



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

April 2009

**General Meeting
Tuesday
April 7, 2009
7:30 pm**

Rick Gonder from the Victoria Harbour Master, Harbour patrol and Cpl Larry Jacobs, RCMP Island Harbour Safety Unit, will be doing a joint presentation followed by a question and answer period for our members.

The presentation will deal with the Port of Victoria Traffic Scheme, Harbour Patrol and Marine safety issues.

This will be of interest to all our members but especially to our coaches, captains, dragon boaters and paddle leaders.



Photos: H. Gillis

Clubhouse News

Mega Yacht Marina Rally March 7, 2009

Despite high winds and, at times, sleet and snow, the Rally was well supported by the paddling community on the water and on shore. The original plan to mark out the outer perimeter of the marina using dragonboats and outriggers had to be abandoned because of the high winds and chop. So the boats congregated at the sandy beach in front of the Delta Ocean Point Hotel where the developer of the proposed marina was holding an Open House.

If the weather had been better, one could have reasonably expected more boats but the weather did demonstrate the safety issues involved in having to paddle away from shore in bad conditions. And the size of the Rally could

not be ignored. Mr. Evans, the developer, has expressed his willingness to meet with the paddling community. We will have to see what transpires.

The three voyageurs taking part in the rally went on to further excitement on the return trip under the Tillicum bridge. But more on that tale with photos in the next Newsletter.

And I find that once again I have to give a reminder about clubhouse security. On Friday, March 20, the gate to the boat storage compound was found open with the code number still on the padlock. Very careless, very selfish, with no thought for club or other people's boats. Please, don't let this happen again!

Linda Thomson
President, VCKC



Group photo by Wendy Clapp. Others by Harold Gillis

Canoe Program Report

Thanks to Ken Gibbard for presenting a slide show on his trip down the Nahanni River at our March meeting. Great show, Ken! How many of you have added the Nahanni as a place you just have to see for yourself? And thank you to Jean for standing in for me.

There will be no canoe program meeting in April. Sorry!

Joy Newham
Program Director



Spring Cleaning

The VCKC Clubhouse and Gorge Cleanup is coming up on Saturday, April 18 between 9 am and 1 pm.

Please come on out and help to clean up the clubhouse and grounds and the Gorge Waterway. If you want to participate with the paddling group in the voyageurs, wear clothes and footwear that you don't mind getting muddy—it's a messy job but it's an adventure. We are so fortunate to have such a lovely location for our club. Please try to spare a couple of hours to help keep it looking spic and span. Gloves, garbage bags and dumpage are provided by the CRD, Dumpsters by RDI, refreshments and treats by Tim Hortons.

Don Munroe

Paddling Partners Wanted For Broken Islands Trip

Two paddlers (canoeists/kayakers) want to paddle in the Broken Islands this summer—preferably in early July. They have done some ocean canoe and kayak tripping and one of them has done the Ocean Canoeing Course. They would like to have another canoe or kayak along for company and safety, preferably with paddlers of comparable or greater experience. If anyone in the Club is planning to paddle this trip this summer, could they contact Jenny at hikergirl19@hotmail.com or 250-658-0769.



Note to All Paddlers

Please return the hose and reel to the basement after use—even if you think there is someone coming in soon. We have had two hoses stolen in the last few weeks. We should not feel it is our duty to provide irrigation equipment to all of Saanich. The hose bib is set up with a quick-release coupling to make it easier to connect or disconnect. If you don't know how it works, get someone to show you. It does not require the application of more force if it doesn't work immediately; it requires that you learn how.

Wake Up the Gorge - 2009

The outriggers spent a busy winter going out almost every day except for a couple weeks when the dock and the parking lot were covered in snow. A few paddlers explored the edge of the ice pack on Portage Inlet. The passage below Admiral's bridge challenged teams paddling at night several times but the boats came through with no permanent effects.

