

Drumchapel & Clydebank Kayak Club

Newsletter

January/February 2013

By now hopefully into the New Year we tend to get some cold, but settled weather so we can get out on the water. Looking at the diary section of the Newsletter it's great to see more people willing to lead trips, which indicates that we have a good healthy and very active club. It would also be nice to see a small trip report on each trip for inclusion in the Club Newsletter as well.

Car Sharing

Some of the trip organisers have brought to our attention a slight problem, and that is that several members turn up for a paddle in just their own vehicles. If you can contact the trip organiser at least several days in advance, we could co-ordinate a better car share. This has several key benefits for you, the trip organiser and the Club.

First for you, it helps you to cut down on the horrendous fuel costs. You may also need a navigator in the car if you are going to a new venue. It's hard to map read and drive at the same time! One of the other benefits that can help a trip organiser is that it can cut down on car congestion at some of the smaller car parks, or it means you have a much longer carry with your boat and equipment!. Another benefit is that it is much more social experience, and after all that is what the Club is all about.

VHF Radio Day

On the 19th of January we will have a VHF testing day just to see the limits of performance of our radios. This day has happened as a result of several problems we have encountered with the performance, or should we say lack of performance with our radios, and in good conditions! So we would urge any members in the Club who has a VHF radio to attend this day, if you cannot make it, but have a radio, could you please pass it on to someone who is going along. Needless to say a VHF radio is an essential safety item for Sea Kayakers, so it will be interesting to see how they work, or not! The meeting time is 1000 at Drumkinnon Bay.

Clyde Coastguard

As of the 18th of December 2012 the Clyde Coastguard Station located at Greenock was closed, several months prior to that the Forth Coastguard Station was also closed. Therefore the nearest Rescue Co-Ordination Centre to the Clyde Estuary is **Belfast Coastguard**. The remaining centre's which cover Scotland are **Stornoway, Shetland** and **Aberdeen**.

Pool News

Just a reminder, the pool sessions start back on **Tuesday the 8th of January**. Could we please ask **as many junior members and their parents please turn up at 7.30pm** to bring around the kayaks for the pool session to start prompt at 8pm.

Tidal Planning

Rab will be running a series of Tidal Planning, and Navigation workshops over the next few months. These are intended for anyone interested in Sea Kayaking. The first one will be a very basic session, covering the basic tidal movements and looking at "Standard Ports". The second will be a bit more advanced, but anyone who missed the first session can catch up with this session. Again we will be looking at "Standard Ports" and this time also "Secondary Ports". The third session will be a bit more advanced, looking how to work out tidal streams.

The dates for the Tidal Planning sessions are:

Session 1 Monday Jan 28 7.30pm at Janice's House

Session 2 Wednesday Feb 20 7.30pm at Bill's House

Session 3 Monday March 18 7.30pm at Bill's House

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting is to be held again by the new chairman (Gregor McIntyre) at his house. The meeting time again is 7pm on Monday the 25th of February. If any member would like a copy of the previous minutes of past meetings please see Bill Davis for a copy. Also if any member wishes to raise a point please come along or alternatively pass you point on to one of the other committee members.

Skye Sea Kayak Symposium

The Scottish Sea Kayak Symposium is being held over the period 24-27 May. If any one is interested in this I would urge you to go along, you will have a great time, there is plenty to do for all abilities, even if the weather is bad. However there are only limited places, so you do need to book as early as possible. Please contact: www.seasymposium.org for more info

Trips to look forward to

Loch Lomond: Rab will be running a short trip on Loch Lomond on the 5th of January and going around some of the various Islands. Meeting time is 0930 at the stores or 1015 at Balmaha.

VHF testing day: On the 19th of January we will have a VHF testing day just to see the limits of performance of our radios. We would urge any members in the Club who have a VHF radio to attend this day, if you cannot make it, but have a radio, could you please pass it on to someone who is going along. Needless to say a VHF radio is an essential safety item for Sea Kayakers, so it will be interesting to see how they work, or not! The meeting time is 1000 at Drumkinnon Bay, followed by a short paddle.

Firth of Clyde: On the 2nd of February we have a paddle on the Firth of Clyde meeting at the Container for 0900 or 1000 at Largs.

Sound of Luing Area: We plan to have a trip up in this area to get into some of the tidal areas. Weather dependant!

As for next years big trip to Orkney, we can now say the trip will take place either between **Friday the 17th of May to Sunday the 26th of May** or **Friday the 31st of May to Sunday the 9th of June**. These periods offer us the slackest periods of tidal movement. However, I still can say with a fair bit of confidence that this will be an "interesting" trip. The average tidal streams around Orkney are around the 4-7 knots range with some going up to 12 knots. So therefore the initial thoughts are that this trip was going to be a Grade "B" trip. But given the location and the tides around this area, everyone that attends this trip must be **very confident in Grade "C" conditions as well as their personal skills for those conditions**.

The date of the trip has still not been decided yet, and will not until early next year. By mid-January the date will be fixed. Anyone that is possibly interested in attending this trip could you please let me know as soon as you can so I can keep you in the loop.

Diary

Date		Grade	Meeting time	Organiser
January 2013				
5	Loch Lomond	A	0930	Rab
12	Loch Ard	A	TBC	David
8	Pool Sessions start	All		
19	Loch Lomond, VHF testing	A	1000	Rab
27	Ayrshire Coast	A	TBC	Bill Gray
28	Tidal Planning 1	All	1930	Janice/Rab

February

2	Firth of Clyde	A	0900	Rab
9	River Endrick	Grade 1	TBC	Ross
20	Tidal Planning 2	All	1930	Bill/Rab
23	Sound of Luing Area	B/C	0730	Rab
24	Firth of Forth	A	TBC	Andy
25	Committee Meeting	All	1900	Gregor

March

2/3	St Andrews	A	TBC	Iain Mc G
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Graham (grahamswanson@gmail.com)

Please remember to give the respective trip leader **at least ONE WEEKS** notice if you intend to borrow club equipment. Also please contact the Trip leader the night before to check for any final updates regarding information. (Weather, Meeting points, etc.)