

Eddyline

VANCOUVER KAYAK CLUB

December/January 2006

VKC Executive

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Photo: Gavin Parry



Photo: Darrell Wotzke

Cover Photo by Claudia Schwab 2006 Photo Contest Winner
Layout Design by Megan Thomson

Meet the Executive

Claudia Schwab
President

How many years have you been paddling?: 10 years or so on whitewater. Forever on lakes, flat rivers and ocean.

What is your favorite river and why?: Bridge River in BC and Jarbidge/Bruneau abroad. Stellar scenery and good whitewater.

Which boat do you paddle?: Here is the fleet: Chronic, Java, Micro240 (at least once a year), RZ85.

Favorite Kayaking Memory or Story: Too many. maybe watching the hind end of a grizzly disappear into the bushes after we chased him away with whistle blows. This happened on the Babine at Grizzly Drop. The bear was exactly where we needed to be for a good look at the rapid.



photo: Phil Morley



photo: Phil Morley

Rick Sheppard
Vice-President

How many years have you been paddling? About 22

What is your favorite river and why? Chilliwack because it has so much variety and the Nicola because its the first guaranteed sunny paddle- and it's beautiful country

Which boat(s) do you paddle? Wave Sport Easy but it is killing me... looking for something that won't turn me into a cripple.....maybe a Jackson

Tom Hoskin
Secretary

Which boat do you paddle? 9 boats

Favorite Memories: '91 Silver, Masters Class, Nationals slalom, Chilliwack by fish hatchery
'91 BC instructors' tour, 53 rivers and Costa Rica tour '92 Gold in Open Class, Western Canada Classic, Slave River '92 solo Nahanni from Virginia Falls. \$45 fly-in with tourists, Blackstone Aviation



Photo: Tony Sloane

Farzana Vogl
Membership Secretary

How many years have you been paddling?: 1 year & 7 months.

What is your favorite river and why?: Capilano - my new favorite, it's so beautiful and its less than 10 mins from home!!

Which boat do you paddle?: Jackson Fun 2006

Favorite Kayaking Memory or Story: Paddling through the warm waters of the 'luva river in the Namosi Highlands of Fiji in a t-shirt & shorts :)



photo: Phil Morley

Tony Sloane
Treasurer

How many years have you been paddling?: 2 years

What is your favorite river and why?: Up to now I would say the Clearwater. It's got some big features and lots of waves, lots of fun.

Which boat do you paddle?: Wave Sport EZG50

Favorite Kayaking Memory or Story: Trying to run Tamahi as my second ever river run. Probably not the best call I've ever made, looking back though I learned a valuable lesson.



Photo: Farzana Vogl

Dave Morriss
Trip Coordinator

5 years with 1 season in 1973 in the UK.

Favourite River, no particular river as they are all excellent in this part of BC. I did enjoy the challenge of my first run down the Chilliwack Canyon this year.

My first run down the Cutting Board on the Thompson, dropping down off the lip and seeing everyone in front of me upside down in the huge white water. I remember thinking what the f**k am I doing here at my age. Luckily I ran it clean. I had the same feeling when confronted head to head with the Devils Eyeball on the Wenatchee, my first roll in anger.

A disastrous run down a very high Upper Seymour early in my career, nearly losing my boat. I wasn't the only one to have a bad day however and I kept my cool and learnt much. I got hell when I got home for stinking of rotting salmon.



photo: Phil Morley

Tudor Davies
Training

How many years have you been paddling?:
10 - started in 1996 after I messed up my knee skiing

What is your favorite river and why?: How to choose?
I'll say the Lynn Creek, as it's close & convenient, yet gives a good run - when it's running. Runners-up: Chilliwack Canyon, Upper Cheakamus. Good runs that are available a lot of days per year.

Which boat do you paddle?:
Playboat: Wavesport Ace 5.1.
Creekboat: Pyranha MicroBat 240

Favorite Kayaking Memory or Story:
Hmmm. So many to choose. Most of the best stories are from multi-day trips, often with rafts. The Grand Canyon, Firth and Selway! They combine great rivers, scenery, comfortable camping (when you have rafts), and good hiking (yes, I actually like hiking, just not carrying a boat.)



Photo: Tudor Davies

Phil Morley
Training and Website

How many years have you been paddling: 3.5

Favorite River: Weisse (White) Lütschine, Switzerland...the best 5 km of continuous class IV-V in the Swiss Alps!

