



Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

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

December 2012

Christmas Party & Club General Meeting

Tuesday, December **4th, 2012 at 5:30p.m.**

Christmas Party, Pot Luck Dinner, & lots more. See details on Page 2

NOTICES

A Message from VCKC's Newsletter Person

For the 2012-year, paper copies of your newsletter were mailed to you. It was hoped this would generate more interest and participation in the monthly members' meetings. The will end with the December issue of this newsletter.

If you find that you prefer to receive the paper copies, be sure to check the membership form:

-----↓-----↓
Receive the newsletter via email (default), or check if you will pick it up at the clubhouse [] or, wish postal delivery []

Thank YOU

Please join me in a very special thank-you to all of you who came out on Nov 3rd to help with the house and grounds cleanup. There were many participating members.

Also thanks to helpers rebuilding the big boats rack to make more space in the compound and to those who carried the dragon boats up.

Sandy Rattray, House and Grounds

Membership and Waiver Renewal

Its time to renew your membership and sign a new waiver form. See page 3 for more details.

VCKC CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: Our next general meeting takes place on Tuesday, December 4th. It is also our Christmas party.

Time: 5:30 pm.

Potluck: Bring enough to feed yourself and 2 friends.

Decorations: Volunteers are welcome to come and help decorate the clubhouse for the party on Saturday, December 1 from 11:30 am until we finish. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

What We Do:

- There will be a 50/50 draw. All funds raised will go to Camp Shawnigan.
- Our raffle will be a little better this year. Please bring home made gift items (preferred) or new

items only if they are paddling or Christmas related and something you consider precious or valuable. We hope to have less items of better quality than in recent years. Please let Mavis know if you have any items to donate to the raffle (778-430-4390). All funds raised by the raffle will go to Camp Shawnigan.

- Also, we contribute to the Food Bank. Please bring one or more non-perishable food items for donation to the food bank.
- You will bring lots of food. It will be a potluck extraordinaire.
- Caroling sheets will be provided.
- There will be time to catch up with your friends.

For more info or details call Mavis at 778-430-4390.

JACK LOUIE'S DRAGONBOAT RETIREMENT PARTY

Jack was overwhelmed at his retirement party, seeing so many old and new members. He would like to say thank you to everybody who made it such a special day for him.



Bev Bowen, Harold Nishikawara, Jack Louie
Photo by Wendy Clapp

This was the first time Jack ever received a cake to help him celebrate.

His response included, "I will always cherish the magical events we shared. It has been my honour and privilege to share them with all of you.

Thank you all for that dramatic photo finish of our race! It and our gold medal are hanging on my living room wall. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. Paddles up!"

Jack was instrumental in getting dragon boating started in Victoria, back in the days when there wasn't a single appropriate boat to practice in. Jack was lauded for his dedication to the sport as well as his embodiment of the Club's ideals of voluntarism and inclusiveness.

Needless to say, the party was a huge success.



LIGHTS ON THE GORGE - BE A PART OF IT

The volunteers behind the Gorge Tillicum Community Table, with the support of GTCA, the United Way, and the Saanich Centennial Library, are mounting the neighbourhood's first-ever multicultural celebration of Midwinter, called Lights on the Gorge, on Sunday, Dec. 9th from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. This free event will take place in the Gorge Waterway Park at the foot of Austin Ave., whatever the weather. There will be lantern-making and other crafts, community singing with local choirs, snacks (bring some to share), and hot drinks (bring

your own mug). Participants are also encouraged to bring ornaments to decorate the large sequoia tree.

The organizers would be thrilled to see lighted boats from VCKC join the festivities. If you and your teammates would like to light up and take one of the voyageurs or outrigger canoes, it might be wise to book a time in the calendar so that there are no conflicts - private boats of any kind are also welcome.

Find this event on Facebook at Lights on the Gorge. Show your support for our community!

VICTORIA CANOE and KAYAK CLUB - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

\$ Budget

Executive Nominations

VCKC Annual General Meeting for 2013 will be held Tuesday, January 8, 2013 and during it the 2012 Executive will step down and the 2013 Executive will be voted in.

