



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

"The Paddling Post"

October 2020

Be sure to check the website for information on when courses and activities are scheduled !!!

President's Message

Hello All,

Wow, it is no longer Summer! I hope you can find some paddling opportunities between the wind and rain days. No doubt some hardy paddlers were out because of the wind and rain. Play safe! The whitewater paddlers have some pumping rivers and are all smiles at the start of their season.

The executive is still plugging away doing who knows what, but it seems very important at the time and takes twice as long as one might expect. With the change of season, the club house basement was getting very damp. We have adjusted the furnace for more heat in the basement, added a dehumidifier and a general fan. Thanks Mike Wheatley for sorting this out. Please leave things running as you find them. Mike will monitor how things work out.

We have slightly altered how we clean club PFDs. Instead of using so much water washing with soap, please spray the PFDs with the alcohol spray provided before you clean your paddle craft and leave outside until after other gear is cleaned and put away. Allowing them to air outside awhile will reduce undesirable odours and moisture inside.

I would like to thank our membership for the generally consistent following of our COVID-19 mitigation plan. On occasion the compound has been left unlocked or login sheets have been left in the rain. We do not have a designated cleaner in the clubhouse anymore, so that brings a little extra responsibility to each of us to check what we are doing and do a little extra if we see something needs attention. I know some of you have done much extra to help things stay clean and safe. Thank you.

Dan has assembled materials for the final stage of our compound renewal but one of his key helpers had an altercation with a deer recently, so construction has been delayed. A little extra patience is required moving around in the compound. Rest assured this is temporary. (The deer is dead, the motorcycle on life support, the President will recover.)

The executive is putting together a process to have a virtual AGM. It could be a multi part process, so watch this space and possibly a couple of mass emails for instructions on how that will unfold. We are planning on a General Meeting before the end of the year as a practice but also just for the fun of it. Remember those General Meetings? Now Virtual. Cool.



Broken right wrist, Broken left scapula, Talking about the bike is to painful.

The end of the year is always busy for the executive and COVID-19 has not changed that this year. If you have concerns/compliments/ideas you can pass them onto your program directors, or any executive listed at the bottom of the newsletter.

Dig out that extra fleece and don't put that paddle too far away.

Cheers

~ Tim Marks, President

COVID - 19 Protocol Update

There has been a few changes to the cleaning protocol:

- PFDS will now be sprayed with a 70% alcohol solution outside (a light spray to the front of the PFD) prior to cleaning other club equipment used. They are to remain outside while you clean the other equipment to allow airdry time. They can then be placed back on the appropriate size peg for the next person.
- Locks and the keypad will be wiped down with an alcohol wipe daily.

As part of our reopening agreement with Saanich all members must attend an orientation session and sign the new waiver prior to participating in any club event or course. If you have not been able to comply with this requirement and plan to be active this fall please contact secretary@vckc.ca to be added to a list. When there are a minimum of five members requesting the orientation session one will be scheduled. To date only 218 of our 480 active members have completed the process. **If you bring a guest to paddle even if they bring their own equipment they need to sign the log** (contact tracing sheet).

A fan has been placed in the basement to assist with air circulation. Please do not turn the fan off!!

Since the washroom in the basement is the only one available to members we ask that everyone take care to ensure that it is kept clean and that paper towels are not littering the floor.

We have been experiencing some difficulties with the basement door so please confirm that it is closed and locked before you leave. There have also been a few times when the compound has also been left unlocked. This puts our equipment at risk. After you lock the compound, dock or storage under the deck please make sure you spin more than one number.

Executive Nominations for 2021

The VCKC Annual General Meeting is just a few months away. VCKC's current Executive are busy planning and budgeting for the year ahead.

ALL Executive (VCKC Board) positions are for one year and are eligible for voting in January 2021. So far we have firm commitments for the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary, but all positions are open for election by the membership. If you are interested in getting more involved in club programming and management, please consider putting your name forward for nomination at the AGM in January.

If you are interested in becoming a Program Director or would like to come onto the Board as a Director at Large for a year to learn how it functions, please contact Joe Boyd at pastpres@vckc.ca.

