



CANEWS

October 2009

EDITOR'S CORNER

THE WEB SITE – www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk

CANEWS IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

This (and the last few) Issue of Canews is available in Acrobat pdf format for download direct from the web site (right hand click and select save as). The photos are in colour – by the time this has been through the photo-copier it loses so much!!

If you don't need a hard-copy posted in the future (and you feel like saving some forests and my time and costs on copying, envelopes, etc). let me know

THE RIVER AVON 'BLOG'



If you have any photos, information etc. on the river Avon that might be appropriate for the 'Blog' – please let me know

See: <http://theriveravon.blogspot.com/>

CAPTION COMPETITION

Visit the web site for the Caption Competition



"Bugger off, I'm waiting for Excalibur." Mike Farnden

"Rule 1 Insurance Scam do not go into a police station .

Rule 2 Don't drown on way to shore

Rule 3 Don't do this in shark infested water ,.....aaargh

Rule 4 Use cheap plastic boat !"

Mike Worth

RCC PHOTO GALLERY



Don't forget – you can share your photos with all members

RCC HISTORY

This is Ringwood Canoe Clubs 21st year. To celebrate our coming of age I will continue to post up old issues of Canews for you to download and savour. See some real old school paddling!, find out what happened a decade or so ago, and for those RCC long-timers, relive some memories and cringe at what you, or others, said at the time.

COMMITTEE MEETING 31ST OCTOBER 2009

Please don't forget that there is a committee meeting at the Inn on the Furlong after the Pool Session Saturday 31st October 7pm'ish

Apologies, but I can't make the meeting

ANOTHER MYTH BURIED, DUDES

It has long been held true by many RCC members that the club's annual Devon Surf Weekend never features any surf. Canoeing of some sort, almost certainly; walking, quite possibly; and drinking, most definitely. But never, ever, under any circumstances, surf.



As you will read below, sadly cameras did not survive the conditions and photo records are absent. This is, however, a fair(ish) representation of DSW09

Of course, year-on-year, there were rumours that members had surfed from sunrise to sunset on gnarly mega waves that never spilled, broke or dumped. Stories were legion about how Hawaii had better look to its laurels, lest it be overtaken in popularity by Putsborough or Saunton. But we never had sufficient [Editor's note: yeah, right, like any] photographic evidence to support these tales from our bruddahs about the bitchin' tubes and lips.

Until now. The law of total probability dictated that if we kept going long enough, one year our DSW would come up trumps. As it turned out, 2009 was that year. OK, maybe not the stuff of Pacific dreams or epic tales of wipe-out survival, but sufficient to keep people happy for two days. And enough to persuade Graham and Paul that it was worth driving to Woolacombe on Saturday morning.

Mike W, Martin, Rich, Dot, Ross and Sarah arrived in Ilfracombe on the Friday evening in time to grab food in the George & Dragon. Elliott, Nick and Nichola didn't; all three arrived at the same time (in Elliott and Nick's case this wasn't altogether surprising, since they were in the same car), but were too late for pub food and had to console themselves with chips on the harbour wall. Helen and Steve made it in time for a drink. Glyn and Gilly barely made it in time to get into Maplewood Backpackers hostel, where we were all staying. All, that is, except Rich, who preferred the comfort of his van and the dubious delights of Ilfracombe's street nightlife. Oh, and also except for Helen and Steve, who were staying somewhere completely different because well, let's just leave it at that.

Saturday dawned bright and early. Too early for Nic's boyfriend to have sent her a text message confirming undying love and devotion, so she promptly went back to sleep. And far too early for Gilly, who should have got up hours earlier, or possibly shouldn't have bothered going to bed at all, in order to fit in her somewhat protracted ablutions and makeup routine; as a consequence she missed breakfast with the RCC wolves.

A quick check on the webcams – yes, Maplewood has an internet room – revealed that Woolacombe appeared to have the best surf, and breaking every club time rule, we were there and on the water by about 10.00. Sarah erected a tent on the beach so that she could watch the fun out of the wind, and Gilly set off on a brisk cliff-top walk to Morte Point and back.

