

MARCH 1979

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ADVANCED SEA KAYAK CLUB  
NEWSLETTER NO. 11

EDITORIAL

I am just back from attending Oliver Cock's farewell dinner in Birmingham (for our foreign members, Oliver has just retired as Director of Coaching, BCU). He was presented with a television set as a gift from coaching members of the Union and the 'do' was an opportunity to hear several guest speakers, as well as Oliver of course, talk about the past and also give their views on the future. For me it was fascinating to hear about the background and history of our rapidly developing sport. On behalf of the ASKC members (Oliver is one himself) I wish him every success in his semi-retirement. Oliver is not the sort to fully retire and in fact is going to bring his experience and knowledge to bear as Access Officer.

By now I am sure you all know that Geoff Good is succeeding Oliver. I have known Geoff for many years. He has been a member of the ASKC since I took the Club over four years ago and so his interest in the sea canoeing side of canoeing is secured. I, for one, do not envy his task as Director of Coaching. Following Oliver will be difficult enough and taking us through regionalisation and getting canoeists (who, as a rule, are particularly individualistic) is going to be tough. If anyone can do it, Geoff can, and I know we all wish him well.

COMING EVENTS

Easter 1979 - A national sea canoeing meet at East Mersea, Essex. Further details in last edition of ASKC Newsletter and from Tom Baptie, Merton Adventure Centre, 226 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3HD.

May 25 - 28th - Sea canoeing weekend organised by BCU Eastern Region Coaching Panel at Outward Bound Sea School, Aberdyfi, Wales. Further details from Alan Rees, 29 Wallasea Gardens, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex.

October 12 - 14th - An inland canoeing course at Grafham Water, Cambridge, for improvers over age 17, directed by myself. Details from the Warden, Grafham Water Residential Centre, West Perry, Huntingdon, Cambs.

How about some of you more advanced paddlers laying on a meet, course or expedition? All good experience and not that much to it. Let me have details for publicity. If it is ideas you are short of, drop me a line with S.A.E.

EXPEDITION REPORTS

Jersey Canoe Club Circumnavigation of Ireland 1978

Derek Hairon, John Bouteloup and Franco Ferrero have prepared an excellent informative account of their expedition around Ireland. This can be obtained from Derek Hairon, Ackaless, Pontac, St Clement, Jersey, Channel Isles. I can send a shortened version of this report in return for a foolscap S.A.E.

Morocco by Canoe by Dave Evans, Wendon House, Boxley Road, Walderslade, Kent

Dave and his brother canoed down the coast of Spain to Tarifa by night, camping on strictly military territory forbidden to all except the English. Two Welshmen in wet suits with head lamps in position asking the way to Morocco are definitely not included!! The next morning they paddled across the Strait and landed somewhere in Morocco and then paddled on to Creta where they spent the night, again on the beach. Their visitation caused the local Customs Officer to scratch his head! At Creta they made friends with the local canoe club where they left their KW7's in order to explore Morocco. For the record, Creta is Spanish which Morocco claims is theirs, but Spain will not surrender it.

After some canoe rolling tuition our two Welshmen caught the ferry to Algeciras where they spent the night on the quay before paddling to La Linea the next day.

Here they were at first prevented from landing by officials, but after having their equipment checked for drugs they were allowed to proceed.

Navigation of the local waters was interesting. The Strait of Gibraltar is divided into two parts. On either side there is the tide which runs along the coast West to East, and then out East to West decreasing in strength towards the centre. In the middle there is a current which travels continually West to East, decreasing in strength only towards either shore. This overall situation poses a navigational difficulty.

Anybody wishing to do a trip of roughly 17 miles with lots of sun and a little challenge in navigation, Spain to Morocco is worth thinking about.

#### Around Cape Horn

A very full and comprehensive report with much background detail is now available from any of the expedition members including - Jim Hargreaves, Plas Y Brenin Mountaineering Centre, Capel Curig, Nr Betwys Coed, N Wales, and Frank Goodman, c/o Valley Canoe Products, Private Road 4, Nottingham.

