

NEWSLETTER

of the



Advanced Sea Kayak Club

AN INTERNATIONAL SEA CANOEING CLUB
OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED IN THIS ASPECT OF CANOEING



AIMS - Promotion of sea canoeing - Communication - Organisation
of events and conferences - Safety and coaching.

THE ADVANCED SEA KAYAK CLUB.

NEWSLETTER No 101

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Editorial

It is the practice, at this time of the year, to reflect on the one that has gone before. 1993 had its' share of kayaking highlights. I get a lot of satisfaction from noting the way sea kayaking symposiums have really taken off and dominate the scene both home and abroad. They bring us together, allow us to learn, share best practice, get inspiration, try new kayaks, plan expeditions, firm up relationships with other professional bodies and, most of all, enjoy ourselves. Of course there are well known personalities in sea kayaking as there are in all activities but the absence of 'cliques' or 'prima donnas'; the absence of any of us trying to pull the ladder up as they get more involved with the sport, is for me a great source of satisfaction. Beginners are always made most welcome and brought into the fold immediately. This is exactly the way it should be.

So why should I Personally get such pleasure from seeing symposiums dominate the sea kayaking calendar. Well, it was the ASKC who, against such comments as "who wants to listen to lectures" and "I'd rather do it than talk about it", organised the first one at Birmingham University in 1976. My reasoning was that it was possible to 'do it' 51 weekends of the year; this particular weekend was for talking and listening, for getting together and getting to know the wider world of sea kayaking.

Today we have the Anglesey Sea Kayaking Symposium as organised by the Nordkap Trust; the B.C.U. Sea Touring Committee Symposium; the Scottish Sea Kayaking Symposium and, for the first time in 1993, the Irish Sea Kayaking Symposium held at the Little Killary Adventure Centre in Galway. There is the European Sea Kayaking Symposium, the next one to be staged on the Channel Islands from 27th May to 2nd June, 1994....details within this newsletter. As for the 'do it' versus 'talk about it' argument..... most symposia now combine a proportion of both in that there are often split programmes or multi-choice programmes allowing groups to get on the water or in the lecture room over the course of the event.

I still recall my anxiety when the speaker who was to start our very first symposium failed to show. It was to be a representative from H.M.Coastguards. Disaster turned to eventual success when my rather scathing letter to the Director of HMCG in which I explained our disappointment and frustration at being treated as amateur nuisances brought the Deputy Director to our subsequent symposium. Talk of the tide turning. We now gained the respect and understanding of the Coastguards and we have never looked back.....the rest, as they say, is history.

RENEWALS FOR 1994.....

.....have been very encouraging indeed. As things stand the continuing trend since I first took the Club over in 1976 towards an annual growth in membership will continue on into 1994. As you know, I do not advertise the Club in order to keep membership to manageable proportions. Only 'word of mouth' and the annual Canoe Exhibition promotes the Club. Several canoeing magazines mention the ASKC as a resource and I know several of you have joined

having heard about us this way.

I have enclosed a yellow renewal form with this newsletter to remind those of you who have yet to renew to do so. If you have renewed or, indeed, do not wish to renew, then please don't waste the form but pass it on to a fellow paddler.

My next task is to publish the annual ASKC MEMBERSHIP LIST. You must let me know if you don't wish your name and address to appear. Included in the Membership List will be the INDEX to all the 1993 ASKC newsletters, a service kindly and regularly provided every year by Eric Totty - one of longest serving members. Thanks Eric, I know how useful paddlers find this ready reference to ASKC articles.

I explained the need to increase the membership fee by fifty pence to cover increases in postage and paper/ink/etc. I omitted to say that I am investing in a new Gestetner printing machine that will be 'all singing, all dancing'. I will be able to reproduce photographs and the reproduction will be a lot better. So you will be getting value for money in terms of materials. The importance of the newsletter lies in its' contents....and this is where I rely entirely on you.

CODE OF SAFE PRACTICE

It is hardly surprising that the Lyme Bay Tragedy is focusing minds on safety and on responsibility. The incident happened in 1993. The British Canoe Union and H.M.Coastguards have been working up a recently produced draft entitled 'CODE OF SAFE PRACTICE FOR SEA KAYAKING' since 1992, so we are not talking of cause and effect in the light of Lyme Bay.

