

Agenda for the SKABC Annual General Meeting

Date: November 2, 2026

SKABC's 2026 AGM will be a virtual meeting held using the Zoom platform. To facilitate voting, the meeting will be open to SKABC members only. **In order to be able to cast a vote, each member must pre-register individually.** A pre-registration link will be emailed to each member. After pre-registering but prior to the meeting, members will be emailed a personal Zoom link for the AGM. Zoom log-in will open at 7:00 PM. Please log in with your first & last names. The AGM will start promptly at 7:30 PM.

Agenda

1. Verify quorum (10% of the voting membership)
2. Adopt the agenda.
3. Adopt the minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting.
4. Treasurer' report and adoption of 2025-2026 Financial Statements.
5. Executive Committee reports.
6. Election of Directors and other Executive members.

A nominating committee has created a slate of nominees. The current list is presented below but the slate of nominees may change prior to the AGM. Nevertheless, **all positions are open for additional nominations from the floor.**

A secret ballot may be requested.

SKABC's Bylaws require a minimum of five and a maximum of nine Directors.

a. Nominations for the Board of Directors:

- i. President:
- ii. Vice President:
- iii. Secretary:
- iv. Treasurer:
- v. Director at large:
- vi. Additional directors: **Volunteers needed!**

b. Nominations for other positions on the Executive

- i. Communications Officer: **Volunteers needed!**
- ii. Howe Sound Marine Trails Stewardship:
- iii. Librarian: - **Volunteers needed!**
- iv. Marine Trails, Parks, and Conservation Officer:
- v. Membership Officer: **Volunteers needed!**
- vi. Outreach & Promotions Officer:

- vii. Programs Officers: **Volunteers needed!**
- viii. Safety Officer: Maureen
- ix. Social Events Officer: **Need a Volunteer!**
- x. Social Media Officer:
- xi. Training Officer:
- xii. Trips Officer:
- xiii. Volunteer Coordinator: **Need a volunteer!**
- xiv. Website Manager: **Volunteers needed!**
- xv. Past President: George Prevost (not open for nominations)
- c. Other non-executive volunteer positions:
 - i. Social Committee members and event helpers: **Volunteers needed!**
 - ii. Assistant Training Officer: Nick Heath
 - iii. Trip Postings: Roberto Dominguez, Paul Barrett
 - iv. Trips Committee: George Prevost
 - v. Zoom Coordinators: Klaus Boedker and Gordon Dobson-Mac

7. New Business

- 8.** The location and date of the next Annual General Meeting have not been confirmed but normally our AGM is held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of November (November 1, 2027).

SKABC Annual Reports – 2025-26

President's Report

Quirine Schuyff

Our membership rose slightly this past year: from 232 on Oct 1, 2025 to 239 on Oct 1, 2026.

We started the year with our 80s themed winter party in January at the Billy Bishop Legion in Kitsilano, which was well attended and provided an amazing potluck feast for all attendees. Mike G. donated some prizes to be given away for best outfits as decided by crowd applause. Thank you, Mike!

We got our calendar outlining our courses, workshops, training and trips ready early in the year and received many positive comments for doing so. Despite this, we did have to cancel a navigation course and a weather course because of inadequate sign-ups. The Boat Handling and Rescues course at White Pine Beach was popular again.

Thank you to Kelly, Kallie, Nick and Maureen for organizing our calendar, and of course to the instructors and leaders!

This year's trip destinations included, among others:

- God's Pocket
- Howe Sound,
- Jericho Beach and area
- Bowen Island
- Galiano Island
- Southern Gulf Islands
- Hot Springs Cove
- Johnstone Strait
- Broughton Archipelago

In March we discovered a data breach on the SKABC website which of course caused some concern although it appears that no harm was done in the end. We thank Susan and Richard J., Kevin A. and Ken B. for their many hours of work to get the website functional online again.

Our Vice President Esmeralda C. stepped down part way through the year and I'd like to thank her for the time she did serve. The role was left vacant for a while and then filled by Nick H.

Our treasurer, George P, did some shifting of funds and accounts to make our finances more streamlined and easier to understand. He also worked to make sure that our savings were invested to maximize the interest they earn while still making sure that money would be available when needed.

We had one delegate (myself) attend the Paddle Expo at Cultus Lake. With fuel cost and parking charge, and little interest shown in our booth, we decided it was not a worthwhile event for us to take part in again.

Our Spring Fling included three paddles: to Thwaytes Landing, Bedwell Bay, and Twin Islands. Instead of a picnic at Cates Park, we had dinner at Good Co. in North Vancouver. Everyone seemed to enjoy this venue. It was comfortable, the food was good and there was no need to worry about the weather.

We were pleased to be able to host a Big Brothers and Big Sisters Paddle at Rocky Point Park once again. This is a great day for a great cause and always leaves those who volunteer with warm feelings in their hearts. Thank you to Calvin S. for organizing and to those who paddled and helped on shore.

We did not hold summer picnics this year because they have been poorly attended the past few years.

The annual Saysutshun-Newcastle Island long weekend had our best attendance yet. It was a great weekend as it always is! The weather was perfect. Many trips went out, including to Malaspina Galleries and the cliffs beyond, to Hudson Rocks & Neck Point Park, and to Jesse Island and its caves. There was also a Burning Man themed dance party and potluck and plenty of relaxing done at camp.

