

# EDDYLINE

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## NORTHWEST VOYAGEURS CANOE AND KAYAK CLUB

Box 1341, Edmonton, AB T5J 2N2

Internet Address: [www.nwvoyageurs.com](http://www.nwvoyageurs.com)

### Upcoming Events

- Jan. 6 (Fri.)**  
**8:30 pm**
- Kayak Drop-in Sessions Begin !**  
Confederation Pool, 11204-43 Ave. Edmonton  
Keep your skills up while the snow flies! Every Friday night from Jan. 6 to April 7, you can practice your padding from 8:30 to 10:00. Bring your own boat or use one of the club's. There will be a fee of \$5 for drop-ins. PLEASE NOTE: Jan.6, 13, 20 & Feb.17 the Drop-ins have the whole pool to use. Jan.27 & Feb.3, Kayakers will likely be restricted to the deep pool depending on canoeist numbers. Feb.24 to April 7, drop-ins will be restricted to the deep pool as kayak lesson will be ongoing.
- Jan. 25 (Wed.)**  
**7:30 pm**
- General Meeting**  
Lions Seniors Centre, 11113-113 St.  
**Wildlife Observation: Make the most of your outdoor adventure.**  
Come see a presentation and slide show about making your trips to the great outdoors a memorable and more meaningful one. The presenter will talk about how to be more observant and wildlife aware. Slide show will also be supplemented with actual animal foot print castings taken from the wild (some including: Wolf, Cougar, Black Bear, Grizzly Bear and more)  
Presenter: Don Litven
- Jan. 27 (Fri.)**  
**8:30 pm**
- Canoe Drop-in Session**  
Confederation Pool, 11204-43 Ave. Edmonton  
Brush up on and learn canoe rescue skills such as canoe over canoe, T-rescue, righting a capsized canoe, getting back into a canoe in deep water and more while in the safety and warmth of a pool. Sessions are from 8:30 to 10:00pm. There is a fee of \$10 for canoe drop-ins. Interested persons please contact Canoe Coordinator Melvyn Kadyk 484-3563.
- Feb. 3 (Fri.)**  
**8:30 pm**
- Canoe Drop-in Session**  
Confederation Pool, 11204-43 Ave. Edmonton  
Same as above ( Jan.27 Friday session )
- Feb. 7 (Tues.)**  
**7:30 pm**
- Executive Meeting**  
Lions Seniors Centre, 11113-113 St.  
The club executive meet to discuss club business. Members are welcome to attend.
- Feb. 22 (Wed.)**  
**7:30 pm**
- General Meeting**  
Lions Seniors Centre, 11113-113 St.  
Trip planning will be done at this meeting. Come join us for Pizza and refreshments and help us decide which rivers to paddle this year.
- Feb. 24 (Fri.)**  
**8:30 pm**
- Kayak ( Beginner ) Lessons Begin !!!**  
Confederation Pool, 11204-43 Ave. Edmonton  
Pool sessions start. **Please register NOW** as we are trying to fill some openings for this class session. Call Robin Benbow at 435-2901 or Kurt Sejr at 922-6200
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# NWV EXECUTIVE 2006

|  |                   |          |                            |
|--|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| President  | Rick Fetterly     | 438-1296 | fetterly(a)shaw.ca         |
| * Vice President   | Doug Knight       | 435-2348 | dknight(a)telusplanet.net  |
| Treasurer  | Norma Ouellette   | 444-0263 | normao(a)nait.ab.ca        |
| Secretary  | Josephine Petesky | 474-2751 |                            |
| * Membership   | Steve Budziszyn   | 461-3292 |                            |
| * Newsletter   | Don Litven        | 476-7006 | don_litven(a)hotmail.com   |
| Website  | Ben Coxworth      | 438-4062 | coxworth(a)shaw.ca         |
| * Publicity/Archives   | Allan Steward     | 487-0607 | alkemy(a)ocii.com          |
| * Trip Coordinator   | Melvyn Kadyk      | 484-3563 |                            |
| Canoe Coordinator  | Doug Knight       | 435-2348 | dknight(a)telusplanet.net  |
| * Kayak Coordinator  | Robin Benbow      | 435-2901 | rbenbow(a)gmail.com        |
| * Equipment Manager  | Larry Richard     | 454-8680 | patlarry(a)ocii.com        |
| Social Coordinator   | Brian Walker      | 975-5976 | brianwalker(a)hotmail.com  |
| Member at Large  | Kurt Sejr         | 922-6200 | sejr(a)wildroseinternet.ca |
| NWV Internet Address: <a href="http://www.nwvoyageurs.com">www.nwvoyageurs.com</a> |                   |          |                            |
| NWV Snail Mail Address: Box 1341, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N2                        |                   |          |                            |

\* Indicates new person in position.

