe!

Glynis and Susan

A Kayaker's Cookbook

Here's a tasty submission from Debbie Leach. Thanks, Deb!!

Couscous with Sun-Dried Tomatoes

For four:

- 1 medium onion, finely chopped (about 1 cup)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 8 sun-dried tomatoes - chopped into bite-size bits
- big pinch of dried thyme
- 1 1/4 cups boiling water
- pinch of salt
- 1 cup whole wheat couscous

In a medium-sized pot with a tight fitting lid, stir-fry the onions in oil over medium heat. As the onions soften, add the tomatoes and thyme and stir-fry for 5 minutes more. Add the boiling water and salt and return to a boil. Stir in the couscous, cover and take off the heat and keep warm for 5 minutes. Fluff the couscous with a fork.

Serve with fish or a veggie stew.



Program Reports (Continued)

Canoeing

Because of the Victoria Day long weekend, the Canoe Program meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15 beginning at 7:00pm.

Topics for the evening:

Solo Seat Construction: If you are interested in seeing how an inexpensive solo seat can be easily made for your canoe, come and watch Jean Chandler demonstrate the construction at 7:00pm.

Food Dehydration Demonstration: Check out a variety of dehydrated food items; equipment; recipes; samples for tasting. Here's a great opportunity to share camp cooking secrets with fellow paddlers.

If you have some experience with food dehydrating and are willing to come and demo your recipe, please contact me (Joy Newham - 385-5876 or pjnewham@telus.net) for more information. Or If you have a recipe or two you would like to share, please bring a few copies to the meeting.



Boat Storage

Regular paddlers may notice changes underway in the outdoor storage compound.

Thanks to your Executive, and especially to Alan Thomson, two new racks are being built to replace the ones that were damaged during last winter's storms. Unfortunately, they haven't increased our capacity which is about at its limit. To create as much space as possible, we've gotten rid of two canoe moulds which have been unused for many years. This will give us a couple of spaces for members who've been waiting so long for a space.

Mike Fox and his crew of Dragonboaters were largely responsible for cleaning up the compound. Hopefully, all the rubbish will be gone by the end of April when the Gorge Clean-up takes place.

So we're ready for a great paddling season. Please remember to padlock your boats, and make sure the compound is securely locked when you leave - don't rely on the other guy to do it.

Finally, storage is intended for active members, i.e. those who go paddling. If you haven't paid your fees, or your boat gathers moss, you may be asked to roll it out of there.

Maris Ratel, Storage Coordinator

More Photos from the Paddle to Port Angeles



Kayak Trip Reports

Get Together Paddle - Saanich Inlet

"Looks like we will get some good weather at least this morning," Dennis announced to the group gathered for the second Get Together paddle of the year. It had been raining all week and everyone was looking forward to a break and maybe even a glimpse of the sun! The weather called for part cloudy with light winds and we were to have a small ebb tide throughout the day which would be against us on the way down and with us on the way back. Fifteen paddlers had gathered at Verdier Park, Brentwood Bay ferry terminal, for a paddle to McKenzie Bight and back with a side trip into Tod Inlet. For those of you who have never launched here, there is a canoe/kayak path to the waters edge just below the Brentwood Bay Lodge that was constructed by Saanich in partial compensation for the ever increasing development in this area.

We were underway promptly at 10:15 for the short paddle across the bay to the entrance of Tod Inlet. Over 100 years ago Tod Inlet was the site of a cement manufacturing plant. It utilized the ample deposit of limestone in the nearby quarry which when finished became what is now the Butchart Gardens. The area is now part of Gowland Tod Provincial Park which stretches all the ways south to Goldstream Park. What is interesting in this beautiful inlet are the remains of the workers housing and orchards and the huge bollards used to tie up sailing ships as they loaded the cement.

