



# Beaver Tales

Official News Views and Muse of the Beaver Canoe Club of BC **September 2020**

## September Beaver Canoe Club Meeting

Date: **Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

Location: Your Home

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Instructions: 1. Beforehand, download the free Zoom app on your mobile device or computer (computer is better). 2 Watch for the email on [Sept. 9th](#) before the 7:30 p.m. meeting. It will have a link to click and join. If you can't see or be heard, click or tap on the video and microphone icons so there is no line through them. If you can't see the icons, click or tap your screen and they will appear. --Madeline

**Call For Presenters!! Bring your canoe adventure to the little screen (Zoom) – “The entertainment could be your summer paddling adventure. If you would like to tell others about your paddling trip, contact Madeline, the Entertainment Director, [entertainment@beavercanoeclub.org](mailto:entertainment@beavercanoeclub.org)**

### **Presidential Decree:**

**William Butler Yeats:** “All changed, changed utterly.

*The Christmas Party is cancelled.* Not everything is cancelled, except there will be no face to face club meetings this year. We will continue to entertain you monthly on Zoom. The executive will continue to meet on Zoom. We are looking at ways to keep the members and the club functioning. The main mission – paddling- is doable. Paddling can be managed with proper social distancing, sanitizing and masks. The hardest thing are shuttles but as you will read in President's Report, Rivers Week worked and shuttles can be done in relative safety. –Phil R., President, Beaver Canoe Club, BC

## **President's Report – Phil R.**

*[Last month our President stated that the members would have to patiently wait for his address on the state of the union-within-diversity of the Rivers' Week cohort paddling pods. Phil kept his commitment this month as the following treatise does undoubtedly attest to his eight fingers on the pulse of the paddling public known as the Beaver Canoe Club. While the Editor was tasked with the prospect of exercising the prerogative of his position to abridge, modify, abbreviate, summarize, shorten, reduce, or cut – in short, edit –he takes full responsibility for the decision to allow full reign rein to the Presidential analysis, insight, and opinion, of 2020's Rivers' Week –(Editor)]*

### President Report Rivers Week 2020

Your ageing President has to be reminded about who came to Rivers Week. So, it is with great trepidation I attempt to review Rivers Week 2020. I cannot remember all, especially children, whose names I never get straight and that goes for some people. I know you so well but then I forget. So, forgive me, if your left out, it's not intentional, it's my little synapses are loose. Many thanks to Jill and Kara for reminders.

#### ***Gaps in Prez's Memory Detected!***

I will attempt to review Rivers Week keeping in mind that I did not camp at Coalmont, too crowded, too mosquito ridden and that I arrived at Picard Creek a week early on June 20 to a host of kayakers like Sasha, Gordon Stark and Will Bird plus Heather, Denise, Marlene and other canoeists. Dan McGinnis was laid up with gout and he ain't even a royal. . Also following Rivers Week I returned to the Nicola so it's all a bit of a blur.

Well, I can safely say it was like no other Rivers Week. On June 26 while camping at Picard Creek where I had been since June 20<sup>th</sup>, I received an email from Carey "... *I will not be at the upper Similkameen and might not make it to Granite City...I'm confident you can organize these trips*". P.S. he added 64 members have signed up..."

I did not share Carey's confidence. Keep in mind when he asks who can do a canoe over canoe rescue and I put up my hand he says "Oh I don't count you". So panic set in, Carey was not coming, maybe until the Nicola, van breakdowns, 65 people, high water and me.

#### ***Prez's Confidence Shaken!!***

I phoned Dan Burnett for help! Then Trish McLeod for more help! I ran the problem through my head over and over. Friday, I drove up to the ranchers put-in, paced back and forth looking for plan A. Then, because I had no plan A or plan B, I decided at least to leave a red highway cone near the gate and went back to Picard Creek to plan- plan A. At Picard creek, I received another bomb shell a message from Dan Burnett that their Volk camper had broken down in Hope and I was on my own.

