



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Wet News 94. August 2014.



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September edition of Wet News.

Items for inclusion in the September edition of Wet News to reach the editor, Clive Ashford, by 21:00hrs on Sat 6 Sept please. Publication date Sun 7 Sept.

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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.

At the end of a recent conversation I was accused of being intelligent. Being a fairly honest sort of chap I had to correct this person's point of view, but it did make me smile.

Sale of kayaks. (Alan Ede).

The sale of surplus club boats has now been completed and successful bidders have been notified. Thanks to those of you who made bids.

From the committee minutes.

In the attached committee meeting minutes you will see, under the heading 12.1, the following:-

One grant application has been successful from Devon Community Foundation who are awarding the PPCA, £1,920.00 from the Plymouth Trinity Fund, a fantastic amount and a very well done to Andy Nicholls and Damean Miller.

This proves that I have at least read the committee meeting minutes. I will find out more about this grant and update you all next month.

AGM. (Provisional date Mon 13 October).

A reminder that we need to elect a new committee at the AGM in October. All posts are up for election but at present I am informed that the current incumbents of Chair, Vice Chair, Club Leader, Secretary and Membership Secretary are not standing for re-election to the new committee. All nominations to Secretary Buck Taylor please.

Wet News.

My trusty old John Bull printing set and I have been feverishly bringing you Wet News for nearly 8 years and I have now decided that you all deserve a change. With that in mind the October edition of Wet News will be my last. (Do I hear cheering and dancing? How rude). If you feel that you would like to produce the club newsletter let someone on the committee know. It's not a difficult job and as I have proved literacy is optional, you are all suitably qualified.

All is not lost.

Tony Sicklemore carelessly allowed his knife (which was marked with a phone number) to drop into the sea off Bolt Tail. Some months later a diver found said knife off the entrance to Salcombe Harbour, some 5 miles from Bolt Tail. How good is that?

Building the boat 2, nearly there. (David Pedlow).

Commissioning a skin on frame boat is very different from seeing one that catches your eye in K&P, and going for it, like I did last time.

For a start there is no way of trying it out beforehand. The one thing that is certain is that your boat, when it is finished, will be unique. Essentially, what you are doing is providing the wherewithal to make it possible for the designer/builder to realise his latest dream – and what neither of you know back there at the beginning, is whether the dream will turn out to be a nightmare.

For instance, I am sure Chris started off with the “perfect” boat in his mind – but then I came along with my own wish-list, top of which was to be able to get my far from supple and athletic frame in and (especially) out of the boat in a hurry, without having to squirm about and work at it. The only way to do that was to have the foredeck higher than any Chris has previously put into a kayak. But a high foredeck has significant implications for how the boat will handle in a cross wind, and whilst there were adjustments that Chris could, and has, made to counter this; not until I have the boat out in a Force 4 cross wind will I know whether the compromise has worked. And by then, you might say, it will be too late.

And then there are the difficulties in the design and building process. Yes, there’s the computer model and previous experience to head one in the right direction; but wood is not like steel or plastic. Embedded in the detail of the grain is the wood’s own idea of how it wants to be worked and shaped; and by and large its arguments are pretty well irrefutable, and just have to be lived with. And so, early on, the first watchword “hasten slowly” was joined by the standard assessment of progress so far, “Well, it could be worse”. I simply marvelled at how the boat was developing. Chris on the other hand, could see day by day just how the reality was diverging from the absolute purity of line that was his original conception, and tended to be more understated in his language.

And if wood is “difficult”; then fabric is virtually unmanageable. Flexible and unpredictably stretchable as it is persuaded from two to three dimensions; devoid of meaningful datum points; its determined response to tensioning across the frame is to form a series of concave curved surfaces that will never more than approximate to the planned shape. And then, of course, the moment the epoxy treatment is applied it completely changes its nature; and changes it again as paint is added to the mix.

I don’t know if Chris makes a habit of lending Bill Taylor’s “*Commitment and Open Crossings*” (an account of the first circumnavigation of Britain and Ireland in 1986 – and very much worth reading) to all his customers; or whether he’s done it just to tweak my tail during this slow end period of curing and drying as the boat is finished. In it Taylor describes how he helped build a canvas and lathe boat from the drawings of a traditional Eskimo design. “The finished craft,” he writes, “looked elegant but proved to be a disappointment. On its maiden voyage, I realised the kayak had a warped keel so that I had unwittingly built in a wonderful but frustrating safety device – the boat was best suited to running in circles! Moreover, it was so unstable that it needed the skills of a tightrope walker to keep it upright”.

All I know is that there is only one beach from which Chris will allow me to test paddle the boat. A beach that has bushes growing down almost to the water’s edge, so that he can hide himself in one as I launch, and so get a head start running away if the boat is not to my satisfaction.

Chris says it is the traditional way to do things.

Roseland 2014. (Terry Calcott).

While it is still fresh in my mind I thought I would pen a few words and write a short article about the PPCA’s annual sea kayaking venture into Cornwall to the wonderful Roseland peninsular.

