



VICTORIA CANOE & KAYAK CLUB NEWSLETTER

RCABC (www.bccanoe.com), CRCA (www.crca.ca) and CORA (www.canadianoutrigger.com) member
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JANUARY 2006



24th YEAR !

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GENERAL MEETINGS

First Tuesday of each month
(September thru June)

**FEBRUARY 2006
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**
January 16th, 2006

GENERAL MEETING ELECTIONS OF THE VCKC EXECUTIVE FOR 2006 TIME: January 3rd 7:30 PM

V.C.K.C. PADDLE FOR THE KIDS LIVES ON

This Special Voyageur Canoe Event is our Clubs Big Fundraiser on behalf of the Lions Club Society, to raise money and assist in the funding of programs for Kids with Disabilities. Its special focus is to support Camp Shawnigan, where the children can safely experience the fun of camping and water sports.

In the last 23 years, the membership of VCKC has raised over \$150,000.00 which has contributed hugely to VCKC's very high standing in our community. This year's paddle to Port Angeles, and back, will be on **Sat. April 1st** (weather permitting) beginning from our clubhouse at 6:30 AM and finishing around 5 PM in Victoria's Inner Harbour. It's a fun day and you do not have to paddle the whole day, as we paddle in shifts, approximately 1½ hours. A Navel Escort carries the spare crews in the relative comfort of an 85 ft training ship and the crew changes are made by an 18 person Zodiac, provided by the Victoria Marine Rescue Society.

Refreshments are provided by the Port Angeles Lions Society and a Potluck Feast will be waiting at the Clubhouse upon return. This is a wonderful cause and the club needs your support. Encourage family and friends to make a pledge on the behalf of VCKC and the BC Lions Society for Kids with Disabilities. Donations over \$10.00 are tax deductible.

Training begins **Sunday**, Jan 29th with a "Welcome and Briefing" followed by a "Getting to Know You" paddle to and around the outer harbour to get rid of some toxins before stopping at Spinnakers for lunch and refreshments.

The balance of the **Sunday** training sessions are:

Feb 05th Pat Bay to Sidney with a stop at the Stonehouse Pub for lunch
Feb 12th Sooke Basin, Bring lunch
Feb 19th Island View Beach to Oak Bay. Bring a lunch
Feb 26th Maple Bay to Cowichan Bay via Cowichan River. Bring lunch

See **KIDS LIVE** p. 5

CLUB NEWS

Christmas Celebrations, 2005. Another great event at VCKC.



Photo by Lloyd Skaalen

What a wonderful Christmas party! Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped decorate and provide raffle prizes, to Peter who brought his guitar and voice to lead us in carols, to Santa Doug and his Christmas elf Mavis, and to everyone who came and enjoyed the evening.



Photo by Lloyd Skaalen

The tiny bit of business was the membership supporting the raise in rates. We look forward to a wonderful new year filled with safe, fun paddling, prosperity and joy.

Merry Christmas everyone! See you in the New Year. Elections will be at the General Meeting, January 3rd.

Best wishes Judi Murakami

NEW YEAR'S DAY PADDLE

All Club members are invited to take part in the Club's traditional New Year's Day Paddle. It starts at the Clubhouse at 10am on January 1st 2006 and we paddle up or down the Gorge for a couple of hours, returning for a potluck lunch. All are welcome – canoes, kayaks, outriggers, marathon paddlers and dragon boaters. Take your own boat, or come in a voyageur canoe. Contact Don Munroe at 385-2268 or

Alan/Linda Thomson at 592-4170.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal forms for 2006 are 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.

Note: The membership renewal form, included with the November newsletter, was recently updated. If possible, please use the on-line version that can be found at: http://www.vckc.ca/members/VCKC_Member_Form_Final_rev.pdf

Hard copies are available at the clubhouse.

Reminder: If you haven't renewed for 2006, January's newsletter edition could be your last.

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.

Marilyn Tomlinson

WEBSITE NEWS

Electronic version of the newsletter. Get your newsletter before everyone else! The monthly newsletter is posted to the website (www.vckc.ca) a few days before the printed version is mailed out. If you would like to take advantage of this and save the club both printing and mailing costs, then please contact the newsletter editor. Online subscribers receive email notification that the newsletter has been posted.

