

Drumchapel & Clydebank Kayak Club

Newsletter

November/December 2011

Newsletter Deadline

Any information such as trip reports or items for sale that is due for the next Newsletter must either be sent to Rab or Phil by the 15th of December for the January/February issue of the Clubs Newsletter.

Members Fees

Please be aware that membership fees are due **now**, and all monies should be paid to the Club via Shona, Cheques should be made out to "Drumchapel and Clydebank Kayak Club.

Next years Big Sea Trip

At the moment this trip is still in the "PLANING" stages, so there will be a few amendments to this very basis outline. This will be a definitely be a "GRADE C" trip at least! There are several options at this stage, some of which involve large sea crossings to remote islands in Scotland coupled with some tides! The length of the trip will run from a Friday to the following Sunday. (10 days) The trip will run some time between the April and the second week in May. At the moment the estimated costs for the trip is around £250 for car fuel and Ferries on top of that there is your food costs. Paddlers must be able to keep a pace of 7km per hour for at least 6 hours without any landing. If anyone is interested, please contact Rab or Julia as soon as possible as you can expect, there will be lost of training involved for this trip like this!

Some of the training will be in the pool and the remainder outside. **Most of the training sessions will be open to anyone, so even if you cannot make the trip but would still like to take part in the fitness or skill session you will be more than welcome to take part. More details will appear in the next newsletter including training sessions.**

February in Arran

On the 11/12 of the Club is running a paddle/social weekend based at the Loch Ranza Youth Hostel in Arran. At this moment the above date is the only one now free between January and March so it will need to be booked sharp. This trip is open to anyone including Junior's. As long as the juniors are accompanied by a responsible n adult. The cost of the Hostel for one night is £18.00 for adults and for £14 for juniors. (Its several pounds cheaper if you happen to be a member.) The return cost for the Ferry is £8.40 for adults and for juniors (15 or under) £4.20. If you fancy taking your car across the cost will be £51.00 return plus the cost of the passengers, alternatively the bus fares are nominal to Lochranza.

There will be several options to this trip.

Option 1: For **NON PADDLERS** taking the ferry from Ardrossan to Brodick then by Bus or car to the Hostel. Once there you have the option of having a lazy weekend, or doing some fantastic hill walking, paddling if you have the car and kayaks or just exploring Arran.

Option 2: Grade "A" trip, taking the ferry from Ardrossan to Brodick the paddling from Brodick to Loch Ranza 12 miles away. Remembering that you will need to pack everything in your Kayak! The return will be the opposite way the following day.

Option 3: Grade "C" trip, if the weather is looking good for the two days, Launching at Largs and paddling over to Loch Ranza just over 20 miles away. Then returning the same way the following day.

If any members are interested in this trip the FULL payment for the Youth Hostel **MUST BE** paid to Rab by the 22nd of November.

Items for sale

Rab has for sale a copy of the "IMERY'S" pilot "Clyde to Colonsay" which covers the area from the Mull of Galloway up to the Sound of Jura and out to Islay and Colonsay. Only £10.00, normally this costs around £17.00. See Rab at the Pool or give me a call.

Open Canoeing

There has been a sudden spate of open canoeing in the club. This weekend David Vause and Andrew Ligerty are doing their 3 star assessment, Graham Swanson did his 4 star training and assessment last month, the mini open canoe is at the pool and we have a grant application in to buy a small, closed cockpit canoe for pool use (as the open is pretty big for the pool and with only 25metre, pointy ends and lots of momentum it is definitely not the place to learn forward paddling). With the new 2 star award requiring some canoe skills and 2 star being a prerequisite for a number of coaching awards, it seems that paddling a canoe has become the new skill to have. The club has 3 open canoes which are about to be

modified for easier solo paddling and a few members have their own too, and we also have Rab who is our in-house expert coach!

The good news is that if you can kayak then you can probably learn to canoe to a fair level quite quickly. There is more to learn; e.g. working with a partner in a double, the elusive J-stroke when solo boating as well as some other things, but canoeing does offer a nice way to travel with kit and hopefully in extra comfort. Next spring/summer there will be lots more canoe/kayak trip options to Look forward to.

Trips to Look forward to: Big November Weekend Club Paddling Weekend

Sat & Sun 19th and 20th November

A weekend of paddling with available options including some loch trips, inland sea lochs and even the nice gentle Grade 2 lower River Orchy, ideal for Canadians. Based in Lochawe Village Hall accommodation is low cost bunkhouse dormitory style (one large room and bring your own beds and no showers on site I am afraid, but clean toilets, a small kitchen and plenty heating - also some bed space in Graham's cottage and a couple of showers too). We are planning to make this a 2 day opportunity to do some loch, river and sea loch paddling (LochAwe, Loch Etive etc). We also think this is a great chance for newly qualified coaches and 4 star aspirants to practice leading and coaching in a safe environment or just to have a couple of days out. This trip should suit adults and children over 10. Single day options available too!