This was the ninth year of the club running this trip. Many of the sea paddlers have been many times over the years and the area has become a much loved second home. The weekend follows a well proven format, tried and tested over the years. But like any trip away involving a large group of people the amount of organising required is considerable. This year Mary came forward and kindly volunteered to do the job of organising us. With the usual cancellations and last minute changes sixteen club members eventually arrived on the Friday evening at the Roseland outdoor adventure centre. It is a great facility which we have exclusive use of for the weekend. It is within a short drive of many beautiful beaches and coastal villages of the Roseland peninsular, an ideal location for sea kayakers to explore and enjoy.

The group of sixteen that presented themselves were a mix of old hands and five Roseland virgins, Mike, Banjo, Paula, David and Tony. Although I was convinced Mike had been many times before he assured me this was his first time and looking back at the previous year’s group photos proved him correct.

Back to the well proven format. We met in the dining room at eight to enjoy the ninth year of Clive's legendary soup. A particularly tasty lentil vegetable variety followed by Merry's equally tasty and soon to be legendary apple crumble (I think you need eight years of continuous production to become a legend). Mary then made us all feel very welcome with her speech and some dos and don'ts of the centre. The accommodation this year was particularly capacious with five of the sixteen plumbing to camp in tents outside. This left the rest of us with a choice of dorms in which to throw our bedding and kit. After everyone was fed we moved into the lounge for a briefing by myself about the following day's sea kayak trip. Unfortunately this year Clive was still recovering from his op and would be unable to join us on the water. It was Clive that first found the Centre and started the Roseland tradition in 2006. After some relaxing conversation and chat with a few night caps most people got turned in early.



Saturday morning dawned and the kitchen started buzzing from about seven with paddlers making packed lunches, filling flasks and devouring breakfast. We had a guest appearance from our friend Jane who was going to join us for the days paddling. We left the centre at nine and made our way in convoy to Pendower beach, a short 10 minute drive away. Being a little overcast we had the small car park virtually to ourselves but the view still makes me smile, it is majestic, set high above the sweeping bay with miles of golden sand below. Did I say high, well I guess that means a carry down the hill to the beach. But being well used to the trek it was soon accomplished with numerous willing hands and sets of wheels. A final brief on the beach and off we set for the days paddle. The sea paddling is relaxed; the idea is to enjoy the company, scenery and wildlife while paddling with likeminded people. I had loosely arranged with Clive who was going to do a coast path walk, to meet on a beach down the coast for lunch, but more of that later. On a flat sea with a light south westerly breeze we paddled off towards Nare head. Then onto Gull rock to see the wildlife, a couple of seals making a brief appearance. From Gull rock we headed on a long transit to the mainland and the fishing village of Portloe, hidden in a cleft in the rocks. In the distance the low clouds rolling off Dodman point and the coast looked impressive. Some rock hopping followed past Caragloose point as we paddled east towards our lunch break just past Cellar rock. Clive made fleeting appearances on the coast path and apparently the so called path down to the beach did not exist so he headed back to Pendower. We lunched and relaxed and a few enjoyed an invigorating swim in the cool waters. Following our earlier paddle strokes we went back to Portloe and rock hopped the coast making a detour into the Straythe and then Kiberick cove for coffee and Shelley's lemon cake mm. On the way to land we encountered some Barrel jellyfish. The cameras came out and paddlers jostled for the best position to capture underwater footage of these huge creatures. Judging by the noise and excitement level Linda had captured the best photo footage amongst the many photos taken. We launched and headed back to Nare head via a narrow sea arch. For some reason all except for Joy, in the composite sea kayaks gave this a miss! Turning the corner we headed back to Pendower. I asked the five virgins to take the honour of leading the group safely back to the beach and land in the gentle six inches of surf, for some reason a few of them wanted to cool off as they landed.

Returning to the well proven format of the weekend. Back at the centre after cleaning kit and bodies, spraying sand off boats and cars (for some reason Jackie spent an age washing off her brand new car). We settled down for some well-earned pre supper drinks and nibbles. Mary and Linda had kindly volunteered to make our supper. We enjoyed ratatouie with chorizo on a bed of couscous with crumbled feta cheese followed by apple pie and clotted cream. After such a feast we had some fresh air and a digestion aiding walk down to St Just in Roseland church. Probably the prettiest setting for a church in the whole country. Set at the water's edge in its own lovely grounds. Settling down in the lounge, well fed and enjoying a relaxing drink it is usual to have some light entertainment to round off the evening. This year didn't disappoint with Banjo Mark being around with his new teeth to direct the proceedings. A few impromptu party pieces followed which I won't go into the detail of. There is always lots of good natured banter and it was an enjoyable and fun way to end the day. I think it fair to say that Paula won the cereal box competition and amazed us all.



