

Eddyline

Journal of the
Vancouver Kayak Club

Reports and Stories

Beginner Course
VKC Whitewater Festival '08
Mamquam Meltdown
The Long Way to the Tulameen
IPP developments
Rutherford Whitewater Park
The Good Ole Days

News

VKC Whitewater Festival '09
Trip Leader/NCCP1 Instructor Course
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VKC Christmas Party



Fall 2008

Eddyline - Journal of the Vancouver Kayak Club

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Tudor looking
at the lunchers
| Tulameen

Club Announcements

Message from the Pres

By Claudia Schwab, VKC President November 08

The 2008 paddling season is coming to an end. It has been a successful year for our club.

The outstanding event this year was our first whitewater festival on the Chilliwack. Lots of river runs for all skill levels, races, food, music, tons of prizes from sponsors, even a hot tub – seems everybody had a blast, locals and visitors alike (from Prince George, Washington, Alberta). A big thank-you to all volunteers (see Christian's article). It was so good – we think we should do it again! But we need a few more people to step up to the plate and help.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Christian Vogl, Farzana Vogl, Erika Thompson and Dave Elliott, who not only made the festival and many other club events happen, but who also were most excellent paddling buddies! Unfortunately for us, they left beautiful BC and moved east. We wish them all the best and hope they will come back for visits often!

Thanks to the many trip organizers we had many great club trips with good turn-outs at the Wentatchee, Similkameen and Clearwater. As every year we ran beginner and safety & rescue courses. The VKC is also involved in various conservation and access issues.

This year we joined a new provincial organization, CanoeKayak BC. As you may know, problems with and discussions about our previous provincial organization, the WKABC have been going on for a few years. In the last year, signs of life from the WKABC have been few and far between. After the VKC and VIPS (Vancouver Island Club) joined CKBC, the WKABC seems to have completely disappeared (as did its website). Work with the CKBC has been smooth and without problems so far.

For me the year started slow after an injury, but I got back in my boat and on the water floating down Tatshenshini and Alsek Rivers in August. What a fantastic trip! Other VKC members have explored new runs and done famous trips like the Grand Canyon of the Colorado – there are lots of slides and stories for the next few meetings.

Well, paddling season never ends in Vancouver, unless you prefer water in a fluffy white form on the slopes or you dislike changing in a snow bank. So if we don't see you before year end on a river – then hopefully at the AGM (November 25th) or the Christmas Party (early December)!

Enjoy the winter and be safe!
Claudia Schwab
VKC President

VKC Whitewater Festival 2009

Following the success of this year's Festival, the Executive have decided we should do it again! Plans are beginning for another Festival for the Vancouver Kayak Club.

The Success of the Festival depends entirely upon YOU! Without the many people who donated their time to work on the Festival, before, during and after, such events would never be possible.

This year we are looking for some key positions, as several generous volunteers will be missed. Now is the time! Have fun and be part of an amazing event!

Everybody who helped last year has agreed to take on the same resorts, except our four key organizers, who left BC. The core team includes: Keith, Ryan, Megan, Evelyn, Darrell, Tony, Phil and Claudia.

But we urgently need people to fill the following positions (two volunteers for some of the larger tasks):

- Local Sponsor Relations (Ryan will help)
- Registration Onsite (with Megan who will take care of the early registrations)
- Food & Beverages (with Evelyn)
- Program Coordination (to coordinate non-paddling events, like hikes, yoga clinics etc.)

Much of the 'background' work has been done, contacts are made and info is available, and many lessons have been learned. If you are thinking about becoming involved, please talk with the executive members, or

folks you know who volunteers this year, post on the forum under (News / Events > VKC Festival) or drop Claudia a line.

Trips Leader/NCCP1 Instructor Course

We have arranged a combined NCCP1 and trip leader course for the weekend of December 6/7. The trip leader component will give everybody who would like to organize a club trip, but wasn't really sure what is involved or expected from a trip leader, a good framework to work with. This course will improve your skills in group management and safety aspects - great for just paddling with your buddies, but every participant is expected to organize at least one VKC club trip next year.

Please post on the forum if you are interested: Vancouver Kayak Club Forum > Paddling > Training > Topic: Trip Leader Course.

VKC Annual General Meeting — Tuesday November 25th

This years AGM will take place on Tuesday, November 25th, at the ANZA club, doors open at 7PM. The ANZA Club is at 3 West 8th Ave (entrance is on Ontario St.) in Vancouver near the MEC.

To help with the hard work of electing a new executive, we will have free pizza. For entertainment after the AGM videos and slides will be presented (if you didn't have your show ready for the October meeting, bring it on!).

Of course, as every year, all positions are up for election.

But (since Farzana is off to the East) we especially need a new Director for Membership. It would also be great to have a dedicated Social Director (organizing programs for meetings, socials, booking meeting rooms etc.). The Training Department could need more support for organizing the beginner training. Additionally more help is always welcome – either as a Director at Large or as coordinator of a special project.

If you consider taking on a post or have any questions, please contact any of our executive members <http://www.vankayak.org/contact.php>

VKC Christmas Party – early December

Dates will be posted shortly — stay tuned and check the VKC Forum.

Thank you and all the best wishes to Christian, Farzana, Erika and Dave!



Mamquam Meltdown - May 2008



**Dave Morriss,
Trip Coordinator**

Mamquam Meltdown is the brainchild of Squamish resident John Harvey to restore access to the Lower Mamquam river. Since Don and Paula Jamison moved Sea To Sky Kayaks from Squamish to Vancouver some years ago the access road to the Lower Mamquam put in had fallen into disrepair. After particularly harsh winter rains a couple of years ago the road became virtually impassable. John and His wife became increasingly fed up of carrying their canoe down the steep access road and after vandals trashed the site he decided to do something about it.

With the consent of the owner Mr Bob Fast, John looked what it would take to financially get the road repaired and at the request of Mr Fast, a gate to restrict access to responsible users. The figure came to around \$10,000 which didn't phase John in the least and he set off on a fund raising drive he called the 'Mamquam Meltdown'.