#### N W Greenland Report

Available from John Bull, ATW, Ripon, N Yorks for 75p. John will also provide a slide illustrated lecture.

#### British Kayak Expedition to Newfoundland

Nigel Foster - address: Burwash Place, Outdoor Pursuits Centre - with his buddy Tim, completed this expedition last summer.

"Time and I arrived at Gander Airport with our kayaks sawn in half (the only way they could carry them). Within 24 hours we had joined them and were afloat on the Gander lake. We then had a couple of leisurely days following the lake, then the Gander river with its grade 2/3 rapids as far as the sea. We then pottered around the islands staying for 2 or 3 days at each of the isolated communities we found, mixing with the extremely hospitable "Newfies" being treated to immense meals of salmon, lobster, seal meat, moose meat, cod etc...! they really do live off the land! Had some amusing moments jigging for squid from the Vynecks.

We decided early on that we would rather spend time with the locals than go for a distance record paddling the Kayaks, and shortened our intended journey, aiming now for St Johns.

At Catalina whilst waiting to cross the 30 miles over Trinity Bay, and watching the winds spin 360° daily, we saw the arrival of a 92ft sailing schooner, the "Norma and Gladys", one-time Grand Banks fishing boat but now a floating museum. The Captain didn't see why he shouldn't take us across Trinity Bay as he was crossing it the next morning so we slept on board, left at 5 am and were moored in a settlement in the next big bay - Conception Bay - by early afternoon. A very pleasant free ride and an experience I'll never forget! We spent another night on board before ceremoniously climbing over the side into the Vynecks and heading off down the bay with a force 5-6 speeding us on our way.

We reached Cape St Francis before evening, experiencing very heavy squalls blowing offshore from the mountains, and some pretty hefty swells coming in from the Atlantic. Then followed a....slightly delicate half hour in blinding rain and thunder until we managed to land on the cape.....one of my more interesting stories! The lighthouse keeper couldn't believe that we'd arrived by sea, but made us very welcome until the sea settled enough for us to make a dramatic launch and paddle to St Johns. We had spent just under 5 weeks exploring, and had just over a week around St Johns, disposing of the kayaks and waiting in airport lounges during an Air Canada strike before flying home, minus the Vynecks.

The trip has left Tim (Franklin) and I with many amusing stories, but with six weeks' worth of incidents it becomes very difficult to condense our expedition logs to a few sides of paper! I hope to bring out a slightly fuller account.

Other facts are :-

Distance - approx 660 km.

Kayaks used - 'Vynecks' (made by Xama canoes, Whitehaven, Lake District).

Tent - Flysheet of Mk 3 Force 10 (Vango) fly-weight tent with valences sewn all round (no pegs were carried).

Expedition members: Myself (Deputy Warden of E Sussex Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Burwash Place).

Tim Franklin (Deputy Warden of London Federation of Boys Clubs Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Hindleap Warren)."

#### COMMENT

Derek Hairon writes - "I enjoyed reading all the items in the last Newsletter, especially the Australian paper (on fitting a sea kayak) though as the author (Peter Carter) rightly remarks, it is a good idea to view as many deck layouts as possible. I was however surprised that little comment was made about the layout of the emergency paddles which if sited in that way, ie blades behind sea, make it very difficult to remove in a hurry. We preferred to site the blades near the stern deck. This allowed for easy removal with room to still stick gear on the back. When fitted correctly the blades do not stick out over the gunwales. But then, it is a case of "each to his own". Regarding the lay up of jam cleats, the method shown seems a bit long-winded. The normal way of anchoring jam/running cleats is through the common method of using a small brass plate."

#### INFORMATION REQUESTED

1. I recently heard of a party of canoeists being "arrested" whilst paddling to or from the Brittany coast. I understand they were charged with breaking a French bye law which does not allow small ('frail'!!) craft from going off the shore by more than 300 metres. I have received several enquiries about this episode and would like to report in more detail in the next ASKC Newsletter. If you were involved or know who was, please contact me.

