

WA SEA KAYAKER

Journal of Sea Kayak WA Inc. PO Box 230 North Beach 6920.

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Welcome to another journal. It's pleasing to let you know we're continuing to get stronger as a club and we're getting some good feedback from members and non members alike on what they want from the club. We do welcome your suggestions! One thing that stands out is that many sea kayakers who had been doing things on their own, are now finding others to share with. EG. a number of social paddlers, and some training for expeditions and fitness, have found others to share their paddles with.

Please let us and others know what you want (through this journal). Which days suit you. You will be surprised, others will join you for a day of paddling!

E.G. Hal Paine works on weekends so he'd like others to join him on a regular Wednesday paddle, about 3 hours minimum, eg. Out to Carnac Is, around Garden Is, Rottneest Is, that type of thing. He also wants others to do a bit of SK surfing with him. Contact Hal. H93375596 M0419942759 Hal is also planning some trips away (Entry level Expeditions) of 4-5-6 days. 1st is Shark Bay, 3rd week of April. 2nd. Ningaloo, 3rd week of June next year! Anyone interested?? Apart from me!

Trip Report. Hal, John DiN, John S, and Nev went for a paddle out to Carnac Is on Wed 27th Aug. Very windy NNW at 15-20 kts, a few rain showers, but after a 1H40M slog into the wind Carnac was a pleasing place to stop. Seals and birds, lunch and a good surf home with the wind and we enjoyed it immensely. A good training paddle. The rest of us are finding the Sunday and mid week paddles a great way to get good sea experience in the safety of a group. There is a good social feeling to these paddles, a fun time, and we're finding we learn something new each time.

Social Committee. Fran and Claire are busily planning events! Lots of ideas being discussed. The first idea to get the nod was from Hal Paine, a full moon paddle, BBQ / Picnic at Chidley Point. 18th Sept. Remember lights for your boat, there are good cheap ones at the canoe shop \$8. with a 360 deg white light. See you there!

Kayak o/night camping. Sat 6 - Sun 7 Sept. North from Mindare, paddle until we decide a camping spot, then a good night eating, socialising, fishing, camping, etc. paddle back next day. Get ready as catering is necessary, ring Peter Cappendell (TC) to get on the list. NB. It is necessary to be properly equipped - including safety gear!

Invitation. We've been approached by Rec and Touring Committee, of ACAWA (a group of similar aims but without sea kayaking as it's focus) to consider organising an invitational trip once a year. This could be a day paddle of a few hours, or a weekend paddle? They also want a delegate to their meetings, someone keen to join their committee and to publish their details in our journal. Any ideas? One suggestion has been to invite all the other canoe / kayak clubs to a paddle out to Carnac Is from Fremantle boat harbour and back. Big turn out of boats. PR for the club, good day out!

Avon Descent. Congratulations to those in the Avon descent this year. We hope you all had a good time. Read John Di Nucci's interesting trip report in this issue.

SKWA Membership fees, ACF Insurance Levy, and ACAWA affiliation fees.

Unfortunately ACAWA fees have gone up. As you can see, SKWA gets \$20. the rest goes to ACF Insurance, and affiliation fees to ACAWA. I won't dwell on these, only to say insurance is necessary, and ACAWA will benefit us. Some benefits. Voice at Intl and Aust Canoe federations, United representation to Govts, Re Grants and funding,

with other sporting organisations, Input and expression of collective opinions, Education, Coaching, Major events, Administration. At club level, Insurance, Marketing our club, Annual dinner, Coaching and Training, Specific discipline expertise, Equipment, Teaching and Education, Enquiries, Meetings, Management Council, Assistance, Levies, Discounts, Publications. ACAWA Affiliation. We were invited and send a representative to the ACAWA AGM on 8/8/97. I came away with a positive view of the benefits of affiliation. One outcome of the AGM to affect all clubs was the increase in Insurance and affiliation fees. This was debated at length and justified! The insurance is compulsory, it is now a better product, an australia wide policy covering all Australian canoe associations. At the meeting we presented our request for ACAWA Affiliation. We expect to be admitted at their next management meeting on 27/9/97.

