

Drumchapel & Clydebank Kayak Club

Newsletter

September/October 2010

Missing Club Kayaks!

At the last committee meeting it was noted that there were several kayaking missing from the container. There was no record of who took the boats! The result is that members who had a planned paddle on turned up to find that there was no boats for them!

If any member wishes to borrow a boat from the Club out with an organized Club Trip you must inform the members of the committee, and then write you name in the book which is located within the container. That way everyone can see where the boats are at any one time.

Even if you are out on an organized Club trip you should still sign the book!

Membership Fees

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

Junior/Concessions	£15.00
Adult	£27.00
Family	£35.00

Please note that the Club Fee's may go up after the AGM, therefore it is worth your while to ensure prompt payment!

AGM

The Club's AGM is on **Monday the 11rd of October at 7.30pm** and is to be held in the Playdrome. This is the members chance to put forward any new ideas that the Club should develop. If you have any ideas in what ways the Club should change please let Colin, Ron or Rab know by Tuesday the 5th. Everyone in the club should make an attempt to attend this meeting as there will be some important issues effecting the club and members to be discussed. If you have any points you wish to raise prior to the meeting could you please **contact Colin** or Rab at least a week prior to the meeting, or even just now would be great.

Please note that **Ron** is standing down from the position of Secretary at the AGM, a position that he has held for many years now. It is a job that he has tirelessly worked for the benefit of the Club. A job that largely goes unnoticed by many, but the Club certainly would not be where it is now with out his efforts. **Donald** is also standing down from the position of the Club Treasurer. The Club should thank Ron and Donald for all their past efforts in helping the Club. Ron will be putting a lot of this extra free time into developing his new business venture, for which we wish him all the very best.

This now raises the point, who is going to replace Ron and Donald and other members of the Committee who may stand down? As always at the AGM the old committee stands down and any member who wishes to take on a post within the Club can put themselves forward for that post. Remember this is your Club, the more that you put in the more that you will get out of it.

Container Painting

Ron sent out an e-mail to everyone regarding the painting of the Club's Container on Saturday the 4th of September. No one turned up with ladders and keys so it was cancelled. Another date has been set for the 11th and 12th of September at 10am. Please try to make it.

New Coaches?

As the membership may also be aware, Ron is also standing down from being a Coach within the Club. This will in effect place a severe strain on the remaining qualified coaches within the Club. Remembering that due to personal commitments those remaining coaches cannot guarantee attending each session so there will be session where there will be **NO QUALIFIED** Coaches in attendance at the pool sessions. **If there are no qualified coaches at the Pool, the Pool session will have to be cancelled that evening.** In addition the club will still have to pay nearly £100.00 for that cancelled pool session, the normal pool fees! The Playdrome let states that the Club must have at least one qualified coach in attendance at each pool session!

For a Club of our size we should have around 10 coaches at different levels, and in different disciplines. We have at this moment in time just four qualified coaches! They are Rab Burns, Graham Swanson, Sandy Johnston and Colin Adams.

Newsletter Deadline

Any information such as trips or items for sale that is due for the next Newsletter must either be sent to Ron or Rab by the 24th of Octo

ber for the November/December Issue.

For Sale

Pyranha Stretch - River boat fitted for white water. £275 – Ron 07743342330

Trips

The Shaint Islands: This trip was cancelled due to gales, as were all plan “B’s”!

Helmsdale: This trip happened on the last day of July and first of August, when four members turned up at Dornoch on a Friday Night to be ready for the weekend’s paddling. The campsite at Dornoch to say the least is very large, and it took some time in even finding Donald with his van and kayak on it!

The following morning we drove up to Dunbeath to paddle south to Dornoch with the wind and tide all in our favour. The sea state was very calm with almost no wind or swell, which allowed us to get into some very interesting caves! In fact there were so many Caves, Arches and Stacks that it took us 3 hours to do just 5km! The maps did not have any caves marked on this section of coastline! However time was pressing and we had no option but to be selective in some of the caves that we went into. There were several high lights to say the least; one was a very large double cave that ran parallel with the coast line for around 30 meters and about 4 meters wide and 8 meters high. This was the first time I had ever seen a sea cave like this. Probably the most spectacular thing we saw on the whole trip and something that I had never seen before was a huge double archway. It was not the size or shape of the archway, but the rock strata on the archway gave you the very real optical illusion that the sea was dropping away from you at a very steep angle! This was very disconcerting to say the least. This is not what you expect to see when the conditions were flat calm!

