

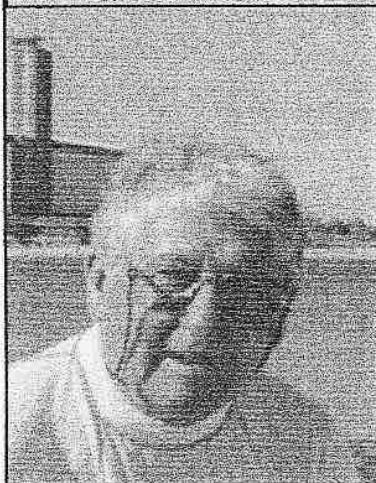
# WA Seakayaker

Issue 44: Sept ~ Oct 2003



Newsletter of Sea Kayak Club WA Inc. PO Box 366 North Perth 6006  
Phone: Pres. Eric Pyatt 9339 2952 Sec. Megan Thomas 9473 0552

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It's good to be back! Better than ever! It wasn't as bad as most think. Just a little maintenance. Straightened out a few kinks. A complete clearance from the specialist. Paddled around Garden Island a couple of days ago.

The Club should be proud of the committee's initiative having meetings, programs and venues in place, carrying on regardless.

Attendances to Club Paddles are what is to be expected this time of year, what with the weather, excursions north and white water commitments. This has been one of our worst years with the weather; fine during the week, rough on Sunday. We've had to abort some paddles, it's been so bad; even on the river

one day. Despite this, it has been a pleasing result for the off season.

Even though progress is slow, we have nailed a definite site for our headquarters. It is the shed alongside the Isolation Hospital. We now have to wait for the renovations/restoration to be started let alone completed. We have the opportunity to apply for a grant of land on the Old Quarantine Station site, looking way into the future.

The Committee has been putting a lot of time into tidying up our Risk Management Plan and Insurance details, gladly reporting satisfactory progress. Constitution and By-laws in the same situation.

The AGM is coming up in October, so, time to consider if you want to make your contribution to the Club by nominating for Committee. We're on the move! Be part of it!

Enjoy your paddling,  
Eric.

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## *This Month's Fiercely Contested* **DUCK FOR COVER AWARD** *Goes to* **Eric Pyatt**



For not following his own instructions.

On the last circumnavigation of Mandurah Island, Eric decided to camp overnight in the Peel Estuary and meet up with the club paddle on Sunday morning. He arranged with Barry, who was leading the group to meet him at the Dawesville Cut at or shortly after 9.30am. The group arrived at 9.40 and waited at the appointed place in spite of having spotted two kayaks well ahead in the cut. After checking the small beach where they usually stop, they concluded Eric had gone ahead. There was still no sign of the two phantom paddlers in front of them by the time they had completed the ocean leg and stopped for lunch. It wasn't till they were leaving, that Eric and Roger showed up. Instead of waiting at the appointed place they had gone to explore the canals and the group had passed them. Eric's group was out of control.

**Deadline for next issue :**  
**Midnight WST**  
**Wednesday 22nd October**

Cover Picture:  
Don Kinzett, Roger Lloyd and Tom Hitchcock  
On a rough training day  
Photograph © Les Allen





## NOTICE BOARD



### Welcome to the following new members

Timothy Eastwood  
Thomas Hitchcock  
Alan Melville  
Kate Watson

### Rottnest Weekend

Friday 21st—Sunday 23rd November  
Bookings are now being taken for  
"The House on the Hill"  
Contact Megan for details  
Ph 9473 0552 or 0411 885 604



### The Annual General Meeting Of Sea Kayak Club WA Inc

Will be held on  
15th October at 7.30pm  
at Kidogo Arthouse, 47 Mews Road Fremantle.  
All members are urged to attend  
Nomination forms for office bearers are enclosed in this news-  
letter. All nominations must be received by the secretary 28  
days prior to the meeting.  
If you are unable to attend please fill in and return the proxy  
so you can still cast your vote

### Marine Flare Demonstration Given By The Department of Ma- rine and Harbours

08:00 am Sunday 26 October  
Woodman Point Quarantine Station (on the beach)  
Topic's covered include-

- Marine Regulations regarding marine flares
- Different types of marine flares
- Safety aspects when using marine flares
- How to use marine flares
- Care and maintenance of marine flares

After the Marine Flare Demonstration there will be a  
paddle to Carnac Island and return followed by a bar-  
becue

