



PPCA Newsletter



April 2017

Introduction

Welcome to April's Newsletter. After a quiet couple of months, we're back to the usual bumper size with something for everyone. We have a couple of pieces in the travel section to make most of us weep with envy. Closer to home we have news of cars and sheds, Dave experiences a second childhood and we have news of some opportunities to get wet with Clive.

Editorial

Hopefully the April 1st edition didn't cause too many heart attacks over breakfast. I think Paul put enough clues in his piece to make it clear that it was an April Fool. Apologies to those of our international readership who received it on the opposite side of the international date line where I admit it may have led to some confusion.

Slightly depressingly, the general tone of the replies was that we would believe our sport's governing body of sinking to pretty much any depth of idiocy. Unfortunately, this means that should they ever have a good idea, we'll probably ignore it from force of habit.

That said, having looked at a few of these devices at a well known online retailer, they're getting cheaper all the time and they might not be such a daft idea for the more adventurous among us.

Ivor Jones

Newsletter Editor

The Committee

Committee Post	Name	Club Email	Phone Number
Club Secretary	Bob Grose	ppca@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01803 849163
Club Leader	Andy Nicholls	leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07801 367363
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Youth Development Officer	John Mitchell	youth@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07791 090956
Club President	Joy Ashford		

Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be on 24th May 2017. If you have any points you wish to raise, please contact Bob Grose secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

The Members' Shed by Adam Coulson

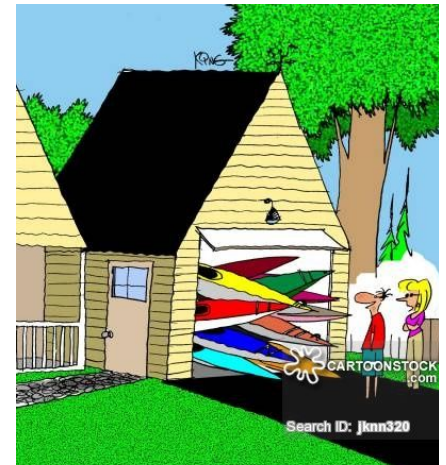
Those of you who wander into the member's shed now may think that you are in the wrong place. I know it looks like a new kayak showroom, but it's still the same old members' shed but with a radical makeover. Seeing one shiny red sea kayak with the price tag still attached did rather complete the illusion! Pete (equipment officer) and a team of willing helpers have done a brilliant job of reorganising the boat storage facilities for member's boats, and all at a very reasonable cost to the club.

The result is that we are able to cater for the demand for boat storage by the membership. There is now space for 15 Sea Kayaks, 5 Canoes and approximately 64 General Purpose boats (on end). You will notice that the bays are now notated with letters of the alphabet. Thus the vertical storage runs from "A" at front right side of the shed to "O" on the left side towards the back.

Sea Kayaks and canoes are stored on levels "P" to "V". It's hard to explain but pretty clear when you're in the shed. We have not been able to contact every member who is storing boats in the shed with regards to their boat's exact location. We have done our best to store boats sensibly and to make the most of the space available. We would ask that members replace their boats in the lettered bay that they find them in. If this is really not convenient for any reason then please let me know and I will try to re-arrange storage. Please can any white water warriors putting their boats in for the summer, let me know location.

It is now mid April and so please would the few members who have boat storage fees overdue for 2017 make payment as soon as possible. If any members would like to store their boat(s) in the shed please get in touch. You will see 2017 tags appearing on all paid up boats soon. If we have missed your boat, or it goes in after tagging please let me know.

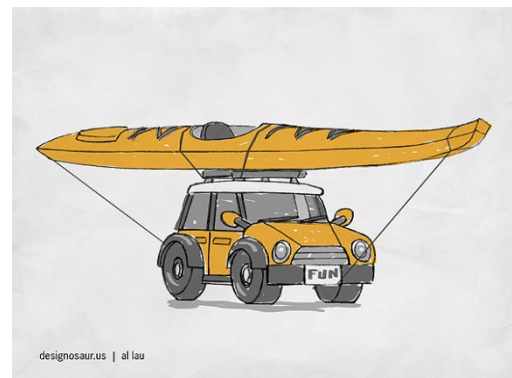
Lastly, we have a couple of unidentified boats. If either of these belongs to you or you know who they belong to please let me know. They are an older composite Freedom Premier II and a modern plastic orange/yellow Perception Sonic. The club does retain the right to remove boats and dispose of them if necessary.



In conclusion, many thanks to the team for revamping the member's shed and providing an improved storage facility to all club members.