2. Experienced sea canoeist with Nordkapp seeks to join expedition June/July. Contact Paul Belcher, 9 Kemps Covert, Atlantic College, St Donats, Llantwit Major, S Glamorgan.

#### SEA TOURING COMMITTEE

A copy of the STC Constitution is being sent out with this edition of the ASKC Newsletter. Should any of you wish to know more about the Sea Touring Committee please sent S.A.E.

#### STC INCIDENT REPORT SHEET

Enclosed is a copy of this report sheet. If you want a supply, let me know how many and send a S.A.E.

#### DAVE BURSMAIL'S OUTDOOR PURSUITS CENTRE

I am sending out a leaflet about this Centre. Dave is running two sea canoeing courses. One at Pembroke July 16 - 20th and the other West of Scotland October 8 - 12th.

#### FOR SALE

ASKC ties @ £2.00 each, inc of P & P.

ASKC stickers @ 30p each, inc of P & P.

ASKC letter headed paper - coming soon. If you are interested, let me know quantities required. It will not be addressed and I will be retailing at cost.

#### ASKC MEMBERSHIP CARD

Keep this safe and return to me each December/January when renewing membership.

EQUIPMENT DISCOUNT

As yet have not got around to working on this but with our considerable membership I should be able to negotiate reasonable discount from most of the equipment retailers. Look out for details.

LIST OF ASKC MEMBERS 1979

This is enclosed.

LONG RIVER CANOEISTS CLUB

An international canoeing club - free membership. Aimed at promoting the information about long river expeditions. The club is managed by an ASKC member Peter Salisbury, 2 Wood Lane, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire.

THE HOLIEST CANOEISTS

Did you know that our sport now has the approbation (look it up in the dictionary!) from the highest quarters. His Holiness Pope John Paul II in fact is rhapsodic about canoeing and kayaking as well as down-hill skiing. We doubt if he will do much canoeing now he is resident in Rome, the Tiber did not look too inviting to me, but he used to go kayak touring in Poland, taking a portable altar for Mass and fashioning a cross by lashing paddles together. He was on a kayak trip when he was named a bishop in 1958. It took hours before Archbishop Wyszynski's staff finally ran him to earth and got him back to Warsaw. "The Pope has nominated you to become a bishop" Wyszynski told him, "Will you accept? You know the Holy Father does not like to be turned down." Wojtyla though for a moment, then said "Yes, but it doesn't mean that I can't return to my kayak trip does it?". It didn't and he was back on the lakes in a matter of hours.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THOSE CURRENTLY LECTURING ON THEIR EXPEDITIONS

Frank Goodman - British Kayak Expedition, Cape Horn.  
Valley Canoe Product, Private Road 4, Colwick Estate. Nottingham (249371).

John Bull - N Wales Kayak Expedition 1977 to North West Greenland.  
Adventurous Training Wing, Army School of Physical Training, Deverell Barracks, Ripon (5421) Yorks HG4 2RD.

Eric Totty - German Kayak Expedition to Greenland 1977.  
Craigmuir, High Knott, Arnside, Via Carnforth, Cumbria LA5 0AW.

Geoff Hunter - Circumnavigation of Iceland.  
91 London Road, Hurst Green, E Sussex.

Derek Hutchinson - Aleutian Islands Lecture.  
18 Marine Drive, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 2NH.

Alan Simpson - Personal Survival Training.  
Proloc Survival School, 21A Blyburgate, Beccles, Suffolk.

Nigel Foster, Circumnavigation of Iceland. Also: British Kayak Expedition to Newfoundland.  
Burwash Place Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Burwash, Etchingham, E Sussex.

Celia Crowley - N Wales Kayak Expedition 1977 to North West Greenland.  
Clwyd Education Authority Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Also

Mike Jaques, Chotton Hall, Harmer Hill, Nr Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

DON'T FORGET.....those EXPEDITION REPORTS, NEWS,  
VIEWS, COMMENTS, ETC.