



Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club
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Website: www.vckc.ca

June 2010

Annual VCKC BBQ

June 1, 2010

6:00pm at the Clubhouse

It's the usual potluck with surnames from A-M bringing salads or side dishes and surnames from N-Z bringing desserts.

Everyone brings something to BBQ for themselves.
Beverages are B.Y.O.



Clubhouse News

Welcome to Marie Lansdowne who is a new member to VCKC and has volunteered to take over from Laurie as VCKC Secretary. Mavis who is an executive member at large will be acting Vice-President, taking over for Dave who is also leaving us. We still have a few executive positions vacant; please contact any executive member for more information.

The Scavenger Hunt on Saturday May 1 was another excellent event organized by Diane. The weather co-operated – sunny and warm perfect for the scavenger hunt.

With nine teams of three members each we competed for valuable prizes. The competition among the teams was serious business with the eventual winning team being the Rattrays and Irena.

With the hunt over everyone enjoyed refreshments and the sunshine.

Thanks to Diane, Mavis and Wendy who did all the work at the clubhouse.

June's general meeting is our annual VCKC BBQ, Tuesday, June 1 from 6:00 to 9:00pm.

It's the usual potluck with surnames from A-N bringing salads or appetizers and surnames from O-Z bringing desserts. Everyone brings something to BBQ for themselves and beverages are B.Y.O.

Bon Lee
President - VCKC



And another take on the Scavenger Hunt from Diane Nishimura:

Saturday, May 1 turned out to be a beautiful spring day. Twenty-four curious "hunters" showed up to receive their task lists.

The Scavenger Hunt started sharply at 12:30 pm. Each team of three was asked to take pictures, hunt for nature items and research the neighborhood and grounds to answer questions about the community. Teams were to report back to the clubhouse by 2:30 pm or "points" would be deducted.

Refreshments and snacks were served while the tally was done to declare the top 3 Teams for prizes.

Lots of fun and interaction during the event encouraged another hunt in the near future!



MEC Paddlefest Victoria

Saturday, June 5th, 2010

10:00am - 4:00pm

Gyro Park, Cadboro Bay

The fourth annual Victoria Paddlefest is a family event focused on education, fun, and safety on the water. This exciting one-day event hosts on-water courses and demonstrations and informative land-based seminars for all paddlers.

Throughout the day there will be demonstrations by expert kayakers and canoeists. Everyone is welcome to test drive any of the demo canoes or kayaks available from our exhibitors.

Admission: Free

On-Land Seminars: Free

On-water courses: \$5 Registration Fee

Registration in-store.

A Tale of Two Flags

Those who took part in the Paddle for The Kids this year may recall the capsize of the Kawa off Cordova Bay beach. All the paddlers were safe, and even Herb's VHF radio miraculously managed to stay in the up-turned boat.

But, the Club flag and pole fell out and were 'lost at sea'. This was the second club flag to be given to the ocean. The first one was lost in the Straits of Juan de Fuca on another Paddle for The Kids trips some years ago when the canoes were being towed by a Zodiac.

The Executive agreed that we should replace the flag and one was ordered from Jeune Bros.

Then something odd happened. Linda and I, with Sandy Rattray and daughter Christine, took advantage of the low tide on Thursday May13 to walk the east shore of the Saanich Peninsula from Agate Park to Cowichan Head, returning via the Lochside Trail. As we approached the Beachcomber RV Park at Cowichan Head we saw a Canadian flag flying high near the entrance. As we got closer, we saw a Jolly Roger flag lower down, and below it – a blue flag. Guess what – it was the lost Club flag, and still in good condition!

The hostess at Beachcomber said they had found it washed up and planted it there on the assumption we'd be back some time - and so we were. The flag needed a couple of holes mended and the hems re-sewn. But now the Club has two flags. The trick now will be to make sure the poles they fly from float so we don't lose them again.

Alan Thomson



Photos: Wendy Clapp



Running of the Cows IX

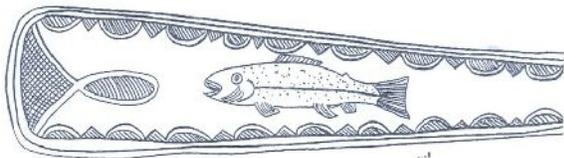
Hooray, hooray, the first of May witnessed the start of ROTC9 or The Running of the Cows, episode IX.

There were 25 paddlers for at least one of the two days with camping this year at S-Bend (Horseshoe Group Site) due to a work closure at Stoltz. Paddlers included Jeff Devries and Marcie Prior (Campbell River), Craig Jensen (Courtney), Tony Shaw with Kenyon and friends Alicia, Charlie and Sheila (Nanoose), Barry Franzman (Nanaimo), Ken Gibbard, Joy Newham, Alan and Linda Thomson, Bon Lee, Bob and Sharon, Dave Kirby, Kym Thrift and Jaime, Jean Chandler, Dwight Milford, Tod Marshall, Jay Crowley, and yours truly with synchronized swimming partner, Arthur Swarbrick. Sadly missed were the Mainlanders. They had a big event on the Chilliwack in conflict with our date and missed the fun. Randy Hall was cycling in the Cowichan Valley and camped with us Saturday night at S-Bend.

