



Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club
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November 2013

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club General Meeting

Tuesday, November 5th, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Note: Provide your input to the Club's 2014 Capital Plans at this meeting. See Page 7 for details.

NOTICES - VOLUNTEERING ENRICHES FRIENDSHIPS!

CLUB VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VCKC is non-profit club, run entirely by volunteers. If you are interested in being involved in the running of the club, and can volunteer some of your time, please consider a position on the 2014 executive. If you know of anyone whom you think may be a good executive candidate, please confirm their interest before nominating him or her. Please contact Pam (president@vckc.ca) or Bon (pastpres@vckc.ca) if you have any questions.

Thanks, Bon Lee

FALL HOUSE AND GROUNDS CLEANUP

Put this date in your calendar: **November 23rd**, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. That's when the Club will hold its annual Fall Cleanup. Come prepared to help out inside the Clubhouse or around the property - gardening, cleaning, eaves trough cleaning, picking up trash - whatever is your forte. Remember, the Club relies on volunteers like you!

Please bring what ever tools, cleaning supplies or snacks you can manage. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

If you would like to bring along your tools and work on a specific project email Sandy at clubhouse@vckc.ca or phone (250-386-9144) to discuss.

Thanks, Sandy Rattray

NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

KNOW YOUR HARBOUR

Those who were fortunate enough to attend the October 1 General Meeting got a “two-fer” - not one, but two presentations: Roy Scully showed his excellent slides of this summer’s Fraser Brigade voyageur trip - with a stirring sound track and many smiling faces featured.

Rick Gonder of the Harbour Patrol gave a slide show on the work of the Harbour Patrol and related agencies such as the Coast Guard and emergency services. The Harbour Patrol operates in the waters between the Selkirk Trestle and the entrance to the Outer Harbour. Both the Harbour Patrol and the Coast Guard have the ability to stop boaters and/or ticket them for infringing water safety rules, so all Club members who use these waters should make themselves familiar with the Port of Victoria Traffic Scheme and make sure paddlers in their boats are complying with regulations concerning safety equipment such as Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) and running lights.

The first thing we learned was just how busy the Inner and Outer Harbours can be - on a typical summer’s day, the Patrol Service tracks an astounding number of vessel and seaplane movements - and that’s not even counting the movements of small boats such as kayaks, outriggers and Stand-Up-Paddleboards (SUPs)! The scheme sets out separate lanes for small and large vessels to use. There are only two places where it’s safe (i.e., permitted) for small boats to cross between the north and south shores: (1) at the narrows between Songhees Point and Laurel Point, and (2) at the mouth of the Outer Harbour, just beyond the Helijet terminal. At crossing #1, there’s a flashing strobe light signaling the entry and exit of seaplanes, and it’s not safe to cross when this light is on. Crossing #2 is considerably wider, making it difficult to avoid oncoming ship or large vessel

traffic, so should only be used by the strongest and most confident crews. At all times, paddlers should recognize that, while they may have the right-of-way in a technical sense, they are sharing the harbour with large, powered vessels or aircraft which frequently have little room to maneuver, and who may need to stray outside of their own lanes, particularly if the weather is bad. The prudent thing to do is to keep your eyes open for these craft -**especially** barges under tow. Give them a wide berth, and always clearly signal which direction you’re headed in.

Rick made one telling point which should give pause to every paddler: don’t think because you travel with a cell phone that you’re adequately covered in the case of an accident. He pointed out that when you make a cell phone call, you have hope of reaching only ONE person: the person on the other end of the line. When you make a call on a VHF, you have the potential to reach several rescuers all at once. Every minute that passes when you’re in cold water could endanger your life and the life of your crew members.

Rick emphasized that small boats are part of what gives our Harbour its unique character, and they are certainly welcome on the water. However, it’s our duty to be well informed and aware of the other users of the waterway. Next time you’re in the Clubhouse, be sure to grab your own personal copy of the Port of Victoria Traffic Scheme - they’re on the table just inside the front door.



Rick Gonder, Harbour Patrol

Photo Wendy Clapp

NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING, cont'd



Walt Hundleby & Barbara Ambercrombie Photo: Wendy Clapp

Walt Hundleby presented the Club with historical records going back to the the Club's earliest days in the 1970's.

Walt, please accept a big thank you for providing our club with the loan of your newsletters. They will enrich the VCKC Archives.

Catch Up on Marine Trails in BC

Want to catch up on the paddling environment in our region? Can't get enough of newsletters? Have a look at the Fall edition of the BC Marine Trails Newsletter to see what our Club's representation is helping to achieve.

Then put this website in your list of "Favourites".

http://www.bcmarinetrails.org/pdf/Newsletters/Newsletter_Vol_5_3_fall_2013_final_print.pdf

OUTRIGGER PROGRAM

Outrigger Program Meeting

On Thursday October 17 the outrigger program held a meeting to figure out how to improve the program. Several ideas were set forward during this time. These ideas consisted of:

- A universal spares list to help teams fill the boat for practices,
- The creation a list of people who are qualified to stern, and
- Providing a method of ensuring that practice times are being used.