Apart from the position of Past President, all positions are voted on for a one-year period and can be contested. All nominees must have a nominator and be seconded. Nominations can be made at the AGM or beforehand to the Nominations Committee.

If you are interested in standing for a position, or can suggest someone you would recommend to the Nominating Committee, please contact:

Linda Thomson E-mail: 3135thom@islandnet.com

Phone: 250 592-4170

Jack Louie E-mail: jlouie2010@yahoo.ca

Phone: 250 598-1569

Bon Lee E-mail: pastpres@vckc.ca

Phone: 250 477-1381

Membership Renewal: Fees, Form & Waiver

Your 2013 membership, along with any boat and locker storage fees can be renewed in December. The simplest and preferred way to renew is by going to VCKC website. Paper renewal is acceptable but creates a lot more work for our membership director. If you would like to vote or become a candidate yourself, please have your membership renewed and waiver signed before the Annual General Meeting on January 8, 2013. If the membership fee and/or locker fee proposals to the membership are approved at the AGM, then the fees will be increased immediately but possibly not retroactively. It may very well pay you to buy your membership early this year!

In addition to the membership form and fees, a signed waiver is required annually from each club member. When paying online, agreement with the waiver is part of the process. However, if paying by cheque, you need to either do the online waiver (go to the members tab and log in to do this) or sign a paper copy of the form and submit it with your membership cheque. Waiver forms are available in the clubhouse or you can print a form from the members page of the VCKC website.

Members to Vote on Fee Increase

The 2012 VCKC executive spent a great deal of time over the past year reviewing the asset replacement and addition priorities for all programs. Although a 10-year plan remains in progress, the 3-year plan is complete. Asset purchase costs put forward for 2013 exceed the available funds.

Consequently, the executive has decided to ask the membership to consider increasing membership fees and doubling private boat storage fees.

Formal motions will be brought to the AGM for a vote. (Other cost cutting and revenue generation ideas are on page 4 of this newsletter, and {once the minutes are approved}, will be in the executive minutes found on line.)

The executive decided to change the budget presentation showing the receipt and use of funds in three categories.

- The membership fees will be shown with the cost of running the club;
- the rental income will be shown with the contingency fund for the clubhouse exterior maintenance; and
- the money available for program expenditures will be shown with income generated by the programs, assuming that the membership is in agreement with applying fee income to club expenses, saving all program income for program expenses. (In the past, some or all of the program income has been applied to club expenses.)

Details are being reviewed to determine the amount that the executive will ask the membership to increase the fees.

The executive determined the 2013 priorities for asset funding are:

1. Voyageur - replacement
2. Construct small boat racks - new
3. Flat water canoe - replacement
4. Moving water canoe - replacement
5. Remap storage yard - new
6. Two solo outriggers - new
7. Tandem marathon canoe - new
8. Add 2 electrical outlets - new
9. Voyageur - replacement

For more information, see Page 4, Clubhouse News.

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CLUBHOUSE NEWS

The November meeting was hosted by the voyageur program with an awesome slide show of trips and paddle for the kids and entertained with Joe's great stories. Looked like so much fun I expect to see the whole club out to try paddle for the kids next year.

The annual fall club cleanup is complete and it was another great job by our volunteers. Thanks to all the members who came out to help. The clubhouse and yard looks great and is ready for our Christmas Party. Our next meeting is Tues, Dec 4 - our potluck Christmas party beginning at 5:30 pm.

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Club Program/Financial Planning

Executive continues work on a method for long-term program planning and funding that is fair and grounded in principles by clarifying the following areas:

- (a) Club Purpose, Principles and Policies (complete)
- (b) Program/Financial Planning and Revenue Allocation (complete)
- (c) Capital Asset Maintenance and Replacement 3-10 year plan (in progress)
- (d) Revenue Generation. (In progress)

VCKC program 3 year plans (on website) are the basis of a club-wide grid that compared all programs to identify club-wide needs and rank them in order of club priority. The 9 items rank in the following order:

1. 1 new voyageur - lighter boat easier to launch & needs less maintenance
2. Construct additional small boat and kayak specific storage racks to increase spaces & income
3. 1 canoe - flat water - current due for renewal, used for new paddler courses
4. 1 canoe - moving water - current due for renewal, used for new paddler courses
5. Remap storage compound layout to increase use of space
6. 2 solo outriggers - training boat for multiple programs - easy to learn, increase member access
7. 1 tandem marathon canoe - accommodate increased program enrolment

Pool Night: Thank you to Alan Thomson for organizing a pool night at the Crystal. A large number of canoe students completed their canoe rescue experience. While it was hard work the enthusiasm was evident. The newly certified paddlers looked suitably exhausted following. As well, kayakers shared the pool practicing roll over.

