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.

Johnstone Strait — submitted by Bob Salo

Everyone has their own reasons for wanting to paddle certain areas. In Johnstone Strait the number one reason that most people signed up for the August 2005 trip was the chance to see whales, primarily Orcas, up close. I have seen Orcas before and any opportunity to see them shouldn’t be passed up. But, high on my list of reasons to paddle this area was the chance to paddle in currents. We had to contend with strong currents in all our crossings and between many of the islands in the southern part of the Broughton Archipelago. Both Maureen Benzon and I had taken the Currents Course in June and were looking forward to putting our new found knowledge into practice. When our on-water leader had to drop out of the trip we decided that with the Currents Weekend experience and training, combined with the strong paddling group, we would “give it a go.” Our group consisted of Maureen, Mike Gismond, Marjo Vieros, Avrum Miller, Angela and me.

Saturday, August 13 – We were hoping the clear, hot weather on the drive up island would be a good omen! We camped at Alder Bay, which is directly across from Alert Bay on Cormorant Island. It is mainly a RV campsite for fishermen, but has some nice grassy camp spots right on the beach. We had fresh Sockeye salmon for supper. A fisherman was cleaning his catch, needed some zip lock bags and we traded them for the fish. A strong N.W. wind came in, bringing clouds and cooler temperatures.

Did you know? The Orca, (Orcinus Orca), is the largest member of the dolphin family (Delphinidae). They are called killer whales because they attack and consume whales or other large prey such as seals and sea lions.

SKABC Executive and Officers

During the last club meeting, October 3, the new executive was elected and officers were appointed. To help all members know who these people are, we’ve created a short biography of all members. Please feel free to contact your club Executive and Officers via email or phone if you’d like to make improvements to the club or would like to assist in the running of the club somehow.

On this note, too, I would like to extend a big thank you to our past executive and officers: Steve Moon, President; Janet Letourneau, Secretary; Blair Mann, Newsletter; Phyllis Mallett, Treasurer; Dan Wicke, Trips; Mark Kelly, Safety. Your leadership and hard work was very much appreciated.

Some people have thankfully agreed to stay on with their positions: Sophie, Heather, Ray, Sue, Elisa, Tony, Edwin, and Roxanne has taken over the President role. Find out more on page 3.

Inside this issue:

Message from the President 2
Executive Notes 2
Letter from the Editor 2
Feature: SKABC Executive and Committees 3-6
SKABC Retreat Notes 6
Conservation Matters 7
Kayaking Cuisine 7
November Trips 7
Feature: Johnstone Strait 8-9
Membership & forms 10-11

Christmas Party!

- The social committee is planning the party. Details will be posted soon on the web.
- If you know of an available venue at great value, please contact Sue McLeish as soon as possible.

Next Meeting

- Reminder! No meeting in December!
- January 10, 2005
Message from the President

On behalf of the 2005-2006 executive I wish you all a warm welcome to what promises to be an exciting year of events. A special welcome is extended to our new members who I hope will join in on the many events that this club has to offer. Whether you are an arm chair paddler or an expert roller in surf, the dedicated volunteers that are the heart of this club will keep you very busy. From club trips to safety training, from guest speakers to environmental issues SKABC will keep you informed while promoting fellowship and sharing knowledge that will keep you or get you paddling very soon! As president I hope to continue the tradition that our previous President, Steve Moon, has championed, that our club members are our greatest resource. As part of my efforts to continue that tradition I am encouraging all members to present any kayaking experience they wish to share through photos or stories during the "Members Corner" which will occur at the beginning of each monthly meeting. In addition to the "Members Corner" a "Trip of the Month" will be highlighted. If you would like to participate in any part of the Club's offerings or would like to volunteer please contact me directly. So sit back, or get your feet wet for this promises to be an exciting year!

