



PPCA Newsletter

January 2018



Introduction

Welcome to January's Newsletter. This month, while we all shiver, Bruce brings news of warmer climes while Tony brings us back down to earth with this year's membership fees. We also have two opportunities to dust off your Brownies. Mary "Berry" McArdle brings news of a cake competition while Terry has news of a photographic one.

Editorial

It's good to see the return of the club's winter activities (I'm ignoring white water as a minor aberration). We have a couple of talks from excellent speakers and cake and photo competitions. I make no claim to have any baking skills so I probably won't be entering the cake competition but I'll certainly give the photographic one a go. The talks are open to everyone, not just members so please spread the word wherever you go. I've even highlighted them on the calendar as a reminder.

Ivor Jones

Newsletter Editor

The Committee

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Club President	Joy Ashford		01752 34425

Next Committee Meeting

Please forward any items you would like considered at the next committee meeting to secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk. They will go to the secretary.

PPCA Membership Price increase 2018 – Tony Sicklemore (Treasurer)

It is with regret that the Club Committee have had to make the difficult decision to make a small increase to our membership fees which will come into effect in Jan 2018. Please see the revised prices below. The club has numerous invoices to pay throughout the year and as you can no doubt imagine many of our bills increase annually. For example, in Nov 2015 our insurance renewal was £350, in 2016 the cost was £408 and last year it increased to £434, this is just one example from our financial expenditure. I hope you will agree that the membership cost still reflects great value for money with all that the club has to offer.

2018 PPCA Membership Prices

Youth PPCA Membership £30.00
Young Person PPCA Membership £30.00
Adult PPCA Membership £59.00
Family PPCA Membership £118.00

2018 PPCA Members Boat Storage Prices

GP Kayak £38.00
Sea Kayak £48.00
Canoe £59.00

2018 Mount Batten (MB) Affiliation Prices.

We have been informed by MB that all their prices will rise annually by 5% until 2020. Their revised price structure for 2018 is below:

MB Adult Affiliation £70.
MB Adult Senior (over 65) Affiliation £43.00
MB Youth Affiliation £43.00
MB Family Affiliation £187.00

Combined PPCA & MB Membership Price

Adult PPCA Membership and MB Affiliation £129.00
Adult PPCA Membership and MB Senior Affiliation £102.00
Youth PPCA Membership and MB Youth Affiliation £73.00
Young Person PPCA Membership and MB Adult Affiliation £100.00
Family PPCA Membership and MB 1 Adult Affiliation £188.00
Family PPCA Membership and MB Family Affiliation £305.00

It is great to see so many people using online banking to pay for things such as their club membership subscriptions but I need to make a plea to you. When you make an online payment and enter your details you will see that you have a "Free-text" Reference box. Can you please use this facility to enter enough information so that I know what your payment is for, eg PPCA Adult Membership, or PPCA & MB Adult Membership. If you are making a payment for more than one person can you include the other persons name (You do not have to write your name that is automatically included in the bank statement). Following these instructions will allow the club to accurately account for income coming in and recorded against the correct person(s).

Finally, it is financially of benefit to the PPCA club that online payments are made direct to our bank account (Barclays Bank, Account No 50724882, Sort Code 20-68-10) rather than via PayPal. Using PayPal means we lose money as we have to pay a % fee for each transaction. Last year the amount paid in fees to PayPal was £144 whereas transactions between banks are normally free of charge.

Thanks

Paddling around San Francisco Bay by Bruce Burton

This Autumn I have been fortunate in making a few paddle trips in the San Francisco area, with a local paddling group (BASK – Bay Area Sea Kayakers)

Drakes Estero

The Drake in this case is our own Sir Francis, not a male duck. The local history says that it ‘has been designated as the most probable landing spot of Francis Drake on the coast of North America in 1579 during his circumnavigation of the world’. For some reason the apostrophe has been lost from the name. Estero means estuary but there are no major rivers running into it. Until 2014 it was the site of a major oyster fishery, but the National Park Service allowed the permit to expire that year and after the inevitable court fight, the oyster farm closed down. It is a major area for harbor seal breeding and during the breeding season the area is closed. The estuary is tidal and at low tide it is extensive mud flats, something we are very familiar with, of course.