### Annual Subscriptions are due by the 1st October

Members will receive invoices by the  
second week in September  
Fees will be the same as last year but if there are any dra-  
matic increases in Insurance or affiliation fees there may be a  
levy at a later date

### Long Weekend at Augusta

"Your chance to paddle the Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean  
and the Blackwood River all in one weekend"  
Saturday 27 Sept-Monday 29 Sept  
Staying at "Turners Caravan Park" in Augusta  
R.S.V.P. and for further info ring Eric Pyatt home 9339 2952

### If you haven't returned the Australian Canoeing Membership Form

you received in the last newsletter, please return it now in  
the stamped addressed envelope provided

### Change of address And or contact details

Please advise Megan if you have changed any of your con-  
tact details.  
She would also like to have everybody's email address  
on her database

### Congratulations to all members who entered the Avon Descent

John Di Nucci, Terry Bolland, Megan Thomas, Robyn Khorshid,  
John Ross, Jim Bramley, Brad Reed, and Wayne Poulsen

### Introduction to G.P.S. (global positioning system) Theory & Practical night

07:30pm Wednesday 24 Sept  
Eric's Shed 28 Aurelian Street Palmyra  
Topic's covered include-

- Basic theory on how a G.P.S. works
- Common terminology used with the G.P.S.
- Explaining the basic functions of a G.P.S.
- Practical exercises using marine charts and the G.P.S.
- Care and maintenance of your G.P.S.

Bring your own G.P.S. and instruction book (if you have one)  
R.S.V.P. and for further info ring  
John Ross home 9592 2432  
work 9410 3736  
mob 0407 050 011

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# Roger's Big Day Out

Photographs & Text by Les Allen

The training day had arrived and the weather was not looking good. The forecast was for 20 to 30 knot W-SW winds with 40 knots in squalls. Roger had never paddled in rough water before and as we were heading out to Garden Island he was understandably nervous. Don and Tom were the other two paddlers. I was not worried, as Roger on two other training days had proved he was not going to panic in the water. The worst-case scenario then, was to raft up and sail back to the coast if the conditions got too bad. The training that day was to handle the conditions! Tom is a strong paddler with surfing experience so I was confident he would handle the conditions even though he had not experienced wind this strong.

As we headed out, the wind was a kind 12 to 15 knots but a squall was bearing down. We had gone 50 meters when the wind picked up to 20 plus knots so the end of the point took a long time to reach. The waves were small as we were still in shallow water. After the squall it was a steady 15 knots and we could settle down to a

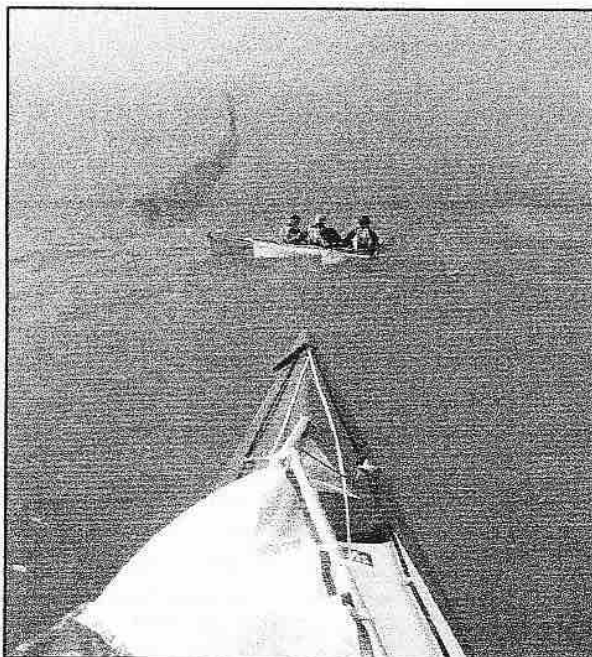
rhythm. Roger was powering along looking very snug and in control.

We had been paddling about an hour and could see the channel markers quite clearly. To the right and left big thunderstorms were brewing. The black swirling clouds were punctuated by the crack of lightning and the thunder came rolling across the water assailing our ears. I noticed I had lowered my paddle stroke a little as I am very scared of lightning. Especially when you are the highest thing on the water and waving a carbon fibre rod in the air. I closed on Roger to see how he was doing. He looked calm and happy with a strong regular stroke. Well there would be no turning back as Roger was performing like a veteran.

