



Beaver Tales

Official News Views and Muse of the Beaver Canoe Club of BC

JUNE 2021

JUNE Beaver Canoe Club Meeting (Online)

Date: **Wednesday, JUNE 9, 2021**

Location: *Online* Time: 8:00 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 [May 12](#) before the 8:00 p.m. meeting. It will have a link to Click and Join. (If you can't see the icons for audio and video, click or tap your screen and they will appear at lower screen).

Join Dan B. (Dan the Man --"Whitewater Man"), and your fellow Beavers as he presents: The Kettle River - a family friendly canoe camping river with several options, and that has introduced dozens of families to overnight canoe tripping through the Christian Valley, Kettle River Provincial Park, & Rock Creek areas. -----Dave B., *Director of Entertainment*



President's Report

What has the Beaver Canoe Club done for you lately?

More than a year has passed since Beavers met socially and about 9 months since we have had designated trips -- so what good are we? They say the sum is greater than its parts and I agree, but I also think some of the parts are pretty amazing.

Without *too* much navel gazing, the Beavers continue to exist and amongst us we continue to informally paddle and await our master's plans to re-open. I am still hopeful, as I write, that Basic Paddlers will go ahead and if not, then at least River's week. The latter looks very likely.

Is the Club functioning? Yes, but not as it has in past years. The Executive continues to meet by Zoom and the members continue to join on Zoom for great entertainment --with surprisingly high turnouts as a result! In fact, it may be hard to rope the members to actually come to Burnaby Club meetings now we have found we can stay home comfy and drink alcohol while we watch the past documentary adventures. (Well, it's a bit like simulated sex: it's entertaining but it doesn't beat the real experience if I can still remember that).

Still those that seek the real experience are finding ways to paddle --unofficially--, but safely. There have been lakewater and white-water paddles, in small groups, informal groups, and an unusual amount of shuttling by bicycle. It is a sight to see the many oldsters huffing and puffing and shuttling by biking up Riverside Drive along the Seymour and others places.

Dave Westell our official trips leader has found ingenious ways to keep his tiny unofficial groups on the water. I've lost touch with big Mike, but I assume, knowing him, lakewater is happening now and again.

Recently on the Alouette (south or is it north Alouette?), Westell took his group to hell and back clambering over logs and pushing his group to the edge of exhaustion. Beneath his jolly exterior there beats the heart of a ruthless task master.

There have been others: I hear Carey, Kara and Mark did the Upper Seymour, and that is a great heart-in-your-mouth paddle. Some Mamquam and even a little Capilano for the braver. usually fringe, paddlers.

Romances seem to have bloomed but I will not reveal what I know due to possible sensitivities and I know of no divorces; (although I would not be surprised to see my wife divorce petition arrive if the lock down continues at Chez Rankin). Perhaps I will gossip, just a little. Recently Kara and her "friend" Evan and I paddled the lower Chilliwack. He is just beginning his canoe career and had borrowed one my fleet of Rival's

We all (the trip included, dare I say, Karen Loven, Gary and Zak --*phew*-- "kayakers"), paddled the lower Chilliwack from Osbourne Road to Lickman road. Evan did dump, but hey it was his 3rd time on white water. He seems to be a keeper and he recently purchased Don Reid's *Impulse*, and we expect to see him at Rivers' Week.

I know Beavers' men-of-a-certain age prefer the name "Dave", and we have a plethora of Daves, but Trish's Dave, as I prefer to call him, has done a great job on entertainment while he awaits a back operation originally planned for months ago at Lion's Gate, yet endlessly postponed for COVID. Sadly, his plan to be healed for River's Week has now passed. So, Dave

(Trish's Dave) get well and we'll meet again, don't know where and don't know when, but we'll meet again.

The fraternal brotherhood of "old boys", not necessarily Beavers but including Beavers, and the sisterhood of younger women, many of them Beavers, have managed to paddle the Seymour, deal with the ridiculous parking restrictions, weird locks*, and bicycle shuttle safely.

All in all I think the Beavers will survive this plague and continue on successfully in future but I sense that the routine is now altered and we cannot guarantee the future will look completely like the past but at least there is a future.

Prez Phil

Training Report – Carey@CanoeBC.ca

Basic Paddlers

Saturday June 5 & 12, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM (Deer Lake, Burnaby)

All registrants must be members before May 28. *There will be no onsite registration.*

Intro to Moving Water – **Note Change**

Registration starts June 7.