## 2006-01-03 Executive Meeting Summary

A big thank-you goes out to Rick Fetterly and his wife for their hospitality in hosting the annual NWV Christmas party. Everyone who attended enjoyed the company of fellow paddlers, the wild stories and of course the great food.

A big thank-you goes out to those NWV members who participated in the Paddling for Compassion canoe trip this past year. Ocean Sports of Edmonton, one of the sponsors made a donation of free diving lessons for a lucky NWV participant. A draw was held and Clive Bearman of St. Albert was the lucky winner.

A reminder to all trip leaders, please be sure to report your statistics to the appropriate Canoe and Kayak Coordinators after your trips. This information is required by ARCA and helps with future trip planning. Thanks again

## BEGINNER KAYAK LESSONS ARE ON

**Please register as soon as possible – Classes still have room**

All classes will be taking place on Friday nights from 8:30 to 10:00, at the Confederation Pool (11204-43 Ave. Edm). The session of classes will run from February 24, to April 7, 2006. The \$95 fee includes all of your gear, plus one river day trip at the end (Note: Fee does not include membership in our club, if you are not a member already). Any prospective students should contact Robin Benbow at 435-2901 or Kurt Sejr at 922-6200. Anyone wishing to be assistant instructors should contact Robin or Kurt.



## IMPORTANT REMINDER:

**All of your NWV memberships expire January 1<sup>st</sup>! Don't delay, renew today!**

## Trip Report - Fraser River – Oct. 1-2, 2005 (changed to Red Deer River)

Participants: Brian and Brianna Olson, Chuck Elliott, Ben Zimmerman

Who's Ben? Ben is a young German lad here for a year. He has paddled a few times in Germany and would be classified as an eager novice.

Well, the weather forecast was not good, especially for Saturday. Since it was the last chance Red Deer River was a saner choice. We checked the water level and it was at 30 cms. Now, this didn't make sense for October. I expected about 15 cms. The rain hadn't started yet. We concluded the measuring gauge was not working but decided to go anyway. We also decided to leave on Saturday and concentrate on Sunday as the weather was supposed to clear by then. Brian couldn't make it until Sunday morning anyway. It rained as we traveled south from Edmonton. Oh well.

No one else from the club had called.

We didn't paddle on Saturday, just enjoyed the camping and sharing stories around the camp fire. The sky cleared late Saturday. The river was really higher than expected and it looked closer to 40 cms than 30 cms.

Sunday it was cloudy. Brian arrived and we headed up to the top put in. The sun began to appear. It was beautiful. It was still strange with the autumn colours, cool weather but July water levels.

Ben and Brianna each had a little swim. Ben commented that the water was really much colder than in the mountains in Germany. I had given him a single pogy as the other was lost. He was sure he wouldn't need it. By the end he was wishing he a complete set. The pictures at Gooseberry Ledge were awesome.

At the S bend we decided to take out. There was a brief 5 minute hail (looked like snow) but it kind of worried us and Wysenchuk's was a long way off. We took out, made a fire to warm the paddlers who had swam, relaxed and left around 4:30 pm.

By Chuck Elliott



Above: Brianna in Gooseberry pre rapid



Above: Brian running the Gooseberry Ledge



Ben in Gooseberry Ledge hole - one pogy showing



Chuck in Gooseberry Ledge hole

## **A Message from the 2006 Trip Coordinator**

Hello fellow paddlers.

My name is Melvyn Kadyk and I have accepted the position of Trip Coordinator for the year 2006. My home phone number is 780-484-3563. ( I do not have e-mail )

I would welcome all your calls with suggestions or questions about the up coming paddling season and trip schedule. We need trip leaders for all our trips and welcome calls from new people as well as our old friends and experienced trip leaders. We have a trip leader manual for people to use as a guide for those people who would be leading a trip for the first time. I have a tentative date of February 22, 2006 for a scheduling meeting.