A short time later the squall hit. The green waves had wind ripples running over their surface and started to steepen up. The rain hit shortly after. Stinging, heavy, horizontal rain straight into our face and the sky blackened. The water was light green as the sun was behind us and it contrasted heavily with the inky black skyline. The wind was gusting to 30 knots forcing us to hunker down and keep plodding along without making much headway. 10 minutes is a long time while you are being pummelled by a squall. It seems more like 20 but eventually the squall passed and we increased our speed.

The trip over took more than 2.5 hours, which will give you an idea of how windy it was. As we arrived the sun came out and the wind died down. We went to the new barbecue site, as it is very sheltered and was quite pleasant. I asked Roger how he felt. He said if he knew how rough it was going to be he would not have come but was now glad he had. As we were eating, a monster thunderstorm was forming out the back. We decided to wait till it passed which suited me as there was a lot of lightning and thunder. The worst of it had passed and we were freezing, standing under the sign shelter, dodging the hailstones. Don suggested we head off so we could warm up.

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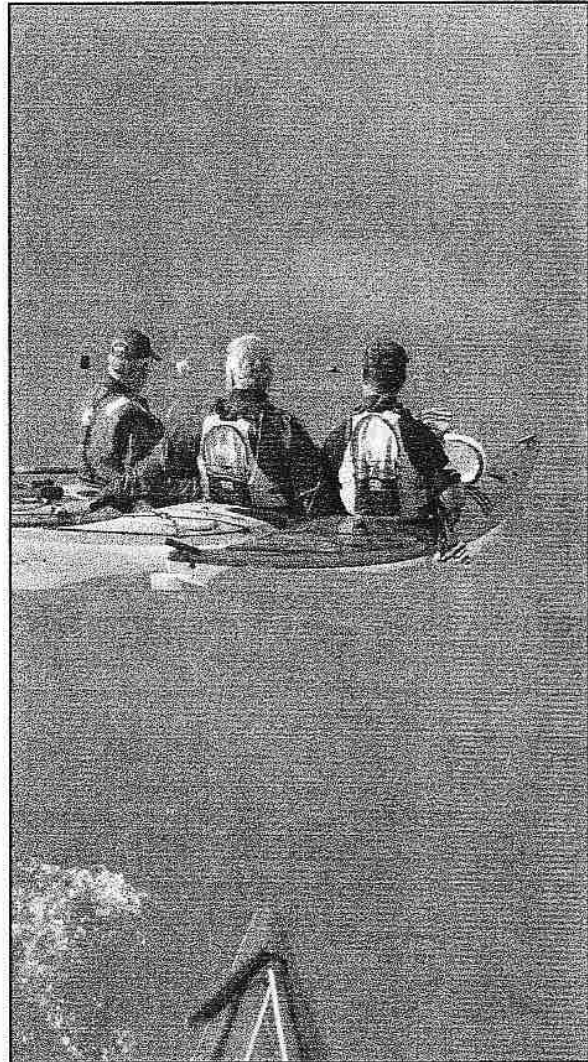
Don, Roger, Tom on a rough training day.  
Photograph by Les Allen

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Roger asked what the finer points to handling a following sea were. He was not looking too confident at this point and I don't blame him. Big gnarly thunderstorms were all around, it was raining and the sea was littered with white caps. Go fast and don't back off. If the boat turns let it turn and lean into the wave were our pearls of wisdom. This did not seem to instil a lot of confidence in Roger, but he saddled up and headed out.

The trip back was going well. Roger was handling the conditions and seemed to be picking up confidence. With about 2 kilometres to go Roger was starting to catch some waves and a grin was etched on his face. The next second he was over. He wet exited perfectly keeping hold of his boat and shouted to let us know. Well it had to happen, everyone comes out when they first start surfing. But that doesn't help much when you are the one in the water. The previous training came to the fore and he was back in his boat and ready to go in no time. He set out again but his confidence was gone. I told him that was normal. Everyone feels the same after they come out suddenly. I don't think it helped much.

As we arrived back I asked him how he felt again. He said it was a great confidence boost and he was glad he did it. His smile was back and I am sure when he has time to think about it will be pleased with the way he handled a very stressful and confronting paddle. It was a top day and Roger will be a much better paddler for it. It certainly was, a big day out.



