



Drumchapel and Clydebank Kayak Club

November/December 2006

Newsletter

The A.G.M.

The Club had its AGM on Wednesday the 25th of October, and it was the busiest I've seen a meeting in a while, and if I managed to count right 24 members turned up. We got through all the formal subjects quite quickly and on to the AOCB points. The committee members are now as follows Chairman – Rab, Vice Chairman – Colin, Treasurer – Donald, Secretary – Ron, Equipment Officers Ian & Barry, Sea Kayaking – Gillian, River – Sandy, General members Janell & Tracy, Junior Members – Stuart, Web Officer – Tom.

Everyone in the club should have by now filled in a membership form with all your latest contact details on it, if not please see Donald and Ron. There are 5 Key Holders for the outside container; they are Ron, Donald Colin, Ian and Sandy. The Club Membership Fees will still be the same as last years, as will the pool fees. The only thing that has changed has been the cost for members hiring our equipment and it is basically stays the same at £5.00 for everything including the trip fees, for a whole week! We think that this represents extremely good value for money.

Skills and training were up next for the meeting. And this proved to be quite popular subject. Some people indicated they would like to see more 1* and 2* Awards done in the club as well as the 3* Award, so these will be available in the club programme next year. Some people indicated that they did not know what was involved the various Star Tests. This information can easily be found on the BCU or SCA web site which our club site has a link to. Failing that ask one of the instructors.

Members also indicated that they would like to see more specialist courses such as the Canoe Safety Test, 4* (Inland and Sea) White Water Safety Course, 1st Aid and Level 2 Training and Assessments and Open Canoe 3*. These courses all take time to organise and most of these will have to be done outside the club. I can look into them but, it's up to you to take part in them. At the end of this newsletter there will be a tick sheet with courses on it, pop your name on the course relevant to your needs, remembering that there may be several course of interest to you and return them to me by the 5th of December. So it's up to you now.

We went through the equipment for our stores and we will be purchasing several new foot rests for the pool boats. (Where do they all go?) We will also endeavour to get some new Spray Decks, Buoyancy Aids, Cags, and Wetsuits for the club over the next few months. Depending on funds we are still looking at a new Sea Kayak as well. The last main thing that we discussed was the pool, and the structure, if there was one at the pool. What many new members to the club and by that I mean members who have been at the club less than two years has been the rapid growth of the club. Several years ago, in the days before the Web Site, the club attracted just a few new members each year. And therefore it there was no real requirement to have a proper structure at the pool session. Each instructor basically fought to get their hands on a new "victim", whom they instructed relentlessly for several weeks before they managed to get their hand's on a new "victim".

Now, where it is easy for an instructor to take 8 people outside for a lesson, the same instructor will not have the room to teach that number in the pool, unless everyone else leaves the pool. And yes there have been some evenings where there

have been as many as 8 new people turning up at once. The Instructors, of which there are only a few in the club, cannot possibly teach all the individuals at the pool. The club is now full and we are now not accepting any new members into the club, or for that matter any members bringing along friends to the pool. Therefore we are going to structure the pool sessions into various sessions. These sessions will start as soon as possible, but they will be in place by next year. If you do not like the style of the new structures then please say so.

And one last thing on the pool could everyone please turn up for 7.30pm to help bring the boats around, and this include the junior members as well.

So there you have it, a very quick round up of the meeting and as you can see the AGM is important to the club and you. If members still have any questions or things you would like to see in the club, then please, please mention it to one of the club committee members at the pool or at the next committee meeting. The date for next Committee Meeting will be at 7.30pm on the 11th December at Ron House.

Tidal Planning

Due to a lack of time I have not manage to finish of the second part of the Tidal Planning session. But here are the answers to the quiz.

Tidal Quiz

This is the questions plus the answers to the quiz. Should you have any question please ask Rab.