Meanwhile, join one of the last Executive meetings this year and observe. All Executive meetings are open for members to observe. These days we are running virtual zoom meetings. You don't even need to leave the house. Connect with the secretary to receive information on observing the virtual meeting.

Portland Island Trip October 4, 2020

Craig took a ton of photos and put them into a photo album. thanks Craig! [see here](#)



Paddles on the Gorge

A number of members have come out to enjoy paddling and each other's company on the Tuesday and Saturday afternoon paddles. Canoes, OC1, kayaks and SUPs have all been part to date. You don't need to register just show up and those present will paddle together.



Canoe Program

Canoe Courses

The canoe program has been very active over the past weeks with lakewater courses held September 12th, 19th and October 3rd. Congratulations to the 10 new LW1, 8 new LW2, and 5 new LW3 paddlers who successfully passed. A special thanks to our enthusiastic volunteer instructors: David & Julie-Anne Dorosz, Hélène Poulin, Dan Walker and Ellie James!

A Reminder about Canoe Bookings

To book a canoe, please remember to use canoebooking@vckc.ca to guarantee a speedy response. This address is closely monitored even if the Canoe Director is away from cell service, whereas, canoe@vckc.ca is not. Thanks!

This is Why We Paddle



Murtle Lake

Friends of ours occasionally ask what it is about canoeing that has so captivated us. Always, it's the incredible beauty we experience while paddling. If you need incentive to improve your canoeing skills, here are a few photos of the stunning last days of summer seen while canoeing in our beautiful province.

*~Louise de Montigny,
Canoe Program Director*



Amor Lake

Remembrance Day Paddle on the Cowichan



The VCKC Canoe program will be holding its Annual **Remembrance Day Cowichan River Paddle** on Wednesday November 11. This event is open to all VCKC members who have completed the Basic Moving Water course at a minimum.

This is a great river event for both novice and experienced river paddlers alike. If you completed one of our Moving Water courses this past year, this is a great opportunity to hone your skills while having lots of fun on the river during salmon run.

The schedule is as follows:

- 8 am – meet at VCKC clubhouse to gather equipment and arrange ride shares (if possible)
- 9 am – meet at Serious Coffee, Boys Road, Duncan
- 10 am – Arrive at Stoltz Pool boat ramp to gear up, dress up, and run shuttle vehicles
- 11 am – Observe Remembrance at the Burma Star Memorial (Stoltz Pool Boat Ramp)
- 11:30 onward – Paddle the Cowichan River (class 1&2) down to Vimy Road takeout

If you have you require a club canoe, please contact Louise at canoebooking@vckc.ca. We will get those loaded onto the VCKC trailer on the evening of Tuesday November 10th.

This will need to be a safe socially-distanced event:

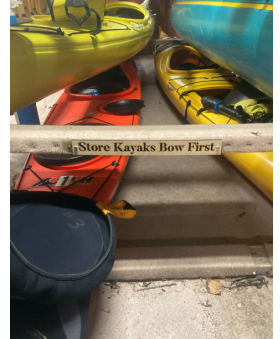
- Masks are required during any vehicle shuttles
- We will split into smaller groups (up to 8) and run the river in stages
- Big Canoes are not available this year due to COVID – small solo and tandem canoes and kayaks only
- All club equipment will need to be cleaned well before being put away at the end of the day.

If you are interested in this event, you can register [Here](#). Joe will receive an email when you have registered. This will help him get an idea of numbers and ensure no one gets left behind. Of course, the river is free to all. If you are organized to paddle the river, see you in Duncan at 9 am or at Stoltz

Kayak Update

Wow the response to the Paddle Stroke Clinic this fall has been amazing. They are fully subscribed within a few hours of sending out the notice. We will try to schedule more. We are planning to offer clinics on rescue techniques as well as rolling starting in the spring when the water gets warmer. If you have ideas for other clinic topics send an email to kayak@vckc.ca.

A reminder to everyone that you need to connect with the kayak booking volunteer (kayakbookings@vckc.ca) if you want to use a club kayak for courses, clinics or paddles. The addition of regularly scheduled paddles on the Gorge has increased usage so book early. After your paddle be sure to remove any free standing water from the cockpit and all hatches using the sponge provided. This will assist with the humidity issue in the basement. You also need to ensure that all safety accessories are left with the kayak. If you find something missing send a note to kayak@vckc.ca. Also please ensure that they are stored bow first to help protect the rudders and skegs.



