



VICTORIA CANOE & KAYAK CLUB NEWSLETTER

RCABC (www.bccanoe.com), CRCA (www.crca.ca) and CORA (www.canadianoutrigger.com) member
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NOVEMBER 2005



GENERAL MEETING IN SEARCH OF WILD PLACES

Exploring the BC Coast
Presented by Chris Cooper
TIME: November 1st 7:30 PM

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IN SEARCH OF WILD PLACES:

- Exploring the BC Coast.

Presented by Chris Cooper at the
General Meeting, 7:30 p.m. on
November 1st.

Chris Cooper has run an adventure tripping company with a fleet of large canoes - voyageur size and larger. In 2004 he had a 42' Montreal-style canoe built by Western Canoeing so that he could undertake longer coastal paddling trips more safely. This large canoe has a spraydeck and uses double kayaks as outrigger-style amas, with 4" cross-section aluminum iakos. With this boat, Chris has paddled the west coast of BC from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy, as well as north along the southern part of the Alaska Panhandle. Chris will present pictures of his trips in the summers of 2004 and 2005. Come out and see this presentation of a unique way of seeing the wild coastal places of BC.

Alan Thomson

THE PORTAGE

The group met at Ocean Point Hotel, by the totem pole, and we were on the water by 10 AM. Duncan Pennington had planned this paddle as an opportunity for new paddlers to experience 'the portage'. The group was large - seventeen paddlers - so a few of the more experienced paddlers decided to paddle in "sweep" position, and those with VHF radios promised to keep everyone in touch. The day was bright and lovely, with mild temperatures and light wind. We headed toward the outer harbour avoiding the float planes, and watching the rocks for mergansers and blue herons. Passing Brothers Island, the group scattered for a few moments as our leader, Duncan, forged ahead. At times like this it is nice to have the more experienced paddlers checking up on new members.

As we rounded Dunze Head, a few paddlers remarked that we had never seen this side of Victoria, not having access to CFB Esquimalt lands

See **NAVAL SECURITY** p.5

GENERAL MEETINGS

First Tuesday of each month
(September thru June)

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE:
November 16th, 2005

CLUB NEWS

Another year has almost come to an end and it's amazing how time flies. VCKC paddlers have again made a difference - not only in volunteering their time and talent in coaching and instructing, but in their community participation, fundraising for Camp Shawnigan, cleaning up the Gorge, and being all-around good will ambassadors for the club. You make this club special, and we exist because of you.

Your patience is appreciated, and the new mechanical lock should hopefully eliminate any problems in gaining access. Fraser Tweedy has volunteered to install some vents into the storage under the deck to eliminate the mould issue and that is much appreciated. Saanich Parks has reviewed the plans for our basement and we are keeping our fingers crossed for some financing. We will keep you apprised of the negotiations, and have discovered that the rewiring for electric heat will be the biggest cost. If anyone is an electrician, please step forward as we can use all the help we can get in this area.

It's time to also look at positions for next year's executive, a process known as "succession planning". Do you have skills in taking minutes, tracking memberships, being social coordinator, coordinating the kayakers, etc? If you don't know what's involved, ask, and you can always learn on the job. Our general election is the first Tuesday in January, and we'll have more news on the available positions in the next newsletter. Until then, enjoy this great Indian summer weather for paddling

Judi Murakami, President

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A membership renewal form for 2006 is included in your newsletter. If you require additional copies, or if you obtain the newsletter via the net, the form is also available on the VCKC web site. Please complete the form, including signing the waiver, and return it with your payment by personal cheque or money order only (NO CASH PLEASE) to the clubhouse. Kindly ensure that a fully completed form accompanies your payment. Thanks for your cooperation and Happy Paddling in 2006.

Muriel Johnson, Membership

BOAT STORAGE

Indoor and outdoor boat storage areas, as well as lockers, are full and we have a large wait list but will continue to take names. If you are no longer using your space, please let us know as there are others who would like it. The price of storage will go up for the year 2006 to \$30.00 for outdoor and \$60.00 for indoor.

If you have your boat stored at the clubhouse and don't know the new combination on the outside door, please contact Ken or Marilyn at 479-2759.

We are unable to look after the boat storage next year so if anyone is interested in taking it on, please let us know. We have enjoyed looking after it and meeting lots of members, both new and long-time. It has been very interesting and a good chance to get involved with the club and be involved in some of the decision-making.

Marilyn Tomlinson

SEA KAYAK PROGRAM NEWS

Our next kayak program meeting is on **Wednesday November 16th at 7:00pm.**

Please check the 'Trips and Courses' section of the newsletter for upcoming courses, clinics and new member and intermediate member paddles. Please take the time to read the trip guidelines and also go to the club website and read the 'Members Guide'

Our Video and Book Library is available at Kayak Program meetings. Members can sign out titles for a **one-month period**. Pam Renney is the administrator of the video library. Please help Pam by returning borrowed videos by the meeting following the one that you borrowed them at so that others will get an opportunity to view them. Pam can be contacted at 480-0880.

Remember, when out paddling, always dress appropriately for the sea and weather conditions as well as for your paddling skills. Always paddle with a buddy and file a float plan.

