

BEAVER TALES

The Worthy Newsletter of the Beaver Canoe Club



December 2023

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS ON JANUARY 10, 2024, VIA ZOOM.

You will be emailed the Zoom link in January.

AGM EVENING ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTATION

THE TURNAGAIN RIVER TRIP

The Turnagain River is rarely paddled - probably because of the “boat wrecking” grade 3 rapids and the 6km portage around Turnagain Falls. This year two groups canoed this river in Northern BC, and both groups included multiple BCC members.

In this presentation David Broughton, Trish McLeod and Jenny Wakeling will tell Tall Tales from their Turnagain River adventure: organized by Elements Adventure Company, guided by Keiran Rankin and Emily Cole.”



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's Report November 29, 2023

Mea Culpa

I am not sure if I was off my meds or on my meds, but my last President Report had a few digs and Greg and Zak and partners seemed to stir up controversy except with those people who I took a swipe at. Anyway, my sense of humor is not everyone's cup of tea so apologies to anyone who was offended, and I will try to control myself.

To Zak and Kim for abandoning us Beavers to live at Cowichan and Greg Scutt for being Greg Scutt. In my defence I meant what I said jokingly. For example, I don't think I taught Zak everything he knows although what I know could fit in a thimble. The truth is within a month Zak was paddling way past my pay grade and Greg has followed him pretty much. You will note they have abandoned their L'Edges for Coverts which many people love. See Greg in his L'Edge but now he is in Silver Birch Covert doing grade 3 plus on Vancouver Island's Koksilah River recently with Zak who says he showed him the right path!

People over 175 lbs. apparently like the Coverts but man they are 70+ pounds heavy. Kieran loves his and so does Marlene, but she comes with Dan (her packhorse) Many would never consider any other boat. For me I love my Pink, Millbrook 2020, weighing in at 35 lbs., and I am not about to lug a Covert thank you very much.

Okay what's up? By the time you have read this newsletter the Christmas Party on Saturday December 2, 2023, which was organized by Jill, will be over. We sold 54 tickets and we're missing a few regular people.

The next event for the **Beavers** is the **AGM on January 10, 2024, at 8 p.m. via Zoom**. Things are looking okay for a new 2024 Beaver executive. I am standing per usual as President, but I won't revolt if someone wants it. Dan Burnett is literally indispensable and is standing for Vice-President. Trish MacLeod, who I could not do without, will stand as Secretary. Mark Guimond, who has become a veteran money man will stand for Treasurer. Dave Broughton who does fabulous jobs, especially organizing Basic Paddlers, is standing for the Training Director. Dave Westell, who is another hugely respected director, is standing for the Trips Director. Dave Apps is moving from entertainment to Social Director. Owen Williams will stand for the Entertainment Director. Peter Gutzmann our new, now seasoned newsletter editor will stand for Newsletter Director. Jenny Wakeling is standing for a director at large position. We need to elect a Membership Director, as alas, we are losing Bob Podesta who has done a great job. Don't be shy if you want to participate on the Board of Directors. All positions are technically open, so please run for any position, especially Membership Director.

The executive is also proposing to amend our Club's by-laws to allow for at least three directors at large. These changes to our by-laws must be voted on and notice of the executive by-law changes will be voted on at the AGM on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. We need a Quorum so

please do turn on your computer for the Zoom meeting which should be a routine meeting but very important. Let us start the 2024 paddling season with a good turnout for the AGM!

Rivers Week has become challenging due to climate change, forest fires and floods. Thankfully we have a fabulous Rivers Week Committee which consists of Dan Burnett as Chair, Dave Westell, Jenny Wakeling, and with help, from Keiran, the RCABC President. The committee had a huge number of challenges which they managed to pull off very successfully this summer. I believe summer 2024 will be a success despite it being an El Nino year with predicted low snowpack for runoff. I expect we will paddle somewhere.

Let me remind you the Beaver Canoe Club is a member of the Recreational Canoe Association of British Columbia (RCABC). This organization is a leader in open boat canoeing and on our behalf develops courses, protocol's, advocacy, and much-needed consistency to our activities. Every year the RCABC has an important event and AGM and for 2024 it will be held as usual at **Lake Kawkawa in Hope on the April 19-21 weekend**. Consider coming to Hope for the RCABC weekend which has a lot of activities and interesting events such as a large canoe, c-1's, rolling clinics, instructor recertifications, exercise classes and special entertainment, and of course the RCABC AGM. We are all members, and you can also contribute by becoming an RCABC paddler supporter and going to the RCABC event.

