



Beaver Tales

Official News Views and Muse of the Beaver Canoe Club of BC **NOVEMBER 2021**

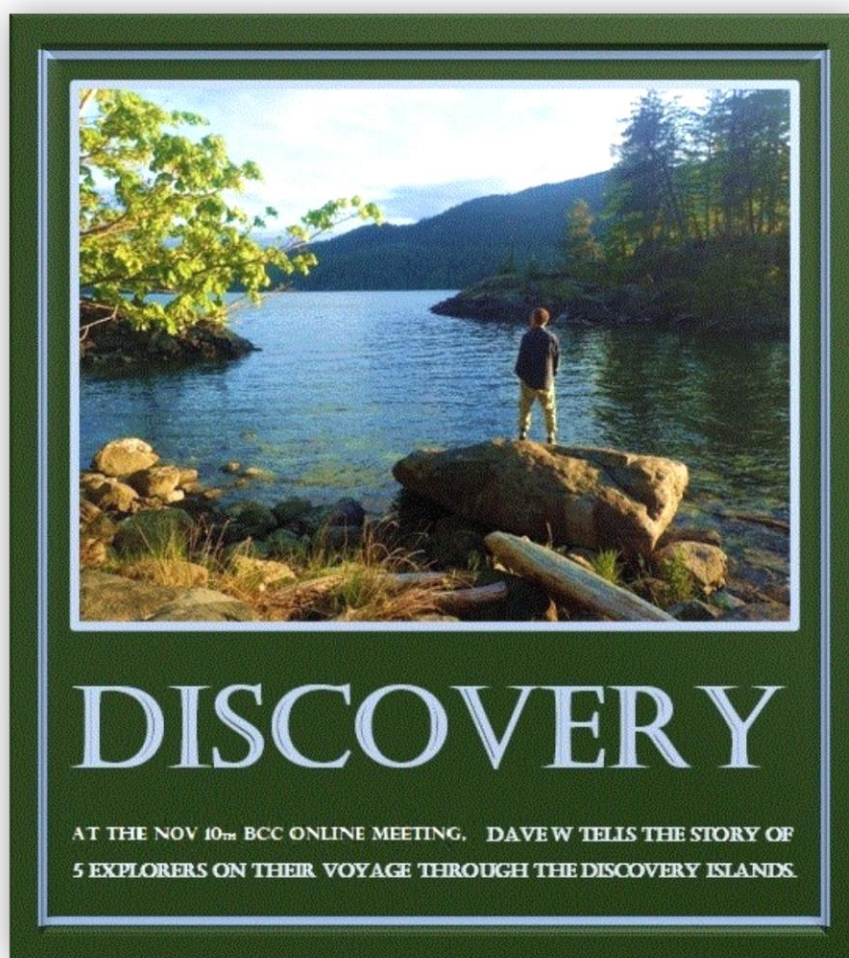
NOVEMBER Beaver Canoe Club Meeting

Date: **Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

Location: *Zoom 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 **November 13** before the 8:00 p.m. meeting. It will have a link to Click and Join. When watching presentation, please ensure your mic is muted.

For your entertainment pleasure, join Dave W in:



President's Report

Well, the official paddling year is over. The Adams River was well attended in September and trips included the Clearwater and Thompson. The last big event of the season was the Cariboo River's week. Based out of Williams Lake October 1-4 it was well attended 45 people from Vancouver Island and the Mainland. At least 15 were Beavers, and it was really great. Most of us ran the Chilko-Chilcotin, Cariboo and Horsefly rivers and the more daring the Quesnell and Upper Cariboo. Thank you, Rick Bryan, and Keiran Rankin - well worth it.

But unofficially we still paddle on Seymour when it rains, on the Chilliwack and the Mamquam and I expect other venues. We will continue to paddle informally and I look forward to last minute paddle emails and if you feel left out of it send me your request to get on them.

Meanwhile the Executive have been struggling with Covid. We want face to face meetings and we are currently trying to select a venue for the Christmas Party and use the caterer who received our \$600.00 dollar deposit last year. If all goes well it will be first or second Saturday of December.

No doubt we will have to limit attendance to the doubly vaccinated, a requirement that currently is unnecessary for paddling outdoors. If all goes well expect to be targeted for tickets and we have tentatively shot for the first Saturday. So, buy tickets asap they are announced! We have only one more Club meeting in November and the Directors will finalize the Christmas Party and protocols.

We are also thinking about an in-person AGM in January and I expect there will be a zoom component for those who object to vaccination or are still leery of public events.

Those of you who are interested in being on the executive should contact one of the directors:

Me, Bob, either Daves, Trish, Dan, Carey, Kara or Jim and we will make sure you are on the ballot. So far most of the executive are willing to stay, although based on my inquiries we'll probably need a Social Director. However, don't feel compelled to accept the status quo and if you want a particular position just say so and put your name forward to run in election. Meanwhile Dan Burnett is currently working on a package of policy changes updating our executive roles, but more importantly developing a Privacy and Respectful relationship policy for the Club's consideration in January.

The Executive has been meeting by zoom and discussing a range of things from Covid protocols, Executive communication, and Rivers Week clarity of planning in 2022.

Please be sure to renew your membership in the Beaver Canoe Club. The Beaver Club is a member of RCABC and entitled to participate. All instructors are certified by the RCABC a well-regarded certification which I proudly support, pay, practice, and test to keep.

So in the spirit of collegiality I would ask all Beaver Club members who are not paid up Instructors (as Instructors are already members), to go to RCABC online, and become a Paddler Member of the RCABC for a mere \$15.00. It's all online easy.

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RCABC which has stepped up to the plate in the last two years to greatly augment the Adams and the Fall River's week. RCABC paddler member gets you in a whole different level, as well as different instructors, different courses, different skills plus a chance to meet and paddle on different rivers with other members and other Clubs.

Phil Rankin -Prez
October 21, 2021

TRIP REPORTS

BC Rivers Day Coquitlam River Cleanup –Dave W.

A long time ago, a Beaver took his young son for his first paddle, on a river cleanup. When it was time for the next paddle, the son looked forward to digging treasures out of the muddy banks again, and hauling them halfway home. He was disappointed to find that not all paddling trips are scavenger hunts. I'll always remember that, because he'd reframed a river cleanup not as an extra chore we had to do, but a thing that was fun in itself.

I looked forward to some similar fun this fall, on Rivers Day, the [third Sunday in September](#). I prepared in advance, calling the local stewardship group, *Coquitlam Watershed Roundtable*. A roundtable. Maybe we would be knights of the water, riding our canoes, and me, Sir Cleans-a-lot.



Melissa, director of the roundtable welcomed our participation, and even put our logo on her poster. Some locals emailed, wanting to come on our trip. It was going to be a fabulous flotilla.

But as the day approached, people actually read my email saying that if you come, you have to bring a boat, and one by one they backed out. One by one, except for one.

So when Leigh, Mike, Serrat, 2 Owens, and I got there, there was Peter waiting. He was ready to paddle, but no boat, no life jacket, ready to paddle without a paddle. We quickly outfitted him and got to work.

First, the put-in. The river was a little high. I was duly chastised when we launched from a steep slope on the outside bend. Next - the trash. There was lots of it. Carpets, tents, metal things, big bags, and many, many little bags tied with little knots. You know the type, some with the city logo, some with a cartoon dog.

/Cont'd

Then it was lunch time. Our boats were pretty near full when we got to the Red Bridge. This was the Roundtable's makeshift headquarters. We dropped off our haul as it started to rain. We each had a hamburger, courtesy of the Roundtable.

We met the shoreline cleanup crews. For the shoreliners, the day was over. We paddlers pushed on to Maquabeak Park., able to load our boats up again, this time with big things like tires and one big metal thing on wheels. It was metal, and it was a thing.