What to do? How many trips would Carey miss? What am I leading? Who are these 65 people? Anne and Alain weren't coming, nor John and Madeline nor Jim Slade, Big Mike, Jon Drent, Gordon nor Jen. So who were the 65 people?

Panicking, hardly sleeping, I tried to dream Plan A unsuccessfully. I awoke before sunrise Saturday July 27, 2020 and I was at the rancher's put-in by 8 am. Two hours early! I waited for god knows who to come. It was now rain and sun. I ran the lack of plan, mostly feeling dread that something would go wrong and I would be responsible for the probable death toll that would be in all the media.



The upper ***Similkameen River*** was high! The road down from the rancher's looked bad. At the last-minutes before 10 Gerry sent a message he was late, but on route.

By 10ish Trish with Dave – his back out, Scott, Claude, Patty, Kara, Leigh, and Jiri had arrived and the others also filtered in: Stephanie, Greg, apparently my son Keira-don't remember him, Mark and his son Erick or was it the other son? Dave Apps, Don Smith, Allison and Max, Tim with child? Then I'm blank.

### ***Phil 's fears fueled by 'skeeters!***

Shuttles were organized and we were now all shuttled to the river put in. Now safety talk in the most mosquito ridden put-in of the year. As we had a group talk, down came Gerry and Marie. But Gerry had lost his wet suit. Furiously he looked. Kara lent him her small farmer john, too small for even slight Gerry. After words and exasperated looks with Marie, he found his under a pile of camping gear and we were all set and departed on very high moving water.

Now our group of essentially canoeists started off: Trish and Scott tandem, Max and Allison tandem, me in a borrowed Blackfly, Bob, Gerry, Don, Leigh, Patty, Tim, Claude and Don plus others I forget - Paul Saccioloto and? It was a good paddle, few eddies and little playing, iffy weather. Dumps here and there.

***June 28, 2020 Upper Tulameen.*** Thankfully Carey has arrived in the night. Most camped at Coalmont, others (renegades) stayed at Picard and met up at Coalmont in the morning. The Tulameen high and I, Carey, Greg, Scott, Stephanie, Luke, Claude, Chris, Jordi, Pat and Trish,

Tim, Mark, son Eric or was it the other and others whom I forget had a great paddle but skipped mystery channel due to high water and a big hole. Oh, I forgot Greg showing off at the **Tulameen** had a spectacular dump and I thought Kara rescued him. He says "No" and claims he ached that the following day.

The Squad as I call them: Marlene, Denise and Heather camped at Picard and led their own group on the **Tulameen** June 27 with kayaker Sasha and two local kayakers, Will Dick and Gordon Stark, the day before and Sasha ran the mystery channel).

**June 29, Tulameen House Rocks**, big group and I forget all of participants but the Wakelings including Finn. And Paul and Kamloops ranger Joe Ramsdale joined in by now with the usual suspects. Some renegades stayed in Coalmont and did the mystery channel on the upper **Similkameen** and the **Tulameen** again: They included Greg, Stephanie, Sebastien, Kirsten, her dad Clay, Allison and Max, Paddy and Kara. The rest of us did to **House Rocks** some ran it Scot and Carey, Dan, Monica and Mati and some others and the rest of the plebeians portaged - at least it wasn't too hot. A great level and paddle.

**June 30-July** many of us, paddled the **Coldwater**, other notable renegades including Greg Scutt stayed at Picard Creek. The rest of us moved to Larson Hill to Juliet Creek for one day and the next Juliet Creek to the Interchange, the best **Coldwater** paddling in years.

Following the interchange, I had the day before rushed to Merritt to Nkwala for camping. It was pretty full but I roped off an area. The others started to arrive; even the Burnetts arrived with daughter Mati in tow. (They drove to Hope to get their volk camper now fixed. Now it was Claude's turn. His truck was struck by a big rock near Petit Creek and it had to be towed back to Merritt. By the end of Rivers Week, it was driveable thanks to Canadian Tire and a credit card. Claude stranded in town decided to walk back to Nkwala 25 km when I found him on the road.