Online Calendar. Clubhouse bookings (meetings, seminars, etc) and other events of interest to members (activities, races, social, etc) are now posted to our online calendar. Upcoming events are listed on the main page of our website (www.vckc.ca) If you would like to book the clubhouse for a club event or wish to let other members know of an upcoming event of interest then please submit these details to the clubhouse booking coordinator including your name, the event, date and time, and contact details (phone number, email, web site, etc).

Online Photos. Got some interesting photos you would like to share? The website has the space. We now have a photo album on the website and are looking for some good photos and links of club members in action. Please submit photos to Mike at foxes@shaw.ca, and make sure you follow the guidelines published on the photos page of the website. There are currently a number of pictures and links on the page for the Voyageur Program and the Wake Up the Gorge Event.

Please spend a few moments and check out the website. If you have suggestions for improvement, or would like to see additional features, please contact Mike at foxes@shaw.ca.

Bruce Irving/Michael Fox

THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE SNOW!!

WHERE: Mt. Washington

WHEN: Jan. 12, 13 & 14.

Two condos; each with a sauna and one condo with a hot tub (party condo). COST: 3 nights for \$55 p/p, which also includes the snow cat up to the condos. The first 16 people to submit their money get to enjoy the weekend plus. To confirm, phone Don Munroe @ 385-2268

SEA KAYAK PROGRAM NEWS

I hope everyone had joyous holiday season. Now it's time to get back out on the water to work off all the goodies we consumed during this festive time.

The next kayak program meeting will be on **Wednesday January 18 at 7:00pm**. Our guest speaker will be Michael Pardy. Michael will speak to us on his trip to Greenland in 2004.

Be sure not to miss out on the up coming navigation series. The first one begins on Thursday Jan.26 starting at 7:00pm at the clubhouse. The topic will be 'Aids to Navigation' and 'The Collision Regulations' or Rules of the Road. Understand the meaning of the various buoys and beacons and how to avoid larger craft while on the water.

The monthly new member and intermediate paddles had been a great success this past year. If we hope to continue these paddles we need volunteers. It is not fair to expect a few dedicated members to lead all these trips. They(we) are feeling the need to lessen our load a little. It's time for others to chip in and lend a hand(paddle). To paraphrase John Kennedy.... "ask not what your club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club". I know Glynis has sent out emails asking for volunteers.... she has received few responses so far. Please reply to her next call for trip leaders/organizers. Thank you to those who have already offered to lead a paddle.

Remember, when out paddling, to 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.

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.

Submitted by Gary Allen

Christmas Paddle - December 3, 2005

Roughly 20 people turned up at Constance Cove in Esquimalt to venture out through Esquimalt Harbour and on to Mill Creek for our annual Christmas paddle. Enroute the group was given a short history of the buildings on Cole Island by Doug Linton, who is very knowledgeable on local lore, and then a first hand account of the upgrade of Parsons Bridge by the engineer responsible, Duncan Pennington. Once we arrived at Mill Creek we discovered the falls were not as spectacular as last year and returned to Six Mile Pub, where we exited and tied off our boats in record time thanks to planning by Gary and Glynis. After lunch and a drink, we meandered back to Constance Cove, reluctant to call it a day as we were blessed with warm sunshine for most of the day. Thanks to everyone for partaking in the 3rd year of this paddle - another 'VCKC tradition' in the making!

Susan Duhamel

CANOE PROGRAM NEWS

The next Canoe Program meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on **Monday, January 16th @ 7.30pm**. The program will consist of three items.

- 1) Meeting of Instructors to set up program of courses for Winter/Spring 2006 (all canoeists can attend this part and suggest courses that should be held.)
- 2) A video of a canoe instructional film from Ontario in 1934 – entertaining
- 3) A DVD show of the Mountain river trip undertaken in 2004 by Jean Chandler and Jeff de Vries from the Club plus 2 other boats.

If anyone wants to be Canoe Program Director for 2006, now is your chance – otherwise I will be carrying on in the position – you have been warned !

