



Eddylines

Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Newsletter 10 August 2015

Welcome to the August edition of Eddylines. I am looking forward to a rush of articles about the numerous summer paddling activities our members have been doing during the holidays. This month's edition has a few welcome articles from Sheona and Clive.

Newsletter Editor (Terry Calcott)

The post will be vacant after the October edition of Eddylines is published. If there are any aspiring Editors who would like to take on the post please let me know.

Isles of Scilly camp 2016. (Joy Ashford)

This is just 'heads up' for those that are already thinking about next year's holiday. I have provisionally booked the campsite on the Isles of Scilly for two weeks next summer.

The dates are from Friday 22 July to Friday 5 August 2016.

You can come for one or 2 weeks. The Isles of Scilly are just a magical place to be, you don't need to be a sea paddler so bring the family.

Many members of the PPCA have attended the Scillies camp in the past, so if you are unsure of what to expect just have a word with a few from the club and you'll soon get an idea of what fun it is.

Further details will be in next month's newsletter. This will be the LAST Isles of Scilly camp I will run.

Editor's note: I have been on a number of these camps and they are fantastic occasions. The paddling is breath taking and the location of the campsite stunning. The social side is brilliant with lots of fun and relaxation.

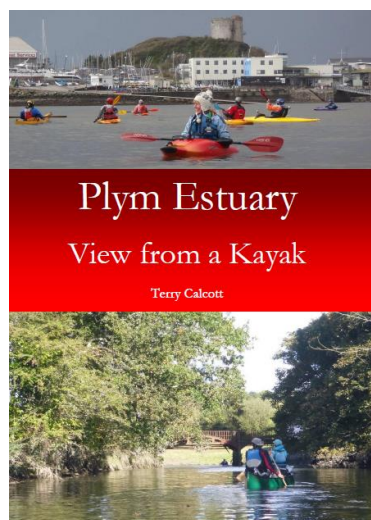


Photo from Adam Coulson

The Plym Estuary View from a Kayak (Terry Calcott)

'The Plym Estuary' is a follow on from the previous book about Plymouth Sound (still available) but exploring that sleepy backwater of the Plym and all its hidden gems.

Price £6 a copy with all profits going to the Plymouth RNLI. If you would like a copy please email me at terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk



Sea kayaking in Iceland (Sheona Grant)

As the two star group know the transition from sea kayak with rudder to river kayak has not been easy and spinning in circles is my speciality. I was therefore looking forward to getting back in a sea kayak on a recent trip to Iceland.



I'd decided to go with Borea Adventures on the 9 hour Two Fjords Discovery kayak. I met the group in Isafjordur and after they'd fitted us in wetsuits (bizarrely worn over thermals), lifejackets etc we set off along route 61 for Seydisfjordur. An American family had booked a private tour so they dropped us off at Seydisfjordur before continuing on to Hestfjordur. The plan was to kayak from our different start points so we basically did the same route but in different directions. With the American family departed there were just three of us left. I'd requested a single kayak and the couple were given a tandem. Our guide was a young local who studied mechanical engineering in Reykjavik and came home in the summer to work as a guide. The couple had only kayaked once before so the guide gave them a quick briefing and we set off.

I was so lucky because the weather was very unIcelandic and absolutely glorious with clear blue skies and absolutely no wind. We quickly saw loads of puffins and eider ducks. The water was crystal clear and it was easy to see the bottom. We kayaked along Seydisfjordur and were heading towards our lunch spot when I saw a dorsal fin. To me it looked like a small species of dolphin but the guide called them small

whales. They had a baby with them which was tiny. We watched them a while but they were on the move back into the fjord so we let them go and headed to shore for lunch on the beach. The lunch was provided by Borea Adventures and you could tell they also run a café. Delicious home made sandwiches and cakes. Whilst eating lunch we saw a white tailed eagle and the guide told us a story about the mountain between the two fjords that's called horse mountain because apparently it looks like a horse (none of us including the guide could see the resemblance).



After lunch we headed round into the next fjord called Hestfjordur. The headland had loads of seals and amazing fields of kelp. We eventually came across the American family who were struggling slightly. This meant we could really relax and paddle slowly as we had to collect them on our way home. In Hestfjordur we saw a stoat type animal on the beach playing. Hestfjordur seemed endless and I was very glad that the van had been left part way up the fjord. We loaded the boats onto the trailer and bumped along the track back to the road before returning to Seydisfjordur to collect the American family. They had only seen one seal so it shows that it's the luck of the draw what wildlife you see. In the van on the way back to Isafjordur we saw some more seals and then just as the guide said, 'but they're not a whale' a what appeared in the fjord in front of us. It was an amazing end to the day.