Donations came in thick and fast, too many to mention here although MEC did contribute a total of \$6000. After a successful fund raising evening at the Squamish Brew Pub on May 10th work commenced on the road almost immediately.

The road in is now finished a new gate has been installed along with a new outhouse. Work is nearly complete on a new trail to the Powerhouse put in and trail clearing to the lower beach area is now complete.

John and his team have put a huge amount of work into this project and he is not finished yet, a gauge with web cam is a possibility along with a changing facility and there are also hopes to hang a few slalom gates.v

John's funds are now running low and he hopes that those who have pledged funds come up with the goods as fund raising is still not yet over. Those who donate \$50.00 or over are entitled to a key to the access gate (however a key is also available from Valhalla Pure in Squamish).

A grand opening for the road is set for Sunday June 22 and I hope many VKC members will make the journey to Squamish to thank John for his efforts in restoring what is a great resource for local paddlers.



Beginner Course



Tudor Davies and Philip Morley, Training Directors

Each spring, the VKC runs a series of events for beginner kayakers, providing a progression from their first time in a kayak, to moving water, to more interesting river runs. This year's training season started with the Beginner's course, which included 2 Saturday evenings in the pool (12 and 19 April), a full weekend on the river (26-27 April), and a classroom session on Wed 16 April.

The aim of the Beginners' course is to introduce new people to the sport of kayaking, and get the beginners enough skill and confidence that they can work on progressing their skills with the various options available – public pool sessions, after-work Capilano sessions, and VKC's novice-oriented river trips. We hope to get at least a few new kayakers from each course to continue with the sport as long-term VKC members.

We had a bit of a late start in the advertizing, and 1 week before the first pool session, we had just 2 students committed to the course. With some phone calls to the "maybe" ones, and more advertizing, by the time we got to the first pool session, we were full, and even took on a couple of extra students over the 10 originally planned. I think Erika must have spent a lot of time on the phone with potential students that week, as you tend to get a lot of questions from prospective students.

This year we moved to a new pool, the Britannia pool, near Commercial Drive and Venables. We used to use SFU, which has a supply of boats, but the boats are now over 10 years old, and some students have found it hard to get there. Moving to a pool without its own boats makes the logistics more complex, but Phil managed to pull it all together, and got lots of boats on loan from VKC members, and got them all to the pool for the beginners to use them. Moving to a new pool also means the pool staff have to get used kayakers. Lifeguards tend to get nervous when they see kayakers flip upside down, and it takes a while for them to get to know we actually want them to flip in the pool, rather than doing that on the river for the first time.

The aim of the Beginners' course is to introduce new people to the sport of kayaking...

This year, we also increased the pool time from 1.5 hours to 2 hours per session. This helped us get the beginners' skills a bit further along before going to open water for the first time. We had several students rolling with a reasonable success rate in the second pool session, and we had students using their T Rescues and even rolls on the river, so I think

it paid off.

As usual, we had a classroom session at my office, where Phil and I did show & tell with equipment, some whiteboard talk about river features, some video, and a tour of the kayaking resources on the internet (including the VKC site).



Seymour River day, Saturday 26 April 2008

We had a beautiful sunny day for our beginners' first day on moving water.

We met at Sea to Sky Kayaking at 9 am, and got the beginners outfitted with boats and gear, some borrowed from VKC members, and some rented for Sea to Sky. After getting outfitted and a pre-action briefing, we set out on the water. We spent the morning on calm water, staying fairly close to the shop, rather than going out on the harbour. We got as far as some eddy turns in the morning, and then broke for lunch. Many bring their own lunch, but a few went to the local establishments. I think the Tim Hortons still gets a bit surprised by walk-in customers in wet suits, but eventually they'll get used to it.

In the afternoon, we moved upstream, taking advantage of the faster moving water at the bottom of the rapid just upstream of the Dollarton Highway bridge, and practiced ferrying, peelouts, eddy turns, and even the occasional practice of getting pinned against an easy rock. This is when we get hoarse from yelling "lean downstream" or "paddle hard" as beginners wobble across eddy lines, but there were lots of smiling faces at the end of the day.

River Run day, Sunday 27 April 2008

The big day is always the second day on the river, where we take the beginners to their first river run. This year, we went to the lower Cheakamus river, a.k.a. the Paradise Valley run, from the first campsite to the Bailey bridge. We had a great turnout, with enough volunteers that each beginner could have their own "buddy" to guide them down the river, plus we had a lead and sweep boater for each of 3 groups.

With each beginner having a buddy, several were confident enough to hold on for a T Rescue, saving them a swim in cold water! It's normal to have some beginners swim on their first river run, but with lots of support boaters, the swims were kept fairly short.

This was our second year going to the lower Cheakamus, whereas we've traditionally used the Mamquam for the first beginner run. The Mamquam access was a challenge at the time (fixed now!) so the lower "Cheak" is a good alternate.



It's a good beginner's run, although it does have the tendency to get some wood in it.

All the beginners arrived safely at the takeout, with a smile and a well-earned trip to the pub. We ended the day with the traditional post-course pub meeting, this time at the Wigan Pier

The big day is always the second day on the river, where we take the beginners to their first river run

in Squamish. Here, one can get Fish & Chips in a rather English setting, complete with Monty Python's Holy Grail Ale if you're so inclined.

Some tips for Noivces:

After the Beginners' Course, you're a Novice. Novices are encouraged to keep working on their skills through the summer, so they can come on more interesting VKC trips in the fall. There's a page on the WIKI section of the VKC's web site with tips for local beginners – check it out at http://www.vankayak.org/wiki/index.php/A_Guide_for_Local_Beginners. This is a work in progress (as a WIKI, it always will be), but has some good tips.

Here are a few tips to get started:

First of all, keep at it! There's no substitute for getting out on actual rivers, where you'll experience eddy lines, swirls, waves, etc., and gain more skill and confidence.