Nomination committee for the 2013 executive: Linda Thomson heads a committee to help members to be nominated for executive positions. To explore becoming part of VCKC's executive please contact Linda at 3135thom@islandnet.com

8. Add 2 electrical outlets to kitchen to prevent frequent tripping of the fuse from appliances
9. Second new voyageur -increase safety as 2 similar boats are easier to keep together on trips

Executive is drafting the club budget for 2013 - examining expenses and revenue - to present and review at the January AGM. . To increase financial transparency executive approved the following: That VCKC structure its budget by assigning three specific revenue streams to three specific Club sections: membership fees to Club expenses, program revenue to program priorities, and suite rental to exterior house expenses and the Saanich contingency fund. Anne will be structuring next year's budget using this model.

Executive is examining club expenses and revenue in detail. This work continues through December to deliver a draft 2013 budget. For example,

- The 2012 trial of the newsletter print mail out cost about \$3300. The goal of increased attendance at general meetings has not been linked to the mail out. Mailing the Newsletter was seen as an unsustainable drain on the budget.
- Annual boat storage at the low \$30/year fee may be linked to long wait lists and people joining VCKC only for access to cheap storage (see the storage program plan on the web for details).

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Monthly General Club meetings

The upcoming meeting schedule is:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| December 4, 2012 | Club Christmas Party |
| January 8, 2013 | Annual General Meeting |

CLUBHOUSE NEWS, cont'd

Upcoming Events of Interest

- Basic solo moving water canoe course Nov 24/25
- Clubhouse decorating Dec 1 at 11:30 until done
- VCKC Christmas Party Dec 4
- Lights on the Gorge Sun Dec 9 from 3-6 on Gorge Walkway.
- New Years day paddle January 1

- Survey online of members views using Survey Monkey software - a survey to help executive understand member's likes, dislikes and areas for improvement that exist. More info to come.

See you all at the Christmas party.

Pam, President, VCKC

SOUTHERN STRAIGHT OF GEORGIA CONSERVATION

Greetings!

You can be a part of an important conservation effort happening right now in your 'ocean backyard.'

If you love and appreciate the incredible rich ocean that flows through the Gulf Islands in the Southern Strait of Georgia/Salish Sea, please visit

www.takeactionsouthernstrait.ca to add your voice to those of many other citizens, scientists, and conservation groups who wish to see this beautiful marine ecosystem protected and sustainably managed for generations to come!

Your voice is needed now!

Parks Canada is finalizing the proposed boundaries and other measures to create a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA - see more info here). The establishment of this NMCA is not a done deal; public feedback is urgently needed in order for the NMCA to move past the feasibility stage. With your help, we will send one thousand letters to Parks Canada and the provincial and federal governments letting them know how important this marine environment is to the people who live, work and play here.

Want your opinion heard? The website -

www.takeactionsouthernstrait.ca - has been created so you can simply type in your feedback and support letter, click 'SEND' and off it goes to Parks Canada and several other key political decision makers.

In the past month, over 250 letters from all over Canada have already been sent through the website!

The politicians are listening (see this article)! Your voice counts!

See what people are saying here.

Please take a moment to visit

www.takeactionsouthernstrait.ca to send in your support/feedback, or read below if you need convincing...

Also, please circulate widely!

Thank you!

