



Eddylines

Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Newsletter 08 June 2015

Welcome to the June edition of Eddylines. The club activities continue to come thick and fast at this time of year with something for everyone on the paddling front. Look out as usual in the diary page for details of what's happening or on the club forum. Many thanks to those club members for sending in a few articles and photos to use in the newsletter. Please keep them coming in over the coming months, there must be plenty of summer paddling stories to share with the club. Some good news is that our landlords have finally connected the electric supply to the club shed door. With a press of a button it now goes up and down, long may it continue to do so.

Recreational paddling (Terry Calcott)

I have run a fair few of the club recreational paddles and enjoy the company and social side as much as getting out on the water, be it locally in Plymouth Sound or somewhere else in the local environ. In the olden days (a year or two ago) it was the norm to have lots of new paddlers joining in and experiencing the joy of recreational paddling. What has become apparent is that we are not getting the numbers of new paddlers like we used to. I'm not sure why, there appear to be lots of new faces coming on a Tuesday evening. I know it is still early in the club training year and the 1 star courses are just getting started. But please spread the word about coming out on a Saturday and the enjoyment that a leisurely paddle brings. They are suitable for all abilities and will be matched to those who are paddling. So if you are new please come along and give it a go. See the club forum for details of the days paddle or give the nominated coach a ring if you want to find out more



Rec paddle off the Breakwater Lighthouse (photo Terry Calcott)

Midsummer(ish) camp, 20 - 21 June (Clive Ashford)

This year's midsummer(ish) camp will take place on 20 – 21 June. (I did consider calling it the “getting on for autumn camp”). I have permission from the National Trust to camp at Ayrmer Cove, which is at grid ref SX 640455. The plan is to paddle from Mount Batten and back, some 15 miles each way, but this is weather dependant. There are no facilities at Ayrmer Cove. Just to be clear that means no tap, no loo, no showers and very definitely no shop. There is a pub half a mile away. Whilst we are not being charged to camp I think a donation of £3 each to the National Trust would be a nice gesture.

This trip is only suitable for sea kayaks. Club boats are available, if you want to book a club boat for this trip please do so via me (Clive Ashford) 01752 344425 or cliveandjoy01@gmail.com

Meet the Committee - Paul Hewson (Membership Secretary)



My first kayak trip is slightly lost in the purple haze of distant memory; but I know it involved Drakes Island Activity Centre and a trip to the Radio 1 Roadshow on the Hoe in a purple fibreglass kayak. I thought everything about Radio 1 was awful, but did enjoy hearing a band called Deep Purple. After that, I had a beneficial purple patch in my paddling experience with opportunities to get on the water gained through my membership of the youth organisation distinguished by a Fleur-de-Lys on a Purple badge (my Mum was involved in their all-female sister organisation and dragged me along to a few more paddling sessions – I was possibly a little purple-faced at the time but with hindsight appreciate the opportunities which included meeting Debbie, my wife). A few years living and working among the purple heather of Scotland put any thoughts of paddling behind me. More recently though, a return to the South West and a purple fit at work lead to a Kayaking revival. Both my

wife and myself hugely enjoyed a PPCA One Star course (and yes, there is purple on the slightly faded certificate). Since then, I have bought myself a rather off purple touring kayak (note – it's so far off purple I'd say it's a different colour, but I guess this purple obsession is an important plotline). I have a dry suit and buoyancy aid which would make purple if their colours were combined (note – now you're really scraping a purple barrel). My wife and younger parts of my family have recently been enjoying open canoeing in a purple Pelican canoe. I guess by now my enthusiasm for PPCA is clear – I wish to develop my skills and widen my paddling horizons confidently and safely. Imagine a day with a purple sky in the morning, but where I ignored the warning. If I found myself nostalgically going round Drake's Island in a purple storm I want to be sure I can handle anything that might come up. After all; I'd hate to find myself marooned.

(note: despite the purple prose, strictly speaking this is known as a "green yarn". In fact, I've never seen such a load of desperately recycled old rubbish in my life).

Committee news- With the old Club Secretary (Martin Mills) recently stepping down many thanks to Bob Grose for stepping in and taking on the important roll.

Old Father Thames Weekend, 18 - 21 September (Clive Ashford)

I realise that the Thames Weekend in September seems like a long time away but take up for this trip has been slow, so much so that I am not sure that it is viable.

I need to decide what to do about this trip by the end of June. If you are thinking of attending the Thames Weekend can I ask that you let me know by Friday 26 June please so that I can make an informed decision? The club has paid a deposit on the accommodation for this weekend and at present we can get this back but that situation will change and I don't want to cause the club unnecessary expense.