I received this comment from a member about an incident that they witness-

“the gentleman was borrowing a kayak standing in it on the gravel. We had just set our canoe down in the muddy section with no rocks, where he should have been if he wanted to stand in the kayak! He was having problems trying to put his skirt on, so he was trampling in this poor boat for over 20 minutes on sharp rocks.”

Please treat club equipment with the same care and respect that you would your own. The kayaks are durable, but mistreatment can cause serious damage.

Last month I introduced the prospective new course instructors. This month I want to introduce the volunteers who will be providing additional paddles/trips for members. Please join me in welcoming Jason Doucet, Craig Thomson, Ryan Ovens and Richard Weir to the team. With these additional volunteers we are hoping to offer many more paddle trips. Since Jason lives in the Chemainus area he is hoping to offer some day trips that will feature waterways in his area. Plans are also being considered for a multi-day trip this summer for the experienced paddlers (Level 2).

We have seen a flurry of activity since reopening aimed at getting members on the water, things will start to slow down a bit. Since we are not able to use the clubhouse for the theory section during the colder months we are experimenting with Zoom as an alternative. If this works we will offer a few more Basic and level 1 courses before spring.

Our AGM is fast approaching and that is when we will elect a new kayak director as well as other executive positions. If you are interested in serving the club in this manner let Joe know (vp@vckc.ca)

~ Susan Logan, Acting Director

Clubhouse to Esquimalt Harbour Day Trip [Click here to see our route](#)

We're going to be headed to Cole Island in Esquimalt Harbour for a day trip on Saturday November 7 2020. Our trip starts at the VCKC Clubhouse. We'll paddle up the Gorge to the Shoreline launch. Then, we'll strap wheels to our boats and pull them across an easy 1km portage to Portage Park. We'll do a little exploring around Esquimalt Harbour and then to Cole Island for lunch. [Cole Island](#) has a low dock landing which is friendly for kayakers. We'll have people to hold your boat if you are unsure about a dock landing. Cole Island has numerous historic buildings to check out. After lunch we'll head back to Portage Park following the opposite shoreline, revisit the portage, and paddle down the Gorge back to the clubhouse. To register click [Here](#)

Marathon Update



Marathoners have been enjoying the great Fall weather and while there was a brief time-out due to smoke avoidance measures, participation has been steady and enthusiastic. The “new normal” aka VCKC COVID protocol appears to be working well. Sign-ins, adhering to the COVID clubhouse rules and disinfecting boats and equipment have become routine.

While the annual Fall clubhouse clean-up is on hold, some of the marathon boats need a tune-up before the weather turns cold. We plan to inspect the boats for scrapes and gouges, rusted hardware, mis-aligned seat sliders and the like; and paddles for wear-and-tear from hitting rocks.

Two new members of the club have become Saturday regulars and it's been great to introduce them to both the program and the Gorge Waterway. At the same time, plans are underway to purchase three used paddles for the club so new members can get started right away. The marathon paddling is an early-morning, year-round program and while several layers of clothing will soon become the order of the day, it's never long before you have to shed a layer or two and reach for your water bottle. Early morning outings are a great time to see fish jumping, seals and otters, and the geese and ducks busy filling themselves with eelgrass.

See you on the water.

~ Peter Elson, Marathon Director

Outrigger Update

The two OC1 boats continue to see enthusiastic use. I can confirm they are very difficult to flip and not too difficult to right, leaving only a bit of water in the footwells. Anyone who wants to take them out only needs to send a request to outrigger@vckc.ca

We are one step closer to getting the OC6 back on the water. CORA, following direction from the BC viaSport Return-to-Sport Guidelines at <https://www.viasport.ca/return-sport>, is now endorsing OC6 paddling as a "field of play" activity. Given the current rise in numbers of cases increasing the number of activities is not a recommendation supported by our various health authorities. In preparation, for when the time is right, the executive will be discussing what size of cohort to recommend to the members and any other required guidelines. These amendments would become part of our mitigation plan. If you have any ideas you would like to share send me an email.