We have consciously organized **Basic Paddlers** to avoid conflicts with RCABC. The basic paddlers theory class is **April 24, 2024**, and the paddling days are **Saturday April 27 and Saturday May 4, 2024**. Please get the word out to those interested in learning to paddle. An Introduction to Moving Water Course will follow Basic Paddlers on May 25, 2024, probably on the Seymour River. Then the Mamquam River camp out June 1-2 will get you up to speed for Rivers Week. Rivers Week hasn't been finalized but if the past experiences hold true it will begin a week before July 1, 2024, probably at Princeton and likely starting at the Last Post campsite on the Similkameen River.

Anyway, I am done for now. Have a Happy Christmas!

Phil Rankin President



Greg and Zak in their Silver Birch Converts



Greg last month in his Esquif L' Edge on the Cowichan. Boat now for sale.



The legendary Rick Bryan of the South Island Paddlers

TRIP REPORTS

Nicomekl River full moon paddle November 26, by Anna Ashbarry

At noon, Dave, Mike, Jiri, Kathi, Bob, Carol, and Anna met at the Serpentine River Wildlife Management Area. After unloading the canoes and packing their dry bags, they huddled together to discuss the trip plan. One main topic of conversation was the strong setting fog that provided very little visibility. Undiscouraged by this, the team set out in 4 boats, with Dave paddling solo.

Paddling down the Serpentine River in the fog provided little opportunity for scenic views, but what was lacking in sightseeing was made up for in wildlife and train spotting. Passing under the Serpentine River Bridge and the unnamed bridge in which the train crosses, the group reached Boundary Bay where seals and many breeds of birds were situated.

Keeping close to the shoreline, but not too close to avoid the shallow waters and sinking sand, the group watched in awe as birds danced around the white sky in various formations. The discussion soon began on what types of birds were creating these incredible flight patterns. Whether they were snow geese or not is still up for debate!

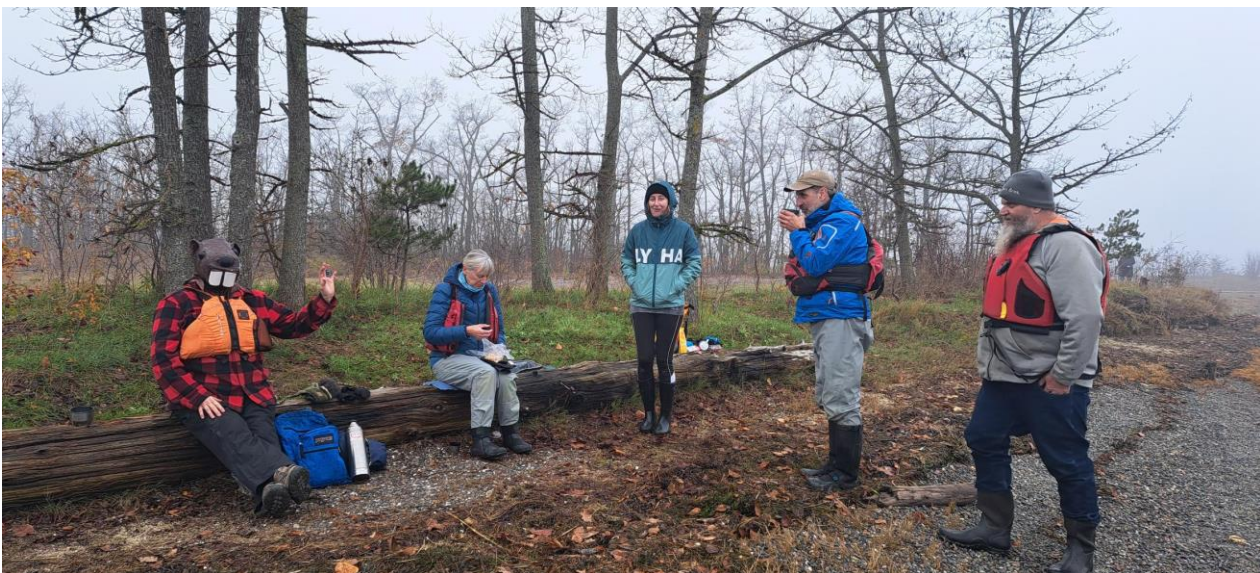
After arriving at Crescent Beach, the team stopped for lunch, but not for too long due to the chill in the air and our cooling body temperatures. To keep warm, Bob and Carol very kindly gave Anna some of their hand warmers to put in her rubber boots. Meanwhile, the others posed for pictures in the beaver head to celebrate the rise of the Beaver moon that we had no chance of seeing through the thick fog.

