

The Eddyline

September
2014



Upcoming Events

Season Close Out Trip

Devon to Laurier Park

The trip will now run on **Sunday September 21**, 2014. Anyone who is interested in joining the trip should contact Mel Kadyk at (780) 484-3563.

Club Social

September 24, 2014 at 7:30 PM at the Strathcona Community League Hall (10139-86 Ave, 2nd floor). Our own Melvyn Kadyk will be presenting on the many trips and events that he was involved with this year through pictures and stories. Snacks will be provided. Join us to relive the summer and start thinking about next year.

North Saskatchewan River (Rocky Mountain House to Buck Creek)

August 30 to
September 1

Participants:

Tandem canoes: Mel Kadyk and Norma Ouellette; Doug and Leslie Knight (accompanied by Gus, the 6 lb. fur ball dog); Al and Linda Gordon; Lorne Taschuk and Freeman Adane

Solo Canoe: Ed Villeneuve

Solo kayak: Pat Haynes

After a filling breakfast at Teddy Bear's in Alsike we headed to the put-in at Rocky Mountain House. We were all off paddling just after noon in beautiful weather. The river had lots of sandbars, braids and debris piled up from past floods so we had to be watchful. As the afternoon wore on the thundershowers started but we managed to outrun the thunder! By the time we camped, the rain had stopped so we got our tents up and had an enjoyable evening around the campfire.

Day two proved to be a bit more exciting. We had two boats go "swimming". Most importantly nobody was hurt. We did save the canoes and only a small amount of gear was lost. One boat broadsided a sweeper log, while trying to navigate a sharp corner with a swift



current pulling towards and under the log. The canoe was flipped and the occupants quickly ejected. Both canoeists floated to shore while others went after the boat. A clever up-stream, cross-stream ferry brought the rescue boat up the shore and took the wet and cold 'floaters' back to their craft.

The other boat capsized in standing waves with cross currents adding a challenge. Interestingly we discovered "dry bags" do not necessarily keep items dry when the canoe capsizes and the lids of barrels can come off. The rest of the crew practiced their rescue techniques (swimmers first, boats and gear next). By the way, newer style life jackets do work better than the older foam ribbed ones, but do keep your jacket as tight as you can. It helps to keep your head above water.

We also saw many eagles soaring overhead and a dead elk on a sandbar in the river. We had a bit of rain later in the afternoon but again it stopped by the time we were putting our tents up. We all enjoyed the opportunity to relax around the campfire after dinner.

On the last day the river was less braided and we started off in nice weather. We saw more eagles and a bird which we speculate was a tundra swan.

Thanks to all the rest of the crew for a great weekend of camaraderie and wonderful team work.

- Submitted by Leslie Knight



Trip Report –
Saskatchewan
trip #17 –
Nemeiben,
Besnard, Black
Bear Island Lake,
Otter Rapids
August 9 – 17,
2014



Participants – Donna McKenzie, Lisa Derksen, Cindy Davies, Ric Fetterly, Dirk Pauwels, Fran Armstrong

Sat Aug 9- All left Edmonton about 7:30 am and Ric, Cindy and Dirk arrived in La Ronge at 4:30, Donna, Lisa and Fran at 5:30. Supper at Kosta's Family Restaurant, very nice! At Nemeiben Lake campsite by 8 and Ric and Donna left to shuttle at 8:30 and back at 10:20. Visited a bit but bed by 11. Lovely full moon! (perigee)

Sun Aug 10 – up by 6:45 and sorted and on the water by 9. Lovely day for a paddle! Opted out of the first portage, only 3 km extra to paddle. Lots of lovely homes around Nemeiben Lake, including one with a parking meter and a telephone booth! Lunch on a rock outcrop in Millar Channel. On down and across Head Lake to our first portage. Buggy and wet, but okay overall. Paddled up the channel and camped on a rock where there is a tumble down cabin, and an OLD canoe and blueberries! Had a half hour of rain which meant an early evening for all. Loud beavers all night. Made 23.5 km today.

Mon Aug 11 – Up at 6:45 to sunshine! On the water before 9, into wild rice as far as the eye can see. Amazing. After following along Pine Brook, we managed a bypass of portage #3, except for Fran and Donna who portaged. Entered Clam Lake and wind. It's a head wind and kicking up decent



waves. More head wind after lunch, in fact we only did about the same as yesterday, and are camped at km 46. Its portage #5, a bit buggy but well used and a good fire pit. Lunch was on an awesome rock peninsula in Clam Lake. As we set up camp a family portaged by us going the other way, Grampa, Dad, Mom and 2 girls aged about 6 and 9. There is road access to the lake in front of us.