Organisor: Graham (grahamswanson@gmail.com), Ron and Rab are also running some of the options.

2 Star training and Dates

Following some requests for some 2 star training and assessment we have two training days and a chance to go for assessment. In addition Rab has a program of trips and the pool sessions to practice things. The syllabus is on the internet! You don't have to attend both training days but contact graham to book your place. If anyone would like to help out with the training or assessing please get in touch.

Sunday 30th October **2 star training day.** Drumkinnon Bay. Meet at container at 9am.

Organisor: Graham

Sunday 6th November. **2 star training day.** Drumkinnon Bay. Meet at container at 9am.

Organisor: Graham

Sunday 4th December **2 star assessment day.** Meet at container at 9am. Organiser: Graham

Pool Sessions Planning Update

As last year we have an approximate pool session planning sheet. You can see it by visiting <http://bit.ly/dckcpool1112> ,but remember it is subject to change. If anyone would like to volunteer to help out with the coaching or organising at any of the sessions please let Graham know!

Volunteers needed to be the "Supervisor" for Pool Sessions

As part of the pool session we need to have two nominated "pool supervisors" each night, one for the kids and one for the adult session. Their job is to remain on the poolside and ensure no one ends in difficulties in the boat or out of the boat on the poolside. This can be done from the poolside or on the seats.

During the kids session it is likely one person could do the full hour. During the adults session we need a volunteer for each night from now to the end of April. We suggest that the night's pool supervisor could arrange to swap at 9.30 with another person so that they get a shot in the boats.

It has been suggested that to be a pool supervisor that the person has at least one year or more experience attending pool sessions and ideally attended the Foundation Safety and Rescue Training (FSRT).

To be fair we really need everyone who can do the role to take a turn on the rota so please speak to me to volunteer.

Gala Night

The last pool session of the year will be on Tuesday the 13 of December. Bill Davis will be organising another fun session at the pool that should "test" everyone's abilities!

Trips

Clyde Night Paddle: The Night Paddle on the Clyde that was due to take place on Monday the 13th of September was cancelled due to Force 10 winds!

Rathlin/Shaints/Arran Trip: The September weekend saw more bad weather hit Scotland again and the best weather window was up in the North East corner of Scotland. And even up in that area they had high wind warnings. So another trip was scrubbed. Can the weather get any better?

Skye: Can the weather get any worse? Yes it can, yet another trip scrubbed due to high winds.

Paddle's to look forward to.

Hopefully if the weather does eventually get a bit better there will be some paddling coming up. On the 5th of November there is a Paddle from Stirling to Edinburgh in Sea Kayaks, Launching near the Motorway at Stirling and paddling with the tide plus the natural flow of the river all the way to Port Edgar at South Queen's Ferry, some 30km away. Meeting time at the stores is 8am or at "Dobbies" just off the Motorway at Stirling for 8.45am. We are planning to be on the water for around 11am. Although this trip is just over 30km in distance, it is Graded an "A" trip due to the fact that we will have tidal assistance all the way coupled with the rivers help.

One of the last planned paddles of the year is on the upper part of the River Clyde from the A702 Road Bridge just north of Abington to a get out point just to the west of Bigger giving a paddle of 13km. This is a Grade 1 paddle and is suitable for Open Canoes and River Kayaks. Meeting time at the store is 9am.

Remember, if you have any questions on any aspect of the trips or information given, please ask.

There may be further trips planned over the period of November and December, but at the moment I do not have any further information on these, so please check at the Poolside 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	Meeting time	Grade	Contact
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At Stores

November

5	Stirling to Edinburgh	8am	A	Rab
6	2* Training	9am		Graham
12/13	4 star river w/end	TBC	B/C	Sandy
19/20	Loch Awe Area	TBC	ALL	Graham

December

4	2* Assessment	9am		Graham
10	River Clyde	9am	Grade 1	Rab
13	POOL- Gala Night			Bill
18	Mince Pie Paddle	TBC	All	Ran

Rab: - 01877 382141 - Rabburns63@googlemail.com

Shona: - 07507 500996

Sandy – 07962226280 – sandy.johnston@sky.com

Graham Swanson: - 07968 057 934 - grahamswanson@gmail.com

NOTE: Please look at the grading of the trip, if unsure about the grading system, either ask or check the web site for further details.

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 and times into your Diary.

Thanks Rab Burns