



Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club
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November 2012

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club General Meeting Tuesday, November 6th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

NOTICES

Calling all Paddlers!

(Dragon Boat, Outrigger, Canoe, Kayak, Marathon, and/or SUP?)

Jack Louie's dragon boat team, Ageless Warriors, is holding a potluck party to thank him for his contributions to coaching and paddling at VCKC. If you've ever paddled with Jack (and who hasn't?), join the party at the Clubhouse, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 16.

There will be a turkey. Bring some food to share and your beverage of choice.

Boat Cleaner Extraordinaire

I just thought I'd pass this along for anyone who is cleaning their canoes or kayaks. I washed and polished our canoes yesterday and used a product that worked better than anything I have used before. It is called 303 Aerospace Protectant, comes in an 8 or 16 fl. oz. spray bottle and completely changed the pink canoe back to a red one. It works on rubber, vinyl, fibreglass, tires, plastic, leather and is available at Lordco, MEC and a few other businesses in Victoria. Well worth trying.

Marilyn Tomlinson

A Message from VCKC's Membership Person

For the 2012 year, paper copies of your newsletter have been mailed to you. It was hoped this would generate more interest and participation in the monthly members' meetings.

If you find that you enjoy receiving the paper copies, we will continue. But if you prefer to read the newsletter online and wish to discontinue the paper copies, please email membership@vckc.ca and put "email" in the subject line.

Thank you!

Muriel Johnson, Membership Director

Clubhouse News November 2012

The Craigflower School Canoe Project for grade 4/5 helps these students build skills, knowledge and self-esteem. Practices during the school day need volunteers that can be away from work. Our awesome members really stepped up to make this happen. It has been a great experience to know the students & teachers and we've learned from them. Their enthusiasm to get out in boats is so rewarding. Thank you to all the VCKC volunteers who made this much appreciated activity possible: James, Brian, Bon & Susan, Barbara, Carol, Doug, Ron, Muriel, June, Anne, Maris, Sandy, Len, Alan & Linda, Karen, Katherine, Tony, Joe, & Wendy. VCKC requested a MEC community grant for all-weather paddling clothing for the children and is

planning for the introduction to paddling voyageur canoes and practice trips spring 2013.



The October meeting was hosted by the marathon canoe program. They presented racing movies. I'm in awe of these paddlers, including our own Ron - just watching movies had the audience groaning out loud.

2013 VCKC Executive

Everyone! Run for a position on the 2013 executive! To continue our all-volunteer club new volunteers must join in. One of the individuals stepping down at the end of the year is Doug Magnuson, who has served as storage director. Thanks Doug for all the hard work - you've made a positive difference. To explore becoming VCKC's next boat storage director or outrigger director please contact Pam Carroll at president@vckc.ca.

Club Program/Financial Planning

Executive continues work on a method for long-term program planning and funding that is fair and grounded in principles by clarifying the following areas:

- Club Purpose, Principles and Policies (complete)
- Program/Financial Planning and Revenue Allocation (in progress)
- Capital Asset Maintenance and Replacement 3-10 year plan (in progress)
- Revenue Generation. (In progress)

Each VCKC program posted their 3 year plan on the club website for feedback from members. A club-wide grid was used to compare all programs to

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identify club-wide needs. The 9 items identified, in no specific order, are:

1. Remap storage compound layout to increase use of space
2. Construct additional small boat and kayak specific storage racks to increase spaces & income
3. Add 2 electrical outlets to kitchen to prevent frequent tripping of the fuse from appliances
4. 1 new voyager - lighter boat easier to launch & needs less maintenance
5. Second new voyager -increase safety as 2 similar boats are easier to keep together on trips
6. 2 solo outriggers - training boat for multiple programs - easy to learn, increase member access
7. 1 tandem marathon canoe - accommodate increased program enrollment
8. 1 canoe - flat water - current due for renewal, used for new paddler courses
9. 1 canoe - moving water - current due for renewal, used for new paddler courses

Executive is ranking the nine items and will develop funding options. The November general meeting will be an opportunity to gather member feedback and everyone is welcome to email or talk to the directors with feedback.

