



Drumchapel & Clydebank Kayak Club

Newsletter

Jan /Feb 09

Welcome to the New Year and a hopefully better paddling weather than last year. In the next few weeks or so there should be a new touring trip list for 2009, but remember there will be a few more trips added during the year that will not be on this list. So keep an eye out on the web, e-mail or even better at the pool side. Remember a lot of trips get planned at the pool side for the following weekend, especially if nothing is planned in the diary for that weekend.

Pool Sessions

Pool Sessions restart on Tuesday 6th January at the Playdrome.

Weather Forecasts!

As seen in the previous article about weather forecasts there is a lot to learn. This much shorter article (thankfully) is about understanding some of the general forecasts that are given on the radio or T.V. When the announcer or presenter gives the WIND forecast such as a "Light", "Fresh" or "Strong" wind; what does that actually mean?

The wind forecasts can and are sometimes given in "coded" words such as a "Fresh Breeze", or a "Moderate Breeze". At first they seem to be a very general description of what the wind is going to be doing. However they are in fact taken from the Beaufort Wind Scale and as such will give you a better idea what is happening with the weather.

One other important point is when a forecaster gives the issue time of the forecast, for example 0600, the weather is relevant to that time. Thus if a forecast issued at 0600 states that there will be gales "SOON" it indicates that the gale are expected in that area between 6-12 hours after the time of issue, which was at 0600. There are three types of warnings and they are:

- Imminent:** Less than six hours from time of Issue.
- Soon:** Between six and twelve hours of issue.
- Later:** Between twelve and twenty four hours of issue.

The most important thing to remember is to get **the ISSUE TIME OF THE WEATHER FORECAST!**

Description	Beaufort Scale	Conditions
Calm	0	The water is like glass.
Light Air	Force 1	A few ripples on the sea
Light Breeze	Force 2 (4-6mph)	Small ripples on the sea, paddlers can start to feel the wind.
Gentle Breeze	Force 3 (7-11mph)	Open Canoes should start to look for shelter.
Moderate Breeze	Force 4 (12-16mph)	3* paddlers should start to look for more sheltered water.
Fresh Breeze	Force 5 (17-21)	Lots of white tops out on the sea, 4/5* paddlers will want to look for more sheltered water.
Strong Breeze	Force 6 (22-28mph)	Warnings issued to small craft. Rescues will be difficult in a kayak.
Moderate Gale	Force 7 (29-35mph)	Big seas, paddles catch the wind, Kayaks very difficult to turn, little headway to be made. The pub sounds a better option!
Gale	Force 8 (36-43mph)	In open water or even places like Loch Lomond the seas are big. Experienced paddlers will fight for survival, rescues are impossible, communications between paddlers are also impossible.

More Paddles

The club has just recently purchased airbags for the Open Canoes and another six wooden paddles, in various sizes, also for the Open Canoes. This will now allow the club Open Canoes to tackle rivers up to Grade 3. The new paddles will also allow members to use a correct size paddle for them, as well as giving the club a few spares. So you now can see where all your club fees are going.

Trips

Well the fateful weather has taken its toll again with trips. The trip to Ardlamont Point, and Loch Leven were cancelled due to the weather. The night paddle on Loch Lomond was also cancelled, but due to a lack of interest this time.

On the 29th of November there was a trip down the River Leven a gentle grade 1. Eight of us turned up for this trip, and we all used Open Canoes. (Remember, members can also use the River Kayaks as well!)

The water level for this trip was high, as the barrage at Balloch was down, allowing a fast flow of water down the river. Fortunately for us we did not have stones or bottles thrown at us on this trip. One of the down sides of this trip was that most of the rapids were all washed out due to the high water level. Just after passing through the A82 Road Bridge we even saw a Seal in the river!

Another down side was that we managed to get down to Dumbarton much quicker than I imagined, and arrived at just after high water, thus there was no tidal weir to be seen; and just paddled over it. We did manage to paddle around to Dumbarton Castle, which allowed us to view the castle from a very different view point.

We even manage to paddle out into the River Clyde to have a play in the gentle tide streams before returning back to the cars. One thing that was surprising is that despite the fact that the River Leven is so close to the clubs location, very few of us use it.

The planned trip on the 6th of December to the Firth of Forth area was changed to the Firth of Clyde due to the weather. Eight of us turned up for what was probably the best weather I've been out in for a very long time. We set off from Portencross and paddled over to Little Cumbrae before heading up to Millport, before returning back to the cars. Despite the temperature being below zero for most of the day, the sun shone all day with not a puff of wind. I even managed to paddle the trip in just a thermal vest it was that good!

Ron and Rab manage to paddle down the River Teith on Thursday the 11th of December; I say managed, as that is just what we did. There was very little water in the river and it was a bid of a scrape to say the least. However we did manage to get out for a paddle at least.

And the last planned paddle for the year turned out to be a Christmas cracker," The Mince Pie Paddle". Despite the extreme weather either side of the Saturday, the day was a sunny flat clam affair. The water level was so high that the ferry over to the island had to be cancelled because

there was nowhere to land, as the pier was under water. This left a few members in the lurch as they were planning on the ferry, and we did not have enough buoyancy aids to kit them out for the canoes. So they opted to have a barbeque on the mainland instead.

The remaining ten members paddled over to the island, and some opted to go for a further paddle while the barbeque was set up. The usual display a gourmet food was on display, well, burgers and bangers! as well as a host of other goodies to munch in to. This was a very nice relaxing day out, and a perfect way in which to beat the Christmas shopping rush.

Despite the weather taking a very heavy toll on a lot of this year's trips we still managed out get out and about. Hopefully in 2009 the weather will be much, much kinder to us. So as a look forward to the next few months trips. It starts of on the 10th January with a trip from North Berwick to Dunbar, a distance of some 20km ish and also taking in the Bass Rock. We intend to finish this paddle in the dark around 6pm or 7pm. There is not much to worry about tides in this area. We will be meeting at the stores for 10.30am for this trip. The following Saturday there is a trip down the Upper River Clyde, the exact trip will depend on water levels, but it will be a Grade 1. Meeting at the stores for 9am, remember this trip is for Open Canoes and Kayaks.

For February the next trip is on the 7th of February and is down at the Loch Ryan area, near Stanraer. Where we will go on this trip depends on the weather, the better weather the more interesting the trip! This will be an early start and will be around 7am ish, and returning? On Monday the 9th there will be a short night paddle on Loch Ard, meeting at the stores for 6.45pm. On the last day of February there is a planned paddle on the Lower River Orchy which is a Grade 1-2. Again the paddle is planned for both Canoes and Kayaks, and we will be meeting at the stores for 8.30am.

The March/April Newsletter should be out at the end of February, but just in case it is delayed for a short while we'll give the March dates as well. So the first paddle in March is on the 7th and is from Dundee to St Andrews. This will allow us to catch the first of the very fast tide that flows out of Dundee and then a gentle paddle to St Andrews. Anyone interested in this trip should meet at the stores for 8.00am. We have a short night paddle on Loch Lomond on Wednesday the 11th to hopefully view the Wallabies and go around a few of the Islands. Again, anyone interested in this trip should meet at the stores for 6.45pm. The last trip for March is down the River Clyde, this is a Grade 2-3. This river trip is for Kayaks and Canoes; but please note the grading of this river; this is not a beginners river trip, but one that is suitable for members who have done several rivers by now. Anyone interested in this trip should meet at the store for 9am.

So hopefully the above information is enough to "WET" your appetite for a paddle and we will hopefully see you out on the water.

Club Social Evening

A big thanks to Janice for hosting the Social Evening at her home. We all had a great time talking about kayaking without boring anyone. Hopfully we will have more of these evening in future.

The Vause family were in great form and amazed us all with their karaoke talent.

Trip Diary

Date	Location	Grade	Contact
Jan			
10	North Berwick to Dunbar + Evening(ish)	A/B	Rab 01877 382141
17	Upper River Clyde	Grade 1	Rab
25	2 Star Training		Ron 07743342330
Feb			
7	Loch Ryan area	B	Rab
9 Monday	Loch Ard Night Paddle	A	Rab
22	2 Star Training		Ron
28	Lower River Orchy	Grade1-2	Rab
March			
7	Dundee to St Andrews	A	Rab
15	2 Star Training		Ron
11 Wed	Loch Lomond Night Paddle	A	Rab
20	River Clyde	Grade 2-3	Rab

**Please remember to phone up the night before a sea trip to check up for the trip status.
(Between 7pm-9pm) If you require equipment or a lift, could you please contact the
trip organiser at least a week prior to the trip.**

Remember to print and pin this list up, or mark the dates into your Diary.