**The Nicola** was pumping over 70 cfs, so Carey felt it was too high. We contented ourselves with **Spilus Creek** and more Coldwater which worked well, but we were all a little disappointed about **the Nicola**. Some like Leigh Burton, Gerry and Marie abandoned ship in the rain and crowded camp ground with its wall to wall trailers and let's not forget the fireworks and the fear it caused my and others' dogs!

Oh did I mention Carey dumped! He was paddling with Mark's wife Colleen where **Spilus Creek** enters **the Nicola** and they had a major swim. On another Spilus trip I dumped but the President's dump is hardly news-worthy.

There were no happy hours, no Boston Pizza, no swimming pool and showers but a few nice evening fires, singing, 4-5 guitars with the Guimond family prominently playing; Trish on her squeeze box and Scot entertained us around the fire. Then the iffy weather. Janice had arrived with Sampson, Ellen with my dogs, my son Micah, his wife Yael and my grandchildren Lev and Ezra showed up as did Ellen Ho and Paul Saini and their children; Chris Kovac and Julie with their children and their Scotty dog. Tim's family but they were already up. It was not nice/nice camping but pleasant with more friends like Ciaran and Ruby who came through from Myrtle lake joining us. Later that day Ciaran and Micah who has not paddled in years paddled from Sunshine Bridge in my kayak and my borrowed Blackfly and had fun. Ciaran dumped, Micah rolled first time in 10 years--I was impressed.

Rivers week came to a soggy end. People returned some to the **Coldwater**, others left for home, but Rivers week refused to end.

### ***Rivers' Week Redux on Nicola!***

In the weeks following another group, with Einar and Linda, Ellen and I and a few Beavers, some Dogwoods, Neil, Sasha, Gordon Stark and two kayakers Greg Ball and his friend perhaps others from the past returned to the Nicola. We, the reconstituted group, ran the Nicola now perfect 40-5- cfs for several days taking out each time at the bridge past the canyon. Then weeks later on August 1, Carey, Kara and a number of Beavers including Skylar came back to do the Nicola.

### ***Kootenays Contingent!***

Meanwhile the Kootenay's became popular in August, several groups did the Kootenay and nearby rivers: including the Squad Heather, Denise Dan, Marlene now joined by Einar, Phil Bates and Dan and then later in August the Burnetts with Cathy Lew and James Fraser and others also did the Kootenays. Meanwhile I understand that other Beavers were out paddling **Myrtle Lake, Nation Lakes**, and elsewhere.

It was an eclectic Rivers Week - really several rivers weeks and more serendipitous than past but that was **Rivers Week 2020**- see you next year!

Phil R

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*Bob P. submitted the following as a reference for those interested in paddling Vancouver Island:*

I'd like to share with you, a valuable resource for paddling on Vancouver Island. He is a good friend named Marek who does extensive paddling and documenting of the available paddling places there and the nearby islands. His focus is primarily freshwater paddling though he does paddle some ocean. Marek is a friendly, interesting and avid paddler; being a webmaster also means he is able to share his experiences on a well presented website for others to access as a resource. He is also a wood canvas canoe restorer and the only person I know who still paddles almost exclusively in a wood canvas boat. Marek has been paddling most of his life with experiences that range from eastern to northern to western Canada and was fortunate to get to know Bill Mason.

Marek's biography is on his canoevancouverisland link below. If you happen to be a wood canoe buff you can also reach Marek at his restoration website Copper Canyon Canoes below as well under the "Contact Us" links. Finally, you can also reach out to him on his Canoe Vancouver Island facebook group which has 500 active members covering all aspects of Vancouver Island Paddling.

<https://www.canoevancouverisland.com>      <https://www.coppercanyoncanoe.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/538571423004402/>

For anyone interested in paddling on Vancouver Island I'd recommend you check out his information.

