

Inverness Canoe Club

Newsletter



Club Curach Inbhir Nis

<http://www.invernesscc.org.uk/>

Issue 3 : September 2010



Special points of interest:

- Active Outdoor Pursuits in Aviemore are currently offering ICC members 15% discount on all shop & café products. See our website for details.

- Inverpaddle Forum can be found at:

<http://inverpaddle.myfreeforum.org/index.php>

- *Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly.. They lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it.*

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Sun, Sea and Midges

By Catriona Hendrie

The first weekend in June saw about 20 ICC paddlers head over to Resipole for what turned out to be a first class weekend of sea kayaking (despite the midges!) in the busy ICC sea kayaking calendar.

On Saturday morning we split into two groups. Our group set off from Glenborrodale and had a lovely relaxing paddle full of good chat as we explored the waters of Loch Teachuis in the sunshine. We managed to clock up four lunch stops, which included a stop for some fishing (although nothing was biting) and even a spot of sun bathing on our own private beach. This was my kind of paddling! We ended the paddle with one more stop – to collect mussels for dinner.



The other group had a slightly more arduous day. They paddled round Ardnamurchan point in fog to start with, which made navigation tricky, luckily the fog cleared for them, the sun shone and they managed to spot dolphins and even basking sharks!

In the evening we all gathered in Richard's tipi to share the freshly cooked mussels, wine and stories from the day. Roughing it we were not.

We awoke on Sunday to another warm, calm day – the midges had a feast as we also tucked into our breakfast. As

with Saturday we split into two groups, this time both headed for the same place – a paddle around Eileen Donan – but with different start times, depending on who wanted their Sunday morning lie-in.

Don't think there are enough superlatives to describe the scenery...turquoise waters pure white sandy beaches, awe-inspiring panoramic views of Rum, Canna and Eigg. In

between the chat and the sound of the paddles splashing through the water were lots of 'wows'. 'We really are so lucky, people pay lots of money to experience holidays like these and we get to do it in our weekend'. Although if truth be told that was probably all from me!

As we paddled round the point we noticed this presence perched on a rock. After a lot of speculation and comedy moments trying to use a pair of binos in a swilling sea, we concluded it was a sea eagle. We watched it for a while as it sat drying its wings

quite relaxed. Definitely a highlight of the weekend for me – my first sea eagle.

Our paddle ended with a landing on Eilean Tioram (The Dry Island) for a look at the ruin of (possibly 12th century!) Castle Tioram, just off Loch Moidart. There is something quite special about paddling around an island then landing on a beach to explore a castle.

We really do live in a beautiful

part of the world. And when you get weather like we had on the Resipole weekend there really is no place I'd rather be: out on the sea, soaking up the sun and the scenery. We are lucky to have a club that organises frequent trips and coaches who happily give up there time to run them.

So...if you've been thinking about whether to join the club on one of the sea kayaking weekends, I can recommend you do, just don't forget your midge repellent!



River Spey Canoe Trip

By Kenny Milne

Recently, as part of my 50th birthday present, I was given a 2 day trip down the River Spey in an open canoe. This was a step into the unknown for me, as previously, my experience of an open was mucking about on Loch Achilty for half an hour. Also on the trip was my brother in law, Jim. It was his 50th last year and our families had got together to organise this as a joint gift. The trip was run by Dave Girling of Source Adventure.

We met up with Dave at the put in at Grantown-on-Spey on the Saturday morning. After a safety briefing and discussion about our paddling experience it was time to get the boats loaded up and get on the water. We were in a 16 foot Prospector, me in the bow, Jim in the stern, and heading towards our first rapid pretty soon. Dave guided us through it and all went well, no swimming or anything like that, that would come later.



We stopped off for a bit of lunch right next to a pretty church near Cromdale. There was a wedding due to take place a bit later so the photographer decided to use us for a bit of practice before the main event. With the guests arriving we decided it would be prudent to move on, before we "starred" in the background of too many pictures. The river at this stage was nice and peaceful and we used the time to practice strokes and techniques for manoeuvring the canoe through the water.

Further down near Advie, we practiced breaking in and out using the bridge as an obstacle course. There were also a few wooden stakes in the water to watch out for. After a few successful runs Dave suggested that we try it with one of us keeping our eyes closed while we went for another

go. The person with his eyes open wasn't allowed to guide the other paddler, so they would be paddling blind, I volunteered to be the crash test dummy. Off we went and by listening carefully I could figure out roughly where we were in the water, the plan had been for me to just paddle at a steady pace and Jim would do the steering and adjustments as we went. All seemed to be going well, too well, when there was the dull sound of the canoe hitting something in the water, then stalling and tipping. I opened my eyes just in time to see the water about 6 inches from my face. Oh bugger, here we go, into the wet. So the boat went over and we swam, no big deal, we managed to grab the swim line and keep hold of our paddles, and fortunately all our gear was hooked into the boat in dry bags, so no damage done. We got to the bank, got all the gear sorted out and were soon back afloat. At this point Dave seemed pretty pleased with himself for having managed to set us up for the swim and also pretty impressed that we had kept everything together and he wasn't chasing bits of kit down the river.