Submitted by Linda Thomson

ROUND SOMENOS LAKE AND UP RICHARD'S CREEK

Having accustomed the Flatwater Paddlers to rain on the previous trip to Sooke Basin, the paddle on November 5th kept up the pattern of poor weather by not stopping raining at all for the 4 hours we were out. It was, however, a lighter rain than the Sooke variety, not requiring bailing out with a sponge every 10 – 15 minutes: more like every half hour. The views were not spectacular – cloud over Mt Prevost and Mt Richards – but it is a pleasant rural setting, with few houses and traffic noise only on the west side.

There were seven boats for this trip, 6 tandems and a river solo boat – Jean's excuse being that, single-handed, she couldn't load her small tandem onto her camper van. Oh, the trials. Her boat was harder to keep on the strait and narrow on the open lake, but when bushwhacking through the marshy bushes that surround it, it could get through smaller openings and turn where the 17' tandems could not. There were some waterfowl in the marshes, plenty herons, Canada Geese and a few swans, but many had obviously left for the south – wise birds. In the spring, the area is a mass of nesting ducks and geese, and from the number of small nests up in the bushes, many small birds like the security of water round their home.

After a trip south to the exit of Somenos Creek, we headed back up the east side of the lake to enter Richards Creek. We had nosed up the Creek on a previous expedition, but turned back after a few hundred metres. This time, we wanted to see how far up it could be paddled. The line of the creek is obviously artificial, running straight as a die for 2kms north-east from the Lake. There are a couple tight spots – possibly beaver or muskrat dams ? – but the paddling is easy, with no noticeable current.

At 1½ miles, the creek passes under Herd Road, and we chose to stop there for lunch, it being the driest 30 feet of the entire trip. After eating and viewing the not-so-scenic underside of the bridge (spray can artists are obviously rare in this area, although the garbage distributors are more common) we headed on. By this time, the creek was getting algae-covered, but could still be paddled easily enough. Shortly after the bridge, it seemed better to paddle in the fields than in the creek, which was overhung with vegetation. So we worked our way through the fields to where the creek bent to the north, under power lines. Jack and Alan attempted to get into the next field, but it required either a wet portage or 3-4" higher water, so we retreated. If we could have crossed another two fields worth seems possible, perhaps letting us reach where the creek splits into two arms at right angles to the main stream, in a 'T' shape. Next time.

Back to the cars by 2pm – a short but pleasant trip, with some new territory explored. A longer day could be made by paddling down Somenos Creek to the Cowichan and back up as an add-on. On the day, the bridge carrying Trunk Road/Tzouhalem Road might have needed portaging – the cross members are quite close to the water at any time the creek can be paddled.

The 13 paddlers were Ken and Marilyn Tomlinson, Cathy and Doug Hull (welcome back to the trips), John and Brenda Forish, Jack Louie and Maris Ratel, Linda and Alan Thomson, Emmerich and Emmerson Sperrer, and Jean Chandler.

Submitted by Alan Thomson

DRAGON BOAT PROGRAM NEWS

Ageless Warriors Dragon Boat Team Meeting

First meeting of the season
for returning members of the team
and any new members
(50 years and over) wishing to join.

January 9, 2006
at the VCKC clubhouse
at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda includes festivals for 2006,
practice times, goals, budgets, etc.

OUTRIGGER PROGRAM NEWS

Monthly Outrigger Meetings: 4th Tuesday of every month.

The next meeting will be **Jan.24 at 7:30.**

Wake Up the Gorge 2006 is scheduled for April 22/23. A WUTG planning committee will be arranged at the January meeting.

The rubber protector covers are in place on the OC 6 boats. Hopefully spray skirt replacement and repairs will be completed before the boat goes to Cadboro Bay next summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with general boat maintenance, specifically the work on the OC6 and for all of the time and effort that went into Wake Up The Gorge. Do keep up with boat and dolly washing, and if anyone knows why the dolly tires are flat so often do let me know what we can do about it. In order to air out the boats, please remove boat covers from time to time, particularly on nice sunny days. And please remember to bail the boats after use in order to prevent excessive moisture build up.

Thanks for a great year. Mavis Pillar outgoing Outrigger director.

OUTRIGGERS WANTED

Need men 40yrs + to paddle Tuesdays and Thursdays 1730-1900, plus the odd race. Come out and get sweaty. Call Doug Linton 727-0216.

