



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

March 2010

General Meeting

March 2, 2009

7:30pm

Protecting B.C.'s Marine Biodiversity

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has been finding creative ways to protect ecologically important areas from coast to coast since 1962.

Tanya Bryan, Marine Ecologist with the Nature Conservancy, will talk about how the NCC is now assessing how to take their successful strategies for conserving land – acquiring and managing ecologically valuable properties through ownership, easements and leases – and apply these strategies to the marine environment.



Outrigger News

I was out paddling on Thursday night, a gorgeous evening, calm water, tides that got us around to Songhees, almost no other boats of any kind on the water, a fantastic sunset, and great company, all in an urban city setting considered by many as one of the most beautiful in the world. Of course, all the fun was soon tempered when Dave W. reminded us that our timing had gone to pot, and we needed to pick it up a bit. But it was still a great paddle. In fact if that was the only paddle that I got to do this year, it would have been worth the \$40.00 club membership fee. We are truly blessed to have this paddling opportunity in our "backyards".

Which is a bit of a segue to membership fees and waivers. So this is yet another friendly reminder to make sure that you have paid your fees **and** completed a new waiver for 2010. Yes, even if you have been a club member for many years, you need to complete a new waiver every year.

"Wake Up the Gorge" is coming along nicely. We have team leaders for each key area that needs it and lots of enthusiasm. I never realized how many components there are to putting on an event like this, so I am learning quickly.

And speaking of enthusiasm, thanks to Doug Linton and those who assisted in repairing the damaged ama and re-rigging the iakos. In carrying out the repairs, Doug also noticed a crack on top of the other ama and will carry out repairs when possible. In the meantime keep an eye on the temporary duct tape patch, although it may be fixed by the time this note gets in the newsletter.

Bottom line, do your best to keep from running into stuff. But if you do scrape, hit, graze, bump or somehow manage to accidentally contact an object that may have caused damage, **HAVE A CLOSE LOOK** at the area to make sure there has been no damage.

And if you paddle at night, get a flashlight or come back during the day to confirm that there is no damage.

The last thing we want is for a crew to go out and have problems because someone else damaged a boat and didn't notice the damage.

And put a note in the logbook too of course.

If you don't feel confident that you can safely paddle under Craigflower bridge for whatever reason (lack of training, tides, currents, winds etc.) **DON'T**.

And don't worry, the only punishment for damaging a boat would be the embarrassment you probably already feel for whacking something.

Unless of course it is major damage in which case we will take out a loan, add it to your home mortgage and buy a new boat. Bet you didn't see that clause in the waiver did you!

Thanks Doug for all your work, much appreciated.

And a reminder that there is an OC6 race on March 13. GO is putting on their 1500m event. Let's try to get a team or two in there to show support as we are also trying to get their four OC6s for "Wake Up the Gorge". And we also want to kick some butt, right?

And heads up, if you see an OC6 screaming down the Gorge early Saturday morning it is likely Ron Williams who has booked one for his team for Saturday mornings. I suspect he is not just going out for some sightseeing. I think the other clubs will be in for a surprise at some of the races. Go Ron!

Happy paddling

Max Nock

Outriggers Wrongly Rigged

At some point during the last couple of months, phantom riggers took it upon themselves to swap around iakos on both of the OC6s. While it's nice to have volunteers step forward and do stuff, it is much better if they know what they are doing before they dive in. In this case, someone expressed their impish sense of humour by placing a pair of front iakos on one boat, and the rear iakos on the other. And yes, Martha, **THEY ARE DIFFERENT!** And the boats both handled and paddled like cement barges. For future reference: The front iako does not bend back

down at the outboard end. Take a look to see the different curves. We have three sets of iakos; two sets are made of Douglas fir and the other of mahogany. It should have been pretty obvious to the phantom re-rigger that the iakos didn't match. As the sets are re-varnished, they will be labelled on the underside. Since we have been mostly paddling after dark, the mix-up wasn't noticed until the green boat had to be disassembled to repair collision damage on the ama. There is a little diagram posted on the outrigger bulletin board showing the more-or-less ideal settings for the amas. Pay heed, the boats are a lot easier to paddle when set up properly.

