



# Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

## Newsletter

### October 2017

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club 355 Gorge Road West Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9  
Phone: 250-590-8193 (Info only) Website: [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca)

#### Dates to Remember

General Meeting October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 – Presenter Tim Marks on Barkley Sound Trip  
Fall Clean-up Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM

#### Check the calendar for dates of upcoming skill sessions and trips

~ NB: See calendar item on website for details; meet at the clubhouse unless noted otherwise

#### President's Update

The weather has cooled quickly this past month as we shift into a new season. There is still plenty happening at the club. Keep tabs on the club calendar (<http://www.vckc.ca>) as there are many excellent courses happening, and a **club flatwater paddle** on Saturday October 1st. Of course, a reminder, to be prepared for more unpredictable paddling conditions in the weeks and months ahead.

**Tim Marks** will be telling us about the **Barkley Sound** club trip in 2017, and his **Haida Gwaii** plans for 2018. Tim is an experienced club leader who has offered Big Canoe trips to club members these past two summers. They were both successful adventures. In 2018 he is raising the bar by offering a Big Canoe adventure to Haida Gwaii. Tim will be sharing the Barkley Sound experience, along with his fellow paddlers. We will also get a preview of 2018, and how you can prepare for it. This will be a one-time club trip as part of VCKC's 50th Anniversary celebrations



Joe Boyd, President

#### CLUB HISTORY STORIES and PICTURES

The Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club was founded in 1968 and so will be 50 years old in 2018. As part of the celebrations, the Club is planning to issue a book of stories and pictures covering the Club's history and personalities. If **YOU** have a story about the Club – an event, a member, the Clubhouse – that you think should be considered for inclusion, write it down and send it to Alan Thomson [littoral@shaw.ca](mailto:littoral@shaw.ca). He is responsible for collecting material for this book. Wendy Clapp and Don Munroe are collecting pictures for inclusion; if you have any good snaps that they won't have, send them in, too. Deadline is October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Alan Thomson

Tel. 250-250-4170

## Canoe Program Update



October brings water back into the rivers and this month we run our **Moving Water Tandem course**.

If you are interested in a Solo moving water course let me know. If you already are a solo moving water paddler and would like to take part in a Play boating clinic I can forward on your interest.

The weather will hopefully cooperate with the Oct 1 flatwater paddle, currently planned for the Sooke Harbour.

We are adding another flatwater paddle on the long weekend, Sunday Oct 8<sup>th</sup>. We'll see what the weather and wind are forecast to be closer to the date and choose a location.

David Dorosz – Canoe Director

## Outrigger Program Update

I am happy to let you know the new OC6 Mirage is assembled and rigged, thanks to the leadership, expertise, and help of Corey Teramura, with assistance from members of the Marathon Program.

The boat is not yet ready for use. A method still needs to be identified to safely launch and pull out the boat without damaging the hull. Boat storage also needs to be resolved. Please be patient.



Here is a picture of the beauty! And, Corey with his loyal companion, Poncho Diaz.

Jennifer Yee

## Dragon Boat Update

The team donated blood on Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup> for the fourth time to save a life. Also attached is the logo they had on the screen throughout the afternoon.



*Paula Gough and Kim Capson*



### **!!!! To Members with Boats in the Storage Compound !!!!**

Remember when you bought your canoe or kayak? How beautiful its lines were; how luminous its gelcoat! How glorious and exciting it looked surrounded by other bright colourful watercraft! How full of promise of adventures to come!

**What happened?** Have you taken a look at your canoe or kayak lately?

The storage compound has become a graveyard of forgotten hulls. Some of the boats in storage have not been paddled in years. It's sad, it's not pretty, and it reflects badly on VCKC.

If you have a boat stored in there, your boat may be contributing to the general look of shabbiness.

When was the last time you paddled your canoe or kayak? When was the last time you cleaned it, or looked at it with the love and anticipation that it gave you when you first owned it?

Too many members of VCKC who have boats in storage are not actually much interested in paddling; instead, they're just taking advantage of a great deal on storage.

This must change.