Advanced tickets \$5.00 available at Pacifica Paddle Sports, 575 Pembroke Street (Government and Pembroke). Ph # 361-9365. Tickets at the door, \$8.00. For additional info call 656-9672.

NON-CLUB ACTIVITIES

Nahanni Forever - Saving Canada's Boreal Forest one precious place at a time....

Nahanni Forever is a national tour to promote protection of the spectacular Nahanni wilderness in Canada's Northwest Territories. Expect an evening of spectacular images and fascinating scientific and cultural insights into the magic of the Nahanni. Speakers include Grand Chief Herb Norwegian, Dehcho First Nations, Dr. Derek Ford, world expert on limestone caves, Dr. John Weaver, wildlife biologist studying grizzlies in the Nahanni, and Harvey Locke, CPAWS conservation advisor. Learn about work to protect big wilderness.

Tuesday, January 17th, 2006, Victoria – UVic Fraser Building, Room 159, 7:30 to 9:30

Tickets: UVic Bookstore; WCWC, 651 Johnson Street; Ocean River Sports, 1824 Store Street; Robinson's Outdoor Store, 1307 Broad Street; CPAWS-BC: 1-604-685-7445

Ticket price: \$10 adults, \$5 for students & seniors

Speakers Include: Dr. Derek Ford, Dr. John Weaver, Johnny Mikes & Harvey Locke

Event Sponsor: UVic Department of Geography

For more information: www.cpaws.org; call 1-604-886-4754; or email: socceret@telus.net

Slide show on Baja: **Sea Kayaking through Baja**

When: 7pm Wednesday, Jan 4, 2006

Where: Ocean River Sports
1824 Store St
Victoria
250-381-4233

EXPEDITION ICELAND

Feb 1st 2006 7:00 pm At the University of Victoria's Student Union Building.

Slide presentation of the 2003 circumnavigation of Iceland, by kayak, with Shawna Franklin and Leon Somme of Body Boat Blade International. As seen on the action sea kayak DVD "This is the Sea". Featured in the Summer 2004 Issue of Adventure Kayak Magazine.

Presented by the UVic Kayak Club in association with Pacifica Paddle Sports

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

Seal Line 20 L clear dry bag. Asking \$10 595-6056

Serratus FlackJack PFD
Size: small, Colour: navy blue. Asking \$45.00 o.b.o.
Please contact Lynn or Alex at 382-7781.

Calmar storage cover for sale (not a spray deck) - brand new, still in the box, It's made by Northwater, is royal blue, and made out of Marine Material. We paid \$430US.
email Kristen at kschriver@comcast.net

KIDS LIVE from page 1.

Mar 05th Portland Is. to Rum Isd and back to Sidney. Bring lunch

Mar 12th Thetis and Kuper Is. from Chemainus with lunch and refreshments stop at Pub

Mar 19th Sidney, James Island, Bring lunch

Mar 26th VCKC to Oak Bay, Bring lunch

April 01st Saturday Port Angeles and back. **Meet at VCKC at 6 AM.** Bring snacks and refreshments for the round trip.

You don't have to make every practice but you should try to make at least two, depending on ones experience and physical condition.

For further info. Contact Don Munroe at 385-2268 or Alan Thomson at 592-4170.

LET'S MAKE THIS YEAR'S PADDLE SPECIAL!

SUNDAY ROUTINE:

Meet at the clubhouse at **9 AM** for each training practice and **DON'T FORGET TO BRING** a Paddle, Lifejacket, Rubber boots, Rain Gear, Water, Snacks and a Change of Clothes in a Watertight Container (Dry bag)

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

VCKC Clubhouse Bookings For Classroom And Grounds

January		2006				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	7:30 p.m. 3 General Meeting Judi 360-2776	4	5	6	7
8	7:00 p.m. 9 Ageless Warriors Dragon Boat Meeting	7:30 p.m. 10 VCKC Executive Meeting Judi 360 - 2776	11	12	13	14
15	7:30 p.m. 16 Canoe Program Meeting Linda 592-4170	17	7:00 p.m. 18 Kayak Program Meeting Gary 478-8004	19	20	21
22	23	7:30 p.m. 24 Outrigger Program Meeting	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				