Car Registrations by Adam Coulson

One of the privileges those of you who are associate members of Mount Batten enjoy is free parking. Compared with £5 a day, that makes the much reduced MB fees available to PPCA really good value. On that subject (and absolutely nothing to do with car registrations numbers – yes I am on a tangent) the ladies showers are now fully functional, should any of the fair sex be discouraged by previous reports of cold washing facilities. There's nothing better than a hot shower after a wet Tuesday evening session. Back to car registrations – please let the membership secretary know if you change your registered vehicle. We don't need to know if it's a Porsche or a Ferrari, but it's helpful if both the club and Mount Batten databases hold the same detail! That is partly why we ask you to complete a membership form at the time of renewal each year. If you park the Landrover borrowed from your second cousin Fred for the day then please just let Mount Batten know.



Situations No Longer Vacant

I'm delighted to say that I no longer have to run the piece asking for a volunteer for the post of Welfare Officer. Jane Seigne has kindly stepped into the breach and deserves the thanks of everyone in the club.

Ben Mitchell has had to stand down as Deputy Chair – some feeble excuse about being in Hull learning to be a pilot (ships not planes) and this making it difficult to attend committee meetings. Terry has kindly agreed to fill this role. How this will impact on his publishing empire remains to be seen.

Intermediate Sea Kayak Trips by Clive Ashford

I am running a number of intermediate sea kayaking trips over the next few months. These trips will be a bit more challenging than the sea kayak events that the club runs on the first Saturday of the month, and as I intend to run them away from Mount Batten we will have a chance to explore different parts of our wonderful coastline.

Club sea kayaks will be available for these trips but will need to be booked via equipment officer Pete Anderson equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk or 07958 694434.

Dates are:

- Sat 22 April.
- Sat 6 & Sun 7 May. (Part of the Penzance weekend).
- Sat 3 – Sun 4 June. (Overnight camp).
- Sat 15 July.
- Sat 19 August.

All venues will appear on the website forum nearer to the date so keep a beady eye open and come along to keep me company.

Tuesday Night Sea Kayak Training. (Wet sessions. Wrong, very wet sessions) by Clive Ashford

Those of you who attended last year's sea kayak training on a Tuesday night will remember 1) Getting wet. 2) Learning / becoming competent at rescue skills. 3) Getting wet. 4) Smiling. 5) Getting wet.

Having just about dried out I am keen to repeat this experience again. This year's dates are:

- 6 & 13 June plus 4, 11, 18 & 25 July, but there is a question mark over 4 July.

The plastic club boats will be available for these sessions on a first come first served basis.

Glug glug.

Old Shed News

Morag has solved the mystery of the clown on our old shed – apparently it's an EmBanksy.



Bruce and Susann Paddle Out Through the Golden Gate by Bruce Burton

Bad weather in California (yes it happens) meant that this trip we did not have much opportunity to paddle with our friends from BASK (Bay Area Sea Kayaks). However eventually the weather did turn fine and our Thursday lunchtime paddle was scheduled to go out under the Golden Gate Bridge. Not a trip to be missed. Also it was the opportunity to pick up the tandem kayak that we had just purchased from our friend Danny. This is an Eddyline Whisper, a little elderly, but still quite serviceable. A bit like me I suppose.

We put into the water at a place called Horseshoe Cove, right next to a Coastguard Station and the far end of the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco. The weather was quite cloudy and there was a good deal of fog swirling



around the Bridge, making it seem even more dramatic. We paddled out in calm conditions to the entrance to the Golden Gate and passed under the Bridge catching the final part of the ebbing tide. The tide through the gap can be quite ferocious and it is important to time the passage either at slack tide or with the tide behind you. Fog horns based in the centre of the two Bridge arches and the roar of traffic on the bridge didn't make this a quiet and peaceful paddle. We continued along the shore, past Kirby Cove, to Diabolo Point. We could see that there was some wind blowing round this point (which also had a fog horn blasting away) so we nosed our way gingerly round and then paddled into a stiff breeze and some bigger waves. We

continued for a while until we came level with another headland when everyone decided to turn back. We were facing several miles of paddling to get to a place that would have been sheltered enough to stop for lunch and, by this time we were feeling hungry. So back to Kirby Cove to pull out on the beach.

After lunch we headed back to the Golden Gate, this time with the flood tide behind us. One of our party did a bit of rock hopping, sliding over a rock outcrop on the crest of a sizeable wave. I decided that our first outing in our new (to us) tandem, was not the time to try such heroics, but I was tempted. It looked fun. There was a lot of very turbulent water under the bridge, a bit like the water near Drakes Island when the tide is running strongly, only with much larger standing waves. I was a bit startled to see a couple of harbour seals looking up at us from the trough of a wave as we pushed our way through. Then back to our starting point.