Salmon Spawning: Why do otherwise unmolested salmon rocket out of the Gorge water, for no apparent reason, and then crash back beneath the surface? Because they enjoy it! Salmon are now collecting in anticipation of moving up the Colquitz

River to spawn in Oct & Nov and are especially stressed this year because of very low water levels. VCKC volunteered to have our members avoid the Colquitz River during sensitive times of the year so we ask members to limit use during spawning season.

Monthly General Club meetings

The upcoming meeting schedule is:

- November 6, 2012 - Voyageur Canoe Program
- December 4, 2012 - Club Christmas Party
- January 8, 2013 - Annual General Meeting

Upcoming Events of Interest

- Basic Moving Water Canoe course Oct 27/28
- Down-winder small boat race Oct 27/28 by Comox Strathcona Canoe Racing Club
- VCKC Clubhouse Fall Clean up Saturday Nov 3
- Dragon boats move to winter storage Saturday Nov 3 09:30
- Big Canoe course Nov 3 and 4

- Celebration Nov 16 of Jack Louie's retirement from VCKC dragon boat program
- Dragon Boat Coaching Course Nov 18 - foundation for coaching geared to the community dragon boat coach. It is also valuable for paddlers, steers-people and team captains
- Moving Water Canoe course Nov 24/25
- Survey online of members views using Survey Monkey software - a survey to help executive understand member's likes, dislikes and areas for improvement that exist. More info to come.
- Lights on the Gorge Sun Dec 9 from 3-6 on Gorge Walkway at Austin & Gorge Road. Event celebrates the Gorge in winter with lighting centred on a sequoia at Gorge & Austen. VCKC may try to have a sunset paddle with lights on the boats. More info to come.

See you all at the November meeting.

Pam, President, VCKC

Dragon Boat Program

Craigflower Kids Take to the Dragon Boats

Mother Nature blessed the Club and the neophyte paddlers from Craigflower Elementary School with stunning weather for the first phase of the Craigflower Canoe Project, which wound up with a "graduation" ceremony and lots of cake at the Clubhouse on Tuesday, Oct. 16. After taking in a safety lecture from Alan Thomson on Sept. 21, the children and their teachers plunged right into the Gorge at Kosapsum Park to high-five the Project organizer, James Skwarok, and demonstrate their comfort with PFDs and cold water. The following Tuesday tribal elders were on hand to bless the boats and the children as they received their first weekly lessons in dragon boating from an enthusiastic group of volunteers from several VCKC programs (Canoe, Outrigger, Kayak, Voyageur, DB), as well as Vancouver Island Paddling club. There were challenges for both children and coaches, but it's safe to say everybody had fun 100% of the time. We predict some of these students will grow up to be champion paddlers - and the life lessons for all of us, students and teachers alike, will stay with us a long while.

The next phase of the project, getting the kids into voyageur canoes, will go ahead when the organizers secure foul-weather gear for the participants - likely in the early Spring. Stay tuned for more opportunities to work with the school.

Dragon Boat Takeout

It's time for the dragon boats to go into storage for the Winter months. The takeout will coincide with the Club cleanup day, Saturday, November 3rd at 9:30 a.m., because many hands make light work. Dragon boaters (and anyone else with a strong back) are being urged to be on hand for the takeout, then stay and help with the Club cleanup and enjoy the free coffee and tea and snacks.

Dragon Tidbits

What's the best way to stay in shape for dragon boating over the winter? Outrigging! If you're not on a team already, or thinking of forming your own team, you probably can be taken on as a spare by one of the Club's many teams - check the outrigger calendar and get in touch with a team captain if you're interested, or speak to Dave Schweter. Remember, your team must have a trained stern, and all outrigger paddlers are expected to have completed a huli practice.

Jack Louie has announced that he will be stepping down from coaching in 2013, after a long and dedicated career as coach with the Dragon Boat program since 1996 (the same year Harold Nishikawara first jumped into a dragon boat). Jack has coached many successful teams over the years at VCKC, and almost everyone in the program has paddled in one of his boats from time to time, and been infected with his enthusiasm for the sport and

for the vision that drives the Club itself. The Club owes Jack an enormous debt of gratitude; he is truly one of the pillars upon which VCKC has been built. We sincerely hope this will give Jack more leisure to paddle - something he loves to do - and that we'll continue to see him at Club events and on the water.

