

Totnes Canoe Club



Club Newsletter - May 09

Welcome

The new season is now well under way and it is always a pleasure to welcome new members as well as to see old friends returning. The Club tries to provide something for everyone and is always open to suggestions.

This year is the second year of our formal Paddlepower sessions for youngsters, and open Boating for all members. Membership is well over 100 people now and we have a variety of coaches of different levels - all of whom provide their time and knowledge completely free of charge.

Equipment

The Club has continued to invest in new equipment gradually replacing older boats for the river and in the pool to provide a variety of paddling experiences. The Club now owns three open boats and associated kit - and has made arrangements to borrow additional boats when necessary. The fleet is being expanded and the Club is currently looking at new boats suitable for the larger paddler to complement the Wild Ones. The recent addition of a full specification sea kayak allows more people to discover the joys of this particular pursuit - the two Carolina's being suitable for estuaries and more sheltered coastal waters. Ask your coach if you want to try one out on the river on a club night.

Pool Sessions

Next Pool session is Sat 30th May, then last Saturday of the month thereafter. 5.00-6.00 for beginners, 6.00-7.00 improvers at the Totnes Pavillions Pool. The best place to learn support strokes and how to roll.

Note that for safety reasons a maximum of 14 boats are allowed in the pool - members own boats are only allowed on an exceptional and pre-arranged basis.

Peer Trips

Club members with suitable experience are welcome to join in with Club peer group trips.



These are usually arranged by email and are open to any member to suggest. They are not formally led Club Trips - just a group of friends paddling together. Of course coaches and experienced paddlers will help, encourage, and watch out for those with less experience so don't feel intimidated - sign up now! Check with your coach if you are not sure what experience is needed.

To join a peer group contact the following:

General Touring & White Water: Chas -

chasandjaneb@tiscali.co.uk

Sea: Jeremy - info@jeremyvanr.com

Surf: Jon - jon.purdye@googlemail.com

Jon says: during the summer there is a TCC surf peer group that takes to the surf across the South Devon coastline and beyond. Meeting on evenings and weekends they take to the surf in all manner of 'yaks for fun in the foam.



The surf can be a great place to develop and hone moving water skills, the summer waves also tend to be a bit smaller and the water warmer.

Add in spectacular beach sunsets and optional après-surf barbecues and it can be a fair bit more attractive than a -2°C river run!

If you think you may be interested in getting out into the surf over the summer then join the peer mailing list. The list will provide you with details of peer surf sessions including surf conditions and give you the option of suggesting your own surf meet-up. To join the list e-mail jon.purdy@gmail.com

AGM end Jan

Anyone wanting to see the full minutes please contact Roger. To summarise, the club finances are in strong shape, we have a good number of highly committed coaches, a wide variety of boats and kit, and a robust operating policy. We continue to be successful in obtaining grant money from a variety of sources, have invested in the provision of Paddle Power for juniors and in Open Boating.

Further information

Contact any coach or committee member - see website for details www.totnescanoecub.org.uk or email tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk



Exeter Trip

One benefit of membership is free Club trips. The first of these took place on Sunday 17 May, down the River Exe from the Quay I Exeter and back up the canal. A wet start at KEVICC and a VERY wet arrival at Exeter put a few people off, but those that braved the elements were rewarded with much better weather from about 12:30 onwards. Everyone enjoyed shooting the 2 weirs, (no portaging on this trip!), and contrary to the rumours that Ben

was putting about we saw no pyranhas or crocodiles. It was Frankie's birthday, and she kindly shared her cake with us at the lunch stop (one of the advantages of an open canoe is that you can carry a very big cake!). Special mention for the youngsters from the Monday night group who braved the weather and paddled hard into the gusty winds - a great effort and they should all be very proud. We had 30 paddlers on the river for this trip, Rob has promised better weather for the next one, so let's see even more of you on that one!

Forthcoming

In brief, these are the trips:

Sat 30 May - Beach day at Bigbury - fun for all the family. Bring food for the barbecue and boats to play in the surf. Meet lunchtime-ish.

Sun 14 June - Aveton Gifford to Bantham Quay. Should be a straightforward paddle down with the tide, disembarking at Bantham Quay. A stunning estuary

Fri 3 - Sun 5 July - Surf trip to Watergate Bay. All welcome, camping in North Cornwall near the top surf beaches in the country.

Sat 18 July - Mothercome, up the Erme & Back. Another beautiful estuary, paddling up on the rising tide and back as it falls. A wide variety of scenery, a perfect lunchstop.

Sat 15 Aug - Another beach day, Bigbury

Sun 13 Sep - Totnes to Dittisham (our home gig), from the boatshed then a complicated shuttle to get everyone back to Totnes again. More beautiful and stunning scenery, with the added bonus of ice creams at Stoke Gabriel.

And some of the more advanced whitewater paddlers are off to the Alps ... the fools ...