June 23, 7:30 PM (Zoom).

Thursday July 1st. Nicola River, Merritt. (See *The Rivers' Week Guide* in the Members section of BeaverCanoeClub.org)

One Day Advanced Paddling Technique Clinics

See: Learn2Canoe.ca

[Note: The above are pending status of the Public Health Orders at the time of event]

Trips Director – Dave W.

Check website for any updates as to current or planned trips at <https://beavercanoeclub.org>

POLING: What the heck is that?

No, it has nothing to do with collection information for elections or a brass pole on a bar stage. It is a very old skill that predates the modern canoe and has been used by people to move various craft around waterways all over the globe.

For those newer to the canoeing world it may come as a surprise to know that poling was an integral part of a riverman's skill set and actually a revered competitive skill that was practiced through the sixties and seventies. Old time names of fame like Horace Goudie, Hans Weber, Joe Schehle, and many others harken back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century's when the canoe was the workhorse of the waterways. Being able to move up and downstream was important in the pre-motorized watercraft era. But that's enough about history....

The Beaver Canoe club is fortunate enough to have a resident poling instructor who is none other than our esteemed Trips Director Dave W. who has shared his poling knowledge and skills through informal courses in the past and most recently finished a course with a few new students, myself included. We covered basics in flat water and more advanced skills for moving water.

For me, the opportunity to connect with a very old skill in the canoeing repertoire was a lot of fun. The added skill of exercising strong balancing skills while working my way up a class two rapid was only superseded by turning around to come back down while standing. If you want to put a different spin on eddying out in moving water, give it a shot poling --that's an experience the first time! I was poling our 17 foot Kevlar Prospector and wondered how in the world I'd be able to manoeuvre it anywhere coming downstream. Anyone who's seen my limited white water skills knows that me eddying out in my 14 foot prospector is a gamble and I'm usually sitting low and tight!

Our group practiced the final course elements and completed the assessment on the Alouette River in Maple Ridge just below Davidson's pool. We had a beautiful day and excellent water conditions. If it's something that interests you let us know and we can assess the level of interest in the club. Be forewarned that initially you are using a lot of muscles you may not normally use but as you get more comfortable the strain eases (I'm a long way from that!). But as with most skills, the better you get, the less effort it takes to perform the skill.

With the basics under my belt adventure up one of our local refining these skills will not hopefully I'll have an update



I'm looking forward to an streams nearby. Nurturing and happen by just talking, so about it sometime in the future.

L-R- Dave, Bob, and Jim at Alouette R., May 2021

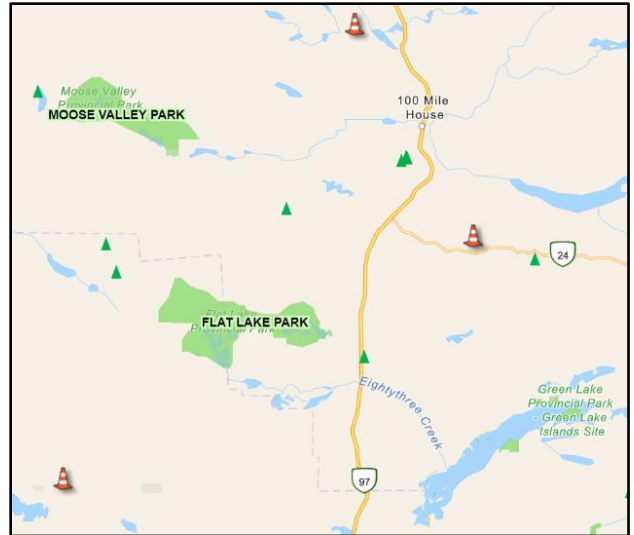
[Editor's note: Leigh and I began with Dave teaching the basics in Fall of 2012, completing the flatwater skills plus a little modestly moving water. Then, early this Spring the prospect of being close to others yet not within a distance of a 10 foot pole, and renewed enthusiasm of Bob, and especially instructor Dave W, prompted a poling revival and further practice, but this time in Class 2 at Hayward dam, and later at Alouette. Thanks Dave!]

BC Canoe Routes

BC Canoe Routes by Madeline W.

There are several less known canoe routes in B.C. Last month I wrote on Turner Lake Chain which I paddled in the 80's. Two other canoe camping areas I paddled decades ago were the Moose Valley and the Davis lake Chains. At the time it was hard to find information on them. But since then, both have become BC Provincial Parks!