We went there on a lovely sunny day with almost no wind as we put in, and a high tide. We were paddling our double kayak and participating in the Thursday BASK lunch time paddle, run by our friend Danny. It was an easy paddle made a little less easy when I realized that the repairs I had made to the rudder hadn't worked. I couldn't work out why we seemed to be paddling in circles until I noticed that only one of the foot pedals was operating. An interesting feature of the paddle was the remains of an old aircraft stuck in the mud. Only the tip of the propeller is visible now. Apparently this dates from WW2 and was a training exercise involving bouncing bombs in the manner of Barnes Wallace, but in this case the aircraft rather than the bombs did the bouncing.



Inspecting Old Propellor

We stopped near the mouth of the Estero for lunch and then paddled back. The breeze had picked up by then and we had to paddle back against a 12 mph wind and an outgoing tide, which made for a pleasant work out. Probably about 8 miles of paddling.

Angel Island

Unfortunately, the day after our Estero paddle, Susann suffered a mountain bike accident that left her unable to do any further paddling for some time. With some examination of my conscience and strong support from Susann, I decided to buy a single kayak. I found a second hand Dagger Alchemy, ex rental, for sale. For those unfamiliar with this boat, it is a 14 ft mini sea-kayak. This was about the longest that would fit into the garage. This trip, again with BASK, was my first real paddle in this new (to me) boat.

We put in at Sausalito and paddled out into San Francisco Bay. Initially we skirted the Sausalito shore line, but then struck out across Richardson Bay towards Angel Island, a crossing of about 1 mile. Unusually this was a dull, overcast day, but without much wind. On reaching Angel Island, we headed north into Raccoon Strait. This is a rather notorious stretch of water with strong tides. We had a flood tide with us taking us into the Strait. Quite quickly we came to a section where the tide was flowing strongly over some shallows, leading to a turbulent sea and standing waves, nothing serious, but interesting. We continued to circumnavigate Angel Island in a clockwise direction.

Angel Island has been used for a variety of purposes, including military forts, a US Public Health Service Quarantine Station, and a US Bureau of Immigration inspection and detention facility. Now it is a State Park and uninhabited except for Park rangers.



Posh Houses

We stopped for lunch on the southern side of the island on a nice sandy beach watched by seals who, I think, had detected that I was eating a tuna sandwich. There was a good view of the Golden Gate Bridge and downtown San Francisco. After lunch we set off on somewhat choppy seas, the wind having got up a bit in the late morning, and paddled across Raccoon Strait and skirted along the south side of Peninsular Point, looking at the amazing and extremely expensive houses built there.

Another good paddle and I was very pleased with the performance of my new boat.

Elkhorn Slough.

Elkhorn Slough is a nature reserve some 60 miles south of San Francisco in Monterey Bay. The Slough itself is a 7 mile estuary which is the home to sea otters, seals and a wide variety of wading birds. I had visited it before and rented kayaks there and enjoyed the spectacular wildlife. This time we put in at the head of the estuary and paddled out past a group of sea otters all busy doing their sea ottery things.

They are charming creatures, very curious and keeping a close eye on what we were doing. The big colony of sea lions that I have seen there on a landing stage, seems to



See otter enjoying itself



Large sea lions defending their sun deck

have been moved and the stage is now fenced off. Nevertheless there were plenty in the water. The harbour entrance can be challenging as all the water in the Slough exits through there and standing waves can form. However, even though it was about peak ebb when we went through, the water was calm with just some disturbance. The water outside the harbour shelves very rapidly and is a branch of the Monterey Canyon with depths of almost 5000 feet. The size of this underwater Canyon is equivalent to that of the Grand Canyon. We paddled out to a buoy a bit less than a mile out to sea. There were a group of large sea lions that were draped on the buoy sunning themselves and about 10 youngsters trying (without success) to get aboard.

These youngsters were pleased to see us as a diversion and came in a tight knit group to investigate.



Young sea lions excited to see us

We then turned and paddled parallel to the shore for a while and then returned to a beach close to the harbour mouth, where there was a little excitement landing in some slight surf.



Ugly power station, but a useful landmark to find harbour entrance

After a break for lunch we paddled back into the harbour and did a short trip into the Slough itself and enjoyed further wildlife viewings.

Not a very challenging paddle (it could be in more adverse conditions) but very mellow and enjoyable.



