

## **Kayak Courses**

### **Paddle Canada Flatwater (Introduction to Kayaking)**

**Dates:** April 18-19 (**FULL**)

#### **Paddle Canada Level 1**

**When:** May 30-31  
June 13-14  
June 20-21

**Location + Time:** To be determined by instructor.

**Minimum Skills:** Paddle Canada Introduction to Kayaking or equivalent

**Length:** 2 days

**Location & Time:** TBD by Instructor

**Cost:** \$50

**Register by:** Wednesday, May 20

**NOTE:** You will be practicing rescue techniques in the water on both days. This means you will get wet! Therefore, a wetsuit is required for the course. If you don't have a wetsuit please borrow or rent one. Otherwise, you may get too cold and may not be able to complete the course.

For information on Paddle Canada course content, please go to Paddle Canada's website and review the [Sea Kayak Program overview](#).

Please register for these courses with Patti Stevens at [pattilou\\_333@yahoo.com](mailto:pattilou_333@yahoo.com). Space is limited to 6 members, so don't delay!

VCKC has a few kayaks that are available for members on club courses and workshops. When you register for a course, please indicate if you would like to book a club kayak. When you use a club kayak, all the safety equipment is provided. However, it is your responsibility to transport the kayak to and from the launch site. Therefore, if you

register for any of the above courses, you will have to arrange your own transportation including roof racks and tie downs.

### **VCKC Membership**

Your VCKC membership dues for 2009 must be paid in order to attend any club courses or workshops. You can join online at [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca).

### **Help Needed**

VCKC needs your help! Interested in coordinating courses and workshops for the Kayak Program? We are needing someone to start May 1, 2009. You do not have to be an instructor, just willing to be the contact person, collect cheques, and coordinate courses and workshops with VCKC Kayak Instructors and Paddle Canada. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping out, please contact Patti Stevens at [pattilou\\_333@yahoo.com](mailto:pattilou_333@yahoo.com).



### **Who's Who**

The following is a list of volunteers for the Kayak Program:

Program Director - Vacant

Communications (email) - Fred Trudell - [fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca](mailto:fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca);

Communications (paddlers' list) - [VCKCpaddlinglist@gmail.com](mailto:VCKCpaddlinglist@gmail.com);

Courses & Workshops - Patti Stevens until Apr 30, 2009 - [pattilou\\_333@yahoo.com](mailto:pattilou_333@yahoo.com);

Kayak Bookings - Susan Zedel -  
[szedel@shaw.ca](mailto:szedel@shaw.ca);

Library - Vic Turkington -  
[victurkington@yahoo.com](mailto:victurkington@yahoo.com);

Day Paddles and Expeditions - Marianne West  
- [mariannejwest@gmail.com](mailto:mariannejwest@gmail.com) and

Dorothea Hoffmann -  
[polkadottie44@shaw.ca](mailto:polkadottie44@shaw.ca).

Instructors - Tom Hukari, Patti Stevens, Yves  
Aquin, Dennis MacMillan, Dorothea Hoffman,  
Doug Linton, Marianne West, Michel Guerard.

## **Kayak Trip**

### **Kayak Camping Trip Easter Weekend**

A two day-one night kayak camping trip to  
Portland Island is being planned for the  
Easter long weekend, April 10-13. The  
actual dates will depend on the availability  
of those who wish to attend.

Each participant must have attended  
Flatwater or have equivalent skills. A higher  
skill level is preferable. Each participant will  
need to bring their own camping gear.

For more information, email Marianne West  
at [mariannejwest@gmail.com](mailto:mariannejwest@gmail.com).

## Canoeing Flatwater Trips

Because of Wake Up The Gorge on April 4 and 5 and a Lakewater course on the same days, the first Lakewater trip will be on Easter Monday, April 13 and the following one on Sunday, April 26.

E-mails will be sent to members of the Canoe program ahead of time, reminding members of these paddles. If you have not ticked off Canoe Program on your membership, let me know and I can add you to the list of e-mail recipients for these trips. Kayakers are welcome: most of our paddles are on the ocean.

Advance warning—I have no free weekends on May so if the flatwater paddles are to continue that month, we will need to have volunteers to arrange and lead these.

