



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 2009

VCKC BBQ & General Meeting September 8, 2009 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

I hope you have all enjoyed a great summer of paddling. As usual, summer starts and then is suddenly ended. But we can keep paddling!

We start the fall program off, as usual, with a BBQ and potluck so that we can catch up with each others news. A *REMINDER* that this year we are having it on the second Tuesday of the month (i.e Sept. 8 not Sept. 1). The Executive meeting will also be a week latter than usual on the third Tuesday in September (i.e. Sept. 15).

During the summer, VCKC took part in the Big Brothers Big Sisters annual picnic and Canada Day celebrations by giving voyageur and outrigger boat rides. We collected \$1,141.00 on Canada Day and this has been donated to the Lion's Club for the children's camp at Lake Shownigan. Thank you very much to all those who participated.

Thank you also to all those who coached, captained, organized, led paddles, taught and so on, so that the rest of us could paddle!

THE COMPOUND HAS BEEN LEFT OPEN. AGAIN!
Please always double-check that you have left it LOCKED. It is easy to forget.

See you at the BBQ!

Linda Thomson
President, VCKC

Canoe Program News

What a fantastic summer for sunny weather this year! I hope you were able to enjoy many hours out-of-doors – paddling, hiking, cycling, walking or just hanging out on the patio with a book and beverage. I look forward to hearing about your summer paddling activities and, if you have some great paddling photos to share, you might consider doing a slide presentation at a canoe program meeting or general meeting. Please let me know if you would like to be our “entertainment” at an upcoming meeting.

Please try to join us for our general meeting on September 8. It will be a barbeque instead of a regular meeting. Come with your summer stories. I look forward to seeing you there.

NATIONAL CANOE DAY - June 26

For the first time, VCKC participated in this annual celebration recognizing the canoe as one of the seven wonders of Canada as voted on in a CBC poll two years ago. Although the event was put together on very short notice, members and guests really enjoyed the festivities. Mother Nature cooperated by sending us a very warm, sun-filled, windless evening. After a BBQ, we began by holding a launch and naming ceremony for our new Kevlar voyageur “Kawa”.

This was followed by a variety of hilarious canoe games. Members from different paddling programs participated and even those people not involved in the competitive end of paddling all of a sudden became very intent on winning. A huge cake, decorated with the National Canoe Day logo, the VCKC logo and “Kawa”, was devoured in short order. (Check out the picture on our website.)

We are looking forward to the years when June 26 falls on a weekend so we can spend more time with the crazy canoe races. (Maureen is just full of ideas!)

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped to put this event together: Don Munroe, Maureen Young, Maris Ratel, Graham Lloyd, moi, as well as those people who pitched in to help on the night of the event.

“KAWA”

Celebrating National Canoe Day was made extra special, by introducing Kawa to the members and guests at the National Canoe Day festivities.

Kawa is a kevlar voyageur canoe which has been very generously donated to VCKC by Harold Nishikawara. “Kawa” means “river” in Japanese and the word is also part of Harold's name.

The celebration began with a parade from the compound led by piper Graham Lloyd and followed by Harold, Don Munroe, president Linda Thomson and most of the guests helping to carry the boat (although it's not that heavy!). Other paddlers formed a paddle arch as the canoe was carried down the ramp to the dock. The canoe was blessed with Harold brushing the canoe with cedar boughs and Linda addressing the guests

with special words and with thanks to Harold for his generosity. We toasted “Kawa” with champagne and some shared a sprinkling of their bubbly with the canoe.

Members of the executive, with Harold paddling in the “captain’s seat”, took Kawa for her maiden “voyage”. Then other members took turns going for short paddles. Due to the lightness of the boat, we found her to be very tippy although luckily we all managed to keep the canoe upright. Lifting Kawa into and out of the water will be so easy compared to the 350+ pound weight of the old voyageur canoes.

Thank you Harold!!

Joy Newham
Director, Canoe Program



Gabriola Island (Photo: H. Gillis)

Outrigger Program

Hi folks. I hope your summers were fantastic with lots of time to play on the water.

Now it’s time for some serious stuff. Like reconditioning the outrigger canoes. This has been put off long enough. I will direct the efforts but I will not do it all myself. So I need committed time from a number of folks to make it happen.

Once the first boat is in the compound, we will need 4–6 people to wash the interior and exterior with grease removing detergent. I would hope to get 4–6 folks the next day to paint the interior with gelcoat.

After that, we need 4–6 folks armed with

random-orbital sanders for about two hours one evening or during the day. I would hope to paint the next day (coloured part) and the day after that (white).

I would think the best bet would be to pull the boat out on a Friday. That would allow the weekend to rally the greatest numbers possible to do the large jobs (washing, sanding). As soon as the sanding is done, and things are dry, I will do any fibreglass repairs before painting.

I will be otherwise occupied for the first couple of weekends in September but will be around after that for a couple of weeks. So email me asap if you can commit some time and I will set up some sort of schedule and we can have at it.

