



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

May 2014

*Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club 355 Gorge Road West Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9
Phone: 250-590-8193 (Info only) Website: www.vckc.ca*

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club General Meeting Tuesday May 6th, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.



Photo by Wendy Clapp

VCKC volunteers launching one of the club's dragon boats for a new season of training and racing.

For this issue of the newsletter notices have been moved to the Raggle Taggle Section on Page 7.

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Volunteering Opportunities

- May 17th and 18th Switchblade Race: contact Darrelle Butler marathon@vckc.ca
- June 14th Big Brother and Big Sisters BBQ
Voyageur rides: contact Joe Boyd at voyageur@vckc.ca
- June 15th Subaru Triathlon: volunteers contact Rachel Macatee r.macatee@triserie.ca or 250-220-2259.
- July 1st Canada Day Big boat rides for the public: contact Joe Boyd at voyageur@vckc.ca or Erin Sexton at dragonboat@vckc.ca
- July 13th MEC Paddlefest: Contact Dan Walker at canoe@vckc.ca

VCKC Overflow Parking

- The Imperial Hallmark Cleaners (2922 Tillicum Rd) changed ownership in November. The new owner was not informed of the parking agreement with VCKC and was subsequently surprised by cars parking for Wake up the Gorge while he was weed-whacking his lot. Quick response by VCKC volunteers led to a brief and pleasant negotiation. VCKC is again grateful that we are able to park on the Drycleaners lot. Peter, the new owner of the business, rents the building and the parking lot from Fairways across the road. Fairways staff also uses this lot for overflow parking. Peter would like to improve the business at this location.
- Please park by:
 - First filling up the space behind the building,
 - Then by the trees on the west side of the lot. Preferably all VCKC vehicles will be parked south of the front side of the building.
 - Overflow VCKC vehicles may continue along the west side by the trees.
 - Under no circumstance use any parking spaces in front of the building when there may be customers stopping by.

Community Information

- Transport Canada Guidelines have changed. A meeting of trip leaders, sterns, coaches and instructors will be called to review the impact that these changes will have on VCKC procedures and its members.
Here is the link to the new regulations that concern Club trips.
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/media/documents/marinesafety/TP15204E.PDF>
RCABC has reviewed the new guidelines. You can find their comments to their instructors at
<http://www.bccanoe.com/news/33-instructor-news/195-transport-canada-guided-excursion-guidelines>
- If you are interested in the progress of the work on the Johnson Street Bridge visit www.johnsonstreetbridge.com.
- An outdoor website that will include club announcements is www.trailwag.ca. We can consider using it to reach a wider audience.

Club Activities

- Wake Up the Gorge was another successful VCKC event this year. All those attending had fun in the sun.
- The new coach boat arrived in time for Wake Up the Gorge.
- Renewal of locker and boat storage will be due on, or before December 31st each year. A reminder will be sent to all members currently using VCKC storage in September.
- The history committee, headed by Alan Thomson, has outlined to the executive its plan of developing a history of the club. The committee has been given permission to proceed, with much appreciation.
- Garbage collection has changed. Garbage must be sorted from compostable materials at VCKC and put in appropriate bins or VCKC will pay penalties.

CANOE PROGRAM

Flatwater Paddles, Trip Reports and Marine Trails Information

Flatwater paddles. May is a busy paddling month for the Thomsons - there are Club trips planned for the first three weekends. I will try to run a trip on Sunday, May 25th. If anyone else wants to lead a trip earlier in the month - go ahead.

Frost Free weekend camping trip May 10th/11th. See last month's newsletter for details. The trip will be from Cowichan Bay/Cherry point over to Musgrave Point to a Forest Recreation site. We will spend some time improving the site in preparation for an event to be held there in June. The paddling distance is quite short - 2 nautical miles (4 kms) or so - but there is scope to paddle up to Burgoyne Bay or round Musgrave Landing for those who prefer to paddle rather than to roll logs off the beach or improve the trail up to the campsite.

This is an overnight camping trip, so you will need a tent, camping equipment, food and water, etc. There will be a barbeque on the Saturday night, so bring along food that can be cooked on the grill. We will also provide dessert that night.

As this is the Mother's Day weekend, we will aim to be back at the put-in in the early afternoon on Sunday so you can be home in time to celebrate if necessary.

We will probably take either the Club freighter or a voyageur canoe, so even if you are not comfortable paddling your own boat over, you could still get there in a large boat.

Any questions, call or e-mail Alan Thomson 250-592-4170.

Advance Notice - BC Marine Trails Network. A sign-raising ceremony is being planned for Saturday, June 21st at Musgrave Point campsite. The plan is to have a flotilla of canoes and kayaks paddling over for the sign raising about noon on the day. There will be a VCKC group paddling over and we will be taking a voyageur canoe across so that dignitaries can be paddled to the site from Musgrave Landing. Details to

follow in the June newsletter but mark the date in your calendar; it will be a great way to celebrate the summer solstice.

Alan Thomson

Trip Report - Somenos Lake and Richards Creek

This trip was held on March 29th, unusually late for this particular route. This route is only possible when water levels are high - i.e. after winter rains - and they came late in 2014. We put in at the ramp at the end of Drinkwater Road and paddled up to Richards Creek in warm sunshine. The pussy willows/catkins were open on some shrubs adding welcome colour and signs of spring. We could paddle up the creek and under Herd Road and so onto the fields beyond. The water wasn't as high as it sometimes is - deep paddle strokes often weren't possible. As it was late March, there were relatively few waterfowl and no swans except on the lake itself but the trip up was still worthwhile. Then back to the lake and lunch in some woods on the east side before heading down to Somenos Creek. The weather turned darker and there was the odd squall of wind, but nothing too unpleasant. We got down the creek to Trunk Road where the water level was too high to let us get under the bridge. Andre and Bob found a way around the bridge, but it wasn't simple, requiring some contortions, so we turned back and headed for the ramp. No beavers were seen, nor any cut wood - the dens on Richards and Somenos Creeks were either gone or deserted - a pity, the beavers always add to a trip's interest. On the other hand, a good supply of bottles and cans was collected, recycled, and the funds went to Camp Shawnigan.

Thanks to John and Jill, Julie, Bob and Andre, Sandy and Carolyn, Ron and Barbara for taking part.

CANOE PROGRAM

The RCABC Conference Report

The Recreational Canoeing Association's annual conference was held on the weekend of April 5th/6th in Camp Kawkawa, near Hope. Myself, Linda, Jean Chandler, Dan Walker and Edmond Duggan, represented the Club. Other regular attendees like Ellie James were taking part in the Paddle For The Kids so couldn't attend.

The conference is intended for all paddling skill levels, with a focus on lake water. There were basic and advanced stroke clinics, poling sessions, early morning and night paddles round the lake, and hikes on the local bluffs. There were also indoor sessions on topics such as paddling photography, Bowron Lake history, Paddling Together journeys down the coast from Prince Rupert to Vancouver, sessions on how to mend rattan/cane canoe seats, and workshops on Paddle Smart, a new program designed to educate the public about how to paddle safely (funded through Search and Rescue, which wants fewer accidents and call-outs!

The Paddle Conference is suitable for all levels of paddlers - there were some new-to-the-sport people, some old hands, and there were families with young children as well as grandparents. The food gets better every year; the price - \$134 for the weekend, including a cabin, food and all sessions - is unbeatable. And you get to meet paddlers from around the province. You can also learn to Irish step dance and to square dance in the evenings. Next year's conference will be on April 18th/19th 2015 in the same place - make a note in your diary/PDA now.

Alan Thomson.



Photo by Alan Thomson

Follow The Leader on Richards Creek

CANOE PROGRAM

'Paddle Loco' and Surfing

Another busy several weeks for the Canoe Program. March 29th was downright frenetic with Alan Thomson leading a flat water trip, Tim Marks instructing ten basic solo course paddlers, and our Camosun Associate member running a weekend ocean trip. The Club was out of canoes and down to its last few paddles and pfds. In all, the Club supported paddling for about 30 canoeists on that one day. Rescue sessions were held for the LWII students at both the Esquimalt and Crystal pools. Thanks to Tim and Kym Thrift for all the work on the Crystal Pool session and congratulations to all the students for successfully completing the course.

Upcoming courses

The Canoe program will be publishing a late Spring/Summer canoe course schedule within a couple of weeks. This schedule will be emailed to the membership. The upcoming Lakewater III (advanced tandem) course has been moved to April 27th. Other upcoming courses can be seen on the webpage and in the newsletter. If you've completed the Lakewater I and II course, you'll find the LWIII course a fun challenge.

May VCKC General Meeting

The Canoe Program was 'volunteered' to do a presentation at the upcoming May 6th General Meeting. After about 30 seconds of consideration, it was decided to do a slide show on local ocean, lake, and river paddles. Working Title: 'Paddle Loco'. We hope everyone can join us for photos and descriptions of more than a few of the wonderful paddling adventures at our fingertips as residents of Vancouver Island.

May Canoe Program Meeting - because the Canoe Program is presenting at the May General Meeting, there will be no May

Canoe and Kayak Programs meeting.

Moving Water course

On the deep green water of the Cowichan River and under brilliant, clear skies, seven people participated in the Tandem Level 1 moving water course April 12th to 13th.

Saturday's activities centered on the upper Cowichan, from the weir to Little Beach; Sunday's run was from Stoltz Pool to Vimy. On Sunday two solo paddlers and some friends joined us. The water volume was 70 cm/s and the Vimy hole was in good form. Everyone surfed it several times with excellent results.

Mark Sondheim, Jon Weller, Andrew Robertson, and Pierre-Luc Chenier completed both days, and three other participants were able to complete one day and will finish the course another time. Contributed by Doug Magnuson

Dan Walker

VCKC Canoe Program Director



Photo by Doug Magnuson

2014 Moving Water Students

VOYAGEUR PROGRAM

Voyageur Opportunities and the 2014 Paddle For The Kids

We have some Voyageur opportunities over the next few months. These events are not nearly as demanding as Paddle for the Kids, but are an opportunity to get out and have fun connecting with our community. These are annual events and we are always able to rely on strong participation. All club members are welcome.

The events are:

April 26th

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shoreline Cleanup

Paddle the Voyageur along the Gorge to Portage Inlet to collect all sorts of trash. How much abandoned furniture can you hold in a Voyageur? Be prepared to get muddy. 6 to 15 paddlers needed.

May 25th

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Power To Play

Support Power To Be by running the Voyageur leg of a 4-hour endurance race at Elk/Beaver Lake. 6 sterns 6 paddlers needed.

June 14th

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual BBQ

Paddle the Voyageur and our portable dock across to Gorge Park and give rides to young kids and families. 4 sterns 6 paddlers needed.

July 1st

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (shift work available)

Saanich Canada Day Picnic

Celebrate Canadian heritage by providing the public with Voyageur rides.

6 sterns 10 paddlers needed.

Please let me know if you are able and interested in signing up. Ask any questions you have. You can even ask those who have come out to these events in the past.

Joe Boyd

On Saturday April 5th we completed the 33rd Annual Paddle for the Kids in support of Camp Shawnigan. For the fifth year we took the Peninsula route from Brentwood Bay to the clubhouse. And the weather was just adequate for the task - we were thankful for that. We completed the journey in 6 legs this year, not 4. That allowed for more break time, and shorter shifts in the boat. The day was complete with a great party and slideshow at the clubhouse afterwards. A great turnout, and a great PFTK Team!

Paddle for the Kids is our annual fundraiser for BC Lions Society - Camp Shawnigan. Our efforts raise funds to provide a summer camp experience for children with disabilities.

PFTK 2014 Season by the numbers:

- 48 paddlers

- 230 linear kilometres

- 950 canoe kilometres

- 5,867 paddler kilometres

- \$18,309 raised for Camp Shawnigan! (And still counting.)

Congratulations to Jana Piercy, Mavis Pillar, and Irena Jazwinski - our top 3 fundraisers.

Special Thanks to:

Ocean River Sports - for providing the "New Paddle Award" this year - and every year.

Spinnakers Brew Pub - another reliable 'Every Year' sponsor.

Central Saanich Lions Club (Ron Basi - for providing having such an awesome bus; Terry Bain for making it look so easy)

Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Society (Kim Bentzon; Brentwood Bay, Sidney, and Oak Bay detachments) - they had us covered all day.



Paddle Around
The Peninsula
PFTK 2014

THE RAGGLE TAGGLE SECTION

Wake Up The Gorge and the Switch Blade Relay

Wake Up the Gorge Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success again this year. You may have heard that registration for this event was scarce a week before the race but due to waiving the late fee and the support of local paddling clubs we had 21 teams turn out for the OC6 Sprints on Saturday.

Most heats showcased teams with similar strength and conditioning which made for some exciting finishes. The most noted was the second heat of the Men's race, which pitted the Marathon Team from VCKC against Geronimo from Tsartlip - both strong teams that finished only seconds apart in the first heat. About 10 feet from the finish there was an unexpected splash when Geronimo hulled while accelerating to cross the line.

Sunday's small boat race had 21 competitors racing in OC1, OC2, surfski and double surfski categories. It was an unusual start south of the Tillicum Bridge due to a strong current. Racers tried to hold the start line while being turned about in the eddy like it was a toilet bowl. The racers completed a course that headed south down the Gorge Waterway, out into the Inner Harbor, and past the Harbor Mouth to make a left turn around V21 and then taking the same route back to finish south of the Tillicum Bridge.

All of the racers enjoyed the event and gathered afterwards at the clubhouse for conversation and award presentations. Thank you everyone who helped with the planning of this event, as well as those who volunteered their time on the day.

Ryan Ovens Outrigger Director



WUTG 2014 - VCKC Crew (Photo by Wendy Clapp)

The Annual Switchblade Paddlesport Relay Race - which is hosted by VCKC - takes place this month on Sunday, May 18th. Get your teams together for this exciting race! Or participate in the event by volunteering your time.

Please contact Bon Lee at: bonklee@telus.net if you would like to volunteer.



Thank you for your support!

New this May!

Fun Timed Paddles for all paddlers

Meet club members and show your talent on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

At 6 p.m. be on the water for a Fun Timed Paddle starting at the VCKC dock. Choose the short course (approx. 3 km) or the long course (approx. 7 km). Afterwards join the group for a BBQ at the Clubhouse!

All paddle sports are encouraged to participate and teams or individuals are welcome. Contact Darelle at the Marathon Program for more information.

We hope to see a variety of boats on the water!

VCKC Executive

Executive

President	president@vckc.ca
Jean Chandler	250-727-6923
Vice-president	vpresident@vckc.ca
Jennifer Yee	250-727-2049
Treasurer	treasurer@vckc.ca
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Darrelle Butler	
Voyageur Program	voyageur@vckc.ca
Joe Boyd	250-386-6004

Other Executive

Education, Standards & Safety	safety@vckc.ca
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Sandy Rattray	250-386-9144
Boat & Locker Storage	storage@vckc.ca
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Bob Rempel	
Director at Large	director2@vckc.ca
Shelley Scott	

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	newsletter@vckc.ca
Graham Lloyd	250-381-5090
Webmaster	webmaster@vckc.ca
Brittany Kohn	
(Ron Crabtree interim)	778-430-4545

Note: The next deadline for submissions to the newsletter is May, 14th.

May 2014

VCKC Events						
Today	May 2014					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
	5:30pm Ocean Canoe			7pm VDBF committe		GRPC - Brochie Re Running of the Cow
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Running of the Cow	5:30pm Ocean Canoe	7:30pm VCKC Gener	VDBS			Frost Free weeker,c
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Frost Free weeker		7pm Executive Meet	Canoe Poling cours			Ocean Paddling can VCKC - Switchblade
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Ocean Paddling canoe course, Alan Th VCKC - Switchblade VCKC Newsletter D	Basic Canoe Poling		7pm Gorge Waterwa			DB-Gorge Sprints
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Events shown in time zone: Pacific Time - Vancouver