Don, Roger, Tom  
Photograph by Les Allen

**Mainpeak Subiaco is running the following courses.**

**Bookings are essential as numbers are limited, Call 9388-9072**

Monday 01 September: Remote First Aid Introduction \$15.00pp

Thursday 04 September: Tent Demonstration Free

Thursday 11 September: GPS Demonstration Free

Thursday 18 September: Choosing a Rucksack Free Tuesday 23 September: Cooking □ The one burner way \$35pp

Thursday 25 September: Multi fuel stoves Free

Mondays 6&13 October: Travellers Workshop \$45pp

Thursday 09 October: Intro to Bush Survival Free

Sundays 12&19 October: St John Ambulance \$185pp

Remote First Aid Course

Sunday 02 November: Bob Cooper \$350pp

Saturday 08 November Outdoor Survival Course

Sunday 09 November Mainpeak Subiaco / Dwellingup

This three (full) day intensive course is run over two consecutive weekends. The first Sunday is held at Mainpeak Subiaco & will cover the theory aspect. The following Friday night we meet at Dwellingup at 8pm & prepare for an early start on Saturday where we will head off to our bush camp. The course concludes on Sunday at 3pm.





This must surely be the only perfect Sunday this winter. There may have been a few good week days but Sundays have been cold, wet, windy and miserable and there has been a poor turn up at most club events except for the river paddles.

This day we started at The Chimneys on the Peel Estuary. It was calm with glassy reflections from all the pelicans and seabirds basking on the small islands. There were a few people about walking their dogs, but the grassed area was mostly deserted and silent except for the twenty-eight parrots, magpies and red wattle birds shrieking noisily above us. We four sea kayakers (Barry, Graeme, Warren and Marian) also generated our fair share of noise as we unloaded our gear and prepared to circumnavigate Mandurah Island.

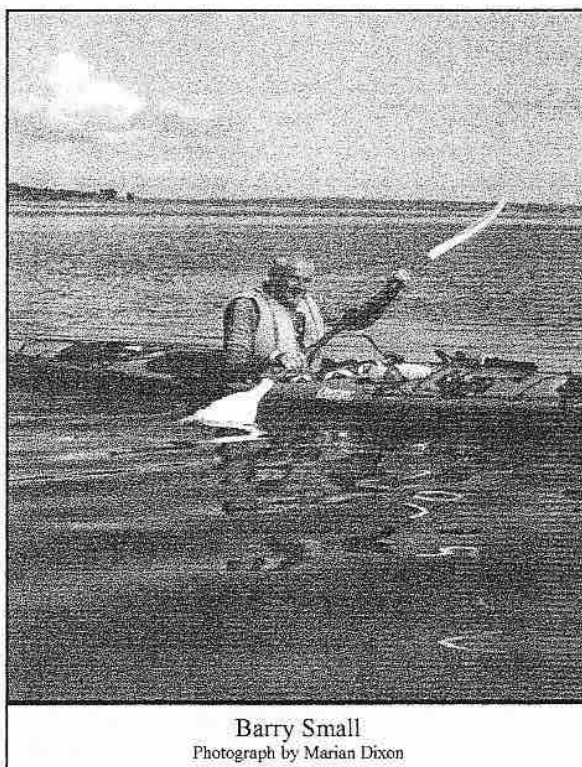
Off to the south, we noticed a sea kayak being launched from another car park but were unable to attract his attention. He paddled off towards the cut without seeing us. We were expecting another paddler, so waited in vain till 8.30 before departing. A dolphin mother and small calf accompanied us for part of the way.

Barry had arranged to meet Eric at the Dawesville Cut so we headed in that direction and reached there at the appointed time. In the distance, we glimpsed two kayaks disappearing into the cut but when we reached there they were conspicuously absent. We concluded they had gone ahead and would meet us at Falcon Beach. Barry has landed there many times but I had only done this trip once before and on that day it was rough with a big swell and we were unable to land at Falcon. Barry laughed at that and said if we couldn't land it would be because I had jinxed them.

We imagined we caught occasional glimpses of the phantom paddlers in front of us but perhaps they were surf skis.

I'd never seen it this calm as we exited the Cut but as we approached Falcon some serious swells came rolling in. The waves lumped up to about 2

metres before crashing on the beach where Barry claimed they normally land. We sat off and watched the huge dumpers pounding the shore and Warren was the first to voice his total disinterest in landing there. Relieved that he had been the first, we all agreed with his wisdom and decided to have a bite to eat in our boats and continue. Naturally they blamed me for jinxing the spot. I've only been there twice and couldn't land on either occasion. Two out of two is bad, they tell me.