In the mean time I encourage every person in the club to think about which rivers you would like to paddle, the class of difficulty and also if you like day trips from Edmonton, day trips from a campsite or canoe camping trips of more than one day. Also as you all get new 2006 Calendars you may want to attach dates to these trips.

**REMEMBER !!!!!!! THE CLUB ONLY RUNS TRIPS THAT CLUB MEMBERS VOLUNTEER TO LEAD**

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## **AWARD-WINNING PHOTO – HUMOR CATEGORY**



**Patricia Grell took First Prize in the “Humor” category of our 2005 NWV Photo Contest**

On the left is Thomas Richard and on the right is William Richard

# **BLAST FROM THE PAST**

*I found this interesting and thought that I would share it with everyone  
Newsletter Editor, Don Litven*

## **The History of the Northwest Voyageur Canoe and Kayak Club Where did we come from?**

Canoeing has been a part of life since the first white men arrived in what is now Alberta, and long before then, by native Indians.

Not before the end of the Second World War, did people have enough leisure time available, for the idea of recreational canoeing to really take hold. Sure, some people might have canoed up and down the North Saskatchewan River just for fun, perhaps as far back as the 1920 or 30, but if organized clubs existed then, we just don't know. Some old timers have talked of groups of people canoeing "way back". Old city maps from the fifties show that canoe clubs existed or had existed in Edmonton. One such map shows the captioning "Canoe Club" at the mouth of Whitemud Creek.

But not before July 24, 1964, do we have a written record of a canoe club by name. Bob Lamb, a Canadian Youth Hostel member, together with a few other interested paddlers, formed the Northwest Voyageurs Canoe and Kayak Club, the club still with us today. A few earlier attempts had been made, but apparently without lasting success.

As the Edmonton Journal put it at July 24, 1964; "Bob Lamb's Northwest Voyageurs Canoe and Kayak Club now have more than 20 members, since being formed a few years ago". Four trips were planned that summer on the North Saskatchewan, the Red Deer, the McLeod and the Athabasca rivers. Here is an example of the river information of the day: "there are 5 major rivers in Alberta, making possible 11 different trips. e.g. Nordegg to Rocky Mountain House and Jasper to Whitecourt are difficult because of whitewater." In the following years the club increased dramatically, and by 1973 it had over a 100 members, many of which built their own boats out of fiber glass in a building the club rented from the city of Edmonton, where the Muttart Conservatory Pyramids now stand. Regular courses in canoeing, and indoor winter courses in kayaking were introduced as a regular feature which has been maintained to this day. Kayak pool sessions were first held in the U of A pool and when the N.A.I.T. pool was completed, we moved and used it for many years. The N.A.I.T. pool was eventually closed to outside clubs, which forced us to find a new home at the Confederation Pool where we are today.

During the 70's, river introduction was held every Tuesday night at Whitemud Creek. Many became new members there, and some even married. By now the trip schedule had expanded to 25 trips for the summer, and groups of members were going up north to paddle the McKenzie and other northern rivers.

This was a time when people were looking for clean healthy outdoors activities, and canoeing fit the bill admirably, with it's camping and fireside camaraderie as well as it's paddling.

At the same time special interest groups were forming within the club, and so in 1974 an offshoot club was formed called the Edmonton Whitewater Paddlers, taking with it some of the members interested in Whitewater Racing. A few years later, another group, wishing to specialize in family trips formed the Ceyana Canoe Club. The policy of the Northwest Voyageurs was and still is to provide canoeing and kayaking enjoyment across the whole spectrum of recreational paddling.

By the time 1980 rolled around, the club posted between 40 and 45 trips each summer, as well as courses, summer bar-b-cues and ski trips in winter.

A monthly newsletter has been mailed out consistently since 1973 to all paid up members informing them of trips, trip reports and anything else of interest related to the club.

As well, the club has a fleet of both canoes and kayaks made available to members to rent for club trips. During the 1980's, the club separated from it's long association with the Canadian Youth Hostel, becoming a fully independent organization.

In the 1990's, the N.W.V. gave birth to yet another club, and the Mistaya Kayak Club came into being. It would not be wrong to say that the N.W.V. has grand fathered most of the paddling clubs in Edmonton. Even with supplying both members and expertise, the N. W.V. have managed to hold it's own, and we have about the same numbers of both members and trips.

Over the years the N.W.V. have catered to a broad spectrum of paddlers, offering all types of paddling, a policy we still follow today, almost 40 year later.

*Article found in the club archives – Information verified by Club Members*



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