Harbor Seal pretending it isn't there

Paradise Cay to Angel Island and Back



Mellow Conditions near Tiburon

This was another paddle within San Francisco Bay. This time seven paddlers put in at a marina near the expensive city of Tiburon on the other side (from San Francisco) of the Golden Gate Bridge. It wasn't entirely clear whether the place we put in was open to the public, but we went anyway and nobody stopped us. After a day of rain, the morning was clear and calm with a few fog patches still around. We paddled against a light SW breeze along the NE shore of the Tiburon peninsula. This is a very desirable area with a lot of very expensive homes with views looking over the Bay towards the Richmond Bridge (and, less desirable, the notorious Sing Sing Prison). A slight diversion took place early on when one of our group decided to demonstrate his ability to roll his brand new kayak. Unfortunately this didn't happen and we therefore

had the chance to practice a T-rescue. After about an hour of paddling we came once more to Raccoon Strait and agreed to cross to Angel Island. As there was little wind and almost no current, the crossing was easy. We had lunch at what was the Immigration Centre. This was the equivalent of Ellice Island on the West Coast and where immigrants were processed and often held before being allowed into the USA. In this case, most of the would-be immigrants were from Asia. Immigrants could be held here for up to 22 months. The Centre closed in 1940. After lunch we paddled back across Raccoon Strait with a bit more flooding current and then paddled slowly back to our starting point. Total paddle about 8 miles.

Tomales Bay

Sixteen people and (two were in a double)15 kayaks set off on this paddle. Tomales Bay is a long inlet, about 15 miles long and roughly 1 mile across. The whole thing is an extension of the San Andreas Fault. The western bank of the Bay is moving north at a rate of 3-4 cm per year, so, on a long paddle like this one, when you get back, your car is a mm or so north of where you left it. We put in at a pretty cove called Heart's Desire (not that pretty) and set off in a northerly direction keeping close to the western shore. Our objective was Hog's Island, which is in the middle of the Bay. Apparently in the 1870's a barge carrying a load of pigs caught fire and was grounded on the island, the pigs escaped (those that were not roast pork presumably) and hung out on the island for a while. Hog's Island has a companion Island called Duck Island, or sometimes Piglet and the two are joined by a sand spit on which seals haul out. There was a bunch lying there when we rounded the islands. After this we stopped for a late lunch and then back to the starting point. An enjoyable paddle of a bit more than 10 miles round trip in ideal conditions..



Harbor seals sunning themselves near Hog Island

Tomales Bay (again)



Lunch spot looking at breaking surf at bay entrance

This time we put in towards the north (seaward) end of the bay. A group of 9 paddlers set off, crossing from the East to the West shore, with a strong ebb tide pushing us along. We pulled into a beach just short of the mouth of the bay. The tide in the centre is strong, maybe 5-6 knots and there is a risk of being swept out into the breakers that are crashing onto the sandbar at the bay entrance. There are said to be great white sharks out there, presumably hunting seals and fish that get swept out, although an unlucky paddler might make a nice change of diet. After lunch we

made our way back to the starting point, eddy-hopping to avoid the tide that was still ebbing. A round trip of about 8 miles in ideal conditions.



Turkey vultures having lunch

This was my last paddle on this trip. I have enjoyed the company of these kayakers who are very dedicated. It is nice exploring some new areas, but I have to say that paddling around Plymouth is generally more exciting. The map below shows where the paddles took place (except for Elkhorn which is well south of this area).



Events

2018 PPCA Bake a Cake Competition by Mary McArdle

Calling all paddlers (note, this competition is open to novices and bakers alike). Please put your culinary skills to the test and enter the PPCA 2018 cake competition. Over the years the PPCA has enjoyed the addition of homemade cakes on some of its paddles bringing much good cheer and renewed energy to hungry kayakers. To celebrate this we are reinstating the PPCA Cake Competition; the rules are simple:

1. The cake must be home-made
2. It must be suitable for being carried in a kayak

The 2018 Cake Competition will take place in Pomphlett Methodist Church, Pomphlett Road, Plymouth, PL9 7BL following a presentation by our very own Terry Calcott on 'Plymouth Sound – a view from the sea' on Wednesday 28th February, doors open 1830hrs for 1900hrs. Tea and coffee will be available so eat a light tea and come with your cake to sample the best the PPCA has to offer. Above all, ENJOY the experience and you may be the one who is presented 'PPCA Cake Maker of the Year' or maybe the wooden spoon (with a difference). Be assured, there will be fun, laughter and prizes.

See you there

PPCA Photograph Competition by Terry Calcott

The PPCA will be running a photograph competition over the winter months.

The theme of the competition is paddlesport so please submit photographs along those lines. They could include landscape, wildlife, people, action, humour. This is a fun amateur competition open to all club members. So dig out those photos or get snapping. Give any photos entered a suitable title.

