



Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club
355 Gorge Road West
Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9
Phone: 250-590-8193 (Info only)
Website: www.vckc.ca

September 2008

VCKC BBQ

September 2, 2008

6:00pm at the Clubhouse

It's the usual potluck with surnames
from A-M bringing salads or side
dishes and surnames from N-Z
bringing desserts.

Everyone brings something to BBQ
for themselves. Beverages are B.Y.O.



Clubhouse News

September BBQ

Don't forget our September BBQ at the General Meeting Tuesday, September 2 at 6:00pm. Come and catch up with everyone's summer paddling news!

The summer has whizzed by as usual. I hope you have all enjoyed it and had a lot of paddling time.

Alan and I haven't done much paddling so far, as we were away for three weeks visiting family and friends overseas and are now enjoying showing B.C. off to visitors. We hope to catch up with a two weeks sea trip at the end of September. This is the time of year to catch up with news of what others club members have been doing at the September barbecue. Hope to see you all then.

PFD Reminder

The majority of club members do wear their PFDs when on the water but there are some who don't and a few have been unpleasant when asked to do so.

SOOO...! A REMINDER! The club DOES expect PFDs to be worn. A PFD needs to fit YOU, support YOUR weight, be done up, and WORN for it to do its job. This is for your safety but perhaps even more important, for the safety of others who may be involved in a capsize or rescue with you. One can drown oneself but not if it endangers others!!

RE: Club PFDs

It is important to have a PFD that is very comfortable so that one wears it! The club provides some PFDs for the use of beginners so that they can take a course, or try the sport a few times, before they buy their own equipment. The red and black PFDs in the clubhouse were bought a few years ago with a one time gift to the club of \$5000.00 and not out of general revenue. Historically, the club has always expected members who paddle regularly to provide their own PFD and paddles. With the membership fee at \$40 a year, I don't think that is unreasonable.

Linda Thomson,
President, VCKC

Gorge Fun Fest Vancouver Island Dragonboat Championships



Photos: Jim Clapp and Brian Wallace

Canoe Program

I hope you have had a great summer, enjoying the fantastic weather, paddling and just enjoying "Lotusland". I was fortunate to be able to participate with other paddlers from the club in the 2008 David Thompson Brigade, and was finally able to experience some of the other beautiful sights of Canada, especially some of the lakes and rivers in Manitoba and Ontario. More about this trip later...

We will resume our monthly canoe program meetings through the fall as we have a number of people who will be providing our entertainment showing slides, video, etc. of their summer paddling adventures.

On Monday, September 15 at 7:30pm, Cathy and Doug Hull will be our presenters. Cathy and Doug had a summer full of adventure, spending two months paddling with VCKC's Team Shawnigan on the 2008 David Thompson Brigade, then immediately left Fort William for a two week wilderness paddling trip in northern Ontario's Wabakimi Park. They will be giving us a slide show of their two weeks spent in the wilds north of Thunder Bay. And then ... as if they hadn't had enough exercise, they went on to do a bicycling trip through the renowned Kettle Valley and will include slides of this portion of their summer travels as well. This should be a really interesting evening. Cathy and Doug always provide fantastic presentations of their adventures.

VCKC's Team Shawnigan survived the two month paddle with the 2008 David Thompson Brigade a little worse for the wear but generally very glad to have had a chance to participate in this historical event. We met paddlers from all over Canada and, best of all, enjoyed the great hospitality shown by the many small communities the Brigade passed through. A more detailed report will be provided for the October newsletter, to coincide with a video and slide presentation of the trip at the October meeting.

Thanks to all of you who followed the Brigade's progress through the website or from other news releases. And thanks to VCKC for their support. Check out the September Canoe Program meeting section for details!

The Lakewater Level 1 course will be offered this fall and, if there is enough interest, we will add some of the other levels as well. There likely won't be a moving water course until the spring, unless the water levels cooperate earlier and we have sufficient interested people.

Come on out to the upcoming general meeting on September 2 (it's a BBQ) and share your vacation paddling stories with us. It's always fun to meet up with old friends after a busy summer.

Joy Newham
Canoe Program Director

To Paddling Clubs in BC, AB and the PNW...

Hello neighbours-who-don't-paddle-with-each-other-often-enough.