Have you SUP'd? (Clive Ashford)

Our nephew David owns a couple of inflatable stand up paddleboards. (SUP's). This story starts in February when Joy proudly brought these items home saying that we could try them out over the weekend. I pointed to the icebergs floating around in the Sound and mentioned that the sea temperature in February was hardly conducive to learning a sport that would in all probability involve a bit of swimming, so said paddleboards were returned still packed and dry.

Fast forward to July and the observant among you will have realised that we are not having the warmest of summers however, the paddleboards re-appeared, the sea temperature had risen to such an extent that the icebergs has long since melted away and the thought of getting wet didn't come with the urge to read up on hypothermia, hence we made a cunning plan. This cunning plan involved going to Mount Batten and having a go at SUPing. (I accept that this is hardly cunning and only just qualifies as a plan, but it does pad out an otherwise dull and tedious story).



Anyone reading this that is still blessed with an effective short term memory may recall that the SUP's we had borrowed were of the inflatable variety. They came supplied with fairly large pumps but even so by the time we had sufficiently inflated the paddleboards we no longer felt the need to do any warm up exercises, in fact lying down in a darkened room seemed quite an attractive option, never the less we carried the paddleboards down to the pontoon and prepared ourselves for our little adventure. "You first," said Joy, so I knelt on my paddleboard and wobbled away from the pontoon. (More KUP than SUP then). I passed a gentleman standing on the pontoon and remarked, "This is our first time on these, can you tell?" to which the reply was a fairly emphatic and somewhat amused, "Yes." Suitably discouraged I decided I would try standing up. Gentle readers, you would have smiled. With legs acting like two jellies I eventually got into a sort of standing position whereupon I was greeted to a flash of electric blue as a bolt of lightning lit up the evening sky. Perhaps I should have taken this as an omen and run away but no, with Joy also in a nearly upright position we persevered until a short time later I found myself attracting the attentions of the Mount Batten Squid. Whilst I was floundering around, wrestling with my errant paddleboard, the heavens opened with a shower that even Noah would have acknowledged was a little bit heavy. And Joy thought she was going to stay dry!



I remounted my paddleboard with all the elegance of a penguin trying to walk, but without any of the charm. After a struggle I was up again and with more lightning dancing around us we made our way to Turnchapel, where we met up with the Friday night open boaters and paddlers of sundry vessels, a motley crew into which we fitted quite well.

I am just over 6 foot tall. I was standing on a paddleboard in the middle of Clovelly Bay, driving my craft with an aluminium paddle whilst lightning flickered all around. Oddly enough I didn't find this to be the most relaxing experience of my life, thank you for your concern.

Sometime later club leader Andy asked us what it was like paddling on the dark side, which I thought was a little bit cheeky coming from someone kneeling in an open boat.

By the time we started on the return journey to Mount Batten the sky had cleared and the sun was dropping towards the western horizon, causing each ripple to fragment into a kaleidoscope of colours. This would have been an utterly enchanting end to the evening had the Mount Batten Squid not once again decided to make my acquaintance. There were more penguin like antics but this time with many more witnesses. I thought that Ivor & Tracy were coming to my rescue by no; they were just getting close enough to take photographs, shame on them.

Later Joy was telling people how I had fallen off my paddleboard twice but that she had stayed on hers all evening. I pointed out that her fat bottom gave her a lower centre of gravity than my fat head, which earned me a thick ear and later, whilst we were queuing at the bar, I was also awarded the job of driving home, thus proving that you can be both dripping wet and dry at the same time.

I forgot to mention that when we got back to Mount Batten Joy asked Tracy if she wanted a go on the SUP. Tracy duly got on the paddleboard and with all the poise and grace of a gazelle she made paddling the thing look easy. At this stage my ear is very firmly pointing out that it has already received one beating and that it doesn't want to repeat the experience, hence I mustn't write anything implying that Tracy may have a fat bottom. So, feeling even less comfortable than I did when dancing with the lightning just a few paragraphs ago, I do most graciously observe, through gritted teeth, that some people, (probably most people if I'm honest), are better at this sort of thing than I am. Gosh how it hurt to write that, a second thick ear may have been preferable!



We enjoyed our evening on the SUP's and would like to have another go but I don't think we will be trading in our kayaks, however, the few short hours spent on the SUP's made us chortle and as Ivor commented, we also provided some entertainment. Glad to have been of service.

Longships and Lands' End (Terry Calcott)

The sea kayaking double bill of Lands' End and the Longships lighthouse are on most sea paddlers bucket list. The chance to tick it off came during a recent week of camping, walking and paddling in the Penwith area of Cornwall. The group consisted of regular sea paddlers Terry, Clive, Joy, Mary, Mark and Merryl. The weather during the start of the week was not looking good for getting anywhere near Lands' End so we enjoyed some relatively sheltered paddles around St Michaels Mount and along to Prussia Cove and another along the coast to Tater Du lighthouse and the Lamorna Cove area. Good fortune came our way on the last paddling day when a settled day of light winds and a flat sea was forecast.