Happy Paddling,
Roxanne Rousseau

Notes from the Executive

The new executive had their first meeting since the elections.
Main topics of discussion where as follows:
- the organization of the volunteer appreciation party
- Potential for on-line membership registration and payment
- Development of the new website—hopefully available early next year
- Process review regarding reimbursement of trip and training coordinators. An official process will be drafted and made available to all members.
- Christmas Party
- Next meeting date—changed to January 10th
- Membership Directory update—the web has been updated.
- Relaunch of this newsletter

If you would like a specific topic addressed, please let the executive know.

Letter from the Editor

Wow! What did I get myself into by volunteering for this? I should let you all know up front that not only have I never edited a Newsletter before, I’ve never even been involved in any aspect of one, including writing articles! So, I expect it’s going to be far from perfect, but hopefully a great learning experience, and hopefully something that all members will find useful and interesting to read.

What I’m looking forward to are lots of submissions from all members. I’d love to see a monthly article on “gear” - anything from the best pump, to the greatest kayak, to what kind of GPS to purchase. If you have an opinion about gear, let’s include it in this newsletter. I’d also like to include a “classifieds” section where you can buy & sell gear as well as hook up with others for trips. The Kayaking Cuisine will be a regular article so send in your favourite recipes. And, of course, we need more great articles about trips, like the one submitted by Bob Salo in this edition.

I look forward to seeing lots of submissions. Please email me at: clarkeandgayla@shaw.ca.
SKABC Executive and Officers, cont.

Executive Position: **President**

Roxanne Rousseau — rrousseau@telus.net — 604-806-9441

**Years paddling:** 6  
**Years with club:** 1  
**Favourite place to paddle:** Valdes Island, Blackberry Point, Tree Island (nr Denman Island)  
**Favourite kayaking food:** Thai curry!  
**Type of kayak:** Home made wood boat (16 ft Chesapeake constructed via instructions from the "New Kayak Shop")

**Vision:**  
Encourage fellowship, sharing of kayaking experiences, increase awareness of environmental issues and how they impact kayakers and vice versa, safety on the water!

**Best lesson learned:**  
No matter how often you kayak, there is always room for improvement...like remembering to put the water pump under the stern straps not the bow (found out the hard way that this can get in the way of pulling off your skirt making the phrase "Crap pull the Strap!" not so successful during a wet exit!).

Executive Position: **Vice President**

Bob Shields — shields@telus.net — 604-275-4695

**Years paddling:** 2  
**Years with club:** 2  
**Favourite place to paddle:** Desolation Sound  
**Favourite kayaking food:** Eggs & fried tomato with cappuccino for breakfast  
**Type of kayak:** Nimbus Telkwa

**Vision:**  
Encourage new members to participate in training and trips.

**Best lesson learned:**  
It’s much easier to learn from experts than to learn on your own.

Executive Position: **Treasurer**

Rob Leeson — rleeson@portal.ca — 604-739-1201

**Years paddling:** 8  
**Years with club:** 7  
**Favourite place to paddle:** Broken Islands, especially using a base camp and doing day paddles  
**Favourite kayaking food:** Seafood, along with some “refreshments” of course!  
**Type of kayak:** Nimbus Telkwa  
**Sport— the club ‘s most popular?**

**Vision:**  
I envision creating, with the executive, a more accurate picture of our finances along with a simple and realistic budget for future planning. Not being an accountant, it will be simple!

**Best lesson learned:**  
STABILITY is good!
Executive Position: Secretary
Graham Clowes — grahamjclowes@hotmail.com — 604-278-4379
Years paddling: 3
Years with club: 3
Favourite place to paddle: Deep Cove during the week
Favourite kayaking food: Porridge on a dewy morning
Type of kayak: Nimbus Njak
Vision: Keep “info-deluge” to a minimum
Best lesson learned: The Weather Course—avoid wind!

Executive Position: Membership
Edwin Bussey — bc-paddler@shaw.ca — 604-434-1739
Years paddling: 5
Years with club: 4
Favourite place to paddle: Tofino
Favourite kayaking food: Tastybits curry & Basmati rice or Power Bars
Type of kayak: Nimbus Seafarer
Vision: Quiet guy in the background who helps make the club work.
Best lesson learned: A kayak is a great place to meditate.