SKWA Inc. Membership reaches new record. Our membership is getting larger all the time. 30 paid up members, 55 interested people on our list. More joining up, getting involved, turning up to our Sunday and mid week paddles, and organising other trips. We're still waiting on a few of you to join and pay your SKWA and ACAWA fees. Membership forms are enclosed for those of you who haven't yet joined. Please do so! Of course, we want you in the club. We believe you will enjoy good benefits in joining. Why not let someone else know we exist? There are still more sea kayakers out there. Give them a copy of our journal, or get their address and we will send them some info. Bank account. We now have a cheque account, so we can now accept cheques as well. Lets get organised. The number of trips being contemplated is on the increase. If you want help or others to accompany you, let us know and we will spread the word. Of course this does not mean that anyone can turn up for your trip! You still pick who goes! Invitation. We have had another invitation from one of our members down south! Keith Leech, also Karridale has invited us to visit and paddle with him down in the Margaret River area. Keith says he isn't a very experienced paddler, still on the learning curve, but he'd like to meet and paddle with a few of us if we want to go down. So, we should get down there, meet up with the southern crew, and see what the area has to offer. Pittarak for sale! Keith Leech also has a new pittarak for sale. He's asking \$2,200. ONO. He made 3 pittaraks, one for sale. Possibly a 2nd one also. Details are: White, brand new, ready to go, looks good. (Hull is 800gm WR + 1. 450gm lay + 1. 450gm in the cockpit. 2 water tight bulkheads, 2 henderson hatches, 1 bilge pump, rudder, pedals, seamless joint, polyurethane spray finish, deck ropes and strepping) A test paddle is available. Good photos are available on our notice board at John and Frans. Notice board. If you have anything of interest for our notice board, photos, boats for sale, etc. send it in. We will display the board at our meetings and social functions. Personal Details update. Help us to get it right. Please send us your new ones. Readers contributions. Get credit for that great idea! We invite you to share any of your tips reports, ideas, how to's, techniques, inventions, etc in the journal. Trip report. Hillarys - Pinarro Pt. Sun 17 Aug. By Nev.. Nice day, small group, just a social paddle up to Ocean Reef marina, with a lazy day feel about it. I had to get to the footy so I badgered them into stopping for a coffee south of O.R. from which we never went any further north. Needless to say the shore break, which looked tame turned one or two over at the beach, so some of the warm ones who didn't want to chance a cold dip, didn't come ashore. No names!!! Uneventful day but a nice sunday paddle. Kayak Fishing. If interested there are others. A comp may be organised! By the way we'd like each member to organise and conduct at least one trip a year. So, Please, Plan one, get it on the list, be there to conduct it, your baby! BYE!! See you on the water. Ed.

SEA KAYAK WA Inc
SIX MONTH
ANNIVERSARY
DINNER

**TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT
AT 7PM ON THE 1ST OCTOBER at
12 ELVIRE STREET, WATERMAN.**

BRING

**Drinks (Beer, Wine or Soft Drink)
One plate of any food to SHARE for the DINNER
(Can be hot, cold or takeaway)
Doesn't matter, just be there, if you can't cook,
bring a can of baked beans or whatever.**

FORMAT

**Quick SKWA Meeting at 7pm
(Agenda Items Welcome)
Pre-Dinner Drinks
Informal Dinner by 8.30ish.**

PHOTOS

Bring any club type photos with you for the board.

RSVP

**Fran or John or Neville
for idea on numbers. 94473438**

AVON DESCENT 97

The Sec. wants to know about the Avon Descent so here are some selective recollections.

What is it ? A very long, 133 km, two day boat race from Northam to Garret Rd Bridge over mostly flat water with sections of Ti Trees and rapids.