We stopped off at Ballindalloch for our overnight camp. We managed to pitch our tent about 10 feet from the river edge, gathered up some dead wood and got the stoves out for making dinner. But first we had a bottle of

single cask Mortlach to open, a couple of half's later and Dave had to leave us for the evening, to spend time with his family. We arranged for an 08:00 start in the morning.

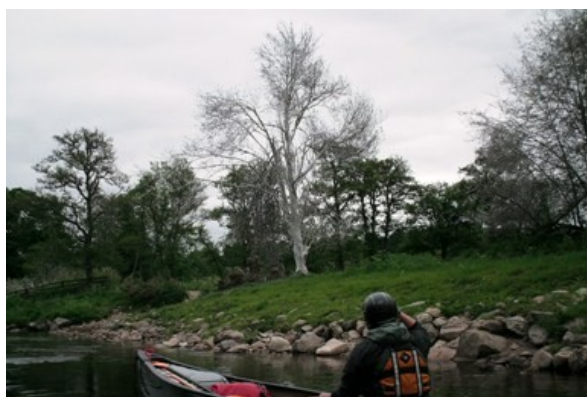
After dinner we got the campfire going and sat down for a night of whisky and craic, watching the sun go down and then Pipistrelles bats chasing the flies over the water. Perfect.

Early next morning we were up, tent packed and had sausages frying on the stoves when Dave turned up for day 2. Today we would be heading down to Aberlour, which meant we would be on more and bigger rapids than the day before, yeehaw!

At this stage we discussed whether we would be doing the chicken or tiger lines through the rapids. No question, tiger lines it was. Pretty soon we were at "Washing Machine" rapid. Now I'd been down it a few times in a kayak, but it was totally different in the canoe, we took on plenty of water on our way through it, but stayed upright and straight, so it was all good and good fun. A couple of minutes bailing and we were ready for the next one. Dave was pretty cool here as he let us take all the "tiger" lines, with no fuss, showing us the obstacles we really had to avoid. We went through the SCA white-water section and headed on down to Carron Bridge where we stopped and had some lunch.

After that it was more rapids where we practiced breaking in and out on harder water and even managed to do a bit of surfing. We passed the strangest looking tree I had ever seen, it was pure white. On closer inspection it turned out that the tree had been covered by some caterpillar like grubs and the white stuff was like a cocoon through which they could be seen crawling about. It looked like the tree had been stripped bare.

All too soon we arrived at Aberlour and our trip with Dave was over. However we still had a tour of Aberlour distillery to do as part of the package, and we even had time for a couple of beers in The Mash Tun before that, that's another story though.





A Sneaky Peek at this Years Calendar of Events :

Turasan is Tachartasan

September - January

- Sept - Isle of Skye & Small Isles Sea Kayaking trips
- Oct - Hallowe'en Hooley
Dee Marathon
- Nov - Photo Competition
- Dec - Santa Paddle & Christmas Ceilidh
- Jan - New Years Paddles

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Apologies but I am about to use the 'C' word... Christmas!

Yes that's right Christmas is not far off which means the Christmas Ceilidh is just around the corner.

I am looking for volunteers who would be willing to help me with some of the organisation. For more info or to sign up, please contact myself, Emma, at

pinkpaddler@yahoo.co.uk

THANKS!



ICC Open Day

Pic from

Dave

Stewart

If you want to find out more about any of these trips/events, please visit the events calendar on the ICC website:

<http://www.invernesscc.org.uk/trips-and-events.html>

Random-Ness

The Alphabet According to the Meig Gorge

By David Baldwin (Pictures from Emma Garden)

M is for MATT – our dear trip leader who swam before the gorge had even begun – doh!

E is for EXTRAORDINARY – Stewart loosing his paddles between two rocks and landing the imminent drop upright.

I is for INTOLERABLE – the #\$\$%&*@ midges.

G is for GOUGE – the big chunk taken clean out of the nose of my WaveSport Diesel by a metal post.

