

Drumchapel & Clydebank Kayak Club

Newsletter

May /June 09

Trips

Lower Orchy: On the last day of February just six members turned up for the planned paddle down the Lower River Orchy; four people in two open canoes and two kayaks. This was the first time that anyone that we knew had paddled down this part of the river. The guide book described the river as a Grade 1-2 with a 600 metre section of Grade 2-3 that is best portaged. We found the river was entirely flat except for the grade 2-3 section.

Once on the water we were waiting for some rapids to appear but they did not. Only the surrounding scenery made up the real interest. The majority of the river is flat calm; the only real sets of rapids were roughly half way down the river. Once we were at the start of the rapids we had a good inspection for them and we could see a route through.

Ron and young David went first in the kayaks then followed by the canoes. I don't think that anyone quite got the lines that we had envisaged and all the boats came down slightly different and more interesting routes than the ones we picked out from the bank! We all managed to stay upright but the open canoes were slightly wetter than they started, as were the occupants! The only real casualty on this trip was a paddle that snapped in two, near the start of the rapids, both Andy and Liz managed recover from this slight problem with the aid of a spare paddle that was in their boat. The remainder of the river was very gentle and a pleasant change of change of scenery for everyone.

Dundee to St Andrews: Yes, you guessed it this trip was scrubbed due to Force 4-5 increasing to a force 9. One day we might get out on the sea! So far this year not one of the three planned sea trips has taken place.

Loch Lomond: Again bad weather cancelled this night paddle with Force 5-7's forecasted.

River Clyde (Middle section): This turned out to be an excellent trip with seven members turning up in a mixture of Kayaks and Canoes for this journey. Some of the members who turned up had never paddled this river before or had paddled it a long time ago, so it was nice to see them out on this river. There is a lot of small rapids and eddies to play in a practice some skills to build up confidence. Tom and Bruce were practicing some skills in the Open Canoe just to see how different they are to Kayaks, and as a result they were both beginning to grow gills and fins by the end of the trip! All in all another great day out was had by all members and amphibians alike.

Inverbervie to Stonehaven: Yes! A sea trip was managed at long last, and what a paddle it was. Unfortunately it was only Donald, Ron, Julia and I turned up for this trip. We all arrived at Inverbervie by 9.45am to have some tea and sticky buns. The wind forecast was a westerly Force 3-4 increasing to a Force 5-6 later with virtually no swell predicted.

Once down at the beach we found there to be virtually no wind at all, but a much bigger swell than predicted was travelling along the same lines as we had planned to paddle. This would mean that most if not all the caves would be out for this trip. Therefore it was looking like this trip we would all be padding off shore all the way up to Stonehaven without getting into any of the caves. Once on the water we could see that the swell was around the 4ft mark which is enough for people to disappear behind the waves for a second or two.

Further along the indented coastline we did manage to find the odd skerries or small headland that broke up the swell enough that allowed us into some of the bigger caves and natural arches. These caves and arches provided a brief respite from the sea conditions but are also spectacular to view. The caves and arches around this area can compare with those to be found in Shetland or the west coast of Skye. There were plenty of Gray Seals to be seen as well as puffins on this trip. By this time my disappointment with the predicted glass calm sea conditions was gone and we were now enjoying the swell. The swell around some of the headlands increased to around the 8-10ft mark, and when the swell hit the cliffs the exploding seas which this produced was spectacular to view.

Just as we approached Stonehaven the predicted wind started to get up and it was a short, but tough kilometre or so paddle into the harbour. After changing we stopped of in Stonehaven for Fish and Chips before heading down the road. This was a fantastic paddle and although Julia and I had paddled this coastline before in glass like conditions, we agreed that this was much more rewarding experience, but it also showed how exceptionally lucky we were with the benign conditions we had the first time we did this paddle.

Sugar Boat: On the 9th of April the night paddle to the Sugar Boat and surrounding area was cancelled with winds forecasted to reach between Force 6 and 8!

Gulf of Corryvreckan: On the 18th of April the weather abated for a day or so and sun came out and the wind went away some where else for a change. 10 club members turned up for this grade “C” trip, which must be a record. As people are well aware the tides around this area are very strong and although it was Neap Tides they are still powerful. We were on the water and over at the Corryvreckan for the right time for tides to change.

To say that the tides around this area on that day were slack, is an understatement, and the sea was flat clam too, an Open Canoe would have faced no real problems here! We stopped of at the “Bay of Pigs” on Jura for an extended Lunch and hoped the tide would build up.

After lunch, we head north past the remote west side of Scarba all the way up to the top of Lunga where we should be able to catch the tide back down the Sound of Luìng. We had a quick play in the “Gray Dogs” before stopping for lunch pt 2. After that it was a quick paddle back to the cars for 6.15pm. We managed to paddle some 40km in just over seven and a half hours including lunch breaks. So although the tides around this area were exceptionally weak that day, they still manage to power you along to help you cover those distances.

A Look Forward.

The first trip for May is on the 9th 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 6th of June with the actual assessment taking place on the 11th of July. Meeting time for the course is 8.30am at the stores for all those dates.

The next trip is on the 16th of May is a trip to the River Glass and Beaully (Grade 1) near Inverness, due to the travel distance involved I would suggest that a Friday night departure would be best and either camping or hostel type accommodation for the night. This river trip is worth it, although I have never paddled it, I have seen some photos of the scenery! We will be returning home on Saturday evening. Again this trip is open to both canoes and kayaks. If people are interested in this trip I will need to know well in advance if we are to book accommodation.

Between the 22nd and the 31st of May there will be a trip to the Skye – Loch Carron area run by Ron. See Ron for further information on this trip.

The last Tuesday Night in the Pool is on the 2nd of June and on the 9th we will meet at the stores for 6.30pm for the start of the summer outdoor evening sessions. Please see the

diary to see the list trips and skill sessions. With 12 evening sessions planned we will try to move away from Drumkinnon Bay for some of the sessions to go on actual trips for some of the evenings.

This is hopefully a planned trip to the Mull of Galloway on the 27th of June; it might be advisable to depart Glasgow on the Friday Night to allow the maximum time down in this area. This is a grade "C" trip.

Going into July the first Tuesday evening is a trip to the spectacular Bass Rock, which is one of my all time favourite short paddles.

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

Pool Sessions The last pool session is Tuesday 26th May. Out door sessions start on Tuesday 2nd June meeting at the container at 6:30pm heading for Drumkinnon Bay, Loch Lomond.

Diary

Date	Location	Grade	Contact
May			
3	Beginners River Trip		Sandy
9	3* (Sea) Training		Rab 01877-382141
16	River Glass & Beaully	Grade 1-2	Rab
22/25	Scottish Sea Kayak Symposium	All	SCA
22/31	Skye – Loch Carron Area	A	Ron
June			
6	3* (Sea) Training		Rab
9 Tuesday	Drumkinnon Bay	SKILLS	
15 Monday	Play Drome, 7.30pm	Committee Meeting	
16 Tuesday	Drumkinnon Bay	SKILLS	
23 Tuesday	Drumkinnon Bay	RESCUES	
27	Mull of Galloway	C	Rab
30 Tuesday	Drumkinnon Bay	RESCUES	
July			
7 Tuesday	Bass Rock	A	Rab
11	3* (Sea) Assessment		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