The elusive phantom paddlers ahead of us were nowhere to be seen. But that was because they were behind us. When we finally took a lunch break inside the river mouth, Eric and Roger caught up. Roger had been the unknown paddler at the wrong carpark and he had gone ahead and reported to Eric that nobody else had shown up

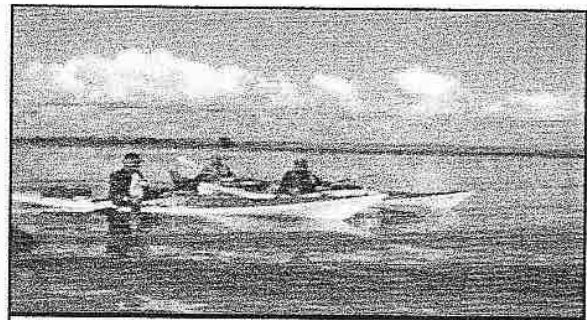
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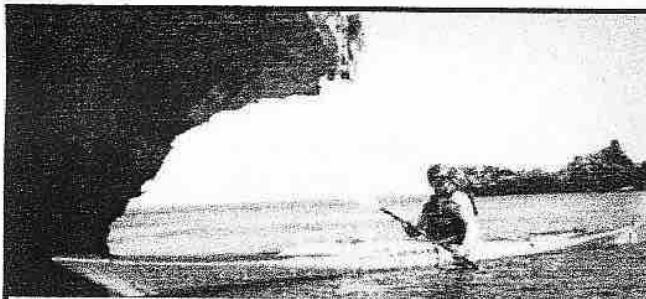
To meet him. They had detoured to explore the canals at Cape Bouvard and missed making contact with us.

In spite of the confusion it was a perfect day. The small group size made for excellent interaction and discussion and I was disappointed to reach our starting point and have the day come to an end.

Four days later I stood at Dawesville and watched two whales frolicking in the Cut to amuse the onlookers. Why couldn't they have been there on the Sunday?



Roger, Barry, Eric  
Photograph by Marian Dixon



***"Mirage Sea Kayaks are the best sea kayaks on the market" ....  
Ask me to explain why on a test paddle. If you are looking for equipment, try mine, because the gear I sell is the gear I use.  
Les Allen***



Ph 94562129 lallen@touch88.com.au

#### PINOCCHIO

Pinocchio had a human girlfriend who would sometimes complain about splinters when they were having sex. Pinocchio, therefore, went to visit Gepetto to see if he could help. Gepetto suggested he try a little sandpaper on his manhood and Pinocchio skipped away enlightened. A couple of weeks later, Gepetto saw Pinocchio bouncing happily through town and asked him, "How's the girlfriend?" Pinocchio replied, "Who needs a girlfriend?"

#### WISH.

A woman was walking along the beach when she stumbled upon a Genie's lamp. She picked it up, rubbed it and a Genie appeared. The amazed woman asked if she was entitled to three wishes. The Ge-

Advertisement

nie said "No. Due to inflation, constant downsizing, low wages in third world countries & fierce global competition, I can only grant you one wish. So what'll it be?" The woman didn't hesitate. She said "I want peace in the Middle East. See this map? I want these countries to stop fighting with each other."

The Genie looked at the map & exclaimed "Jesus Christ lady!! These countries have been at war for thousands of years. I'm good, but not THAT good! I don't think it can be done. Make another wish."

The woman thought for a minute and said, "Well, I've never been able to find the right man. You know, one that's considerate and fun. Likes to cook and helps with the housecleaning, is good in bed and gets along with my family, doesn't watch sports all the time and is faithful. That's what I wish for.. a good soul mate."

The Genie let out a long sigh and said, "Let me see that f..... map again!"

# Eric's Seabirds

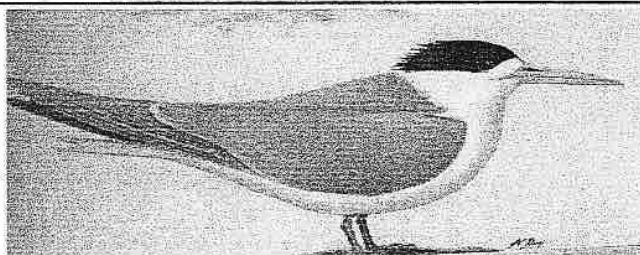
Photographs courtesy of Simpson and Day

## Terns:

When skirting the beaches and islands of our local coastline we commonly observe four types of Terns; Crested, Caspian, Fairy and Bridled.