Boats Paddled: Necky Jive and multiple Necky Chronics

Favorite Kayaking Story: I was scouting the final class IV drop on the Verzasca River in Ticino, Switzerland when my boat decided to run it without me, paddle and all. It took a bad line, disappeared in a hole for a few seconds and came out with dents in both ends! Once I got my gear back I figured that my boat now knew where not to go so I ran the drop and all went well.



photo: Phil Morley



photo: Phil Morley

Megan Thomson
Eddyline Layout

Years Paddled: 8 months

Boat: Wavesport Siren

Favorite River: I've only run 4 different rivers so I don't really have an answer but I like the Lower Seymour as a beginner run.

Favorite Story: Paddling the Vorderrhein in Switzerland as my second ever river run.

Patrick Chiasson
Training

Years Paddled: 20

Boat: Dagger RPM

Favorite River: Tsangpao River in Tibet

Favorite Story: Running a 50 foot waterfall in a play-boat

* Note: this profile is a work of fiction.



Photo: Gavin Parry

Christian Vogl
Director at Large

Years paddled - 2 seasons

Boat: Super EZ

Favourite River: Similkameen - 1st real river trip, warm, beautiful countryside

Most memorable - First Combat Roll! :)



Photo: Christian Vogl



photo: Phil Morley

Evelyn Feller
Access and Conservation

Number of years paddling: Let's say I've been paddling longer than many members have been on the planet.

Favourite River: The Thompson. I love the warm water, big water and waves.

Boat; Still paddling the Godzilla.

Story: The infamous synchronized swim down Tamahi with Mike Kelly. I lost concentration behind House Rock when the water was quite high and was rapidly swimming. Mike came to rescue me and his boat capsized. Most of the big rocks were nearly submerged and I remember bouncing over them feet first and being washing machined on the other side. Graham Anderson tried to drag us in below the bridge but we were whisked by. I was thrown up like a salmon on a gravel beach on the other side of Campground. The main thing that kept me going was seeing if Mike Kelly was still okay and thinking that my husband would be really mad if I wasn't around at the airport to pick him up.

Save the Skookumchuk?

by Laani Uunila

The provincial Ministry of Environment is concerned about kayaker impacts at Skookumchuck. Ryan, a senior park ranger, sent a letter to WKABC about what actions they want to implement to reduce the impact of kayakers (regulated access points, signage and a kayak rack). For more information, check out the WKABC website:
www.whitewater.org/news/skookumchuk.htm.

We can debate endlessly about the extent of our impact or even if we have an impact; however, BC Parks does manage Skookumchuck and can implement management actions to regulate users. In order to try and make the best of this situation, Kaya Downs and I stepped up to the call for someone to spearhead this issue for the WKABC. In addition, I got the nod at the recent VKC AGM to lead this issue for the club.

As of right now, there is not much to report. I've talked with Ryan twice and we will set-up a site visit in the January so that we can look at the areas where he is concerned impact is occurring and also to look at the location he is proposing for the kayak rack and access points. I'll take pictures of these areas and post these on the web for paddlers to provide their input.

Several of us had conversations with Ryan during the summer months, and rumours are rampant about proposed built infrastructure for the access points (e.g., a mini-dock or ramp). I have not heard this from him, and am hoping the site visit will put to rest some rumours and provide clarity to the potential restrictions. I also want to find out how our input will be used; what level of involvement do we have in shaping the solution?

What I would like to ask club members is if the building of a kayak rack is a given – what would be the best design? How can we minimize visual impact, concentrate where kayaks are stored and create a structure that allows people to lock-up their boats? If it is a built structure, it will be made of cedar – painted BC Parks brown. One suggestion that may have less visual impact is that we install metal posts with loops where cable locks can be attached. What are your ideas? Any suggestions would be appreciated!

Comments and concerns can be directed to my yahoo account: paddlingox@yahoo.ca



Photo: Laani Uunila



photo: Phil Morley



Photos: Tony Sloane



When the heaven's open and the rivers flood there's generally not many options for mortal people to play, but when the moon is in the right phase and the Pacific co-operates, white horses rise and gallop from the mouth of the Sea. Shoulder to shoulder, from bank to bank a broad white line tries to advance. I know of a time a distant rumble of the hoof could be heard to pass, calling to all that cared to listen.

Come to me, come to me and ride if you can!