Jenn (jenn@cpawsbc.org)

Marine Planning Coordinator - CPAWS-BC

FOR SALE: 7 KAYAKS

- Necky \$1800 (advanced boat) - kevlar - white with purple trim
- Seaward Infinity(s) \$1500 each. (2) - thermoform plastic 15 feet yellow
- Seaward Luna Grande \$1800 - fiberglass - white with blue trim

- Aurora (\$1800) (2) - fiberglass red
- Seaward Chilco (\$2300) - fiberglass multi colour

Each one comes with a pfd, float, skirt, paddle and tow rope worth about \$400new.

Contact Josh at Info@joshuaprowse.com.

CANOE PROGRAM

Flatwater Paddle

There will be a half-day paddle on Saturday 8th December. Destination will depend, as ever, on wind, but something like a circle trip from Telegraph Cove to Cadboro Bay or vice versa would be a good option. An E-mail will be sent out to all Canoe and Kayak program members a week ahead of this trip.

New Year's Day Paddle and Potluck Lunch

The Club's traditional New Year's Day paddle will start at the Clubhouse at 10.30am. We will paddle up the Gorge into Portage Inlet and possibly Craigflower Creek before returning to the Clubhouse for a potluck lunch. We will provide a large soup and mulled wine; but everyone bring what they like. After lunch, we will take down the Christmas decorations so that the Clubhouse is ready for the AGM the next week.

Bring your own boat or jump into one of the voyageur canoes.

Moving Water Paddle

The next river paddle will be Sunday December 9th. It will likely be the last for 2012. The water levels and attendees will confirm the river chosen for this trip. Contact Tom Staebell at thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca by December 6th if you plan to attend.

Course Reports

Two new moving water instructors were certified November 17-18. With the Chemainus running at about 15cms, Ellie oversaw instructor training for Doug and Jay. It was a fairly adventurous group. Dan solicited a whistle with a near swim at the first

drop while Doug and Dwight demonstrated a tandem side-surf, followed by a tandem 'Buster Keaton-esque' self-rescue.

A Basic Moving Water Solo course was held the November 24-25th. Students learnt the basic strokes for paddling traditional tandem and solo canoes on moving water.



Ellie and Rick show how it's done on the Chemainus Rescue Night

The pool session was a major success. Twenty-one students attended the November 4th rescue session at the Crystal Pool and successfully practiced a variety of canoe over canoe and self-rescues. Re-creating her Cirque du Soleil act, a kneeling Ellie balanced on top of a canoe resting crosswise on a floating canoe. This also demonstrated the inherent stability of canoe over canoe rescues. Thanks to Alan, Ellie, Jay, Sharon and Bob for helping out - on a very dark and very rainy night.

Trip Reports

The last two flatwater trips have been affected by autumnal winds. The October trip to Sooke Basin was in jeopardy due to forecast >10knot winds, and I planned to move it to a trip around the tip of the Saanich Peninsula. But Roy insisted that PredictWind was a reliable forecast and it showed winds under 10 knots, so off we went to Cooper's Cove, where we launched while watching the white caps race down the Basin. Sailflow - 1; PredictWind - 0.

We struggled round the Goodridge Peninsula - 6 kayaks and 4 canoes, as I remember - when a kayak tipped over. We were in shallow waters, so no harm done, but we headed into the Ayum Creek marina for a reconsider. As we landed, a second kayak tipped over on a rock, and one of the canoes was taking in VCKC - Newsletter - December 2012

water at the stern. So we portaged over into the lagoon behind the peninsula and potted in and out of the various nooks and crannies for an hour until the wind level dropped a few knots and we nosed out to resume the trip. By then, an ominous dark cloud was rapidly approaching from the west, and all other canoes and a couple of the kayaks decided to call it a day. So they went back to Cooper's Cove and the 4 remaining kayaks plus our canoe paddled across to Anderson Cove in pouring rain - but in calmer waters. We stopped for lunch at the entrance to Anderson Cove and were treated to some sunshine as a reward for perseverance.

After lunch, we made a shoreline trip of Anderson Cove and the Basin round to Roche Cove and then

back to Cooper's Cove. Thanks to Roy, Doug, Gary, Dorothea, John and Brenda, Duane and Karen, Arthur and Pat and Sandy and Carolyn for taking part.