It was a wet day, a fun day. A day to do something different, meet new people, and feel we did something useful. It was fun to show others what we do. I'm hoping we can do it all again next year. Maybe sooner, maybe with more people.

My Cariboo Rivers Weekend – Greg S.

As a BC-boy who's travelled much of the province I feel like I have a good sense of its waterways; their headwaters, affluents and confluences. And I admit that I am bewildered and disappointed at times when others don't know the geography of this land. Yet, when the RCABC announced at the end of summer its Cariboo Rivers Weekend (Oct 1-4), I shrunk in shame – I had no idea about the fabulous rivers of that region. I knew only their names.

Unless you have lived up in that country – how would you know. While driving up Saturday morning I recall that I used to visit the region frequently as a youngster, fishing and hunting in the Bonaparte Lake area but I never paid attention to the area's rivers. As I leave the Thompson River desert and slowly climb in my car onto the Cariboo Plateau, the forests return and the mountains retreat to reveal low forested hills of pine, spruce and tawny yellowing birch. It doesn't look like river country at first without taking note of the Cariboo Mountains to the east and the Coast Mountain ranges to the west. Big mountain ranges, in big snow country with big clear cold lakes. Yes, river country. Eventually I reach the Chief Will Yum campsite on the south side of town Saturday morning. The campsite is a large field with picnic and RV sites and a shelter. There are over 50 vehicles parked at the different sites and lots and lots of boats – kayaks and canoes.

I walk around to say hello to Claude, Dan and Marlene, Einar, Sasha and Jiri. Tim is there with his family and volunteers to find me a car to take me and my boat to the put-in. Young-guns Luke, Zach, Owen and Jaylene have also made the journey up country too, to paddle this RCABC Cariboo Rivers Weekend. There's half a dozen less-than-early-thirty somethings from Vancouver Island living the van-life dream in their mini-vans, paddling Esquif Ledges and a C1.

Rick Bryan has organized a large group of paddlers from Vancouver Island and the interior. There's kayakers and canoeists; C1s and a tandem inflatable; a trailer with a quiver of canoes on it, many of them modern solo canoes. And I think where the hell am I – canoeing is really alive and well here in the RCABC!

I'm curious about the run on the Cariboo River so I go look for top-dog Phil Rankin to see what river he is going to take on. I find him milling around his dilapidated trailer at the far end of camp bragging to others how he's already crushed the Cariboo the day prior and he will take a rest day on the Horsefly and work on his roll in preparation for the Devil's Eyebrow on the Upper

Quesnel River. I don't know much about the Cariboo run but judge I can do it if Phil's aced it the day before. Marleen encourages me that it's a good run for my level since Laura (who I do not know) also ran it the day before.

Rick and Kieran get the groups organized and we set off in our respective convoys to the Horsefly and Cariboo. After a 90km drive we arrive at the put-in on the northern side of the river, upstream of the Keithley Creek Bridge. The river is flowing swift and strong at the put-in at what looks like 80ish cms. It's a grey drizzly day but relatively mild out. We set off down the river. I want to get a feel for things so ferry out near the middle of the river to have a look down stream. It feels a bit pushy and I head towards a rock on river right with a boily eddy line to get warmed up on. I carve across the eddy line and tuck in behind the rock and look around for my group. Zach floats past in the current holding onto his overturned boat. I don't see anyone going after him so I give my whistle a blow (which Zach doesn't appreciate) and peel out after him. He swims like a dolphin and so easily self-rescues downstream in an eddy where the group comes together. His swim makes me nervous and we haven't even hit the first wave train. But very shortly we arrive at the large pool above it and watch paddlers disappear down the drop below the horizon line on the river. It's a bit unsettling because you cannot see the wave train or see the paddlers reappear.