On the first day the Canyon had some fun with many of us at S-Bend with eight people in the water and only two rescue boats left upright at one point. High water, feeble rescue attempts, casual disrespect of the drop, inexperienced partners, "river snakes", these were among the many excuses proposed.

I can now lay claim to swimming all of the Horseshoe rapids and through the full frills of Bernie's Negligee, self-rescuing just barely above Jet Ferry. Alan's rescue attempt of others resulted in Linda escaping to shore and sensibly opting for the hiking trail downstream to rejoin Alan...who was busy swimming not only part of Horseshoe but Bernie's AND Jet Ferry. And that was just the first day! But as we say thankfully, "nobody lost an eye".

Many thanks to Susan Kirby for shuttles and Dwight for bringing out the Voyageur for the second day!



**Found
at the clubhouse:
One digital camera
One red lifejacket
Contact Bon (477-1381)
if any of these items
belong to you.**

Attention: All Kayakers

Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm or so we are holding drop-in paddle sessions in the Gorge. These are intended for folks to come by, meet people, and work on skills, strokes, etc., in convivial company, hopefully with at least one of our instructors present to give a hand.

These sessions are primarily for those who have had at least an introductory course – not for beginners hoping to get free lessons. Club boats are available by reservation.

During the summer months, with all of the Dragon Boat action etc., it might be simplest to park and launch over at Kinsman Park. The bay there is pretty good for most of what we might want to do.



**I would have gotten here
sooner but I took a short cut**

Frost Free Weekend Trip to Blackberry Point, Valdes Island May 7 - 9, 2010

The club's annual frost free weekend took place as usual on the Mother's Day weekend. After four years of moving from site to site, this year we decide to return to Blackberry Point on Valdes Island. Partly, it is such a nice site – plenty of space, good views, opportunities to hike or paddle or just fester. It is also a good site for the Ocean Canoeing course students – lots of currents in Porlier Pass, Gabriola Passage, Dodd and False Narrows tidal issues that affect the notch between De Courcy and Link Islands, etc.



We were blessed with virtually perfect weather - no rain, lots of sun, and following breezes 90% of the time. On the Saturday about half the group paddled down to Porlier Pass and then across to Dionisio - and this year we made it thanks to relatively weak currents. Plenty of wild flowers, seals and otters, eagles and herons, and phosphorescence at the water's edge at night.



There were other kayakers at the site - probably 14+ - but the area absorbed them with no difficulty. And having arrived on the Friday, we'd had the pick of the better camping spots.

There were 17 club members taking part – three in

kayaks, five in the big club freighter canoe, one solo canoeist and four tandem canoes.

The usual barbeque was held on the Saturday night – baked potatoes all round, followed by a large fruit 'grunt' that tasted as good cold on the Sunday morning as it did hot on the Saturday night. Some members had an appetizer of oysters picked from further down the beach and cooked in a fire below the high tide mark – a wonderful thing, tidal waters.



On Sunday, the Ocean Canoeing course members were on the water by 8:30am making the eight mile paddle up through False Narrows to see Dodd Narrows flooding at five knots. Worth seeing (from on land), and we had lunch while the flow gradually subsided. The second group left Blackberry about three hours later, and we met up at Cedar Ramp at two o'clock - synchronized paddling for sure.



A great weekend, thanks to everyone who turned up and took part – Harold, Joy, Maris, Susan, Tony, Susan and Bon, Pauline, Jill and John, Marianne and Dan, Jay, Carolyn and Sandy, Linda and Alan.

Alan Thomson

Photos: Harold Gillis

Outrigger Program ... moving to a new location!!!

Bet that got your attention. Actually we are planning to move one outrigger over to Gyro Park in the next few weeks. That's in advance of moving it to its usual summer spot at Glenn Lyon. I will be sending details regarding timing of the move to OC6 captains as the date gets closer. There were a few teams that paddled at the same times and I am pleased to say that they have worked out a schedule that Ann will post on our paddling schedule.

Swan sighting ...

Wendy advises that her team was out the other day and saw the proud parents and their three baby swans (cygnets) out for their own paddle. Apparently papa swan headed straight towards the outrigger even though Wendy and her crew were still a fair distance away from them. So, keep your eyes open for the Swan family and enjoy them from a good distance.

VCKC Crew battles rough conditions and beats Ocean River's Top OC6 Team

You Seinfeld fans may remember the episode where George saves the whale and starts his story with something like: "The seas were angry that day my friends."

Well they may not have been angry at this years Brotchie race but they were definitely a bit ticked off. Our Ama Maniacs ably sterned by Malcolm, with Doug in 5, Herb in 4, Dave S. in 3, Shawn in 2 and me at stroke battled some rough seas and nine other men's teams (yes, we knew Shawn is not a man, way to cute, but she paddles as well as many of us guys) to finish 8th in the men's open. The waters were the roughest I have encountered in my three Brotchies. We made it back wet and tired. But even though we were in last place as we headed out under the Johnson street bridge, we managed a respectable finish.