Moose Valley Canoe Route consists of 12 small lakes approximately 30 km west of 100 Mile House in Moose Valley Provincial Park. I recall it was a pleasant place to explore over a few days. Another key memory I have is that it is important to bring your own drinking water as the water in the lakes has lots of minerals (hard water) and makes terrible tea! Since it is a park, there is the typical park information on it and notes and reviews on the internet so check it out. https://bcparks.ca/explore/parkpgs/moose_val/ takes you to a site with a brochure and map and park information. Kamloops Trails also has a write up on moose Valley Canoe Route <https://kamloopstrails.net/moose-valley-circuit/>.



Davis Lake Chain as the locals know it, is in Flat Lake Provincial Park. This park was established in 1995 and is about 20 km SW of 100 Mile House. Within the park there is a series of small, interconnected lakes.

Decades ago, I joined a friend's school group for their May long weekend (3 day) canoe trip on these lakes. I was glad I was with people familiar with the area and camping spots as it was not signed. One of my memories is of the wooden "box" styled "toilets" paddlers had installed at strategic locations. Perhaps they still exist. To get there I turned off highway 97 south of 100 mile and travelled west. At the time, this lake chain was only accessible via private property which we had permission to cross. I read that the road now extends past this property for public access, but if you are considering exploring this area first check to see how and if you can still access this canoeing area. I have found it difficult to find information about the Davis Lake Chain on the internet so have listed a few websites below for a start. If all else fails, I could try to contact people I paddled with. Kamloops Trails seems to have the best information at <https://kamloopstrails.net/flat-lakes-circuit/> There is the BC parks site at: https://bcparks.ca/explore/parkpgs/flat_lk/ but it has less information than Moose Valley. See also the following site with some information: <http://britishcolumbia.com/things-to-do-and-see/parks-and-trails/cariboo-chilcotin-coast/flat-lake-provincial-park/>

IN OTHER NEWS

Bridge Over Urban Waters

As learned from May's presentation by Dave W., many of our local paddling occurs on waterways that are urban, suburban, or in semi-rural environments. Except for our far-flung members who often reside in bucolic pastoral areas of Beautiful BC, the population and accompanying industrial activity pressures of the Lower Mainland can wreak havoc on what would have at one time been similar to those paddling opportunities found among the who's who of the hinterland. Leigh sends us the following expose of a local opportunity whose paddling value may improve over time with mitigation and conservation efforts, though that may require struggling against upstream political will and frowning downstream financial waves: *(thanks to Leigh ear-to-the-ground B.)*

<https://www.tricitynews.com/local-news/a-creek-not-a-ditch-115-million-eyed-for-battered-urban-coquitlam-area-creek-after-a-10-year-delay-3757063>
(TriCity News, online, May 6, 2021, by Diane Strandberg)

Put-In Put Off

Planning a Burrard Inlet trip from Port Moody? You may have to avoid Rocky Point as a point of ingress, unless you limit your paddle to four hours, or choose to park elsewhere and walk a ways back to the launch area: *(again, thanks to news-tipping Leigh B.)*

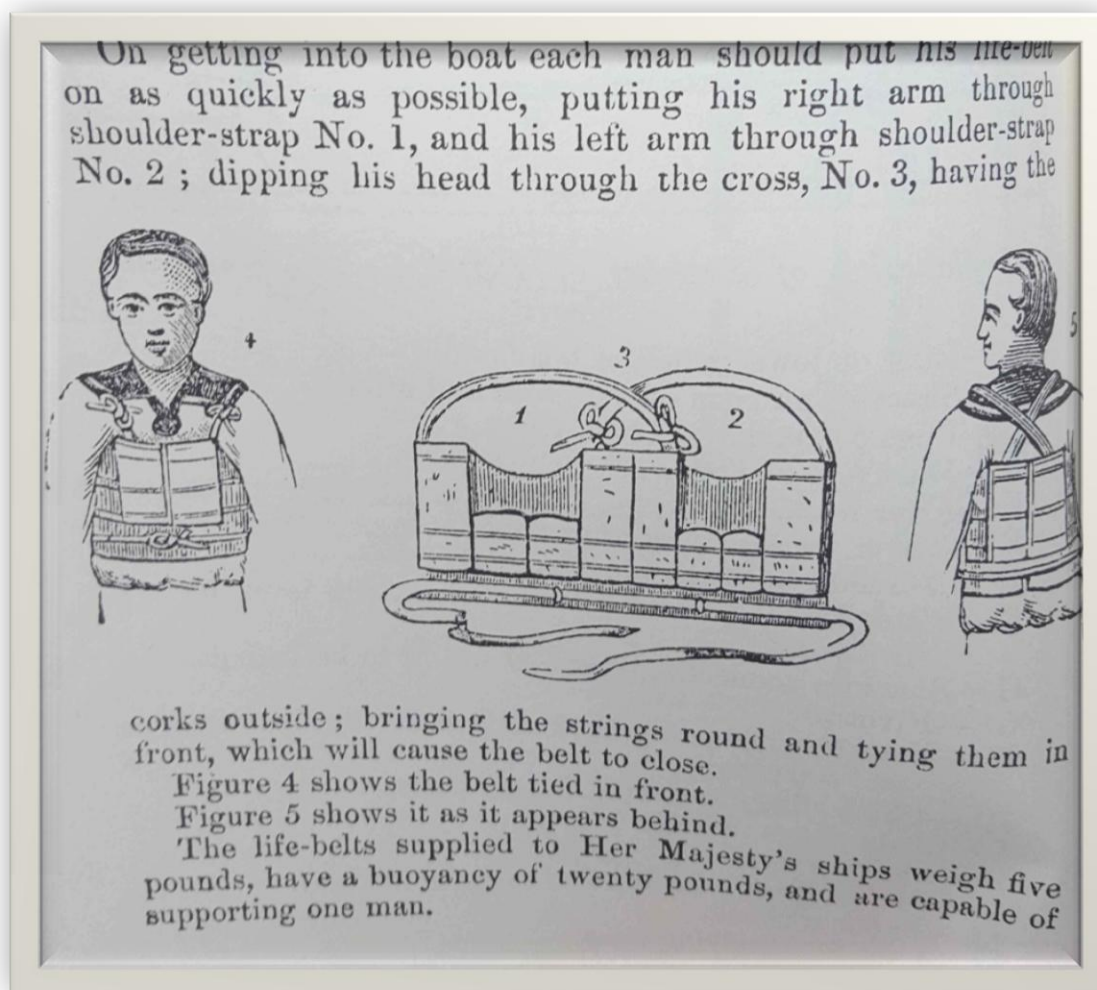
<https://www.tricitynews.com/local-news/new-parking-restrictions-begin-at-port-moodys-rocky-point-park-3682010> (online TriCity News, April 30, 2021, by Stefan Labbe)

Viral Defier

Whereas restrictions due to the corona virus are easing in the coming weeks and months, (as a function of curves down, jabs up), one Beaver member earlier this year took the edict of social distancing to an extreme -- though he may contend his was an elevating experience, defying both gravity and any spread of Covid-19 from below: *(received from eye-to-the-sky Juerg B.)*

<https://youtu.be/FSx4VScyy5w>
(youtube, April 24, 2021 uploaded by Paddy Lee)

Life Belt



From Manual of Seamanship for Boys and Seamen of the Royal Navy, 1904, p.44

By Lieutenant Cecil H. Fox, R.N.

Algrove Publishing ~ Classic Reprint Series, Almonte, Ontario, 2003

It won't work if you don't wear it

In order to work, lifesaving equipment must be worn at all times.

It is dangerous to assume that you will be able to find, put on, and fasten your PFD in the water:

- adverse wind and wave conditions can make this extremely difficult or impossible
- you could unexpectedly fall into water and your boat with the PFD aboard could be unreachable
- cold water can severely impede your ability to put on and fasten a PFD in the water

Never underestimate how much protection a flotation device can give you. It is called lifesaving equipment for a reason.

Downloaded, June 1, 2021 from: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/getting-started-safe-boating/choosing-lif jackets-personal-flotation-devices-pfds#choosing-pfd>

CLASSIFIED

***** WANTED *****

**PADDLERS FOR UPPER STIKINE RIVER
NON-CLUB TRIP JULY 27-AUG 5**

[HTTPS://BEAVERCANOECLUB.ORG/NEWS/](https://beavercanoeclub.org/news/)

mail@owenlee.org or mobile (778)-628-0086



A few Beavers on the Stikine in 2019, final leg before take-out at Hwy 37