Officer: Conservation Liaison
Elisa Kreller — elisakreller@shaw.ca — 604-633-0535
Years paddling: 6
Years with club: 4
Favourite place to paddle: Still have a lot of coastline to explore
Favourite kayaking food: Salmon Fillets & Red Wine
Type of kayak: The ‘Kayak Fund’ is fully topped up & it’s time to make a decision.
Vision: Facilitate SKABC’s increased involvement in conservation issues, through developing a closer relationship with groups such as CPAWS-BC, The Land Conservancy, Georgia Strait Alliance and BC Cetaceans Network. Key initiatives include SKABC taking a leadership role in the development of an umbrella organization of provincial sea kayaking clubs and the re establishment of the BC Marine Trails Association.
Best lesson learned: Don’t fight the wind.

Officer: Training
Sophie Chenier — sophiec@shaw.ca — 604-434-1739
Years paddling: 5
Years with club: 6
Favourite place to paddle: Deep Cove
Type of kayak: Seaward Luna
Vision: Continue to have training available for all our members.
Best lesson learned: Always paddle with a buddy.
Officer: **Newsletter**  
Gayla Shulhan — clarkeandGayla@shaw.ca — 604-523-2155

Years paddling: 11  
Years with club: 1  
Favourite place to paddle: Along the de Courcy Islands  
Favourite kayaking food: Shrimp curry  
Type of kayak: Current Designs Caribou  
Vision: To resurrect the Paddle—it’s been too long that we haven’t had a newsletter. I want to encourage many article submissions from all members.  
Best lesson learned: Take time to tickle the starfish.

Officer: **Trips**  
Shelley Lear — slear@telus.net — 604-437-1549

Years paddling: 14  
Years with club: 14  
Favourite place to paddle: Gulf Islands  
Favourite kayaking food: Canned tuna & tortillas  
Type of kayak: Seaward Tyee  
Vision: Club trips to exotic locations (like Baja). Have more local day & evening trips, especially in spring & fall. Encourage more members to volunteer to organize and lead trips.  
Best lesson learned: The weather report is unreliable—learn to make your own forecasts.

Officer: **Website**  
Terry McGinnis — lterrymc@telus.net — 604-872-5898

Years paddling: 20  
Years with club: 15  
Favourite place to paddle: Queen Charlottes  
Favourite kayaking food: Home made trail mix  
Type of kayak: Seafarer  
Vision: To help on trips and manage the web site.  
Best lesson learned: Keep my eye on the weather

Officer: **Programs**  
Heather Hamilton-Wright — hhw@telus.net — 604-731-2446

Years paddling: 25  
Years with club: 3  
Favourite place to paddle: Anywhere there is water & sun  
Favourite kayaking food: A cold beer in the evening & a strong latte in the morning  
Type of kayak: Nimbus Cygnet  
Vision: Keep the meetings interesting with good presenters.  
Best lesson learned: Study the currents in Blackney Passage.

Officer: **Outdoor Recreation Council**  
Tony Clayton  
tclayton@telus.net

I was unable to get a bio from Tony but I understand he’s been with the club for many years.

Officer: **Library**  
Ray Saadien  
saadien@telus.net

Ray was unavailable for comment as he’s away travelling. And hopefully paddling! I know that Ray’s been with the club for a least 1 year, since he was the librarian last year.

**Library News**

SKABC owns a wonderful collection of books about kayaking and living and working in the outdoors, including some great recipe books. Please remember to return books you’ve borrowed in the past, so others can enjoy them.
SKABC Executive and Officers, cont.

Officer: Social
Sue McLeish — smeleish@shaw.ca
Years paddling: 11
Years with club: 4
Favourite place to paddle: Anywhere there is water & sun
Favourite kayaking food: Everything tastes better outdoors
Type of kayak: Feathercraft K1 Expedition / Atlantis Wav
Vision: Create opportunities for members to mix and get to know one another—and welcome new members.
Best lesson learned: Always be safe and aware of the weather, currents, tides, etc.

