

# Drumchapel & Clydebank Kayak Club

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## Newsletter

### March /April 09

Well, we are already getting into the new years paddling, and the Open Canoe's and River trips are proving a success since they are not affected by the weather as much as the sea trips.

Unfortunately I have been a lot busier than expected and thus this Newsletter is much shorter than anticipated. I was hoping that the new touring list for the year ahead would have also been out by now, but it should be out in the next week or so! Remember there will be more trips added during the year that will not be on this list, and the best way to find out about these is at the pool.

## Trips

**Loch Eil:** As you may have noticed over the Christmas and New Year, the weather was fantastic, dry sunny and cold but with no wind. I know a few lucky people managed to get out for a paddle or two over this period. I unfortunately was not one of them. However I did managed to sneak a paddle in on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January when Julia (This is all her fault) call me up on the Thursday night to see if I could manage a paddle for the following day. After a quick rearrangement of things to do and a look at the rather ominous weather forecast, we opted for the safe option of paddling along the west to east Loch Eil at Fort William giving us the most shelter, as the wind was forecasted to go from a southerly Force 3-4 in the morning to a 6-9 later that evening!

Once on the water we could see the weather was as predicted and we knew that once we crossed over from the Sailing Club at Fort William to the entrance of Loch Eil we would be in the sheltered water. Patchy blue sky allowed excellent view of all the surrounding hills as we paddle in almost glass like conditions down to the bottom of the loch where a very quick lunch was had before returning back up the loch.

It was just as we were coming out of Loch Eil that we noticed the wind had picked up, which we knew it would be doing, and had made plans for several "get outs" should the wind pick up earlier than expected. As we looked around the corner of Loch Eil down Loch Linnie we could see that the wind had picked up but the sea state did not look that bad. After a quick discussion we opted to cross the Loch.

The Loch is about one kilometre wide at this point but we had about two kilometres to the get out point as the crow flies. As we started we made reasonable progress, and we both commented that the conditions were not as bad as we expected! Well, that was the wrong thing to say at that point! The further we got out into the loch the stronger the wind got, until we were no longer making any further forward progress at all. The noise of the wind and breaking seas made communications between me and Julia all but impossible despite the fact that she was only a few feet away. But both of us were thinking exactly the same thing and at the same time, we altered course and ferry glided across the loch, both of us thought about turning on our "Strobe lights", (It was also very dark at this point!) but that would lose valuable distance in the time it would take to turn them on, so we both opted against it.

We eventually we reached the "relative shelter" of the shore, and opted for the first get out point which is the major car park at the south end of Fort William. As the waves were breaking over the car park wall and into the car park itself; we opted against that idea! (This might give you some idea of the conditions we were in!) We did manage a bit better in the relative shelter of the shore line until the get out point at the Sailing Club.

Once we were off the water we said things such as "My, that was interesting" and other such comments!!!!!!! I must admit we were well and truly glad to be off that water. We did manage to get a wind reading in the relative shelter of the Sailing Club of 27mph! The wind was much stronger than that out in the middle of the loch. At least it proved the "Inshore Waters Forecast" was very accurate this time!

Well as you have seen the great weather that we had over the Christmas and New Year finally ended on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> of January which resulted in the following day's trip, the first of the new years planned trips with force 6-9's over the whole weekend so the trip from North Berwick to Dunbar was scrubbed!

**Upper River Clyde:** This took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, and eleven people turned up for this trip. The water level was very high for this trip and it allowed us to start at the very beginning of the River Clyde, which is very unusual. The water was fast and shallow which meant that there was plenty of bouncy water for a Grade 1 river. The wind was starting to also pick up as well which caused a few problems for the Open Canoes in trying to go where you wanted them to go. ( There is very few trees at this point of the river.) There was also a nice wee rapid to finish on. All in all a good day out.

**Loch Ryan:** This trip was scrubbed by gales on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. Why do we always seem to get very strong winds over the weekend?

**Loch Ard:** Just four people turned up for what was an absolutely fantastic night paddle on Loch Ard on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. The weather was cloudy to start with but was forecasted to clear later that evening with temperatures down to around minus five. The main part of

the Loch was ice free, but every bay was iced over and we had great fun ice breaking for several hours. (We were just a bunch of big kids playing!) Therefore the total distance paddled was short, we did do a lot of hard work breaking the ice. By this time the moon was also fully out and the whole area looked fantastic. A great way to spend an evening.

As always we try to have a look forward to some of the trips that are up and coming. The first paddle in March is on the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 notes the grading of this river; this is not a beginner's 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.

The next planned trip is in April. This trip is one that I have paddled before, and I must admit, it is one of the best paddles that I have ever done. The trip is from Inverbervie to Stonehaven, a distance of just some 10 miles, but will take some 6-8 hours to do! This trip has some of the best sea caves outside Shetland or North Skye that I have seen, and not to mention the wildlife. Unfortunately this trip requires very good conditions to justify it, so keep an eye on the weather and the swell! Meeting at the stores for 7am for this trip. Don't miss this one!

On Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> there is an evening trip to the Sugar Boat and surrounding area, meeting at the stores for 6.45pm.

One of the more "interesting" trips of the year is on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and that is to the Gulf of Corryvreckan. The timing of the tides in this area is very important, and they happen to work for us very well on this trip. Meeting at the stores for 7am, and we need to be on the water, just north of Craignish Point for no later than 10.40am, Taking the last of the flood tide through the Dorus Mor area and taking us over to the Corryvreckan for 12.30pm. From the Corryvreckan we paddle the short distance to the beautiful "Bay of Pigs" on Jura for Lunch. After lunch, we head north past the remote west side of Scarba to either cross through the "Gray Dogs" or one of the other passages taking us south to finish the trip. Depending on the times there may even be a chance to play in the "Dorus Mor"! This is a grade "C" trip!

The last trip for April is down the River Teith, a Grade 2 river. Again this trip is open to Kayakers and Open Boaters. Meeting at the stores for 9am for this trip.

The first trip for May is on the 9<sup>th</sup> but this is not really a trip as such but a BCU 3\* (Sea) training course, this is open to any member, but the maximum number on the course is just six. This will be the only 3\* (Sea) course this year. A further training day is planned for the 6<sup>th</sup> of June with the assessment taking place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July. Meeting time for the course is 8.30am at the stores for all those dates.

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

# Diary

Date	Location	Grade	Contact
<b>March</b>			
7	Dundee to St Andrews	A	Rab 01877 382141
8	Beginners River Trip		Sandy ?
11 Wed	Loch Lomond Night Paddle	A	Rab
15	2* training		Ron 07743342330
15	Beginners River Trip		Sandy
21	River Clyde	Grade 2-3	Rab
29	Beginners River trip		Sandy
<b>April</b>			
4	Inverbervie	A/B	Rab
4-5	Beginners River Weekend		Sandy
9 Thursday	Sugar Boat Night Paddle	A	Rab
18	Corryvreckan	C	Rab
19	Beginners River Trip		Sandy
25	River Teith	Grade 2	Rab
<b>May</b>			
2	Beginners River Trip		Sandy
9	3* (Sea) Training		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.**

Thanks

Rab Burns