I'm writing to make sure your club is officially aware that there is a slalom race just for open canoes this fall near Vancouver, B.C. And you're all invited!

So, if any of your members (whether you're a canoe club or a "paddling"/kayaking club that may have closet, aspiring or retired canoeists) and feel like a road trip to meet other open boaters, come on over to the Chilliwack River on Sept 13-14. The race is called the Tamihi Five-0 and it's intended as a community-building event for white water canoeing. It's meant to be inclusive and accommodate a variety of paddlers, not to be exclusive and narrow things down to real racers. At that time of year the course should be II+ and will be designed for intermediate canoeists.

The event's website is linked through the Beaver Canoe Club at:

www.beavercanoeclub.org/

Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Patrick Yarnell
Vice-President
Beaver Canoe Club
Surrey, B.C.
(604) 215-2215



Trip Report Gabriola and the Flat Tops Aug 25-28, 2008

As John Levey and I came around Orlebar Point at the north end of Gabriola Island we faced a fierce wind blowing straight at us from the south. We had parked our cars at the Departure Bay terminal and launched our boats at a very convenient beach access next to the terminal in Nanaimo and paddled over to Newcastle Island for lunch after having driven up from Victoria that morning. Watching for ferry traffic we had paddled over to the Gabriola Gallery, a stretch of very interesting sandstone cliffs, near Malaspina Point, when we noticed the rapidly increasing wind. As we paddled around the point in a southerly direction along the Strait of Georgia side of Gabriola we could see our destination, the Flat Top Islands, at a distance that seemed impossible to reach in one day considering the steady strong wind. After paddling for six hours without getting out of our boats we finally reached the Flat Tops, a total distance of about 14 nm from Nanaimo, and after checking our charts and a short search we found our destination, Saturnina Island, which has a gravel beach tombola connected to a sculptured sandstone outcrop suitable to camp on. This outcrop is flat and exposed to the weather but luckily it has some low trees that protected our tiny campsite from the wind still blowing hard from the south. Once we had set up camp it started raining and after a hot meal on the beach immediately below our tents under some overhanging sandstone cliffs in the lee of the wind we crawled into our tents for a good night's sleep.

After a leisurely breakfast next morning we decided to check out some of the surrounding 'Flat Tops', Gabriola Passage and Kendrick Island, even though there were low dark clouds in the sky and a slight drizzle. Kendrick Island is supposed to have a small area to camp on also, but there is no protection whatsoever from the wind and there are no beaches to land on. As Gabriola Passage is very narrow and has strong currents we made sure it was near slack tide in order to be able to get through to Pylades Channel on the far side and back again to our campsite. Paddling back to Saturnina in the afternoon we noticed a fairly big log boom slowly drifting with the tide towards the passage with one tugboat in front and one at each side in back. John and I decided to get out of the way and move close to shore, as the log boom seemed much wider than the opening of the passage. As we were sitting near the shore the two tugboats in the back revved up their engines and pushed the end of the log boom sideways to line it up with the passage while all the while the tide kept moving it towards the narrow gap. Just as the

log boom reached the gap the tug in front started pulling at full throttle while the two tugs in back kept aligning the boom, also at full throttle. It then only took a few minutes and the whole spectacle was over with the boom slowly disappearing in Pylades Channel. After paddling to our campsite we changed into dry clothes having had rain off and on all day and then had our dinner out of the weather under our now familiar sandstone cliff.

Our third day was supposed to be relaxing without too much paddling but that morning John realized that we would not be able to get through Gabriola Passage for our return to Nanaimo on day four if we wanted to paddle along the south shore of Gabriola thereby circumnavigating the island. An incoming tide would make the 14 nm paddle towards Nanaimo a lot easier but we would not be able to fight our way through Gabriola Passage against it. We decided to pack up our gear and paddle over to De Courcy Island in Pylades Channel about noon, near slack tide, a distance of about 5 nm, and make our way to Nanaimo from there the next morning. De Courcy has a very nice camp ground at the south end, unfortunately with lots of voracious mosquitoes and hungry raccoons, and we arrived there in pouring rain being watched by 15 kayakers from Duncan who had pulled up on the beach waiting for the rain to stop. Later that afternoon the sky cleared, we had wonderful warm sunshine to dry out our gear and we took the opportunity to hike over to Pirates Cove on the other side of the island.