This was a short (5 miles or so) paddle with no great challenges. The surroundings are rather spectacular and there is the definite feeling that you are out on a big ocean, even in mild conditions. The Bridge itself is spectacular and made the paddle very worthwhile.

This month I want to take you on a mini canoe adventure to the Algonquin National park which is situated 2 1/2 hours North of Toronto. They have been the leaders in wolf research since 1950, and they're home to Moose, Deer, Black Bears etc.

First of all, I would just like to pass on a bit of what some may say is useless information but I found it interesting. Niagara falls in Toronto has been a focal point for some adventurers and for fellow country man Bobby Leach who was born in Cornwall in 1858. He descended the falls in a barrel on July 25th 1911. He was the first man to be recorded. A lady before him had descended the falls - Annie Taylor October 24th 1901. Annie escaped with a few bruises and expected fame and fortune but died in poverty, whereas Bobby Leach plunged over the falls in a steel barrel, broke both Knee caps and his jaw, spent 6 months in Hospital then did talks and tours around the world. 7 years later whilst in NZ he slipped on some orange peel and died 2 months later from complications due to gangrene ...strange world isn't it.

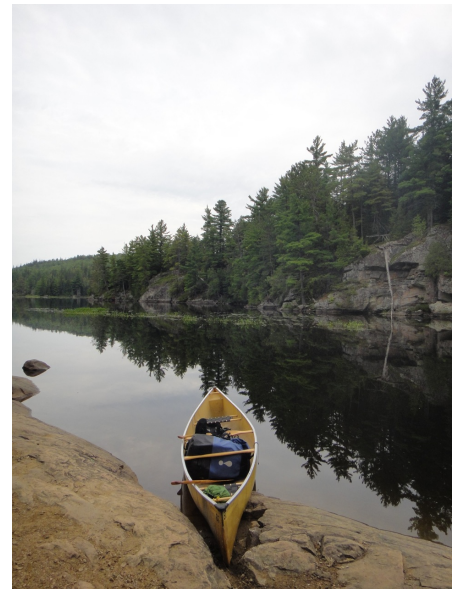
OK so our canoe trip had come about because I wanted to do my 4* canoe assessment and part of it was a 2 night camping trip. Most people do their trips around Britain I thought why not go to Canada. At decision time I didn't appreciate how much wildlife there is Black bears, wolves etc.

Anyway we booked it all from home and we were to do 8 lakes in five days. We decided, because of weight, to hire a kevlar canoe (19kg) which would be better for the portages.

We picked up our food and camping equipment from an outfitters it was all very well organised, I didn't even take a hair brush on this trip to save weight!!!!

I guess we were both a bit nervous as looking at some of the tee shirts in the shop we couldn't stop laughing.

We decided not to have a guide so we drove to the lake armed with all our gear and map registered with the park had a chat with the ranger picked up our canoe and away we paddled...



We paddled 4km then we had to do a 3 km portage, up hill for most of it. This was to be the worst and longest. I now know how a Sherpa must feel or our armed forces on training. The rucksack was full and must have weighed 35/40



plus kilos. John went to pass it to me and laughed "it's stuck in the boat" he said, he almost fell in trying to lift it. We decided rather than do two trips, John balanced the canoe on his shoulders I had the heaviest rucksack and the paddles and John had the food rucksack which obviously got lighter throughout the journey. We would walk 500 steps stop have a drink rest the rucksacks on fallen logs without removing them. It worked well.

The first night we set up camp on one of the islands. All camp sites are visually marked with a coloured marker and only one group camps at one site. You have to forage for firewood and place it in the earth stone circle fire pit. The

toilet is a wood box in the woods - a compost toilet. If you were lucky some campsites had a wooden cubicle toilet. The shower was a quick dip in the very cold water. A friend told me if a bear comes toward you just show them the

tooth brush with the tooth paste on it..they don't like tooth paste (apparently they love the taste ...some friend hey!!)

We were given water purifying tablets which we would put in our bottles 10 minutes before drinking as the water was very peaty and brown in colour.

We set up camp each day by at least 4.30 as it got dark early and there were tarps to put up over the cooking area, tents to erect, wood to collect. All very basic wilderness camping.

We didn't see another person for 3 days. Clear skies every night and we even had wolves serenading us nightly from a distance.

One deer swam across the river one day whilst I was sat reading. On the last night something large brushed against the tent but we didn't dare investigate. Also one morning John went to get the food bag down so I could cook breakfast it had some how got wrapped around a tree branch and he had to cable tie some branches together and flip it back. We had to tie our food up high and on a thin branch every night away from the animals that may be lurking around.