The rest of us headed seawards, where there was something for everyone. Beginners and the more cautious practiced mini surfing and bongo sliding on the inshore breaks, while the pros and fools ventured further out to where the big green tops rolled in. Rich paddled way beyond everyone and bravely adopted the role of Tsunami Watch, or so he said, to protect the beach fledglings. Which is why, apparently, he was never in a position to help any of them when they capsized.

A few of us hedged our bets and lurked halfway between the two groups, peering anxiously over our shoulders in case one of our more active members actually caught a ride and stayed upright for more than a few seconds. Not that there was much fear of that happening. In the 'Pro' category, Ross took first prize for swimming – three times on the same day – and also picked up a special award for being parted from his boat the longest, a feat involving special deep sea capsize skills and lengthy walks back to the beach. Glyn and Nic both won commendations for their sheer tenacity and stamina, and took joint first prize for best overall improved surfing technique.

Paul and Graham joined us in the early afternoon, and everyone enjoyed a few more happy hours of surfing. It goes without saying that by arriving later in the day, they missed the monster waves the rest of us had experienced all morning – but luckily we had photographic evidence stored away safely in Nic's camera (she's a photographer by profession, so we knew we were in safe hands). By mid afternoon we'd all had enough physical exercise for the day, so most of us retired to the Rock Inn at Georgeham for a recuperative pint. Not so lucky Glyn, who got dragged round the shops in Ilfracombe – rumour had it that Gilly had run out of some vital item of makeup. Most of the pub conversation however, revolved around UK river access, or rather, the lack of it. Dual hat wearer Martin put up a vigorous defence of fishermen's interests, countered by Graham, during an increasingly heated debate. A question mark still hangs over who, if anyone, won the argument, but for those missing Question Time it made for a most enjoyable end to the afternoon.

The evening saw everyone reunited back at the George & Dragon, this time in time to eat. Mike, Nick and Elliott had formed a half-hearted breakaway group with the intention of eating curry at the Gurkha Buffet Restaurant, but abandoned the plan when Mike pointed out that one of the worst buffet curries he'd eaten was in a restaurant with a similar name. It was a very convivial evening; the food was good, and when the last of us left shortly after midnight, the landlady was still offering us more drinks.

Sunday was much a repeat of Saturday. Gilly got up extra early to accommodate her makeup routine, this time only missing breakfast by a narrow margin, and Paul was delighted to discover that her cosmetics paraphernalia included a magnifying bedside mirror, which allowed him to apply his eyeliner with great precision. Rich, sleeping in his van again, had been woken by police chasing a drunk (he assures us it wasn't him) in the early morning, and because we now had Graham and Paul with us, the rest of us were also up before sunrise (or so it seemed), had bolted breakfast and were back on the water – this time at Saunton – by about 9.30. Yes, 9.30!



Paul prepares for a day on the beach

The surf on Sunday was also good – opinions varied on whether it was slightly better or slightly worse than Saturday's, which meant that it was probably much the same. Nic spent a considerable amount of time out of her (upside down) boat, but again showed far more stamina than most. First prize for a vertical ender was won hands (and head) down by Mike W, who was trying out a variety of boats to find out which one was the most stable. Probably not the one you were paddling when we took the photo, Mike! By midday, the surf had declined significantly, so most people decided to call it a day.

One of the last people out of the water was our chief photographer, Nic. Upon taking her drybag out of her kayak, she discovered that 'dry' was something of a misnomer. After pouring out several pints of seawater, we turned our attention to her camera. Our record of DSW09 and its unprecedented surf waves. Wet. Waterlogged. Possibly even bugged. Now our very credibility with our surf dude bruddahs rides on the, as yet unproven, ability of an XD card to survive everything that Nic threw at it. Oh such calamity, consternation and woe!

On the other hand, we could simply do it all again next year....

Nick Leatherdale

TWITTER & UKRGB RIVER LEVELS

UK Rivers Guidebook
River Dart Levels Update

Simon_Gene17 #ukrgb, dart ok I like it, well done Mark and Mark, I'll be on it when I return 30th Oct, Cowtown tomorrow, Munich THursday and Soca Friday yesterday

MarkAllen79 #ukrgb, dart. 13mm of rain, we might just be in luck today. 12noon at Newbride. yesterday

MarkAllen79 #ukrgb, dart 26mm of rain 2day. 15 hours ago

R444 #ukrgb dart was on the slab @ 1800

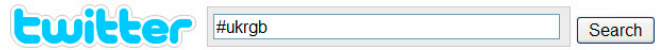
Join the conversation

Mark Gawler has set up a Twitter feed on the UKRGB community pages – to rationalise real-time updates on river levels. It may prove very useful.

