

# Inverness Canoe Club

## Newsletter



Club Curach Inbhir Nis

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

Issue 5 : October 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>

- **Craigdon Discount Night**  
20% discount off selected items - Thursday 28th October 2010 5.30pm - 7pm.

### Going Bats on the Beauly

*By Giles Brockman - IBG September 2010*

The Highlands are more important for bats than you might give it credit for. Although the Highlands is typically home to only 5 of the 17 species known to inhabit the UK, because it sits on the outermost range of the other 12, it is in a unique position to monitor for unusual visitors that might indicate a change in either climate or habitat. There is also still a lot we do not know about the bats that do live the Highlands: common pipistrelle, Nathusius's pipistrelle, Brown long-eared, Natters and Daubentons. So, survey and monitoring are important.

Just to make things more interesting, some bats live around places that are awkward to get at, such as rivers. Step forward the Inverness Canoe Club, who knew how to help solve that particular problem!

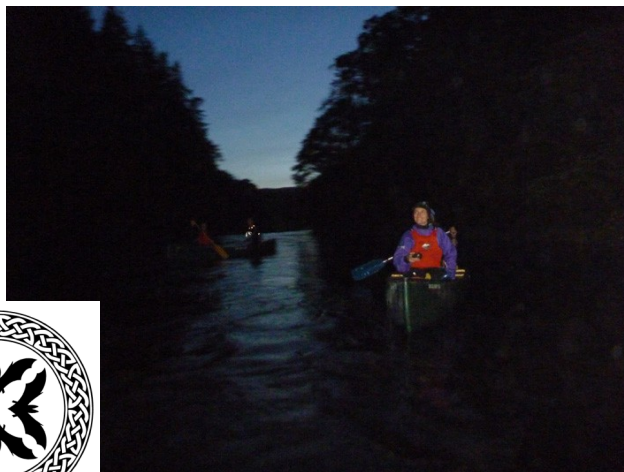
So it was, that on a

Wednesday evening in the middle of September, the ICC helpfully provided 5 open canoes with experienced paddlers, who each teamed up with a batty person. The group were looking to confirm previous records of Daubentons bats on the upper reaches of the river Beauly. The bad weather that had threatened the event all day broke and the group had a great evening on a quite fascinating stretch of the Beauly. Almost sheer rock faces tower over the river as it passes through the gorge. A truly awe-inspiring experience at any time and tinged with a little extra excitement when the light is failing. And, just to add the icing to the cake the bats appeared and put on a good show as well.

So a big thank you to ICC from IBG. We could not have done the survey without you.

If any canoeist is ever out on a river at dusk, Daubentons are bats that just skim the surface of the water as they hunt for food. Although mostly brown in colour, they do have white belly fur, which will show up clearly if they happen to get caught in the light of a torch.

Do please always report sightings of any bats to the Inverness Bat Group as these will help build up the records and inform local knowledge. Bats are a European protected species, so a licence is required from Scottish Natural Heritage to disturb or handle bats. So if you ever find one in your house, or whilst out on a trip, contact SNH direct and they will put you in contact with an advisor. For more info **check out** - [www.spanglefish.com/invernessbatgroup](http://www.spanglefish.com/invernessbatgroup)



Inside this issue:

Ladies that Surf	2
Events Calendar	3
Random-Ness	3
Photo Competition	4
Inverness Area Slalom	4
Photo of the Month	5



## Ladies that Surf

*By Jenny Bryce*

Well I've promised Emma an article on surf kayaking for ages as I know I keep jibbering on about it, but at last a few more of you have had a chance to give it a go and from what I can make out – you have loved it.

Tracy Sherrington (surf guru) has organised a 'ladies weekend' for the last 3 years a). to give us girls an opportunity to give surfing a go in a supportive and a perhaps less intimidating atmosphere b). to treat us to a weekend away to discuss scones recipes and knitting patterns or c) so we can have a few lambruscos and sample the north coast nightlife – I'll let you decide ...

Our very own Kym, Margaret and Sue were amongst the throng of ladies that descended on Melvich in early July for this year's weekend. Faithfull Farr Bay provided sunshine and a nice range of wave heights for the first timers and the more experienced surf dudettes. Glenmore Lodge had kindly loaned us a trailer and some surf kayaks and with others borrowed from various sources, we had enough for everyone.



The intro session focussed on learning about edging on the wave and the 'safe' bracing position as expertly demonstrated by Kym.

Confidence seemed to match the building swell and soon the girls were sneaking further out to catch something a little bigger and practicing some diagonal runs. There were a few trip ups along the way, which provided some valuable rolling practice, but the grins seemed to suggest that a few more surf chicks had been fledged.