Continuing south we rounded Willis Point with its abundance of interesting houses located on the side of the steep hillside - everything from small one room shacks to huge mansions perched high on the cliffside commanding a magnificent view up and down Saanich Inlet. It seems the eagles like this view as well, as we spotted four on the paddle along the shore down to McKenzie Bight. We stopped on the beach just south of the creek emptying into the bay for a well deserved stretch and lunch and enjoyed the view across the inlet to the Malahat. Seems the weather man was a little optimistic when he stated "possible sunny breaks" as the drizzle started just as we were finishing lunch and continued for the 2.5 mile return trip.

Back at the launch site we struggled up the path which mysteriously had become even steeper than when we started and commended ourselves on a job well done - we had returned with the same number we started with! After loading up the vehicles we retired to the nearby Blue Fox pub for some further "elbow exercises".

Thanks to all who helped out on this paddle.

Submitted by **Dennis McMillan**

Energizer Paddle - Race Rocks

The day was forecast to be cloudy and windy and it was with some trepidation that I set off for the day of paddling. Dorothea had put a lot of thought and planning in for the adventure anticipating plans A, B and even a C due to the somewhat changing moods of Race Rock.

The crowds of anxious paddlers grew and grew all with eyes cast heavenward and damped index fingers stuck up into the wind attempting to anticipate the capricious weather gods. With an aura of impending doom, we all set off for the day. Dorothea has arranged for us to make a stop at Lester B. Pearson (father of the flag) College for a dockside briefing on the viewing of the cute seaside mammals. We were all pleased to hear that no Polar Bears had been sighted at Race Rocks for the last while, and collectively breathed a sigh of relief, and off we set again.

As we approached the outside of Pedder Bay imagine our surprise a seascape of glassy calm ocean. Not a sign of a breeze and some warmth in the air. Plans B and C were quickly disposed of and we carried on with Plan A which caused us to paddle out to Race Rocks where everyone was able to actually look around at the scenery, not having to worry about winds, currents or Polar Bears. After circumnavigating the islands we headed off for lunch. We did some navigation exercises on our way (who forgot where the beach was?), arrived en mass and settled in for

our luncheon. The journey back was pleasant with Tony and Roscoe doing an admirable job of providing sweep duties for the group. (Or were they doing the older gents paddle complete with conversation and relaxation?) It turned out to be a stellar day with great friends and many thanks to Dorothea and her crew of henchmen for a memorable expedition to Race Rocks.

Submitted by **Roscoe**

For Sale

White's Nylon Drysuit

Medium Blue (with hood)
\$170 each OBO

Sportee Kayak (by Northwest Kayaks)
\$500 OBO

This is a small kayak with bulkheads front and back. Great for day paddles, etc.

Call Kirby Stevens 383-5555

Kayak Trip Reports (continued)

It was mid September when the weatherman promised a few sunny days in a row after a week of overcast skies and rain so John Levey, Heike Ramien and Hans Voermann decided to take advantage of a good opportunity and take off for another three day outing. John thought Wallace Island, north of Saltspring Island, would make a good base camp for two nights and we could go north from there and explore the Secretary Islands as well as Kuper and maybe even Thetis Island. Rather than going north on the East side of Saltspring Island through Trincomali Channel and coming back the same way, Hans had the idea of paddling through Sansum Narrows on the West Side of Saltspring Island. The distance from Roberts Bay in Sidney through the Narrows would be a little farther but we thought the beautiful scenery would be worth the extra effort and the distance of about 21 nm. did not worry us since we had the tide in our favour for part of the way.

We left Sidney at about 9:30 arriving at Swartz Bay just as the Spirit of Vancouver Island was ready to leave the terminal. After waiting for a few minutes we continued on by the terminal in a westerly direction to Cape Keppel on Saltspring Island, where we stopped for lunch. By the time we had finished lunch the flood was in full swing and we paddled by Octopus Point an hour and a half later. Past Maple Bay the channel widens considerably and consequently we did not get any push by the flood any more. It was a long slug to get to Southey Point at the top of Saltspring and then west to Wallace Island. The best spots for camping are at the north end of the island and when we arrived there at about 6:00 PM we realized we had the whole island to ourselves. By the second half of September it gets dark by about 7:15 PM so we had to hurry setting up camp, cooking our dinner and putting the obligatory beer in a cool place. Heike made noises about a bottle of wine he had brought along, but John and Hans never even got to see it, however. We were too tired after dinner to enjoy it anyway.