On our last day we decided to leave early as soon as the tide started to come in hoping to arrive in Nanaimo shortly after noon. We wanted to paddle north along the south side of De Courcy, then paddle over to the east side of Link Island and Mudge Island, in order to go through False Narrows, because the tide would be running much too fast through Dodd Narrows. When we arrived at the end of De Courcy we realized the tide was still too low to get through between De Courcy and Link Island so we had to portage our fully loaded kayaks for a tough 40-meter distance before we could put them in the water again. With the flood by now picking up, and breezing through False Narrows with a strong wind pushing us all the way, we covered the 14 nm to Departure Bay in just over three hours. We even took some time to look at the whirlpools and standing waves coming out of Dodd Narrows.

Overall we had a great trip even though the weather had not been very cooperative most of the time.

Hans Voermann

Trip Report Wabakimi through a Bug Hat

Twelve thousand lakes, no roads, few visitors. A guarantee of solitude - just what we needed after sixty-six intense days with the 2008 David Thompson Brigade, which ended in Thunder Bay, Ontario on July 13.

Canoe, train, and float plane are the options for accessing Wabakimi Provincial Park, a vast spruce-moose forest in northern Ontario. Armstrong, a three-hour drive north of Thunder Bay, is the gateway community. Train-in, paddle-out is the popular, low-cost option, but we splurged, flying in to Burntrock Lake and out of Shawanabis Lake twelve days later.

In the Ojibway language Wabakimi means "white water," and there's plenty of it; rapids and waterfalls are part of the "pool and drop" nature of its waterways. Paddlers like us can avoid most of the white stuff through careful route planning and by taking portages. Our route included five rivers (two downstream, three upstream), countless lakes (each with a pair of loons), and thirty-one portages. The Palisade River with its granite cliffs and island-studded Smoothrock Lake were our favorite sections. Fantasia Portage was a pleasurable walk, but some portages were knee-deep swamps due to high water, and one was nearly impassable due to blow-downs. Woodland caribou, moose, beaver, birds, a few fishermen, and countless black flies were encountered along the way.

Wabakimi is advertised as the largest wilderness canoeing reserve in the world. It's twice the size of B.C.'s Wells Gray Park and boasts over 2,000 km of canoe trails. For \$50, you can bring your canoe on the Via Rail train from Vancouver to Toronto. Trippers, if you're heading to Ontario, you might like to add Wabakimi to your wish-list.

Doug and Cathy Hull



In Memory

Many members of the Club have been saddened by two recent deaths.

Crystal Kleiman took part in a number of activities over her ten years in the Club. Principally a kayaker and outrigger paddler, Crystal also took part in a descent of part of the Thompson river in a voyageur canoe and paddled in the Queen Charlottes with canoeists Don Munroe and Jean Chandler. Crystal's participation in the Club was curtailed over the past year as she fought cancer. Her individuality and self-sufficiency will be missed by all who knew her. There is a wonderful photo of Crystal's tent on Portland Island, erected exactly in front of a No Camping notice which she had used as support for a guy rope.

David Reid, pilot and husband of long time Club member Lasha Reid died tragically in a helicopter crash in Northern BC on August 5. Lasha is a kayaker and canoeist and shared David's love of the outdoors. Though not a paddler with the club, David joined Lasha as a participant in the annual Mt Washington ski-trip and other social events and became known to many members. Lasha, we hope that the support of family and friends both within and outside the club will help you through this very difficult time .



Trips Reports Kayak Program

An overnight trip to Sidney Spit was enjoyed in July. Eleven people braved current, boat wakes, blazing sunshine and a decent uphill portage with commraderie and humour. The trip island- hopped from near Sidney to James Island, Sidney Island, Forest Island, Dock Island and Shell Island. Organized by Marianne West. Thanks to Dorothea Hoffman and Yves Aquin for their very helpful advice.

A weekend involving kayaks at Quadra Island was organized by Senga Simpson in August. Marianne West led a group of VCKC members and others on a Main Lakes trip the first day. The lake was so warm that we went swimming. Poking our way up the creek connecting Main Lake with Little Main was also pleasantly distracting. The following day Senga and Marianne spent hours observing a wonderland of colourful sea life beneath our boats, during a low tide in calm water round the outside of Rebecca Spit.