Two other items were made mention of during this meeting as well. One of which was to begin seeking sponsors for VCKC's Wake Up the Gorge in 2014 (tentatively April 12, 2014), and the other was to mention Lotus V12 Ice Breaker race in January.

OC6 Team Looking for Additional Paddlers

We are a recreational/racing team that paddles Wednesday mornings (9:30am). We are looking for paddlers who want to work as a competitive crew. There will be a weekly core crew and spares who can paddle less regularly or when available. This team and approach has been operational for about a year but recently lost paddlers.

Please contact Brian Clark unityaromatherapy@shaw.ca for further info or to be added.



Huli practice with Brian Clark, June Parker, Anne Ardiel, & Jenny Cutler

Friday Flyers in the midst of bailing out the outrigger after their huli



These pictures from Wendy Clapp depict Kim's easy method of bringing in the outrigger.

Editor's Note:

I call it the "Easy Over Method" JC

Just slide the OC6 up onto the shore, adjacent to the wheels, and with one short lift, bring the bow easily over the wheels.

Next, leaving the wheels braced, lift the OC6 forward until the balance point is reached. The further the bow goes up the shore, the easier this step is. Then just wheel it up the shore as usual.



CANOE PROGRAM

Rivers Day Report

The 33rd Annual BC River's Day was a splashing success with a river full of paddlers (forgot the number). Although the river was above the usual clean-up levels paddlers still managed to find a bit of garbage and some leftover unopened beers from summer. No we didn't drink them. On top of the clean up everyone got in some good practice on boulder eddys, The Splits, World's Most Powerful Eddy and Vimy Hole. A fun day and all swims were in warm water.

Awesome Riddle!

Question: What's red and black and sitting in Dan's back yard?

Answer: VCKC's new Wenonah Prospector and Sundowner. I'll get them to the Clubhouse as soon as I get them rigged and there's an inside space cleared for them. The Sundowner should be a delight on flatwater and thanks to its royalex hull, usable on rivers.

Canoe Courses

This weekend's Solo Moving Water and tandem flatwater courses finalize our fall course schedule. Rick and I will be running some Class I-II river paddles through the winter/spring.

Paddles

Rick Bryan will be running a Class I-II river paddle either **Nov 16 or 17**.

Please contact Rick at rickbryan@shaw.ca for details.

Meetings

No Canoe Program meeting for November. I'm out of town through most of November and will find a backup before leaving town.

VCKC HONOURS ALAN THOMSON

At the General Meeting of October 1st, the Executive Committee recommended to the membership that the Club bestow an Honorary Life Membership on Alan Thomson, and those present responded with a universally affirmative vote. This award is seldom made; it's intended to give recognition to people who have been members of VCKC for 25 years or more and have provided exceptional services over most of that period. Far from being automatic, Honorary Life Membership celebrates those people who have made "Super Service" contributions over the years. Alan fits the description to a "T".

During his 25 years at the Club, Alan has been its President (2 years), Past President (1 year), Vice President (1 year), Secretary (5 years), Director of the Voyageur Program (1 year), and officer for boat and locker storage (1 year). As instructor of Flatwater, Moving Water, Ocean Paddling, Big Boat Paddling and Poling, he has moved many Club members from beginner status to committed, enthusiastic paddlers of canoes both large and small. He has run day-long flat water paddles - enjoyed by kayakers and canoeists alike - twice a month for roughly 9 months each year, the first being in the fall of 2002 AND has written stirring accounts of many of these for the Newsletter. For about 10 years he ran the paddling weekend on the Thompson River at the end of August. With Tom Staebell, he has set up and run the Annual Running of the Cows from lake to bay for 12 years. Other Club members have benefited from his expertise and experience in paddling B.C. waters when they come to plan their ocean boating trips.

Alan set up and ran the Voyageur Paddle around the Peninsula for 2 years to replace the Paddle to Port Angeles, which he had paddled for 17 years. He continues to be involved in the voyageur program in a teaching and community role, most recently providing safety seminars to the children of Craigflower School and supervising the voyageur portion of the kids' paddling program.

He is a member of the B.C. Marine Trails Association, serving both as secretary and VCKC representative on that organization. In addition, he has been a member of the Recreational Canoeing Association of BC (RCABC). for a number of years, serving as both its President and Secretary.

Alan is frequently seen around the Clubhouse, maintaining equipment and helping out at Cleanup Saturdays and other events. He truly embodies Club values while serving as a role model for newer members. It gives the Executive great pleasure to extend the privilege of a membership for life (and freedom from fees!) to Alan, who will receive this honour at the Annual General Meeting.

Alan has a subtle humour that some people miss. If he says something to you that sounds a bit off, think for a minute, "this man has subtle humour" and it will come to you. You can always check for the twinkle in his eyes if you are not sure of his intent!