Doug Linton



Canoe/Kayak Report

My second meeting as Canoe/Kayak Program Director on February 8, began with a question to the attendees about what they would like to see for the next few meetings, and what would be helpful and interesting to everyone. We came up with a bit of a list, the early results of which follow below. The point was made, and it is well taken, that there is a huge amount of experience and knowledge among our members, so I am calling upon this well of information for our future meetings, and depending on everyone to participate and share what they know and have. Consider yourselves forewarned!

We were also delighted to welcome several new and prospective members who attended this meeting. I hope to see more of all these folks at

future meetings as well. Please continue to check us out, learn all you can in our courses, join us on the trips, and come to the meetings. We need your fresh ideas and participation and look forward to it.

After the break, we were captivated by a truly fantastic video of a trip three families made down the Nahanni River. These families have been paddling together for around two decades, and simply didn't stop once they had children. At the time of this trip, the youngest child, Jack, son of our fantastic presenter Paul Sacilotto, was five years old, and the oldest two girls were eleven. After much thought and design, they came up with a way of catamaran-ing their three canoes together and thus were able to safely paddle the roughest water the river threw at them. Paul brought both the poles they used for this and also a firebox he and his dad designed and made. This invaluable item, which is durable, easy to use, and folds flat for ease of transport, enabled them to have fires without leaving any trace or scorching the beaches they camped on. The video itself was well-paced, funny, full of amazing scenery and moments, and beautifully filmed and rendered. It was an immense treat to see this presentation, and for those who attended Ken's wonderful slide show at the general meeting, a very different take on the same destination. Thank you, Paul!

Upcoming Canoe/Kayak Meetings:

Monday, March 15 will be a two-part safety and clothing focused meeting with members sharing what they know and doing show n' tell or a fashion show of their gear. We'll begin with first aid kits, rescue kits, repair kits, etc., that you can buy or make up yourself, and some safety tips for moving water and/or multi-day trips. The format will be everyone in a giant circle with a big pile of stuff to show and talk about.

The second part will be all about great paddling/camping clothing. If you have discovered, purchased, or made a fantastic piece of personal gear that's useful, that actually works the way it's supposed to, fits comfortably, performs well over time—be it in camp, on moving water or the ocean, for day trips, or on multi-day trips—bring it on down. Tell everyone

how it works, where they can get it or how you made it, and why you'd recommend it. We'll start with footwear and work our way up.

Everything we learn from this meeting and the ones that follow, we will share in future newsletter columns.

Monday, April 19 will be a two-part trip planning meeting focusing on great area destinations and weather. Bring maps, guide books, pictures, etc., of all the great local places you've discovered including:

- * access points
- * parking, shuttle organizing
- * reasons why it's a great paddle
- * area challenges or logistics
- * distances, time to points, good lunch stop areas, etc.

This will be followed by a presentation by Anne McCarthy from Environment Canada about weather considerations.

Around planning longer trips, further afield: choosing destinations, mastering logistics, finding a route and a pace that will work for you, organizing shuttles, flying to put-ins, and some really great trips to try. Look for this in the fall, along with some spectacular slide shows or videos to inspire you. We'll put together all that we've learned about food, gear and safety, and bring it to multi-day trip planning.

Monday, May 17 will be a food focused meeting with a recipe swap, dehydrating tips and tricks, and all the gear you take along on your trips to make a functional, lightweight, or efficient kitchen. What's in your lunchbag for day trips, what is indispensable on longer trips? We'll talk about all this and more.



Trips and Courses Canoeing & Kayaking

Flatwater Paddles

Due to the practices for the Paddle for the Kids each weekend in March and some canoe courses, only one flatwater paddle is scheduled this month.