Usual contacts for myself, either 01752 344425 or cliveandjoy01@gmail.com

Sea Kayaking Intro Course (Terry Calcott)

If you have wanted to try sea kayaking but never had the opportunity now is your chance. I am running a couple of intro sessions on Thursday evenings. The sessions are aimed at those who have mastered the basic paddling skills and are new to sea kayaks. It may also be of interest to paddlers who have dabbled in sea kayaks before but not paddled recently. It will cover some theory and a lot of practical aspects of sea paddling and transferring those skills you already have and using them in handling a sea kayak.

The next course will be running on Thursday **11th June and 18th June**.

Places are limited, if you are interested please email or phone. Club sea kayaks are available for use or bring along your own if you have one, if you would like to book a place and a boat or have any questions please let me know by email terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07828652775.

Blast from the past (Part 1)



A great club photo from the mid to late 70s

Taken at Phoenix Wharf slipway. A few names and faces some of the older club members will know? (far left is Steve Hill, fourth from the right is Terry Collins and at the right of the raft is his son Ian. If anyone can identify any of the other paddlers please let me know.

Blast from the past (Part 2)



Hoe diving boards 1976 (photo from Steve Hoppins)

This is an interesting photo sent in by Steve Hoppins, his father took the photo. He thinks it was taken around 1976, when his father was part of a scuba diving club practicing in the nearby pools. Do you recognize anyone? They may not even be PPCA members. That looks like a surf kayak launching off the diving board? Any thoughts please contact the editor.

Whats in a name-The Round of Beef (Terry Calcott)

One of my pet subjects is local history and I am always trying to find out where some of the strange place names in our paddling locality come from. Ordnance survey maps from the late 1880s show a rock formation called the 'Round of Beef' (see photos), it is located at West Hoe. My thoughts are that it comes from the shape of the rock and resembles a cut of beef with that name. I will leave it up to you if you agree with my conclusion. Any other suggestions please let me know.

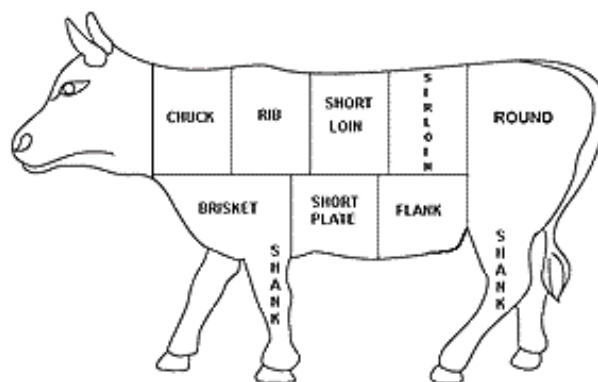


Round of Beef from above (photo Terry Calcott)



From kayak level (photo Terry Calcott)

The round is a kind term for the rear end of the carcass.



First Aid (Lisa Graves)

I am so glad I attended the first aid course with Triangle Training which Joy arranged for members of the PPCA.

Yesterday I was able to give first aid to a lady who had fallen on a pavement next to a dual carriageway and had torn the end of her finger off on a wire fence as she fell. Because of the scenario with Clive, which he acted out so well, I was able to remember what to do!! There was blood and gore and I found the finger!!!! She went into shock (no water which I remembered because Clive was pretty insistent that he wanted some!) and we had quite a wait for an ambulance and paramedics. I arrived at the scene immediately after the fall and another passer-by had also stopped to help and used his phone to call an ambulance and help the emergency services pass on details of her injuries. Again the scenarios on the first aid course were invaluable because, as complete strangers, we were immediately able to work really well as a team, each taking a different role but supporting each other. I had a first aid kit in the car which had dressings and we were able to select the correct ones to use and knew how to apply them. I have always carried a first aid kit in the car, but until I did the course I had only opened it very occasionally and was fairly ignorant of it's' contents.

I felt good to be able to approach the situation with the training I had received at Wembury Scout Hut and without which I doubt I would have been of any help or even had the confidence to stop and help. I thoroughly recommend attending the two day course.

I was able to visit the lady in Derriford last night and she is having an operation today and is going to be fine. She was a very strong lady which helped enormously!

PS If anybody finds themselves in a similar first aid situation, I have learnt from my own experience that the lady I helped and her family really wanted to be able to say thank you to both myself and the other helper, but as we had only given her our first names at the roadside, they had not known how to make contact with us. I visited the lady again the next day in hospital and I think it helped us both to be able to talk through what had happened and share the experience. I also met some of her family and received a beautiful bouquet of flowers. She is hoping very much to be able to trace the other helper to thank him.