Our Fall Fling included a paddle to Twin Islands with thirteen participants and one to Thwaytes Landing with seven participants. The weather was perfect once the early morning fog wore off. We again headed to Good Co. for dinner where those who had volunteered their time with the club this year were treated to their meal by the club. A nice gesture of thanks from SKABC which was greatly appreciated.

Our monthly meetings on Zoom included many varied presenters and speakers and breakout rooms for socializing. We also had the pleasure of two in-person meetings. Thanks go to Esmeralda for getting the ball rolling on those and to Andrea for helping with set up and some treats and drinks. These meetings included a safety demo and a trips symposium.

Aside from events, courses, trips and workshops, we have a group of dedicated folks who work hard to keep many of the marine campsites in our region clean and cared for. I can't mention all that was done but I'm thankful I wasn't doing some of it! Special thanks go to Cynthia K., Ken B., and Nick H. who are often organizers of these trips and tasks while also participating themselves. Each Howe Sound site also has a site steward who checks in periodically to make sure the site is in good shape.

As the club's fiscal year end approached, I emailed the executive to see who would be staying in their roles. It turned out that there were six positions to fill so we formed a committee and got to work. I'm very pleased to say that most of the positions are now filled and I'm looking forward to moving into the coming year with both our new executive members and our returning ones.

As we move into the 26/27 year we hope to have a "special planning meeting". The intention is to get feedback and see how we might do some things differently to improve our member experience. One goal will be to try to improve attendance at certain workshops

As always, we encourage members to share ANY ideas for our club. This could be for workshops, speakers, events or any other thoughts. We would love to hear from you!

Thank you to all of the executive members who served this past year. I've been happy to be part of this team and I'm looking forward to another year of SKABC fun and adventure!

SKABC 2025-10-01 to 2026-09-30

Overview:

Our finances seem to fit well into three different categories. We have been using these to form the framework for our accounting structure:

- **Day-to-day operations—the Operating Fund**

- This category includes everything related to the day-to-day running of our club and, more generally, to anything that pretty much any kayaking club would be dealing with: trips, training, insurance, communications, etc.
- Funding comes from our membership fees.
- A budget is prepared at the start of each fiscal year (October 1) setting targets for revenue and expenditures for each of our executive portfolios.
- Money for the fund is kept in two accounts:
 - Our Operating Fund Chequing account is used to accept and make payments. Transactions are free as long as we maintain a minimum balance, but we don't earn any interest.
 - Our Operating Fund Savings account holds extra money that is not needed to cover soon-to-occur transactions. It earns interest for us.

- **Special projects—the Special Projects Fund**

- This category covers much of the work that our club does that is not related to day-to-day operations, and it includes a variety of activities that a typical kayak club is not likely take part in. Many of these, such as our work supporting Howe Sound recreation sites, our work on improving the infrastructure in Simson Park and our yearly Big Brothers Big Sisters outreach event, are intended to benefit the broader paddling community rather than just our club members. However, this category also includes activities that support the long-term health of the club—our volunteer appreciation dinner, for example—and initiatives that do not recur every year, such our purchase of Transport Canada mandated first aid kits for use by trip leaders and course instructors.
- Funding comes from grants for some of the projects which we undertake and from money taken from our Legacy Fund (see below) for the rest.
- Money for the fund is kept in two accounts which together typically hold only whatever is needed for currently ongoing projects:
 - Our Special Projects Fund Chequing account is used to accept and make payments. Transactions are free as long as we maintain a minimum balance, but we don't earn any interest.
 - Our Special Projects Fund Savings account holds extra money that is not needed to cover soon-to-occur transactions. It earns interest for us.

- **Long-term investments—the Legacy Fund**

- Money in this fund is intended to be used for projects that benefit the larger paddling community rather than just our club members. It is also used for initiatives that promote the long-term health of our club or that do not recur every year. (See “Special projects” above for examples of each.)
- The money in this fund was accumulated over many years but the total has remained about the same for the past few years. It has come variously from grants, from payments that the club has received for services rendered and from surpluses from many years of operating budgets.
 - The majority of the money in this fund is kept in GICs to enable us to earn as much interest as possible. (By holding a number of non-cashable GICs renewing on different dates we are able to earn the best interest available while still being able to access significant amounts of money when we need it.) The rest of the

money is held in our Legacy Fund Savings account where it is available at any time while still earning some interest.

This year's results:

The Operating Fund:

We collected approximately \$2,240 more in membership dues, course fees and camping fees than we spent on our day-to-day activities this year. Reasons for this include:

- Somewhat lower than expected administration costs
- Minimal expenditure on library materials
- Higher than expected membership
- Lower than expected costs for monthly meetings
 - Room rentals for in-person meetings were less than expected
 - Two in-person meetings rather than the planned three
 - Fewer outside-the-club presenters meant fewer honorariums to be paid
- First aid kit supplies did not need to be replaced as expected
- Social committee expenses were much less than expected:
 - The upcoming holiday party venue was not booked as far in advance as usual, so payment did not come out of the 2025-2026 budget as expected
 - The social component of the Fall and Spring flings was held at a restaurant so there was no need to pay for picnic shelters
- Training revenues exceeded training expenses by much more than expected
 - Most courses were fully subscribed
 - Our most expensive course-Safe Surf Launching and Landing—was not run this year.
- Higher than anticipated attendance at our Newcastle/Saysutshun camping event

Technology is the only area where we spend more than expected this year. Costs for our e-newsletter, email and website were significantly higher than in the past.