Sunday March 14—the day Summer time starts—so remember to get up an hour earlier than usual. Any favourite paddling destinations we should think of that day? Let me know by phone 250-592-4170 or email:

3135thom@islandnet.com.

If someone volunteers to lead another paddle, it will be announced by e-mail to the Canoe and Kayak sections.

Canoe Courses

Lake Water Basic Tandem and Solo (Level 1 & 2)

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Sunday, March 28, preceded by a pool session for rescues from 7:30 am—9:00 am at Esquimalt pool.

Registration and classroom session for LW 1 & 2 will be held Thursday, March 18 from 6:00—8:30 pm at the clubhouse. At this time, locations and times for the on-the-water portions will be disseminated to the registrants, but those sessions are essentially all day.

Moving Water Tandem

Saturday & Sunday, March 13 & 14, 2010

Another Moving Water Tandem may be considered after the Lake Water Basic courses, depending on interest, and water, levels.

Moving Water Solo

Saturday & Sunday, March 27 & 28, 2010

Lake Water Advanced Tandem and Solo
(Level 3 & 4)

Saturday, April 10, 2010 (Level 3)

Sunday, April 11, 2010 (Level 4)

Lake Water Basic Tandem and Solo (Level 1 & 2)

Saturday & Sunday, June 5 & 6, 2010

Thursday, June 3, 6:00–8:30 pm for registration and classroom session.

Costs are \$25 for each Lake Water course (\$50 for the Lake Water 1 & 2 which we are offering as a package). In addition to the course cost, Lake Water 1 & 2 students will have to pay \$10 each to cover the costs of pool rental.

Moving Water course fees are \$150 per weekend and include the use of a club canoe and transportation costs.

To register for any of the above courses or for more information, please contact canoe@vckc.ca.

Ocean Paddling Course

Call or e-mail Alan Thomson if you are interested in taking this course. It covers ocean tides and currents, charts, navigation and weather, plus camping topics. Prerequisite is completion of the Lakewater Basic tandem canoe course.

The three classroom sessions will be held at the Clubhouse on the evenings of Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th of April and Monday 3rd of May. The paddling and camping component of the course will be held in conjunction with the Club's annual Frost Free weekend on the weekend of May 7, 8 and 9 (3-days, 2 nights). Cost of course is \$100; charts and any travel, etc. involved in the paddling section of the course is additional. Members who have taken the course before are welcome to sit in and take the classroom sessions as a refresher for free. Kayakers are welcome to attend the classroom sessions and the paddling trip; but I am not qualified to give you any certificate!

Voyageur/Big Canoe Advanced Paddler Course

A second Advanced Paddler/Skipper course is being held in Victoria on April 24–25. The course teaches paddlers to stern a voyageur or other big canoe and to direct and manage the crew of the boat. It is a requirement for anyone wishing to use the Club's voyageur canoes. Prerequisite courses are Lakewater Basic and Advanced Tandem Canoe. I hope to have Lyle Dickieson from Prince George to teach this course. Lyle is one of BC's most experienced voyageur canoe paddlers who has lead voyageur brigades and paddled his own voyageur canoe in many parts of the province. Let Alan Thomson know if you are interested in taking this course - 250-592-4170 or e-mail 3135thom@islandnet.com. Cost is probably \$100 per student for the two days.

A Paddle Canada Big Canoe Instructor level course is being planned on the Mainland for March 31–April 4. It is being put on by Dave Wooldridge, who taught the RCABC Advanced Big Canoe course in Victoria last autumn. Cost is \$300. If you are interested in taking this course or have questions, contact Dave at dave@ridgewilderness.com or 604-250-0744.

A Lake water Instructor Course is being planned for May. If anyone is interested in taking this advanced level, 5 day course, they should contact Ellie James ejames@bcgvic.org or 250-652-6172.