Several paddler raced through the winter at the events hosted at [GRPC](#) (Gorge Rowing and Paddling Centre). Several regular OC (outrigger canoe) paddlers have been doing double duty, getting in shape for the Paddle to Port Angeles.

On April 4 and 5, VCKC will host Wake Up The Gorge again with the cooperation and support of [ORPC](#) (Ocean River Paddling Club). We are expecting up to 40 OC6 teams for 1000 meter sprint races on Saturday and two dozen elite small boat paddlers on Sunday. The OC program committee has organized into volunteer teams to handle preparation, registrations, set up, guest hospitality, and race operations. More volunteers would be welcome.

We can't promise a sunny day or record temperatures but we are counting on a great couple of days. Come out and enjoy the races.

Tony Dalmyn



Kayak Courses

Paddle Canada Flatwater (Introduction to Kayaking)

Dates: April 18-19 (**FULL**)

Paddle Canada Level 1

Dates: May 30 + 31
June 13 + 14
June 20 + 21

Minimum Skills: Paddle Canada Introduction to Kayaking or equivalent

Length: 2 days

Location & Time: TBD by Instructor

Cost: \$50

Register by: Wednesday, May 20

NOTE: You will be practicing rescue techniques in the water on both days. This means you will get wet! Therefore, a wetsuit is required for the course. If you don't have a wetsuit please borrow or rent one. Otherwise, you may get too cold and may not be able to complete the course.

For information on Paddle Canada course content, please go to Paddle Canada's website and review the [Sea Kayak Program overview](#).

Please register for these courses with Patti Stevens at pattilou_333@yahoo.com. Space is limited to 6 members, so don't delay!

VCKC has a few kayaks that are available for members on club courses and workshops. When you register for a course, please indicate if you would like to book a club kayak. When you use a club kayak, all the safety equipment is provided. However, it is your responsibility to transport the kayak to and from the launch site. Therefore, if you register for any of the above courses, you will have to arrange your own transportation including roof racks and tie downs.

VCKC Membership

Your VCKC membership dues for 2009 must be paid in order to attend any club courses or workshops. You can join online at www.vckc.ca.

Help Needed

VCKC needs your help! Interested in coordinating courses and workshops for the Kayak Program? We are needing someone to start May 1, 2009. You do not have to be an instructor, just willing to be the contact person, collect cheques, and coordinate courses and workshops with VCKC Kayak Instructors and Paddle Canada. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping out, please contact Patti Stevens at pattilou_333@yahoo.com.



Who's Who

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

Program Director - Vacant

Communications (email) - Fred Trudell - fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca;

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

Courses & Workshops - Patti Stevens until Apr 30, 2009 - pattilou_333@yahoo.com;

Kayak Bookings - Susan Zedel - szedel@shaw.ca;

Library - Vic Turkington -
victurkington@yahoo.com;

Day Paddles and Expeditions - Marianne West
- mariannejwest@gmail.com and

Dorothea Hoffmann -
polkadottie44@shaw.ca.

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

Kayak Trip

Kayak Camping Trip Easter Weekend

A two day-one night kayak camping trip to Portland Island is being planned for the Easter long weekend, April 10-13. The actual dates will depend on the availability of those who wish to attend.

Each participant must have attended Flatwater or have equivalent skills. A higher skill level is preferable. Each participant will need to bring their own camping gear.

For more information, email Marianne West at mariannejwest@gmail.com.



For Sale Two Unusual Canoes

16 foot Chestnut wood/canvas prospector canoe in excellent condition. This type of canoe does not come on the market often and is definitely a heritage collectable craft;

16 foot Nova Craft Bill Mason special edition, prospector style in Kevlar/Spectra with cherry wood trim finish. One of a limited edition run, this boat is in very good condition.

Also for sale, assorted canoe paddles, drybags, drysuit and other gear.

If interested, contact Emmerich Sperrer at:
250-478-2855.