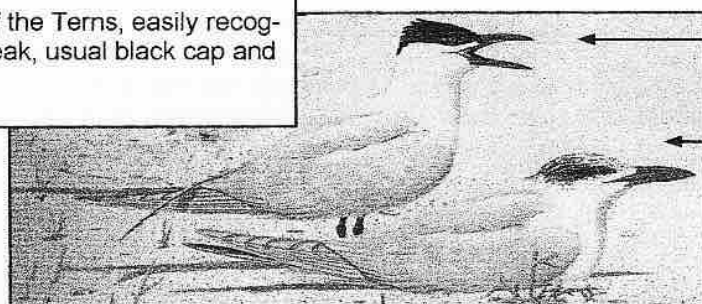
### Crested Tern:

This is the most common of the Terns [or Divers as they are often referred], identified by their black tops of their heads, yellow beaks and short legs. Like all Terns, they are observed when flying over water to momentarily hover and dive full pelt into the water to snatch their prey. Like most terns, the juveniles have varying degrees of brown flecks on their bodies and sparser black feathers on their head. Sometimes a change in beak colour.



### Caspian Tern:

The largest of the Terns, easily recognized by their red beak, usual black cap and short legs.

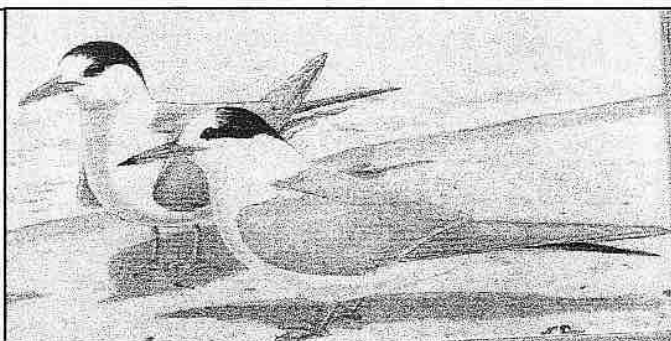


Breeding

Non Breeding

### Fairy Tern:

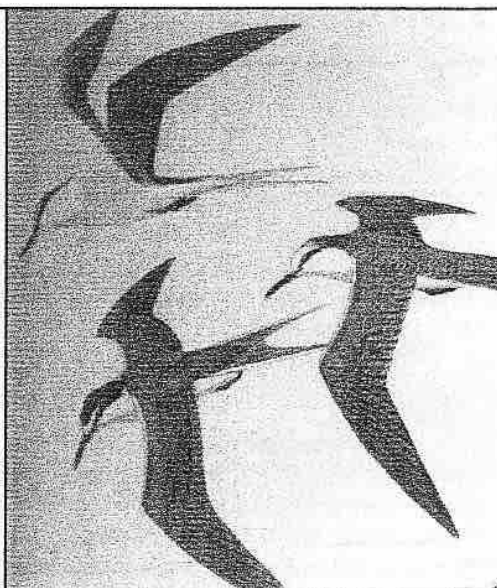
The typical looking tern, only very small, with orange beak and legs and usual black cap. You hear them before you see them with their regular "cheep"



### Bridled Tern:

These are seasonal. You see them at the right time of the year mainly over the Islands; particularly Carnac. They scare off the Silver Gulls when they come into breed. But for them the Gulls would be breeding there all year round. They are a very slick looking bird, white faced, chest and belly with the top of the head, back of body and top of wings totally black. It's name is derived from the black line that runs from it's beak through it's eye to the black of it's head like a horse's bridle. Like the Silver Gulls, when disturbed, they wheel in hoards, screaming raucously overhead.

They, seemingly stupidly, nest and breed on the open beach. It has been seen on Carnac Island where CALM have fenced off an area to protect them from people unknowingly walking over them. The chicks just hang around on the open sand.







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## **How to go kayaking!**

Four married guys go sea kayaking. After an hour paddling, the following conversation took place:

First guy: "You have no idea what I had to do to be able to come out paddling this weekend. I had to promise my wife that I will paint every room in the house next weekend."

Second guy: "That's nothing, I had to promise my wife that I will build her a new deck for the pool."

Third guy: "Man, you both have it easy! I had to promise my wife that I will remodel the kitchen for her."

They continue to paddle when they realized that the fourth guy has not said a word. So they asked him. "You haven't said anything about what you had to do to be able to come paddling this weekend. What's the deal?"

Fourth guy: "I just set my alarm for 5:30 am. When it went off, I shut off my alarm, gave the wife a nudge and said, "Kayaking or Sex" and she said, "Wear a sweater."

(Joke contributed by Megan)

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**SURFACE MAIL**