Other Trips

The Club annual Frost Free trip will take place as usual on the Mother's Day weekend - May 9, 2010. It is hoped to make this a 3 day/2 night trip if everyone can manage the extra day - it seems like a lot of work to pack everything for camping and only spend one night out. Past destinations have included Portland Island; Darcy Island, Wallace Island, Cabbage Island (?) off Tumbo and Blackberry Point on Valdes Island. This year's destination is probably in the Northern Gulf Islands - possibly Dionisio Park on Galiano Island.

Contact Alan Thomson if you are interested in taking part. A voyageur canoe may be taken if demand warrants. Both canoeist and kayakers are welcome.

Peninsula Paddle for the Kids

This year's fund-raising event for the Lions Society Easter Seal Camp on Lake Shawnigan is a one day marathon from Brentwood Bay in Saanich Inlet all the way round the Saanich Peninsula, down to Oak Bay and round into Victoria Harbour to the Clubhouse. It will take place on Saturday, March 27. The paddling is done in the Club's voyageur canoes, usually 6 paddlers per boat. There will be two teams per boat, each paddling roughly 1 ½ hrs and then going on shore while the second team paddles its shift. When not paddling, the teams will be resting and eating at a facility in Central Saanich. Each team will paddle 4 shifts over the course of the day, ending at the Clubhouse with a pot-luck dinner. There will be a marine rescue boat with the voyageur canoes throughout the day on the 27th.

Practice paddles for this paddle are taking place as follows. All paddles will leave from the Clubhouse at 9:00 am except the last which will leave at 8.30am because of the travel time

involved. The remaining practice paddles are:

Saturday February 28 - Sooke Basin area

Sunday March 7 - Cowichan & Maple Bay

Saturday March 13 - Portland and Rum Islands

Sunday March 21 - Kuper and Thetis Islands

What can you do to take part?

1. Join in and paddle on one of the teams which will take on the 40 nautical mile journey on March 27. Paddlers are expected to take part in at least **two** of the practice paddles, preferably more. These practices are great fun in their own right, meeting up with other Club members from different program areas and paddling in places you may not get to on your own.

2. Raise funds for Camp Shawnigan by sponsoring Club members who are taking part in the Paddle, or by canvassing for sponsors yourself if you are taking part. In past years the Club has raised up to \$20,000 on one of these paddles, and it would be good to break that total in 2010.

Any questions, contact Alan Thomson or Mike Fox.



**Camp
Shawnigan**

Knotty Knotty

Don't know the difference between a bend and a hitch?

Want to be able to?

There may be help for you yet.

Want to string a line that stays strung?

Come on out for a couple of hours and learn how to tie one on. Admission by donation (minimum \$2 to cover the cost of ropes). All proceeds will be donated to help Helen Curry get to the World's Paddling Championships in New Caledonia.

string a line that stays strung?

There may be help for you yet.

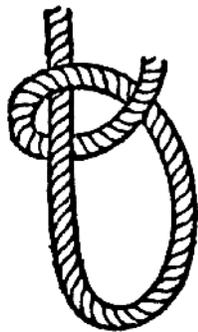
The hope is that this will be a fun event, so you may want to bring refreshments. The coffee and tea will be provided as well as some rope to work with.

The workshop is limited to 15 people—first come, first served. (If there is enough interest, a second session may be set up).

When: March 10 at 7:00pm

Where: VCKC Clubhouse

Email dlinton@shaw.ca to reserve mooring.



Wanted

We need a pair of 6-7 ft oars for our skiff.

Condition not important, as I will fix them up if necessary.

Does anyone have a pair kicking around that they are willing to donate?

Call Doug Linton at:

250 727 0216

RCABC Canoe Conference and AGM/IAGM

When: April 16/17/18

Where: Camp Kawkawa in Hope

Cost: \$95.00 (Early Registration before March 15—\$130 after March 15)

Includes: 1: Accommodation (cabins or camping...your choice)
2: snack on Friday
3: all meals on Saturday and Sunday
4: all workshops and presentations
5: Special Presentation "Lessons From The Canoe" by historian Sanford Osler
6: Square Dance Saturday night
7. Prizes and stuff Smile

Agenda and Registration Online at: <http://www.bccanoe.com/index.cfm>

P.S.