The Coastguards are now offering all sea kayakers the use of their system of Craft Registration. This is done by simply using their Form CG66. Apparently their new computers are now capable of handling this added information. To inform the Coastguards about your plans or leave the information with a third party of your choice (family or friend) remains a matter for you. Running a course from a centre and I suspect you would be at least accused of recklessness if you did not inform the Coastguards and something went wrong, so I doubt there is much room for discretion in these circumstances.

Emergency Services have contingency plans. I suppose everyone of us have such plans. What would we do if..... From an invasion of a hostile force, mass civil unrest, a major incident involving civilian and military resources down to what you would do if your kid sister cut her finger. A responsible organisation does not wait for a disaster to strike. It has detailed plans of all available resources and how to deploy them. Don't you have the number of your G.P. readily available and know where your nearest accident and emergency hospital is? You certainly should, particularly if you care for others like children or elderly people.

The Coastguards believe that clubs and outdoor pursuit centres should have such plans drawn up so that they are simple, relevant and clearly written down and accessible to the appropriate people. If you do have such plans (and think about putting them together if you don't) then the Coastguards would like a copy for their files. Of course they are going to require updating from time to time.

With your help I would like to draw up model contingency plans that we can share with others as 'best practice'. I would therefore appreciate your suggestions. I will do the rest.

Now, what about the Code of Safe Practice. Though the British Canoe Union and H.M.Coastguards are still working these up....how about some suggestions from you. Remember, there is absolutely no intention of inflicting legislation; it will remain a voluntary Code of Practice, - so let me have your ideas. Here are a few to start the process off.....

1. Always tell HMCG or a third party when embarking on a sea kayaking trip and include such information as number in the party, colour of kayaks and your E.T.A.
2. Have personal details inscribed on your kayak....at least a phone number.
3. Wear a suitable buoyancy jacket
4. Be guided by the weather forecast
5. Have sound equipment.
etc. etc.

Such a Code of Practice must come from sea kayakers, so let me hear your ideas and your views.

THE B.C.U. CANOE EXHIBITION.

This is to be held at Crystal Palace, South London, for the next two years at least. This year, 1994, it is scheduled for the 19th and 20th February.....see you there. I see that the ASKC Stand and the BCU Sea Touring Committee Stand are side by side in Hall Three.

THUNDER AND LIGHTENING BY FAX

If you have a fax machine and dial 0336 400 499, a detailed satellite image showing cloud cover over the UK, Northern Europe and near Atlantic, taken no more than six hours ago, will emerge.

This is just one of the many information services the Met Office is now offering to the public.

The latest edition to the range is MetFax Education costing 36pence cheap rate and 48pence per minute at all other times; it offers services such as shipping forecasts and synoptic charts, both of which are updated four times a day. Weather reports in the form of plotted maps of the U.K., which are updated every three hours; and various news and information options. Dial 0336 400 480 and the MetFax will send you an "Index of Products" listing a number for each one.

LYME BAY

From "CoDe". the magazine of the B.C.U.Coaching Scheme....No 52.

"As we went to press Devon County Council issued a press statement concerning its interim report on an internal enquiry into the Lyme Bay canoeing tragedy.

The main conclusion is a call for there to be a national, independent registration system, and recommends that the Health and Safety Executive should be the enforcing authority.

Asked for comment, the following statement was issued on behalf of the B.C.U:

"The British Canoe Union agrees with the view that there needs to be a comprehensive and enforceable means of monitoring centres which offer holidays and courses involving potentially hazardous activities".

The inquest will not take place until after the criminal case has been heard. Regretfully, therefore, definitive comment on the reasons for the Lyme Bay tragedy, and the true implications, still cannot be made publically."

I am hoping that you might notice how the quality of the printing and the reproduction has improved on these few pages. This is because I have invested in a new printing machine which is far more reliable and quicker.