As of right now, I can foresee the need for folks to ramrod the washing crew, the sanding crew, and the interior painting crew (if I can’t spray it). So step up and be counted!

Doug Linton

Trip Report - Outrigger

A Whale of a Tale
Aug. 18, 2009

The Tuesday “Let it Riders” group – comprised this week of Joy, Barbara, Marjorie, Sandy, Maureen and Kim – set out from Glenlyon School at 10:00 am on a warm, sunny August morning. It being low tide, our first chore was to haul the outrigger canoe across a vast expanse of slippery pebbles. But soon we were on the water which was glassy calm except for a few breeze-riffled patches. Mount Baker was barely visible through the heat–haze on the other side. Rounding Ten-Mile Point we encountered a few low swells and a bit of an adverse current as we entered Haro Strait but conditions were favourable enough to give rise to some idle chat about continuing to Sidney. We settled for Telegraph Cove where we had our usual gourmet fête champêtre: blackberries, plums, French Kiss melon, cheeses and baguette, two cakes from the Rebar cookbook and chocolate bonbons.

Staggering back to the boat, we watched an elderly couple launch their canoe and paddle

off, then headed south in a rising tide. At Ten Mile Point, Kim decided to duck into the tiny cove at the end of the point so that she could check her phone messages. We were lying broadside to the beach when a few of us saw an enormous tail fin disappear into the water right at the entrance of the cove, where we had been a minute before. We were thinking “whale” when the unmistakable dorsal fin of a VERY LARGE orca broke the water seconds later. We watched, transfixed, as the orca splashed around at the mouth of the cove on a fishing expedition, getting tangled in kelp and shaking it off, and blowing each time he (or she?) surfaced.



Within minutes a small trawler joined the party, along with a large whale watching boat whose decks were crammed with tourists. They had undoubtedly paid \$100 each for the privilege, but we were getting a jellyfish-eye view for free!

Here’s where our advancing age betrayed us: none of us was tech-savvy enough to use the photo feature on our cell phones. After about 15 minutes our whale headed north, blowing and hopping. Our memories will last considerably longer.

Barbara Abercrombie



In Memory - Karen Dumais (May 27, 1943 – May 27 2009)

Karen was a member of VCKC. She joined the Club in 2006 and was a member of the dragon boat team “The Ageless Warriors”. It was a fine moment for our team when our coach handed out the medals after the Festival. The sun shone brightly on us all that day especially Karen.

Karen also learned how to stern an outrigger canoe and the Friday Flyers had many awesome paddles in the Gorge. All of us will miss dear Karen. Carpe Deim!



**VCKC's Ageless
Warriors at
Nanaimo
Dragonboat
Festival earlier
this summer.**

Photo: Wendy Clapp

Canoe Trips

Flatwater Paddles are open to canoeists and kayakers who have passed the basic flatwater course.

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Call (250-592-4170) or e-mail (3135thom@islandnet.com) Alan Thomson by Thursday 17th to let him know you plan to take part. The route is not decided, but as the weather is likely to be good and the days are not short, probably a trip out of Victoria some place - e.g. another part of the coastline towards Port Renfrew and Sooke; or up towards Nanaimo in the Yellow Point Area.

Courses

Lakewater Level 1 (tandem)

Friday, Oct. 2 - 6:00 pm - 8:00
(registration and classroom session)

Saturday, Oct. 3 - 8:30 - 4:00
(on-the-water instruction)

Sunday, Oct. 4 - 8:00 - 10:00
(canoe-over-canoe rescue session)

Lakewater Level 2 (solo)

Sunday, Oct. 4 - 10:00 - 4:30

To register for the above courses: e-mail canoe@vckc.ca.

Moving Water Level 1 (tandem)

Saturday, Oct. 24 & Sunday, Oct. 25

Moving Water Level 2 (solo)

Saturday, Nov. 7 & Sunday, Nov. 8

To register for Moving Water courses, contact Tom Staebell: thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca

Voyageur/Big Canoe Course:

Over the past few years, the RCABC (Recreational Canoeing Association of British Columbia) has developed a new set of courses for Big Canoes/Voyageurs. The second level course is designed to qualify paddlers to stern big canoes (20'+) and to successfully manage the team of paddlers in flatwater conditions. It will be of value to Club members who may want to

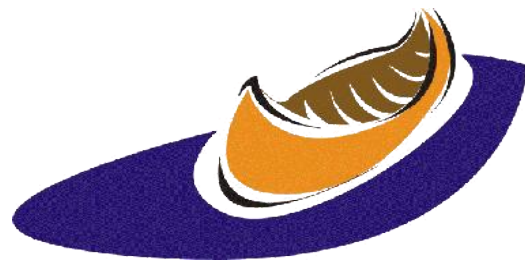
use one of the Club's voyageur canoes; to teachers who have students they want to take out in these boats and to others in charge of groups who can handle a paddle but not steer and don't know anything about formal canoe strokes.