Tues Aug 12 - Up at 6:45 again, things are dry and we headed off down a creek to Morning Lake. Yesterday's family said there are beaver dams in front of us, and there are! The main dam of 3 has been repaired overnight since they came through. Out of the channel finally and onto a Lake, but no wind so we are good. We are headed for portage #6. More wild rice and we passed an old trappers cabin that is actually on our maps! We ate a fast lunch at the beginning of #6, after one carry over and the bugs are bad. Paddled along Gull Lake and into a bay where we met portages 7 and 8. They are long, not level and the day is warm. Cindy, Dirk, and Donna swam in the small "unnamed" lake between the portages. It is a gem, clear with rock cliffs. You wonder how many people have ever seen it. After we ended #8 we only paddled about 4 km and are on an island at km 67.3 Only went 21.3 km today but we are dead tired from 3 ugly portages. Everyone swam and bathed off the fantastic rocks and Cindy cooked a wonderful chocolate cake (with icing!) to celebrate Fran's first swim in a lake. We stopped later and are all still up at 9:00 pm. All agree this campsite is a 9!

Wed Aug 13 - We are up early to try for more distance. Another lovely day! We paddled nearly 17 km and had lunch on a lovely rock point, well used though! Cindy, Dirk and Donna went swimming. We had visited with a couple (and their 2 dogs) who were on day 15 from Pine House Lake, and they said the up coming 4 portages (short and ugly) can be bypassed

by a quad trail the outfitters have established. They said it is 1.5 km long. I think at least 2 km. Hilly and rocky and mushy and HELL! It took 4+ hours but we did it! Paddled to km 89, so 22 km today, but that was one hell of a portage! They had told us about an established campsite 1 km from the take out, so here we are. The wine was welcome and everyone is beat. Dirk caught a pike on his second cast, but we set it free. Most to bed at 8:30.

Thurs Aug 14 - A much better day! Up at 6:30 to try for more distance. By 10:00 we have usually paddled 10 km. We are in Black Bear Island Lake properly now. It is all downhill from here! Much of the landscape has been burnt. A stop for a morning swim is most welcome! It was hot last night, all were asleep on top of their sleeping bag, and today we have haze. It's hot, lunch was a BAKE in the sun, and it must be 40 C. Changed maps again, yahoo! Around Craik Island we met 5 canoes from a private boys camp, near Calgary. Always good to meet other canoeists. Birch Rapids is ahead and after a brief scout it was a sweetheart of a portage. Easy 260 m and we might just have the system worked out! We ran the lower Birch, the easy section to the north, and stopped at a lovely rock for another swim. Decided to push on since its only 4 pm . Wind is up but we made



another 5km, stopped on a decent point with an Inukshuk to greet us, in Trout Lake. We are at km 122 so did 33 today. Only 51 km left! Once again excellent food with chocolate cake and crème brule for dessert. The sun is obscured by smoke. I wonder what is on fire?

Fri Aug 15 – Still hazy in the morning and stars were mostly hidden by the haze, but the moon looked good. Up at 6:30 and on the water, its warm but not so hot, at least so far. 10 km of paddling to the first portage! We ended up doing several portages of 3+ rapids, all awesome! The first one was easy at Trout Portage and we ran the Little Trout, the water is so high it washed out. Then we portaged the Moose, also easy, and ate at the campground for lunch. Swim again! Paddled across Stack Lake and onto Rock Trout Portage. Also easy, and we enjoyed the lower riffle. Into Mountney Lake! Floated a bit in the heat. Found the “Fine Cloth Rapids” but Dirk/Lisa and Ric/Cindy just ran them. Donna and Fran portaged one load and then Ric/Donna ran the last boat down partly empty. Onto Nipew Lake! Watched a plane land and paddled 6 km across Nipew Lake. It is still and quiet with lots of loud seagulls and 20+ pelicans for company. We are headed for a campground that Donna stayed at 37 years ago, but it is already occupied! Onto Boyle Island and more sand and Cindy inducted Ric, Dirk, Donna and Fran into L’homme du Nord. It’s another well used, lovely campsite, sand and trees and not much flat. But lovely. We went 30 km today and are at 152 km. Only 20 to go!





Sat Aug 16 – Up early again. We seem to rise not long after the sun does. It is cloudy/hazy and 24 C at 6:30 am. On into a wind, but the breeze is cooling. 9 km and some actual current later, we came to Great Devil Portage. It is 1090 m and was to be the longest of our trip. We have this down to an art now, and all are at the other side in under an hour. Where we ate lunch we met a family from Vancouver Island, they are doing Pinehouse Bay to Missinipe and hope to finish today as well. We only saw the Great Devil rapids from the bottom but they look like the portage was necessary. After a short (600 m) paddle we came to Little Devil Rapids. It is 3 separate rapids. We had decided to scout them to see if running was possible, well, we just ran them. Local kids are playing in the 3rd rapid, and fishing at the bottom. The rapid is a class 2, so we are all happy. Out, onto Devils Lake, where we stopped for a final swim. Only 3 km left, into the wind! But, we were all portaged through Otter Rapids to highway 102 by 3:00. Dirk hitchhiked the 5 km to Missinipe and returned with cold Coke for all! We loaded all 3 canoes and all 6 of us into his truck, and headed for Donna's van at Nemeiben Lake campground. One flat tire later we arrived and set up camp for the night. After a most welcome shower we headed to La Ronge for food that has not seen a dehydrator! An excellent end to the trip! Total distance 171 km.

- Submitted by Donna McKenzie

From the
Archives



"I bet they try to keep our \$5 deposit!"

Enjoy your final trips of the season!