I am holding an auction of some surplus items. A flyer is posted in the basement outlining the various items and the process. Check it out.

VCKC is in possession of a blue kayak that was owned by Mark Hemmingson, who passed away a number of years ago. Does anyone have any contact details for relatives? Please connect with Dan [here](#) if you have any information.

Stand Up Paddle Board Update

Hello fellow paddlers. I hope everyone is staying well and getting ready for; what I hope is, a wonderful autumn paddling season.

The leaves may be falling but stand-up paddleboarders are just shifting gears with the surfing and whitewater season just starting. At VCKC the SUP program will continue with a few tweaks. The colder weather (and water) and increased precipitation mean that we have to continue to be diligent when planning, and during paddles, but this is no reason to start hibernating. Paddling in the fall and winter is great with less crowded waterways and changing scenery. Sun rises and sunsets become much more accessible, and there is no better way to see it than from a SUP. Pull out your cold weather gear and come and join in!



We will continue to have a weekly club paddle on Thursday evenings (starting at 6pm now), please send an email confirming your board and bring a waterproof light with you. Keep watching the SUP calendar (it will be active soon) because there will be opportunities for Paddle Canada Basic SUP courses, irregular Friday afternoon paddles at the Gorge and weekend club paddles as well. Don't hesitate to reach out to SUP@vckc.ca to set up a paddle or reserve club equipment (for upper Gorge paddling).

I hope to see you out on the water soon. Take care and happy paddling!

~ James Roorda

BC Marine Trails AGM - You're invited!!

Dear Members and the Public,

We are holding our Annual General Meeting online at 7pm Saturday, November 21st. Once you register for the meeting we will send you a Zoom link a day or two before the meeting with some basic instructions. The BCMT bylaws state that we can have a maximum of 11 directors. Directors are nominated on alternate years for two-year terms. Only registered members can vote on motions or if an election is called.

1. [Call for Nominations](#) - we can accept nominations up to one week before the AGM. If you are interested in a board position please contact Paul Grey [here](#). The Call for Nominations will explain further the details involved in becoming a director. At this time there are six positions and we currently have six directors to fill them. We are a working board.
2. [Register](#) - please register if you are interested in the AGM. Online registration will close two days ahead or November 19 so that we can finalize our work and setup our online accounts properly.
3. AGM registrant notification - the AGM agenda, yearend financial statements, and last year's minutes will be mailed to registrants approximately two days before the AGM.

VCKC Swap Meet

Would you be interested in the opportunity to exchange paddling equipment with others or to earn a little cash for paddling items you no longer use? We have been considering the idea of initiating a club member swap meet for a while now and want to hear your thoughts. Please send any ideas to the secretary [here](#). This could be a virtual event or in person depending on the interest and current gathering restriction

Club Contact Information

Officers

President	president@vckc.ca
Tim Marks	
Vice-president	vpresident@vckc.ca
Tony Hopkin	
Treasurer	treasurer@vckc.ca
Mark Sondheim	
Secretary	secretary@vckc.ca
Susan Logan	
Past President	pastpres@vckc.ca
Joe Boyd	

Program Directors

Big Canoe Program	bigcanoe@vckc.ca
Mary Marks	
Canoe Program	canoe@vckc.ca
Louise de Montigny	
Dragonboat Program	dragonboat@vckc.ca
Jana Savage Cain	
Kayak Program	kayak@vckc.ca
vacant	
Outrigger Program	outrigger@vckc.ca
Mike Wheatley	
Marathon Canoe Program	marathon@vckc.ca
Peter Elson	

Stand Up Paddle Board

James Roorda	sup@vckc.ca
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Other Executive Positions

Education, Standards & Safety	safety@vckc.ca
Ryan Ovens	
Membership	membership@vckc.ca
Debi LaHaise	

Clubhouse and Grounds (maintenance)

Brit Kohn	clubhouse@vckc.ca
Boat & Locker Storage	storage@vckc.ca
Dan Walker	

Director at Large

Kim Capson	director1@vckc.ca
Ellie James	director2@vckc.ca

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	newsletter@vckc.ca
Susan Logan	
Webmaster	webmaster@vckc.ca
Arthur Caldicott	