Gary Allen

CANOE PROGRAM NEWS

The next Canoe Program meeting is on **Monday 21st November, 7.30pm** at the Clubhouse. The topics are:

- 1) A presentation on the trip to the Broughton Archipelago this summer and
- 2) A winter project - how to make a spraydeck for your canoe or what to buy. A number of spraydecks made or owned by Club members will be on display and there will be a presentation on how Doreen Shaw made her 5-star deck.

The Club Canoe Instructors have run two Lakewater level 1 courses in September and October and over twenty paddlers successfully passed this beginner course. Thanks to the course instructors, Dan Walker, Tom Staebell, Jean Chandler (both courses), Ellie James and Anne Cotter. Both courses carried out the rescue sessions in the Gorge, something we haven't done for many years, preferring freshwater at Thetis Lake or in a rented pool. Seemed to work OK - tough students on these courses. Congratulations to them all.

FIRST FALL FLATWATER PADDLE

Don Munroe led the trip of 10, including 5 new members/paddlers. Arriving at Esquimalt Lagoon, we scouted the trip over the wee sand bar to Esquimalt Harbour. The carry was long and rocky. Perhaps you are wondering why we did

not just paddle there. Well, October 1st was a windy day out there on the choppy ocean. A group decision was made to paddle the Lagoon. We stopped for lunch at the south end of the lagoon and stepped across the road to sit on the logs and watch the wind-driven waves.



It was interesting to see how tame the swans, ducks and gulls were as we paddled close by on our return trip.



It was even more interesting when we found the exit to the lagoon too shallow to paddle.

We topped off the day (Don and Jean) by surfing the wild choppy waves with Joy and Maureen acting as safety boat and the remaining paddlers (Pauline, André, Jill, John Emerick and J.) observing just how technical the wacky waves were.

Story and photos by Jean Chandler

DRAGON BOAT PROGRAM NEWS

Work continues on the dragonboat during this fall season. We've managed to put a couple of coats of paint on the hull and a couple more coats of liquid plastic on the seats and wood frame of the boat. Fiberglass work on gunwales has also started and will be finished in a couple of weeks. We'll likely be putting a call out to paddlers to come assist in flipping the dragonboat in the coming weeks so watch your email for details.

Our 6/16 dragonboat has served VCKC very well over the past many years, however we think that our boat is nearing the end of her service at the club. We are now considering the purchase or lease of a new dragonboat for future seasons. Our existing 6/16 dragonboat will be ready for the 2006 season, but in the coming months the dragonboat program will be investigating options for a new boat for the start of 2007 season. Any input is greatly appreciated.
Steve Romaine

OUTRIGGER PROGRAM NEWS

We have had couple of sterning clinics and some introduction to outrigger, and huli practices. About a dozen outrigger people participated in another stern clinic October 15 – 16, followed by another rigging clinic. In the end we should have many people qualified to both stern and rig a boat.

Also, I would like the outrigger program to know that I will not be running for program coordinator in 2006, so, I am asking that someone, or group of people, please step up to the plate. The program would benefit by having a team of individuals share the task. I will be happy to help, as will others in the program, but I do not have time to do the work necessary to do this job well.

I am trying to collect various outrigger paraphernalia, including VCR tapes that belong to the outrigger program. Please contact me if you know of their whereabouts.

Mavis

Monthly Outrigger Meetings: 4th Tuesday of every month @ 7:15 p.m.

NON-CLUB ACTIVITIES

" A Sacred Passage" A womans solo sea kayaking journey around Haida Gwaii. A slide presentation by Hayley Shephard.
Nov.9 at 7:30pm Uvic David Strong Building C103 \$10

BUY AND SELL

Ladies wet suit, Medium Size, Gloves and Booties included, Asking \$50, contact Brandy 250-213-1984

Kayak touring paddles, Current Designs, fiberglass, 230 cm. \$80, Mavis 384-4390

Kayak for sale. Current Design Gulfstream, Kevlar, with compass and sprayskirt. Lightweight, stable, good performing kayak in excellent condition. Asking \$2,800. Contact Tony at 479-1308

Regular 30" General Electric Stove in perfect working order available to anyone who could use it . Mavis @ 384-4390 all you have to do is pick it up at my place before the end of the month.

FOR SALE: Ocean River Lotus Design PFD. Size - S/M, Colour - Aqua Blue, Style - Lola, Price - \$75 or best offer, Excellent Condition. Contact - Kim - 818- 0065



SURF FEST 2005



Long Beach Surf Photo by Bob Craig

The 4th Annual Canada West Paddle Surf Fest was held on September 24-25 at Cox Bay near Tofino. It was sponsored by the Vancouver Island Whitewater Paddling Society (<http://www.surfkayak.org/kayakfestival.html>). VCKC members participating were Bob Bilko, Jean Chandler, Craig Gerrard, Ellie James and Sharon Tomlinson.

The Surf Fest has a number of skill categories (from pros to beginners and juniors) for surfers competing in kayaks and C-1s. (C-1s are closed canoes that look like kayaks but have pedestal seats for kneeling and single blade paddles. They are the most difficult white water craft to paddle. Both Bob and Sharon demonstrated great skill in C-1s. Two tandem river canoes also entered the C-1 category and demonstrated bailing speed and self rescues.