Officer: Safety
Bob Maher — bob_maher@telus.net
Years paddling: 10
Years with club: 1
Favourite place to paddle: Anywhere where it is quiet and remote
Favourite kayaking food: Red wine and whatever!
Type of kayak: Nimbus Telkwa Sport
Vision: To make paddlers more aware of paddling safety and safety products.
Best lesson learned: Go PEE before making a long crossing!

SKABC Retreat – Where Do We Go from Here? - submitted by Elisa Kreller

Inspired by the thought that it was a good time to undertake some big picture thinking, the board organized a retreat for the afternoon of April 2nd. A total of 22 SKABC members, including representatives from SCAPE, a Sunshine Coast paddling club, attended on relatively short notice. Under the guidance of Rick Davies, we discussed many issues facing SKABC and came up with potential directions.

The session commenced with a review of the club’s history. SKABC began as the Vancouver Ocean Touring Kayak Association, VOTKA, a group of individuals concerned about kayaking safety. In the early 1980’s, SKABC was registered and the club’s mandate evolved to include not only a comprehensive training program but also group trips, monthly meetings with speakers, a newsletter and website to facilitate communication.

Rick augmented our meeting by discussing the concept “Success Through Optimism”. This theme shows how an optimist approaches life: change is seen as positive; setbacks in one area of life are not allowed to permeate all; and, challenges can be overcome and are not a reason to stop moving forward. This philosophy is obviously applicable personally, but is also a basis for a club such as SKABC, to continue to positively manage change.

After brainstorming and a bit of sorting and prioritizing, the following issues were identified as being on the forefront of the minds of the participants.

I) SKABC – Provincial Umbrella Organization or Greater Vancouver Area Club?
At present, there is no unified provincial association to represent the voice of the independent kayaker on issues such as access and conservation. Although SKABC’s membership includes SCAPE, Nanaimo Paddlers and Cowichan Kayaking and Canoe Club, this is only a small portion of BC sea kayaking clubs. After lengthy discussion, it was recommended that the executive strike a focus group to commence communication with our members and other BC clubs regarding the development of a common voice for the BC independent sea kayaker.

(Continued on page 10)
**Conservation Matters**

**BC Cetacean Sightings Network**

“How **you** can participate with the collection of research data!”

There are seven species of cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises) considered to be at-risk of extinction in British Columbia’s coastal waters. The BC Cetacean Sightings Network (BCCSN) began in 1999 with the goals of reducing the risk of extinction of these species by gathering information about them and identifying the habitat areas they use.

Mariners and coastal citizens (including **SEA KAYAYERS!!**) who see whales, dolphins, or porpoises report these sightings to the network by phone (1-866-I SAW ONE), email (sightings@vanaqua.org), or through a website form (www.wildwhales.org). Observers who are frequently out on the water can also participate in a logbook program. Logbook participants are given a logbook with carbon-copy pages where they record sightings; as logbook pages are filled, participants mail one copy of the page to the sightings network and keep one copy for their own records.

Over the past five years, the BCCSN has grown to over 500 observers and has received and entered nearly 18,000 sightings of whales, dolphins and porpoise from these observers. These sightings are used by researchers, government agencies and NGOs to help establish trends in habitat usage by cetaceans and to help identify habitat important to their survival. The network also provides outreach and education activities in coastal communities, informing mariners and coastal citizens about the threats facing cetaceans and how citizens can reduce these threats.

A joint effort of the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the BC Cetacean Sightings Network is funded by the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

**Remember, if you see a whale, dolphin or porpoise the BCCSN wants to know!** To help protect the marine mammals who made your kayaking trip a very special memory, report your cetacean sightings to the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network shortly after returning home.