***The storage policy\*, which has been in place for many years, states that:***

- ***Boat storage is for the convenience of paddlers who use their boats regularly.***
- ***Regularly means at least monthly, unless the member is away on holiday, or unable to paddle temporarily due to illness.***
- ***Owners of stored boats that are obviously not in regular use may be required to remove same***

VCKC intends to clean up the compound, and see it once again full of glorious, loved, and frequently-used canoes and kayaks. The compound must be as attractive a feature as is the clubhouse itself and the park in which it sits.

We'd like your active support, because you share these goals, and you too are proud of your paddling club.

Arthur Caldicott, Storage Director

- VCKC's Policies are on the website, [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca). Log in, then select Members/Documents/VCKC Policies and Procedures. Look for Boat and Equipment Storage on Page 6

### **Marathon Program Update**

The marathon program has been quite active in September. We had a self rescue session that was attended by 9 of the marathon canoe members. We have also put a plan in place to get the marathon canoes fixed and in good shape for the winter. Work sessions will take place frequently until all of the repairs are made. I hope we can keep up with the maintenance; the boats are getting a lot of use!

This past Saturday we had 5 new or fairly new to marathon canoe paddlers attend our session. Luckily we had enough experienced paddlers in attendance that all of the new paddlers were in a tandem canoe with an experienced partner. In total we had 5 tandem canoes and 2 solo canoes on the water to make for an exciting practice session focused on skills and technique. Everyone said they will be back again!

Darrelle Butler

## Kayak Program Update

A recap of the courses offered so far in 2017: 6 Kayak Basic Skills courses; 2 Kayak Level 1 courses; 4 clinics.

VCKC kayak instructors will be meeting in early October to consider some dry land clinics to be held over the winter. Some ideas that have been put forward are: (1) chart reading (2) GPS demystified and (3) maps and compass. If you have ideas for clinics please send them to [kayak@vckc.ca](mailto:kayak@vckc.ca). Also, if you have marine or kayak knowledge and skills that you are willing to share with VCKC members, please let us know and we will schedule a clinic and post it on the calendar.

Just a reminder: Club kayaks are available for courses, clinics and club sanctioned paddles (day trips and camping). These kayaks are also available to VCKC members for personal use on the Gorge Waterway - on the club side of the Tillicum Bridge only. Members must have successfully completed the Paddle Canada Kayak Basic Skills course or have equivalent skills. Members using club kayaks must always paddle with one or more paddlers. If you would like to borrow a club kayak contact Linda Hall at [kayakbooking@vckc.ca](mailto:kayakbooking@vckc.ca) to reserve one.

Please note: it is important to use the [kayakbooking@vckc.ca](mailto:kayakbooking@vckc.ca) email address when requesting a kayak. This summer, when I was away on a kayak trip, emails were re-routed to Kathy Kehler who kept the kayak bookings organized in my absence. My personal emails would not have reached Kathy. So it's a good habit to get into....use the booking email address rather than my personal email address. And....thank you Kathy for volunteering to take this job on while I was away!

Happy paddling!

Linda Hall

*Do you have a story and or photos from a club or private trip this summer that you would like to share? Send them to newsletter @vckc.ca It is a great way to not only personalize our newsletter but might inspire others to embark on a similar expedition.*



## Club Big Canoe Trip to the Broken Islands

Summary and photos courtesy Jack Louie

After a long drive from Victoria to Cowichan Lake and along bumpy dusty logging roads, 11 of us along with 2 voyageur canoes arrived in the Poett Nook Marina in the late afternoon to begin our venture to the Broken Islands in Barkley Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The canoes and our belongings were pulled on a trailer; so everything was covered by a thick layer of dust by the time we unloaded. Everything had to be hosed off before we could load the canoes with water, food, and all our belongings. We were finally on the water and off to the Islands at about 3:30 pm. Our destination for the night was Stud Island, one of the smaller Islands in the Deer Island group.



On arrival to Stud Island, everyone started looking for suitable camping sites. I am usually the last to pick mine, as I like to be located away from everyone else to get away from their snoring.



