



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Wet News 81. July 2013.



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August edition of Wet News.

Items for inclusion in the August edition of Wet News to reach the editor, Clive Ashford by 21:00hrs on Saturday 10 August please. Publication date Sunday 11 August

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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.

I was walking on Dartmoor when I saw a reindeer silhouetted against the skyline. On second glance (you would look twice wouldn't you), this turned out to be a cow standing in front of a dead gorse bush. I'm thinking of applying for a job with the BBC wildlife unit, what do you think?

Aquatic First Aid.

Congratulation to: Alex Nicol, Chris Doidge, Joy Ashford, Mark Curtis, Mark Upton and Zoe Boyle who have all passed the BCU Aquatic First Aid level 1+2 qualification. Well done to them all and thanks to Dr David Fisher for running this course.

PPCA 40th birthday celebrations. (Jane Hitchings).

On Saturday 7th September the PPCA will be celebrating 40 years of fun paddling. It will be a day full of activities followed by a choice of three curries at Mountbatten, at a cost of £3.50 a head. There will be a long Sea paddle expedition from Calstock back to Mountbatten, (17 miles), this will start at approximately 7.00am. There will be a medium recreational paddle around Plymouth Sound, an open boat voyage and a Regatta for the young and young at heart with prizes at Mountbatten, either preceded or followed by a short paddle. We all aim to get off the water around 4pm so the start time for those not sea paddling is 1.00pm on the water, apart from the Regatta. There will be a celebratory cake and raffle at Mountbatten. The invitation to join in is extended to parents and former club members. If you know of anyone or a local business who could be persuaded to donate a raffle prize, (proceeds divided between PPCA and the RNLI), please let Jane Hitchings or Joy Ashford know.

Possible parking and changing restrictions at Mount Batten.

There are a number of events being hosted by or will affect the Mount Batten Centre, please be aware that parking will be restricted and that the changing rooms may well be very busy at these times.

27 July. Gig regatta.

11th-17th August. Rolex Fastnet Race. Mount Batten is expected to be very busy.

13 & 14 August. British fireworks championships.

26th-27th October. Lazer Sailing.

2nd-3rd November. BUC University Event.

Two star assessments, Saturday 20 July & Saturday 31 August.

The club are running two star assessments on the above dates. To register your interest please post on the relevant thread on the forum <http://www.pppca-canoe-club.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?t=2370>

Three star sea kayak assessments, Saturday 27 July & Sunday 8 September.

Just a reminder that the club are running three star sea kayak assessments on the above dates. Booking is essential via Clive Ashford, cliveashford-newsletter@yahoo.co.uk There are plenty of places available and for clarification these assessments can be taken in any craft, not necessarily sea kayaks.

Help required.

Having already helped with the Horizons sponsored swim the club is providing safety cover for two more annual events, see the website forum for further details. They are:

Sun 14 July, Plymouth Triathlon. On the water at Mount Batten at 07:45

Sat 27 July, Breakwater Swim. On the water at Mount Batten at 17:30

Simple boat repair masterclass. (Secretary David).

Seascope, who do repairs for the club boats, are about to relocate to East Devon and before they go, they are offering a one evening masterclass in the dark arts of plastic and glass fibre boat repair.

I'm floating a thread on the forum for expressions of interest, after which Equipment Officer Alan Ede will be in touch, directly or through the forum, to finalise arrangements. Alan will try and arrange a date to suit - I would expect the cost to be in the region of a fiver.

Thinking of going out on a club paddle next weekend? (Secretary David).

Some things we just don't forget - like the boat; but after that, you never can tell. I seem to recollect the esteemed editor of this journal admitting to forgetting his spray deck; and many others have fallen into the same error. Then there's lunch, or remembering to empty the warming water out of the flask and actually fill it with coffee - you know who I mean. There are many pitfalls to negotiate between getting up and a successful day on the water.

There are even more pitfalls to negotiate if you're a paddle leader, the worst of all is forgetting that you're leading the paddle. A number of years ago we used to run a sweepstake as to whether one particular coach would a. oversleep; b. just plain forget, which is why you will find, in the diary dates published in the newsletter, not only the name of the coach leading the paddle, but also a contact phone number.

The idea is that if you are thinking of paddling, you will automatically look at the diary dates to see who is leading, and make a note of their number; then perhaps you will look at the forum and see what joys they have in store for us; And if the forum is resolutely silent, or the weather looks as though it will be blowing a hooley, you can telephone the coach, and check what's happening.