**Kayaking Cuisine**

**Shrimp Curry**

**Ingredients:**
- Rice for 4*
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 1 zucchini, sliced
- 1 pkg glico curry**
- 1/2 c raisins
- 1 can shrimp
- Oil
- water

**Directions:**
Cook rice and set aside.

Saute onion in oil, add carrots and stir fry. Add zucchini when carrots begin to soften. When veggies are at a suitable consistency, add rice, about 1 c water, and the chopped up curry. Stir the curry in really well. Simmer for 5 minutes. When cooked, remove from heat, add raisins and the drained shrimp. Feeds 4 kayakers.

This recipe can easily be altered by adding other veggies, and expanding the quantities.

*Rice can either be wild/brown if you have lots of time and water for cooking, or white, or even minute-rice.

**Glico is a brand. This curry comes in a rectangle box, and is a solid paste. It comes in 3 hotness strengths.

**November Trips**

Friday November 11
(Remembrance Day)
Westham Island **B2**
Coordinator: maureen@skabc.org
Leader: Terry McGinnis

Sunday November 20
Crescent Beach **B1**
Coordinator: maureen@skabc.org
Leader: Terry McGinnis

I quickly learned why no one camps here—mosquitoes galore!
Johnstone Strait, continued from page 1

Sunday, August 14 – Awoke at 5 AM to the crunch of boots on gravel and the sound of motors starting up. The hard-core fishermen start early. I rolled out of my tent at 6 to the sight of low clouds and fog. Everything was dripping wet. The downside to paddling in August is fog. We paddled in a tight group while crossing Beaver Cove. The visibility was good, although the boat traffic was busy through Telegraph Cove. Our first stop was at Blinkhorn Peninsula. There are campsites there, but no water. We then stopped at Kaikash Creek for lunch, where there are multiple campsites, plus fresh water and a toilet. Without a definite camp planned for the night we decided to stay. For a few reasons this turned out to be a great decision. Our site was like many – multiple tent sites on the beach or in the forest, a picnic table and trees for shade or rain protection. Once camp was set, we went for another paddle. We were in our kayaks, ready to start paddling when a pod of Orcas came around the point! We sat in a kelp bed and watched them swim by not more than 200 feet away: one huge male, 2 very young and 6-8 others. One Orca surfaced about 50 feet from Avrum’s kayak!

One of the things about kayaking compared to backpacking that I like is the ability to bring lots of real food. My dinner the first night was Jicama (Mexican vegetable) with lime juice, Pesto Pasta, Italian Bread, homemade Zinfandel wine and dark chocolate for dessert. Just after dinner we were treated to another whale show. They were going the opposite direction to the afternoon group and may have been the same pod following the current. What a first day in Johnstone Strait. Clouds rolled in and it was dark by 9. 14 miles paddled today.

Monday, August 15 - 6:30 AM I awoke to the sound of a whale blowing. Camped on the beach, I opened my tent zipper to watch a pod of whales from my sleeping bag! Other campers along the beach got up and we all stood at the water’s edge watching the Orcas just outside the kelp – not more than 100 feet away. They actually slowed down and put on a show for about 10 minutes. They were slapping their tails and “spyhawking” (lifting themselves straight up to have a better view of the water or beach). We started to feel special, like the whales were performing for us.

We stayed at this site another night, paddling to Robson Bight hoping to see even more Orcas. There is a boundary line for Robson Bight that extends into Johnstone Strait. We stopped paddling outside that line and used our binoculars to spot whales. Only a few dolphins were around. As we turned around and pulled into a beach for lunch, a Park Warden motored in. It turns out that we had paddled through the corner of the Ecological Reserve! Back in camp at 3 the sky started to clear and was sunny & hot. Angela’s dinner tonight: home made chili, pita bread, two dips and fruit/chocolate fondue for dessert. We went to sleep with smiles on our faces again. 8 miles paddled today.