1. If high tide today is at 16.15. At what approximate time will high tide be tomorrow afternoon?
Ans. Around 17.30.
2. If it is a low tide today at 11.30. At what time do you expect the next high tide to be at?
Ans. Around 17.45.
3. If it is low tide at 19.45 today, when will the next low tide be at?
Ans. Around 08.45 the following day.
4. If the time is 09.00 and high water is at 13.30, what is the tide doing at 09.00?
Ans. The tide is said to be flooding, or in other words, it's coming in.
5. What type of tide will give you the strongest tidal movements?
Ans. Spring Tides.
6. Which type of tide will give you the weakest tidal movement?
Ans. Neap Tides.
7. How do you know when we are on spring tides?
Ans. You will know by the full moon or new moon period, which is indicated in tide tables.
8. Approximately how many spring tides do you have per month?
Ans. 2 Spring tides per month
9. If high tide is indicated at 13.15 at Oban on the 8th of March, when will the tide be the highest?
Ans 13.15.
10. In a Tide Table, if high tide is indicated at 23.47 at Greenock on the 15th of July when will the tide be the highest?
Ans. 00.47 on the 16th of July.
11. At Greenock it is high tide at 20.00 what is the tide doing at 11.20?
Ans. The tide will be flooding.
12. At Greenock it is high tide at 20.00 what is the tide doing at 23.20?
Ans. The tide is ebbing, or going out.

Norway 2007

The plans for next years Norway trip are coming together now. Due to the timing of the ferry departing Bergen on the Saturday afternoon, and with the associated problems of finding a campsite near the city we have decided to land at Bergen on the Friday evening. (We plan to stay in a Hostel on the Friday night.) This will allow us time to have a look around the city on the Saturday before we catch the ferry home.

Trips

Just four members of the club, Ron, Donald, Julia and I attended the Rum and Canna trip that was graded a B/C trip. The weather just a few days before was pretty horrendous and to be honest we did not think that we would be able to do this trip, but there was a small weather window appearing for the weekend. Due to the strong winds over the previous few days and with fresh winds forecasted for the Friday we opted for a late start that day. We arrived on Skye with the sun blazing and the sea flat calm, so much for the force 4/5 that was forecasted! By that time it was too late to pack the boats and start paddling.

The following morning was fantastic, we departed from Elgol and paddled over to Soay and had a good look around the remains of the shark factory there. From Soay we then paddled south west to Rum landing to a torrent of midges. The planned campsite at Kinloch was looking desperate with no wind and hoards of midges; we opted for the hostel at Kinloch Castle. When we arrived we found out that the BBC was filming their Autumn Watch series and they had booked out the entire hostel!

Donald had camped at the campsite before and was not looking forward to it. We found to our surprise that it had moved several hundred yards to an almost flat lawn with two midge machines, a bench and a large pile of fire wood, this was heaven. And just to top it there was a small display of the Northern Lights as well, fantastic. The forecast for the following day was not.

We left campsite in sunny weather turned the corner to head south and saw the black sky. The wind started to pick up and the rain came down. As we were heading to Dibidal Bothy we passed the most amazing scenery and waterfalls. At one of the waterfalls we spotted some people there. They indicated to us that someone had fallen over and was missing, and could we look for him, which we did but to no avail. When we landed at the bothy, we found out the man had been washed over several set of waterfall before being washed out to sea, several days ago, so we were looking for a dead body! (The body was found several days later at the waterfall we were at.)

One thing that became apparent on this trip was that landing very difficult, with steep beaches surrounded by cliffs. The rain was still coming down and thankfully the sea state was calm, the wind however was a good force 5/6, but in some areas the down drafts increased the wind speed much higher. We were planning to go over to Canna, but the weather conspired against us and we stopped of at a bothy on the north end of Rum. We now had a chance to dry out; everything was wet, just from the rain. We managed a small fire to warm up and help to dry out. Later on the wind dropped and the sky cleared. One thing that we did want was a weather forecast, and we could not reach the coastguard on the VHF.

Around 3am we were wakened by the wind that was blowing around the bothy, so much so that we went down to the beach to secure all the kayaks and paddles in a hollow. The morning did not look good!

When the morning arrived the wind had abated a good bit but was still looking iffy for the crossing back to Soay. The plan was to paddle in the shelter of the island to the beaches at the north of the island and if it did not look good, we could at least stay there. Again there was some strong down drafts as we paddled amongst spectacular scenery to the north of Rum. By the time we landed on the beach the wind was dropping, so it looked like a quick bite to eat and then over to Soay. As we were looking for a nice spot to eat, we spotted a large heard of deer. As we moved a bit closed to the deer, we or I should say I did not spot the BBC camera crew filming the animals. So we withdrew to a safer distance to have lunch.