The November trip was planned to be round Saanich Peninsula, but forecast winds of 15 knots and above made this inadvisable. We went instead to Brentwood Bay, launching from Canoe Park and paddling round Brentwood Bay into Butchart Cove and Tod Inlet. Lots and lots of moon jellyfish

everywhere, easy to see in the clear waters. We had an early lunch at the Gowlland Tod dock behind Butchart Gardens and then paddled out to Willis Point. The wind was whipping along quite nicely, thank you, so we headed back via Daphne Island, So, a short trip but a pleasant one with little rain and manageable wind. Thanks to Ken and Jack, Doug and Gary, Bob and Andre for coming out on a blustery day - keeping the faith.

Alan Thomson

BC MARINE TRAILS

Paddlers have been travelling along the BC coast for thousands of years. This has always involved having somewhere to stop and camp. The First Nations worked out the safe and usable stopping places for their journeys between their villages and their food gathering sites. Later, a wave of industrial development - fishing and logging (and some mining) - made use of some of these sites, but since the second World War, the population of the coastline outside the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island's eastern shore have dropped. As a result, sites that previously had docks, or old farmsteads or villages have become overgrown and less hospitable for paddling campers. On the other hand, population pressures on the lower coast mean that sites that have long been used on these coastlines are being developed for housing, resorts and the like, thereby reducing the possible camping spots.

In an effort to preserve the ability to paddle and camp along the coast of BC, the BC Marine Trails Network Association was formed in 2009. Its members are 11 paddling clubs, 2 on the Mainland, 8 on the Island and one provincial paddling association. VCKC is one of these Clubs, as is SISKA and RCABC. The BCMTNA has worked for the past three years to identify all known camping and access points along the coast and to document them - 'ground-proofing' to check on landing conditions, number of tent sites, and exact location. Once a section of coast has been checked, the campsites and access points to the water form a 'trail', and the list of places is sent to the Recreation, Sites and Trails branch of the provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The staff of the branch checks on the ownership of the land for each of the sites, and if it is not already in a park or conservation area, they propose that it be protected by classifying the site as a Forest Recreation Area. In this way, any proposed development will come to our attention and either be deflected or arrangements made to

preserve a nearby site. Contact is also made with BC Parks, local municipalities and with private businesses such as the forest industry to ensure that everyone has been consulted.

To date, two trails have been formally announced, one in the Gulf Islands and one on the North coast of Vancouver Island, from Port Hardy to Tofino. The trails can be seen on the BCMTNA's website - www.bemarinetrails.org. Other trails that have been developed and are in the process of being approved cover Desolation Sound, the Discovery Islands, Johnstone Strait and Broughtons, plus the southwest Island coast from Tofino to Victoria.

A new aspect of the work is the engagement of the First Nations along the coast. As most bands do not have treaties, their land claims cover much of the Crown land on which many campsites are found. In an effort to avoid conflict, the Association is contacting various First Nation organisations, from individual bands to larger groupings and showing them the sites that we have gathered from published sources. The approach is to ask the First Nations if there are any of the sites they would not like to see on our website - e.g. because the place is a burial site, or a shellfish cultivation beach. If this is the case, then we will remove those sites from our list to go on the maps, and we ask the First Nations if there are other possible campsites on nearby coastline that could be substituted.

Over the next 5 years, the hope is that most of the BC Coastline will have been covered and that campsites all along the 30,000 miles of coastline will have some level of protection. No level of protection can be permanent, but there will be a system for making changes, and sites not available now due to various forms of tenure may become usable.

Alan Thomson, Secretary, BC Marine Trails Network Association.

VCKC Executive

Executive

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 Ron Crabtree 778 430-4545

Note: the Deadline for submission of content for the next newsletter is December 15, 2012.

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	01-Dec
Basic Solo Moving Water		19:30 DB Grand Dragons 2013 Initiative				11:30 Decor- ate for Christmas
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		17:30 VCKC Christmas Potluck Party				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
River Paddle 15:00 Lights on the Gorge		19:00 Exec. Meeting				Newsletter Deadline
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			19:00 GWI meeting			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	01-Jan	2	3	4	5
		New Year's Day Paddle				