Tuesday, August 16 - Awoke at 6 to the noise of wind: wind-blown waves in the middle of Johnstone Strait. By 7 the wind started to die down and blue sky began to show. We wanted to cross the Strait, ending up at Mound Island. Crossing Johnstone Strait to Cracroft Point only took 35 minutes but the current through Blackney Passage was quite strong so we holed up for lunch to await slacker currents. We paddled up Barony Passage, across to Harbledown Island, through the narrow passage between Parson Island and Harbledown (only passable at very high tide). The rains began as we came between Harbledown and Compton Islands and stayed with us as we approached Mound Island via the south side of Berry, where we saw a petroglyph. From certain angles the petroglyph looked like a rusty smudge on the rock face, but straight on the facial features were clear. That is, except for Avrum who could never spot it as he is red colour blind.

After a long day of paddling against current, in rain and with few breaks we arrived at Mound Island at 4 PM. Sheltered water, a shell beach, many dry campsites under an old growth forest or grassy spots and a pit toilet make this a beautiful five star campsite. In addition to the natural attributes, there was a 10 x 20 foot tarped shelter. It looked like a kitchen used by a commercial outfit, but it was vacant, so we promptly made it ours. We alternated between standing under the tarps when it was raining heavily and setting up tents when the rain slowed down. The sun came out right on time for supper. Avrum cooked – canned oysters, fried fresh salmon (given to us by a kayak fisherman) and spaghetti. At 7 PM a group of 4 paddlers joined our camp. In the last couple of hours they had seen two cougars on Berry and Harbledown Islands. While paddling today we had seen porpoise, seals, sea lions, eagles and herons. 12 miles paddled today.
Wednesday, August 17- It rained on and off all night, but our tents were dry under the big trees. This spot was so good, that we decided to stay another night and go for a day paddle. Low clouds again and water like a mirror. We crossed Indian Channel to Madrona Island. In the channel we stopped to watch a school of 10 inch salmon swim under our kayaks. They were on all sides of us, down as deep as we could see, hardly any space between them and swam past us for 10 minutes. We paddled past a huge fish farm at the south side of Madrona Island. Past Alder Island and on to Village Island situated in a big beautiful shallow bay is the old native village of Mamalilikula. One of the last great potlatches was held there in the 1950’s and the people of the village were then relocated to Alert Bay. Now, buildings and totem poles are rotting and falling down. It’s a nice place for lunch with a picnic table on a grassy knoll facing south. After lunch the sky cleared for a hot paddle home. We took our time exploring small islands and the shores of Pearl, Maude and Crease Islands. Back at Mound Island wet things dried out in the sun. Maureen cooked supper – vegetable curry, pesto quinoa, and chocolate covered wafer cookies. It was my birthday so we opened a couple of good bottles of wine to celebrate. 10 miles paddled today.

Thursday August 18 - Up early to be on the water by 8:30. The low tide gave us a great view of dozens of huge sunstars. We weren’t the only ones going for the slack tide. Coming around Compton Island was a guided group that we followed through Whitebeach Passage. After 5 minutes of hard paddling against the current our group tucked into an eddy to rest, regroup and look at the conditions in Johnstone Strait. We were one hour before slack. The group that we followed headed across the Strait with no apparent difficulties. Our group feeling was that we must be as good, if not better than tour beginners and we started off!

We stopped in Telegraph Cove for a while to get an ice cream, look around and wait a while for the flood current to lessen before continuing to Alder Bay. It was sunny and hot all the way and we arrived at Alder Bay at 4. Everyone was relaxed and happy with the day’s paddle. We had read the charts and dealt with the currents in 2 crossings, paddled against current when we had to and found favourable current when we could. Supper tonight is Marjo’s - Mexican. Salsa, chips, guacamole, tortillas, beans all washed down with cold beer. 14 miles paddled today.

Friday August 19 - Heavy fog overnight. We awoke to dripping tents and visibility of less than 100 meters. The local knowledge tells us the visibility for crossing to Alert Bay will not be safe until noon. Someone suggests we give the Sea Festival in Alert Bay a miss. We have had a great trip and everyone is ready to head home, so we quickly break camp and start our drive down Vancouver Island.