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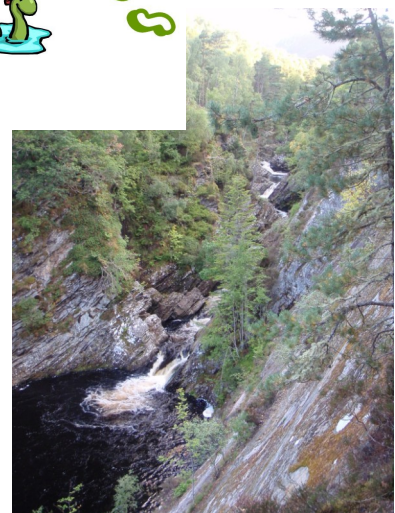
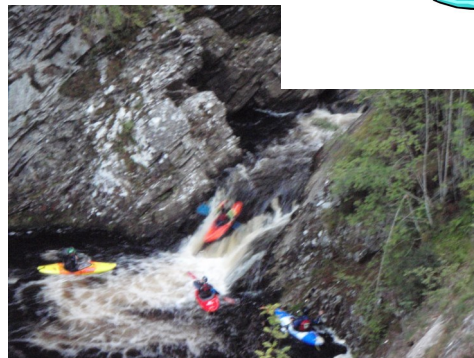
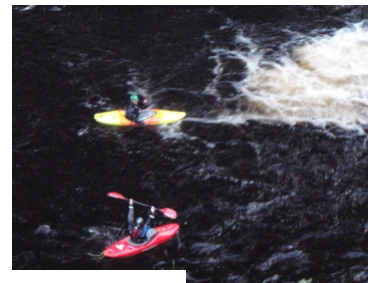
**G** is for GLEAMING – the smiles on our faces after we survived Tea Cup Falls.

**O** is for OOOOH – the collective group noise as we passed under an amazing rock arch.

**R** is for ROLLING – Paul Tompkins managed three in a row on the first drop!

**G** is for GUTTED – how Kevin felt after dropping his van keys in the middle of the river.

**E** is for ELBOW PADS – the piece of kit I'll be buying for my next trip



As you have read, Random-Ness is just that, pure randomness! Send your articles to: [pinkpaddler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pinkpaddler@yahoo.co.uk)

## Announcements

Congratulations to Sarah and Iain Roe and Brigitte and Lucas Chapman who got married in June of this year.

ICC would like you to join them in wishing both the happy couples many happy returns.

*Here's hoping no one was daft enough to buy them an open canoe (aka divorce boats) for a wedding present!*



Sarah and Iain Roe who got married on 12th June 2010 on the Black Isle.



Brigitte and Lucas Chapman who tied the knot in N. Ontario, Canada on 19th June 2010.

## River Ness Marathon Results

ICC would like to say a big well done to those who took part in the Ness Marathon in July; a good few of our members took up the challenge and it paid off. ICC came away with ten top results!!

They are as follows:

### Long course K1 Male

3 Calum Urquhart Inverness CC 01:22:25

### Long course Tandem Canadian

1 Lucas Chapman/Neil Fraser Inverness CC 01:53:51

### Short Course K1 Male

1 Jean Luc Laot Inverness CC 00:57:22

### Short Course K1 Female

1 Mags Duncan Inverness CC 00:57:26

### Short Course Junior K1 Male

1 Ruairaidh Stirling Inverness CC 00:57:25

### Short Course Solo Canadian

1 Jonathan Skinner Inverness CC 00:48:41

2 Guy Jackson Inverness CC 00:58:32

3 Malcolm Wield Inverness CC 01:07:32

### Short Course Tandem Canadian

1 Paul Johnston/Mellisa Johnston Inverness CC 00:58:02

3 Anne Murray/Robert Murray Inverness CC 01:01:42

These are the results of ICC paddlers, full results can be found at:

<http://www.canoescotland.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=yjo0C9TqC5Y%3d&tabid=566>



Photo courtesy of Dave Stewart.



## Quote of the Month...

“ David Baldwin enjoyed a good paddle on the Garry...despite forgetting his helmet and having to use his site helmet attached to his head with a bungee cord! ”

*Taken from Facebook Thursday 2nd Sept.*

*NB—This is not recommended practice!*

## Myth or Reality?!



Submitted by Ronnie Mcgrath

## Suggestions? : Beachdan?

This year the club promises to be **bigger** and **better** than last year. We have an awesome committee on board who are looking forward to taking the club to new heights.

However we need some help, the club is after all your club.

What would you like to see happening?

Are there any events you can suggest?

What courses do you want to see being run?

Are there any trips you want to do?

Any articles you want to see in the newsletter?

Please, please, please let us know your thoughts, suggestions and ideas so we can make Inverness Canoe Club a great club for its members!

I am also looking for articles to include in the newsletter, these could be trip reports, tips and tricks, paddler profiles etc. Email me anything you would like to see in the newsletter!

[pinkpaddler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pinkpaddler@yahoo.co.uk)

## Photo of the Month...



**Resipole sea kayaking trip.**

**Photo courtesy of Catriona Hendrie**

Do you have a picture you would like featured here? Remember to get the photographers and/or paddlers permission and email a copy to Emma at [pinkpaddler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pinkpaddler@yahoo.co.uk)