Photos from Sidney Spit by Michelle Scherger

Kayak Program Report

Congratulations to Patti Stevens, Yves Aquin, Doug Linton, Dennis McMillan, Dorothea Hoffman and Marianne West. They've all completed their instructor training and achieved Paddle Canada certification.

Practice sessions on the water by the clubhouse were held for three Thursdays in July.

The Restricted Marine Radio Operator Course was held in June. Everyone passed!

The next Kayak Program Meeting is Tuesday, September 16, 7:00pm to 9:30 pm. Tony Copping will be speaking on the BC Marine Trails Initiative, which is striving to ensure that strategically located safe beach landing sites remain available for public use by small watercraft. Many islands are now privately owned. We need to be part of the process than retains beach access for kayaks and canoes.

The kayak paddler contact list, reached by emailing vckcpaddlinglist@gmail.com, is available only to people on the list. Send your contact info and a comment on what type of paddling you're interested in. Fred Trudell periodically updates the list and re-sends it to the group.

See the Trips and Courses section of the newsletter for information on September paddles.

VCKC has boats that are available to members for club courses and paddles at a fee of \$10 per day. All kayaks come with a PFD, paddle, pump and throw line. For more information or to book a kayak, please contact Colin Ross at cdross@shaw.ca at least a week in advance.

Marianne West, Kayak Program Director, is now working full-time hours, and finding the otherwise enjoyable meetings, emails and discussions involved in the director position to be taking more time than there is in a day. She is delighted to continue on as an instructor and paddle guide as this is where her passions lie. Marianne will remain as Director until December 31, 2008, and would welcome the chance to mentor her successor .

We are looking for a Newsletter copy person for the kayak section, who reports to the newsletter volunteer.

The West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium is celebrating its 25th anniversary September 19-21 in Port Townsend, Washington. Check out wcsks.org for an informative weekend of kayak fun.

The following is a list of volunteers for the Kayak Program:

Program Director: Marianne West
(mariannejwest@gmail.com)

Communications (email): Fred Trudell
(fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca)

Communications (paddlers' list)
(VCKCpaddlinglist@gmail.com)

Courses & Workshops: Patti Stevens
(pattilou_333@yahoo.com)

Kayak bookings: Colin Ross (cdross@shaw.ca)

Library: Vic Turkington (victurkington@yahoo.com)

Day Paddles and Overnights: Marianne West
(mariannejwest@gmail.com)

Instructors: Tom Hukari, Patti Stevens, Yves Aquin, Dennis MacMillan, Dorothea Hoffman, Doug Linton, Marianne West.

More Fun Fest Photos



Trips (Canoeing)

Flatwater Trips

The first flatwater paddle of the Fall season will be on **Sunday, September 7**. If the weather co-operates and the interested paddlers have enough experience, one option would be to paddle round Prevost Island. The circuit is about 11 nautical miles/20kms. We would catch the 9am ferry from Swartz Bay to Fulford Harbour and drive to Long Harbour, launching there and heading for James Bay, where there is a camp ground. This would require leaving the Clubhouse about 7:30 am and the sharing of vehicles to keep costs down. An alternative paddle, given the flooding tide all morning and early afternoon would be along the Straits of Juan de Fuca, perhaps from French Beach to Esquimalt.

While both these paddles require some experience of canoeing in the ocean and sufficient stamina to paddle for 5-6 hours, the routes are not technically difficult -no fast currents or rips, etc.

Call or e-mail Alan/Linda Thomson
3135thom@islandnet.com 250-592-4170 by Thursday, September 4 if you are interested.

Saturday, September 20 will be the second trip of the month. No leader/organizer has been arranged as yet but a notice will be sent to all members of the Club's Canoe Program advising who to contact and possible routes.

Sunday, October 5: No route selected as yet, nor a contact organizer. Linda and Alan will be away the week before but expect to be back in time to lead this trip.

Alan Thomson

Courses (Canoeing)

Lakewater Level 1: This is the basic tandem canoe course which covers several basic paddling strokes, allowing for good canoe maneuvering, safety, types of paddles and canoes, suitable clothing, canoeing ethics.