The Operating Fund Chequing account includes a “float” of \$6,000. This is needed to ensure that we maintain the minimum balance required to avoid fees during the early part of the fiscal year when a lot of our major expenses are incurred but we have not yet collected much revenue from the coming year's membership fees.

The Special Projects Fund

The Special Projects Fund operates on a project-by-project basis with money for each project being added from grants and/or from our Legacy Fund when the project is initiated. When a project is completed any surplus goes into the Legacy Fund and small deficits, incurred with the permission of the Directors, are covered from the Legacy Fund. The Special Projects Chequing account includes a “float” of \$2,000 to ensure that we maintain the minimum balance required to avoid fees.

The current balance in the Special Projects Fund is approximately \$6,230. This includes the \$2,000 float and a small amount of interest that will eventually be transferred to the Legacy Fund.

The Legacy Fund

The current total in the Legacy Fund Savings account and Legacy Fund GICs is approximately \$76,660. (The \$6,000 “float” in the Operating Fund Chequing account and the \$2,000 “float” in Special Projects Fund Chequing account might also be considered as part of the Legacy Fund since they are to be maintained in their respective accounts “permanently” rather than being part of the money budgeted to be spent. This would bring the overall total for “Legacy” funds to approximately \$84,660.)

Overall Results

The total for all of our funds at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year was approximately \$95,800, about \$1,800 less than the \$97,600 total at the end of the previous year. A net expenditure of approximately \$6,900 on various special projects was partially offset by a net surplus of approximately \$2,200 in our operating budget and approximately \$2,890 of interest earned on our investments.

Summary of SKABC Finances: 2026-09-30

Assets and Liabilities					
Assets					
Vancity website			Our records		
Op. Fund Chequing	\$1,799.03	↔	Op. Fund Chequing	\$1,799.03	✓
Op. Fund Savings	\$11,100.41	↔	Op. Fund Savings	\$11,100.41	✓
SP Fund Chequing	\$2,000.75	↔	SP Fund Chequing	\$2,000.75	✓
SP Fund Savings	\$4,235.94	↔	SP Fund Savings	\$4,235.94	✓
Legacy Fund Savings	\$11,185.48	↔	Legacy Fund Savings	\$11,185.48	✓
Legacy Fund GICs	\$65,038.77	↔	Legacy Fund GIC 22	\$65,038.77	✓
Shares	\$440.65	↔	Shares	\$440.65	✓
Other funds			Our records		
Stripe	\$0.00	↔	Stripe	\$0.00	✓
Total assets	\$95,801.03	↔		\$95,801.03	✓
Liabilities					
None	\$0.00	↔	None	\$0.00	✓
Total liabilities	\$0.00	↔		\$0.00	✓
Assets minus liabilities	\$95,801.03	↔		\$95,801.03	✓

SKABC Fund balances	
Operating Fund:	
Operating Fund Chequing	\$1,799.03
Operating Fund Savings	\$11,100.41
Stripe	\$0.00
Total	\$12,899.44
Special Projects Fund:	
Sp. Proj. Fund Chequing	\$2,000.75
Sp. Proj. Fund Savings	\$4,235.94
Total	\$6,236.69
Legacy Fund:	
Legacy Fund Savings	\$11,185.48
Legacy Fund GICs	\$65,038.77
Shares	\$440.65
Total	\$76,664.90
Total of all Funds:	\$95,801.03 ✓

Operating Fund Financial Report for the 2025-2026 fiscal year (as of 2026-09-30)

Operating Fund reconciled balances (chequing and savings accounts combined)			
Date	Actual balance (including float)	Current float	Balance (excluding float)
2025-10-01	\$10,661.61	\$6,000.00	\$4,661.61
2026-09-30	\$12,899.44	\$6,000.00	\$6,899.44
Gain/loss:	\$2,237.83	\$0.00	\$2,237.83

Category	Revenue			Expenditures			Net (Remaining to collect/spend)
	Budgeted	Actual	Over/under target amount	Budgeted	Actual	Over/under target amount	
Administration				\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,010.29	\$ 489.71	\$ 489.71
Communications				\$ 150.00	\$ 291.60	\$ 141.60	\$ - 141.60
Contingency				\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Library				\$ 250.00	\$ 43.04	\$ 206.96	\$ 206.96
Membership	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,315.76	\$ 315.76	\$ 150.00	\$ 97.89	\$ 52.11	\$ 367.87
Miscellaneous		\$ 154.99	\$ 154.99				\$ 154.99
Programs				\$ 1,650.00	\$ 847.82	\$ 802.18	\$ 802.18
Safety				\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Social		\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,002.47	\$ 1,497.53	\$ 1,537.53
Training	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,027.66	\$ 972.34	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,869.63	\$ 2,130.37	\$ 1,158.03
Trips	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,298.80	\$ 298.80	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,022.80	\$ 327.20	\$ 626.00
Website		\$ 67.36	\$ 67.36	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,370.00	\$ 670.00	\$ - 602.64
Interest earned		\$ 100.41	\$ 100.41				\$ 100.41
Surplus/deficit carried over	\$ 4,661.61	\$ 4,661.61	\$ 0.00				\$ 0.00
Grand Total	\$19,661.61	\$19,666.59	\$4.98	\$19,661.61	\$12,767.15	\$6,894.46	\$6,899.44