The closing date for entries will be **Sunday 4th March 2018**, with judging being carried out by David Scott wildlife artist and photographer. Entries will be displayed on the club forum and Facebook page.

The winner will be announced and all entries displayed at the club winter lecture on Monday March 19th 2018.

Rules:

Entrants must be PPCA members. All photos entered must be your own work and taken in 2017 up until the competition closing date in 2018.

Max of 3 photos per entry.

Prizes:

For best photo and the runner up.

Please submit your entries by e-mail to terryC1@blueyonder.co.uk

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

As ever, please remember that the definitive calendar is on the [website](#) and what's printed below, while correct at the time of going to press, is liable to change depending on the weather or the whim of the coach.

Saturday, 6 January 2018

10:00 Sea Paddle - Joy Ashford 01752 344425

Sunday, 7 January 2018

09:00 River Trip - Doug Sitch 07966 740025

Saturday, 13 January 2018

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brim

Sunday, 14 January 2018

09:00 River Trip - Ken Hamblin 07790293952

Saturday, 20 January 2018

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

Sunday, 21 January 2018

09:00 River Trip - Chris Doidge 07973 285969.

Saturday, 27 January 2018

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Andy Kittle

Sunday, 28 January 2018

09:00 River Trip - Clive Ashford 01752 344425.

Saturday, 3 February

10:00 Sea Paddle - Clive Ashford 01752 344425

10:30 Short Recreational Paddle - John Mitchell

Sunday, 4 February

09:00 River Trip - Ken Hamblin 07790293952

Saturday, 10 February

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Terry Calcott

Sunday, 11 February

09:00 River Trip -Chris Doidge 07973 285969.

Saturday, 17 February

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Ian Brim

Sunday, 18 February

09:00 River Trip -Clive Ashford 01752 344425.

Saturday, 24 February

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Joy Ashford

Sunday, 25 February

09:00 River Trip - Doug Sitch 07966 740025

Wednesday 28 February

18:30 for 19:00 "Plymouth Sound – A View from the Sea" by Terry Calcott followed by the 2018 "Bake a Cake" competition. Pomphlett Methodist Church, Pomphlett Road, Plymouth, PL9 7BL. Tea & Coffee available.

Saturday, 3 March

10:00 Sea Paddle - Terry Calcott

Sunday, 4 March

09:00 River Trip - Clive Ashford 01752 344425.

Closing date for photographic competition

Saturday, 10 March

10:00 Recreational Paddle - Joy Ashford

Sunday, 11 March

09:00 River Trip - Doug Sitch 07966 740025

Monday 19 March

18:30 for 19:00 A presentation by Wildlife Artist and Phtographer David A Scott. Pomphlett Methodist Church, Pomphlett Road, Plymouth, PL9 7BL. Tea & Coffee available.

DIARY DATE

The Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association presents:

Plymouth Sound – A view from the sea

Followed by

The 2018 ‘Bake a Cake’ competition

Wed 28th Feb 2018, doors open 1830hrs for 1900hrs

**At Pomphlett Methodist Church, Pomphlett Road,
Plymouth, PL9 7BL. Tea & Coffee available.**



We offer you ‘Plymouth Sound – a view from the sea’. A presentation by a club member and enthusiastic amateur local historian, Terry Calcott. Come along and discover more about the history of this beautiful part of our coastline.

Then we have our very own annual ‘Bake off’! Bring along your own cake to see if you will walk away with the winner’s cup, or will it be the loser’s wooden spoon? Further details will be promulgated in due course.



DIARY DATE

The Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association presents:

A presentation by Wildlife Artist & Photographer David A Scott

Followed by

PPCA 2017/18 Photo of the Year Competition

Mon 19th Mar 2018. Doors open at 1830hrs for tea & coffee. The lecture commences at 1900 hrs.

Pomphlett Methodist Church, Pomphlett Road, Plymouth, PL9 7BL

David Scott was educated in Plymouth and lives in Devon. He travels extensively across the globe in search of subjects to paint or photograph. He also maintains a sanctuary for a wide variety of different species of birds. His other passion is being a licensed ringer for the British Trust for Ornithology where he is involved with discovering nests & the monitoring of birdlife.

The second part of the evening is the PPCA Photo of the Year competition, full details will be promulgated in due course but main points are a) photos must have been taken during 2017/2018 and b) the photos should reflect the ethos & purpose of the PPCA.



Note: All photos courtesy of David A Scott <https://www.dascottartist.com/> .