



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Wet News 78. April 2013.



Club Officers

		Tel
President	Terry Calcott	07828 652775
Chair	John Mitchell	01752 219246
Vice Chair	Ian Ruse	07980 355019
Club Leader	Chris Doidge	07973 285969
Asst Club Leader	Jane Hitchings	01752 691274
Secretary	David Pedlow	01752 241726
Membership Sec	Tracy Jones	01752 510653
Treasurer	Syd Evans	07955 503118
Equipment Officer	Alan Ede	07799 556876
Publicity Officer	Andy Nicholls	07801 367363
Welfare Officer	Joy Ashford	01752 344425 07891 221781
Ordinary Member	Jenny Nicholls	07740 103398
Youth Development	Zoe Boyle	07814 131654
E-mail:	PPCA @ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	
(E-mails to this address goes to the club secretary).		

May edition of Wet News.

Items for inclusion in the May edition of Wet News to reach the editor, Clive Ashford by 21:00hrs on Sat 4 May please.
Publication date Sun 5 May

E-mail address:

cliveashford-newsletter@yahoo.co.uk

Post: Please call me for my postal address if required. Tel: 01752 344425

The editor (Clive Ashford) reserves the right to edit / reject items submitted.

Disclaimer. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the PPCA.

The prologue.

I heard recently that it is a good idea to have something to eat about two – four hours before taking exercise. Based on this information and the rather empty state of our fridge I now consider myself to be in an almost constant state of readiness.

Open boat moderate water endorsement.

Congratulations to Martin Mills on passing his open boat moderate water endorsement, meaning that he can now officially lead open boat river trips and will in due course be able to assess open boat 3 star. Martin is the first club member to gain this particular award so well done indeed.

Friday evening open boat sessions have started.

It came as a bit of a surprise to find that the Friday evening open boat sessions started last Friday. If you want to play in the open boats and can get ready to be on the water at Mount Batten for 18:00 then you will be most welcome.

Pool session, 15 April.

A heated swimming pool is an excellent place to learn to roll and practice your wet skills. The club is running another pool session at Plympton Pool on Monday 15 April, 19:30 – 20:30. The charge for this session will be £10. To book a place please contact Zoe Boyle on 07814131654.

Two star progress chart.

Those of you who are working towards your two star award may find the two star progress chart helpful. This can be downloaded from our website as a PDF at http://www.pcca-canoe-club.org.uk/training/2star_progress_chart.pdf This chart will enable you to check your progress against the laid out syllabus and allow you to nag you coaches into providing any aspect of training that you feel you need help with, including open boats skills.

Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association Rule Change. (Secretary David).

One of the things the club prides itself on, especially in its 40th birthday year, is the standard imposed on our members when they take in house assessments.

Generations of coaches have taken it in turn to wrestle with the decision as to whether or not an aspirant has taken his boat sufficiently out of balance before applying a high brace, moved his boat sideways a measurable distance in an acceptable manner, or done all sorts of unspeakable things, to the required standard, in freezing cold white water.

Given the studied informality of our assessment sessions (no doing things by numbers here), and the absence of high tech monitoring equipment; these decisions must and should always be a judgement call by the assessor. It says much for the ethos of the club that generally such decisions are reached without conflict - those of us who have been found lacking slipping quietly away, after congratulating those more deserving of a pass, to spend much more time practising, before coming back to have another go.

Now and again, inevitably, things can get a little edgy; and (not having been there) I would expect that it was in recognition of this that the Coaches Meeting in January passed a request to the Club Committee for a specific change in the club rules.

This was dealt with at the last Committee Meeting - as those of you who pore over the minutes each month - will already know. As a result there has been an addition to Club Rule 2 to try and make sure that anyone who is interested in being assessed knows when the next assessment will be, and that the responsibility for making the pass/fail decision is shared between two or more coaches.

The new rule (which the cyber-adept may already have found lurking on the forum and in the depths of the "Club Operating Policy" on the website) states:-

All assessment sessions for 1, 2 and 3 star, that involve club members both as assessors and assessees, shall be agreed in advance with the Club Leader; publicised on the forum and if possible in Wet News; and the assessment shall be carried out by at least two suitably qualified coaches, all of whom must be in agreement for a pass to be awarded.

