

## *Trips and Courses Canoeing & Kayaking*

### *Flatwater Paddles*

Due to the practices for the Paddle for the Kids each weekend in March and some canoe courses, only one flatwater paddle is scheduled this month.

Sunday March 14—the day Summer time starts—so remember to get up an hour earlier than usual. Any favourite paddling destinations we should think of that day? Let me know by phone 250-592-4170 or email: [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com).

If someone volunteers to lead another paddle, it will be announced by e-mail to the Canoe and Kayak sections.

### *Canoe Courses*

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

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Sunday, March 28, preceded by a pool session for rescues from 7:30 am–9:00 am at Esquimalt pool.

Registration and classroom session for LW 1 & 2 will be held Thursday, March 18 from 6:00–8:30 pm at the clubhouse. At this time, locations and times for the on-the-water portions will be disseminated to the registrants, but those sessions are essentially all day.

#### Moving Water Tandem

Saturday & Sunday, March 13 & 14, 2010

Another Moving Water Tandem may be considered after the Lake Water Basic courses, depending on interest, and water, levels.

#### Moving Water Solo

Saturday & Sunday, March 27 & 28, 2010

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

Saturday, April 10, 2010 (Level 3)

Sunday, April 11, 2010 (Level 4)

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

Saturday & Sunday, June 5 & 6, 2010

Thursday, June 3, 6:00–8:30 pm for registration and classroom session.

Costs are \$25 for each Lake Water course (\$50 for the Lake Water 1 & 2 which we are offering as a package). In addition to the course cost, Lake Water 1 & 2 students will 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.

To register for any of the above courses or for more information, please contact [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca).

#### Ocean Paddling Course

Call or e-mail Alan Thomson if you are interested in taking this course. It covers ocean tides and currents, charts, navigation and weather, plus camping topics. Prerequisite is completion of the Lakewater Basic tandem canoe course.

The three classroom sessions will be held at the Clubhouse on the evenings of Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th of April and Monday 3rd of May. The paddling and camping component of the course will be held in conjunction with the Club's annual Frost Free weekend on the weekend of May 7, 8 and 9 (3-days, 2 nights). Cost of course is \$100; charts and any travel, etc. involved in the paddling section of the course is additional. Members who have taken the course before are welcome to sit in and take the classroom sessions as a refresher for free. Kayakers are welcome to attend the classroom sessions and the paddling trip; but I am not qualified to give you any certificate!

#### Voyageur/Big Canoe Advanced Paddler Course

A second Advanced Paddler/Skipper course is being held in Victoria on April 24–25. The course teaches paddlers to stern a voyageur or other big canoe and to direct and manage the crew of the boat. It is a requirement for anyone wishing to

use the Club's voyageur canoes. Prerequisite courses are Lakewater Basic and Advanced Tandem Canoe. I hope to have Lyle Dickieson from Prince George to teach this course. Lyle is one of BC's most experienced voyageur canoe paddlers who has lead voyageur brigades and paddled his own voyageur canoe in many parts of the province. Let Alan Thomson know if you are interested in taking this course - 250-592-4170 or e-mail [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com). Cost is probably \$100 per student for the two days.

A Paddle Canada Big Canoe Instructor level course is being planned on the Mainland for March 31–April 4. It is being put on by Dave Wooldridge, who taught the RCABC Advanced Big Canoe course in Victoria last autumn. Cost is \$300. If you are interested in taking this course or have questions, contact Dave at [dave@ridgewilderness.com](mailto:dave@ridgewilderness.com) or 604-250-0744.

A Lake water Instructor Course is being planned for May. If anyone is interested in taking this advanced level, 5 day course, they should contact Ellie James [ejames@bcgvic.org](mailto:ejames@bcgvic.org) or 250-652-6172.

### *Other Trips*

The Club annual Frost Free trip will take place as usual on the Mother's Day weekend - May 9, 2010. It is hoped to make this a 3 day/2 night trip if everyone can manage the extra day - it seems like a lot of work to pack everything for camping and only spend one night out. Past destinations have included Portland Island; Darcy Island, Wallace Island, Cabbage Island (?) off Tumbo and Blackberry Point on Valdes Island. This year's destination is probably in the Northern Gulf Islands - possibly Dionisio Park on Galiano Island.

Contact Alan Thomson if you are interested in taking part. A voyageur canoe may be taken if demand warrants. Both canoeist and kayakers are welcome.

## ***Peninsula Paddle for the Kids***

This year's fund-raising event for the Lions Society Easter Seal Camp on Lake Shawnigan is a one day marathon from Brentwood Bay in Saanich Inlet all the way round the Saanich Peninsula, down to Oak Bay and round into Victoria Harbour to the Clubhouse. It will take place on Saturday, March 27. The paddling is done in the Club's voyageur canoes, usually 6 paddlers per boat. There will be two teams per boat, each paddling roughly 1 ½ hrs and then going on shore while the second team paddles its shift. When not paddling, the teams will be resting and eating at a facility in Central Saanich. Each team will paddle 4 shifts over the course of the day, ending at the Clubhouse with a pot-luck dinner. There will be a marine rescue boat with the voyageur canoes throughout the day on the 27th.

Practice paddles for this paddle are taking place as follows. All paddles will leave from the Clubhouse at 9:00 am except the last which will leave at 8.30am because of the travel time involved. The remaining practice paddles are:

*Saturday February 28* - Sooke Basin area

*Sunday March 7* - Cowichan & Maple Bay

*Saturday March 13* - Portland and Rum Islands

*Sunday March 21* - Kuper and Thetis Islands

What can you do to take part?

1. Join in and paddle on one of the teams which will take on the 40 nautical mile journey on March 27. Paddlers are expected to take part in at least **two** of the practice paddles, preferably more. These practices are great fun in their own right, meeting up with other Club members from different program areas and paddling in places you may not get to on your own.

2. Raise funds for Camp Shawnigan by sponsoring Club members who are taking part in the Paddle, or by canvassing for sponsors yourself if you are taking part. In past years the Club has raised up to \$20,000 on one of these paddles, and it would be good to break that total in 2010.

Any questions, contact Alan Thomson or Mike Fox.