I follow Claude and Luke towards the drop and eye-up a straightforward chute into a 2+ wave train. I brace once and paddle my line through the waves. I wait on river left with Claude who exits his boat and climbs ashore with his rope to watch the rest of the paddlers come through the drop. A tandem inflatable tackles the drop next and flips in the waves. Two more swimmers. Some solo canoes chase after the boat and swimmers and as they pass Claude he's able to lay his rope across a swimmer's face. The swimmer rejects the rope – which astonishes me and Claude – and continues their swim with their raft towards the next drop. The next sight is of Zach swimming again. I hold back on my whistle this time as its clear everyone sees his (or is that Phil's) Rival upside down. He sails past me again with a cadre of boats bumping him towards shore.

The next drop is Nicole's Nose, hyped as a canyon where the waves build and build until there's waves all around you crashing over your head from all directions. I follow Luke into Nicole's Nose. The waves are large and messy and Luke drops into the meat of the waves and rides the diagonal jet of current through the waves with ease. I think I do the same and we eddy out to watch the rest of the group come through the drop in Nicole's Nose. It's a bit of a rowdy spot and everyone is smiling and hooting and yipping as they crash and ride through the waves and eddy out. No swimmers. Surf waves, strong eddy lines and large standing waves pretty much describes the remainder of the run. With my nerves settled and the hard stuff behind me I really started to enjoy my first run in the Cariboo.

Back at camp, stories emerge from the run on the Horsefly River: Jaylene skilfully darting around in her C1, Kara having a blast being back on a river again, Keiran taking a swim while surfing, Phil R showing others how to surf. It sounded like a good time and even the more experienced paddlers really enjoyed the playful run.

Tired paddlers gather in the shelter playing cards under lamp light, some share drinks and stories around fires at a few sites. Feels *Rivers Week-ish* and festive. The talk turns towards tomorrow's run and the possibility of making the long scenic drive onto the Chilcotin plateau to paddle the Chilco River. A few of us don't seem interested in such a long drive but soon realize that the opportunity to drive through that stunning plateau country in the fall and paddle a gorgeous river flowing off it towards the Fraser is too special to pass up.

The sky clears overnight and the temperature dips below zero. I exit my icy tent taking note of Luke's cozy canvas tent pitched afar on the field with its wood stove burning away inside, sending a languid trail of smoke into the blue morning light. I don't know how to camp – Luke does. Rick gathers the Chilco group together in a circle to explain the run and the drive. There's about 20+ cars that head out west in convoy across the Chilcotin Plateau rising up on the west side of the Fraser River. It is splendid country to drive through in the fall and we stop on the way at a lookout where the snow capped coast range to the west reaches up and cuts a rugged

white line across the pale blue sky. We carry on to the put-in at the dramatic confluence of the milky Tsaeko and clear Chilco Rivers.

The Chilco is flowing near 90cms. It's a pretty straight forward 8km run with some big waves and a few holes to avoid. I join the same Beaver group as before – minus Jean. Zach seems to have his game face on and feels confident especially after he duct tapes a tear in the neck gasket of his dry suit. A good idea because the Chilco is a cold glacial river, flowing east out of the gorgeous ice-cap fed Chilco Lake. But it's a run you can ease into with the wave sets building at each corner, culminating in some large standing waves, some appearing on challenging corners, which can be run or skirted. I take some of the bigger lines and ride the safe lines of others. The group's having fun surfing and catching eddies on the turbid waters of bouncy Chico River in the warm October sun. Zach's paddling with confidence and Luke is ferreting around at speed to every eddy he can find; Dave W takes his own lines and time; Marlene steering into the burly center-lines down the biggest sets, calm and composed; Claude, steady and safe, always in the right spot on the river.