From all across town the call had been answered and a posse had gathered to witness the gallop of this wild mere. Were any of the on lookers destined for glory, they all look on and claimed they were ready to ride. As the Ocean retreat the contest commenced. A loop, a spin or just a ride in the saddle, was there anyone amongst us with a claim to this horse? Could anyone ride high with grace and control, did rodeo riders have anything to fear?

The mere of the Seymour ran and ran; but nothing from nature could win this race, gently and gracefully there was a change in her pace. Had she been tamed? I'm reluctant to say. There are people the world over that dream of white horses. Here we have one, again and again. Sometimes you'll see her at the end of the day. This nocturnal bronco enticing the brave, armed only with paddle and composure of ice. Only the doomed would dare ride her twice.

Letter to Members RE: WKABC Controversy

Dear VKC Members,

A great deal of controversy has arisen in the last few months related to the Whitewater Kayaking Association of BC (WKABC). As you know, the VKC is a full member club of the WKABC, which means all VKC members are also members of the WKABC.

The WKABC is the Provincial Sports Organization (PSO) for whitewater kayaking, a status granted by Canoe Kayak Canada (CKC) / Whitewater Canada (WWC). As PSO it is also the role of the WKABC to govern and represent the sport in the province, for instance: certify instructors, maintain communication with its members, access and environmental issues, and provide insurance. As PSO the WKABC is eligible for funding from agencies such as Sports BC and Pacific Sports. The majority of the funding is dedicated to high level competitive athletes (WW Slalom). In 2006/07 the WKABC has not been able to meet various requirements (such as to demonstrate financial accountability) and much of the funding as been withheld.

In response to these problems the CCE (the Chilliwack slalom racers) have left the WKABC as a member club in spring 2006 and joined Canoe Kayak BC (organization of flatwater racing clubs) which among other things covers the CCE's insurance needs. The CCE have applied to WWC/CKC to have the PSO status removed from the WKABC and possibly transferred to a new organization. While benefiting considerably from the WKABC funding, the CCE has traditionally also put a lot of volunteer work into the WKABC (as has the VKC until a couple of years ago). Due to a difficult working atmosphere on the WKABC board the turn-over rate of volunteer directors has been very high over the last few years. Combined with the withdrawal of the CCE, this has led to a significant lack of volunteers on the WKABC board, and much of the regular work to keep the association running has been neglected. We (the VKC executive) are displeased with this situation and are supportive of efforts to improve it. But given the amount of work required vs. potential benefits for the VKC, we feel that we can and should not be a leading force in this. We will, of course, continue to evaluate the situation, explore the options that will be most advantageous to our members and keep you informed.

On Saturday, December 9th, the WKABC will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in North Vancouver. It is not clear if a solution to this debacle will present itself at the AGM – you may well hear only one side of the story. On the other side, it may be an interesting event worth attending.

It appears that efforts are under way by CKC/WWC to work on the rift between WKABC and CCE.

If you want additional information regarding these issues, please call or e-mail your VKC executive.

Sincerely,

Vancouver Kayak Club Executive
<http://members.axion.net/~vkc/vkc/exec.html>

Paddling in Lonsdale

by Gavin Parry

One of the most popular and most reliable rivers in the North of England is the river Lune. The Lune marks the edge of the Yorkshire Dales park and is a classic grade 3 river trip, beginners and more advanced paddlers love this trip as the river changes with every level. The character of the Lune is like many rivers in the UK – narrow, twisting, and with a good chance of becoming pinned on rocks. The river runs for much of its length in a limestone gorge, once in it's a steep climb back out to the nearest road. The river runs between the eastern Lake District mountains and the Howgill hills, down through Kirby in Lonsdale and out to the Lune Estuary at Lancaster. This means that the river drains a lot of water.



Photo: Gavin Parry

When the river is low two significant constrictions occur. The first is Magnetic rock. Most of the river is not much wider than 5 meters; dropping down through a series of steps the river enters a small pool. The exit from the pool is a boat's width. It can be passed through only if the boiling water hasn't unsettled the paddler after the steps. Most are drawn to the Magnetic rock on the left, this then flips the unsuspecting. Usually the water is icy cold during the winter months. I have exited backwards and upside down before now. Thank fully there is plenty of room to gather separated boats and paddlers just down stream.