It's all about the Partying

If members of the Dragon Boat Program have a "party animal" reputation, they sure lived up to it when the Program had its season-ending bash at the Clubhouse on Sept. 21st. We started off rehashing the memories of the 2012 season through Wendy's excellent slide show, then moved on to pizzas and gag gifts for each team's most memorable characters. Finally, representatives of all four teams matched wits in several games of Music Bingo with Don Hall, who can normally be found doing his gig at the Monkey Tree Pub on Saturday nights. A great time was had by all, oldsters and youngsters alike.



Outrigger Program (a picture is worth a thousand words!)



Canoe Program

Reminders

November 19, 7:30PM, at the VCKC clubhouse is the next Canoe & Kayak group meeting. Tony Shaw's slide show on his summer's Hood River trip is the entertainment and not to be missed.

Courses



Big Canoe (Voyageur) Advanced Paddler/Sterners course. Nov 3rd and 4th at the Clubhouse, starting at 1pm on Saturday, after the Clubhouse Clean-Up. Cost \$50 for the two days. Pre-requisites - basic canoe tandem course plus experience in paddling in voyageur canoes. Contact Alan Thomson, 250-592-4170; 3135thom@islandnet.com.

VCKC will be running a Basic Tandem Moving Water course, in combination with a Moving Water Instructor Course this coming weekend, October 27 - 28. Please contact Tom Staebell, thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca or Ellie James EJames@bgcvcic.org for details.

Upcoming Trips and Events

Flatwater Paddle

There will be a Flatwater Paddle on Saturday Nov 17th. The location of the trip will depend on the winds, but may well be a circumnavigation of the north end of the Saanich Peninsula from Pay Bay to Sidney. A reminder e-mail will be sent to all Canoe & Kayak program members ahead of time. All paddlers who have taken and passed the basic kayak and/or canoe course are welcome.

Remembrance Weekend Cowichan River Paddle

This year's Remembrance weekend paddle will take place on Monday 12th November, water levels permitting. There will be at least two voyageur canoes, each of which can take a crew of 6-8

paddlers. Paddlers must wear wet or dry suits, PFDs and helmets. While no river canoe training is required, some experience of paddling in a canoe or a big boat is expected. First come, first served. Tandem and solo canoes are welcome.

Clubhouse at 8am to help load voyageur canoes;

8:30 a.m. at the Millstream Park and Ride for tandem and solo paddlers.

9:15 a.m. at Serious Coffee in Duncan

10:00 a.m. put in at Stoltz

The intention is to run the Stoltz to Duncan section of the river.

Contact Alan Thomson 250-592-4170;

3135thom@islandnet.com if you would like to paddle in a voyageur canoe; contact Tom Staebell thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca if you plan to come solo or tandem.

Crystal Pool Rescue Session

So far, 17 paddlers have signed up for the Crystal Pool rescue session on Sunday, November 4th. The session will run from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Crystal Pool, 2275 Quadra Street. We usually gather at the back entrance to carry in canoes through the back door. The VCKC will provide all necessary boats and gear. Locker rooms are open to change clothes and shower. Required rescue procedures for Basic and Advanced tandem and solo courses will be practiced. All participants will be required to both rescue paddlers and be rescued. Entry for the session is at the back entrance.



Trip reports

On the 23rd of September, the Club trip from Pedder Bay to Esquimalt Lagoon had 12 kayaks and 5 canoes - a record number of boats on a Club trip in my experience, if not number of people. That goes to a

Shawnigan Lake trip with 15 tandem canoes a few years ago - 30 people. The weather was perfect - sunny, little wind - and the currents were minor. Roy Scully was paddling the coast from Port Renfrew to Victoria and stopped in at Pedder Bay to give us an escort - thanks to you Roy, and to Susan, for leading the pack.