Keep practicing in the pool.

Go to the after work Capilano sessions (Thursdays) or the Chilliwack sessions, usually on Tuesday evenings (Capilano has pretty much dried up, but the Chilliwack is still running and there may still be some sessions. Check the VKC Forum under Paddling>Training).

Take more advanced courses. There are lots available. Links on the Wiki page.

Go on VKC trips to Novice-level rivers, such as the lower Mamquam, Similkameen (last weekend!) and lower Cheakamus. Check the VKC trip schedule on the VKC web site <http://www.vankayak.org/schedule.php> and look for "Novice" or "Nov"

Organize your own trip! Post on the VKC Forum (Paddling>Trips section) to see if other novices are interested in doing a trip to an easy river. Or

check to see if other novices are posting You can often find some experienced boaters who are willing to help out keen beginners who take an active interest in making events happen. You can almost always find a novice-suitable river to run in the summer. For example, the lower Mamquam site has been greatly improved this year, and the road and paths are in the best shape they've ever been. You can even run the first section of the river and just walk back up, saving the time of running shuttle. There's a gate, so post on the forum to see who has a key. Or you can walk in.

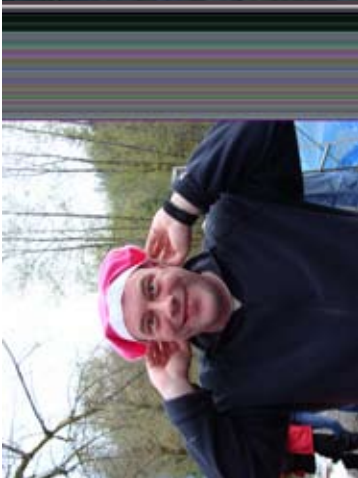
I'd like to thank the people who made the Beginner's Course happen – Philip Morley, who organized the whole event, Erika Thompson, who fielded all the calls from prospective students, answered lots of questions, and all the volunteers who came out to support and teach the beginners. We couldn't run the Beginners' Course without you.

For the beginners, the best way to thank your VKC volunteers is to keep paddling with the club, so See You On The River (SYOTR)!

VKC Whitewater Festival 2008



**Christian Vogl,
Director at Large**



A half a dozen volunteer meetings, a dozen drives to Chilliwack, a crooked campground operator and the lowest water in maybe the 50 years we celebrate, and we had a great time!

By noon Friday, more than 50 paddlers had converged on the Tamihi Creek campsite. Many were already into a run, more piling into vehicles for the shuttle up. By the time the registration tent was set up, many had already slipped down the canyon, some all the way down to Point Vista. It was low, but looking good. Safety boaters scouted the entire length, only discovering one significant hazard on the lower section. With modifications to novice run setup made to avoid this, things were good to go!

Saturday morning and real party gets started. By 9am a gaggle of another 50 late registrants clambered to sign up and get the coveted collectible keychain shuttle pass. Welcomes and safety talks done - Trucks and trailers piled out full of boats, boaters and anticipation.

This season's been crazy weather-wise, and a late snowpack and low temperatures combined

to amount to... nothing, in terms of water. Analysis of 50 years of data, local knowledge and everyone's best guess would have had us all worried about being flooded out - who would have known?

The low water did allow many a chance to run the Chilliwack Canyon, and lots took advantage. Despite painting the canyon rocks "Dagger blue", "Wavesport orange" and "Fluid red", with a trim of 'Jackson yellow", our festival participants enjoyed incident free paddles all weekend. A few surfs were even rumoured.

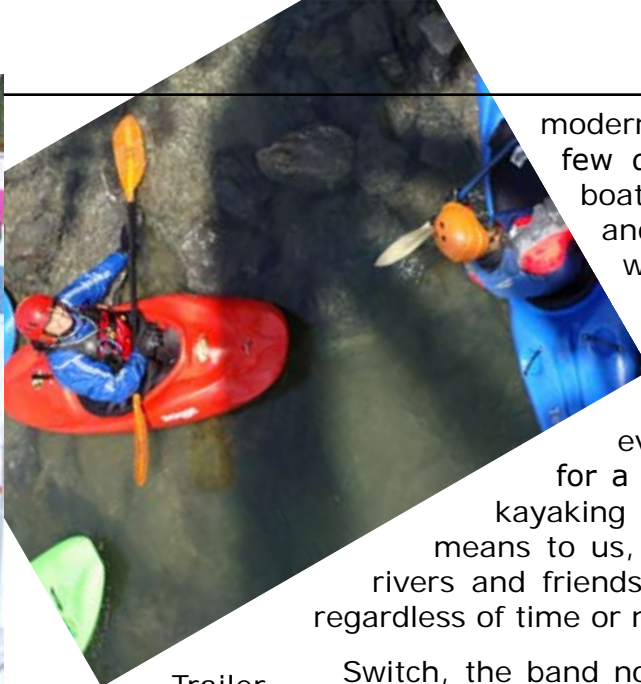
Erica's well organized downriver race, from



**Loading up
before the race**



Farzana on the chilli and paddling



modern world, we listened to a few quick tales of fiberglass boats, homemade skirts and all the wonder that went along with really pioneering something we love so easily. It seems a hush came over the crowd as everyone turned inward for a moment to reflect what kayaking in our modern world means to us, and how wonderful the rivers and friendships have always been, regardless of time or neoprene.

Switch, the band no one had heard before, wowed the crowd, keeping it mellow during mealtime and turning it up to party afterwards. Crowd interactions and who will forget "More Cowbells!" being answered smartly by the band, including solos. It was great to see club veterans dancing past midnite - and great to see everyone up with excitement Sunday for more paddling.

Sunday brought nice weather and more fun. Lessons on the lake by the Dragons polo team and slalom workouts by CKBC were enjoyed by the few not hitting the canyon or playing at Allison Pool.

Another big thank you to all the volunteers, many unsung heros, our supporters and sponsors - without you it couldn't have happened. So - shall we do it again?

VKC Whitewater Festival 2008 – Downriver Race Results

Erika Thompson

Women's Short Course

1st place: Laura Demers

Women's Long Course Short Boat

1st place: Annie Legueux 12 min 53 sec

Women's Long Course Long Boat

1st place: Kaya Downs 12 min 36 sec

Trailer
p a r k

to or through Tamihi provided good action for participants and spectators alike, with Ryan Bayes taking top honours and the gag trophy (see full results below).

Sponsor support and participation was excellent and all members are encouraged to patronize our supporters - and take a moment to thank them for supporting VKC 50th when you do! In some festival firsts, Don of S2S set up his portable hottub riverside and Moveo set up a massage therapy tent. Both helped paddlers, many whose season's had just begun, work out those aches and pains and get ready to do it all again Sunday. Thanks to Western, Wavesport, Dagger and MEC, plenty of demo boats were on hand.

Raffle tickets sold well, and prizes galore were handed out for more than half an hour. Marvin Moedt was the lucky winner of the new boat, a great karma return as Marvin had arranged the donation of the 50th stickers now pasted on every club members gear.

Chili on the Chilliwack, thanks to the efforts of Dave Elliot, with help from Pipo, Sarah and others, was a great hit. Even a 50th birthday cake for the Club! And what morning is complete without Tim Horton's?

Hieko, Uta and Hugo were a highlight of the evening, introduced, by their request, as the 'Three Old Stooges', they brought the idea of 50 years of kayaking home to the one hundred or so gathered around the plywood on dirt stage. Taking a moment to separate ourselves from our

Men's Short Course

1st place Robin Simms

Men's Long Course High Performance Boat

1st place Paddy Lee 11 min 33 sec

Men's Long Course Short Boat

1st place Dutch 12 min 9 sec

2nd place Chris Gee 12 min 23 sec

Men's Long Course Long Boat

1st place Ryan Bayes 11 min 40 sec

2nd place Kevin Whiting 11 min 50 sec

3rd place Erik Moedt 11 min 51 sec

4th place Dan Whiting 11 min 58 sec

5th place Greg Ball 12 min 36 sec

6th place Dan Bentley 12 min 50 sec

Thank you to the participants, safety boaters, timers, shuttle drivers and spectators.





The Long Way to Tulameen

Laani Uunila
(with commentary by Phil Morley)

In the office on Mondays we have a tradition, Pat, a fellow whitewater aficionado and I, compare notes on what we paddled on the weekend. The biggest difference is that I spend my weekends in a kayak and he spends his in an open boat. We run similar runs, but he's usually on something with slightly less volume, looking for beta from me. The tables were turned the last Monday when he started with "We did Tulameen Canyon and I think you'd really like it..."

The next day we sat down with a pen and my map books to capture the crucial information. The main beta on the run was that the canoeists weren't super happy campers going down the river due to the steep walls, little exit and scouting potential, volume, wood and some big holes. They had been told the run was a III+, but that was based on a previous lower volume run by one of their members. Knowing that I paddle slightly harder stuff, Pat figured the run was right up my alley.

Pat started making cryptic notes, giving me more detail as he talked, "You start at the shoe tree outside of Tulameen..."

--"A tree with shoes?"



--"Yup..."

He ended with a word of warning to ensure the put-in was right, since if you put-in just slightly higher up you might have included some of the unrunable rapids which could lead to an epic evacuation off the river that would likely include ropes and some very unhappy people – that is, if you could get out.

With river beta in hand, I started rounding up a crew of people and some ideas of rivers that would circuit us down to the Tulameen. My first thought was Birkenhead, Bridge, Tulameen. Then someone popped in with Coquihalla, which almost bumped the Tulameen off the list. A bit of conferring with the core group and the Coquihalla got scrapped as an option and the Tulameen was back on the plate. Spius was suggested at a VKC gathering during the week. Two new rivers, not bad, not bad. The river list was set: Bridge, Spius, Tulameen.

Then the fun began. Logistics were a tad nightmarish, and those in the group can attest that carpool options changed at least four times as confirmed people backed out and new people got the full three days off work. By Friday afternoon we were set: Greg, Vince, Thale, Phil and I. Greg and Vince in Greg's vehicle and the rest of us in Phil's "it's not a truck, it's a Jeep". Pin kits, breakdown paddle and first aid kits sorted we were set to hit the road, which we did big time.

The following river and travel descriptions are an enhanced version from the trip report posted

on the forum. A description of Tulameen has also been posted on the VKC Wiki, which also includes new lower flow information.

Day 1 - Bridge River

Departure:	8:00am from Vancouver
Arrival:	12:30pm in Lillooet
On the water:	2:00pm
Off the water:	7:45pm
Into camp:	12:30am

Our trip to the Bridge started mid-week with a phone call to the Bridge River Band Office, where I got permission from the Administrator, Bradley Jack to paddle the river. After lunch at the Subway, we did a quick check-in at the Grill/Tour Office at the take-out and headed to the river.

The river was at a good flow, not too low that the calmer stretches felt too long, and not too high that the major drops were too crazy. The put-in is on the Yalakom, which gives you a fast start before you spit into the Bridge and the wonderful scenery that is a mainstay of this run.

Coliseum, or as Phil called it "Gladiator" (since towering above the rapid is the giant hillside 'coliseum' - thus paddlers are the gladiators in the stadium) caused a bit of excitement. The rapid offers several options for running, and this time around there were three distinctive channels, one on river left and two on river right. This rapid is a good one to scout or take slowly since it is shallow, steep and there is wood.

Vince and I went left, Greg led right; Phil and Thale also went right. Vince and I slowly eddy hopped over to the far left, avoiding a nasty boiling recirculation and ferrying above a log jammed between rocks. We



**Gladiator
Vince in the
Coliseum**

met up with Greg at the bottom. Meanwhile, Phil decided the centre right channel was too gnarly and made an attempt to run the far right channel through the woods. He ended up portaging due to a sweeper halfway down; Thale ran part of the way down and decided to walk, temporarily losing her paddle in the river -- which was subsequently retrieved after a bit of bush bashing and searching.

Jade Drop was fairly straight forward. The scout allowed us to pick lines and check for wood. Vince boofed the narrow centre chute, rather than running the traditional right line, making for a very sweet looking line (note: if a proper boof is not executed there is potential for a vertical pin, as a rock was detected at the base of the chute upon landing). Unfortunately we had not told the photographer of this plan, and the chute boof was not captured on film.

The brilliant weather and awesome scenery were enhanced by wildlife sightings along the river. Beavers and otters were spotted as well as two bears.

Crane's Ledges was a walk for all since it was fairly burly. The great raspberry hybrids at Crane's weren't ripe yet...anyone doing this trip later in the season should be on the lookout for berries since they are amazing.

After the ledges we floated past another bear snuffling around a gravel bar. This one was a tad older and cinnamon coloured and a little less aware, or more intent on what he was doing. He didn't notice us for quite a while and Phil managed to float by taking photos, until the bear noticed him and headed into the bush.



**Phil soon realises that
water is only half a foot
deep**

Hard Hat, the last drop was easily walked on river right by those that chose to, and easily run by those that chose to run it. After that, the final paddle out and a late dinner at a Feelin' Good Pub. We decided to push towards our next destination of Merritt, so that we wouldn't



Hard Hat: no steel toed boots required

have to have a crazy early start. An empty gas tank and closed gas stations in Lytton thwarted our plans, and we camped just outside of town. It was mission partially accomplished, we had reduced our next day's drive enough that we could sleep-in until 7am.

Day 2 - Spius Creek

Departure:	8:30am from Lytton
Arrival:	9:50am at the bridge take-out near the fish hatchery
On the water:	12:45pm
Off the water:	6:15pm
Into camp:	1:00am

Breakfast tucked under our belts and another sweltering day well on its way, we headed towards the Spius take-out (the bridge near the fish hatchery) where we were going to meet up with Tudor and Pete and Claudia at 10am. Just as we were nearing our turn-off to the gravel road, Tudor happened to be right in front of us – talk about good timing. We reached the take-out and found Pete waiting (Claudia was off exploring). Not bad coordination, four cars, three of which were coming from different locations, and everyone at the meeting place 10 minutes early!

To get to the put-in we took the 4wd route, after being promised it wasn't that bad and



Field Repairs

didn't have overhanging branches. There were a few places where high clearance and a short wheel base were desirable. Much fingernail on chalkboard screeching went on as branches dug into the sides of the vehicles. There were several ditched areas on the road, and at one of these a slight over exuberance on the gas pedal resulted in the boats and roofrack trying to boof off the vehicle. Unluckily for us the area where it happened was a mosquito haven, so we were buzzed around as the repair work got underway.

Spius itself was fairly low, reducing the amount of play that is around at higher levels. Quite a bit of two-ish water, with a few places to play, but really shallow water. The clear nature of the river meant you could watch the rocks

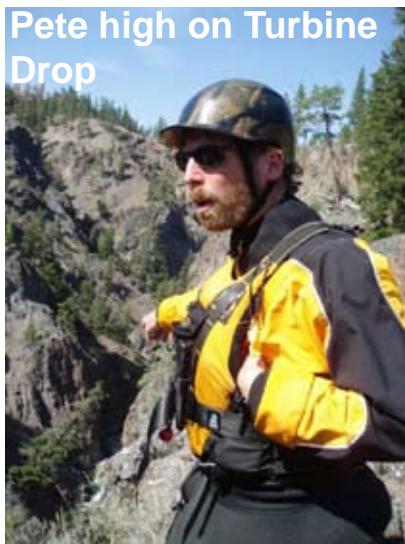


Enjoying lunch, at least all those that made the eddy

fly by beneath your boat. There were several river-wide logs, some in worse locations than others. It was a game of "can't go over it, can't go under it, got to go around it". We did go over

two logs during the run, under some others and portaged around one that had large branches sweeping the river.

Once again, a spectacular run, with steep hill slopes, canyon walls and scorching weather. We had lunch with the confluence of Prospect Creek. As we all eddied out, Tudor was playing on a wave, got tossed off and missed our eddy. While we lunched he scrambled up a cliff and took shots of us enjoying our wonderful lunch spot across the river from him.



Pete high on Turbine Drop

Prospect dumped in a fair amount of cold water, cooling down the overall river temperature. The must-scout Big Box Canyon that contains Turbine (IV) was our next stop. The entrance doesn't look too significant and it would be easy to blow by the one hill that you can climb to scout the canyon. The climb to the top of the hill to scout could be given a IV rating itself, with a very steep ascent, loose footing, crumbling rock and nothing to stop a tumble -- great for someone like me that hates heights and exposure!

From above, the canyon section appeared clear of wood. The low level made the rapid a tad uglier than it was when Spius was previously run by Pete & Claudia. A rock in the centre was creating a pourover that looked really nasty on



Digging the blade deep on turbine

river right, and with a horseshoe hole, facing upstream around the rock. The line was from right to left, into an eddy next to the pourover. All we had to do was head back downhill; we opted to head down a different route, trying to find slightly less steep and exposed slopes.

There were several small eddies we could catch on the way down, though not big enough to contain the whole group. We staggered down the eddies above Turbine and all but one of us ended up going to the final eddy on river left, just above the drop to have a closer scout. Because the level was low, we were able to get eddies which are non-existent at higher flows (thus the mandatory hill scout). The centre rock looked nastier at water level, since it was overhung, causing a curtain of water to go over it. Some of the group opted to walk the first portion and put-in below the pourover. We roped the boats and paddles down a slab rock (which is a pourover itself in higher water). The rest of us ran a tongue, or some variation of that and landed in the eddy, where the rest of the group was putting-in. Vince had run a line, based on the cliff scout, which included a disappearing act in the seam of the horseshoe, he popped out upright and set-up safety below the drop in case there were any issues.

The rest of the river was fairly scenic, but once again notched down into II-III water. My suggestion for folks doing this run is to take out at Little Box Canyon, since the river below that has more wood and isn't spectacular like the upper portion of the run. The Little Box take-out shaves off several kilometres of river.

The shuttle is a LONG shuttle on this run. We set it up, so Tudor could head back to town right away (which he did with some of our food and gear which had hidden itself in his car). The highway route took 1hr20min each way. Those of us left at the take-out took advantage of the warm weather to dry our gear, and swim in the river. We practiced a bit of swimming across current under the bridge, going back and forth (for those that could brave the water temperature). As the sun fell, the mosquitoes emerged. The three of us waiting realised, sadly, that all our bug dope was in the vehicles doing the shuttle.

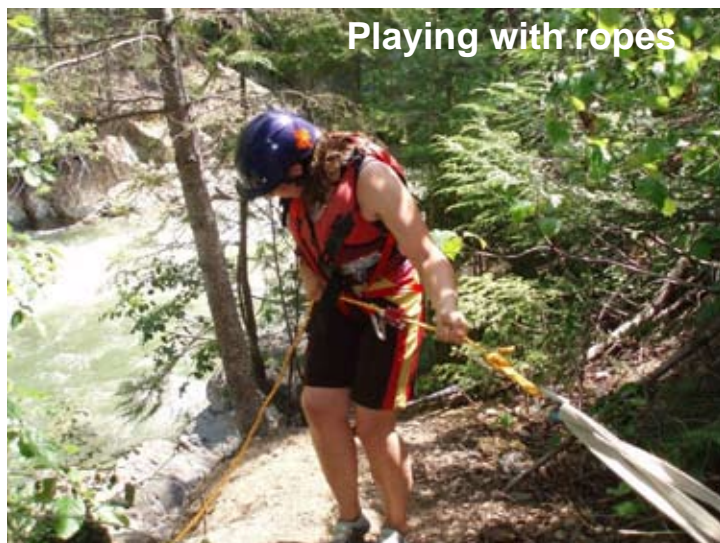
Once we were all loaded, we headed to Merritt for dinner after dropping off one of our crew

at Emergency for an infected toe (you know there's ointment to cure that?). Our dinner eaten, we went to pick up our companion, who had had a toe soak and a jab of antibiotics in his butt and headed for the hills to find a camp site between Merritt and Tulameen. We drove Otter Lake Road and ended up heading up a rough forest service road to Rickey and Clifford Lakes where we pitched camp amongst the very hungry mosquitoes who sent out a big welcome party.

Day 3 - Tulameen (Upper) Canyon (Lower Section)

Departure:	9:45am from Rickey Lake
Arrival:	11:30 am at the Shoe Tree (we stopped to swim at Otter Lake)
On the water:	2:00pm
Off the water:	5:00pm
Back home:	1:30am

The put-in was easily found; to confirm we were in the right place we headed down to the river before unloading boats --there were telltale signs of scrapped canoe on the rocks, so we knew we had the right location. Day three was a scorcher of a day and we were all dripping with sweat from just standing in the sun.



Playing with ropes

The Tulameen is quite continuous, and had more volume than the other runs. The canyon walls were indeed steep with very limited points for walking out to the road. Many of the drops were mandatory runs, since the walls were too steep to walk. Most of drops were one or two move drops, so not too difficult, but there

were holes to be found, and a bit of wood in one drop.

We came upon the crux rapid, G'Day Mate, an hour and fifteen minutes into our run. This is where the canoeists roped out their boats last weekend, so you can access the road, but not easily. We had scouted from the bridge above, so we know the general layout of the rapid, but as usual things are much bigger at river level. Greg, Thale and I took out river right to scout. Vince and Phil scouted on river left. Their scout point was a rock that looked like Australia, thus the rapid name "G'Day Mate". Just above Australia rock there is a bit of water you don't want to go into, to continue on the Australian



theme, if you were to go into it you'd be heading "Down Under". Following that was a overhung headwall that had most of the flow going into it. Obviously, safety was a big issue for us on this rapid.

We had much communication back and forth across the river about who should set-up safety opposite the headwall. To Vince and Phil it looked like Greg or I could head over to a rock outcrop and set-up safety. For us it involved a swim over, a climb around a slightly overhung cliff or running the top bit of the rapid and making an eddy. As I was asking the guys across the river, if I perchance were to miss the eddy, would I be ok if I took a line moving right? -- Since they had a better view downstream than I did. Try doing that with hand signals! Vince sacrificed his run of G'Day Mate to set-up safety. He put in below Australia rock and ferried over to river right, away from the headwall. Thale followed.

I ran the right line down a manky shallow section (while Greg stood safety for me on concrete block). I made the eddy with no problems and ran the right line around Down Under. Greg followed suit. I filmed Phil's run, a boof on the centre line, which was smoothly executed. Since there are old bridge pilings in the rapid and cables about, it is quite possible there is metal in the drop and other places unseen; it isn't the cleanest rapid in the world.

There was a bit of play after the crux rapid,



Greg on G'Day Mate

That's not a line, this is a line!



but no other major drops. Lawless Creek is one possible take-out, but we opted to take out slightly further downstream. This was a beautiful end to a great weekend, and well worth a return trip.

River Snapshots

River: Bridge River

Grade: III+/IV

Closest Town: Lillooet

Shuttle: 1 hr (25km)

River Time: 5 hrs 45 min

Description: Beautiful scenery, with the river in a deep valley bottom inaccessible to the road for most of the run. Four major drops, with stretches of grade I/II between drops.

Notes: Permission must be sought from the Bridge River First Nation before arriving at the river. Paddlers must check-in at the "Grill".

River: Spius Creek

Grade: II/II with a mandatory IV

Closest Town: Merritt

Shuttle: 1 hr (28km) or 1.5 hrs (67km)

River Time: 5 hrs 30 min

Description: Remote run with high hillsides and canyon walls. Includes "Big Box Canyon" home of the mandatory Turbine (IV), scouted from high on a cliff. Play on the fly through the II(ish) water; has river wide trees.

Notes: This is a very long shuttle. The 4x4 FSR had one washout which may get worse; it has overhanging brush and cross-ditching.

River: Tulameen Canyon (Lower)

Grade: IV

Closest Town: Tulameen, near Princeton

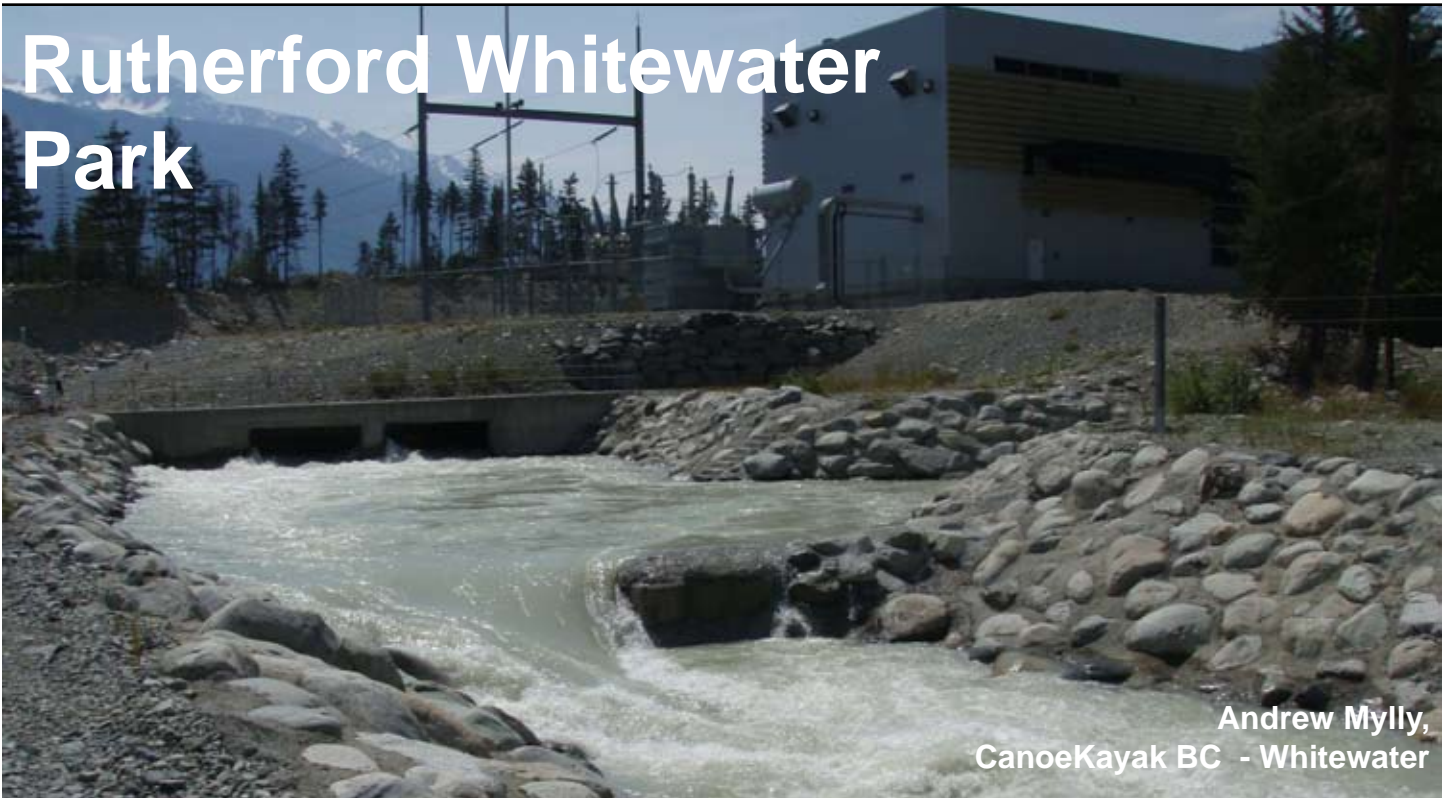
Shuttle: 20 min (75km)

River Time: 3 hrs

Description: This river is fairly narrow with good volume and quite continuous with several III/IV- drops. Hard to scout many of the rapids due to steep walls. There is potential for wood. Since you can't scout, you can't walk.

Notes: Taking off this river before a takeout could be a full-day mission; if you were lucky enough to be in a spot without cliffs. Can walk some of the crux rapid.

Rutherford Whitewater Park



Andrew Mylly,
CanoeKayak BC - Whitewater

The BC Whitewater Slalom Championships and a Recreational Paddling Event were held on the Rutherford Whitewater Park Artificial Course (Class III-IV) on July 19/20, 2008. This was the first event ever held on the new Rutherford Whitewater Park! The course is very user-friendly – you can take it easy or you can push your skills to the limit by using the powerful eddies, or throwing moves in the holes and

left. This is a world-class facility, rivaling some of the best artificial courses in the world!

The concrete lining the course is extremely rough. Footwear is mandatory, and full wet-suit, gloves, elbow pads, and facemask are highly recommended. There is also a small vertical drop at the outlet of the course, with a shallow boulder garden and sharp rocks below. Although easily avoidable, you would not want to swim this.



waves. The top half of the course is somewhat easier, and there is a large take-out pool at the halfway mark. The bottom half is more demanding, including one drop with a big reactionary wave coming off a vertical wall on the

IPP Developments Since March 08

**Evelyn Feller,
Access/Environment**

Vancouver Kayak Club became a member of the B.C. River Alliance since Sept 07. This organization which includes diverse groups such as the B.C. Creek Protection Society, the Wilderness Committee and Citizens for Public Power has done a valuable job through its list serve in informing members of new IPP run of the river proposals, related public meetings and ways to participate in environment assessments.