Nature Watch - Blackthorn Terry Calcott)

This month's nature watch is another plant and one of my favourites, the Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. It is one of our ancient native trees, it can be found in our hedgerows and thickets, and is identifiable by its distinctive black, thorn-studded twigs and clouds of white blossom in spring. The small round fruits, the sloes, ripen slowly through the year. The sloe berry belongs to the same family as the damson and the plum. The blackthorn appears frequently in history, myth and legend.

The Usher of the House of Lords and the Order of the Garter is called Black Rod because he knocks on the door of the House of Parliament with a blackthorn rod. Blackthorn makes an excellent fire wood that burns slowly with a good heat and little smoke. The wood takes a fine polish and is used for tool handles and canes. Straight blackthorn stems have traditionally been made into walking sticks or clubs (known in Ireland as a shillelagh). For those that enjoy foraging, Sloes are also the base of the world famous Sloe Gin, probably the best tasting wild fruit liquor in the world. Something I am quite enthusiastic about!



Photo Corner



Barrel Jellyfish taken during a club rec paddle (photo Terry Calcott)

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% 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.

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

Wild Things, Redruth, 10% to club members.

Club Officers

President	Terry Calcott	07828652775
Chair	Mike Scott	01752 295478
Vice Chair	Jenny Nicholls	01752 952628
Club Leader	Andy Nicholls	07801367363
Asst Club Leader	Jane Hitchings	01752 691274
Secretary	Bob Grose	01548 821018
Membership Sec	Paul Hewson	07870276748
Treasurer	John Elworthy	01752 823381
Equipment Officer	Alan Ede	07799556876
Publicity Officer	Pete Anderson	07958694434
Welfare Officer	Joy Ashford	01752 344425 07891221781
Introductory co-ordinator	Tracy Jones	01752 510653
Youth Development	Damean Miller	01752 492761 07736033316

Club e-mail: PPCA@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk (e-mails to this address goes to the club secretary).

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
June			
Mon 8, 17:30	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brim/Linda Brady
Tue 9, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Julie Elworthy/John Elworthy Andy Nicholls Ian Ruse Clive Ashford
Thur 11, 18:00	1 Star course	Mount Batten	Brian Taylor
Fri 12, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019
Sat 13, 10:00 TBA	Recreational paddle Peer Sea kayak paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828652775 Anthony Graves
Mon 15, 17:30	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brim/Linda Brady
Tue 16, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Julie Elworthy/John Elworthy Andy Nicholls Ian Ruse Clive Ashford
Fri 19, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019
Sat 20, 09:30 10:00	Go Canoeing taster session Recreational paddle Mid summerish camp	Mount Batten	John Mitchell Clive Ashford 01752 344425
Mon 22, 17:30	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brim/Linda Brady
Tue 23, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Julie Elworthy/John Elworthy Andy Nicholls Ian Ruse Clive Ashford
Thur 25, 18:00	1 Star course	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford 01752 344425
Fri 26, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019
Sat 27, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720957304
Mon 29, 17:30	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brim/Linda Brady
Tue 30, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Jenny Nicholls/Brian Taylor Ken Hamblin Martin Mills Terry Calcott
July			
Thur 2, 18:00	1 Star course	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford 01752 344425
Sat 4, 09:30 Sat 4 / Sun 5	1 Star course Roseland Sea Kayaking weekend	Mount Batten	Justin Frost Mary McArdle/Terry Calcott
Mon 6, 17:30	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brim/Linda Brady

Tue 7, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Jenny Nicholls/Brian Taylor Ken Hamblin Martin Mills Terry Calcott
Thur 9, 18:00	1 Star course	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford
Fri 10, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019
Sat 11, 09:00 10:00	Active Devon Rec paddle	Mount Batten Mount Batten	Doug Sitch 07980355019
Mon 13, 17:30	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brim/Linda Brady
Tue 14, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Jenny Nicholls/Brian Taylor Ken Hamblin Martin Mills Terry Calcott
Thur 16, 18:00	1 Star course	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford
Fri 17, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019
Sat 18, 09:00 10:00	Go Canoeing Starter Rec paddle	Mount Batten Mount Batten	Clive Ashford 01752 344425
Tue 21, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Jenny Nicholls/Brian Taylor Ken Hamblin Martin Mills Terry Calcott

The 09 edition of EddyLines will be published on Monday 6th July. Items for inclusion to be received by Friday 3rd July. E-mail articles to newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

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