Looking forward to a good night's sleep Hans noticed a mouse in his tent feasting on a boiled egg having managed to bite through the shell. When caught in the act it raced all over the tent floor and up the walls but was finally evicted.

Next morning we woke up to another perfect day, totally windstill with not a cloud in the sky. After a

leisurely breakfast we set off in a north westerly direction along the East side of the Secretary Islands and Norway Island to Kuper Island. Turning west we paddled though a very muddy passage that separates Kuper Island from Thetis Island where warnings had been posted not to harvest any shell fish because of leaky septic tanks. With the shoreline of the channel separating the islands being as muddy and the water as murky as it was, we did not find the idea of leaky septic tanks very appealing. Not wanting to get too far away from our base camp after having paddled about 21 nm. the day before, we followed the shoreline of Kuper Island in a southerly direction and stopped for lunch at a sunny warm beach looking at Chemainus and Ladysmith in the distance. After lunch we slowly made our way back to Wallace Island realizing were paddling another 11 nm. that day.

That evening the nocturnal visitor appeared in Hans' tent again but this time all the food was packed in dry bags and the mouse was speedily evicted.

Next morning we got up at daybreak, had a quick breakfast, packed up our gear and started paddling south towards Sidney with an outgoing tide on totally calm seas. The tide was going to change at noon so we wanted to cover as much distance as possible before lunch. There was almost no other boat traffic in Trincomali Channel early in the morning and we paddled right down the middle of the channel eventually leaving Prevost Island to our left and we stopped for lunch at the Channel Islets. After our break we continued south to Portland Island still in totally calm conditions and after stopping for a bite to eat we slowly made our way back to Roberts Bay against the incoming tide for a total distance of about 20 nm.

We enjoyed another three days of great paddling covering just over 50 nm. in total under calm conditions and with lots of sunshine. But it was rather late in the season with the sun setting at about 7:15 in the evening.

Submitted by Hans Voermann

Editor's Note: Hans submitted this to me several months ago but it remained unpublished because of lack of space in previous 'printed editions of the newsletter. It is published here as a 'bonus' for web readers of the VCKC newsletter.

Trips & Courses (Kayaking)

Energizer Paddle

When: Saturday, May 5

Meet at Agate Beach at 9:30 am, on the water by 10 am and paddle to Arbutus Cove (or possibly Telegraph Cove) and back - with the current each way. 9 NM to Arbutus and back, 11 NM to Telegraph Cove. We'll decide on the day of the paddle. Contact Michael Jackson to ask questions or put your name on the list at mjackson@islandnet.com. Remember this is a paddle to work up a sweat but is geared for beginners.

Get Together Paddle

When: Sunday, May 13

Paddle from Patricia Bay to Coles Bay. Meet at 9:30 am to be on the water by 10 am. There's a flood all day so remember to be the highest kayak on the beach :) Pat Bay can be quite muddy, so keep that in mind when you're going through the shoe rack for appropriate footwear. It's only about 7 nautical miles return, so there will be plenty of time for exploring the coastline or practicing skills if you wish, and we'll still have all the moms home in time for Mothers' Day dinner. Please remember to review the safety requirements and don't forget your sunscreen - it's going to be a beautiful day on the water.

Please contact Lynn Baier at lbaier@telus.net or 391-5990 if you'll be joining us.