Accomplishments & lessons learned:
1. I now feel comfortable reading current tables.
2. I can plan paddle times around those tables.
3. I’ve experienced the feel of current from the side pushing us out of position, and reacted positively to the experience before getting into trouble.
4. I experienced the planning and success of ferry angle when crossing current.
5. I can identify current and eddy, and plan paddle routes for best results.
6. I realized that flood or ebb current is not always simple to predict in a group of small islands.

P.S. See our website for some great photos of the trip! Another good website for the area is www.villageisland.com. It is a native tour company, but has a lot of links for the area.
SKABC Retreat – Where Do We Go from Here? - cont.

II) Membership
To generate ideas on a variety of issues relating to membership, the group broke out into smaller discussion groups.

What Do Members Want?  How can we extract this information, for example, use of a survey or additional information on the membership form? Usefulness of an exit survey when a member does not renew subsequent year membership? Members providing “My Favourite Trip” descriptions at monthly meetings? Although we have feedback forms for our training programs, should we have feedback forms for trips?

Welcoming New Members?  As a club, we want new members to feel that they are immediately a part of the club. Ideas include use of name tags; everyone introducing themselves to people beside and behind them; greeters; and, the need for more trips for beginners.

Member Involvement?  SKABC is a volunteer-based club and believes that membership in the club is greatly enhanced with increased participation by all members. Opportunities for involvement include: join the executive and/ or its committees; become an instructor, co-instructor or course coordinator for the training program; and, lead and/ or coordinate trips. Ideas to promote increased involvement include shadowing course and trip leaders, new member paddle trips, more bed and breakfast trips, and volunteer appreciation, in many forms, throughout the season.

Demographics and Attracting Younger Members?  Although no official analysis has been completed, it appears the average age of a club member has increased (gasp!). Believing a vibrant club is one which covers all age groups, the group discussed: sea kayaking races or rallies; family days; affiliation and possibly discounts with outfitters; mentoring; and, marketing as either a new executive position or part of the responsibilities of the Vice President position.

Communication With Other Clubs?  By moving forward with the creation of a provincial alliance of clubs, communication between clubs could evolve in a very positive, effective manner. Ideas regarding improved communications include: expansion of the web site and getting the message out that we’re part of one larger group of independent sea kayakers.

What is SKABC’s Culture?  Thoughts around this ranged from: wilderness travelers, independent spirit, openness within the group; non-hierarchical; and, non-competitive.

(Continued on page 12)

Membership News from Edwin Bussey
Several members from last year have not renewed their memberships. Probably some people forgot to renew because they did not receive a membership form in the Paddle as in previous years. To renew your membership please fill out the membership form and mail it with a cheque to the address on the form:

SKABC Mailing Address  
Box 751, Station “A”  
Vancouver, BC  
V6C 2N6

You can check to see if you have renewed your membership by following the link: http://skabc.org/members/directory.pdf.
Sea Kayak Association of BC — Membership Application

REQUIRED INFORMATION – please print: ____New ____Renewal (check one)
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ____________________________________________ Date: ________________________
Address: __________________________________________________ Phone (Res): __________________
City: _____________________________________________________ Phone (Bus): ___________________
Postal Code: _______________________________________________ Email:________________________

Family member on membership – please provide first and last name (required for insurance purposes):
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

☐ Please send newsletter by regular (snail) mail
☐ I would like to volunteer for the club. I’m interested in _______________________________________________
     (e.g., trips, training, library, meeting programs, social events, newsletter . . . .)

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:
Type(s) of Boat(s) Owned:_____________________________________ Occupation:____________________
Experience – year you started paddling:___________________________ Birth date:_____________________
Personal Rating (circle): Beginner / Intermediate / Experienced / Expert

Annual Membership Fee:
♦ Membership year runs from April 1 to March 31
♦ Membership fees are $45.00 per year/per person or family
♦ New members joining after October 1 pay a pro-rated fee of $25.00

Monthly meetings: see website or newsletter for date, time and location
Website: http://skabc.org
Club mailing address: Box 751, Station “A”, Vancouver, BC, V6C 2N6

