



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

November 2019

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

Dates to Remember

- November 2~**Fall Cleanup**
- November 5 ~General Meeting – presentation on trip to Brooks Peninsula
- December 7 ~ Christmas Lights Paddle and Party
- January 1, 2020 ~ New Year's Day Paddle
- January 14 , 2020 ~ AGM

Be sure to check the website for information on the various courses and activities planned over the fall!!!

President's Message

Well, there is no mistaking it, the rains have come. So, if you're paddling, you are happy with your rain gear, or wearing a drysuit on the river, or you are staying warm racing up and down the Gorge in one of those tippy, zippy, black, featherlight, rockets.

Thank you to all those members that came to the October general meeting to hear about and give comments on some of the new ideas that were in the October Newsletter. **Thank you to the many of you that gave input through emails to myself and others on the executive.** Every idea and concern is listened to and considered. Some concerns were misunderstandings of the executive's plans. Some concerns were helpful in making small adjustments that I believe make for better outcomes. One area that has created a lot of feedback is the plan to make club equipment easier to access for the membership. There has been some great input on how this might work and some cautions that are important to consider. Each program will have input in creating a plan that works for them. I expect some great minds will be working on this in the new year.

Our general meeting, Tuesday, November 5th, will have Pat and Jim lead a presentation of this year's club trip to the Brooks Peninsula in a couple of Big Canoes. (29' Tillicum and 35' Sta'Qeya). I think this is some of the best ocean paddling in the world. It is suitable for canoes and kayaks and it is in our own backyard! If you haven't been there yet, come out and see how you can do it!

It is not too early to start planning your Christmas decorations for our club's **Christmas Parade and Potluck, Saturday December 7th**. People and boats start to gather around 3:00 to prepare their paddle craft for a launch at 5:00. After a parade, a potluck and merriment carry us until closing time.



So, even despite the weather there are things to do at VCKC. I hope to see you out “there”. “There,” might be in the compound working with Dan and Tom on some new storage racks. Or maybe “There”, will be the **club clean up November 2nd**.

Cheers

~ Tim Marks, President



VCKC 2020 AGM
Tuesday January 14, 2020
(second not first Tuesday)

VCKC Christmas Potluck and Paddle Parade

Saturday, December 7th!

Time to start designing your Holiday boat decorations!

Decorating award categories:

- Most creative design
- Best light display
- Best animation
- Most Christmas cheer
- “Gotta be kidding”
- Best small boat
- Best big boat

More information will be provided in coming weeks.

~ Jayne Takahashi



Big Canoe News

The big canoes have been busy with our Associate members in October with more plans for November.

We are gearing up for planning for 2020’s 39th year of Paddle for the Kids with VCKC. If you are interested in this, please contact us with your ideas and help. We will need stern leaders once again for our weekly outings in February and March. All VCKC members are welcome to join in the big canoe paddling community. Watch for details in the newsletters and website.

There are currently two interested paddlers in the next Big Canoe Stern Leader course. If this interests you as well please contact us, so we can include you in our future planning.

Hold the date for our Christmas potluck & paddle. We will bring the big canoes out for all the fun to be had. Express your interest and we will be sure to send out details to everyone interested.

Other big canoe news this fall will see our associate members in action on the water and in the clubhouse throughout the fall. See the club calendar for dates the big canoes are in use.

If you have any big canoe questions you can email me at voyageur@vckc.ca.

Paddles Up!!

~ Mary Marks, Big Canoe Director

Dragon Boat News



Linda Nimshon and Mavis Pillar represented VCKC and headed off to Shanghai, China in the month of June 2019. The two of us with a group of UK and Australian teams to paddle in a minimum of four cities in China. What an experience.

During our travels we visited temples, villages, cities and met many people throughout our time in China. As we were so near Japan, we went to see Mavis' son in Okinawa, Japan, visiting many places and spent time with many people and we were tourists during our time there.

We would like to invite you to see some of our pictures, taste some wine and enjoy some goodies from China. Linda Nimshon has been invited by China to bring a team of 10 to 20 paddlers to the event in China 2020. So, come out to the November meeting and we will share some of our goodies and adventures with you.