Happy Paddling!  
--Bob P



## Trip Reports

Access the Beaver Canoe Club website for recent Trip Reports: 2 on the Chilliwack R. (Lower & Upper), Sumas R., and Nicola R. <http://beavercanoecub.org/category/trip-reports/>; Drama on the Chilliwack Visit Admin Area: <http://beavercanoecub.org/wp-admin/>; Title: August Weekend on the Nicola Visit Admin Area: <http://beavercanoecub.org/wp-admin/>

### *Spectacular Rescue on the Chilliwack*

Kara joins the ranks of Beavers that have performed a successful canoe over canoe river. It was August 9<sup>th</sup> on the upper Chilliwack River. There were several dumpings and one of those has written a trip report that has been posted on BeaverCanoeClub.org.

Phil dumped in Trailer Park Rapid, a grade III boulder strewn section of the river near the end. Kara dashed in. But enough for here. You can see the trip and spectacular rescue for yourselves at: CanoeBC.ca -> videos

--Mini report by Carey R.)

### : HELP WANTED :

**Your photos of Trips can be a value-added asset to this newsletter. They will be considered for inclusion based on story and space. Please send your best snaps of recent adventures to [editor@beavercanoecub.org](mailto:editor@beavercanoecub.org)**

**\*PLEASE NOTE\***: there is room for two people in the Lakewater 1-4 + *Instructor's Course* starting **September 18**. (This is a privately run course). ([carey@learn2canoe.ca](mailto:carey@learn2canoe.ca))

### Canoe Sales & Rentals

**Hellman & Clipper** new sales & parts

5 Brands of paddles, North Water outfitting

Rope bags \* Straps \* Wood-web seats \* Stainless bolts

Minor repairs & custom cut seats & yokes /thwarts

Rentals incl. Hellman Prospector 17.5', Clipper Ranger 17's

Old Town Discovery 169 & 174, Esquif 16 Prospectors

Expedition Wheels \$50/week, flatwater canoe \$100/3days

**Text or call...David for information: 604-240-0503**

[david@middletonsboats.com](mailto:david@middletonsboats.com)

# BCC Trips

## September 2020

<b>Sun Aug 30</b>	<b>Lower Coquitlam River:</b> Gr 1 & Lake Water	A meander through Port Coquitlam and Colony Farm to the Fraser River	Contact: Dave A <a href="mailto:davidbapps@hotmail.com">davidbapps@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Sat Sep 5 to Mon Sep 7</b>	<b>Adams River Weekend:</b> Gr 3	Paddle the Adams Canyon during this Labour Day Weekend campout. River skills and full outfitting required.	Contact: Carey R <a href="mailto:carey@canoebc.ca">carey@canoebc.ca</a>
<b>Sun Sep 13</b>	<b>Cheakamus River:</b> Gr 2 & 3	A wavy, bouncy white water run near Squamish. Solid river skills and full outfitting required.	Contact: Anne G or Alain P <a href="mailto:alain.p.prince@gmail.com">alain.p.prince@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sun Sep 20</b>	<b>Harrison River:</b> Gr 1 and Lake Water	An all-day family friendly journey from Harrison town site to Kilby Provincial Park	Contact: Dave W <a href="mailto:westell@shaw.ca">westell@shaw.ca</a>
<b>Sun Sep 27</b>	<b>B C Rivers Day Cleanup:</b> Walking and maybe Gr 2	Join Phil & Andrie on a cleanup of the Lower Seymour River. This is a walking trip, but paddling is possible with the right group.	Contact: Andrie B <a href="mailto:andriebates@hotmail.com">andriebates@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Sun Oct 4</b>	<b>Fraser River Yale to Hope:</b> Gr 1 + (and Gr 4 if you get on the wrong line!)	Begin this trip at a gold panning beach and feel dwarfed as you navigate the wide and fast Fraser River to Hope.	Contact: TBD

Remember to check the BCC Webpage Calendar at <http://beavercanooclub.org/events/> for the latest updates!

If you are having problems locating the trip contact, please email the trips director [Westell@shaw.ca](mailto:Westell@shaw.ca)