Alan Thomson

*Participants should have taken and passed the [RCABC Lakewater Level I tandem course](#). Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the trip leader but will depend on the strength of the group and on the location of the planned trip.*

*Unless otherwise specified, all trips start by meeting at the Clubhouse parking lot at 9 am. The aim is always to have all participants back at the parking lot by 5 pm at the latest. At this time of year, return time is likely to be earlier.*

*Participants should be dressed appropriately for the forecast weather (call 250-363-6717 or look up the [Environment Canada forecast](#) on the web) and, if the trip is to be on the ocean, check the time of the tides and currents. It is helpful to bring your own charts or maps so that you can be self-sufficient if necessary.*

### Frost Free Weekend Camping Trip

This annual camping weekend is scheduled for May 9 and 10 (Mother's Day weekend). It is intended as a season-start canoe (or kayak) camping trip which is suitable for beginners. It has traditionally been a Saturday/Sunday trip with one night's camping. Last year, we added a day so that the effort of packing up for a single night in a tent could be spread over two nights, and we went to Cabbage Island, off Tumbo and Saturna.

Destinations for a 3 day-2 night trip include Cabbage Island; Wakes Cove (northwest end of Valdes Island), Blackberry Point (middle of Valdes) and Dionisio Point on Galiano. OR we could go to Prevost and stay there two nights, taking in Montague Harbour and perhaps Active Pass on the middle day.

Members who contacted me in March are all interested in a 3 day trip rather than a 2 day/1 night event so the dates are May 9 and 10 plus either the Friday or the Monday on either side. Contact Alan Thomson if you have any questions or would like to put your name down. If there is the demand, the Club canoe or a voyageur can be taken. Contact Alan Thomson at 250-592-4170 or [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com).

### Running of the Cows #8

Eighth year and going strong. This event on May 2 and 3 involves the running of the Cowichan River from Lake Cowichan to Cowichan Bay. The Stoltz Group campsite has been booked for VCKC for the Friday and Saturday nights. The site has a wood stove, a shelter for cooking, a campfire ring and about twelve tent sites. The parking lot for the group site can accommodate campers. Costs for camping probably about \$10 per tent per night depending on numbers using the site.

This trip is open to all paddlers who have taken and passed the Moving Water tandem course. The river grading is generally level 1-2, with some 2+ in the Canyon section. Superior river manoeuvring skills are required to avoid sweepers and log jams. Wet or dry suits are advised. Helmets are essential for the Canyon section. All canoes should have flotation (airbags/Styrofoam) and have a bailer, painters and a throwbag. We hope to be joined, as in past years, by some paddlers from the Beaver and Dogwood Clubs in Vancouver. Any questions, speak to Tom Staebell 250-655-7113; [thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca](mailto:thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca) or Alan Thomson 250-592-4170 or [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com).

### Moving Water Trips

**Saturday, April 11**

**Friday, April 24**

**Sat. & Sun. May 2 & 3 (See above)**

VCKC river trips are open to current members or invited guests (waiver required) who have received RCABC or equivalent instruction and who agree to abide by VCKC safety rules as outlined in the member guide.

Unless otherwise announced, we meet at 8:30 am at the Millstream Park'nRide (exit 14/Sooke off the Island Highway) and carpool to the appropriate river section. Please contribute to driver's fuel and vehicle expense. (\$10 is appropriate these days.) Trips are subject to last minute cancellation due to water level or road closures so please advise by Thursday evening if you plan to attend and phone my cell (after 6:30 a.m., please) if your plans change. The three club river boats are available for a modest fee on a "first call" basis.

Tom Staebell  
res 655-7113 after 5:00 pm  
cell 588-2207 after 6:30 am  
[thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca](mailto:thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca)



### *Courses - Canoeing*

**Lakewater Level 1:**  
Thursday evening, April 23,  
Saturday, April 25 and  
Sunday morning, April 26

**Lakewater Level 2:**  
Sunday, April 26

**Lakewater Level 3:**  
Saturday, April 4

**Lakewater Level 4:**  
Sunday, April 5

**Moving Water Level 1:**  
Saturday, May 23 and  
Sunday May 24

**Moving Water Level 2:**  
Saturday, May 30 and  
Sunday, May 31

### **Ocean Canoeing Course**

This is advance notice of the RCABC Ocean Canoeing course which will take place in May. The course consists of 2 days of classroom sessions on charting, tides and currents, weather and navigation and 3 days-2 nights of canoe tripping on the ocean. The paddling portion is planned for the Victoria Day weekend (May 16-18th). The classroom sessions will likely consist of 4 evening sessions in later April/early May. The dates will depend on the convenience of the students and instructor. The cost of the course is \$100 per student. In addition, there will be the costs of relevant charts, ruler, dividers, Tide and Current Tables Volume 5-7 say up to \$50. Students are limited to 8 due to limitations on the student to instructor ratio. First come, first served.

Past students are welcome to sit in on the classroom sessions and to take part in the trip, but not as students.

Please let me know by the end of March if you want to take this course so that I can plan the classroom dates.

Alan Thomson  
250-812-3799  
[3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com)