A prerequisite for the course is having passed the basic tandem canoe course.

Timing: The course will take 2 days

Cost: will be determined by the numbers wanting to take the course and whether an expert big canoe instructor from the Mainland comes over to run the course.

Please let Alan Thomson know if you'd be interested in such a course or if you have any questions - 250-592-4170.



ALL VCKC MEMBERS

Please be doubly aware of re-locking doors, gates, and equipment when you leave!

The club compound was left unlocked one day last week (found Wednesday morning), as was the outrigger at Oak Bay (found Tuesday afternoon).

It is not enough to simply close the lock, the number rings must be separately scrambled.

Kayak Courses

Paddle Canada Level 1
September 19 - 20, 2009

If you have taken an Introduction to Kayaking course and feel comfortable upside down in the boat, now it is time to improve your sea kayaking paddling skills. We add unassisted rescues to this course, so again you will be in the water.

You should have had at least a summer's paddling between Introduction and Level 1.

You must answer each of these questions before being registered for this course:

Please send me an email with all the following information.

Email subject line: date of course (YYMMDD), course level

1. Your full name and the full name of any other participants;
2. Your address and telephone number;
3. The approximate date you joined VCKC. You may join online;
4. Do you own your own kayak?
5. Do you want to borrow a VCKC kayak?

Please contact Dorothea at
kayakcourses@vckc.ca



Symphony Splash - August 2009
Photo: Wendy Clapp

Course Report Kayak Stroke Course June 14, 2009

This course given by Dorothea and Brian was nothing short of awesome! I could not imagine any better instruction or more fun than we had on a gorgeous day on the water.

The attendees were Brian Douglas, Christine Barker, Sam Ludmer, and Odette Ouellet.

We were shown how to set up the pedals and seat to our body, how to twist around upon start to make sure we are able to turn and to ensure everything is properly strapped into our boat and the one next to us.

Paddle strokes learned and practised included forward, back, forward sweep, reverse sweep, stopping, turning, sculling, and draw. We learned and practised edging and bracing. We also all had the chance to lean way over to the side using a hand flotation device to stop us from tipping to give us more confidence. I could sure feel the difference in our paddling by the end of the day compared to when we began.

What a day! We then ventured over to the Gorge Pub to replenish our fluids and recall the day's memories.

Now if we can just convince the instructors to take us out again to practice all our new skills.

Sam Ludmer



Stroke Clinic presented by
Ron Williams on May 5, 2009
(Photo: Wendy Clapp)

Tamihi Five-0 Open Canoe Slalom

Hello Paddlers,

Many of you are not in Vancouver, or haven't been seen in a while, or aren't involved with the Beaver Canoe Club, and I want to make sure you receive this invitation to come and paddle with other whitewater canoeists.

The second annual Tamihi Five-0 Open Canoe Slalom is taking place on the Chilliwack River just east of Vancouver this September 19 and 20.

Last year we had about 30 racers at the inaugural event. And since it proved itself well we anticipate some growth this year!

Last year we had paddlers from as far Nelson and Portland but none from the island or Seattle. We were mostly familiar faces at last year's race but we hope to see new people coming to get together every year.

Please make the race known in your paddling circles and advertise it on your websites or in your newsletters if that's possible.

More info is available [here](#):

Thanks for spreading the word and I hope we see you in September!

Patrick Yarnell
Beaver Canoe Club
604-215-2215



Calling All Paddlers!

MEC & the Gorge Rowing & Paddling Centre have launched a new race series called the "Wave Grabber Summer Race Series", a competitive and for fun race series that involves any type of paddling!

WHAT

A 3 km or 5 km race in any type of paddling vehicle (kayak, canoe, dragon boat, outrigger, etc). Race competitively or just for fun down the Gorge waterway and into the inner harbour. After the race, join us for a complimentary burger (veggie available!) and drink, as well as prizes and awards.

The next race of the series will be Wednesday, September 9, at 6:30 pm with registration from 5:30pm-6:15pm. Subsequent race days are September 23 and October 7.

HOW MUCH

\$10.00 per person, includes your boat rental, entry fee and free ticket to our after BBQ! It's the best deal in town! \$5.00 will get you just a BBQ ticket if you want to come and be part of the cheering section!

HOW TO REGISTER

On location between 5:30-6:15pm at Gorge Rowing & Paddling Center at 2940 Jutland Street. Cash, debit or credit available. Limited spaces available. Be there early!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check MEC's website [here](#). Pictures from the August races [here](#).

VCKC Executive

President		Voyageur Program	
Linda Thomson	592-4170	Don Munroe.....	385-2268
Vice President		Marathon Canoe Program	
Bon Lee	477-1381	Ron Williams	592-6456
Treasurer		Education, Safety & Standards	
Sam Ludmer	298-7004	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
Still 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

Calendar

[Click Here](#)