Stud Island is a small island with only a few suitable camping sites, and the best 2 were quickly taken up. Everyone else decided to camp on the beach sand. I very much dislike getting sand in my tent, so I tend to stay away from sand. I found a couple of suitable spots in the trees, and wondered why no one took them. On closer examination, I found out; they smelled of urine. I wondered why people would pee in limited suitable camping sites. That's because this campsite did not have an outhouse. The Deer Group of islands is not in a park, hence do not have amenities such as an outhouse. I finally decided to pitch my tent in the trees with the smell of urine rather than get sand all over my tent.

We had to paddle across a wide stretch of open water before we could get to the Broken Islands group, and need to do it in the morning before the winds pick up later in the day.

We reached the Broken Islands group and our campsite in Willis Island in the early afternoon. And I found a great site for my tent well inside the forest. Only drawback was that there were far more mosquitoes inside the forest than out. And I almost didn't find it later that night because I forgot where my tent was. After setting up camp, there was time to do some fishing. I brought my fishing gear with the expectation that I would catch fish for supper when it was my night to make supper. For dinner duties, we were divided in 2 groups, a group of 5 and a group of 6. You then paired up with another of your group, and each pair would be responsible to cook 2 dinners for the group. Everyone was responsible for their own breakfast and lunch. I was confident that I would be able to catch enough fish to feed my group.



I had expected the Broken Islands to be an ecological haven full of marine life, including fish. But since leaving Poett Nook, we did not encounter or see any kelp beds, and saw only a few birds and seals. Our campsites were not bothered by normally pesky raccoons, although a number of us had encounters with mice. After setting up camp, 3 of us took a voyageur out to do some fishing. I wanted to fish around a kelp bed, but there was none around, so I fished between islands and at various depths. I did not get a nibble. It only took about 30 minutes of fishing around the area for me to conclude that the area was devoid of fish. And no, I am not a crap fisherman. There was still plenty of time left in the day to explore, so the group paddled east exploring the eastern islands including Nettle and Gibraltar. We encountered wind and heavy seas in open areas along the way. We had to battle very rough seas on the way back, whitecaps everywhere, big swells, our boat crashing through wave after wave, drenching us. But we were all seasoned mariners, and thought nothing of it once we got back to Willis Island.

We were staying at Willis Island for 2 days, so next day, we paddled southeast to explore the outer islands including Gibraltar and Nettle. I brought my fishing gear along in hopes of catching dinner, but alas, no kelp beds, no fish. It was like we were in a water desert here. I was getting worried that I might get skunked, and would have to resort to my backup of Korr's rice packages for dinner. Both nights at Willis, a mouse scurried around and over my tent. I am hoping that our next campsite in Gilbert Island would be more fish friendly. Maybe I should use that darn mouse for bait.

On the 4th day, we left Willis Island for our new campsite on Gilbert Island. It wasn't a long paddle to Gilbert island, so we were able to sleep in, have a leisurely breakfast and a good dump before packing up and



leave Willis island. We arrived at the Gilbert Island campsite early noon. This campsite had 3 solar powered outhouses! This is a popular site for kayakers. A group of kayakers already occupied some of the campsites, so we thought we'd better grab what remaining sites that were there. I selected my site and put up my tent too soon, because another couple put their tent right next to mine. And they were snorers.

After unloading the canoes and setting up our tents, it was time to explore the adjacent islands. Once unloaded, all of us could fit into 1 voyageur. I again brought along my fishing gear, now very anxious to land a fish, any fish. We paddled around Gilbert Island, to Moreton, Cooper,

Camblain and Benson Islands. It was around Camblain that we finally came across a kelp bed, I called for an immediate halt so I could to fish. I was the only fisherman in the group, so I did the fishing and others kept the boat steady. I fished with a jigging lure. As soon as my lure hit the bottom, I had a strike, and pulled up a 10 lb ling cod. The boat suddenly erupted into chaos and pandemonium as the fish thrashed violently around the bottom of the boat. Didn't think to club it with my fish tamer. I had a second strike right after and got a even bigger ling cod close to the boat, but it was able to throw the hook just before getting it to the boat. I had a 3rd strike, possibly twice the weigh of the first one, it also threw the hook. Duhh...dull hook, change lure. After changing lures, I caught a nice sea bass and a greenling. In retrospect, I am glad the other 2 big fish got away as that would have been far too much fish for us to consume. The time fishing was probably less than 20 minutes. And that's how I spell RELIEF.