A few preliminary matters which probably need to be addressed before the big event include:

- Access to a suitable boat and the ability to paddle it over the course. 133 km is a long way in a slow stable canoe and much too far to swim if the boat is too tippy (fast?).
- Collection of lots of gear PFD, paddles including breakdown, spray deck, helmet, repair kit, drink supply system etc.
- Knowledge of the course including Ti Trees & Avon Valley rapids.
- Fitness to paddle the course within the cut-off time limits.
- A support team (of superhuman abilities) to do and think of everything.
- Get through scrutineering.
- A bit of water in the river to paddle in.
- Millions of other things.

Once the preliminaries and a million other things have been addressed, its to Northam for registration, getting race number bib and the start time. Next, the boat is deposited at the start line before going on to the night's accommodation. Northam becomes quite a busy place on the occasion with a street parade and amusements getting good interest and the pubs much more.

Sitting in front of a roaring log fire eating tea and having a chat with Derrek who lives about 50m from the start line, is great, and a bit more my style.

It's cold and foggy when we get up for an early start next morning. After getting organised it's outside with a cup of coffee to say hello and show off to anyone I recognise (especially those who've had to drive some distance to the start line).

Finally at the start and the opportunity to catch up with others - new and old friends, opponents and everyone else you get accustomed to seeing on the occasion every year. Because it's foggy and the stink boaters won't be able to see where to go, the start has been delayed and the whinge commences (I'll cool down too much by start time, I've eaten breakfast too early and won't make it to the end of the day).

Finally, the race commences - the power boats go off with a great racket, the others go off with thrashing paddles. The water is extremely low and portage around the weir is in order. We then follow each other down narrow shallow channels towards Toodyay. Every now and then it becomes too shallow and we need to get out of the boat and drag to the next navigable stretch.

This year the usual start order of slowest off first has been reversed and as I paddle a relatively fast boat (usually finish in first 30) find that there are very few slower boats and skis in front.

It takes about 1hr 40 to Katrine Bridge and quick 30second pit stop - drink and banana I think, then onto Glen Avon. This is a little rocky, man-made rapid. As its too early in the race to damage the boat I carry and lose time.

Finally, make it to Extracts Weir; lots of people are crowded around waiting and looking (are they all waiting for blood?). This year there is no water so it's a carry around to the bottom. Off again towards Toodyay with another very quick pit stop at the Goomalling Bridge. Toodyay is only a short distance away but continue on towards West Toodyay bridge for the last pit stop before tackling the Ti trees. There is the food and drink as ordered but no short indestructible tree-hacking paddle so decide to keep the long one which works just as well.

The final leg of about 17 km is pools interspersed with patches of dreaded Ti trees (known to confuse paddlers and get them lost, grab and hold onto boats and even pluck people out of boats). All the faster paddlers (mostly skis and doubles) go racing past in the pools and then usually get stuck in the trees at the end so I have to wait for them to clear the gap (but sometimes us slow, crafty, old types manage to take an alternate less hindered route to the next pool where the fasties can go racing past again).

"O good. It's only the very small Leatherhead rapid to go and the end of day one." Follow the C2 down and pretend to race them to the finish line as they are not going to let anyone get past.

Off the water and deposit the old boat in the holding area and give it a quick check for damage and necessary repairs. Time to catch up with a few people I haven't seen for a while then it's off to camp for dry clothes, a drink some lunch,a drink some lunch, some more lunch and a drink then afternoon smoko (much more food and drink) and a rest.

Later in the afternoon wander down to do boat repairs and check on the late finishers. The nose cone needs retaping, a quick glass patch repair on a couple of suspect spots on the hull just in case and a bit of adjustment to the foot rest should do. All the novices from the course have made it to the end of day one but Mac (I have to work extra hard to stay in front of him during training) has been ill and finished further back than expected.

The day's results show 19th place with a time of about 5hr 40min - just how did Piers cover that distance in 1 hr + less time?