Special Projects Fund

Summary:

SP_Chequing account (reconciled balance):	\$2,000.75
SP_Savings account (reconciled balance):	<u>\$4,235.94</u>
Total in Special Projects Fund:	\$6,236.69
Unredeemed interest:	\$35.94
Float:	\$2,000.00
Total remaining in 2025-26 and active projects:	\$4,200.75

Projects:

Project name	Details	Source of funds	Budget	Start date	Completion date	Left to spend/deficit
Howe Sound Stewardship 2025-26	Supplies and basic maintenance	Legacy fund	\$600.00	2025-10-01	2026-09-30	\$266.48
Outreach 2025-2026	Big Brothers/Big Sisters paddle and...?	Legacy fund	\$1,000.00	2025-10-01	2026-09-30	-\$15.07
Conservation, etc. 2025-2026	Invasive plant removal events, BCMT fee, etc.	Legacy fund	\$500.00	2025-10-01	2026-09-30	-\$22.31
Club Development 2025-2026	Volunteer recognition event, volunteer incentives, etc.	Legacy fund	\$2,000.00	2025-10-01	2026-09-30	\$1,008.81
Simson Winter/Spring 2026	Trail work and bear boxes	\$5,000 BC Parks grant and \$1,000 from the Legacy Fund	\$5,000.00	2026-01-01	2026-06-30	\$0.00
Kayak safety stickers (Round 2)	To purchase 1000 safety stickers for kayaks	Legacy fund	\$980.00	2026-04-10	2026-05-15	\$0.00
Broom busting May 2026	Broom busting on Prevost Island	ORCBC grant	\$300.00	2026-05-29	2026-09-09	\$0.00
SKABC recognition plaques	Plaques to put on fixtures in parks that SKABC facilitated	Legacy fund	\$555.70	2026-05-01	2026-06-06	\$0.00
Safer Decklines project	Purchase deckline material for sale to members	Legacy fund (\$1,875 loan to be repaid from sales)	\$1,875.00	2025-12-01	2028-12-01	\$332.94
Simson Park 2026-2027	Various projects at Simson Park	\$3,500 BC Parks grant (Expenses initially covered with a \$5,000 loan from Legacy Fund with \$3,500 to be repaid from grant when received)	\$5,000.00	2026-06-01	2027-05-30	\$2,629.90
Total remaining in active projects:						\$4,200.75

Trips

Maureen Benzon – Trips Officer

We started the year with 2 day paddles in January in local waters and a conservation long weekend (travel by water taxi)

February hosted 3 more day paddles in local waters

March saw 3 day paddles in local waters and a weekend at a cabin on Gambier Island

April saw our first weeklong paddle in the Discovery islands and a day paddle

May to September is summer paddling.

Regular Wednesday evening paddles left from Jericho beach. There were also 6 day paddles, a bioluminescence evening paddle, circumnavigation of Bowen Island, 3 weekends in Howe Sound, a weekend on Galiano Islands. Longer trips included a mentored trip, the Southern Gulf Islands, God's Pocket, Hot Springs Cove, Johnstone Strait, Broughton and at least 4 weekends.

The various paddles at the Spring and Fall Flings were well attended, as was the dinner at the pub after the event.

There was a weekend of paddling at the SKABC annual Saysutchun-Newcastle weekend – camping and kayaking was very well attended with about 27 campers enjoying the weekend.

Watch the Calendar for winter paddling opportunities

I would very much like to thank all the volunteers who have led or assisted with trips this year. There are too many to mention individually, but they are very appreciated. Getting out on the water is what we are all about and in addition to the formal trips, many “buddy” trips occur every year. Our trips offerings are very important to members, and we are always ready to welcome new leaders. If you would like to find out more about leading a trip, contact the trips committee. We can offer training and mentorship.

Training

Kelly Robertson- Training Officer:
Nick Heath - Training Assistant

In 2026 SKABC offered the following training opportunities to members:

6 of our core courses
3 clinics and workshops
4 practice sessions.

Courses and workshops that were offered early in the season were generally not well attended causing a number of cancellations, but later offerings were mostly fully subscribed and often waitlisted.

Dates and locations of training events depend on the training needs (including water temperature and currents, parking availability, and site crowds), availability of our limited number of instructors, and our ability to secure camping or venue bookings early enough to set a schedule. While we try to be alert to long weekends, special days and time of year, our options are sometimes limited.

When planning for 2027 we will seek to understand reasons for low registrations in 2026. The schedule will be posted as early as possible so members can plan their weekends and watch for registrations to open. Members are encouraged to monitor Group Forum announcements and the training area of the website for updates.