There is nothing that is so aesthetically pleasing and yet so functional and versatile as the canoe.

Bill Mason

A nature lover is someone who, when treed by a bear, enjoys the view.

More Photos from the Marina Rally



Canoeing Flatwater Trips

Because of Wake Up The Gorge on April 4 and 5 and a Lakewater course on the same days, the first Lakewater trip will be on Easter Monday, April 13 and the following one on Sunday, April 26.

E-mails will be sent to members of the Canoe program ahead of time, reminding members of these paddles. If you have not ticked off Canoe Program on your membership, let me know and I can add you to the list of e-mail recipients for these trips. Kayakers are welcome: most of our paddles are on the ocean.

Advance warning—I have no free weekends on May so if the flatwater paddles are to continue that month, we will need to have volunteers to arrange and lead these.

Alan Thomson

Participants should have taken and passed the [RCABC Lakewater Level I tandem course](#). Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the trip leader but will depend on the strength of the group and on the location of the planned trip.

Unless otherwise specified, all trips start by meeting at the Clubhouse parking lot at 9 am. The aim is always to have all participants back at the parking lot by 5 pm at the latest. At this time of year, return time is likely to be earlier.

Participants should be dressed appropriately for the forecast weather (call 250-363-6717 or look up the [Environment Canada forecast](#) on the web) and, if the trip is to be on the ocean, check the time of the tides and currents. It is helpful to bring your own charts or maps so that you can be self-sufficient if necessary.

Frost Free Weekend Camping Trip

This annual camping weekend is scheduled for May 9 and 10 (Mother's Day weekend). It is intended as a season-start canoe (or kayak) camping trip which is suitable for beginners. It has traditionally been a Saturday/Sunday trip with one night's camping. Last year, we added a day so that the effort of packing up for a single night in a tent could be spread over two nights, and we went to Cabbage Island, off Tumbo and Saturna.

Destinations for a 3 day-2 night trip include Cabbage Island; Wakes Cove (northwest end of Valdes Island), Blackberry Point (middle of Valdes) and Dionisio Point on Galiano. OR we could go to Prevost and stay there two nights, taking in Montague Harbour and perhaps Active Pass on the middle day.

Members who contacted me in March are all interested in a 3 day trip rather than a 2 day/1 night event so the dates are May 9 and 10 plus either the Friday or the Monday on either side. Contact Alan Thomson if you have any questions or would like to put your name down. If there is the demand, the Club canoe or a voyageur can be taken. Contact Alan Thomson at 250-592-4170 or 3135thom@islandnet.com.

Running of the Cows #8

Eighth year and going strong. This event on May 2 and 3 involves the running of the Cowichan River from Lake Cowichan to Cowichan Bay. The Stoltz Group campsite has been booked for VCKC for the Friday and Saturday nights. The site has a wood stove, a shelter for cooking, a campfire ring and about twelve tent sites. The parking lot for the group site can accommodate campers. Costs for camping probably about \$10 per tent per night depending on numbers using the site.

This trip is open to all paddlers who have taken and passed the Moving Water tandem course. The river grading is generally level 1-2, with some 2+ in the Canyon section. Superior river manoeuvring skills are required to avoid sweepers and log jams. Wet or dry suits are advised. Helmets are essential for the Canyon section. All canoes should have flotation (airbags/Styrofoam) and have a bailer, painters and a throwbag. We hope to be joined, as in past years, by some paddlers from the Beaver and Dogwood Clubs in Vancouver. Any questions, speak to Tom Staebell 250-655-7113; thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca or Alan Thomson 250-592-4170 or 3135thom@islandnet.com.

Moving Water Trips

Saturday, April 11
Friday, April 24
Sat. & Sun. May 2 & 3 (See above)

VCKC river trips are open to current members or invited guests (waiver required) who have received RCABC or equivalent instruction and who agree to abide by VCKC safety rules as outlined in the member guide.