I do not doubt for a moment that the law of unintended consequences will apply to this change, as much as to any other in life. If you find it throwing up problems or difficulties, please don't just chunder sub-vocally to yourselves about them. Find a Committee Member to whom you can unburden yourself, or even send them an email.

Strange, altered beings with Capital Letters though Committee Members may be; becoming one, as I know only too well, does absolutely nothing to restore failing memory, hearing loss, or total lack of telepathetic powers.

Kayaks and equipment hired for the White Water season. (Equipment officer Alan Ede). Copied from the web site forum.

Now that the white water season is over would all those members who hired a kayak and other equipment please start to think about returning these items to the Club shed. An e-mail to me, alancede@hotmail.co.uk or a text to 07799 556876 will generate a reply with a view to co-ordinating returns.

I will endeavour to publish some dates/times when I am available at the club sheds to enable the returns. Other times may be arranged on an ad-hoc basis. Although the start of the training season does not always start off busy I would like to get the vast majority of equipment back by then.

If anyone who has hired a boat has access to the club shed, i.e. Saturday paddles, to return their equipment then please stow it neatly and contact me to let me know. Thank you.

Easter Paddle 2013. (Terry Calcott).

I first started running these Easter paddles about 5 years ago. I'm a firm believer in marking a special occasion and having a club paddle to celebrate. It's a time to relax and come together for a bit of fun and food. Usually I try and plan the paddles to run from Wembury for a change of scenery, but this year the breaking surf was beyond the realms of comfort.

This year Easter was early and with the unseasonal cold weather still firmly in place I was expecting a chilly day. But the sun was shining and it took the edge off the cold spring air. 14 club paddlers assembled at Mountbatten and set about getting ready to paddle. Hats and costumes in abundance, a mix of traditional and

Photo by Alan Ede.



The crew assembles.

not so traditional garb (Bob's camouflaged sniper hat springs to mind). A mix of chicken, rabbit and lamb gathered, it sounds like a butchers shop window display! But looked colourful and impressive, lots of erect clip on ears protruding toward the sky, Mary's fluffy rabbit ears, Clive's dangling spring lambs, Helga the chick, Mark's egg hat, oh and the leader's chicken head. It also makes us stand out and the watching general public ask themselves 'I wonder who they are? that looks fun' you never know it may bring in some new members for our 1 Star courses. After the obligatory team photo's, courtesy of Al Ede who just happened to be at Mountbatten at the same time and ended up with around half a dozen cameras thrust in his hand.

Off we paddled at a nice slow stroke rate; the sea was slight with a gentle swell. The group aimed for Bovisand Fort to have a look at the swell and surf outside of the protection of the Breakwater. As I suspected on arrival at the Eastern entrance to the Sound the surf breaking in the distance was sending up fountains of spray into the air. We turned and made for Cable beach that PPCA old favourite and an early lunch.

The food feast appeared as if by magic, a mix of sweet and savoury. Delicious it looked and yummy it tasted. The home bakers and makers had been busy and the shop tills also ringing, a few delights to note were the Tuna loaf, Butternut squash loaf, Mackerel pate, olives, artisan bread, sausage rolls, cheese, and a chocolate fudge cake. Thanks to everyone for making the lunch rather special and extremely filling. An army marches on its stomach so the saying goes; well the PPCA most definitely paddles on its belly.

Photo by Terry Calcott.



A light lunch. We didn't eat the feet.

With full stomachs it was time to tidy up and set off for the paddle back. But first a game of egg catch? You find a partner and face each other then throw the raw egg to each other gradually increasing the gap and the distance to throw. The laws of physics decree that the relationship between distance, speed and egg strength are all related and before long the broken shells are littering the beach and very nearly Bob's camera!

The gentle paddle back was broken with some relaxed rock hopping, the rabbits enjoyed this most! The male voice choir broke into song and the twang of the banjo could be heard as we were serenaded back to Mountbatten and the end of another wonderful PPCA day on the water.