We welcome suggestions for workshops, clinics and practice sessions. Ideas can always be sent to Training2@skabc.org.

We are also seeking members interested in assisting with or leading courses, practice sessions, clinics, or workshops, or hosting an event at their home or community space in a strata.

Many thanks to the members who volunteered to lead or assist with the training events on the calendar in 2026. Many participated in two or more events. Feedback from students was very positive.

Details of the 2026 offerings are listed below in chronological order:

VHF Radio Function Clinic with Nick Heath 14 March, 2026 (morning session) - cancelled

VHF Radio Review Workshop with Nick Heath 14 March, 2026 (afternoon session) - cancelled

Knots & Tarps – 28 March, 2026 with Bob Salo and Kevin Hall fully booked 8/8 with waitlist

Navigation – 18 & 19 April, 2026 with Rick Davies, Nick Heath & Kelly Robertson - cancelled

Weather – 24 – 26 April 2026 with Katya Yushmanova - cancelled

Trip Leader Course – 22-24 May 2026 with Andrew Mylly and Maureen Benzon 4/6 registered

Beginners Course – 30 & 31 May, 2026 Philip Kubik, Ted Lam and Kelly Robertson fully booked 8/8 with waitlist

Rescue Practice Session – 30 May, 2026 with Maureen Benzon and Quirine Schuyff booked 7/8

Currents Course – 12 – 14 June , 2026 Katya Yushmanova and Don Froese fully booked 6/6 and wait listed

Rescue Practice Session – 27 June ,2026 Klaus Boedker and Peter Kearney booked 6/8

Boat Handling and Rescues – 27 & 28 June, 2026 Philip Kubik, Limor Friedman, Ted Lam and Kelly Robertson 10 booked (extra assistants were brought in to accommodate more students)

Rescue Practice Session – 18 July, 2026 Peter Kearney fully booked 4/4

Rolling Practice Session – 23 August, 2026 Maureen Benzon and Andrew Mylly fully booked 8/8

Social

Andrea Kovits– Social Committee Chair

This past year our Club enjoyed several opportunities to connect, socialize and learn. The first big event for the Social Committee was a well-attended Holiday Potluck Party with a 1980's theme at the Billy Bishop. Kudo's to Quirine for her detailed planning and organizing which made for a fun evening for all. The potluck table was full of delicious contributions and those in costume made the evening a hit. Special thanks to our engaging MC, Christine, and Mike for organizing the many donated prizes. And a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the evening a success.

The Social Committee organized the Spring and Fall Fling Dinner Parties, at Good Co Northwoods. These events followed the paddles from nearby Cates Park. Both were well attended with 30 participants each time who enjoyed the outdoor space in perfect weather for the season. Attendees appreciated the varied menu, excellent service, and of course, the camaraderie.

The Social Committee was pleased to provide refreshments at the two SKABC in-person meetings at Trout Lake. Both evenings were well attended, with excellent programs, and the refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Programs

Esmeralda Cabral - Programs Officer

This year's club meetings (November 2025 – October 2026) were held primarily on Zoom, with in-person meetings held in March and June, both at Trout Lake Community Centre.

Meetings continued to be well-attended, with 40-60 participants each month, the majority of whom were SKABC members. Meeting notices were posted on the website about two weeks ahead. It was decided that the zoom link should not be listed publicly until then, to cut down on potential scams. Meeting notices were also included in the club newsletter and on SKABC social media sites. In addition, an e-mail blast was sent to members either through the club forum or as a Brevo note, however, the timing for these was inconsistent (e.g. for the October meeting, it went out less than an hour ahead of the meeting time) and it was unclear whose responsibility this should be. Going forward, it is recommended that the Programs Officer be responsible for this last "blast" and that it be done one day ahead of the meeting.

Featured speakers and the titles of their presentations are listed below. Speakers external to SKABC were provided with an honorarium (H). Presenters who are members of SKABC were not offered an honorarium as their involvement is considered a volunteer contribution to our club. Presenters who are promoting their business to SKABC members were also not offered an honorarium.

November 3, 2025 – On Zoom – SKABC AGM

Presentation on Howe Sound Marine Trails by Ken Bigelow

December 1, 2025 – "Remote and Remarkable: Discovering Great Slave Lake by Sea Kayak"
Dan Wong and Hannah Goodings, owner and senior guide at Jackpine Paddle

- 58 people attended

January 5, 2026 – "Trip Planning and Safety"

Mike Gilbert, Paçantic Risk Management Corporation and SKABC member

- 50 people attended

February 2, 2026 – "The Wolves of Nootka, or how a kayaker got sidetracked"

John Kimantis, author, journalist and explorer, Wild Coast Publishing

- 64 people attended

March 2, 2025 – In-person meeting at Trout Lake Community Centre

Social mixer by Susan Jensen & safety talk and video presentation by Maureen Benzon

- Approx. 60 people attended

April 13, 2026 – "Wildlife in a Unique Light"

Liron Gertsman, Wildlife photographer (H)

- 51 people attended

May 4, 2026 – "Co-ops and Future Boat Ownership," Robert Holley from Club Locarno

“Dry Suits 101,” Alex Kozma from Orange Canoe

- 47 people attended

June 7, 2026 – In-person meeting at Trout Lake

Mini trips symposium, organized by Maureen Benzon and coordinated by Programs

- Approx. 50 people attended

No meetings were scheduled for July and August

September 14, 2026 – Cancelled (see * below)

October 2, 2026 – “Expedition Eelgrass”

Miranda McGillivray and Spencer Shields (H)

- 43 attended

Esmeralda has stepped down from her role as Programs Officer. Speakers have not been confirmed for the remainder of 2026 or for 2027, however, two people have agreed to make a presentation upon further contact. The names of these two speakers have been provided to Club President, Quirine, for scheduling in December 2026 and/or 2027. Esmeralda will provide assistance to the new Programs Officer to allow for a smooth transition of duties.

