



KKC is 40 this season!



November 2012

Kirkwall Kayak Club



KKC Celebrates its 40th Birthday!

Read on to find out how you can join in the paddling fun this very special anniversary year and help KKC celebrate its 40th birthday. There's plenty coming up - pool sessions are starting very soon and there's a coffee morning in just a couple of weeks' time. As usual, there will be a Christmas Meal in late November and more social events to follow in the New Year, all gearing up to a big birthday bash in Spring 2013—with plenty of paddling along the way!

In the beginning...

It's four decades since John Mowat obtained some home-made glass-reinforced plastic Skua kayaks and, with the help of other KGS teachers, started to coach juniors in the pool. Since then, Kirkwall Kayak Club has grown to welcome over 50 members, including many ex-school pupils and incomers to Orkney. Kristian Cooper with a crew of enthusiastic volunteers has gone on to broaden the Club's activities from Canoe Polo to Sea Kayaking holidays and everything inbetween!

In Spring 2013 there will be a KKC 40th Birthday celebration evening for all KKC members, old and new, friends and family so come along and celebrate 40 years of your Club!



Coffee & pancakes morning

Sat 17th November

10am — 1.30pm @ Cavern Youth Club

Baking donations gratefully received! Please speak to committee if you'd like to help out on the day — lots of volunteers wanted.

Winter Activities

Pool Training, Tues eves 8:30—10pm, KGS Pool

Winter pool training is for everyone, and will help you hone your skills in controlled, warm surroundings. This season we'll be rejigging the sessions to try and give you more time in the boats, and there will also be more skills clinics—speak to coaches and see the whiteboard when you come in.

Pool sessions are open to adults and young people who attend secondary school. Younger children can also take part but must be accompanied.

Participants must be able to swim 25m, be comfortable in the deep end and obey normal KGS Pool rules. Cost is £4 and £2, payable weekly. Hopefully we'll be in the new Picky pool in 2013!

Sea Kayak Pool Training

Weekend sessions will be on — contact Peter if you're interested in practicing skills in a sea kayak.

Canoe Polo, Fri eves, 8:30—9:30pm, KGS Pool

If "Rugby in a kayak" sounds like fun to you, and you're confident rolling, come and give Polo a go!

Sea & Surf Kayaking

Paddles are sometimes arranged at the weekend to suit brief winter days. These are often at short notice and although the weather may be calm, dress for the cold!

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Summer Sea Kayaking

2012 was once again an exciting and eventful season for our regular paddling trips. Old favourite trips such as into the Gloop and around Deerness, under the cliffs and geos of South Ronaldsay and over to Shapinsay were amongst the many small journeys undertaken on Thursday evenings.

Although it could be argued that we never got a summer this year, our trip away could not have gone better. A group of KKC and friends paddled around Cape Wrath under balmy hot sunshine and glassy seas, followed by a week kayaking around the coast of Sutherland.

Junior paddles

Our junior evenings on Tuesday nights tend to be shorter journeys close to Kirkwall and are enjoyed by all members, especially younger paddlers and the less confident adults. These evenings are perfect for all ages to build up the experience to join the longer club trips. The younger paddlers have been taking part in the nationally recognised 'Paddle Power' awards under the guidance of KKC coaches, which has been evident with the high standard of our young paddlers over the year.

Sponsored Paddles

A special mention goes to all the members who took part in the KKC sponsored paddles. The more experienced kayakers undertook a 50km paddle from Kirkwall to Holm via Deerness, with the juniors and beginners completing the circuit by paddling from Holm to Scapa. Both days were calm, sunny and warm. The bonus prize went to the Holm to Scapa paddlers for having a Basking Shark for company! Thanks to all KKC members for their fundraising efforts in 2012, which helps keep the Club well-stocked with equipment for all to use.

Surf Kayaking—Scottish Champs

Three members travelled over to compete amongst Scotland's most experienced surfers. The conditions were far from easy with some large sets of messy waves. This made Mary Saunders winning 2 Bronze medals and Adam Strutt taking home 2 Silver in the women's and junior sections all the more impressive, well done guys!

Canoe Polo

Both KKC teams did well in the Scottish National Divisions with members of the Voles making the step up to the A team and helping the A team gain promotion to Division 1. The Voles had a great season too, finishing 3rd in Division 3 missing out on promotion only on goal difference, a fantastic effort in a tough league.



One of the rock arches below Cape Wrath lighthouse. It was sunny, nearly 30°C and flat calm!

Coaches and Training

For the first time KKC offered its own classes in Navigation, tides and meteorology over the winter months. This was well attended and scheduled again for early 2013.

Our coaches are constantly updating and bettering their own knowledge and qualifications. Dennis Bichan, Lesley Mackay and Peter Woodward all began their 4 star leader training, and Mary Saunders completed her assessment and earned the 4 star leader (sea kayak) award earlier this year - congratulations Mary!

Several coaches and aspirant coaches benefitted from a weekend with instructors who came up from Inverness to deliver the Foundation Safety and Rescue Training and coach updates.

Juniors are encouraged to work towards BCU Paddle Power Awards. Paddlers of 15 years and over can train towards BCU Star Awards.



KKC 40th Birthday clothing

Why not celebrate 40 years of KKC with a special edition hooded top, rugby shirt, polo shirt, jacket or hat? Items can be purchased from John Kemp Draper in your choice of colour adorned with the new 40th anniversary KKC logo. Available now!

Keep in touch

Find out what's coming up on the **Calendar** and see what we've been up to in the **Picture Gallery**:

www.kirkwallkayakclub.org

You can also connect to our **Facebook** group!

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