Upcoming Courses:

Paddle Canada Flatwater Course

Saturday May 5, 2007

Sunday, May 27, 2007

Saturday, June 9, 2007

Minimum 8 hours

Cost \$55

To register contact Gary Allen at gd.allen@shaw.ca

Paddle Canada Level 1 Courses

Saturday May 12 – Sunday May 13, 2007

Saturdays, June 16 & 23, 2007

Saturday July 14 – Sunday July 15, 2007

Minimum 12 hours

Cost \$90

To register for either of these courses contact Gary Allen at gd.allen@shaw.ca

There is a maximum of four (4) participants in each course so register early.

For information on course content go to www.paddlingcanada.com

Forward Stroke Improvement Clinic

Thursday, May 3, 2007 – Lecture at Clubhouse

Wednesday, May 9, 2007 – Practice on the water

To register contact Gary Allen at gd.allen@shaw.ca (limited space)

Towing Workshop

Sunday, May 6, 2007

To register contact Gary Allen at gd.allen@shaw.ca (limited space)

Trips & Courses (Canoeing)

Flatwater Paddles

Sunday, May 27th: This will be an easy paddle to encourage new paddlers to come out and practice their skills. Of course experienced paddlers are most welcome to join in and share their expertise -- please! Elk and Beaver Lake is likely the destination.

Contact Joy Newham at 385-5876 or e-mail: pjnewham@telus.net.

The basic stroke clinic held on April 17 was very well attended, especially by the dragonboat and outrigger program paddlers. Thanks for your support. Paddlers finished seeming enthusiastic about their experience and wanted more! I'm sure we can set that up in the near future. Come out and try our flatwater paddle on Elk Lake and team up with an experienced canoeist. We hope to offer another stroke clinic in the upcoming weeks.

May 12 & 13: Frost Free Weekend Camping Trip

The Frost Free weekend camping trip will be on May 12 and 13 (Saturday and Sunday) and is for canoeists and kayakers. It involves an overnight camp out on the Saturday night on an island. This year we are planning on visiting Wallace Island off the northeast shore of Saltspring Island. It has one large, one medium and one very small campground and a reasonable amount of walking from one end to the other. David Conover wrote two or three books about his ownership and residence on the island - 'One Man's Island' and 'Once Upon An Island'.

(continued next page)

Please let Linda and Alan know if you are interested in coming on this trip. We can take a voyageur canoe if needed but currently plan on using tandems – or maybe the Club freighter. We'd expect to catch the 9:00am ferry to Saltspring on Saturday and to return on the 1.50 or 3.50 pm ferry on the Sunday (both from Swartz bay to Fulford Harbour or vice versa), so you can be home for a Mother's Day dinner.

Safety Guidelines:

Trips are usually 4 – 6 hours 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

Lakewater Level 3 (tandem):

June 2 – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Lakewater Level 4 (solo):

June 3 – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

To register, please contact: Tom Staebell
Res. 655-7113 after 5:00 pm
(best bet)
Cell. 588-2207 after 6:30 am
Off. 652-1121 7 – 4, Mon – Fri

Ocean Paddling: June 15 – 17

There will be an Ocean Paddling Course (levels 3 & 4) held in June. The on-water course will take place on June 15th – 17. The classroom portion of the course will take place on three evenings prior to that time on evenings suitable to the participants.

Interested paddlers should contact Alan Thomson (by e-mail only) by June 1 to book a place. Cost of course will be \$100 each. Participants are required to have the relevant charts, tide and current tables and a compass – cost new approx \$50 - \$60.



Trip Report

That's Why They Call it 'Squally Reach'!!

Definitions:

- 1) Squall: - noun - a sudden, violent gust of wind, often accompanied by rain, snow, or sleet;
- 2) Reach - noun - the stretch of water visible between bends in a river or channel.

In hindsight, it might have been wise to look up these definitions prior to setting out on our April 1 'flatwater' adventure. But what's paddling if it isn't for a little challenge and excitement (now I'm starting to sound like Don Munroe).