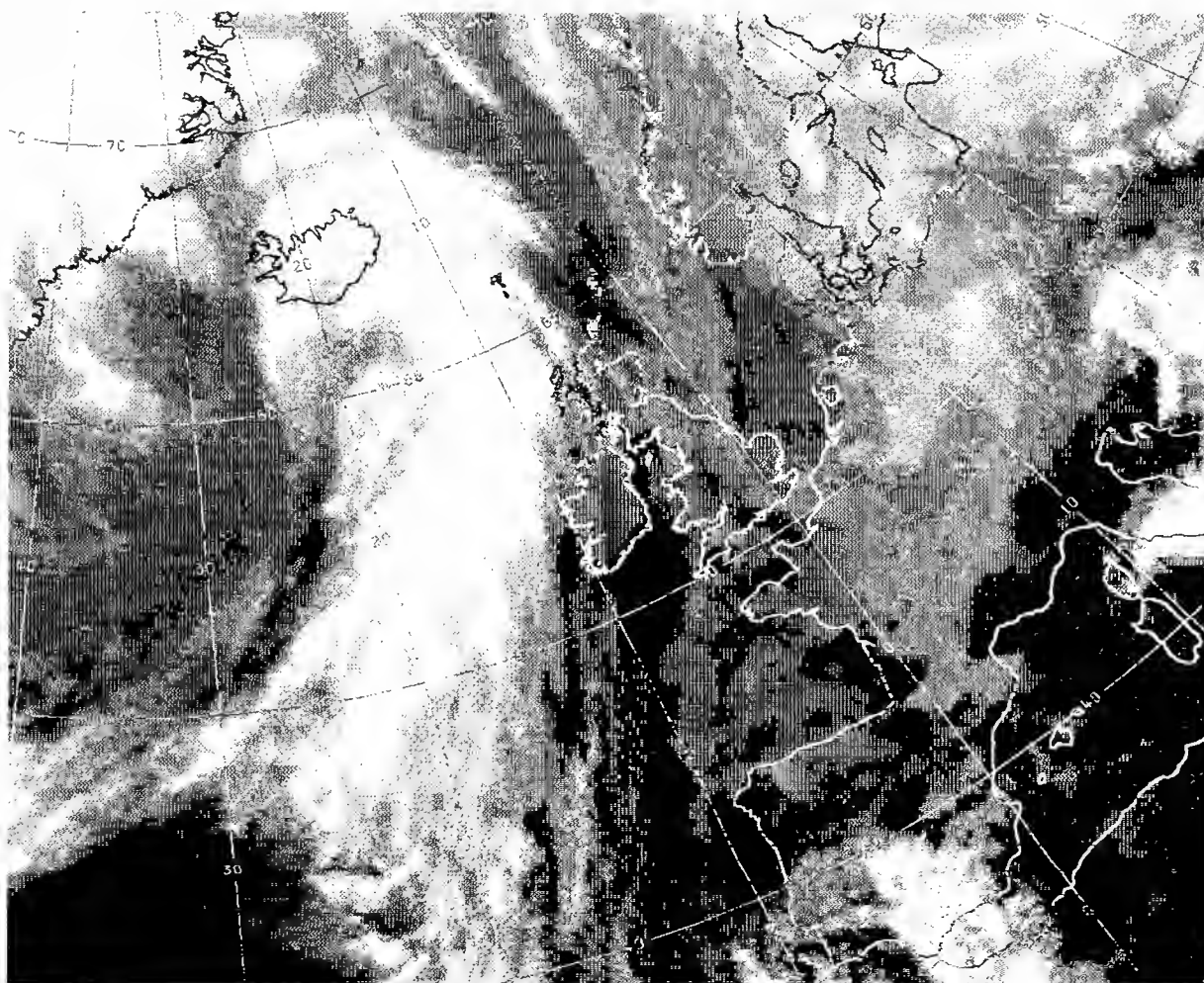
It can also reproduce diagrams, pictures, etc. which hopefully I can demonstrate to you very soon. It also means that I don't have to convert material to labouriously typed skins and can reproduce your material direct so long as it typed up complete with any art work on A4 pages (the size of this newsletter). We are now set for the next 100 editions of the newsletter. I am in need of copy and ask that you send me articles, letters, news, views....indeed anything of interest to sea paddlers world wide. I scan relevant magazines, newspapers, reports in the search for interesting material but I could sure do with some help. It's your newsletter so do your best. I know that fellow readers are interested in your personal kayaking exploits.....good and bad experiences.

