

Drumchapel & Clydebank Kayak Club

Newsletter

May/June 2010

Committee Meeting

The Club at the moment holds six committee meetings every year, and although they are called Committee Meetings, any member can attend or bring up points that they wish to raise. At the Moment the Committee Meetings are held in the Play Drome, and start at 7.30pm. Remember this is your Club and it is your input that will help to make it better, so we hope to see you at one of the meetings. The next meeting is on **Wednesday the 23rd of June** and you are more than welcome to raise any point that you wish to raise.

At the previous Committee meeting one of the items that was raised and that was agreed upon was that the Club should implement a **“FORUM FOR PADDLE DATES”**. This would be a part of the Club website and would allow any member to either plan a trip or indicate to other members that they were available to go paddling at relatively short notice. This facility should be up and running in the near future.

One of the other points that was raised was a **“Club contact List”** for Club members. This would help anyone to aid in the co-ordination and planning of a trip. If anyone is interested in having their contact details passed **JUST** to other Club members on a either a paper list or e-mail list they can do so by sending, or handing your information over to Janice Gow on a Tuesday evening or at any time by e-mail to Janice.gow@ntlworld.com.

Any member can do this, or not, as they see fit. What Janice is looking for is for members to give her their:

Name

Home Phone Number

Mobile Phone Number

E-mail Address

Members can give as much or as little information over as they wish. I.e. Just their name and Home Phone Number would be sufficient.

Newsletter Deadline

Any information for the next Newsletter must either be sent to Ron or Rab by the 20th of June for the July/August Issue.

Container Painting

The Club would to thank all the members who came along over the weekend of the 24/25 of April in helping to paint the outdoor stores container. The Saturday team painted the undercoat but Sunday's work to complete the second coat was postponed owing to rain.

Trips

Loch Ard Night Paddle: This trip was cancelled due to a lack of interest from members despite the good weather conditions that were forecasted.

Firth of Clyde: On Saturday the 6th of March there was just 3 members who turned up for this paddle starting at the small village of Dunure and going North past the stunning Heads of Ayr and up to Troon. We were forced to endure winds gusting up to a Force 2 in the unrelenting sunshine. The total distance covered was just over 20km.

Moray Firth Weekend: The next trip was to the Moray Firth Area, and 9 members turned up for the paddle, although only 8 were to paddle, poor Andy missed out. On the Saturday we set off from Chanory Point to Cromarty. Although the forecast was for rain, we were to stay in a pocket of sunshine for most of the day. The wind was some thing else! The day started with a strong breeze, but within a few minutes the wind dropped to almost nothing, and then it would pick up again to almost the top end of a Force 5 and then drop again to almost nothing and this is how it went for the whole day. The big disappointment was the lack of Dolphins to be seen in this area renowned for them!

We returned to the Hostel for the night where various members of the Club opted for different eating arrangements! I won't mention Barry's name here, but someone went to a Chinese Buffet night and selected Banana Fritters, thinking they were Chicken Balls, and then covered the Fritters with Curry Sauce! And just don't ask Ron to look after your potatoes after a glass or four of wine!

On the Sunday everyone was up and ready (Some how!) for the short drive to the Aigas Gorge. Arriving and on the water before 10am for this very short paddle. At just over 5km in total this has to be one of the best paddles around for sheer dramatic scenery. And as predicted the cameras were certainly out as was the sunshine and occasional showers. We were on the water by mid-day and heading down the road nice and early. Overall this was a very successful trip despite the worse weather than was forecasted for the Saturday and lack of Dolphins on this trip. The Saturday night made more than up for this as did the paddle into the Gorge.

Coast Guard Visit: On the 27th of March the Club managed to arrange a visit to the Coast Guard Rescue and Co-Ordination Centre based in Greenock. The Club has visited the centre several years ago been there before, and we thought that the visit would follow the same format, we were wrong.

On this visit we were taken just into the operations room and given a very detailed outlay of what the Operation Room does in its day to day operations. We were also shown all the various computer programmes that would enable rescue craft, either Lifeboats, Helicopters or even shore based personnel to be directed to the area in which to help locate either people, Kayaks, boats in the water or shore.

This was a truly fascinating visit that really tied in well with the visit several weeks previous to HMS Gannet, illustrating just how well the various systems work together. This visit, for us, was certainly far more beneficial than the previous visit to the Rescue and Co-Ordination Centre. Very big thanks must go to the staff that spared no effort in showing and telling us every thing that there was to tell in such a short space of time.