I brought ginger and soy sauce and olive oil specifically to cook fish. We had a great fish dinner, more than enough for the entire group of 11. That evening, I was serenaded by a duet of snoring from the adjacent tent. If I had taken more time to look for more isolated tenting spots, I would have found them deeper in the forest. Unfortunately, another group of kayakers



had arrived and taken up the spots I had thought about

The 5th day was taken up exploring Batley, Wouwer, Howell, Bauke, and Effingham Islands. I didn't bring my fishing gear. Great unspoiled scenes, reminded me of the Galapagos Islands without the bird poop. We also went on a hike across Effingham Island to another beautiful isolated beach not easily accessible by boat because of the rocky shore and open sea. We ended the evening with a warm campfire on the beach. Earplugs allowed for a better sleep.

On the 6th day, We had a major crossing to make in open water back to the Deer Island group, so up at 5:30 am, quick breakfast pack up, and load boats for an early start to paddle the calmest sea. 2 departing kayakers greeted us as we approached the island we would be camping in. They told us the camp sites there were absolutely deluxe. There were 2 well prepared flat areas with space for 3, perhaps 4 tents each, but the tents would have to be very close to one another. And then, there was the beach. But instead of a sandy beach, this was a gravelly beach, so I elected to camp on the beach. Funny how tent pegs doesn't grip on loose gravel, but I improvised with big rocks.

The couple responsible for making dinner on day 6 had canned salmon, but wanted fresh fish instead, so I took out my fishing gear when we went on our island exploration paddle. We stopped at a hole from our marine chart to try my luck. Snagged 2 small sole to start, then pulled up a 2 lb rock cod. I wanted to release the rock cod because the rock cod stock still hasn't recovered to nearly where it was, but this fish was really spiny and prickly, and it wouldn't open its mouth for me, so took me longer than I like to free and release the fish. Instead of diving down after I released it, it just floated on the water. We were in the process of turning



the boat around to retrieve it when 3 eagles suddenly appeared. One dove bombed the fish, scooped it up, and was gone. It happened so fast that no one photographed it, but we all remember the sound of the eagle's wings as it circled, dove, and scooped up the fish because it happened so close to our boat. I caught another greenling, which was enough fish for the couple preparing the evening meal.



4 of us elected to camp along the beach just above the high tide line, my tent being the farthest from the kitchen area. The islands in the Deer group including this one are not within a designated park, and hence, have no outhouses. On the treed side of my tent was a thick wall of tall salal under the trees. someone had made a small clearing within the salal, its entrance

covered by brush, making it a perfect private bathroom. And soft soil for easy digging. Our last night of camping was perfect. Cheery bonfire and full moon. And the sound of waves crashing on shore was far superior to the sound of snoring. Another early start for the return paddle to the Poett Nook Marina.

We packed, loaded, and left our last campsite at 8:00 am. We saw the spray of a humpback whale in the open water. As we got closer, we saw it diving a number of times. At the closes point, the whale poked its head out of the water, probably to get a better look at us. The water was quite choppy, so everyone had to keep paddling, no photos. On return to the Marina, one of the 3 vehicles we came in needed a new alternator, so had to be tolled to Canadian Tire in Port Alberni for a new one. We had lunch at the nearby Pub, after which time, the vehicle was serviced. We got back to Victoria by about 5 pm, very badly needing a shower. Next year, possibly Haida Gwaii.

## October 2017 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 1 8:00 AM Club Flatwater Paddle	2	3 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting	4	5	6	7
8 8:00 AM Club Flatwater Paddle	9	10 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	11	12	13	14 Paddle Canada Skills Course - Big Canoe Advanced Leader
15 Paddle Canada Skills Course - Big Canoe Advanced Leader	16	17	18	19	20	21 8:00 AM Moving Water 1 - Tandem
22 8:00 AM Moving Water 1 - Tandem	23	24	25	26	27	28 Big Canoe Intermediate Leader course
29 Big Canoe Intermediate Leader course	30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4 9:00 AM Fall Clean-up: Clubhouse & Grounds
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

### Club Contact Information

#### **Officers**

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