If you subscribe to Twitter and have registered your phone then you can receive any updates direct to your mobile.

Type in

<http://search.twitter.com/search?q=%23ukrgb> to your web browser to get this sort of feed:



Realtime results for #ukrgb

0.41 seconds

- R444: #ukrgb dart was on the slab @ 1800 about 16 hours ago from txt · Reply · View Tweet
- MarkAllen79: #ukrgb, dart 26mm of rain 2day. about 16 hours ago from txt · Reply · View Tweet
- jimpullen78: #ukrgb, Tees It was well up on Saturday, had dropped back on Sunday, but the heavy rain today should bring things back up for a day or two. about 22 hours ago from web · Reply · View Tweet
- jimpullen78: #ukrgb, Lakes Levels must be coming up it's been checking it down all day! about 23 hours ago from web · Reply · View Tweet
- MarkAllen79: #ukrgb, dart. 13mm of rain, we might just be in luck today. 12noon at Newbride. 1 day ago from web · Reply · View Tweet

And, don't be afraid to post up your own levels information for any UK river you pass and help keep the kayaking community informed.

There's plenty of discussion on the subject in the community pages at <http://www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk>

THREADING NEEDLES



We had beautiful conditions for our September trip to the Needles. Bright sunshine, calm seas, little wind and neaps.



9 of us left Keyhaven uncharacteristically early (at 09:15) with the minimum of fuss and faff. We threaded the needles, explored the deep caves, lunched at Freshwater and let the tide gently drift us back to our cars in the late afternoon.



Thanks for organising a perfect day Barry
Graham B

RDCEP OPEN TO PADDLERS AGAIN – NEW RULES

RDCEP writes...

We are pleased to announce that the River Dart Country Park is now open again to paddlers at weekends for the season. The refurbished cafe bar will also be open and will amongst other things offer a Sunday Carvery lunch from noon to 3pm. For full details of our accommodation packages, meals and instructions on how to make a booking please see the kayakers' section on our website <http://www.riverdart.co.uk>.

Paddlers not wishing to use the facilities at the park will need to egress at Buckfastleigh at weekends as the egress at Holne Bridge will be closed. The car park at Newbridge is limited in size and the Dartmoor National Park have reserved the first row of car parking spaces for members of the public who are not paddlers. Please do not park in these spaces as it annoys the rangers and public and we do not wish to lose this car parking facility!

Access to the park for paddlers is via the main gate and is available at weekends throughout the winter season. For non-residents during the winter season the cost will be £5 per car or £10 per minibus for the day. Paddlers will be issued with a car pass to enable them to drive in and out of the park to run shuttles to/from Newbridge/ Dartmeet/ Buckfastleigh. Day Visitors will also have use of the toilet facilities and communal hot showers on Saturdays and Sundays. Paddlers wishing to 'drop off' will not be exempt as in the past they have

taken several hours doing so! Season car passes are available for £50 and will be on sale until the end of October only. The application form will be available to download from the River Dart Country Park website from tomorrow. There is a separate arrangement for commercial operators and the details are also on the website.

We are pleased to announce that we have agreed a contract with canoe-shops.co.uk to run a well stocked paddlesport shop onsite every weekend throughout the season, which will be open practical hours and regardless of the river level. The shop will also have a comprehensive range of demo boats and equipment that can be tried on the river or our onsite lakes.

The Dartcam (in association with Nookie) has now gone live and will upload an up-to-date image every thirty minutes from 7am until 5pm. The red gauge (in the picture) will be marked as soon as the river rises sufficiently to indicate levels that correspond with the water level in relation to the 'ledge' at Newbridge. For those not familiar with the Dart levels a proper explanation will be available or refer to the river guide on this site.



We need some volunteers to step forward to arrange some trips. At the moment we have a calendar full of white water and pool sessions, but not a lot else. It would be nice to see some 'gentle touring' type trips (Keyhaven, Hamble, Stour, K&A, Itchen, Poole Harbour, Wareham type things) These don't take much organising – just a contact name and a date.