Anyone who has paddled around Lands End will know the tides are complex, rotational and at times quite strong. So it was with a sense of excitement and some anticipation that we launched from Sennen Cove with what we thought was a good tidal window. The decision was taken to head out to the Longships lighthouse first, we were on a spring tide so knew the flow would be a bit faster. A substantial ferry glide was needed to paddle out to the Longship rocks with the tide running across our path. The sea was calm with only a bit of a bumpy ride over one tide race before we hit the shelter of the Longships lagoon.



Heading out to Longships (photo from Joy Ashford)

Longships is an isolated spot over a mile off Lands' End and home to the famous lighthouse and also home to a colony of Grey Seals. We didn't linger long just time to take the obligatory photos and paddle around the lighthouse. We wanted to get paddling again and get to the mainland coast before the tidal flow increased or changed direction. We did another ferry glide to a rock formation called Kettles Bottom which lay about mid-point to the mainland. Crossing another small tide race saw us safely there, glancing to our right we could see a larger tide race forming a few hundred metres away. The final crossing to Lands' End was on a flat sea but with the tide still flowing fast across our path. Nearing the cliffs the flow eased and the dramatic scenery unfurled in front of us.



At the Lighthouse (photo from Terry Calcott)

This area has to be the best sea paddling in the south west. The high cliffs, caves and rock arches a sea kayakers delight. We paddled under the huge arch of Enys Dodnan and headed towards Gwennap Head. The plan was to have lunch on a nice sandy beach in Nanjizal Bay. Alas the storms of recent years had stripped the sand away and landing spots were few. We paddled as far as Porth Loe and Clive spotted a likely lunch spot under the cliffs of Nanjizal at Zawn Reeth. There was sand but also a barrier of large granite boulders to negotiate first. With the kayaks tied off to some rocks we hopped, skipped and jumped to the shore. Lunch was short as before long the boats were floating and an amusing launch followed. Hugging the coast we followed every possible twist and turn and explored each cave and went under every rock arch and tunnel. Conversation was quite subdued as we were all mesmerised by the majesty and magnificence of what lay ahead. Truly stunning and with a clear sky and an equally clear sea the cliffs shone and the sea glistened. The swell was minimal so we just enjoyed our surroundings and clicked away with our cameras.



Photo from Terry Calcott

Passing Dr Johnsons Head and Dr Syntaxs Head we paddled through a long narrow rock gully and then back the other way as it was such fun.



Photo from Joy Ashford

Before long we are into Gamper a large bay which still has the wreck of the RMS Mulheim littering the shore. The bay was home to literally millions of jellyfish from small dots still to grow to the larger ones. The next headland saw Sennen Cove come into view and the end of the paddle beckoned. A quite fabulous day of paddling and definitely a place I want to return to explore further.



Land's End rock arch (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).



Bob's new extra loooooooooooooong kayak



Anyone lost a parrot? Please contact Helga



Cave under Rame Head (photo from Terry Calcott)

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			
Tue 11, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Justin Frost/Alan Ede Clive Ashford Ian Ruse Joy Ashford
Fri 14, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019
Sat 15, 10:00	Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch 07980355019
Mon 17 to Fri 21 No club sessions due to the Fastnet race event and Fireworks.			
Sat 22, 10:00	Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Clive Ashford 01752 344425
Tue 25, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Justin Frost/Alan Ede Clive Ashford Ian Ruse Joy Ashford
Fri 28, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019
Sat 29, 10:00	Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425
September			
Tue 1, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Justin Frost, Alan Ede Ken Hamblin Andy Nicholls Terry Calcott
Thur 3, 18:00	1 Star Course	Mount Batten	John Mitchell
Fri 4, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019
Sat 5, 09:30	Go Canoeing Sarter Session		
10:00	Sea Kayak paddle	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425
<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>			
Tue 8, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Damean Miller, Andy Kittle Ken Hamblin Andy Nicholls Terry Calcott
Thur 10, 18:00	1 Star Course	Mount Batten	John Mitchell
Fri 11, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019
Sat 12, 10:00	Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425
Tue 15, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Damean Miller, Andy Kittle Ken Hamblin Andy Nicholls Terry Calcott
Thur 17, 18:00	1 Star Course	Mount Batten	John Mitchell

Fri 18, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019
Sat 19, 10:00	Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720957304
Tues 22, 18:00	2 Star 3 Star Open Rec paddle	Mount Batten	Damean Miller, Brian Taylor Doug Sitch Ian Ruse Ken Hamblin

Due to my holidays the 11th edition of Eddylines will be published sometime in mid-September. Items for inclusion to be received by Monday 14th September. E-mail articles to newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

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



Spot Bekky's fashion faux pas!

Photo from Adam Coulson



PPCA formation reading team (photo from Terry Calcott)