Solway Firth: We managed to obtain the very latest weather forecast while we were at the Coast Guard Office, (Variable F3 or less) so we duly set off for Gretna. The Following morning it was still blowing a Westerly Force 5-6 with the wind forecasted to drop much later. So the first sea paddle was cancelled this year on the first day of Official British Summer Time!

Loch Lomond Night Paddle: Again British summer time strikes again with another cancellation due to gale force winds.

St Abb's Head: On Sunday the 11th of April the Club did a paddle from Berwick upon Tweed to St Abb's Head, with ten members attending this trip. And by all accounts this was an excellent trip including "Bernie's" very unique attempts to feed the fish!

Ullapool area: This trip was cancelled but there was a weather window much further south. Therefore we opted to paddle from East Loch Tarbert to Campbeltown. This was an excellent paddle with fantastic views over to Arran and the surrounding area. We stopped off at Skipness Castle for lunch with a bit of time to explore the Castle. We then continued south all the way down to "Grogport", which you must admit; it does not have the most appealing name! The Campsite was more appealing than its name.

The following morning we rounded Carradale Point and headed into Campbeltown Loch and the finish of the paddle. We managed just over 60km in two days with excellent weather conditions. I just hope our next big paddle will be just as good.

Paddles to look forward to.

The big Club trip this year is going to Barra and its outlying island's, this will take place over the week of the 7th to the 15th of May. Everyone that is interested in going on this trip should have had given their names to Rab by now.

Departing Glasgow at 10.30am this will give us plenty of time to get to Oban and pack the Kayaks, and then park the cars. The Ferry departs Oban at 15.30 and arrives at Castlebay in Barra at 18.30. We are planning to stay the night in the Hostel on the Saturday Night. This will then allow us a nice early start the following day to start paddling down towards Mingulay and Barra Head and then returning to Barra, if time allows we plan to paddle around Barra as well.

There will also be several Plan "B's" trip if the weather looks unsuitable.

The next Club trip is to the Bass Rock and this will take place on the 22nd of May and not the 29th as originally indicated. This is a fantastic trip, and if you have never been on this trip before, it is one that you will remember for a very long time. We plan to meet at the stores for 9 am for this short Grade "A" Paddle (Around 6 miles in total.) In the event that we need a Plan "B" trip for this trip, it will either be on the Firth of Clyde or a Loch.

The next trip for May is on the 23th 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 for the Assessment is just six, however more members can attend and do some training. **This will be the only 3* (Sea) course this year.** A further training day is planned for the 25th of July with the actual assessment taking place on the 8th of August. Meeting time for the course is 8.30am at the PLAYDROME for the 23rd of May. **PLEASE NOTE:** The 3*Sea Syllabus has just recently changed (**April 2010**) please make sure that you know what is in it, prior to the course.

Remember, if you have any questions please ask.

On the 12/13th of June there is a big trip out to The Ailsa Craig and Pladda. This trip has an early start, at 7 am at the Stores. From there we drive down to Girvan and launch, and then we paddle the 11 miles out to the Ailsa Craig, and plan to climb to the summit. Back down and then paddle the 12 miles to Pladda and Camp for the night! The following day we paddle just 12 miles to Brodick to catch the Ferry back to Ardrossan and finish! I just hope the weather is good for this weekend!

There may well be other trips planned over the period of May and June, but at the moment I do not have any further information on these, so please check at the Loch Lomond on a Tuesday Evening for the latest information.

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
27 Tuesday	Last Pool Night – Gala Night		
May			
2	River Trip	3* Training	Sandy
4 Tuesday	First night Loch Lomond - Trip		
7 - 15	Barra Trip	B/C	Rab
11 Tuesday	Loch Lomond - Trip		
18 Tuesday	1*Canoe Assessment + 2* Kayak Assessment		
21 Friday	Social Evening (Curry Night)	All	Janice
22 Sat	Bass Rock	A	Rab
23 Sun	3* Sea Training		Rab
25 Tuesday	1* Kayak Assessment + 2 *Canoe Assessment		
30	River Trip	3* Training	Sandy
June			
8 Tuesday	Gorge Walk		Rab
12/13	Ailsa Craig & Pladda	C	Rab
14 Monday	Committee Meeting		Colin
15 Tuesday	Towing		
22 Tuesday	Rolling		
29 Tuesday	Rescues		
July			
6 Tuesday	Race Night		

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.