We rounded Williams Head, keeping quite close to the shore, but eliciting no warnings from the guards at the penitentiary. Round the corner in Parker Bay, some of the inmates were fishing from the dock. Past Weir Beach - a good launching spot, but with little parking for a large group - and past Devonian Park to reach Witty's Lagoon where we had lunch amid the many families who had come down from the road access. But to offset the crowds, there were picnic tables and outhouses, good trade-offs. The stretch round Albert Head was interesting because of all the little coves and pods of houses. Albert Head Lagoon, then the last few kilometres along the straight coast to Esquimalt Lagoon, where we had left the cars. A successful trip in great conditions, especially for the Strait, which is so often a wind tunnel.

Roy, Susan, Arthur, Pat, John and Jill, Duane and Karen, Peter, Don, Ross, Maris, Cherilynn, Orla, David and Theresa, Ron and Barbara, Wendy and Don. made this a fine start to the season.

On Saturday 20th October there was a Club trip to Sooke Basin. There was some discussion about an alternate site as Sailflow predicted winds over 10 knots, while PredictWind gave a lower figure. Always willing to try something new, we all drove out to Cooper Cove and launched, admiring the whitecaps out on the Basin. Seven kayaks and four tandem canoes went round the Goodridge Peninsula and headed down to the wee marina at Ayum Creek. That was where the first kayak capsized, as we were broadside to the waves. Being close to shore, it wasn't a problem to do a rescue, but we decided to land and see what the group thinking was. Landing tipped another kayak on a rock, and one tandem canoe was taking water over the stern. Score 1 to Sailflow... We agreed to portage over into the lagoon behind the peninsula and spent 45 minutes poking around its shallow waters before paddling out into Cooper's Cove and taking a look at the water.

The white caps had gone, but the clouds were gathering and after discussion, 3 canoes and 2 kayaks decided enough was enough and headed back. The remaining boats paddled over to Anderson Cove for lunch. Sure, it rained hard for part of the way over,

but it had stopped by the time we reached the Goodridge Islands and we had our food in sunshine. The post lunch route followed the coast inside Anderson, with Roy leading everyone between rocks, under gangplanks and generally through every nook and cranny he could get into. Good for practising manoeuvring strokes. Then round by the old oyster lease at Doerr Creek and so into Roche Cove, where there was a police car parked at the side of the bridge. Much speculation as to which of us had done what to deserve this attention, but it left as we came close.

After Roche Cove, we headed directly back to Cooper Cove as it was clouding over again. We got back at 3 o'clock and loaded up before the rain really started. All in all a good day after a false start.

Thanks to Roy, Dorothea, Doug, Dina, Gary, John and Brenda, Pat and Arthur, Sandy and Maris, Duane and Karen for coming out.

Eddy-hopper - Nineteen paddlers came out on October 21 to share the day eddy-hopping. Good weather, an OK river level and fine paddling by all made for a great day. Novice paddlers got to practice eddy turns, stroke combinations and river reading. Their more seasoned paddle partners got to practice instructional techniques (yelling). Sunday's paddle was the first Cowichan river run of the season for the club. A full river flush has not yet occurred so obstacles and channels were pretty much the same as last spring. Along with numerous sightings of salmon swimming and jumping, paddlers also encountered and removed traffic cones and a folding chair from mid-channel gravel bars.

Jean was the only casualty of the day, dropping out at Sandy Pool after re-aggravating an arm injury and reappearing at Vimy Pool just in time for a post paddle beer.



VCKC Executive

Executive

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Note: the Deadline for submission of content for the next newsletter is November 20th 2012.

NOVEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	Nov-01	2	3
Basic Tandem Moving Water Comox Valley Small Boat Classic					8am Camosun College Sports Centre - Canoe/Outrigger/Voyageur	Clubhouse Fall Clean-up 1pm Big Canoe Sterner Course
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Big Canoe Sterner Course					8:30am Camosun College Sports Centre - Canoe/Outrigger/Voyager	
6:30pm Crystal Pool Rescue Session		7:30pm VCKC General Meeting				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Cowichan River Paddle	7pm Executive Meeting			6pm Thankyou Party for Jack	Flatwater canoe kayak paddle
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30a Dragon Boat Community Coaching Course	7:30pm Canoe & Kayak Program Meeting	Newsletter Deadline	6:30pm Gorge Waterway Initiative Meeting			Basic Solo Moving Water
25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec-01
Basic Solo Moving Water						