Sunday morning dawned and the clatter in the kitchen was a bit later getting going. But at 9 o'clock we met and headed back to Pendower for another days paddling. This time going west, hoping to shelter

from the stiff NW breeze and 3 foot surf that was forecast. The wind was true but the surf never materialised and we had to contend with the same six inches of yesterday. We paddled across the bay to Porthscatho a delightful fishing village. With the breeze behind us we hugged the coast and the dropping tide gave us many rocks to explore. The Herons, Curlews and Oystercatchers were keeping us company as we paddled along. Passing the sweep of Town beach we headed for Killer beach (a name we gave it a few years ago!). Landing for lunch and a very relaxing time lounging about after a fine sticky date cake, courtesy of Mary.

Time to make tracks and head back, trying to keep out of the wind we hugged close in shore back to Porthscatho and a final transit back to Pendower. It is always a bit sad paddling back and the thought of the weekend coming to a close. Planning and leading the paddles this year was relatively easy. On the water shepherding the group worked well with my two well trained VHF collies (Tony and Mark) in the orange capella and ginger/terracotta polar. With the boats loaded up, a quick trip back to the centre followed for a cup of tea and a clean up before heading off home.

These weekends are always great occasions. We are fortunate in the club to have people in our midst who go that extra mile and make the effort to organise these club weekends for our enjoyment. Many thanks to Mary, Linda, Merryl and Clive for making it all happen and their contribution. Finally a big thank you to all of the 2014 Roselanders for the company, laughs and friendship. Next year will be the 10th anniversary of our Roseland adventures. Look out early next year for details in wet news and on the forum.

Editors footnote. I saw a notice in someone's window that stated, "Sometimes a well balanced diet is having a cake in each hand." Sums up the Roseland weekend quite nicely I thought.

Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

...understands that if you are (say) a strapping great ex policeman you may find it difficult to get your septuagenarian legs into a kayak designed for children. Old Nosey wonders if Mr Fossil can shed any light on this.

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.

Endless River Adventure. 10% Until 1/9/14 on orders over £30 and quoting reference ERPPCM10

<http://www.endlessriver.co.uk/>

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

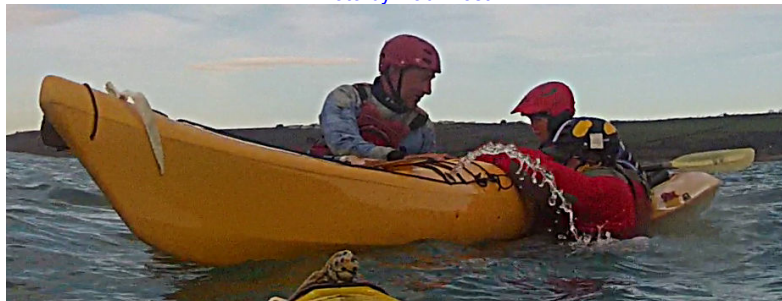
Marine Bazaar, Sutton Road. "What he feels like" for mentioning PPCA.

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

Wild Things, Redruth. 10% to club members. Tel 01209 211977 <http://www.wildthings-canoes.co.uk/>

Picture Bazaar

Photo by Bob Frost



Does my bum look big in this?

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
August.			
Tues 5, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Kittle
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Thurs 7, 18:00	1 star course (c)	Mount Batten	Damean Miller
Fri 8, 18:00	Sportivate (b)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose
Fri 8.	There is no open boat session this week.		
Sat 9, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Tues 12.	No training due to the annual fireworks competition.		
Thurs 14, 18:00	1 star course (d)	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Fri 15, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 16, 09:00	Taster session	Mount Batten	Jane Hitchings
Sat 16, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425.
Tues 19, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Julie Elworthy
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Martin Mills
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford.
Thurs 21, 18:00	1 star course (d)	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Fri 22, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 23, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch 07966 740025.
Tues 26, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Julie Elworthy
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Martin Mills
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford
Thurs 28, 18:00	1 star course (d)	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Fri 29, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 30, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Tony Blackmore
Sat 30, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
September.			
Tues 2, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Julie Elworthy
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	John Elworthy
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Martin Mills
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford
Thurs 4, 18:00	1 star course (d)	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Fri 5, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.

September (continued).

Sat 6, 10:00	Sea kayak paddle	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404. <i>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>
Sat 6, 10:30	Intro rec paddle	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke 01752 208735.
Tues 9, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Buck Taylor
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford
Thurs 11, 18:00	1 star course (e)	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke
Fri 12, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 13, 09:00	Taster session	Mount Batten	John Mitchell
Sat 13, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
Tues 16, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Buck Taylor
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford
Thurs 18, 18:00	1 star course (e)	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke
Fri 19, 18:00	Open Boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 20, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
Tues 23, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Buck Taylor
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford
Thurs 25, 18:00	1 star course (e)	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke
Friday 26, TBA	Sea symposium	Mount Batten	TBA
	<i>Please note that this is a non-club event.</i>		
Fri 26, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 27, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	TBA
Sat 27, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sat 27, TBA	Sea symposium	Mount Batten	TBA
	<i>Please note that this is a non-club event.</i>		
Sun 28, TBA	Sea symposium	Mount Batten	TBA
	<i>Please note that this is a non-club event.</i>		
Tues 30, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Buck Taylor
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford
October.			
Thurs 2, 18:00	1 star course (e)	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke