



PADDLE

The SKABC Newsletter

June 2008

SKABC: To promote fellowship, safety, the exchange of information and skills; to encourage concern and respect for the environment, and above all to enjoy sea kayaking.

Sunshine, Song and Camaraderie in the Copelands—submitted by Susan Rolfe

Participants: Karin Hartner, Simone Avram, David Kyle, Kurt Connell, Sue Serl, Gary Fitzgibbons, Susan Rolfe, Carole Dedhar, Penny Whittam, Avrum Miller

What an incredible way to spend the long weekend in May! Our capable leader, Karin Hartner, took us to the Copeland Islands. We started our adventure at the Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal at 6:45 am! We met our fellow kayakers on the ferries that service the Sunshine Coast. Our launching site was Lund, where we visited Nancy's to buy gooey cinnamon buns, in order to give us a



sugar high just before our paddle. We were warned that a group of eighteen teenagers were occupying the campsite that we had planned to make as our base camp, so we wisely paddled on to a further island. We set up camp and were treated to Avrum's culinary expertise. He was encouraged to join us in the potluck dinners. He was assured he would be a sous chef. Plans changed and he became the head chef. He accepted the challenge with humour and provided us with a great meal. The first night, we went to bed early, as most of us had been up quite late packing for the trip.

Jennifer and Sharon, members of Comox Valley Kayak Club, joined us for three days. They came over from Comox, stayed one night in Powell River and then paddled from Lund. Heather Harbord brought four fellow kayakers to join us for an afternoon. Heather is a past President of SKABC; she was a guest speaker at our club last year, and has written some excellent kayaking guidebooks. Heather graciously brought a treat for all of us to enjoy: brownies topped with whipping cream and strawberries.

The weather was fantastic the next day. We paddled around Sarah Point and had lunch at Feather Cove. Some kayakers ventured on to Okeover Inlet, while others decided to relax and enjoy the beach and the sunshine. Carole and Simone provided dinner the second night. Carole's Seafood Hot Pot was delicious! Simone had hunted for fresh oysters earlier in the day. She steamed them for appetizers! Yummers! We spent the evening sitting on the beach and singing songs from the fifties. Avrum knew all the lyrics! We did a short hike to the other side of the island and watched the magnificent sunset. Our choirmaster, Avrum, lead us in some more songs from the past. Two seals, swimming close to shore, were totally impressed with our serenade.

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Next Meeting:

Tuesday June 3, 2008
7:00 - 9:30pm
Note earlier start time!

SKABC Tradeshow

featuring the latest gear and equipment, along with resources and information from many leading local businesses and organizations involved in kayaking

Location:
Vancouver Museum
Main floor meeting room
1100 Chestnut Street

Upcoming Meetings:

July and August meetings are held at Locarno Beach - further details to be announced

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

(note second Tuesday of the month)

Start 6.30 pm

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Start 6.30 pm

Regular meetings will resume in September at the Vancouver Museum
1100 Chestnut Street

THANK YOU!!! to Susan Rolfe who will be taking over running the Social Committee, giving Sue McLeish a well-earned rest after all her hard work for your club.

We need you...

For the following roles:

- President
- Members of the Social Committee

This is your chance to give back to the club, and have fun doing it! Contact president1@skabc.org or social2@skabc.org

Membership Year:

April 1 to March 31.
The fee is \$45.00 for one year.

SKABC Mailing Address:

Box 751, Station "A"
Vancouver, BC
V6C 2N6

Register online at

WWW.SKABC.ORG

Big Brothers Kayak Day 2008

Big Brothers have confirmed they would love to do a repeat of this day on the water in Indian Arm. These boys don't often get to do the things we so often take for granted and they really appreciated the opportunity last year. Please see my report in PADDLE July, 2007. We had a great day and all volunteers went home tired, but happy, I think.

We have set the date for June 7, 2008. Please let me know if you can help out this year. I have had a couple of offers already, but need more help. I would be especially grateful for any offers of a spare boat. We will cater to six boys at a time, three will be about 10 to 12 years old, and the Big Brother will be adult, so any size boat will be welcome. I would also like to be able to offer a paddle to the two Big Brother staff who volunteer this time as an extra day. Last year Deep Cove Canoe and Kayak graciously offered to help, and I will approach them again if I need to. Their help was especially appreciated in supplying our smaller participants with PFDs that fit.

Maureen Benzon benzon@telus.net Tel 604-929-1035

Volunteers requested for SKABC table at MEC Paddlefest, Sunday July 6

SKABC is considering participating in MEC's 2nd Annual Paddlefest at Ambleside Park, and will need volunteers to staff the club's information table for shifts of a couple of hours each. Contact Lesley Cerny: secretary1@skabc.org.

Paddlefest is an urban celebration of kayaking, canoeing, and the ocean environment in BC. The day will feature learning opportunities on water and on land. Paddlers of all skill levels are welcome. This is a family-friendly event, offering opportunities to test boats and equipment from various watersports manufacturers, and has something for every paddler, from beginner to expert.



Helen Clay

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to Summer! At last, the weather has warmed up and I hope you're all out there enjoying the wonders of paddling. Our training courses are going strong (yours truly is upside down on the Currents course, even as I write this—uh-oh, now the paper's all soggy.) The Trips list continues to grow with exciting offerings, from peaceful evening paddles to far-out multi-day adventures—in other words, something for everyone, no matter what your ability. If there's something we're not offering, consider setting up a trip of your own. There's lots of information on the website to help you with trip planning, and our able Trips executive, Karin Hartner, can answer your questions at trips2@skabc.org. Volunteering as a coordinator can give you valuable experience, too, and is a great way to meet more club members.

We have some great trip reports from club members who've already been out having fun. I hope they will inspire you to get on the water. We always love to hear how your paddling season is going, so please put pen to paper and send in some photos too! All contributors are eligible for the monthly draw prize (\$25 MEC voucher). Send your articles and photos to newsletter1@skabc.org.

Gabriola Weekend Trip, May 3-4

—submitted by Nick Heath

To me, Gabriola is an interesting, if not remote, destination. Last year's Spring Gabriola trip was a full circuit, taking 2.5 days, but not one SKABC member joined me on that trip!

I got the message, so this year I planned a shorter trip, to suit all those workers (poor souls) who have to work Fridays. Mileage had to be reduced too. Hence we could not expect to complete an around island trip. Instead the plan was to leave Nanaimo around Saturday noon, paddle across to the NW corner of Gabriola Is, explore the sandstone galleries from the water and camp a little further south at Descanso Bay Regional Park. The next day we'd explore False Narrows, entering on the ebb and leaving on the flood, like riding a bicycle downhill in but in both directions. Then we'd saunter back to Nanaimo – easy.

Birgit Stefani, Andrew Kirk and I met up at Horseshoe Bay and used our kayak wheels to get to the nice boat launch at Brechin Park, a short distance from the ferry terminal. It was rainy on the mainland, choppy during the voyage and distinctly windy when we landed. The weather forecast warned of strong NW winds, but were due to ease later in the day. Andrew has a small cabin on Pilot Bay, Gabriola Is and this was an attractive alternative to Descanso Bay Park. The bay is well sheltered but it is on the north shore of the island, and therefore exposed to the NW wind. We quickly entered the shallow channel between Newcastle and Protection Islands and contemplated what we could see: the SKABC navigation course was already under way in the picnic shelter nearby, cosily situated in the lee of the island. Looking towards Gabriola, the crossing of about 2 nmi would be quartering the wind and waves, which had frequent whitecaps. We all decided it was reasonable to attempt so off we went.

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Your Executive & Officers

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Navigation Course, Newcastle Island, May 3-4

—submitted by John Martin

Leader: Rick Davies

Coordinator: John Martin

The yearly extravaganza of the Rick Davies Navigation course hit the water May 2. Oops! Let's back track to Friday. Friday in Nanaimo rain, rain and more rain, Saturday rain, rain and more rain from 6 am to 10 am. I was waiting in the Departure Bay launch ramp gloomily saying that "no-one will come." At 10:30 am the ramp came down and everyone walked onto the launch site. Insert a big sigh of relief here.

We were a lively mob, ranging in age from 40 to 70ish. We got unloaded and everyone greeted one another with a "hail fellow well met." Old friends reconnected and everyone was cheerful and friendly. We were on the water in an hour and followed along the coast line to the north campsite opposite Protection Island. We landed and set up in (yahoo!) bright sunshine.

Rick got right to it with laying out the basics of the program and finding out everyone's expectations. Some just wanted a refresher, some wanted to avoid disasters. Some just wanted to learn more. It was discovered that all four guys had radios and none of the women did. Rick noted that it was a technical thing and that "you would forget it if I told you." This got a big round of laughs from the ladies. Rick said, "This will get you from here to there and safely home again." We sat out in the sun and connected with our hopes and fears. Then I used a globe and a magnet to demonstrate the effect of the shift from true north to magnetic north.



Rick took us through a wonderful SKABC laminate that laid out all the variables: charts, magnetic and true north, tides and current tables, walk around experience, Mile-a-minute scales and expected travel times. His great use of simple colloquialisms and a No-Math approach was a big hit with everyone. The odd business of compass to chart and chart to compass became clear to all and the transit's rose was pointed to the goal. The idea that tides are up/down and current is horizontal and 3 hours later became obvious. Remember the mantra: ½ hour before and after, Dodd Narrows beware.

Then we all settled into an amazing scrumptious dinner and so much food we could have all gained four pounds. Thanks to all those who contributed to the organization of the food and the bringing of it. Sunday morning we rolled out at 9 am and Rick (that dastardly fellow) gave us a test to write. Meany. All the same we licked our pencils and with much discussion we got all four pages done.

Lunch was even better than dinner. Sadly, though, we had no on-water experience since the wind and waves were too much even on a sunny day. We made the 5 pm ferry and I spent the trip reviewing with various people.

A great weekend. Simple and effective teaching to make kayaking safer for everyone.



SKABC Kayaking Tradeshow

Tuesday June 3, 2008 7:00pm-9:30pm at the Vancouver Museum

SKABC is organizing a kayaking industry tradeshow, featuring equipment and information from many leading local businesses and organizations involved in kayaking. Each exhibitor will have a booth in our regular meeting place, the Vancouver Museum, with the latest gear and resources on display. This is an excellent opportunity for all club members to see what's new in 2008 and have time to speak to knowledgeable paddling resources.

Door Prizes!!!

Each exhibitor will be donating top of the line kayaking gear as Door Prizes. You will receive a "passport" that must be stamped by every exhibitor in order for you to be eligible for the Door Prizes. Prizes will include a Chartered Boat Cruise, a GPS, Kayaking Clothing, Paddles, PFDs, Safety Equipment, Sunglasses, Neoprene Wear. . . and the list does go on!!!

Exhibitors

The following exhibitors will each have a booth. To thank them for their participation (and for you to qualify for the Door Prizes!!) be sure you get to visit each booth and learn what's new in kayaking this year. It's a great chance to ask questions about gear and destinations.



Aquabound Paddles



Delta Kayaks



Bare Wet Suits



Rack Attack



Ecomarine



Mountain Equipment Co-op



B.C. Dive & Kayak



Canadian Coast Guard



Natural West Coast Kayak Gear



Nimbus Kayaks



Salus PFD's



Deep Cove Canoe and Kayak



North Water Paddle Sports
Equipment

SKABC 2008 Training Schedule - *please check the website for frequent updates*

If you would like to volunteer as an instructor, assistant instructor or coordinator in 2008, please e-mail training2@skabc.org or leave a message at 604-983-3016.

New members may wish to review the course descriptions of the core courses offered by SKABC members, available on the club website at <http://www.skabc.org>

Important Notes:

All course participants, coordinators and instructors must be club members at the time of the course. SKABC year is April 1 – March 31.

While significant changes and updates between meetings will be communicated via a general e-mail to members, members are responsible for monitoring the member's area on the SKABC website for the most recent information.

Subject to specific instructions to notify Training Coordinator of interest in certain courses, advance registrations through the SKABC Training Coordinator will not be accepted. Please wait for registration to open. Individual course coordinators will be identified once registration opens.

See Training on SKABC website member's area for policies, including cancellation and refund policy.

Course coordinators are assured a place in the course and do not pay course fees unless the fees are payable to outside suppliers.

Generally, coordinators prefer to communicate by e-mail. If your e-mail is not acknowledged within 24-48 hours, phone to follow up.

Course	Dates	Min/Max	Location	Instructor	Price
Roll Your Kayak (open ocean)	June 11 6-9 pm	4/6	Jericho Beach	Meaghan Hennessy (through SKILS)	\$45
	Learn to roll using your own kayak. Different styles will be demonstrated. Participants must provide own equipment and have prerequisites. Contact coordinator for more details. CLASS FULL. Waitlist available for last minute cancellations. ● Registration open: Coordinator - Kallie Cunningham training2@skabc.org 604-983-3016 After Jun 1: Bob Griffiths bobmdbob@hotmail.com 604-224-5751				
Strokes & Rescues #2	Sat June 7 & Sun June 8 9 am – 4 pm each day	10/20	Deep Cove	Cindy Carson Rob Leeson John Martin Richard Jensen	\$45
	● Registration open: Coordinator - Leslie Hansen leslie_hansen@telus.net 604 813 9044 (eve)				
Beginners #3	Fri evening June 20 Sat & Sun June 21 & 22	6/8	Deep Cove (theory TBA)	Maureen Benzon Bareld Nieuwenhuis Mark Allison	\$70
	● Registration open: Coordinator - Graham Lorimer lorimer1@telus.net 604-929-4438				
Trip Leader	Wed July 9 eve – planning Fri-Sun July 11-13 trip	6/8	Southern Gulf Islands	Mark Kelly	\$45
	3 day course offered to members who have completed most SKABC courses and are interested in leading SKABC trips. Come learn how to plan for, and deal with, the expected and the unexpected. Cost \$45 and travel if required (ferry, parking, camping fees). Qualified participants will be eligible to request enrolment in Paddle Canada Level 2 Skills certification weekend course. See below. ● Registration open: Coordinator – Kallie Cunningham training2@skabc.org 604-983-3016 Note: Course will be cancelled if minimum number of registrants not confirmed by June 3.				

Course	Dates	Min/ Max	Location	Instructor	Price
Surf	Arrive Fri Sep 5 for Sat Sep 6 & Sun Sep 7	12/16	Tofino	Instructors needed Contact Training Coordinator	\$45
<p>Participants must arrive Friday evening before 11 pm. Course ends 1 pm Sunday. Participants responsible for costs of accommodation, travel & ferry. Dorms & some private rooms have been pre-arranged. Details available from coordinator. Cancellation policy applies after July 18, 2008. Class size and final registration fee under review. Contact coordinator to confirm interest. Details will be finalized at the beginning of July once instructors are confirmed.</p> <p>● Registration open: Coordinator Leslie Hansen leslie_hansen@telus.net 604 813 9044 (eve)</p>					
Paddle Canada Level 2 Skills Certification Course	2 day overnight course. Dates TBD with participants following Trip Leader 3 day course in July 2008	3/4	TBD	Mark Kelly	\$45 + Paddle Canada fees (approx \$50)
<p>Members who have completed the SKABC courses and demonstrated their skills on the Trip Leader course described above, will be eligible to request participation in this 2 day course to obtain Paddle Canada Level 2 skill certification. Commercially offered courses of this type would normally cost more than \$500. Successful participants will be eligible to then pursue Paddle Canada Level 1 Instructor certification.</p> <p>For information about the skills assessed at this level, please see Paddle Canada website for sea kayaking programs at http://paddlingcanada.com/programs/seakayaking/index.php</p> <p>For more information on this opportunity contact Coordinator for Trip Leader Course (see above).</p>					

External Course for Members & SKABC Instructors

Currents @ Deception Pass ***New***	<p>Chris Mitchell from Secondwind Sports www.secondwindsports.net who has taught with SKABC in the past is offering a day course on Sunday Jun 29th at Deception Pass. This course is for those who have taken the SKABC Currents course & are interested in further on water learning. It is also recommended for instructors in SKABC who wish to teach our currents course in the future.</p> <p>Pre-requisites: Self & assisted rescue skills. Kayak must have waterproof hatches & bulkheads or secure floatation fore & aft. Participants must wear immersion clothing & helmet.</p> <p>Date: Sun Jun 29th Time: 10 am – 3:30 pm Cost: \$45 Min: 8 Max: 10</p> <p>● Registration open: Coordinator Peter Kearney pkearney@shaw.ca</p> <p>Reminder: While this is a one day course on a Sunday, you will need to cross the border and ensure you arrive at Deception Pass before 10 am. It is the weekend leading into the long weekend, so you need to plan your travel times accordingly or make arrangements to camp Saturday night to ensure you will not be late. Consider leaving Vancouver very early, using your NEXUS PASS or leaving on the Saturday and staying the night</p>
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External Courses available to the public and of interest to Members

VHF Marine Radio Operator Licence	<p>Look for a course near you. Power Squadron Units offer the course throughout the Lower Mainland at different times & prices.</p> <p>Fee: \$90 per person http://vancouver.powersquadron.ca/radio.html</p>
Wilderness First Aid Courses	<p>St John Ambulance: Call North Shore St John Ambulance directly to inquire about future offerings: nshore@bc.sja.ca or call 604-990-1290.</p> <p>Alternative: Wilderness Alert offers in depth multi-day courses. See web site for options and dates. http://www.wildernessalert.com/</p>
Kayak Rolling with Sea To Sky Kayaking (North Van)	<p>Sea to Sky: Please contact directly @ 604-983-6663 to register for public sessions. SKABC group sessions are over.</p> <p>Course Overview: You will meet at the store to watch a video & discuss rolling technique from 9 - 10:30 am. Then travel to West Vancouver Aquatic Centre for your pool time from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Return to shop at 2.30 pm to watch videos of yourselves and debrief.</p> <p>For more information: http://www.squamishkayak.com/courses2.html</p>

SKABC Trips for 2008 - please check the website for frequent updates

Day Trips

Date	Destination	Class	Duration	Coordinator	Leader	Maximum Participants
Monday evenings June 9, 23 July 7, 14, 21 August 11, 18 RAIN OR SHINE	Indian Arm from Deep Cove Launch by Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak Centre ON WATER BY 6 PM BACK BY 8:30	A1 Must be able to self rescue	2-3 hrs	Maureen Benzon Email preferred benzon@telus.net 604-929-1035	Maureen Benzon Email preferred benzon@telus.net 604-929-1035	Sign-up not required RAIN OR SHINE
June 8 (if rainy will be June 15)	Widgeon Creek on Pitt Lake (possible hike to Widgeon Falls) Launch from Ayla Canoes on Pitt Lake at 10am precisely	A1-B2	Up to 5 hours	Alice Pletcher Email preferred pletcher@shaw.ca	Bob Bruce and Alice Pletcher	
June 17 And July 16	Full Moon paddles Meet at 7pm at boat launch at Vanier Park behind the Planetarium	A1 Must be able to self rescue	3-4 hrs	Borre van Doorninck borrev@telus.net	Borre van Doorninck borrev@telus.net	Please let Borre know if you are coming
June 21	Horseshoe Bay to Gibsons Wheels required	C3	All day	Heather Kirk procrastinates_a_lot@yahoo.ca 604-463-0264	Heather Kirk procrastinates_a_lot@yahoo.ca 604-463-0264	8

Weekend / 2-3 Day Trips

Date	Destination	Class	Duration	Coordinator	Leader	Maximum Participants
June 14-15	KAYAK CUISINE # 10 Gambier Island	B3	2 days	Gordon Squire gbsquire@shaw.ca	Tony Clayton tclayton@telus.net	12
July 12-13	Beaumont Harbour, Pender Island (from Mayne Island) Need to be able to do wet exit and assisted rescue.	B2	2 days	Ash Whitehead ashwhitehead@hotmail.com Contact Ash to help coordinate. Karin will assist.	Ash Whitehead ashwhitehead@hotmail.com	8
Aug 2-4	Ross Lake, WA Paddling and hiking No border crossing required Access from near Hope	B2	3 days	Mark Allison mark_allison@telus.net 604-525-2345	Mark Allison mark_allison@telus.net 604-525-2345	8

Longer Trips

Date	Destination	Class	Duration	Coordinator	Leader	Maximum Participants
June 2-6 TRIP FULL	Southern Gulf Islands D'Arcy to Sidney Spit	B2	5 days	Simone Avram Simone.avram@s-haw.ca 604-275-2724	Terry Mcginnis 1terrymc@telus.net 604-872-5898	6 TRIP FULL
June 19-23 TRIP FULL	Gulf Islands Prevost via Mayne Is	B2	5 days	Simone Avram Simone.avram@s-haw.ca 604-275-2724	Terry Mcginnis 1terrymc@telus.net 604-872-5898	6 TRIP FULL
July 2-12 TRIP FULL	Kyuquot Sound Brooks Peninsula and Bunsby Islands Surf & open water skills required	C3	9 days on water 2 days travel	Simone Avram Simone.avram@s-haw.ca 604-275-2724	Terry Mcginnis 1terrymc@telus.net 604-872-5898	TRIP FULL
July 12-19	Clayoquot Sound Vargas Island and points North Surf & open water skills required	C3	8 days 6 on water	Coordinator required	Ron Simmer patex@shaw.ca 604-438-5935	6-8
July 19-28	Bowron Lakes Detailed trip plan on SKABC website Wet suit and wheels mandatory Park fees	B2-C2	8 days on water plus 2 days travel	Coordinator required	Bruce Pickwell Bruce.Pickwell@telus.net	14
July 21-25	Galiano to Valdes Camp at Dionisio Point and Blackberry Point	B3	5 days	Simone Avram Simone.avram@s-haw.ca 604-275-2724	Terry Mcginnis 1terrymc@telus.net 604-872-5898	6
Aug 9-16	Kyuquot Sound Brooks Peninsula Bunsby Islands Surf & open water skills required	C3	8 days 6 on water	Coordinator required	Ron Simmer patex@shaw.ca 604-438-5935	6-8
Aug 15-25 TRIP FULL	Hakai Pass Via BC Ferries to Bella Bella	C3	9 days on water 2 days travel	Simone Avram Simone.avram@s-haw.ca 604-275-2724	Terry Mcginnis 1terrymc@telus.net 604-872-5898	6 TRIP FULL

Longer Trips (continued)

Date	Destination	Class	Duration	Coordinator	Leader	Maximum Participants
Aug 18-21 TRIP FULL	Nanaimo to Saltspring Is. Walk onto ferry so must have wheels.	C2	4 days	Bob Griffiths bobmdbob@hotmail.com 604-224-5751	Bob Griffiths bobmdbob@hotmail.com 604-224-5751	8 TRIP FULL
Mid Sept	Paddle and Sketch Gulf Island off Sidney BC (likely Portland Is)	B2-C3	4 days	TBA	TBA	
May-Sept	Sailboat Paddling Partners Gulf Islands/Sunshine Coast Sailing and kayaking on a cost-share basis (app \$40/day) Bring own food, kayaks, gear, bedding, etc Must be safety conscious and able to do wet exit and self-rescue	B2	5-day AT LEAST trips	Fred Collaco collafred@yahoo.ca 604-278-6819 Mother Ship is Catalina 28 Mark 2 with diesel engine No sailing skills necessary	Fred Collaco	3 plus Fred



Trip Classification

STRENUOUS LEVEL

(Assumes some paddling experience)

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

(Expected *conditions* require matching paddling *skills*)

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Paddling Time</u>	<u>Distance (nautical miles)</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Expected Conditions</u>	<u>Paddling Skills Required</u>
A	Minimal	<3 hours	<6 nmi	1	Calm	Beginner
B	Moderate	3 – 5 hours	6 – 10 nmi	2	Intermediate	Basic (self/assisted rescues)
C	Strenuous	5 – 6 hours	10 – 15 nmi	3	Exposed/Difficult	Good seamanship
D	Very	6 hours	15 nmi	4	Challenging	Advanced

Sunshine, Song and Camaraderie in the Copelands *(continued from page 1)*

The third day, we split into three groups and headed off to explore nature's beauty. Our group paddled to an area that Karin said would have lots of sea critters at low tide. We lazily paddled around some nooks and crannies, took photos and viewed the sea life. Gary, Avrum and Simone had paddled to the noisy sea lions the day before. We decided to venture forth and get acquainted with these magnificent beasts. We were blessed with calm seas and were able to view them at a respectful distance. I just love the way they preen and bark. It was a very special side trip. After dinner of sweet and sour pork on rice, Santa Fe Salad, chocolate oat nut squares and pineapple outrigger canoes provided by Penny and Susan, we had a group therapy session on the beach with Avrum! "Dandelion Dave" was his most needy client. We also talked about gerbils and goldfish!!!

What a change in the weather on day four! The winds were strong and the water was quite choppy. Gary, Avrum and Simone decided to brave the weather and paddle home early. The rest of us played cards, read our books or engaged in Sudoku or crossword puzzles. Sue treated us to a very special appetizer: green grapes rolled in Roquefort and cream cheese and then coated with toasted pecans. Fantastic! Karin made a delicious stick-to-your-ribs Curry Stew. It helped to warm our cold bodies. The weather had deteriorated during the day, turning rainy and cold. That night the campers on the cliff set their tents up in a less windy location.

We were planning on an early start the next day. Karin checked the weather early in the morning and wisely decided to order a water taxi. Dave and Kurt wanted to paddle back to Lund. When we met them at the boat launch in Lund, they said we had made a wise decision. They encountered head winds and rough seas. We made another stop at Nancy's for sweet treats and coffee before driving the Sunshine Coast route and then catching the appropriate ferries.



Carole Dedhar checking out the sea lions



Water taxi back to Lund



En route to the sea lions

It was a very energizing experience for me. I especially like the camaraderie on these kayaking / camping trips. I admire the way kayakers help one another, be it helping to launch or land on a beach, helping to secure the kayaks, helping with meal preparation, or cleaning the dishes. Everyone just pitches in and makes it fun.

Thank you Karin for all your organizational and leadership skills. The group really appreciated your efforts.

SKABC Mailing Address

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Web: www.skabc.orgE-mail: info@skabc.org**Gabriola Weekend Trip, May 3-4** *(continued from page 3)*

Nothing bad happened—two spray decks came unattached due to wave action but these were quickly re-attached. Rounding the headlands at Malaspina and Tinson Points exposed us to steep and occasionally breaking beam seas that required our full attention. Soon we were running with the waves and entered the calm of Pilot Cove. We had been on the water only about 2 hours, paddling a little under 6 nmi, but were glad of the break. The landing was on a rocky ledge but wasn't difficult. Walks, sunset viewing, and potluck supper ensued. Chateau Kirk is rustic and delightful, but quite tiny. Birgit and I slept in our tents on the grass outside.

**Discounts for members**

As a member of SKABC, you are eligible to receive a discount at many of the local retail and rental locations - see the club website for details.

Please enquire before finalizing your purchases, and take a moment to express your appreciation.

If the business does not offer a member discount, please respect their position.

Sunday we aimed to be at False Narrows for slack current at 10:06. We left Pilot Bay about 08:40, which was a little late to reach the planned destination. Progress was quite slow around the north end of the island—the wind had dropped but was still generating sizeable waves on our beam. Eventually, we rounded the same points we had passed the previous day and enjoyed fast downwind progress, passing massive sandstone cliffs with numerous holes and pockets in which cormorants and other birds congregated.

We paddled without a break and arrived at False Narrows after the flood had started; initially it was weak and there were numerous back eddies along the shore, which helped us travel south. We ate lunch at the boat-launching beach, regularly used by the residents of Mudge Island. At noon we set off for Nanaimo—first enjoying the fast flood current in the Narrows, then working quite hard against the wind, working our way along the shore and around the large log booms tied there. We avoided the west shore (Harmac and Duke Pt) because last year there was a strong adverse current under these same conditions. Eventually we neared the Gabriola Ferry terminal, crossed Northumberland Channel to Jack Pt and entered Nanaimo Harbour. The rest was uncomplicated, except that it must have been the busiest day of the year in the Harbour, with the Yacht Club's opening day and sail-past in progress. We arrived around 3:30 pm at the launch and caught the 5 pm ferry, tired after a long day's paddle (15 nmi / 6.5 hours).

The waters around Gabriola are scenic and interesting—but are not the easiest for paddling. Experience definitely pays off in this area!