It is hoped that some meetings in 2027 will be held in person. This year’s meetings proved popular and it was clear that much of the membership is interested in having these continue on a regular basis. In-person meetings provide an opportunity for prospective members to meet current members in person and to ask questions in an informal atmosphere, before committing to becoming members. They are also valuable as a community-building experience for our membership and would be an important addition to regular club activities.

Appreciation is extended to club members who suggested speakers for our meetings this year or who stepped up to give a presentation. We hope that members will continue to contribute in this manner to keep the topics relevant to their interests. Thank you also to everyone who attended the meetings. It’s always more satisfying to be part of a bigger audience.

As always, your feedback on presentations is very welcome. We use your comments and impressions to try and enhance the experience for everyone in future club meetings.

*The September 14th meeting had originally been planned to be a combined in-person meeting (with a slide show on “Highlights and Challenges of our Paddling Season”) and social club picnic. There was difficulty finding a venue, and also, due to unforeseen circumstances, neither the Programs Officer nor Social Committee Chair would be able to attend. After careful consideration and several discussions between the President and Programs, the decision was made to cancel the meeting.

Looking at attendance for the September meetings in previous years (2025 saw only 15 people attend), it made sense to cancel the meeting. Traditionally the September meeting is held on the second Monday of the month (because of the Labour Day holiday on the first Monday) and there is always some degree of confusion, and low attendance. The September meeting is only

one week after the Newcastle Island club weekend where there is usually a large gathering of members and a potluck dinner on the last evening. Early September is also a busy time – some members are still out on trips, others are preparing for back-to-school, and it is suggested, going forward, to reconsider whether to hold a meeting in September and if so, when. In hindsight, and for some of the reasons mentioned above, September is a not a good month to have an in-person meeting.

Safety

Maureen Benzon – Safety Officer

There have been no safety incidents this summer. A few cuts, scrapes and bruises have occurred on the ferry or on shore. This is where incidents usually happen, especially when we are tired after a long day's paddle, or in one case rushing across the rocks to better see a whale! Remember to take extra care of fallen logs and slippery rocks.

Adequate care has been taken to watch the weather and stay shore bound when the weather has dictated a shore day.

Howe Sound Marine Trails

Ken Bigelow - Howe Sound Marine Trail Steward

1. Site Visitor Logbooks

In January 2026, new site visitor log books were delivered to each site for the new year. The replacement logs books from 2025 are holding up better to the weather and the ink is not running on the pages.

2. Howe Sound Grants & Funding

In March of this year SKABC received 3,000 from RSTBC for funding this year's operations and maintenance for all of the Marine sites. Plans for replacement of damaged signs for Islet View, and replacement equipment for each site.

The Howe Sound Stewardship team also installed donation signs at each of the marine sites that have QR codes link and direct to a BCMT donation page that links to our SKABC accounts.

3. Bain Creek

Bain Creek received 4 visits throughout this year for general maintenance, cleanup and work party ideas for the fall 2026 season.

4. Ramillies Channel

Winter storms in 2025 deposited wreckage from a floating dock on the south (private) end of the beach and buried the wreckage of a powerboat at our end of the beach. Our site steward Cynthia Kennedy and her team have excavated the powerboat wreckage. In Spring of 2026, working with Ocean Legacy Foundation we had the dock and powerboat wreckage removed from the site at no charge to SKABC. Thanks so much to Ocean Legacy and Chloé Dubois!

5. Islet View

Katie Meredith did 4 visits including 1 overnight work party. Three large alder hazard trees had fallen were bucked up into firewood for visitors. Trail clearing for possible additional tent pads has started, the damaged sign were removed and is awaiting repairs / replacement, a large wasp nest in the walls of the washroom was removed for guest safety.

6. Thornbrough Chanell

Ken Bigelow & Steve Best did 8 visits to this site for regular maintenance, washroom maintenance and site cleanup, fire ring removals. Hazard trees were also addressed and removed at this site.

7. Zorro Bay

Mike McHolm did numerous site visits and cleanups throughout the 2026 year. Ken Bigelow & Steve Best did numerous site visits for washroom cleanup/maintenance to improve the functionality of this composting toilet. 2026/2027 will require picnic table repairs.

8. Tantalus Landing

Hazard tree removals were performed at this site. Dave, our site steward, made spring, summer and fall site visits with no reported issues.

9. . Apodaca – Bowen Island

We have a brand-new site steward for Apodaca. Please give a warm welcome to Courtney Kohnen! Plans for the 2026/2027 year will include adding SKABC signs / log books to the kiosk and starting to perform regular site visits.