WAIVER
THE FOLLOWING WAIVER OF LIABILITY MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOUR MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED.
I RELEASE the Sea Kayak Association of BC, its members, officers, directors, employees, contractors and agents from any liability, claims, demands, damages, actions or causes of actions arising out of or in consequence of all bodily injuries, death or property losses or other damages which I may suffer arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in the sea kayaking activities of SKABC even if those injuries or losses or damages may have been caused solely or partly by the negligence of the Association or any of its members, officers, directors, employees, contractors or agents. I acknowledge that I am aware of the inherent risks and hazards associated with participating in sea kayaking activities and I freely and voluntarily assume all these risks and hazards. This Waiver and Release of Liability is binding upon myself, my personal representatives, heirs and next of kin.

ALL ACTIVE KAYAKERS INCLUDED IN THE FAMILY MEMBERSHIP MUST SIGN THIS WAIVER
Participant Signature Date Witness/Guardian

____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
SKABC Retreat – Where Do We Go from Here? - cont.

III) Surplus Funds

Surplus funds of approximately $62,000 arose primarily from the receipt of a government grant which was in excess of the project expenses but was also paid twice in error by the provincial government. Despite numerous attempts, SKABC was unable to repay these monies. Ideas for these funds include: specialized training courses for instructors; seed funding for a provincial umbrella organization; and, conservation-related initiatives.

IV) Conservation

The club’s mandate appears to be expanding from a historical focus on “fun, safe recreation” to the seriousness of protecting the environment.

A huge thank-you to everyone – Rick as facilitator and all members who participated to ensure SKABC’s continuance as a buoyant, successful sea kayaking club. If you have any comments or suggestions or you would like to participate in next steps, please contact any member of the executive.

Winter Paddling

—a message from the Trips Committee

I have only been paddling in BC, in fact, in the Northern Hemisphere for about 2 years, and last year was my first experience of paddling in the winter. Before that, water sports had been very much in, as much as on the water, and definitely a warm water experience.

Simone had said “So what? You just dress up warmer, that’s all!” So that is exactly what we did.

I will never forget my first real winter paddle. It was November, last year. We launched from Vernier Park, from the dock. Dry feet – so civilised!

It had snowed the night before and the snow was fresh on the mountains, right down into the suburbs. I was so excited I could hardly contain myself. I learned, not only is it fun to paddle in the cold weather, but gloves and a toque are essential and so is a hot thermos. My preference is green tea, but choose your own!

Since then I have paddled in all sorts of weather. I do like paddling when the weather is warm and the sun is out, but the paddles in the pouring rain are the most memorable. I have yet to paddle in the snow, and probably never will, out of choice.

When there is snow on the slopes, there are other things to do, but last winter season was so short, we paddled until the end of November, and were out in our kayaks again by February.

If you would like to join us through the colder weather, please let us know you are interested, and we will keep you informed. Paddles will be arranged at the last minute and subject to cancellation at short notice, but I am sure we will still get out.

Contact Trips Committee:

Terry McGinnis
- terrymc@telus.net
- tel 604-872-5898
- cel 604-866-7777

Maureen Benzon
- Maureen@skabc.net
- tel 604-929-1035
- cel 778-866-1035

Club Property Log

This is a listing of club property and where it currently resides:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Held By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banner 1</td>
<td>Steve Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banner 2</td>
<td>Steve Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ (propane)</td>
<td>Cindy Carson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display stand</td>
<td>Elisa Kreller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid Kit</td>
<td>Karin Rennert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flipchart / whiteboard</td>
<td>Steve Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Ray Saadien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKABC Club brochures</td>
<td>Tony Clayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKABC Club Business Cards</td>
<td>Paul Rae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection of Marine Charts</td>
<td>Dan Wicke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHF Radio 1</td>
<td>Tim Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHF Radio 2</td>
<td>Cindy Carson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHF Radio 3</td>
<td>Karin Rennert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHF Radio 4</td>
<td>Rob Leeson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHF Radio 5</td>
<td>Dan Wicke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrophone 1</td>
<td>Maureen Benzon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrophone 2</td>
<td>Maureen Benzon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>