I paddle nearly every weekend of the year, every paddle is an experience to be enjoyed but it's the special paddles that are remembered most and that form those memories to look back at and smile about.

Canoeing The Great Ouse 1970's style (2) (David Pedlow).

It had never occurred to me (until I got into a modern sea kayak) that there could be anything intrinsically difficult about boats. From the age of five when on a solo visit to the local lake I chose rowing rather than a paddle boat, I just assumed that one got in a boat, carefully, sat down, waved bits of wood above and below the water (or later stretched out a piece of cloth) and went more or less where one wanted. After

Photo from the internet.



The Great Ouse at Godmanchester.

all, I was a student of Arthur Ransome, CS Forrester, and (in the cadet version after, aged 9ish, I asked our very proper doctor friend if her car was a bastard) Nicholas Montserrat.

So having wrecked our kayak on the first day of travel, the next logical step was to find someone, anyone, who would hire out an alternative craft. We found it at a boatyard in Huntingdon. A wooden, clinker side, flat bottomed version of an open boat. Abi loved it from the moment she set eyes on it - it meant that like Roger (Yes, I'd already introduced her to Swallows and Amazons) she could sit in the front instead of the middle - and

Jackie, having not been overjoyed by my version of MOB training, was pleased to be between me and Abigail, in case I had any more bright ideas.

We set off upriver, sneaking through the locks at Godmanchester, Brampton, Offord and St Neots, in company with other boats, till we turned aside up the River Kym. There at a bend in the river we saw a combine harvester attacking a field of peas. The driver directed us to the farmer, who said we could stay until he burned off the pea shocks.

All that springy verbiage; and it was going to be burned. What an opportunity! We gathered the shocks together until we had created a platform slightly more than tent size and about four foot high, and then pitched the tent on top of it - pressing down the tent pegs into ground that might have been prepared to take them. Never before, or since, have I slept so well, or so comfortably, in a tent. The half mile each way to replenish our water was no more than a fair price to pay for such luxury; and the morning of our departure - with flames already eating along the rows on the far side of the field - set a final dramatic seal on our sojourn there.

All that remained was to pull up river to the St Neots Boat Station so that Jackie could persuade a pharmacist to root among her winter stock and produce a couple of tubes of chilblain cream, with which she could doctor feet that were showing intense displeasure at the unaccustomed constant chill dampness.

We took the opportunity, at the same time, to purchase a lock key so that we could pass the unmanned locks independently of traffic, and 20 fathoms of light rope, with which to back up our fore and aft lines, and then set off to practise climbing down lock ladders, and into the boat without upsetting it.

Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

... likes people to turn up to appointments either on time or a bit early, but thinks that perhaps turning up 24 hours early is a bit extreme. Old Nosey would like to pass this snippet on to the Bradys'.

Discounts.

The following traders have been known to give PPCA members discount. If you know of any more, or find any of this information to be incorrect, please let your editor know.

AS watersports, Exeter. 5% or 10% dependant on what you are buying and on production of your PPCA membership card,

Camel Canoe & Kayaks, Wadebridge. 10% on production of PPCA card.

Cotswold Outdoor. (Plymouth branch only). 15% on production of your PPCA membership card.

Kayaks & Paddles, Plymouth. 15% on production of PPCA membership card.

Marine Bazaar, Sutton Road. "What he feels like" for mentioning PPCA.

Mount Batten Bar. 5% on production of current Mount Batten membership card.

Picture Bazaar
Photo by Julie Elworthy.



Ken appears to have a
headache, or two.

**That's all folk; see you somewhere cold and wet.
Good paddling,
Clive.**

Diary dates.

These diary dates are correct at time of going to print, please check the website forum or speak to the session leader for any changes nearer to the event.