10. Howe Sound Marine Trail Steward

Both Ken Bigelow & Steve Best will continue on as the Howe Sound Marine Trail Steward's for the 2027 year.

11. Thank you

Thank you to Site Stewards Steve Best, Philip Kubik, Cynthia Kennedy, Ken Bigelow, Katie Meredith Kovacic, Mike McHolm, Dave Berrisford and Courtney Kohnen. 2026 has been an amazing year with no big issues or surprises thanks to this amazing team!

Marine Trails, Parks and Conservation

Cynthia Kennedy – Marine Trails, Parks and Conservation Officer

It has been another busy and rewarding year for conservation, stewardship, and collaboration on behalf of SKABC. I'm pleased to share some of the highlights from our work to protect natural spaces and support the enjoyment of our parks and marine trails.

None of this would be possible without the enthusiasm, hard work, and generosity of our SKABC volunteers and the many organizations and individuals who work alongside us.

Grants and Conservation Initiatives

One of my goals this year was to strengthen my grant-writing skills and identify funding opportunities to support SKABC's conservation work. I'm delighted that our efforts resulted in **three successful grants**, helping us turn several worthwhile projects into reality.

December 2025 – BC Parks Enhancement Funds (PEF)

SKABC received \$5,000 for projects at Simson Provincial Park on South Thormanby Island. We sourced and purchased two aluminum food caches and arranged their delivery to BC Parks yards on the Sunshine Coast. Working with Sunshine Coast BC Parks staff, we coordinated storage until suitable weather and tides allowed for their safe transportation to the park.

March 2026 – Grant Reporting and Reimbursement

I completed and submitted the required documentation for the 2025–2026 BC Parks Enhancement Fund projects. This reporting confirmed that SKABC's projects had enhanced BC Parks, and respected cultural and conservation values, thus meeting the requirements for reimbursement.

Highlights of the Year

January 2026 – Simson Provincial Park Trail Work

Nick Heath led a group of hardy SKABC volunteers, joined by a neighbouring Buccaneer Bay property representative, for a work trip to Simson Provincial Park on South Thormanby Island. The team worked on the trails and identified and removed invasive plants.

It was a great example of volunteers and local neighbours working together to care for a special place.

April 2026 – Apodaca Provincial Park, Bowen Island

In April, SKABC enjoyed a day trip to Apodaca Provincial Park, collecting marine debris. Some large pieces were too big for kayaks, so I contacted the Howe Sound Area Supervisor with BC Parks to coordinate their removal. I also worked with BC Parks to renew the 10-year SKABC–BC Parks Partnership Agreement, which supports our stewardship of Apodaca and Simson Provincial Parks.

April 2026 (cont'd)

Nick Heath coordinated SKABC volunteers to join a Gambier Island Conservancy event. 6 SKABC members were taken by water taxi to work alongside the conservancy members to remove invasive holly.

May 2026 – Funding for Simson Provincial Park

SKABC passed my motion to apply for a BC Parks Enhancement Fund grant for Simson Provincial Park. In July, we were delighted to receive approval for **\$3,250** for the 2026–2027 project year.

This funding will support trail marking, trail maps design and installation, historical signage recognizing early settlers, and invasive plant removal.

Nick Heath and I consulted with several local partners to gather their input and support:

- Sunshine Coast BC Parks Rangers
- Buccaneer Bay private land holding adjacent to Simson Park
- A descendant of the original landowner who donated the land to BC Parks

These connections are important in ensuring our work reflects local knowledge and contributes positively to the park.

May 2026 – Parks Canada Conservation Project, Prevost Island

SKABC held its first conservation event with the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve Conservation Managers and Biologist. Volunteers removed invasive Scotch broom on Prevost Island.

We also obtained a waiver of overnight camping fees at Prevost. A \$300 Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's BC Trails Day grant to help cover parking or BC ferry fees. A reduction in costs helped make the trip more accessible for participating SKABC volunteers.

This was an exciting step in building our relationship with Parks Canada and expanding our conservation partnerships.

May 2026 – Recognizing SKABC Volunteer Contributions

SKABC approved my motion to fund 10 plaques recognizing the club's contributions to BC park infrastructure, such as tent platforms, picnic tables, and food caches. Our dedicated volunteers provide and maintain these amenities for everyone's enjoyment.

The plaques will acknowledge their contributions and raise awareness of SKABC's stewardship efforts.

June 2026 – Yellow Flag Iris Removal, Widgeon Creek

SKABC partnered with Metro Vancouver Natural Resource Management to cut and bag the flowers and seed pods of invasive Yellow Flag Iris in Widgeon Creek. Removing these before the seeds spread helps limit the further establishment of this invasive plant.

June 2026 – Food Caches, Fire Safety, and Trail Signs at Simson Provincial Park

Nick Heath and I joined BC Parks personnel at Simson Provincial Park to install two aluminum food caches and put up no-fire signs at Farm Bay and Pebbly Beach.

We also continued installing the many, many handmade and painted trail signs Nick created over the winter. These signs help hikers navigate the park's trails and make exploring the area easier and more enjoyable.