The crossing to Soay ended up being flat calm especially once we entered the village bay. On the crossing back over to Elgol the wind started to pick up again and by the time we were off the water it was blowing a good force 4, but we did not care by then, because we were on land. What a trip we had, we had all sorts of weather, from flat calm to near gale, from sun to torrential rain. But the one overriding thing that I will remember is the scenery around Rum. What a fantastic experience in those conditions.

The trip on the 14/15 of October to Applecross was disappointing with so many people expressing an interest in this trip and only four turned up for it, Donald, Barry, Gillian and Rab. Well you all missed a fantastic trip, and how hot was it? Like the height of summer, I paddled in a T- Shirt on both days. We did not manage quite the planned trip due to delays caused by a major road accident that closed the road for just over an hour and then the canal bridges being opened for a very large boat to pass through. So we ended paddling from Plockton to Loch Carron (I think that this might be a trip for next year!) and over to Uags Bothy.

As we paddled to the Bothy the sun was so strong that you could hardly look up. The disappointing thing about this bothy was its sole inhabitant who turned up just as we did. The man was a bit of a wally; Gillian had another expression for him that I won't put down here! But I think Gillian's expression sums him up better than mine.

The following day we paddled around the Crowlin Isles where we saw Common Seals broach the surface several times. On the way back over to Plockton we lost count of how many Porpoise we saw. Not to mention the Otter as well. Although I have paddled this area several times this was without doubt the most stunning for the weather, the wild life and the scenery. What a fantastic trip and it was just a gentle Grade "A" trip.

Anyway enough gloating, remember we have an Open Canoe and Kayak trip down the River Spey on the 4th and 5th of November. The plan is to spend a bit of time on Loch Insh and then head down the river. This is all mainly Grade 1. This will be a Friday night start and staying in bunk houses on the way. We are planning to be on the water for around 10am at Loch Insh, and for those who cannot make it up on Friday Night, if you leave Glasgow around 6.30am on the Saturday morning you could make it on time. If anyone is interested please contact myself by the AGM. Please note that there is a short paddle on Loch Ard on the 12th of November. On the 3rd of December we have a gentle but spectacular trip down Loch Leven, by Glencoe, and on the 16th of December we have our annual Mince Pie Paddle on Loch Lomond.

If someone is interested in going on one of the club trips could you contact the organiser at least a week in advance of the date.

Lost Paddle Found

A paddle was lost on the Teith recently and a message was posted on the SCA web site. Luckily for us it was found by a member of St Andrew University KC, Jamie Adam. He contacted Ron and arrangements are being made to return it.

Tiso

Tuesday 14th 6pm – 8pm

Our huge range of fantastic products will be at discounted prices including **25% OFF** mountaineering and climbing equipment, **15% OFF** clothing, footwear and equipment plus **10% OFF** books, maps, canoes and GPS. There will also be a selection of special *Club Night Bargains*. It's a night your members can't afford to miss!

Justin Curgenven is giving a presentation about her sea kayaking trips in the far north at Tiso on 17th Nov at 7:30pm Tickets £4.

Kayak Hong Kong

When you hear “Hong Kong” you automatically think skyscrapers, neon, bright lights and crowds, yes? How about deserted, white sandy beaches, turquoise water and coral? No?

Well, that’s exactly what Janell & Tommy found when they went kayaking in Hong Kong with a local operator, Kayak & Hike (www.kayak-and-hike.com).

After an hour riding the metro to Hang Hua and the local bus to Sai Kung, we meet up with our guide, Paul, and his mate, Charlie (from Paisley!). Also along for the trip were four Ozzie girls who were in Hong Kong for the World Dragon Boat Championships – what had we let ourselves in for?

The trip starts with an exhilarating ride on a Fast Pursuit Craft - a large speed boat with 2 HUGE engines attached to the stern. We ease gently out of the harbour before the engines are opened up. The other girls are soon hanging on for dear life - fortunately, we’re sitting with our backs to a bulkhead so we can relax and enjoy the ride. And what a ride! 20 minutes of bouncing, crashing and splashing through the waves before we arrive at a small fishing village further out on the peninsula.

