

Trips and Courses - April 2011

Canoe/Kayak Trips

Flatwater trips

Due to other commitments, this month's flatwater paddles are on consecutive weekends

Saturday, April 16 and

Saturday, April 23

Notices will be sent out by e-mail beforehand to members on the Kayak or Canoe Program lists. All Club members can participate, provided they have taken a basic canoeing or kayaking course,

Frost-free Weekend Paddling Trip

The Club's annual frost-free weekend trip will take place, as usual on the Mother's Day weekend May 7, 8 and 9. (Note change of dates from those originally put in the March newsletter).

This trip is open to all Club paddlers who have taken the basic canoe and kayak courses. It is a camping trip so you will need to be self-sufficient for food, water, shelter, etc.

The destination will be Blackberry Point on Valdes Island. We will leave from Cedar ramp—about 2 hours from Victoria—and paddle over to the DeCourcy group and thence down to Blackberry Ppint Island group. The paddle is about 7.5 nautical miles/15 kilometres.

Once on Blackberry Point, you can idle away the Sunday, hike up the ridges, go paddling, as you wish. The Club will provide barbecues for the communal meal on the Sunday evening plus baked potatoes and a fruit grunt. You are responsible for all other food. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Alan Thomson at 250-592-4170 or 3135thom@islandnet.com.

Tenth Annual Running of the Cows April 29, 30 and May 1

Once again, for the tenth year in a row, the fearsome *Running of The Cows* will take place. Enjoy the tranquil upper reaches of the beautiful

Cowichan River; thrill to the whitewater of the Canyon section (remember last year's debacle, with four out of six tandems tipping at S-bend and Bernies?); relax in the warm and green calm sections of the lower river and show your control negotiating the log jams near the delta.

This event is open to all Club members who have taken a moving water canoeing course. Canoes must be rigged with airbags and paddlers must be wearing helmets and a dry or wet-suit. It is not required to paddle all sections; some prefer to miss out the Canyon section with its Class 2+ rapids.

The group campsite at Stoltz Pool has been booked for the nights of Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30, so you can relax in the company of your paddling peers round a campfire or the stoves in the shelters. The campsite will be open on Friday afternoon from approx 4 pm onwards. Cost will be \$10 per tent per night based on ten tents per night (Booking cost is \$204 for the weekend.) Bring your own wood for the stove/campfire or you can buy some on-site.

Contact Tom Staebell 250-656-7113
thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca if you plan to take part in this great event.

Advance Notice

The BC Marine Trails Network Association expects to formally open the first trails (in the Gulf Islands) on May 13 at the Ladysmith Paddlefest. The plan is to have as many paddlers as possible converge on the Ladysmith Beach at 3 pm on the Saturday afternoon. In the days before this, groups of kayakers and canoeists from different paddling clubs will paddle to as many of the Trail campsites as possible. If you are interested in taking part in this event, contact Alan Thomson at 592-4170 or 3135thom@islandnet.com.

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.

Moving Water Tandem (Solo will run concurrently)

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)

Canoe Tripping Course

April 26-30 (5 days inclusive). To be held on the Sayward Lakes Route, this course will offer all levels of certification, Paddler, Leader and Instructor. Master Instructor Tony Shaw is teaching the course. The cost is going to be approximately \$200. Please contact Jay Crowley at j.crowley@shaw.ca directly if you are interested and to register.

Lakewater Basic Tandem and Solo

Saturday, May 28 (Basic Tandem)

Sunday, May 29 (Basic Solo)

Lakewater Advanced Tandem and Solo

Saturday, June 4 (Advanced Tandem)

Sunday, June 5 (Advanced Solo)

Eddy Hopper

If you are interested in testing out your skills on a river or getting a feel for sterning on moving water, this is the opportunity for you. In late May, we are looking at offering a chance for paddlers to go down a section of river with an experienced paddler in bow or stern. Please contact Tom Staebell if you are interested in trying this out at thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca.

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@bgcvc.org. Some dates have been proposed, and we are hoping to have enough interest to certify some new Lakewater Instructors.

Costs:

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

Ocean Canoeing Course

This RCABC course is open to all canoeists who have taken the basic tandem lakewater course. It is intended to teach paddlers about tides and currents, wind and weather, charting and navigation as well as canoe camping.

The course consists of three evenings of classroom sessions plus a three (3) day canoeing trip. The three classroom sessions will be held at the Clubhouse on Tuesday April 26, Thursday April 28 and Monday, May 2.

The Paddling trip will take place on May 7 to May 9 (Saturday-Monday).

If you are interested in taking this course, please contact Alan Thomson before Easter. Cost of the course is \$100, plus the costs of charts etc. 250-592-4170; 3135thom@islandnet.com.