Back on the water, the four boats headed down the Nicomekl River which offered some variation in scenery with marina moored sailboats and catamarans, views of Elgin Heritage Park, and the local golf course.

After 12.84 km of paddling in 3 hours and 12 minutes, and with cold hands and feet, the group reached the Nicomekl Portage Park where they concluded their journey together. The fog started to clear as the sun set, and there was the Beaver Moon, rising amongst pink hues, ready to reach its goal as a full moon at 1:12 AM.

A big thanks to David Westell for arranging this great outing!





PLANNED WINTER TRIPS

No scheduled trips until the spring. Conditions permitting, there may be a January paddle on the Squamish River.

MISCELLANEOUS

PRESERVING PHOTO SLIDES

Carey Robson provides the following information.

Digitize Your 35mm Slides & Negatives

They fade and discolor over time. You can make them permanent now.

London Drugs: \$90 per 100 slides

3,072 X 2,048 pixels resolution, 24-bit color; (2,230 dpi)

Plustek Optic Film 8100 (USB interface)

w/VueScan or SilverFast SE

preview @ 900 dpi, (dots per inch), takes about 8 seconds.

scan @ 3,600 dpi takes 34 seconds; (approximately 5,000 X 3,400 pixels for 35mm).
7,200 dpi takes 2 minutes; not recommended – will create huge files.

48bit color; (also 24 & 64 –not recommended)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKHmEpcIpMU>. (What's the difference)?

3 slide trays hold four 35mm slides. (Will also scan 40 X 30 mm).

(Kodak emulsion down), (Fuji; "Project from this side" UP)

3 negative trays hold strips of up to six 35mm negatives.

A person can scan between 50 and 60 slides per hour while watching TV.

I found the Silverfast software to be limited and so purchased Vuescan from <https://www.hamrick.com>. It is available for the Mac but costs \$160 Canadian. You can download and try it for free, but scans will be watermarked. It works with any scanner on your system, and I would recommend doing this first.

PS: You should have a double redundancy, remote backup procedure.
(One copy of all documents and pictures in a Safety Deposit box).

\$10 per week

Contact: Carey@CanoeBC.ca

Casting Call

Spring 2024 — River Rescue for Canoers

Participant pre-requisites: Previous river paddling skills & training,
Able and willing to swim cold water,
Sign both a performance and liability waiver.

Remuneration: Free coaching by Master Instructors
Screen Credit

Pick up where [Rescue Techniques 4 Canoers](#) left off. (Password: RiverRescue2023).

Apply to be included or for more info: Carey@CanoeBC.ca.

PARTICIPANTS WANTED FOR NAHANNI TRIP

Nahanni July 2024

Our team of two committed tandems are looking for at least one more tandem for a self-guided trip on the Nahanni in early July 2024. Paddlers must be experienced with moving water, fit, easy going and flexible enough to enjoy one of the classic Canadian canoe trips. All genders are welcome. Fly into Rabbitkettle Lake from Fort Simpson. Drive away from Nahanni Butte.

There is a lot of information on the internet regarding conditions and what to expect.

Please contact John Lawless jlawlessgc@gmail.com or 604 787 4150 text or voice.



WANTED

The club is still looking for an experienced bookkeeper willing to review the bookkeeping and prepare our year-end financial statements. Contact the treasurer, Marc Guimond at chez.guimond@gmail.com for more information.