We arrive back at camp in the early evening. Keiran plans to run the upper Quesnel River with a select group of paddlers the next day. Keiran, though initially putting dad on the list, after a few beers and some reminiscing about the Thompson couple years back, Phil gets cut. It's a serious run and Keiran's not messing around with the preparation. He's already rafted it earlier in the year to check it out and paddled it once already at the Unlikely Paddle Fest before he runs the RCABC trip. I'm thinking about going, but in the end decide I will pass and head home the next day. It's been a lovely two days of paddling the Cariboo and Chilco rivers and meeting paddlers from around the province and getting a good sense and appreciation of the RCABC's commitment to canoeing in BC. It was a well organized, fun and safe event. So hats off to Keiran Rankin, Rick Bryan and the RCABC for putting in the effort and time to make it happen. It appears they do this every year! I don't know where the hell I've been all those other years. I'll be back, and I hope more Beavers can make it out too.

-Greg Scutt

And here's a fun video of Cariboo Rivers Weekend made by Keiran Rankin.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDyceVVuNwg&ab_channel=KeiranRankin

Support the RCABC and the work they do for canoeing in BC by becoming a member.

<https://bccanoe.com/members/signup.php>

FEATURE ARTICLE - PART 3 OF 3

Canoe Restoration

Part III - The Community

In Part I, I mentioned Des, a long-time canoe builder/ restorer who lives around the corner from me. Along the way, while he and I were discussing repair work, I mused several times that I'd



really like to see one of the boats that he had built from his custom mould (still in his shop). Well presto, the owner of his #11 canoe needed some work done and heard Des was living in the valley and still doing repair work. Next thing I know, I'm looking at a boat built in 1974 with the original builder right beside me. The project was handed over to me as he is winding down this work and I'll say there was no small amount of pressure in my mind thinking about doing the restoration under Des's watchful eye! Actually, Des is very relaxed and easy to work with; most of the time he discusses technical problems with me until I come up with the solution.

The orange ribbon seats and bamboo seat spacers reminded me of the early 70's when that color and Hawaiian tiki torches were popular themes. As far as repairs, it was a typical job with the usual repairs at the stem and stern tips along with some planking and broken ribs. The work went well and the owners were very happy when they picked it up though I sensed a bit of surprise at how different it looked from what they were used to seeing (it was green before).

You may have noticed this canoe is the same color as the one in Part II; well it's not because I only have one can of paint. When this canoe was being dropped off for the work to be done, the other one was finished and sitting in the shop waiting to be picked up. They really liked the color and later decided to use it as well and again it turned out beautifully (full bias acknowledged). This canoe has darker colored outwales so the contrast is different; also there is a mosaic of nine different species of wood in its construction which gives it beautiful features and contrasts.

/Cont'd.



To my great relief, Des is very happy with the end product as am I. We are both members of the Wooden Heritage Canoe Association (WHCA). I joined in 2017 but he has been there from its beginning and is well known in the association. Because this is a restoration of one of his boats it is expected to be featured in an upcoming WHCA newsletter which I feel is a very fitting gesture of recognition and I'm very proud to be a part of it.

For my part, I'm going to continue learning and doing more of this work, connecting with others who share the same interest, and promoting the nostalgic aspects of our canoeing world. I love it!

Bob Podesta

Many thanks to Bob for taking time and effort to document and share with us his knowledge, skills, and passion for canoe restoration. Perhaps we will get updates along the way as his projects evolve. --Editor

NOTICE

Since the days of heavy scratchy wool clothing --often scavenged from military surplus outlets for venturing into the great-outdoors--, the go-to now for warmth and quick dry is polyester **fleece**. However we also now know that micro-plastics break from laundering and leach into rivers and oceans, travelling their way through the food chain. Research out of UBC and other places has found that **washing in cold water**, rather than warm, significantly reduces the amount of leaching. Additional tips are to launder less frequently and to use a machine with a filter.

OPINION PAGE

Jill is a most valuable hardworking member of the Executive, the club's Treasurer, crunching numbers and balancing sheets, while the following are her own views as a Beaver member and paddler. --Editor

WHAT HAVE THE ROMANS EVER DONE FOR US? (by Jill Lee)

The other day someone asked me... Why should I support the RCABC (Recreational Canoeing Association of British Columbia) by renewing my personal membership? What have they ever done for us?