Tea is eaten sitting around a good fire with friends while over the railway line Animal Hill comes to life (I think it might be a little less noisy than it has been in previous years).

Eventually it's off to bed and just in case it gets too cold I've got a second sleeping bag (didn't I mention that I've done all this before and am determined to get a comfortable sleep).

DAY 2

Up early to a fine, not too freezing morning and get ready for the day (there is no point queuing up outside the loos later when everyone else wants to go).

Start time is soon after 7.00 am and it's into the worst patch of trees - why do I always get caught behind less wieldy craft and why do I more often than not pick the wrong route? Finally its the end of the trees and why is Terry in front when he started a couple of grids behind (a fast run down the bank beats slow bash through the trees).

Into the rapids with Supershoot then a long list of other small rapids separated by lots of long pools. Because of the low water the rapids are shallow and rocky but ok (They are often good places to get past those skis which keep catching up in the pools). Emu Falls is much too low and rocky for a long fragile boat so its a longish portage through the bush. How did Terry get in front of me again?

Off down the valley once more. I have plenty of good luck and manage to get clean runs through the rapids and tree patches. This results in getting passed in the pools by the same skis at least 15 times.

A moment of concern while stuck sideways in the rapid above the lookout (Heart Stopper) but got rammed by K1 which knocked me free. A clean run through the Look Out and Championships then and onto Syds. This rapid is low and rocky but I can't be bothered getting out so shoot it ok. Next its Walyunga and then Bells.

Finally, at about noon all rapids are behind, the boat is still in one piece and there is the Upper Swan bridge. From here its a short paddle through upper Swan Ti Trees and a pull out for pit stop at Amiens Cres.

Spare paddle, repair kit, extra buoyancy and nose cone are removed, food and drink replenished. After a piddle and a swap to light paddle its off for the last 30 km. This is a long way to go when tired and there is little to keep the brain motivated.

About 1 1/2hrs later another 30 second pit stop at Lilac Park then off. (Man on a ski reckons he's just about had it and needs food, gets sympathy, a block of chocolate and recovers so two minutes later goes racing past as fit as a fiddle and disappears over the horizon).

The end gets nearer and I spot a group of friends cheering enthusiastically 'cause it looks like I might make it (or relief that they have had the good misfortune not to be able to race this year).

"The last 2000m. Good, there is no head wind this year." A young bloke catches up and as he is only going a little bit faster than me I stay with him and because neither wants to be beaten to the line it ends up as a sprint. Oh I think he may have just beaten me in by about an inch.

About 3.00 and now that I am allowed out of the boat the legs don't work too well and hobble off to collect my medal. A short rest then change into dry gear and it's back to feeling human again. Terry finishes a few minutes later, has a short break then sets off on a paddle to Fremantle.

A check of the progress boards indicates that all my novices have made it to Upper Swan but only three eventually beat the cut off times and get their medal (this is difficult in low water years and for paddlers of slow boats) and get to Garret Rd.

So after 13+ hrs on the water and 133 km it's time to go home and put the race boat away till next year. Now.... I may be able to get on with some real paddling.

TRIP REPORT Sunday 17th Hillarys by John Satherley.

A clear day with some cloud threatening a front. A good turn out of nine paddlers. A discussion on the beach about where to head for and it was decided I would lead the group out to Little Island, then pick a channel through the outer reef, around the back of the surf break and back to the island. This was almost accomplished with ease and everyone enjoyed passing over swells of about 2.5 metres, breaking perfectly as we passed by. Time to head back, but having little difficulty picking the channel. Finally found the channel and made it through, apart from Fran, who was caught in a breaking wave. A good attempt at bracing, but not quite good enough. Peter C, who was following directly behind tows upturned boat out of the break, then helped by Peter Oakley, Peter C and myself, rafted together, Fran gets back into here boat. Released early with paddle tangled, just as another wave breaks and over she goes again. This time along with Peter Oakley. Somehow we had drifted back into the break. Neil Husband called Fran to swim to his boat and he takes her away from the strike zone. Peter C tows her boat and another rescue is executed. Peter Oakley has managed to get himself in with a little help from Neville. By now Fran is tired and exhausted and requests a tow back to beach. This I volunteered to do, so along with Eric, Clare and Sylvia, who has been watching the how to and how not to execute a rescue with great interest, we headed for the shore. The rest of the group paddled to the island and were entertained by three seal pups. Back on the beach and change into warm dry clothes, and a cup of green tea, thanks to Eric, Fran warms up and we all continue back to Hillarys. A great day had by all, even Fran who is no longer worried about sharks.