TRIP PRESENTATIONS WANTED

The BCC entertainment director is looking for enthusiastic canoeists to do a presentation on one of their recent canoe trips. This could be a multi-day trip or perhaps a collection of day trips. The presentation will be at a regular Wednesday evening BCC meeting (e.g. on March 13). Please consider sharing your experiences with the club. Contact Dave Apps at Davidbapps@gmail.com.

DIRECTOR'S WANTED

The Club will have openings for three new directors:

- Two Directors at Large.
- Membership Director

TRIPS MEETING

Do you have an idea for a northern or other trip? Dave Westell is holding his Long Trips meeting by Zoom on Wednesday January 24, 2024, at 7 and invites you to join in.

BASIC PADDLERS COURSE SEEKS HELP

Our Training Director Dave Broughton needs volunteer instructors and help for the Basic Paddlers course to be held on Saturday, April 27 and Saturday, May 4, 2024. Contact him if you can assist.

A RESCUE COURSE DESIGNED FOR RIVER CANOEISTS!

The **RCABC Level 1 River Rescue** course is canoeing specific. It will have you learn and practicing all the different ways to self-rescue, to swim rapids with a paddle, rescue boats and to rescue other swimmers. This course will get you comfortable with swimming and paddling in rapids and provide you with key safety concepts in moving water.

What: Level 1 River Rescue Course with Elements Adventures

Location: Metro Vancouver area - specific location TBD

Dates: April 12 - 14, 2024

Includes: 1 dryland theory evening on the eve before the course and 2 days of on (and in) the water instruction and practice.

Fee: ~\$336 to \$400 + GST depending on how many participants we can get. If we get 8 or more participants, to a max of 14, we pay the lower fee. We already have 4 signed up.

Other notes:

- Elements has limited gear you can rent if you don't have something (drysuits, PFDs, helmets, paddles).
- Bring your own whitewater boat with knee pads, floatation and thigh straps or rent locally.
- We will need a non-refundable deposit of \$150 to save a spot for you. The balance is due 4 weeks before the course starts.
- For more info on the company, check out <https://www.elementsadventures.com/>.

Totally excited for this?! Email trishkinsey@gmail.com to sign up!

SEYMOUR PADDLING – WHEN THE WATER LEVELS ARE UP

We now have a great new tool for organizing impromptu paddles and last-minute communications on planned or impromptu trips. Want to get in on an impromptu trip with a group? Join the Seymour River chat group and use the WhatsApp app to help Seymour River paddlers!

The purpose of the group is to organize impromptu paddles and last-minute communication (e.g., change of meeting location/time) on planned or impromptu trips.

This chat group is not directly affiliated with any canoe or paddling clubs, so it is acceptable to invite any friend to become a chat group member provided you know them fairly-well, they are competent, safety conscious and appropriately equipped for whitewater paddling.

You join by having the WhatsApp app. You may need to download it.

The group Administrators are Paddy Lee (phldesigns@shaw.ca) and Dave Apps (notallengineersarenerds@gmail.com).

WhatsApp makes it easier for organizers to initiate impromptu trips. It also circumvents problems that occur with email when people keep adding more names to email threads (a few people ultimately get left out of some messaging). With WhatsApp every member sees every message. What could be better?

The chat group Administrators' only roles are to accept or remove people from the chat group and to help people to become members. They do not monitor message content nor accept responsibility for misuse of the chat group.

You can install WhatsApp on multiple devices. Members' have it on their cell phones, and some also have it installed on their Windows PCs (Windows requires WhatsApp to be installed on the phones first).

Kayaks and canoes are welcome.

You can get more information from [What's up with WhatsApps? – A Seymour Trips Message Group! – the Beaver Canoe Club](#).

CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTO CONTEST

The winners of the photo contest are here:



Scenic: Dan Burnett

Humour: Jenny Wakeling





Action: Carey Robson

People: Carol MacMillan

Well done!

CLUB POLICY PIECES

Did you know?

...that the purpose of the BCC is to promote canoeing, offer training in paddling and safety, and to provide opportunities to participate in the pleasure and friendships within the club.

Here's the link for more:

[Clubdocs-Beaver-Canoe-Club-Constitution-Bylaws-2017-1.pdf \(beavercanoecclub.org\)](https://beavercanoecclub.org/Clubdocs-Beaver-Canoe-Club-Constitution-Bylaws-2017-1.pdf)