



Keep Paddling

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Editorial

Peter Ritchie

Hi fellow paddlers.

In a moment of madness, I have taken over the club newsletter to let Alan concentrate on his other duties! Most of the "old-timers" will know me but I need to introduce myself to the latest intake of paddlers from the winter pool sessions. I have been into paddling from the age of 15, back in 1975! I did most of my early years as a Slalom paddler and did a complete season of white-water racing in 1978/79. I have always had at least one canoe or kayak throughout my life, sometimes only paddling once or twice a year and at other times, going back to slalom competition events in K1 and C1. I have been with Angus Canoe Club since its first few weeks and am a L3 kayak coach. I am struggling to juggle shift work/family commitments and still find time to paddle so that is why I have not made it up to the pool sessions this year. I have been on the river four times in 2008 and done coach update though! I am sure I will catch up on you all eventually. Please feel free to send me your plans/trip reports and anything of interest for the newsletter.

Keep Paddling!

Pete



Diary of Events:

6th April: Open Canoe Trip - Challenge Trials

13th April: Open Canoe Trip: River N.Esk

20th April: Open Canoe Trip - Challenge Trials

26th/27th April: The Glasgow-Edinburgh Challenge

10th/11th May: Seaton Park slalom. Easy, novice event on a safe site in Aberdeen

Glasgow-Edinburgh Challenge 2008

Glasgow-Edinburgh Challenge 2008 – Takes place over the weekend 26/27 April and once again promises to be an event not to be missed! The start point is in the middle of Glasgow and it ends the following day in the middle of Edinburgh. The route is along the Forth and Clyde canal and stops at the Falkirk Wheel. Much needed respite overnight and then into the Union canal for the second day. Last year those taking part over both days stayed in the F1 motel at Falkirk.

Expressions of interest are what is required at the moment. Once the committee has an idea of numbers and experience etc we will be better placed to formulate our entries and get sorted out. As we have done in previous years, it is anticipated that there will be training events leading up to the big day(s). These will be good fun in their own right, and should help members get used to the idea of paddling, (reasonably) fast, over a long route, and in a craft they might not have been in before! Interested parties please pass their expressions of interest to Alan (alan@anguscanoecub.org.uk) for the time being.



Support party – A much needed element and do as valuable a job as the paddlers. We couldn't do it without you. If you feel you can support in this role (you are the parent of a child that wants to paddle, perhaps), then we welcome your support too!



Some of last year's pictures, and the SCA information on the next page:

Glasgow to Edinburgh Canal Challenge 26th - 27th April 2008

Will you accept the challenge to paddle from the centre of Glasgow to the centre of Edinburgh along the Millennium Link? Either paddle alone or work in a team of up to 12 paddlers, in Singles, Doubles or Fours, Kayaks or Canoes.

Over the years a wide range of canoes and kayaks have been used to complete the course, racing K1's and K2's by those looking for fast times, open Canadians, sea kayaks and even plastic river boats by those looking for more of a challenge. The Open Team Relay class allows up to 12 people to paddle in any combination of canoe and /or kayak. A group of Sea Scouts regularly enter this class using Open Canadians with 3 paddlers on board, enabling paddlers of a wide range of age and ability to take part.

The event is over two days with set stages.

Day 1 - Forth & Clyde Canal from Speirs Warf, Glasgow to Falkirk Wheel, c. 24 miles.

Day 2 - Union Canal from above Falkirk Wheel to Lochrin Basin, Edinburgh, c. 31 miles.

Commemorative t-shirts and certificates are awarded to all participants who successfully complete the course, and there are trophies for the fastest entries in each of the classes. But more important is the satisfaction of having achieved the challenge and crossed the country, and the experience of witnessing the wonders of the canals, ancient and modern.

Entries will be accepted in the following classes:

A - K1/ C1	One paddler, paddling the whole course.
B - K2 / C2	One crew, paddling the whole course.
C - K1 / C1 Relay	2 paddlers as a team, paddling alternate sections.
D - K2 / C2 Relay	2 crews as a team, paddling alternate sections.
E - K1 / C1 Relay Team	up to 6 paddlers as a team, paddling alternate sections.
F - K2 / C2 Relay Team	up to 6 crews as a team, paddling alternate sections.
G - Open Team Relay	up to 12 paddlers as a team, paddling alternate sections using any combination of canoe & / or kayak.

**More information and entry forms are available [click here](#)
or from:-**

Margaret Chapman, 193 Binniehill Road, Cumbernauld G68 9JH

Tel. 01236 457081 e-mail- mhckayaking@aol.com

Will you accept the challenge?

Pete

The AGM

Here is a list of the “new” committee.

It took two attempts this year, but we finally got the AGM process completed and the new committee, which is quite similar to the old one, is listed below:

Office Bearers

Chairman	Alan O'Neill
Vice Chair	Brian Crowe
Secretary	Iain Taylor
Treasurer	Sue Houstoun
Meets Secretary	Remains vacant
Training Officer	Derek Siddall
Equipment Officer	Sandy Houstoun
Child Protection Officer	Gair Couston
Junior Rep.	Vacant
Ordinary Members	Ian Cochrane, Colin Hall, Paul Clark

For details of the jobs they do and contact points, see http://www.anguscanoecub.org.uk/contact_us.htm

2008 New Year Paddle

It has become a tradition that Angus Canoe Club gets out on the water as soon as practical after New Year. This year was no exception and we ended up with two New Year paddles.

Episode one involved four coaches going for a run from Edzell to Northwaterbridge on the 2nd January. Not a very epic trip for a bunch of hardened white water paddlers you think? Well, it was certainly exciting enough due to the river N. Esk being at the point of spilling over its banks. The three kayakers had a good time dicing with HUGE waves and Brian in the open boat spent a lot of time removing huge amounts of water from his boat! I have used a couple of Alan's pictures to show the event. The first one to prove I do get out on the water sometimes and the second how powerful the river was then.



Episode two was the official club trip, and it ended up being very well attended. I think it is especially good that we can have a trip with a mixture of Open Canadians and kayakers together. I had no option but to work that day, but I hear the coaches, especially Gair, had a hard time keeping everyone on the right lines and safe! It had all the ingredients for a great trip: plenty water, freezing cold and finishing up in the pub. Everyone was smiling at the start anyway.