CLUBHOUSE NEWS

The **October General Meeting** included an informative presentation by Rick Gondor of the Harbour Authority. Roy Scully wrapped up the evening with an awesome slide show of the Fraser Brigade trip. I'm pleased to report that Alan Thomson was elected as a VCKC Lifetime Honorary Member at the meeting, to be formally presented to Alan later in the year.

Everyone! Run for a position on the 2014 executive! To continue our all-volunteer club new volunteers must join in. Some of the individuals stepping down are Barbara Abercrombie, who has served as secretary, Pam Carroll, president, and Ron Crabtree, dragon boat director and webmaster. Thanks Barbara and Ron for all the hard work - you've made a positive difference. To explore joining VCKC's executive please contact the nomination committee of Pam Carroll at president@vckc.ca or Bon Lee at Bon Lee. Salmon Spawning: Why do otherwise unmolested salmon rocket out of the Gorge water, for no apparent reason, and then crash back beneath the surface? Because they enjoy it! Salmon are now collecting in anticipation of moving up the Colquitz River to spawn in Oct & Nov. VCKC volunteered to have our members avoid the Colquitz River during sensitive times of the year so we ask members to limit use during spawning season.

Craigflower School Canoe Project for grade 4/5 helps these students build skills, knowledge and self-esteem. Practices during the school day need volunteers that can be away from work. Our awesome members really stepped up to make this happen. It has been a great experience to know the students & teachers and we've learned from them. Their enthusiasm to get out in boats is so rewarding. Thank you to all the VCKC volunteers who made this much appreciated activity possible: James, Jeff, Laurie, Russ, Wade, Barbara, Doug, Alan, Katherine, Sharon, Shelley, Mavis, & Wendy. VCKC plans introduction to paddling voyageur canoes and practice trips spring 2014.

Club Program/Financial Planning
Executive continues work on updating each programs 3 year plan for 2014. A club-wide grid (using the same selection criteria as those approved in 2013) will be used to compare all programs to identify club-wide needs. An initial review of the needs that have been identified shows replacement of club boats continues to be a priority, as well as increasing covered storage. 2013 purchase of 1 new voyageur and 2 new canoes (coming soon) is almost complete; storage reorganizing and increasing space is underway.
Executive ranking of the identified items will be done in November. The November general meeting will be an opportunity to gather member feedback and everyone is welcome to email or talk to the directors with your ideas.

Monthly General Club meetings

The upcoming meeting schedule is:

November 5, 2013	General meeting
December 3, 2013	Club Christmas Party
January 7, 2014	Annual General Meeting

Upcoming Events of Interest

- VCKC Clubhouse Fall Clean up Saturday Nov 23
 - Dragon boats move to winter storage Saturday Nov 23 09:30
 - Big Canoe course Nov 16 & 17
- See you all at the November meeting.
Pam, President, VCKC



VCKC & Craigflower School Paddles: 1

VCKC Executive

Executive

President president@vckc.ca
 Pam Carroll 250-479-8878
Vice-president vpresident@vckc.ca
 Jean Chandler 250-727-6923
Treasurer treasurer@vckc.ca
 Anne Ardiel 250-658-2442
Secretary secretary@vckc.ca
 Barbara Abercrombie 250-598-7931
Past President pastpres@vckc.ca
 Bon Lee 250-477-1381

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Dragonboat Program dragonboat@vckc.ca
 Ron Crabtree 778-430-4545
Kayak Program kayak@vckc.ca
 Roy Scully
Outrigger Program outrigger@vckc.ca
 Ryan Ovens
Marathon Canoe Program marathon@vckc.ca
 Darrelle Butler
Voyageur Program voyageur@vckc.ca
 Joe Boyd 250-386-6004

Other Executive

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Membership membership@vckc.ca
 Muriel Johnson
Clubhouse and Grounds clubhouse@vckc.ca
 Sandy Rattray 250-386-9144
Boat & Locker Storage storage@vckc.ca
 Maylene McMillan
Director at Large director1@vckc.ca
 Wendy Clapp 250-220-5787
Director at Large director4@vckc.ca
 June Parker

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor newsletter@vckc.ca
 Jean Chandler 250-727-6923
Webmaster webmaster@vckc.ca
 Ron Crabtree (interim) 778-430-4545

Note: the Deadline for submission of content for the next newsletter is **November 19, 2013**.

November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	01-Nov	2
Comox Valley 2-Day Downwinder (OC1/2/Ski) 11:00 DB Team Get-together						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		19:30 VCKC General Meeting				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		19:00 Executive Meeting				Big Canoe (Voyageur) Stern Course
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Big Canoe (Voyageur) Stern Course		VCKC Newsletter Deadline	18:00 Gorge Waterway Initiative Meeting			09:00 Fall Clean-up 12:00 Dragon boat Take-out
24	25	26	27	28	29	30