July 2026 – Continuing Trail Sign Installation

Nick Heath and SKABC volunteers returned to Simson Island to install additional trail signs. Nick's many hours of work over the winter have provided a valuable resource for park visitors, and it was rewarding to see the signs gradually take their place throughout the trail network.

September 2026 – Trail Marking and Invasive Plant Removal

SKABC organized another work party at Simson Provincial Park on South Thormanby Island to put our BC Parks Enhancement Fund grant to good use.

We purchased and installed 300 reflective trail markers, and BC Parks approved our installation method. Two BC Parks Rangers and the caretakers of neighbouring Buccaneer Bay supported the trip. We installed about 200 markers, and I'm grateful to the Buccaneer Bay Caretakers who will install the remaining 100 over the next few months.

Along with installing trail markers, volunteers brushed the trails and removed numerous English holly plants. English holly is a particularly challenging invasive species because it grows in both sunny and shaded areas, while birds readily spread its seeds.

It was a productive two days of teamwork, trail improvement, and conservation. As the saying goes, *teamwork makes the dream work!*

October 2026 – Simson Provincial Park Trail Maps

Work is continuing to design new trail map signage for Simson Provincial Park. Nick Heath has dedicated considerable time to walking the Simson trails and verifying coordinates to help ensure the map is accurate.

I have been liaising with BC Parks to ensure the Maps meet their detailed standards. We are also consulting with other stakeholders to confirm appropriate trail names and map symbols.

We look forward to returning to Simson Provincial Park in spring 2027 for a work party to install the completed trail map.

Ongoing Communication, Collaboration, and Member Engagement

In addition to our on-the-ground conservation projects, I have continued to support SKABC through the following activities:

- **Outdoor Recreation Council of BC:** Attended quarterly virtual round-table meetings as SKABC's representative, keeping informed about broader outdoor recreation and conservation initiatives.
- **BC Marine Trails Cross-Club Meetings:** Participated in virtual meetings with other BC sea kayaking clubs to share experiences, ideas, and information about marine trail stewardship.
- **Club Communication:** Shared invitations to SKABC meetings with the BC Marine Trails Cross-Club network to encourage participation and strengthen connections between clubs.
- **Conservation Communications:** Prepared conservation trip listings, trip reports, and information for SKABC's social media channels to highlight our activities and encourage member involvement.
- **Welcome to New Members:** Spearheaded the revival of SKABC's welcome-letter program. More than 50 letters, accompanied by an SKABC decal and boat identification decal, were prepared and mailed to new members. This is a simple but meaningful way to welcome people to the club and introduce them to the work we do.

Looking Ahead to 2027

There is plenty to look forward to in the coming year, including the installation of the new Simson Provincial Park trail map, continued trail marking and maintenance, invasive plant removal, and further opportunities to work with BC Parks, Parks Canada, local communities, and fellow outdoor recreation groups.

Our grants and partnerships help make these projects possible, but it is the commitment of our volunteers that brings them to life.

A Heartfelt Thank You

A huge thank-you to all the SKABC volunteers who participated in these projects throughout the year. Whether you helped with grant-funded improvements, carried supplies by kayak, installed signs, removed invasive plants, collected marine debris, or supported our work behind the scenes, your contribution has made a real difference.

I am also grateful to our partners at BC Parks, Parks Canada, Metro Vancouver Natural Resource Management, the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, local community

groups, and the neighbouring Buccaneer Bay caretakers for their support and collaboration.

The willingness to give your time, energy, and service is greatly appreciated. Together, we are making a meaningful contribution to the conservation of the places we love to explore.

With thanks and appreciation,

Cynthia Kennedy

*Conservation, Parks, and Marine Trails Officer
SKABC
October 2026*

Membership

Susan Jensen – Membership Officer

SKABC had 239 members on October 1, 2026 which represents continued growth since 2020. Thanks to the tenacity of our club's leadership and dedicated members, SKABC is nearly back to pre-COVID membership numbers. Here are our numbers from the past 10 years.

- 239 - 2026
- 232 - 2025
- 216 - 2024
- 210 - 2023
- 222 - 2022
- 205 - 2021
- 207 - 2020
- 247 - 2019
- 269 - 2018
- 255 - 2017
- 225 – 2016

Club dues are \$45 for an individual and \$10 for the first additional family member. Other family members can join for free. This year Cynthia Kennedy kindly mailed all new club members a welcome letter with a reflective decal and boat ID decal.

Social Media

Mike McHolm – Social Media Officer

Goals for club social media:

- Expose the Club to paddlers and potential new members
- Disseminate information about events, meetings, trips etc. with consistent brand identity.
- Provide a platform for members to have their club activity media posted online (photos, videos etc.)
- Display our values of sportsmanship, teamwork and community spirit.

Over the past year I have posted club meetings and events on Facebook, Instagram and X. On YouTube I continue to share club presentations when videos are supplied. The posts have a consistent look to them in terms of branding/identity.

Social Media accounts as of October 2026:

- **Facebook** 1400 Followers (up 117 from last year)
- **Instagram** 588 Followers (up 41 from last year)
- **X** 105 Followers (up 20 from last year)
- **YouTube** 114 Subscribers (up 14 from last year)