The Strid is another of the Lune's set pieces. Narrowing to less than a metre and dropping 2 metres in the course of maybe 10 metres. The river makes two right angle turns with a rock in the centre. The trick is to angle your boat away from the rock in the centre that blocks the way. In higher levels the Strid simply gets washed over. At lower levels the lime stone becomes very undercut. Smaller play boats can get swept under the under cuts.

The Lune, like most rivers in England and Wales, can't be paddled most of the year. Not because there isn't enough water but because there is no access to paddle the rivers. Land-owners and fishermen hold the riparian rights which control the access to the rivers. This means paddling is limited to the winter when fishermen aren't allowed to fish during the closed season. However with the changing seasons and drier winters much of the best conditions fall outside of the official white water season. North of the border in Scotland access is open throughout the year. It also rains more in Scotland, so much paddling is to be had.

The UK rivers guide book www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk has information on most of the rivers in the UK (and mentions a couple of Canadian rivers too).

The Most Common Birds on B.C.'s Rivers by Tom Hoskin

No, that's not a Golden Eagle, it's an immature Bald Eagle and is actually a bit larger than the Golden Eagle. Measured from tip of beak to tip of tail it is 31 inches, 80 cm. Both male and female Bald Eagles get their white head and tail after their 4th year.

The Common Merganser duck male has a green head only in breeding plumage. In fall and early winter, the male looks just like the brown headed female.

To learn more about birds, you can attend lectures and field trips with the Vancouver Natural History Society. <http://www.naturalhistory.bc.ca/VNHS/> To participate in the Christmas Bird Count December 17 call Adrian at 604 263 7957.

The starling-sized black bird that stand on rocks and keep bending their "knees" is the American Dipper. They go underwater in search of aquatic insect larvae. They actually fly in the water and walk on the bottom holding onto rocks with their feet.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Dipper
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_merganser
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bald_eagle
<http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/i3520id.html>



First Annual VKC Awards

The 2006 winners were announced at the club Christmas party at Rick's place. Unfortunately for the winners no prizes accompanied the awards except for bragging rights or infamy. Thanks to everyone who nominated fellow paddlers. So that we can expand the awards in 2007 keep track of those memorable moments on the river.

Worst Line

"Hey! No fair. You're kayak is the same colour as mine. Such a pretty colour isn't it?" – submitted by Tom.

Nominees: 1) Peter Chisholm for his line through Meat Grinder. "Watch me, I'll show you the line," he got worked in Meatgrinder, leaving the people scouting horrified and hesitant; 2) Tom Hoskin (self-nomination) for running the left side of the weir on the Calcheak. Due to a hidden log and a trip to surf a nice looking wave, then another wave, Tom was left one option, running the left line of the infamous weir with thoughts of "I will not swim, I will not swim" (Editor's note: he did not swim); and 3) Annie Lagueux (another self-nomination): "I can only think of me, numerous times".

Winner: Annie

Best Swim

Nominees: 1) Tudor Davies for multiple swims in multiple locations including two encounters with logs; 2) Laani for swimming at the second ledge hole of the Lynn, resulting in a rock climb and hike out; 3) Peter Chisholm for his swim on the Upper Cheak at the second drop of Triple Drop while trying to rescue Brian (Editor's note: Brian got out of the hole intact just as Peter got sucked in); and 4) Greg Ball for his swim on Saddle Rock Rapid on the Fraser – the nominator described the lead-up to the swim... "a fabulous stern squirt followed by a bow stall and a valiant attempt at a T-rescue by Tony, with both of them going around and around in a whirlpool".

Winner: Tudor

Most Improved

Nominees: Christian and Farzana – both have dedicated themselves to improving and supporting others, improving in leaps and bounds. Both Christian and Farzana were nominated by all, however, Farzana tipped the pot since she nominated Christian. She provided a record of his improvement through 2006:

Beginning of the season – walked a drop on the Lower Mamquam

August – ran Tamihi

November – ran the Capilano River

November – ran the Mae Taeng River (Class 3+/4) in Thailand

Winner: Christian



2nd Place : Annie Lagueux



3rd Place: Dennis Lunge



Photo: Peter Chisolm



Photo: Claudia Schwab

Last Drop

Want to be published? The next Eddyline is due out in March. All paddling related submissions can be sent to megan@gomeg.ca. Entries due March 1st.

Vancouver Mountain Film Festival (VIMFF) is on February 16 to 24. For more information check out www.vimff.org