Date	Type of paddle	Location	Session leader
April.			
Sat 13, TBA	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Mon 15, 19:30	Pool session. <i>This session needs to be paid for in advance. Please see December Wet News for details.</i>	Plympton Pool (Provisional).	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654.
Tues 16, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls, Jenny Nicholls Chris Doidge, Jane Hitchings Clive Ashford Ken Hamblin
Fri 19, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 20, 09:00	Go Canoeing Session	Mount Batten	Linda Brady
Sat 20, 12:00	Estuary paddle <i>Meet at Bantham beach car park (GR 663437), ready to paddle for 12:00. We will launch from the slipway (or from the beach if the conditions are suitable) then paddle up with the tide past Aveton Gifford to the weir head have lunch and come back with the tide. Approx 8 mile round trip. If you require any club equipment meet at Mountbatten at 10:00. I will confirm that the trip is running on the club forum nearer the date.</i>	Avon Estuary	Terry Calcott 07828652775.
Tues 23, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Andy Nicolls, Jenny Nicholls Chris Doidge, Jane Hitchings Clive Ashford Ken Hamblin
Fri 26, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 27, 09:00	Go Canoeing Session	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
Sat 27, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
Tues 30, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls Chris Doidge / Jane Hitchings Clive Ashford Ken Hamblin
May.			
Fri 3, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 4, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Phil Cleave / Tom Clarke.
Sat 4, TBA	Sea kayak paddle <i>Times and venue will appear on the club forum a few days ahead of this trip. The club sea kayaks can be booked with the Club Equipment Officer, Alan Ede, by a text to 07799 556876 or an e-mail to alancede@hotmail.co.uk</i>	TBA	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
Sat 4, 10:00	Intro rec paddle	Mount Batten	John Mitchell 01752 219246.
Tues 7, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls Jane Hitchings & Chris Doidge Clive Ashford Ken Hamblin & Dave Fisher
10-12	Wye weekend <i>Booking essential, see Jan / March Wet News for details.</i>	Kington youth hostel	Clive Ashford 01752 344425
Fri 10, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.

May (continued).

Sat 11, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Phil Cleave / Tom Clarke.
Sat 11, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787
Tues 14, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak Open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Dave Fisher / Ken Hamblin Terry Calcott / Mary McArdle Ted Fearon Doug Sitch Clive Ashford
Fri 17, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 18, 10:15	Estuary paddle	Kingsmill Creek	Terry Calcott 07828 652775. <i>Meet at the car park on the Saltash side of the Tamar (just up river of the bridges) (GR433590), ready to paddle for 10:15. We will launch from the slipway then have a leisurely paddle up with the tide to explore Kingsmill creek.</i> <i>If you require any club equipment meet at Mountbatten at 09:00. I will confirm that the trip is running on the club forum nearer the date. Terry Calcott 07828652775</i>
Sun 19, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Mark Cox / Phil Cleave
Tues 21, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak Open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Dave Fisher / Ken Hamblin Terry Calcott / Mary McArdle Ted Fearon Doug Sitch Clive Ashford
Fri 24, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 25, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304. / Linda Brady 07847 065804
Sun 26, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Jenny & Andy Nicholls
Tues 28, 18:00	1* plus 2* kayak Open boat 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	Dave Fisher / Ken Hamblin Terry Calcott / Mary McArdle Ted Fearon Doug Sitch Clive Ashford
Fri 31, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.

June.

Sat 1, TBA Sea kayak paddle TBA Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
Times and venue will appear on the club forum a few days ahead of this trip.
The club sea kayaks can be booked with the Club Equipment Officer, Alan Ede, by a text to 07799 556876 or an e-mail to alancede@hotmail.co.uk

Sat 1, 10:00	Intro Rec Paddle	Mount Batten	John Mitchell 01752 219246.
Sun 2, 09:00	1 Star course	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford / John Mitchell

Advanced notice.

June 15 – 16	Midsummer(ish) camp <i>Details TBA.</i>	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
Sat 6, TBA	Horizons Swim		TBA
July 12 – 14	Roseland weekend <i>Details TBA</i>	Roseland Centre	Linda Brady 217678 / 07747 744084 or Mary McArdle 881166 / 07533825898
Sat 27 July	Breakwater swim		TBA