Unless otherwise announced, we meet at 8:30 am at the Millstream Park'nRide (exit 14/Sooke off the Island Highway) and carpool to the appropriate river section. Please contribute to driver's fuel and vehicle expense. (\$10 is appropriate these days.) Trips are subject to last minute cancellation due to water level or road closures so please advise by Thursday evening if you plan to attend and phone my cell (after 6:30 a.m., please) if your plans change. The three club river boats are available for a modest fee on a "first call" basis.

Tom Staebell
res 655-7113 after 5:00 pm
cell 588-2207 after 6:30 am
thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca



Courses - Canoeing

Lakewater Level 1:
Thursday evening, April 23,
Saturday, April 25 and
Sunday morning, April 26

Lakewater Level 2:
Sunday, April 26

Lakewater Level 3:
Saturday, April 4

Lakewater Level 4:
Sunday, April 5

Moving Water Level 1:
Saturday, May 23 and
Sunday May 24

Moving Water Level 2:
Saturday, May 30 and
Sunday, May 31

Ocean Canoeing Course

This is advance notice of the RCABC Ocean Canoeing course which will take place in May. The course consists of 2 days of classroom sessions on charting,

tides and currents, weather and navigation and 3 days-2 nights of canoe tripping on the ocean. The paddling portion is planned for the Victoria Day weekend (May 16-18th). The classroom sessions will likely consist of 4 evening sessions in later April/early May. The dates will depend on the convenience of the students and instructor. The cost of the course is \$100 per student. In addition, there will be the costs of relevant charts, ruler, dividers, Tide and Current Tables Volume 5-7 say up to \$50. Students are limited to 8 due to limitations on the student to instructor ratio. First come, first served.

Past students are welcome to sit in on the classroom sessions and to take part in the trip, but not as students.

Please let me know by the end of March if you want to take this course so that I can plan the classroom dates.

Alan Thomson
250-812-3799
3135thom@islandnet.com

The Annual General Meeting of the Recreational Canoeing Association of BC (RCABC) is taking place on April 18 at the Affinity Guesthouse on Samuel Road in the Cowichan Delta.

The RCABC is the body that establishes and maintains the canoeing courses that are taught by the Club and which certifies the instructors. Besides the AGM itself—5pm on the Saturday—there is a day's workshop on paddling with the disabled on the Saturday and four roundtable discussions on the Sunday on issues such as paddling insurance; Canadian canoe course standards (Paddle Canada); and the possibility of canoe clubs having a place on the executive of the Association. Only members may vote but if you are an interested canoeist, you'd be welcome to attend and listen in/take part.

For details, see the RCABC website — www.bccanoe.com—and click on CANEWS. The program for the AGM is in the Spring 2009 edition. Or call Alan Thomson at 250-592-4170.

VCKC Executive

President		Voyageur Program	
Linda Thomson	592-4170	Don Munroe.....	385-2268
Vice President		Marathon Canoe Program	
Bon Lee	477-1381	Ron Williams	380-7496
Treasurer		Education, Safety & Standards	
Vacant		Doug Linton	727-0216
Secretary		Membership	
Diane Nishimura	383-3080	Carolyn Rattray	386-9144
Past President		Clubhouse & Grounds	
Mile Petrovic	733-2013	Sandy Rattray ..	386-9144
Program Directors		Directors-at-Large	
Canoe Program		Jack Louie	598-1569
Joy Newham	385-5876	Maris Ratel	592-7082
Sea Kayak Program		Muriel Johnson	391-0560
Vacant		Mavis Pilar	857-9564
Dragon Boat Program		Executive Volunteer Positions	
Mike Fox	391-0160	Mavis Pillar (Soc.Coord.)	857-9564
Outrigger Program		Harold Gillis (Newsletter)	598-9488
Keith Larusson	478-2981	Dave Whitehead (Boat & Locker Storage)	507-0271

[April Calendar](#)
[Click Here](#)

