

Trips & Courses

May 2011

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.

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. At the May Canoe/Kayak Meeting Tom will be demonstrating how to make a simple canoe pole.

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.

Canoe/Kayak Trips

Flatwater Trips

As May is a very busy month for courses and other events, there is only one Club flatwater trip planned this month. It will be on Saturday, May 14 and will take place in the Ladysmith area.

The paddle will (intentionally) coincide with the Ladysmith Paddlefest and the grand opening of the first BC Marine Trail which is in the Gulf Islands.

The plan is to have as many kayaks and canoes as possible there for the official

opening, forming a flotilla that will paddle across Ladysmith Harbour to transfer Beach. Many other clubs are taking part, so it will be a great chance to meet other paddlers and see the booths and exhibits at the Paddlefest.

This paddle is suitable for all skill levels and all Club members are encouraged to take part.

An e-mail will be sent out the weekend before, but please book the date in your calendar.

If anyone else is able to lead another trip this month, please let Yasmin or Herb know. Notices for the above and any others 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 & 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 two hours from Victoria—and paddle over to the DeCourcy group and thence down to Blackberry Point 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.

BC Marine Trails Grand Opening

The BC Marine Trails Network Association expects to formally open the first trails (in the Gulf Islands) on May 14 at the Ladysmith Paddlefest. The plan is to have as many paddlers as possible converge on the Ladysmith (Transfer) Beach between 12:30 and 1:30 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. More details on page 9. If you are interested in taking part in this event, contact Alan Thomson at 592-4170 or 3135thom@islandnet.com.

Moving Water Trips

There is a Moving Water day trip scheduled for Saturday, May 7 most likely on the Cowichan. Contact Tom Staebell at: thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca if you are interested in going. The same conditions of participation apply as for Flatwater trips with additional equipment requirements for safe river navigation.

Up-Island Paddling Trip

Tentatively scheduled for June 11-12 on the Sayward Route. More details in the next newsletter.