There are rivers nearby for the whitewater enthusiasts...the Coquihalla (depending on levels) and the good old faithful Chilliwack River.



GRPC Spring Run Off 2010

Saturday April 24th 2010

Multiple Lap Race with Portage for Flat Water Canoes and Kayaks,
Outrigger and Marathon Canoes & Surf Skis



Race Package and Entry Form Available at www.gorgerowingandpaddling.com
Early Bird Registration Deadline April 17th

Gorge Rowing & Paddling Centre

105-2940 Jutland Rd Victoria BC

(250) 380-4668

Paddle to D'Arcy Island

February 20, 2010

(Photos: H. Gillis)

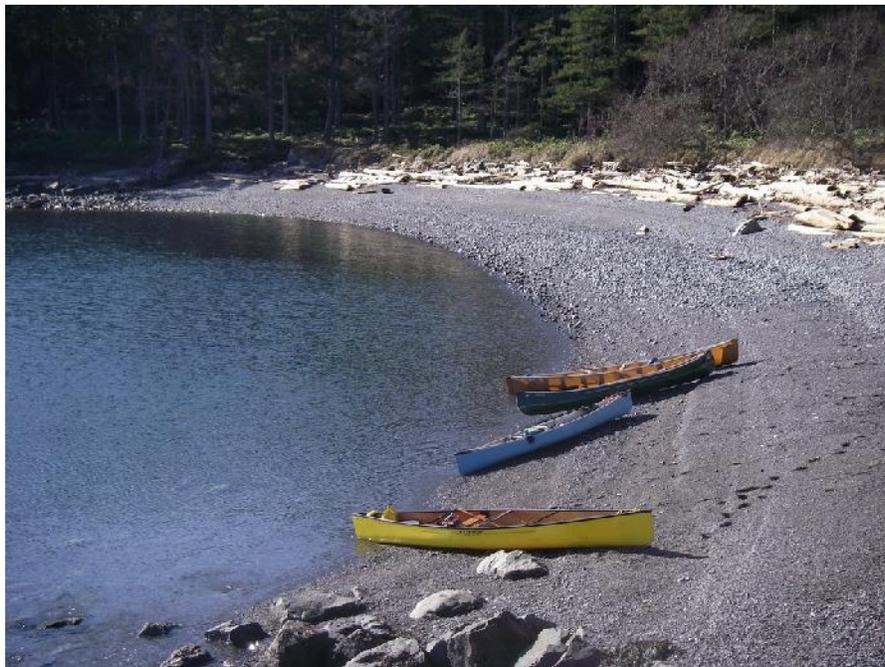


VCKC Executive

President		Voyageur Program	
Bon Lee	477-1381	Alan Thomson	592-4170
Vice President		Marathon Canoe Program	
Dave Whitehead	email	Ron Williams	592-6456
Treasurer		Education, Safety & Standards	
Sam Ludmer	298-7004	Doug Linton	727-0216
Secretary		Membership	
Laurie Flahr	email	Graham Lloyd	381-5090
Past President		Clubhouse & Grounds	
Linda Thomson.....	592-4170	Sandy Rattray	386-9144
Program Directors		Directors-at-Large	
Canoe Program		Michael Fox	391-0160
Yasmin Rampuri	655-4859	Irena Jazwinski	388-9757
Sea Kayak Program		Diane Nishimura (Soc.) ..	383-3080
Doug Linton	727-0216	Mavis Pilar	590-4390
Dragon Boat Program		Executive Volunteer Positions	
Jack Louie	598-1569	Harold Gillis (Newsletter)	598-9488
Outrigger Program		Dave Whitehead (Boat & Locker Storage)	email
Max Nock	544-0051		

VCKC Calendar Online

[Click Here](#)



Beach at D'Arcy Island Campground