Cox Bay Photo by Bob Craig



Cox Bay Photo by Bob Craig



Cox Bay Photo by Bob Craig



Cox Bay Photo by Bob Craig

Saturday was sunny and warm, with no fog or cloud and gentle warm breezes. All surfing events occurred on Saturday followed by dinner, prizes, slides by Wayne Barson and dancing. Watch Wayne's website for this year's Paddle Surf Fest event outcomes. (<http://www.waynebarson.com/evntmain.html>) Prizes for everyone included paddling jackets, helmets, throw ropes and a wide variety of smaller paddling accessories from the many sponsors.

This surf festival usually falls on the same weekend as the province-wide Rivers Day river clean-up. (http://www.orcbc.ca/pro_bcriversday.htm#top) Experienced paddlers always feel the conflict. This year, the VCKC trip leader for the Cowichan River clean up, decided to defer the clean up for VCKC to avoid this conflict. We are hoping that by discussing the date with the two organizers we can avoid this conflict in future.

Ellie, Bob, Sharon and Jean ranked in the top three of their categories and won rusty orange tee shirts with WINNER stenciled across the front in red ink. All competitors chose from prizes remaining when their name was drawn, and notably, the first competitor to have his name drawn was the 14 year old star, Reg from Victoria, a good friend of Sharon and Bob.

Jean Chandler

Editor's note. Ellie, Bob, Sharon and Jean were cheered on by a small contingent of VCKC members: displaying their best side, from left to right, Karen Hoffman, Ken Dwernychuk and Alfons Laicher, member Bob Craig was behind the camera.

NAVAL SECURITY from page 1.

We checked in with security entering Esquimalt harbour, and they were interested in the fact that we would not be coming back their way.

We passed an old pile-driving rig near Thetis Cove with a huge nest perched on top, but didn't see the inhabitants, possibly herons. Arriving at Thetis Cove for lunch, we lounged on the grass in the sun, and planned our portage. Most took their kayaks across highway 1A using the railroad bridge, though a few of us opted to take the direct, easy route down to the highway and straight across. Only one kayaker came without "wheels", and was helped by another to carry his kayak. We re-entered the water at Portage Inlet, in the shallow, boot-sucking mud. Fortunately the water was low enough to let us get our kayaks onto the narrow beach, and launch a few at a time, and Duncan's plan let us avoid crossing a sea of mud.

As we came around Christie Point, a couple of us decided to try out our new forward strokes skills we had practiced with a little mini race -- my gosh, Duncan, you're fast!! Then we took a little side trip up Colquitz Creek, a little hidden "jungle" in the middle of the city. We were suitably impressed by the drooping vegetation, and weed that grabbed at us. But we were a little behind schedule by now. Far enough behind to have missed the planned 1.5 knot flood at Tillicum Bridge. We were faced with an estimated 3 or 3.5 knot current. It was a little daunting to the new members (and some of them were still talking about it on the October new member's paddle). While some paddlers stayed behind to coach others through, an example was set by the more experienced, and with cheering from the rest, "Go, go, go, you can do it" ... everyone made it through.

We completed the rest of the day, total distance about 10 nm, at a leisurely pace, and returned to the totem pole tired and happy paddlers.

Dorothea Hoffman

VCKC EXECUTIVE

President

Judi Murakami 360 - 2776

Vice President

Mile Petrovic 893 - 1904

Treasurer

John Levey 479 - 5647

Secretary

Vacant

Past President

Paul de la Bastide 598 - 9611

PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

Canoe Program

Linda Thomson..... 592-4170

Dragon Boat Program

Steve Romaine 475 - 6964

Outrigger Program

Mavis Pillar 384 - 4390

Sea Kayak Program

Gary Allen 478 - 8004

Voyageur Program

Don Munroe 385 - 2268

Marathon Canoe Program

Ron Williams 380 - 7496

Education, Standards and Safety

Doug Linton 727 - 0216

Membership

Muriel Johnson paddlingfool@shaw.ca

391 - 0560

Clubhouse and Grounds

Vacant

Social Coordinator

Francoise Brunet 388 - 7512

Boat Storage

Ken & Marilyn Tomlinson 479 - 2759

Newsletter

Ken Dwernychuk 385 - 4300

kenandcarol@telus.net

Directors-at-Large

Peter Kabel 479 - 3934

Lloyd Skaalen 388 - 7512

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Sea Kayak Instruction

Doug Alderson 656 - 0530

VCKC Clubhouse Bookings For Classroom And Grounds

November 2005							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		7:30 p.m. 1 General Meeting Judi 360-2776	2	3	4	5	
6	7	7:30 p.m. 8 VCKC Executive Meeting Judi 360 - 2776	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	7:00 p.m. 16 Kayak Program Meeting Gary 478-8004	17	18	19	
20	7:30 p.m. 21 Canoe Program Meeting Linda 592-4170	7:15 p.m. 22 Outrigger Program Meeting Mavis 384-4390	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				