TRIP REPORT SUNDAY 24TH. OCEAN REEF TO MINDARIE. by Fran.

Fabulous weather, with the wind behind us we all took off from Ocean Reef Marina. We flew along with a gentle swell helping and headed for the rocks off Burns Beach. A newcomer, Kiwi guy with an unusual name, joined us. When we reached the rock island, he cruised in over the edge with the help of a little wave and landed for a snorkel with the seals. Neil followed, then myself, Eric and others. What a little paradise. A bird sanctuary and seal colony. What a treat. Much more beach landing area than it looked with a secluded centre protected area where the birds breed. The water was crystal clear and will be a great place for another visit in the summer for a group snorkelling. John, Peter, Karen and Brian entered this little haven from the western side of the island and cruised across the shallow water over the top of the reef. Followed closely by heaps of playful seals. We stayed for a while having a good look around and then headed off towards Mindarie. Peter O. paddled alongside a catamaran. It was a fast enjoyable paddle in perfect conditions. We all paddled into the marina together and landed on the beach at the end. It was a great day and certainly one of my own favourites.

Eric, Neil and John paddled back, for the hell of it, to Ocean Reef.

SEA KAYAK WA Inc.
SEPTEMBER 1997
CALENDER

2nd September (Tuesday) 9.15am Start

River. Training Paddle. Meet at bottom Irvine St. Peppermint Grove. Head toward Perth and return. 15km approx.

6 & 7 September (Saturday & Sunday) 9am Start

Overnight Kayak Camping. Meet at Mindarie swimmers beach carpark area. Paddling north. Camp, return next day.

9th September (Tuesday) 4.30pm Start

Pinnaroo Point to Little Island. Evening Sunset Paddle.

Meet at Pinnaroo Point Carpark. Enjoy a cold beer or wine, a few nibbles and hopefully a good sunset. BYO.

14 September (Sunday) 9am Start

Fremantle - Mewstone Rock - Carnac Is, circumnavigate the Island - Fremantle. Meet at Bathers Beach, Fremantle. (Near McDonalds)

18th September (Thursday) 6pm Start

Full Moon River Paddle with BBQ afterwards.

Meet at Chidley Point Carpark. Mosman Pk. BYO Food & Drinks.

21st September (Sunday) 9am Start.

Garden Island. Start just inland of the causeway. Picnic on Island.

25th September (Thursday) 9am Start.

MACC Carpark, Marmion. Paddle south - return, approx 2 hrs.

28th September (Sunday) 9am Start.

Hillarys North Wall - Little Island. Surf & Seals. Pinnaroo-return.

PUT IN YOUR DIARY NOW.....

OCTOBER 1. (Wed 7pm) Club 6month Anniversary Dinner.

.See flyer . John & Fran's house, Waterman.

OCTOBER - MARGARET RIVER WEEKEND.

PLAN NOW FOR ROTTNEST WEEKEND. DECEMBER / JANUARY.

GET YOURSELF FIT and Outfitted FOR THE CROSSING.

Paddle around Rottnest, snorkelling, Camping, fishing.

JOHN S. 94473438

NEVILLE H. 94484196

JOHN DiN. 9448 5696

PETER C. 94574481

PHONE PETER TO INCLUDE YOUR PADDLE IN THE CLUB CALENDAR.