On the last day of paddling we saw a ranger and 3 other people.

On day 5 when we got back I said to John if I had stayed another week I reckon I could live this simple life away from the rat race we live in. It was so simple yet we had everything we needed. I can quite well see how people become a recluse and live the simple life.

I have to say the trip was truly memorable. Stunning scenery and what an adventure.

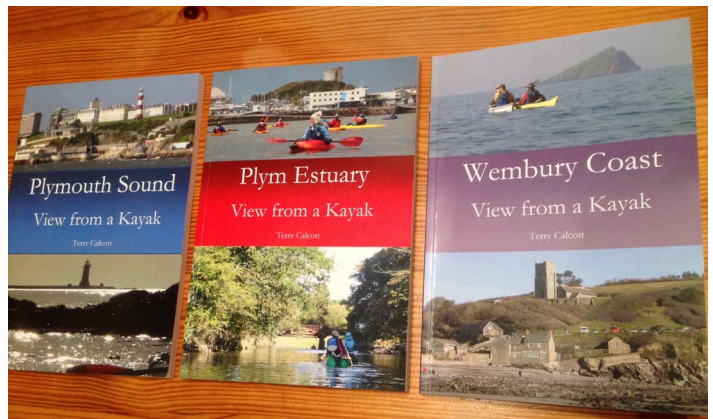


Features

View from a Kayak (book series) Terry Calcott

For those club members who missed out on the earlier print runs the following books are now available to purchase. All profits going to Plymouth RNLI.

‘View from a Kayak’ Plymouth Sound, Plym Estuary and Wembury Coast. The books are a mix of local history, nature, with plenty of maps and photos to accompany the text covering everything that you can see from a kayak in your local area. A must for anyone who paddles regularly around our fantastic local coastline.



Price £6 a copy with all profits going to the Plymouth RNLI. If you would like a copy please email me at terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk or see me on a club Tuesday evening or Saturday recreational paddle.

Coming soon - **‘View from a Kayak’ Yealm Estuary**

Waves On the Beach by David Pedlow

Would it be any easier, I wonder, to catch my last two paddles in paint or music? To draw out the sense of sheer, slightly guilty, excitement that we felt, like schoolboys breaking out of bounds, just because they could.

A fortnight or so ago there was just one day of Spring sandwiched between two excesses of wintry weather; and there were Mark and I, out in the sunshine, carried down river from Commando Beach on the last of the ebb, with neither plans nor expectation, happy just to be afloat.

It was not in the least a spectacular paddle; but forensically examining Adam’s Rock and its surrounds, and working out just what must have gone wrong, and then doing some of my best bow rudders ever round the 3* rock, occupied us pleasantly until we came round Redding Point, and joy of joys, found the gentlest of swells running in on the rocks, kicking up areas of mini-surf to add a touch of spice to the proceedings.

Leaving Picklecombe, at the bottom of the tide, we found the slightly stronger swell combined with the change of tide had stirred up something extra – as it so often does round there. A mix of swell and current that cried out to us “Go for the flow overs”, so we did, relentlessly and repeatedly – taking a spell at Maker Beach to positively bask in the sunshine as we relaxed into a warm leisurely extended lunch break before more of the same on the paddle home.

For me it was the objectification of Spring – encompassing in that one paddle all the gentle enjoyment of the sea that I could dream or hope for.

The second paddle had quite a different feel as – once again escaped from school – we slid down the Yealm in watery sunlight and punched out through the surf lifted up on the low tide bar.

The swell had more push behind it, the breakers, swirl, and draw back creating currents around and between the rocks, just waiting their chance to catch out the unwary. Especially as, just as we thought we had the swell sets taped, a rogue big wave would crash through what, till then, had seemed a feasible route.

“Big wave”, was the watch word, as we took it in turn to lead each other into interesting situations – now and again pausing and shaking our heads at the thought of trying that particular channel in this particular set of conditions.

As we worked eastwards along Yealm Head, the swell grew stronger and more forbidding; until all the fun channels were closed to us, and we turned back, crossed over to the Wembury side, and came to rest in a gentle anchorage at the entrance to the “boat walk” across Blackstone Rocks.