So how did we beat Ocean River's best? They and another team both hulled, we didn't, it's that simple, keep the bumpy side up, and you never know how things will work out.

A few lessons learned by this novice stroke:

1) In rough seas, learn to paddle in air and maintain some semblance of stroke rate when the front of the boat is about a meter off the water;

2) Check the tightness of the spray skirt **before** you fully zip it up in rough seas during the race, so that you can actually change your leg position when you switch sides. Or do what I did, untrap your legs by zipping it open and get completely soaked from top to bottom.

The race was followed by a slow paddle back to VCKC with a short beer/lunch break while we waited for the tides to let us back under the bridge. Good times.

And the usual reminder about the OC6:

If you bang it up report it. If you think it leaks or needs repair, let me and Doug know and we will try to fix it. Check the rigging as we have found it to be loose or out of alignment on several occasions. If you don't know how to rig it, ask for help. We have some patient and great teachers. Sterns this is your responsibility, please follow through.

And finally, I am still getting the odd email from potential paddlers, so I appreciate the efforts of OC6 captains and Mike to include them in paddles and welcome them to the club, keep up the good work.

Max Nock
Outrigger Program Director

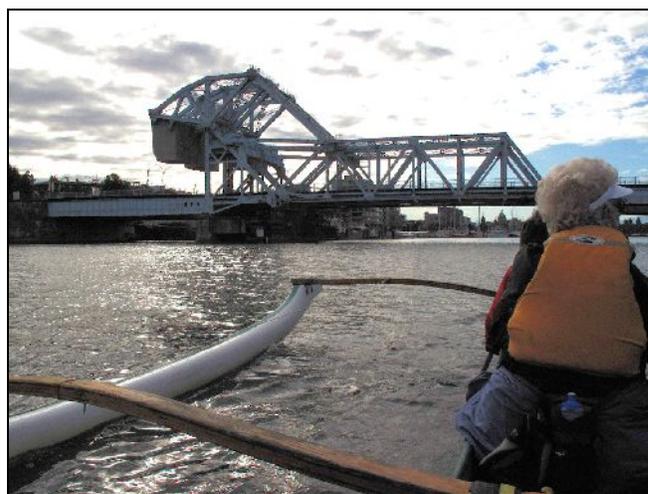


Photo: Wendy Clapp

Voyageur Program

There have been no scheduled Club voyageur paddles since the end of March – but the boats are being used regularly by Esquimalt High School, Shoreline School, Outward Bound and others.

I hope to schedule a voyageur repair day over the summer to get the boats into good order. They are in fine working shape, but could do with re-varnishing of the gunwales and thwarts and some TLC.

An e-mail will go out to the voyageur program members beforehand once I am clear about possible conflicts with dragon boat and outrigger race and practice schedules.

Canoe & Kayak Flatwater trips

Apologies for the dearth of trips in May, but we have not had any free weekends – Running of the Cows; Frost-Free weekend; LakeWater Instructor course and two weekends in the Desolation Sound area.

Next scheduled paddle will be on Sunday, June 6. The tides are not doing much and neither are the currents. Depending on who wants to come, we may try a paddle in the Becher Bay/Pedder Bay area – maybe even out to Race Rocks if the wind is calm. An email will be sent to all Canoe and Kayak program members beforehand.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Picnic Saturday, June 26

The Club has run voyageur canoe trips for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters picnic in Gorge Park for a number of years now. June 26th is National Canoe Day, and the Club will be putting on a program that afternoon (watch the website for details).

We need some volunteers to take two voyageur

canoes over to the Park to run trips from 11:00am to 1:00pm. We will need paddlers to stern and bow the boats plus someone to keep an eye on the PFDs and paddles at the loading and unloading. Please let me know if you would be willing to help with this.

Alan Thomson (250-592-4170)



Photo: Wendy Clapp

Courses

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.

VCKC Executive

President		Voyageur Program	
Bon Lee	477-1381	Alan Thomson	592-4170
Acting Vice President		Marathon Canoe Program	
Mavis Pilar.....	590-4390	Ron Williams	592-6456
Treasurer		Education, Safety & Standards	
Sam Ludmer	298-7004	Doug Linton	727-0216
Acting Secretary		Membership	
Marie Lansdowne.....		Graham Lloyd	381-5090
Past President		Clubhouse & Grounds	
Linda Thomson.....	592-4170	Sandy Rattray	386-9144
Program Directors		Directors-at-Large	
Canoe Program		Michael Fox	391-0160
Yasmin Rampuri	655-4859	Irena Jazwinski	388-9757
Sea Kayak Program		Diane Nishimura (Soc.) ..	383-3080
Doug Linton	727-0216	Mavis Pilar	590-4390
Dragon Boat Program		Executive Volunteer Positions	
Jack Louie	598-1569	Harold Gillis (Newsletter)	598-9488
Outrigger Program			
Max Nock	544-0051		

VCKC Calendar

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