On of the more disturbing sites we did see was a large amount of various dead sea-birds on this part of the trip. Once we had passed Helmsdale the coastal scenery changed almost in an instant to more pastoral farm lands which did allow us to do some wild camping on the East Coast, a rare thing to do. The Campsite was on boulders with tall grass around the area, we all did manage a good night’s sleep though!

The following morning we were up and on the water at just after 8am to paddle down to our finish at Dornoch early that afternoon. We passed some typical East Coast fishing villages that always seem to have a unique character to them. As we rounded a headland where Brora is situated we were all commenting on just how calm the conditions were. Within several minutes the wind had got up to the top end of a force 5, and it happened to be right in our faces, progress was painfully slow as we made our way to the nearest beach for some shelter. Just 30 minutes later we were back down to gentle force 2 conditions for the remainder of the trip.

Yes, this was a big drive to get to this remote part of the Country, but the sites we saw really made it worth it. The first part of the paddle, the Cave systems and Arches far surpassed anything on the Inverbervie to Stonehaven section of coastline, and that is saying something. This was a truly fantastic paddle that we will all remember for a very long time.

Mystery paddle: The mystery paddle ended up with just two people joining up for this trip, in again what can only be described as fantastic paddling conditions. Ron and I travelled to Ardfern and once on the water paddled south from there down through the “Dorus Mor”, and in the second hour of Spring tides! We then made our way very quickly down to Carsaig Bay for lunch. At Carsaig Bay we waited for the tide to change while we ate and then took the flood tide all the way back to Ardfern, at total distance of some 20 miles in just 4 hours of gentle paddling!

Sound of Luing: This trip was cancelled due to gales, as were all plan “B’s”!

Paddle’s to look forward to.

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, Rab has no planned sea paddles over September, and at the moment no one has given us any details of any other planned sea paddles run by anyone else.

River Orchy: Graham Swanson is planning to run a Grade 2/3 trip down either the River Orchy or Ave on Sunday the 12 of September. Please contact Graham on 07968 057934 for further information.

River Tweed: So moving on to October and on Saturday the 2nd of October there is a paddle on the River Tweed. Starting at Peebles and finishing at Innerleithen a total distance of 16 km, this is a Grade 1-2 River and is suitable for Open Canoes and Kayaks. We will meet at the stores for 8am for this paddle.

Sound of Luing: The next paddle is a sea trip to the Sound of Luing area over the weekend of 16/17 and this is a Grade “C” trip. We can meet at the stores for 10am or in Oban for mid-day. We plan to depart Easdale at 2pm and head south via various islands to camp at “Bagh Glenn nam Muc” on Jura on the Saturday night. On the Sunday we plan to be on the water for just before 9am, and this will give us various options on where to go on that day.

3* Sea Assessment: Due to my various baby sitter problems! The 3* sea assessment will now take place on Saturday the 30th of October subject to conformation. Meeting time is 8.30am at the stores; again please make sure you know the syllabus.

River Earn: The last trip for October is on the 31st and it is a trip on the River Earn which again is a Grade 1-2. This river trip is suitable for both Open Canoes and Kayaks. Departing

from Comrie and heading to Crieff, a distance of some 10km. Meeting time at the store is 8am.

River Cononish: Just into November and we have another River trip, this time it is on the River Cononish which starts at Crianlarich and the get out is at Loch Dochart a distance of some 5km. This is a short trip but a well worth while trip. This is a Grade 1 river and flows into a Loch. The meeting time is 9am at the stores.

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 September and October, 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	Grade	Contact
September			
11/12	Container Painting		David Vause
12	River Awe/Orchy	2/3	Graham Swanson 07968 057934
October			
2 Sat	River Tweed	1-2	Rab 01877 382141
11 Mon	AGM	All	Colin
16 Sat	Sound of Luing	C	Rab
30 Sat	3 * Assessment		Rab
31 Sun	River Earn	Grade 1-2	Rab
November			
6 Sat	River Cononish	Grade 2	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