



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Wet News 93. July 2014.



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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 Sat 2 August please.
Publication date Sunday 3 August

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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 stripped some wallpaper off a room that Joy was going to re-decorate. A few days later I heard that Joy had marked my handiwork as "not bad." To put that into some kind of perspective, when Joy wrote the book of Genesis she commented that she saw that all of God's creation was "Good."

Dry kit at Mount Batten.

During club sessions at Mount Batten the members shed gets quite hectic. In order to avoid leaving trip hazards for our unsuspecting members we are asked that we leave our dry kit inside the area around the sea kayak trolley defined by yellow tape. Your co-operation is much appreciated and if you are in doubt as to where to leave your kit please speak to a coach.

PPCA Club Kayaks for Sale. (Equipment officer Alan Ede).

As we have recently acquired some new boats there is a need to make some space in the club shed. There are six club boats for sale as listed below.

All have been checked and are watertight and have the usual scratches on the hull.

All the boats will have airbags.

The method of sale is by sealed bids. The date by which bids are to be in is 20th July. On that day, a Sunday, the bids will be collected and the winners informed.

Please put your bid amount and the kayak you are bidding for in a sealed envelope with your name inside and a contact number. The outside of the envelope should have nothing written on it except the word 'Bid'.

I will place a suitable box in the **members shed** for the envelopes.

Bids should start at no less than £100 please. Remember these boats would probably achieve double that in an internet auction so there are bargains to be had for club members.

The club numbers are included on this list in case you would like to inspect any of them.

1. Perception Arc PPCA 15 (Blue)
2. Perception Whiplash PPCA 36 (Blue/White)
3. Perception Whip-It PPCA 37 (Orange/Red)
4. Dagger Blast PPCA 41 (Blue)
5. Pyranha 270 PPCA 43 (Red/Yellow)
6. Necky Jive 8.10 PPCA 32 (Green/Red)

If you do inspect and find the odd air bag which is past its sell by date do not worry they will be replaced with new.

PPCA Committee 2014/2015.

Posting from John Mitchell copied from the website forum. Secretary Buck can be contacted on 07717 821934 or e-mail bucktayross@hotmail.com

Hi All

Its time of the year when the existing PPCA committee have done all the hard work , and are starting to think if they are going to stand for the next Committee.

As usual all post are up for re-election at the AGM, which as normal will be in a Monday evening in October, so if you feel you would like to put something back into the club that have given you so much fun put your name forward to Buck the Secretary. You will need a proposer and a seconder, if you are struggling with that please contact a member of the existing committee and I am sure they will help with a couple of names.

Already some existing members have stated they are not going to try for re-election, these posts are as follows.

1. Chairperson
2. Vice Chairperson
3. Club Leader
4. Membership Secretary.

So come on all you members and put your names forward to the Club Secretary Buck.

Regards, John, Chairperson.

Not long now! (David Pedlow).

Editors note. *To set the scene David is having a skin on frame sea kayak made by Chris Pease of Cornwall Custom Kayaks. Chris is an extremely skilled craftsman, as you will be able to see when David takes his latest toy out to play. This is David's story so far.*

The committing moment in the process of having my new boat made came at the very end of April. I sat, balancing on a plank resting on a low fulcrum in the middle of a cluttered garage, while Chris marked in



The completed frame.

the balance line, the position of my feet and bottom bones, and where the backstrap should go, all in relation to a wooden cockpit rim, fashioned from green oak, that had sat in its former for the last month or so. This "memory board" defined the new boat, and ensured that it was "made to measure", rather than off the shelf.

A week later, Chris's cluttered garage was cleared and transformed into a kayak loft, and Chris and I were working a chunky (and heavy) 4m long piece of red cedar through the band saw, to take out pieces for the



Frame with skin applied.

gunwales and stringers. It was not, you understand, just any old piece of red cedar; it was Cornish grown, carefully selected green-wood, with what Chris considered to be an acceptable grain, that he had unearthed in a traditional timber yard somewhere on the banks of the Tamar.

Once they had been cut from stock, planed to size and chamfered, the gunwales were fitted into formers, clamped together at the ends, and immediately the shape and character of the boat to come leapt out of the wood.

Somewhere in the background was a computer programme that produced CAD type drawings; somewhere else was a drawing office where Chris set out detailed drawings by hand, interlocking several on a single sheet of detail paper just, as far as I was concerned, to make them even less comprehensible. And somehow, in the loft, all these became a boat.

From the drawings we calculated the lengths of the ribs; extracted rough-cut green oak blanks from the down-pipe where they had been steeping in water for months; planed and shaped them; cut them to

length; steamed them for 12 minutes each in an insulated contraption connected to a wall paper stripper; and then bent the ends to shape.