Thursday, September 25 (6:30pm-9:00pm)
registration & classroom session

Saturday, September 27 (8:30am-4:30pm) on-the-water instruction

For more information or to register, please contact Joy Newham by Saturday, September 20. Phone: 250-385-5876 or email canoe@vckc.ca.

Trips (Kayaking)

There will be a **New Members Paddle on Sunday, September 28**. Meet at 9:30 at the VCKC clubhouse beach for a beach talk. As parking is limited, you may park at Esquimalt Kinsmen Park, and paddle the short distance across the water. Kayak wheels are useful if you have them.

We plan to be OTW (on the water) by 10:00am returning by 2:00 or 2:30. The route is down the Gorge to the Inner Harbour and hopefully as far as Fleming Bay. This is an opportunity for new paddlers to come out and practice. Experienced paddlers, please join us and share your knowledge with the group. Immersion gear is required. If you need to book a club kayak, please contact Colin Ross at cdross@shaw.ca before September 21.

Please contact Dorothea Hoffman at dmhoffman@shaw.ca if you plan to attend.

The **September Get Together Paddle** involves catching the 9:00 am Saltspring Island Ferry, driving north to Southey Point and paddling to the Secretary Islands and back. It is necessary to be comfortable paddling on the ocean for a full day, perhaps in some wind, to enjoy this trip. The date is **Sunday, September 21**. We would plan to take the 3:50 pm ferry home again, although this could be subject to change. Immersion gear is required. If you need to book a club kayak, please contact Colin Ross at cdross@shaw.ca before Sept 14.

Please contact Marianne West at mariannejwest@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Paddle Guidelines: *These paddles 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. The pace is set by those at the back of the "pack". All those who plan to attend 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. 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 trip.

Kayak Program Courses and Workshops

Paddle Canada Flatwater Courses

Dates: Sept 14, 2008 and Oct 2008 (TBD)

Length: 1 day

Cost: \$25

Paddle Canada Level 1

Dates: Sept 20-21 / Oct 18-19

Length: 2 days

Cost: \$50

For information on Paddle Canada course content, please go to Paddle Canada's website and review the Sea Kayak Program overview at <http://paddlingcanada.com/programs/seakayaking/index.php>.

Wet-Exit + Assisted Rescue Workshop

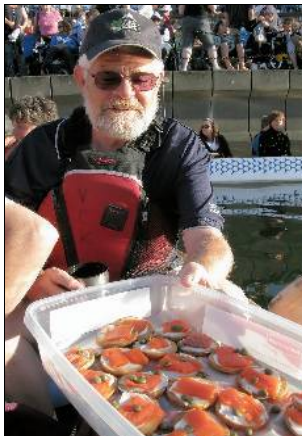
Date: TBD

Length: 3 hours

Cost: \$5

To register for any of these courses or workshops, please contact Patti Stevens at pattilou_333@yahoo.com.

In addition, if there is a workshop that you would like to see happen, get a group of four to six members together and contact Patti at the above email address.



VCKC Members enjoy Symphony Splash (Photos: Wendy Clapp)



VCKC Executive

President		Voyageur Program	
Linda Thomson	592-4170	Don Munroe.....	385-2268
Vice President		Marathon Canoe Program	
Marie-Eve Tessier	386-5652	Ron Williams	380-7496
Treasurer		Education, Safety & Standards	
Sharron Rivest	478-2981	Doug Linton	727-0216
Secretary		Membership	
Tony Dalmyn	483-5224	Muriel Johnson	391-0560
Past President		Clubhouse & Grounds	
Mile Petrovic	250-733-2013	Lawrence Irvine	920-3622
Program Directors		Directors-at-Large	
Canoe Program		Diane Nishimura	383-3080
Joy Newham	385-5876	Maris Ratel	592-7082
Sea Kayak Program		Executive Volunteer Positions	
Marianne West	885-1723	Ray Patts (Soc.Coord.)	294-4445
Dragon Boat Program		Harold Gillis (Newsletter)	598-9488
Mike Fox	391-0160	Maris Ratel (Boat & Locker Storage) ..	592-7082
Outrigger Program			
Keith Larusson	598-7193		

For the up-to-date
VCKC calendar
[CLICK HERE](#)