I am assured by our chairman, that far from being annoyed by such phone calls, our coaches will actively welcome them, as proof that they will be taking out a bunch of responsible paddlers; and as an aide memoire that, once again, they are going to be in the firing line.

Super Full Moon, 22 July.

Monday 22 July will see a Super Full Moon. The following information is copied from the website <http://www.timeanddate.com/> and is reproduced with their kind permission.

What is a Super Full Moon?

Contrary to popular belief, the Moon orbits the Earth in an elliptical path, with one side of the path closer to the Earth than the other. The point closest to the Earth is called the Perigee, while the point farthest from the Earth is known as the Apogee. The average distance between the two extreme points is 237,700 miles or 382,500 km.

These events do not regularly coincide with the phases of the moon but it can happen that the moon is at perigee during the phase of full moon. This event is referred to as Super Full Moon. Conversely when a full moon coincides with the Moon's position at the Apogee, it is referred to as a Micro Moon or a Mini Moon. Sometimes also called an Apogee Moon, a Micro Moon looks approximately 14 percent smaller and around 30 percent less bright than a Super Full Moon.

Natural disaster trigger?

Fears that a Super Full Moon may increase the probability and severity of natural disasters can be traced back to theories devised by astrologers. Richard Nolle claims that when the moon goes super extreme, the results will be huge storms, earthquakes, volcano eruptions, and other natural disasters. However, none of these claims withstand scientific scrutiny, and fears of the disaster-inducing potential of Super Full Moons are unfounded.

Although the sun and the moon's alignment cause a small increase in tectonic activity, the effects of the Super Full Moon on Earth are minor. Many scientists have conducted studies and haven't found anything significant that can link the Super Full Moon to natural disasters. According to NASA, the combination of the moon being at its closest and in its "full moon" phase, should not affect the internal energy balance of the Earth since there are lunar tides every day. There is a small difference in tidal forces exerted by the moon's gravitational pull at lunar perigee. However, they are too small to overcome the larger forces within the planet.

Typical Effects of the Moon

The Moon is the Earth's only natural satellite and the second brightest object in the sky after the Sun due to its soil's reflective properties. It is in a synchronous rotation with the Earth, spinning at about the same speed and direction as it orbits around the Earth. This means that the same side always faces the Earth, and the half of the moon's surface that is facing outwards is never directly visible from Earth.

The tides on Earth are mostly generated by the intensity of the Moon's gravitational pull from one side of the Earth to the other. The moon's gravity can cause small ebbs and flows in the continents called land tides or solid Earth tides. These are greatest during the full and new moons because the sun and moon are aligned on the same or opposite sides of the Earth.

Midsummer(ish) camp 2013. (Clive Ashford).

I thought that I had this year's midsummer(ish) camp well and truly organised. I had permission from the National Trust to camp on the beach at Ayrmer Cove, a route sorted out, (Mount Batten to Ayrmer Cove on Saturday, Ayrmer Cove to Aveton Gifford on Sunday), transport organised for the shuttle back to Mount Batten and just a fortnight before the event the weather turned warm and dry. Sorted, job done, all that was left to do was to turn up on the day and enjoy myself.

That was when the weather gods conspired to make life difficult. The paddle from Mount Batten to Ayrmer Cove is some 16 miles along an exposed but beautiful piece of Devon's coastline. By the Thursday before the camp the weekend weather forecast was for westerly force 5 – 6 winds and 5 – 7 foot of surf. No doubt that would have been very exciting but definitely out of my league as a leader and probably out of most paddlers comfort zone. A new plan was needed or the camp would be off.

The weather and tide times were against us but a look at the map reminded me of Boating World at Landrake, whose website boasts of being "the largest and friendliest boatyard in the South West." As we all know size isn't important but the "friendly" bit appealed to me and I had nothing to lose. I turned up at Boating World un-announced and confess that I travelled more in hope than expectation, but when I

Photo by Terry Calcott.



Being British we made cups of tea.

outlined our predicament to director Ken Greenfield and asked if we could camp there his reply was, "Of course you can, have a look over there and see if that meets your requirements." Gentle readers, I saw a leafy glade big enough for all our tents within easy walking distance of a tap and a toilet. You could say a heaven in a haven if you had enough wit and imagination to coin such a phrase. (Oh, I just did)! Ken and I shook hands and the midsummer(ish) camp was back on. The plan now was to launch at Brunel Green in Saltash on the Saturday, paddle to Boating World, camp overnight and paddle back the next day, a distance of just 7 miles each way. Not the wilderness adventure I had originally planned but at least a realistic trip given the circumstances.