Most members would be aware of the halting of a proposed transmission line through Garibaldi Park which was associated with the 8 IPP's on the Pitt headwater streams. While the IPP proposals still exist attention has turned to massive proposals in the Klinaklini River area and other South Central Coast locations such as the Toba, Knight and Bute Inlet areas. The Klinaklini proposal is particularly huge over 700 MGW, with a 18 Km diversion tunnel, 10.5 m in diameter diverting 90% of the river flow. The proposals for building dams 20m high in the Knight, Bute and Toba systems are anything but run of the river. These projects would have a profound impact on riparian and estuarine ecology with significant impacts on salmon, steelhead, eulachon and eagles.

The other area of concern has been in the Kootenays with IPP's planned for Glacier-Howser, Cedar Creek, Kicking Horse River and Blaeberly Creeks. Locally there have been proposals for Fries Creek which could impact Brackendale Eagle Provincial Park and for streams coming out of Garibaldi Park e.g Rubble Creek which is a tributary of the Cheakamus.

Members of the alliance such as the Wilderness Committee have organized public meetings in the Kootenays and the B.C. Creek Society has organized meetings on Vancouver Island early June to discuss the Klinaklini and Bute projects. Rafe Mair, a former B.C. Environment Minister has become a vocal spokesperson against this proliferation of IPP proposals. There is a conference planned by the Citizens

for Public Power on June 20/21st where John Calvert who wrote a key analysis of run of the river projects is speaking. Calvert's book, Liquid Gold : Energy Privatization in B.C. is important reading.

The B.C. Rivers Alliance would also like to see a review of the Environment Assessment process which seems to have a history of rubber-stamping projects. These current proposals certainly don't represent green energy which would entail no downstream flow modifications, little or no headpond and no biodiversity impacts.

Implications for Kayakers

None of these projects mentioned are popular kayaking destinations with the exception of the Kicking Horse and the Homathko which is occasionally attempted by elite paddlers. However we have no cause for complacency because a list of proposals in the Lillooet Area includes popular rivers such as the Birkenhead, Bridge, Lillooet and Cayoosh Creek.



Many kayakers not only enjoy the challenge of the white water but also appreciate the river ecology and experience which will be compromised by developments associated with run of the river projects, such as roads and reduced flow. Kayakers are also skiers, hikers, fishermen and ocean kayakers where again experiences will be diminished by IPP's.

We need to remain vigilant and ready to attend rallies, meetings and write letters as we did with the Ashlu and the Pitt.

The Good Ole Days

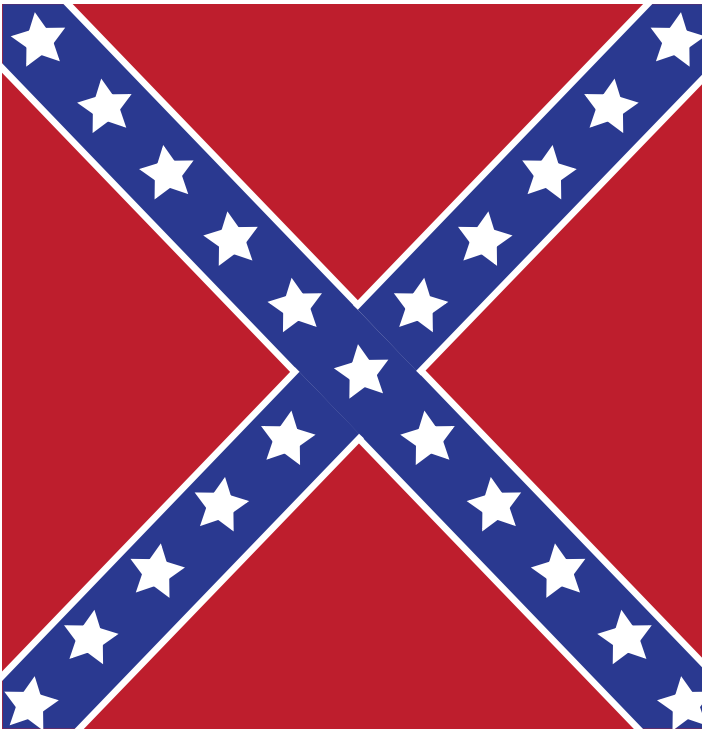
**Tom Hoskin,
Secretary**

The Upper Cheakamus racecourse run was high according to the gauge at the weather station. Eric Riddington, who went on to start a rafting company; and I, were intermediate paddlers looking for adventure. We put in and soon found it! Things were big and exciting. Above "House Rock" we decided to scout, and found a place where we could cling to bushes on river right and scramble out. The scouting was difficult and Eric decided to, "go for it." He flew by House Rock on the right, disappeared

seal launched.

I eddied out above the bridge and there was Eric. I got out and we stood on the bridge looking for his boat. A Resort of Whistler maintenance vehicle came by and the woman driving it shouted, "If you hurry, you can drive down and get it before it goes over Brandywine Falls!" In the pandemonium, it was suggested that I would drive down, and Eric would get dropped off part way down by the maintenance vehicle and look for his boat.

As I started to drive, I realized this made no sense as Brandywine Falls is on Bandywine Creek, not the Cheakamus River and the join down by Daisy Lake. But now I had to find Eric. I searched for likely places he might have been dropped off for about an hour, and finally found him back near Function Junction. We hiked in along the railroad tracks and found his boat just above the 9 foot falls below the takeout.



from sight and then, and then, and then his empty boat rocketed up and "ghost paddled" out of sight.

It wouldn't help matters any for me to paddle down and get stuck in the same hole, but the walk down was blocked by dense bushes. From another "Good Ole Days " saga, I knew there was a log across the left channel at House Rock, but it was probably deep enough to paddle over. I got in my boat, and as I got near House Rock, I could see it was nearly covered and paddled ON TOP of it. I could see the hole on the right, scrunched my way to the left and