After a quiet night in ;-)) we were greeted by sheets of rain and gale force winds on the Sunday, which scuppered any further surfing plans. Fortunately we'd had such a good day on the Saturday that everyone was content to call it a day, but with the promise of coming back for more.



Surfing can be challenging to organise as a club activity as the conditions required make it difficult to plan far in advance (although prediction tools are getting better - see <http://magicseaweed.com/>). Neither do remote beaches without toilet facilities and sparse parking lend themselves to big groups. We also need to be considerate of other users – mainly surfers and body boarders, by learning some wave etiquette.

A few club members managed to get along to one of the 'Intro to surf sessions' that Matt organised at Sandend earlier in the year. Unfortunately

due to the fickleness of surf conditions another of these that was planned had to be cancelled. However, there are more events planned and competitions have a novice class to encourage newcomers <http://www.canoescotland.org/competition/Surf/SurfEvents.aspx>

So if it sounds like surfing it is for you, why not get along to one of the planned events, book on a course, keep an eye on magic seaweed or speak to any of the surf kayakers in the club and we can let you know if we are planning any surf sessions.

JB (Thanks to Kym for the photos)





# A Sneaky Peek at this Years Calendar of Events :

Turasan is Tachartasan

## October - January

Oct - 29th Pool Sessions Start

TBC Hallowe'en Hooley  
- Sun 31st, R. Ness

Dee Marathon

Nov - Photo Competition

- see page 4

Dec - Santa Paddle & Christmas  
Ceilidh

Jan - New Years Paddles

## ICC CHRISTMAS CEILIDH

Saturday 18th December

Phipps Hall, Beauly

7.00pm

BYOB

Kilts & Frilly Frocks!

Tickets on sale  
29th October



## Plea for coaches...

I am looking for a couple of coaches to lead a club trip with a twist down the River Ness on Sunday 31st October. If you are free then let me know please!

Thanks, Emma

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

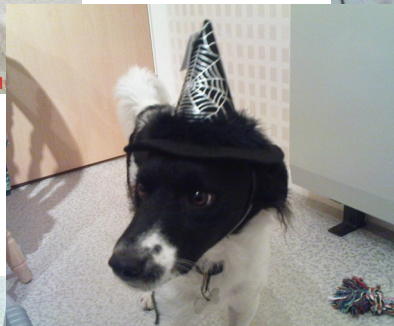
If you want to find out more about any of these trips/events, please visit the events calendar on the ICC website:

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

## Random-Ness

Rogie... Mutt or Model

By Rogie



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

## Photo Competition

For all those budding photographers, we've seen you out and about taking pictures and in some cases hiding in bushes, yes you know who you are! So here is your opportunity to shine!

ICC are holding a photo competition; there will be 4 categories and the top three photos in each category will be compiled into a club calendar which will be sold at pool sessions, at the Christmas Ceilidh and through the website. Judging will take place in November and will be carried out by members of the club who have not submitted a photo.

### The categories are...

**Sea**

**River**

**Environment**

**Oops!**

As this is a club calendar all photos should be water related, your own work and not have been used in any other publication.

All photos should conform to the following specifications: digital picture & 3508 x 2480 pixels / 300 DPI / 297mm x 210mm (A4) If you are unsure, send it in anyway as most modern cameras will already conform.

Entries should be submitted to [pinkpaddler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pinkpaddler@yahoo.co.uk) by **Friday 5th November 2010**

## Inverness Area Slalom

*Steve Mackinnon*

The recent competition on 17th September ran with two new gates giving a full length run of 21 gates and lots of burning muscles and puffed outness by the end of the course. The river was low for the training sessions leading up to it only allowing half of the course to be used but it all came good for the night with a full length run being available. It was good to see the younger paddlers start to join in with some good times recorded for a first competition.

The next competition will be in the spring.

### Results

*U10 Boys*

- Ruairaidh Stirling 4-56-90

*U14 Boys*

- Christopher Johnson 3-21-47

*U14 Girls*

- Naimh Robertson 4-06-50

*Open Male*

- Steve Mackinnon 2-48-75

*Open Female*

- Mags Duncan 3-11-90

*Veteran Male*

- Nick Invermee 3-04-19

*Veteran Female*

- Fiona Nairn 4-56-07





## Quote of the Month...

"Oh the boat's great... if it all goes a bit wrong then it's my fault!"

Said Bevan Yates of Extreme Slovenia, when borrowing a kayak for a first descent of the Lower Findhorn.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the new ICC level 1 coaches...

*Kenny Milne, Catriona Hendrie,  
Neil MacDonald, Lucas Chapman and  
Suzy Beaumont*

...who completed their training at the end of August.

## 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...



*Guess who...*

*lost their trousers!*

*Unsurprisingly, this photo was submitted anonymously...*

*Sorry Malc!*

*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)*