And in between my visits, Chris was fixing together all the bits indicated on the plans (gunwales, deck stringers, chine and keel stringers, ribs, deck beams, bow and stern pieces), using pegs and lashings (no glue, no screws, definitely no nails), and what had been a 2D wooden shape on the loft floor slowly transmogrified into a complex 3D shape, over which Chris waxed lyrical, which even I could see showed promise of turning into a kayak; and which magically grew lighter and lighter by the week as the greenwood dried out, and the timber set into the shape in which it was constrained.

I had to accept that finding toothless volunteers to chew-cure two and a half seal skins (sealskin has the perfect coefficient of wet shrinkage for boat building) was a non-starter, and that modern materials would have to be used for the skin. And out of the whole range of fabrics and treatments available I did – for a moment or two – understand just why Chris has settled on the ones we've used. I think. Just don't expect an intelligent answer should you ask.

As I write, the single, shaped, piece of soft, lightweight, recycled polyester weave has been cut out from the roll with a red hot chisel. It has been stretched over and pinned to the frame, and then unpinned again as sewing proceeded. The central deck seams have been rolled on rope and pulled and stitched together along fore and after decks using a "speedy stitcher"; the stern seam sewn with curved sailmakers' needles; the cockpit rim sewn into place through the 100+ needle holes drilled into it; and the fitted skin, pulled as tight as we could stretch and sew it, now awaits the application of epoxy that will waterproof and harden it, ready for painting.

Once again, I gather, the watchword is *festine lente* as we hasten slowly towards the end of building and the start of sea trials. I can hardly wait.

A Midsummer Camp. (Terry Calcott).

It has been a PPCA tradition over the past few years to have an overnight camp that coincides with the summer solstice and the longest day. It only clicked in my brain a few weeks ago that with Clive still recovering from his very recent op he would not be organising a paddle for the club this year. I had left it too late to organise a club paddle so decided to keep the tradition going and plan a small peer group paddle. The ideal number for a peer paddle is between four and six paddlers, with the knowledge that you know their abilities and what is achievable. So how did we end up with two groups of four and one arriving by car? With Joy already committed to running the club paddle on the day of the camp we had come to an arrangement where she would join us later in the day and bring along a few other late comers with her, namely Dave, Jane and Sharon.

Well the plan for both groups was to launch from West Looe, and paddle along the coast to West Coombe beach and camp overnight at a National Trust field nearby (pre-arranged with the warden). Clive had discovered West Coombe a few years earlier and we had already enjoyed a couple of happy camps there.



So back to the other group, some of my paddling friends have been side lined recently due to injury. So I thought it would be nice to arrange a camp site with car parking relatively close by and invite them to join us by travelling by car and easy walking to the campsite. The early paddling group consisted of myself, Mark Emu, Mark P, Merryl with Mary acting as logistic support driving the backup vehicle. We met at Mount Batten early to beat the rush of divers off-loading their kit but not quite earlier enough, as mayhem ensued with vans and cars blocking the access road. The diplomatic Marks sorted it out and we were soon on our way! First stop was a cooked breakfast at Jennicliff cafe. No great rush, after

all it was a peer paddle and no tight time scales to keep to. Next stop Hannafore Point in West Looe, to park up and unload the boats and kit. Did I say anything about the weather; well it was just wonderful and sunny with a gentle breeze and a flat calm sea. I'm not one for being a purist and carrying all my kit in my sea kayak if there is an alternative. Our logistic support offered to carry some of the heavier items in her car and would meet us at West Coombe. So without a second thought in went the cooker, pan, tent, and cool box with essential liquids.

Setting off at around eleven we had a leisurely paddle along the coast past Talland Bay and Polperro. Pulling in for a coffee stop at a secluded cove which had an azure sea to welcome us. The stretch of coastline from Polperro to West Coombe has few escape routes just high cliffs and lovely rock formations

to hug close and explore. Before long we had reached East Coombe and we could make out West Coombe in the distance across Lantivet Bay. Landing on a white sand beach with yet more azure blue sea to cross. We lunched on the beach and then stowed our boats in a little ravine in the rocks. We also had a resident security guard, a father and son who were camping on the beach for the weekend.

Having been to West Coombe a few times before I knew what the short stroll up the valley to the campsite is like (Coombe means 'a valley'). The National Trust field is really quite idyllic, surrounded by trees and looking east down the valley. It has a compost loo, home to a thousand flies and a fresh water tap nearby, what more could you wish for.