For the first time I have split the newsletter into a report (Midland Canoe Club Scilly Isles Crossing, 1993) and a few pages of newsletter. I thought how best to get this report out, Normally I print them out and then advertise their availability seperately. This report is deserves full circulation as I know you will agree.

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Ref. my paragraph on THUNDER AND LIGHTENING BY FAX on previous page.
This is what I got when I tried it.....

METEOSAT AT 17:30 GMT ON 08/11/93

INFRA-RED



CLOUD-TOP OR LAND/SEA TEMPERATURE

COLD

WARM

WE RECOMMEND YOU CONSULT THE USER GUIDE. FOR DETAILS SEE INDEX PAGE.

SUPPLIED BY THE MET OFFICE. © ORDNANCE SURVEY. COPYRIGHT 1993.

ADVANCE NOTICE JERSEY CANOE CLUB
SECOND EUROPEAN SEA KAYAKING SYMPOSIUM, JERSEY. CHANNEL ISLANDS.
27th MAY TO 2nd JUNE 1994.

After what was believed to be the most successful First European Sea Kayaking Symposium held over the late Spring Bank Holiday in 1992, we are repeating the event in the same place at the same time of year and very much to the same formula in 1994, except that we shall be expanding the range of topics covered in the lectures and practical session.

The number of places will be strictly limited.

The price per participant will be 60 pounds. To reserve a place write to Kevin Mansell/177, Quennevais Park/St. Brelade/Jersey/Channel Islands/JE3 8GD.

Given that the fee for the symposium covers all the evening events, we believe it represents exceptional value.

For off-Island visitors we can provide details on special offers re: accommodation and travel.

Participants can either stay over the long bank holiday weekend or extend their stay into the following week.

Further details from Kevin Mansell (44-534) 0534 45936 or from Peter Hargreaves (44-534) 0534 854738.

I shall hopefully see you there as I have already booked my place!

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ILE DE RE KAYAKING HOLIDAY 1994

Some of you will have heard of this event. A few of you came with me to take part in it in 1990. We are still talking about it!!

Christian Gabard is organising this kayaking holiday again next June; from the 4th to the 12th.

Again I shall hire a mini-bus and a kayak trailer (one that remains intact this time!!) and am offering up to 12 places. I already have a few names but there is space if you hurry. First come first serve. All costs will be divided equitably between us all...including me, and will be determined by hire charge of bus (I've already got a good deal), trailer (Dave Patrick of P & H has agreed to hire his), ferry fare (currently less than 500 pounds return for bus/trailer/passengers) and fuel for bus.

You pay Christian Gabard for the event itself and for camping dues. Take your own food...though I buy mine on the Ile de Re(wonderful cheeses/fruit and wine!)

We shall leave on the 0730 hrs from Portsmouth on Sat. 4th June and return on the 1645 hrs from Le Havre on Sat. 12th June...getting into Portsmouth 5 and half hours later. These details are to be verified.

Send 50 pounds deposit to reserve your place. You will need to book your camp site, etc with Christian Gabard, 10, Rue Simon Letoile, 92260 FONTENAY AUS ROSES, France (Tel (1) 46 60 72 12)

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From Eric Totty.

"There is a tip which other readers might appreciate. There is no charge for it as I have not yet patented the idea! It is this. The very first thing I do after extracating the ASKC Newsletter from the envelope, before even sitting down to read and enjoy its contents, is to bind the spine with 2cm masking tape. It is surprising how much better it is to read easily"

* * * * *

Tim Kirby is living at Beachley, directly below the Severn Bridge. He has an old but sound Baidarka Explorer which he is keen to paddle with anyone passing in order to gain experience prior to taking an advanced proficiency assessment next summer.

If anyone is short of a paddle partner over the next 8 months, could they contact him at20, Wyvern Road;Beachley; Chepstow; Gwent; NP6 7HR; Tel 0291 621245.

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