And BANG! There I was... time warped back to my misspent youth, watching Monty Python in England! Unbidden, there was the sketch about the Romans (see [here](#)) racing around in my head. Well the RCABC might not be in the same league as the Romans but it did get me pondering a wee bit. It is a volunteer organization, totally dependent on membership fees and donations - and totally screwed over (like much else!) by the impact of Covid. And yeah, the club is a member, but last year the membership fee was a stunning \$50 total for the whole club!!!! Whoopsy dooby doo! Not even enough for one black coffee per week shared by all of us! So what DOES the RCABC give us? ... Let's think about it from different perspectives as individuals and as a community

For the community

Care about our world? It provides increased awareness regarding our environment, the habitat and the wildlife we share that environment with AND it fights on our behalf to gain and maintain public access to our BC waterways. (Through supports and connections to other caring bodies and working with local /regional authorities, indigenous groups and other stakeholders)

For all paddlers

Want to learn to paddle? Or advance your skills? Yep, you can do this through our club, and for most of us that is our "go to" route. But you can also see what else is on offer across the province... Ways of discovering different courses, different locations, different timings etc. etc. And all this following tightly defined course structures and accredited trainers.



[lakewater](#) & rivers etc.



Want to find other paddlers? The RCABC provides multiple ways of finding out about Canoe clubs in your area and a network of other canoe clubs in other areas. Great for those exploratory types! It has even helped in the formation of new clubs (esp. around standards & promotion). Plus the RCABC runs river weeks/weekends for members from any part of BC. A great way of expanding your paddling range and network. (This year for example on the Adams and up in the Cariboo area)

Planning a trip? One day or weeks – there's all sorts of useful hints, tips and links on the website

Want a Family-Friendly Canoe Party? The big event The RCABC annual weekend Canoe Festival in Hope is a blast - with all sorts of canoe & land-based activities/lessons, shows, seminars, barn dance, food etc. All run by volunteers & provided at cost.



Want to learn more about safety? The website has all sort of useful links to safety information and websites like “Cold Water Boot Camp”

Who speaks up for Canoeists? The RCABC advocates for paddlers with various parks authorities, including trying to get refunds for folks who had Bowron Lakes trips cancelled this summer, but have not yet received refunds. It also works directly with the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (protecting and promoting our rights) which in turn has links with many government department and private parties, and have been featured on CBC on multiple occasions, as well as BC Marine Trails.

For instructors

Love canoeing - Want to help others learn to canoe safely? The RCABC provides standardised courses for you to follow, and once qualified to instruct and certify others- regardless of if you do the training through the Beavers or elsewhere.

Plus there are typically four \$250 grants for instructor candidates to upgrade their training (better than a poke in the eye!).

You can feel a sense of pride RCABC backed qualifications will be widely recognised & respected

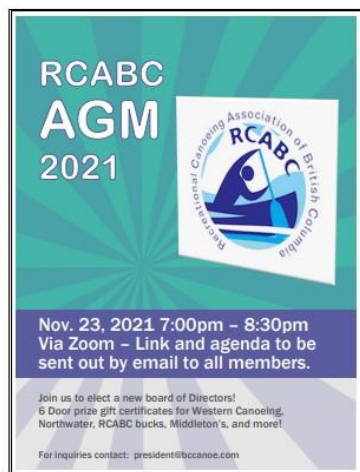
Buying kit? As an RCABC Instructor member a few key suppliers will offer discounts (Instructor members see website for details)

Scared of getting your arse sued off you? RCABC has standardised waivers for use by members and liability insurance for [certified] recreational instructors (if instructing sanctioned courses).

OK enough already!!!! ***So, what did the Romans do for us...?*** ([Link](#))

Cheers
Jill

For further information check the following:



RCABC Social Media (Cool stuff!)

- [Website](#)
- [FaceBook](#)
- [FaceBook Group](#)
- [Instagram](#)