Fourteen brave souls set out from our launch at Goldstream Boathouse in seven tandem boats with a mix of experienced and less experienced paddlers ready to enjoy a relaxing jaunt down Finlayson Arm to the beach at Spectacle Creek and back. Many of us were looking forward to an opportunity to stretch some muscles after a week of recovery from the Paddle to Port Angeles event.

Everything started out fine. The tides were ebbing and flowing in our favour, the sun was shining, an early morning rain shower had passed and the wind was at our backs. Donna tested out the launch ramp. Yes, it was very slippery. Did I mention that the wind was at our backs?

Remarkably good time was made as we headed up the Arm, hugging the western shore, admiring the homes of a few lucky folks along that stretch of scenic water. Eagles soared above our heads and seals watched as we aimed at the white dot of a plum tree in full flower that marked our lunch destination. The wind was at our backs. Ken and Marilyn came across a chart case that looked strangely familiar.

As we arrived at Spectacle Creek, Squally Reach began to live up to its name. A quick lunch in the shelter of the rocky shore was followed by the decision to head for home the way we had come. The wind was no longer at our backs.

Fortunately, the relatively short length of Finlayson arm prevents the build up of very large wind waves. The beginning of our paddle back was the most challenging in terms of wave action, but by sticking close together and hugging the shore, we made our way back with a little less speed than we had earlier in the day. I was quite amazed at the power of the gusts even as we approached the Goldstream estuary, sweeping us laterally on several occasions.

I think we were all relieved as we arrived back at our launch site, safe and sound, tired and satisfied that we had met challenging weather conditions with good decisions and team effort.

Submitted by Dave Whitehead

VCKC Executive

<p>President Mile Petrovic 250-733-2013</p> <p>Vice President Linda Thomson..... 592-4170</p> <p>Treasurer Fred Trudel 480-0880</p> <p>Secretary Lorna Petrovic 250-733-2013</p> <p>Past President Judi Mirikami 360-2776</p> <p>Program Directors:</p> <p>Canoe Program Joy Newham 385-5876</p> <p>Dragon Boat Program Mike Fox 391-0160</p> <p>Outrigger Program Keith Larusson 598-7193</p> <p>Sea Kayak Program Susan Duhamell 361-4738 Glynis Newman 655-1272</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>Directors-at-Large Mavis Pillar 384-4390 Diane Nishimura 383-3080 Michael Jackson 385-5727 Fraser Tweedy 380-6952</p> <p>Executive Volunteer Positions Irena Jazwinski (Social Coordinator) 388-9757 Harold Gillis (Newsletter Editor) ... 598-9488 Maris Ratel (Boat & Locker Storage .. 592-7082</p>
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VCKC Clubhouse Bookings and Club Activities May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1 General Meeting 7:30pm	2	3 Stroke Improvement Clinic Pt1 - 7-9pm	4 St'Keye Social 8:00pm - 10:00pm	5 Flatwater Course (K) 8:30am - 4:30pm Energizer Paddle (K)
6 Towing Workshop	7	8 VCKC Executive Meeting 7:30pm Mile 250-733-2013	9 Stroke Improvement Clinic Pt2	10	11 St'Keye Social 8:00pm - 10:00pm	12 Sea Kayak Course Level 1 Pt1 Canoe Camping Trip
13 Sea Kayak Course Level 1 Pt2 Get Together Paddle (K)	14	15 Canoe Program Meeting 7:00pm	16 Kayak Program Meeting 7:00pm	17	18 St'Keye Social 8:00pm - 10:00pm	19
20	21	22 Outrigger Program Meeting 7:30pm	23	24 Navigation Clinic 7:30pm	25 St'Keye Social 8:00pm - 10:00pm	26
27 Flatwater kayaking Course	28	29	30	31		

The Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club is a member of:

RCABC (bccanoe.com);
 Paddle Canada (paddlingcanada.com);
 CORA (canadianoutrigger.com)

General Meetings

First Tuesday of each month (September to June)
 June Newsletter deadline: May 16, 2007