Having managed to re-organise this trip at short notice I was feeling rather pleased with myself, but all that changed when we reached Marsh Mills Roundabout on the Saturday morning. Joy's mobile phone rang and the conversation that ensued with Terry Calcott told us that the Saltash regatta was being held over the weekend and that we would have no access to the water at Saltash. The lesson here is not to feel smug until your planned activity has been completed and there is nothing else to go wrong. Having done so much to keep this camp alive giving up and going home again wasn't really an option, although I do admit that such thoughts did cross my mind. I shall not bore you with the details but after a somewhat frantic half hour we all arrived at Saltash Passage on the Devon side of the river and our adventure was ready to begin.

For those who have never been camping with a sea kayak let me describe the process. You place your sea kayak somewhere adjacent to your proposed launch site and pile all the gear that you are going to take with you next to your boat. You then scratch your head as you try to imagine how so much gear is going to fit into a relatively small space. You start pushing, shoving, grunting and groaning and then,

perhaps after more than one attempt, you are eventually able to close the hatches and breathe a sigh of relief. Phew.

Having seen the weather forecast for the weekend some people had decided not to paddle while others had seen my hastily re-arranged trip and decided that an estuary paddle wasn't for them, so in the end just seven intrepid explorers launched into the Tamar Estuary on a cool and blustery Saturday morning. We crossed over to the Cornish side of the river and so into the Lynher Estuary to start our nice gentle estuary paddle, or so we may have thought, but the wind was blowing westerly force 5 – 6 and as everyone knows the wind funnels through the Lynher Estuary. We had to hop from one small sheltered headland to another seeking respite from a wind that was driving white horses straight at us. After fighting the conditions for 2 hours we still had over 2 miles to go so we found a beach on which to stop for lunch.

Photo by Terry Calcott.



Swans and fluffy little Cygnets.

Suitably refuelled we paddled on and were greatly relieved when we turned sharp right into the narrow part of the estuary and found that the wind was then behind us, proving to be much stronger than the rapidly receding tide. 7 tired and battered paddlers clambered onto the pontoon at Boating World with the feeling that we had been involved in something a bit more demanding than a simple 7 mile estuary paddle.

I gave the troops a guided tour of our base. It doesn't take long to point and gasp, "Toilet." "Tap." and "Put your tents here." but the guided tour was extended by the fact that our facilities were spread out over some 2 - 300 yards. I'm sure the exercise was just what we needed.

We established camp and as we are British we set about making cups of tea. Mary being Mary produced some (predictably wonderful) homemade flap jack and suddenly we knew that we were on a PPCA

trip, all very civilised except for the presence of a few thousand midges who wanted to make us feel as if we had journeyed to Scotland. I applied insect repellent but missed the area under my watch strap so I am now sitting here alternatively typing and scratching my wrist, thanks for your concern.

As evening approached various shades of cordon blue cooking were produced along with an equally diverse range of beverages; delicious homemade slow gin, yummy homemade rhubarb vodka and some very suspect homemade cider. Mark Porter had donated the cider which he declared to have acquired free of charge. It may have been free but somehow it still managed to be overpriced. Suitably well fed we left the midges to their own devices and retired to an old quay beside the water where we lit a fire, drank more beverages and told stories before eventually returning to our tents for a well earned sleep.

Sunday morning arrived with periods of light rain and a group of campers who may not have been quite as lively as they were just 12 hours earlier, but none of that stopped us from being ready to get on the water at 09:00. By the pontoon we were treated to the sight of a family of ducks, (mum with 6 ducklings), and then a family of swans, (2 parents and 3 cygnets), the cygnets were really quite young and were still fluffy and cute. (I know that an old cygnet would be called a swan but I'm sure that even the most pedantic amongst you understand what I mean). I can report that all paddlers managed to launch without getting arms or legs broken by angry swans. Anyone know if that particular rumour is true?

The paddle back down the estuary was certainly much gentler than the day before but as the wind had changed direction we were still subject to a head wind. (I have only once had a calm trip on this rather pretty stretch of water). We arrived back at Saltash Passage in just over 2 hours where we unloaded boats, packed cars and said our farewells. I don't pretend to speak for anyone else but I went home and shut my eyes for a couple of hours.

Well, that's the story of this year's midsummer(ish) camp. There is a uniquely entertaining atmosphere when a group of PPCA paddlers are out to have fun so you can take it for granted that we had a most excellent time, but I can't finish without saying a huge "thank you" to Ken Greenfield and Boating World for making us feel so very welcome at such short notice. Thanks indeed.

Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

...would like to inform all paddlers that as you grow older your skin becomes tough and leathery, but no matter how old you become your skin will still be as soft as putty when compared to a barnacle covered rock. If you need proof ask Bob "I'm so old my skin is like a walnut" Sherston.

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

Picture Bazaar
Photo by Merryl Docker.



Auditions are under way for the remake of Andy Pandy & Looby Loo

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
July. Tues 9, 18:00	1* plus 2* star Open boats 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	John Elworthy Neville Cannon / Stephen Pryor Julie Elworthy Brian Taylor / Phil Cleave Chris Doidge
Wed 10, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Thurs 11, 18:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott / Linda Brady
12 – 14	Roseland Weekend <i>See March Wet News for details.</i>	Roseland Centre	Linda Brady 01752 217678 / 07747 744084 or Mary McArdle 01752 881166 / 07533825898
Fri 12, 18:00	Sportivate one star (1) / Youth session	Mount Batten	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
Fri 12, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 13, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge 07973 285969.
Sun 14, 07:45	Plymouth Triathlon <i>See website forum for details.</i>	Mount Batten	Jane Hitchings 01752 691274
Sun 14, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Alan Ede
Tues 16, 18:00	1* plus 2* star Open boats 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	John Elworthy Neville Cannon / Stephen Pryor Julie Elworthy Brian Taylor / Phil Cleave Chris Doidge
Fri 19, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 20, TBA	2 star assessment. <i>Please register your interest via the website forum.</i>	Mount Batten	
Sat 20, 10:00	Recreational Paddle	Mount batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
Sun 21, 09:00	Go Canoeing	Mount Batten	Mark Cox
Tues 23, 18:00	1* plus 2* star Open boats 3* sea 3* plus	Mount Batten	John Elworthy Neville Cannon / Stephen Pryor Julie Elworthy Brian Taylor / Phil Cleave Chris Doidge
Wed 25, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
Fri 26, 18:00	Sportivate one star (2)	Mount Batten	Andy & Jenny Nicholls
Fri 26, 18:00	Youth session	Mount Batten	Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
Fri 26, 18:00	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.

July (continued).

Sat 27, TBA 3* sea kayak assess TBA Clive Ashford 01752 344425
Although titled as sea kayak assessments this award can be taken in sea kayak, general purpose kayak or even a sit on top. Places are limited. To book your place please contact Clive, either cliveashford-newsletter@yahoo.co.uk or 01752 344425.

Sat 27, 10:00 Recreational Paddle Mount Batten Joy Ashford 01752 344425.
 Sat 27, 17:30 Breakwater Swim Breakwater Chris Doidge 07973 285969.
Volunteers required, see forum for details.
 Sun 28, 09:00 1 Star course Mount Batten Chris Doidge / Brian Taylor
 Tues 30, 18:00 1* plus Mount Batten John Elworthy
 2* star Neville Cannon / Stephen Pryor
 Open boats Julie Elworthy
 3* sea Brian Taylor / Phil Cleave
 3* plus Chris Doidge
 Wed 31, 18:00 Paddlepower Mount Batten Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady

August

Fri 2, 18:00 Sportivate one star (2) Mount Batten Andy & Jenny Nicholls
 Fri 2, 18:00 Youth session Mount Batten Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
 Fri 2, 18:00 Open boat Mount Batten Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
 Sat 3, TBA Sea kayak paddle TBA Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
*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 3, 10:30 Intro rec Paddle Mount Batten John Mitchell 01752 219246.
 Sun 4, 09:00 1 Star course Mount Batten Chris Doidge / Brian Taylor
 Tues 6, 18:00 1* plus Mount Batten Justin Frost / Mark Porter
 2* kayak Phil Cleave / Alan Ede
 Open boat Ted Fearon
 3* sea Joy Ashford
 3* plus Doug Sitch
 Wed 7, 18:00 Paddlepower Mount Batten Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
 Fri 9, 18:00 Sportivate one star (2) Mount Batten Andy & Jenny Nicholls
 Fri 9, 18:00 Youth session Mount Batten Zoe Boyle 07814 131654. / Ian Brimacombe.
 Fri 9, 18:00 Open boat Mount Batten Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
 Sat 10, 09:00 Go Canoeing Mount Batten Andy Kittle
 Sat 10, 10:00 Recreational paddle Mount Batten Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304
 Linda Brady 07847 065804.
 Tues 13, 18:00 1* plus Mount Batten Justin Frost / Mark Porter
 2* kayak Phil Cleave / Alan Ede
 Open boat Ted Fearon
 3* sea Joy Ashford
 3* plus Doug Sitch