~ Linda Nimshon

Kayak News

Fall has arrived, the waters in the Gorge are cooling and the rainy season has begun however that doesn't mean the paddling season has ended. By the time the newsletter is released another Kayak Basic course will have been delivered with 6 intrepid trainees braving the cooler waters in the Gorge... brrrr! The final kayak Basic course will be held on November 23, 2019 at Pearson College. Both of these courses are currently full.

Immersion gear should be the norm if you wish to kayak through the fall, winter and early spring seasons. Take a moment to learn or refresh your understanding of hypothermia and how to prevent it during cold water paddling.

<https://youtu.be/xJUX1V7i1I>

Pool sessions will be scheduled at Pearson College for members who wish to practice their skills in a warm and safe environment. I am looking for VCKC reps to volunteer to organize these events because our instructor/coach availability is limited. The more volunteers, the more sessions we can accommodate. If you are interested in taking the lead as organizer, please send an email to me at kayak@vckc.ca. Once the organizers and dates have been firmed up, a schedule will be sent out. Each 2-hour session will accommodate 12 paddlers partnering to share 6 kayaks. Buddying up will keep the practice sessions safe but also keep the costs down and allow more members to participate. Payment for these sessions must be made at the time the registration is invoiced and will be non-refundable, so we can make sure the rental costs will be covered. Members will be responsible to find a substitute if they are unable to attend.

Mike Teachman will be bringing in a work team to inspect the kayaks at the end of October and any necessary repairs will follow. If you are aware of any issues with the club kayaks you want the team to look at, send an email to kayakbooking@vckc.ca

Save the date!!! On November 24th Mike T is planning another beginner day trip of 10km or less, in flat, low-wind conditions. No firm destination yet. Candidate trips are Esquimalt harbour using the, Telegraph cove or Saanich inlet Deep Cove area south to Patricia Bay Park depending on the wind conditions.

Mike is also researching the idea of a dedicated fishing trip. For canoes and kayaks. It would likely be in April or May (when the ling cod season re-opens), somewhere in the local waters). Perhaps the Albert Head area. He's been gathering rod/reels, claiming his dad is highly skilled at finding freebie fishing gear. Who knows how many rod/ reels he'll have by the spring!!! This would be a L1 kayak/Advanced flatwater canoe skill requirement trip.

Planning for 2020 is well underway: the kayak program needs instructors and trip leaders and we are working on finding solutions to encourage members to volunteer in these roles. We also need a few new kayaks that will support a family paddling program (youth kayaks and a double) and we are looking at ways for club members to have better access to kayaks beyond the Gorge. Stay tuned, get involved and support your VCKC kayak program.

~ Karen Thrussell, Kayak Director

Boat Storage Newsletter Report

Closely coordinating our efforts with heavy rains, construction on the new boat storage shed has begun. Six canoe racks have been demolished with boats carefully relocated to other parts of the compound, building supplies delivered, the ground cleared, and actual carpentry begun. We plan to work on the project Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays barring intense rain or paddling commitments. The first phase of the project, the boat storage shed with roof, should be completed by mid-November.

Along with space efficiencies gained by building the new shed, we will also be reducing the Club canoe inventory and enforcing Club storage guidelines.



Over the next several months, the following projects will be undertaken by the Storage Program:

1. All full size recreational canoes will be taken out of the basement and stored in the new compound shed
2. One of the basement racks will be rebuilt to maximize storage for kayaks and marathon canoes
3. If possible, the other basement rack will be removed, and this space returned to the Club for designated use.
4. General storage around the Clubhouse will be reviewed with plans to streamline all storage

~ Dan Walker, VCKC Storage Director

MEMBERSHIP 2020

Membership renewal for 2020 is fast approaching. Current memberships will expire December 31st and can be renewed during the month of December. A reminder will be sent if the membership has not been renewed and will be termed “lapsed” after a short period. **Only online renewals** will be accepted prior to the AGM. If paying by cash or cheque it will need to be done at the Clubhouse the evening of the AGM in order to be eligible to vote. Volunteers will be on hand one hour prior to the AGM start. A fee increase is recommended for 2020 for ratification at the AGM. If you renew before the AGM, then it will be at the 2019 fee.