Reinvigorated by lunch we launched ourselves into the rock channels back towards the Yealm, letting our inner irresponsible teenagers have full rein (I used to have an unruly inner child – but as I grow older so does he); determined to make the most of the swells and the push of the rising tide. With that approach, it was a toss-up which of us would come to grief first. As it happened it was Mark – driving down an open ended channel on the top of a swell that suddenly dropped away at a lateral gap. Following him, I watched, disbelieving as his boat flipped in a spot that was clearly not intended for hanging around. With the hard insistent run of the current to and fro he had to fight to bring his paddle up and to the side; the next swell ran through bouncing his head against the rocks, and then he was clear of his boat and swimming.

It was anything but the ideal spot for a rescue. Simply manoeuvring was problematic, keeping in touch with a swimming paddler and his boat had me at full stretch. I towed him out of the worst of the current, and in the middle of the water he happened on a rock, waist deep, to balance on – bending and paddling hard to resist the swells – whilst, somewhat to my surprise, I managed to bring his boat across my own and empty it; and then successfully bear down on the bow as he shimmied up the stern and back into the cockpit.

Enough was enough – that had been the last possible hop - and with his boat still a quarter full of water, Mark wasn't over keen to repeat it; so we paddled gently home knowing that we had drunk to the full of all the day could offer.

So, two more happy strikes against the old (and increasing) inevitability, and believe me, just at the moment, every strike is something to be relished.

Next Edition

There is no specific deadline as such for contributions but please bear in mind my general sloth and indolence and let me have anything time-sensitive well in advance.

Contributions

Please send any contributions to newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Club Calendar

Tuesday, 18 April

18:00 2 Star Kayak Training - Andy Kittle - Alan Ede

18:00 2 Star Open Canoe Training - Jenny Nicholls

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Doug Sitch

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

Friday, 21 April

18:00 Open Boat Family Rec Paddle - Andy Nicholls 07801 367363

Saturday, 22 April

09:00 Sit On Top Safety Session - Ian Brimacombe

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Andy Kittle 07515 108557

10:00 Sea Kayak Paddle - Clive Ashford 01752 344425

Tuesday, 25 April

18:00 2 Star Kayak Training - Andy Kittle - Damean Miller

18:00 2 Star Open Canoe Training - Jenny Nicholls

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Doug Sitch

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

Friday, 28 April

18:00 Open Boat Family Rec Paddle - Jenny Nicholls 07740 103398

Saturday, 29 April

09:00 BC One Star Course - Andy Kittle

10:00 Rec Paddle - Clive Ashford 01752 344425

Tuesday, 2 May

18:00 2 Star Kayak Training - Andy Kittle - Damean Miller

18:00 2 Star Open Canoe Training - Jenny Nicholls

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Doug Sitch

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

Friday, 5 May

18:00 Open Boat Family Rec Paddle - Andy Nicholls 07801 367363

Saturday, 6 May

10:00 Sea Kayak Paddle - Penzance Weekend away

Sunday, 7 May

15:00 Sea Kayak Paddle - Penzance Weekend away

Monday, 8 May

17:30 Paddle Power - Andy Nicholls / Alan Ede

Tuesday, 9 May

18:00 2 Star Kayak Training - Brian Taylor and Justin Frost

18:00 2 Star Open Canoe Training - Samantha Pluckrose

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Clive Ashford

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brimacombe

Friday, 12 May

18:00 Open Boat Family Rec Paddle - Jenny Nicholls 07740 103398

Saturday, 13 May

09:30 Go Canoeing Starter Session - ?

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Andy Kittle 07515 108557

Monday, 15 May

17:30 Paddle Power - Andy Nicholls / Ian Brimacombe

Tuesday, 16 May

18:00 2 Star Kayak Training - Brian Taylor and Justin Frost

18:00 2 Star Open Canoe Training - Samantha Pluckrose

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Clive Ashford

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brimacombe

Friday, 19 May

18:00 Open Boat Family Rec Paddle - Andy Nicholls 07801 367363

Saturday, 20 May

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott 07828 652775

Monday, 22 May

17:30 Paddle Power - Andy Nicholls / Ian Brimacombe

Tuesday, 23 May

18:00 2 Star Kayak Training - Brian Taylor and Justin Frost

18:00 2 Star Open Canoe Training - Samantha Pluckrose

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Clive Ashford

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brimacombe

Wednesday, 24 May

19:30 Committee Meeting

Friday, 26 May

18:00 Open Boat Family Rec Paddle - Joy Ashford 01752 344425

Saturday, 27 May

09:30 Go Canoeing Starter Session - Brian Taylor

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott 07828 652775

Tuesday, 30 May

18:00 2 Star Kayak Training - Brian Taylor and Justin Frost

18:00 2 Star Open Canoe Training - Samantha Pluckrose

18:00 3 Star Kayak Training - Clive Ashford

18:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brimacombe