From here we set off using “Tri-Yak” double sit-on-top kayaks. A paddle, paddle leash, PFD and water bottle each make up the rest of the kit (the FPC shadows us all day carrying our other gear). We start with a short paddle round the first headland to land on a white sand beach.



And what do you know? Apparently Dragon Boat racing doesn’t prepare you all that well for kayaking! T & J, graduates of the “paddle, paddle, drift” school of kayaking, leave the Dragon Boaters behind fairly quickly. And that sets the pattern for the day - for those who have paddled with us, imagine if you will, T & J out in front all day during a paddle!

After a quick chat we set off again across the channel to Bluff Island. A half hour or so sees us across the channel and we land on another glorious white sand beach. We don snorkel and face mask and spend a glorious hour snorkelling over the coral. With the water temperature in the region of 23oC, there’s no rush to leave. From teeny fish all the way up to small fish, there’s enough to keep us amused anyway.

We eventually get out on the kayaks again and set off in a counter-clockwise circumnavigation of Bluff Island. A bit further round we find a passage through the cliffs which cuts out the next headland. As this headland is open to the South China Sea, it’s a handy shortcut. The passage is about 30 feet long, 10 feet wide and 20 feet high. Paul guides each kayak “crew” through and then back again. With the front paddler, in our case Janell, providing the forward motion and the rear paddler, Tommy, providing the steering, it’s a fairly straightforward journey. The only problem is when the swell comes through. At about 5 feet, it completely blocks the view of where you’re going, but what a blast, climbing up one side and sliding down the other.



After the three “crews” have gone through and back again, we continue the paddle, passing through the passage once more and on into the next bay. It’s far choppier on this side and in the distance we can see huge sprays where big waves are crashing against the rocks. That’ll be the South China Sea, then?

The cliffs on this side of the island have a definite Staffa / Giant’s Causeway look about them – unsurprising as it’s all volcanic rock. The bay we’re paddling in is in fact the remains of a huge caldera that’s collapsed and been flooded by the sea. We’re told there are other, bigger sea arches in the area (next time!)

As we’re paddling we see a Reef Heron and comment to Paul on the lack of wild and birdlife we’ve seen on the trip. He blames overfishing which has driven away any wildlife which depend on fish for their survival.

After 10 minutes or so we round the island and start to head back to the fishing village. The waters are busier now with big, luxury yachts anchored off the beaches.

In the distance, over the land, we can see a couple of massive raptors soaring on the thermals, they may have been sea eagles but were more likely to have been kites.

Eventually, we land on the beach back at the village. After a quick shower and change, we down a beer in the “local”, before finally heading back on the FPC to Sai Kung.

Including the FPC ride both ways, we were out in the bay for about 5 hours. If you’re lucky enough to find yourself in Hong Kong, and have a day to spare, we can heartily recommend paddling here. It’s a great opportunity to see a different side of Hong Kong!

Diary

Date	Location	Grade	Organiser	
November 5	River (Canoe or Kayak)	Grade 1 (max)	Rab	01877 382141
November 12	Loch Ard	A	Rab	
November 19	River	2 Star Level	Sandy	07962226280
December 3	Loch Leven (Glencoe)	A	Rab	
December 3	River	2 Star Level	Sandy	07962226280
December 6	(TBC) Night Paddle	B	Rab	
December 10	River	2 Star Level	Sandy	07962226280
December 16	Mince Pie Paddle	A	Rab	
December 31	River	2 Star Level	Sandy	07962226280

Sandy's river trips meet at 09:00am at the container. Phone Sandy a week in advance.

Please return to Rab by the 5th Of December 2006

Name

Kayak 1*
Kayak 2*
Kayak 3*
Kayak 4* (Inland)
Kayak 4* (Sea)
Kayak 5* (Sea)
Open Canoe 1*
Open Canoe 2*
Open Canoe 3*
Canoe/ Kayak Safety Test
White Water Safety Course
1st Aid
Level 2 Training
Level 2 Assessment
Any other courses, or trips?