Please login to your profile at www.vckc.ca using your email and password and verify that the information provided is correct and then renew your membership. Those who are designated as Family Administrators, renewal will include yourself and all your family members.

After a membership has lapsed, members can still renew as described above. **Family Administrators** must renew not only their membership but complete the process for **ALL** family members individually.

A number of Family Administrators who renewed their memberships after they had lapsed, will find that their family members are still lapsed and are no longer counted as members for the current.

Please, don't let this happen to you – renew on time and complete the process for all family members!

VCKC Day Trips

Thetis Lake On Sunday September 29th with Alan Thomson as trip leader sixteen paddlers (2 kayaks and 7 canoes) set out to explore the lake and practice skills. Mike Kilshaw used this opportunity for the maiden voyage of this solo canoe.



Once the safety gear was stowed into the canoes the group set off to explore the lake. During our excursion Alan found many interesting items (e.g. freshly cut beaver logs) to appeal to the nature lover in all of us.

Alan had the group practice their flexibility both as paddlers and gymnasts. We played follow the leader on a course that took

us between the shoreline and outcropping trees and rocks to test our maneuverability of the boats and under fallen trees to see just how low we could go.

It was a beautiful day. We were back at the clubhouse by around one and all boats safely returned to the compound.

~ Susan Logan



Sooke Basin On Sunday Oct 6, 2019, 8:30am a sizeable group of VCKC kayakers and canoeists met at the clubhouse to load the canoe trailer with club kayaks and canoes. All 6 of the club kayaks were used and 2 club canoes. What a great turnout - 11 kayakers and 6 canoeists. With this large group we opted for 3 trip leaders: Mike Teachman, Karen Thrussell, and Sebastian Piper.

By 9:30am we were packed up and heading out to Sooke. It's about a 1/2 hour drive to the Coopers Cove parking lot -- it was empty upon arrival. The water state was perfect for a paddle - glassy calm. None of the nasty west winds that cancelled this same trip in August.

With 14 boats to launch we had to make efficient use of the small pebble beach at Coopers Cove. We were underway around 10:30am. We mostly followed the shoreline en route to Roche Cove. There was no rush to get there. It was a leisurely paddle, enjoying the many seals and occasional heron that watched our passage.



On the return trip excellent paddling conditions continued, with just a hint of wind to challenge our steering skills. Sebastian lead our crew back along the shoreline, with an extra bonus exploration trip into a bay that we had short-cut across on the way to Roche Cove.

Soon we were back at Coopers Cove. Our total paddling distance was about 10.5km. We loaded back up and all had an uneventful drive back to the clubhouse. We were back into town shortly after 3pm.

Great day!

Thanks to Mike DesRoches for towing the club's canoe trailer. We couldn't have had this many participants without it.

~ Mike Teachman



Participate With VCKC

There are so many opportunities for you to get involved with VCKC beyond paddling.

- ✓ Be part of the VCKC Executive - pastpres@vckc.ca
- ✓ Coordinate or assist with decorating the Clubhouse for the Christmas season - secretary@vckc.ca
- ✓ Coordinate the Christmas Light Paddle and Party - contact pastpres@vckc.ca
- ✓ Assist with membership renewal at the AGM - treasurer@vckc.ca
- ✓ Volunteer with the PFTK pre and post activities - voyageur@vckc.ca
- ✓ Volunteer with the WUTG – contact outrigger@vckc.ca
- ✓ Assist the various program directors in maintaining the equipment



Become a member of [BC Marine Trails](#) – better yet come onboard as a [volunteer](#).

We've had a number of successes this year outlined in a [presentation](#) made at our September 21 strategy meeting. A new strategy 2020 to 2023 document will be posted on our [About page](#) when it's ready.

This year our AGM will be on November 30, 2019 in Nanaimo ([registration link](#)). At this year's AGM we will overview our 2020-2023 strategic paper and other areas of the BCMT. We will also launch our new stewardship film - it's short but sweet! The AGM will take place in the morning from 10:45 to 12:30 and the afternoon forum will include speakers John Kimantas, Louise Thompson and Steve Best. A small but delicious lunch will be served.

~ Karen Thrussell, BC Marine Trails Club Rep

Club Contact Information

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