

Trips and Courses

March 2011

Canoe/Kayak Trips

Due to the voyageur canoe practice trips for the Paddle For The Kids on March 26, there will only be one club flatwater paddle in March.

Canoeists and kayakers who want to get out on the water but like to go with a group, why not take part in the Paddle For The Kids? No experience of paddling in a voyageur (or other type of) canoe is needed. You will be paddling with other club members, the outings are social and the fund-raising is for a good purpose - the Lions Society Camp Shawnigan for Kids with Disabilities. See the notices in this and the two past Newsletters

Saturday, March 12 - Weather permitting (and the odds are it won't) I would like to attempt a paddle from Port Renfrew to Sombrio Beach. This is a 10 nautical mile stretch of exposed coastline with few opportunities to stop en route, so it is very dependent on the sea being fairly calm.

Canoe Courses

For more information or to register for any of the following courses, please contact Yasmin at canoe@vckc.ca. Your VCKC membership dues for 2011 must be paid in full order to register for any club courses below. You can join online at www.vckc.ca. An Individual membership is \$40; Family \$60.

Lake Water Basic Tandem and Solo

This special course is for anyone who is available during the day and for anyone who wants to benefit from taking this instruction over a longer period of time. It will take place for seven (7) weeks during Jean Chandler's enormously helpful Tuesday morning stroke practice sessions.

Tuesdays 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

This course was to start February 22 but if you are interested, please let me know.

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

Sunday, March 20 (Tandem)

Sunday, March 27 (Solo)

Moving Water Tandem (possible concurrent Solo

Course, if there is interest)

Saturday & Sunday, April 2 & 3

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

Saturday, April 16 (Tandem Level 3)

Sunday, April 17 (Solo Level 4)

We have also set dates for another round of Lake Water Basic Tandem and Solo, and Advanced Tandem and Solo in late May/early June.

Ocean Paddling Course

The three evening session will be held on Tuesday, April 26 and Thursday, April 28 and Monday, May 1. The tripping part of the course will be held May 6 - 8 to coincide with the Frost free-weekend camping trip. The course will be taught by Jay Crowley and Alan Thomson.

If you are interested in taking this canoeing course, please contact Alan Thomson 250-592-4170, 3135thom@islandnet.com. Cost is \$100; cost of charts and other equipment—compass, dividers, etc.—is not included.

Canoe Poling

If there is interest, a course has been proposed for late June, late July or early September on canoe poling. Please email Tom Staebell at thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca if you are interested in this course.

Instructors

We have some potential instructors or current ones interested in re-certifying. If this describes you, please contact Ellie James, our master instructor, directly at ejames@bgcvic.org. Some dates have been proposed, and we are hoping to have enough interest to certify some new Lake Water Instructors.

Costs:

\$25 for each Lake Water course (or \$50 for the Lake Water Basic Tandem and Solo which we encourage all paddlers to take together). In addition to the course cost, Lake Water Basic students may 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.

Club Canoe Trips - Advance Notices

(Emails will go out for any Moving Water or Flat Water day trips we are able to schedule in the nearer future. Watch your email inbox!)

Frost Free Weekend Camping Trip:

This trip is traditionally held on the Mother's Day weekend (May 6-8). This has in the past been a 3 day/2 night trip and we propose to do the same again if members are willing to take the extra day off work (Friday or Monday, whatever suits).

Running of the Cows:

The 10th annual running of the Cowichan River from Lake to Bay is scheduled for April 30th/May 1st—put it in your diaries. More details in a future newsletter. Tom Staebell and Alan Thomson are the contacts.

Up Island Paddling Weekend:

Currently scheduled for June 11/12. Destination TBA.

Voyageur Program

The practices for the Paddle For The Kids on Saturday, March 26 are well underway. On Saturday, February 5, we paddled 4 voyageur canoes with 29 paddlers down into Victoria Harbour, round West Bay and back to Spinnakers for brunch—thank you Spinnakers! Then out into the open waters and more wind. We paddled round to Fleming Beach, then turned around and went back up to the Clubhouse. No rain, intervals of sun and the pleasure of working our way behind as many docks, moored boats and other obstacles as we could—always a challenge in the big canoes but good practice for manoeuvring and in building team spirit. After the paddle, a number of members helped to prepare the two trailers and to level the racks in the compound. Thanks to you all.

On Sunday February 13, we had a good paddle on Shawnigan Lake. For the three paddlers who had been out the day before on the club flatwater paddle, this day was a welcome change from the incessant rain of Saturday. We were joined by a crew from the Victoria Youth Paddling Club, all

of them paddling a voyageur for the first time. They did very well and enjoyed the trip round the lake. We lunched at Memory Island provincial park and also stopped to look at the Lion's Society Camp Shawnigan buildings where the money we raise on March 26 will go.

Thanks to Joe and Paul who arranged for the VYPC team to take part, and to Dale for towing the big trailer.

On Saturday February 19, Joe led a three boat trip round Sooke Basin. A beautiful, sunny day with enough wind to keep it cool in the shade or when not paddling. The rounding of Billings Spit against the current and with the waves created by the head wind gave everyone plenty of exercise, as did the paddle up the river and then back to the put-in—also against the wind. It is a pity more paddlers didn't join in this practice—we don't always get such nice days. But here's hoping we get lucky again for the next four practices and especially on March 26 for the Paddle itself.

Over 30 Club members have turned out for the first three practice paddles so there is plenty room for more members to take part.

The rest of the schedule is as follows:

Sunday February 27 - Finlayson Arm

Saturday March 5 - Maple Bay/Cowichan Bay

Sunday March 13 - Mill Bay/Cowichan bay

Saturday March 19 - Sidney Island or Portland and Rum Islands

Saturday March 26 - The Paddle

And if you can't take part in the Paddle, you can sponsor club members who do so. This is an important event in the club's community activities. It not only helps to fund children attending Camp Shawnigan but it also helps us keep the goodwill of Saanich Municipality, owners of our Clubhouse.

If you have any questions, contact me at voyageur@vckc.ca or by phone at 250-592-4170.

Alan Thomson
Voyageur Program Director