Logistic support had parked her car at Lansallos a picturesque little village a longer short stroll UP the footpath of the valley, so after a short walk in the blazing sun the rest of the kit was collected and before long neat rows of tents appeared fully pitched. Mark had walked the field and was eyeing up potential drying sites for his wet kit. He likes to use the full facilities on offer. With everything organised some went off for a paddle round the coast to Lantic Bay and a snorkel in the clear and apparently warmish waters. Others lazed around and went for a short walk. With the afternoon over the thought was on food and our supper. We wondered what time the other group would arrive and timed heating the food up perfectly. When paddling with friends it's always nice to have a shared meal and spread the cooking out amongst us. Joy and her band of paddlers arrived just as the steam was coming off the big pan of Mary's ratatouie with chorizo served on a bed of couscous, topped with feta cheese. The accompanying glass of red wine perfectly at room temperature. The others quickly pitched their tents, Dave and Jane a well-oiled team in pitching harmony, no arguments there just a calm silence with the occasional word of direction. Time for Merryll's starters and a spread of nibbles to accompany the Sloe Gin cocktail. After the main meal we had room for my fresh fruit with Greek yoghurt drizzled with honey and sprinkled with nuts. Glamping at its finest. Sea paddling certainly gives you an appetite and why not enjoy some of life's luxuries when camping. The sun was trying to set but being the longest day it was struggling. I guess I had better mention the wildlife. The hungry horse flies and midges were out in force. Liberal applications of anti-bug spray and cream kept most at bay but it wasn't long before the body had to be fully covered for protection. For some reason the midges took a liking to Marks socks and stayed in that area. Sharon took to the layering method and it's amazing how many layers you can get on.



Once the sun had gone down we had a short walk to the beach for a night cap and the passing of the hip flasks purely as an aid to digestion of our gourmet meal earlier. A relatively quiet night followed broken only by the occasional owl hooting and human snoring. The dawn chorus was bang on time and in key even if it was very early in the morning, it is always a joy to listen to. Talking of Joys, a hearty breakfast of Joy's granola with chilled milk and fresh croissants with raspberry compote followed. We struck camp and packed up and loaded the boats on the beach and also back UP the track and loaded the car. Time to say a fond farewell to West Coombe for another year and head back along the coast, this time as a group of eight paddlers

following our paddle strokes from yesterday. The weather well it stayed sunny and calm and just a cooling gentle breeze. Stopping off at Polperro for a coffee and cake, many thanks to Mary and Jane. By some miraculous coincidence they had both made the same cake, a lime and raspberry drizzle, need I say any more, yum! We did take a detour and head off south around Looe Island when it came into view. Hopeful that the resident seals would be there and make an appearance. Just a fleeting glimpse of a couple of them being our only view. We landed back at Hannafore and loaded up before enjoying a nice cup of tea together before the drive back home.

Although it was only an overnight camp, the effort and planning was well worth it. Memories are wonderful things and this weekend will be one of those to look back on and cherish.

Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

...has been reliably informed that during the recent hot weather the water in the Tinside Lido has risen to a comfortable temperature, so much so that anyone swimming there in a wet suit could be regarded as a wimp. Based on this information Old Nosey, our roaming reporter, regards Ben Mitchell as a wimp.

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

Picture Bazaar
Photo by Terry Calcott.



Merryll visits the newly opened Drop Dead Gorgeous hair dresser.

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. Mon 7, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
Tues 8, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Jenny Nicholls
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Phil Cleeve
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Thurs 10, 18:00	1 star course (b)	Mount Batten	Buck Taylor
Fir 11 – Sun 13	Roseland Weekend	St Just in Roseland	Mary McArdle 01752 881166
	<i>See March newsletter / website forum for details of the sea kayaking weekend.</i>		
Fri 11, 18:00	Sportivate (b)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose
Fri 11, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 12, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
Mon 14, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
Tues 15, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Kittle
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Thurs 17, 18:00	1 star course (c)	Mount Batten	Damean Miller
Fri 18, 18:00	Sportivate (b)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose
Fri 18, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 19, 09:00	Taster session	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
Sat 19, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
Mon 21, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
Tues 22, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Kittle
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Thurs 24, 18:00	1 star course (c)	Mount Batten	Damean Miller
Fri 25, 18:00	Sportivate (b)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose
Fri 25, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 26, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.

July (continued).

Tues 29, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Kittle
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Thurs 31, 18:00	1 star course (c)	Mount Batten	Damean Miller

August.

Fri 1, 18:00	Sportivate (b)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose
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Fri 1. There is no open boat session this week.

Sat 2, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
Sat 2, 10:00	Sea kayak paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775..
	<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 2, 10:30	Intro rec paddle	Mount Batten	John Mitchell 01752 219246
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Tues 5, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Kittle
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott

Thurs 7, 18:00	1 star course (c)	Mount Batten	Damean Miller
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Fri 8, 18:00	Sportivate (b)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose
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Fri 8. There is no open boat session this week.

Sat 9, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773 342787.
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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
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	John Elworthy
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Martin Mills
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
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
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	John Elworthy
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Martin Mills
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Thurs 28, 18:00	1 star course (d)	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott