



**YUKON CANOE & KAYAK CLUB**

*A leader in the Yukon paddling community since 1961*

**Executive Board Meeting  
September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attending:** Karen McColl, Virginia Cobbett, David Swinson, Luke Morris (zoom), Theresa Landman, Lauren Wonfor

**Non-voting:** Brendan Zrum, Lawrence Brennan, Courtney Terriah, Peta Nolan, Ferdinand Royale, Ruth O'Bierne,

**Regrets:** Derrick Law, Michelle Klaben, Geoffrey Cartwright

**Call to Order: 7:05 pm**

**1) Approve Agenda for September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting.**

1. Approve Agenda
2. Review of 2023 Summer Season
3. Whitewater Kayak Order

**Motion to approve:**

**Second:**

**Vote:**

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**2) 2023 Summer Review**

**Thanks from Lawrence to volunteers**

- a) Intro to Whitewater Kayaking Programs
  - **Admin-** 3 programs this year, well attended, started with a bang but it was a lot to organize.
  - Pool sessions were somewhat well attended but the adult pool session was during beer fest so that impacted attendance. Youth night had low attendance but we didn't do any in-school presentations.
  - **Karen-** People didn't realize that they also had a heavy week in the beginning, maybe more clarification needed. Youth don't use Facebook but going into the classroom visits would be helpful. Need to reach out to parents as well as kids
  - **Ruth-** Find ways to better integrate the groups together in the end would be helpful.



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- **Peta** - Pool sessions were great at the start, adding another day would be helpful as it is so cold out at that time. Mid-April would be a good time as polo starts to drop off. Tuesday night drop in was great later in the season because it was full of the keeners.
- **Dave**- Boats going down to the river and back to the pool was an issue in the spring, we should be careful about this. Trying to avoid this back and forth will set us up better in the future.  
\*\*Cleaning kayaks: would a shop vac help with this scenario? Peta has a connection at the hanger who could help with setting the boats up for the pool.
- **Courtney**- seemed like lots of uptake this summer
- **Theresa**- we have some really excellent instructors this season
- **Luke**- have an extra day so that we can work on skills with a bit more fundamental skill set. The cold water is such a big hurdle for teaching and an extra pool day might help that out. Extra pool sessions could help avoid high anxiety and nervousness. Could have an extra weekend per group to help go over bracing and wet exits. Potentially an extra weekend for folks who are still feeling nervous or want extra time could come to an extra weekend of support.

### **b) Open Boat Drop-Ins**

- We need some extra open boats for the night, there was low turn out. We could borrow boats from Trevor potentially? We're open to showing up a few more times to build some momentum, maybe people will start to know that it's a "thing." Lauren and Virginia are keen to try again.

### **c) Day Trips**

- Takhini River (Paddle with the President)
- Wheaton River
- Kathleen River
- Tutshi River
- Kathleen Lake (sea-kayak)
- Squanga Lake (sea-kayak) – cancelled
- Watson River – cancelled



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- **Karen-** purely beginners down the Wheaton, there were a lot of swims and it made for a long night. Maybe reducing the number of participants or offered brand new paddlers pack rafts. The inflatable canoe was good!
- **Brendan-** Tutshi trip, might have to set some expectations before the trip. i.e., if you're running the drop for the first time set some parameters about timing. Finding ways to keep a big group moving. Same thing for surfing and playing, get those people to stay near front of group so that we can all stay together. Who wants to play more? Who wants to go faster? Divide the group into groups if possible.
- **Lawrence-** socializing is an important part of the experience and we don't want to eliminate this part of the trip by pushing trips too fast.
- **Peta-** First timers have a lot going on and need some time to experience what they're seeing
- **Ruth-** trip leaders engage with the folks on the river, not just scouting and getting stuff all set up for beginners. Use these moments as learning opportunities rather than doing it all for them.
- **Peta-** Social event for everyone, we're out there to have fun and see friends. Tutshi- structure beforehand is a good idea to make things smooth and find teachable moments. Lower Tutshi was a really great spot to use more often if we needed. \*\*Watson would be a good place for open boating
- **Theresa-** numbers are super impressive this year. O'Donnell or the Jarvis as day trips- these could be good for open boating as well.
- **Luke-** Encouraging people with more experience to help share and informally teach more, they can do more coaching and work on their confidence. We could help remove some of the stigma around how 'scary' the Tutshi River is. Maybe just run the canyon and walk all the drops, this would make the river more accessible.
- **Virginia-** make sure to add a blurb with a bit more information for each river so that people know what they're getting into. Add some video to an email so people can see what they're getting into. Need to communicate with folks whether they should come onto a trip or not. Do they have a skill set to be there? Some hints like, "if you have done the Tat then you might be ready for the Tutshi. People borrowing packrafts to be able to paddle rivers that they aren't quite ready to kayak.



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**d) Tutshi River Weekend**

- **Brendan-** having the groups split up seemed to work really well. Find ways to get people moving earlier and have a bit more structure.
- **Ferdy-** emails made it seem like there was going to be more teaching. We could have taught more if we had run the section the night before so we could have spots picked out. Breaking the group up by skill level or by the skill set that we are going to work on at. “Ferries run” and the “carving turns” run.
- **Peta-** 2 groups separated seem to work well
- **Lauren-** Great community building weekend because we had some many skill levels all camping together.
- **Courtney-** many skill levels going in and out at different times, great place to session and work on skills.
- Advertise it as a beginner weekend and then do the upper run later. Like most trips near town, we lost people on the Saturday night. Maybe we should consider live music or sauna? What could a festival weekend look like? We could have a race, a ball race, triathlon could all be ways to bring in spectators?  
\*\*Thunder box for next year?

**e) Lapie River Weekend**

- **Karen-** thunderbox is full and people were pooping on the ground. We need to do some kind of Leave No Trace talk. Build a new one for the Mushroom Camp for the club to use. Beginners wanted to go on runs that they weren’t ready for. To fix this we could ensure that the campground run happens every day so there is something for all beginners to do. Might need to pre-coordinate the beginners, structure would be good.
- Not bringing the BBQ next year, bring a grill and cook over the fire
- Raft the campground run with kids was awesome, the raft could be used for more runs too!



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**f) Tatshenshini River Weekend**

- Lots of people showed up for the weekend. Sunday was a lot slower than Saturday. Water was low.
- **Peta**- bigger groups need more team leaders to be designated. People were switching around a lot so it would be helpful for headcounts and checking on people. Running with pods might work better but at the end of the day we are still on the same bus to shuttle.
- We should have a club run on both days in case people are coming out for the Sunday instead.

**g) Swift Water Rescue Course**

- Canoe based course with Yukon Canoe. Make sure people know if it a canoe or kayak-based programming. Alternate this every other year. Encourage beginners to take the course on their own as well.

**h) Paddling Film Festival**

- **Theresa**- ended too early! We could have had a few more films.
- **Karen**- festival was well attended, sold a lot tickets at the festival

**i) Gear Swap**

- Super rainy and windy, good turn-out despite the weather. None of the businesses invited showed up due to weather.

**j) Rodeo**

- Somebody besides Lawrence to host if he wants to participate in the rodeo.
- **Karen**- No women in the freestyle competition, how can we invite women, non-binary to participate in the event? It's important for representation for the club.
- Mostly photos of men in the rodeo.
- As a club, we can make sure we're inviting people into the events and practicing beforehand.
- Running a freestyle course with Kaleb Grady or someone could help build some intentional confidence for paddlers to get on the spin wave.
- Our club is very welcoming for everyone to be out there on the water!
- Could have another "long boat window shade" category so that people paddle their own boats.
- The downriver race was really fun this year with the buoy.



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**k) National Drowning Prevention Week Event**

- No one showed up. We expected the City to promote this event more and also the weather was really bad. Need a better way to market the event with the City.
- Could add a couple paddling event at the same time (slalom race or other event)
- Ask the City what they want out of the event and revisit it.
- A bit more structured mini SRT course, water features, throw bagging, live bait.
- Should be aware of the risks involved with teaching or messaging that we are doing.

**l) Indigenous Youth Intro to Whitewater Kayaking**

- Courtney- KDFN did the camp last year, this year we pack rafted on the Yukon River and then did a day run on the Takhini and then a rafting day on the Tat. 9-10 kids participated and are starting to feel ready to kayak. Maturity and progression is obvious with this group. Excited to do it again next summer.
- Carcross Tagish First Nation camp as well this year.
- RCMP Liaison (Kailee Marland) with Champagne Aishihik First Nation and the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation have reached out for future programming.
- Could have a beginner week and a returning kids week.

**m) NCCP training course**

- Everyone agrees that the course was really awesome! Super valuable experience for everyone who took the course.
- It's a big time commitment to take the course with many full days.
- Board can discuss in what capacity she comes back.

**n) Wilderness first aid**

- Awesome! The course fills easily, we could do every year? Or every 2 years? People would be happy to pay for half or even the full thing. The board will discuss.

**o) Thursday night drop in**

- Streamlined and people come and go. Sometimes there were some miscommunications about who was showing up and who had the key. Overall super successful and fun!
- Kayaks need some repair, some new drain plugs and bungees.
- Bring hot drinks for the end of cold sessions.



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### 3) Whitewater Kayak Order

*Attachment:* [3.2023\_Kayak\_Price\_Comparison.xlsx] [4.Quote YCKC Jackson Kayaks.pdf]

*Background:*

- YCKC has been awarded \$53,430 from Lotteries Yukon and \$9000 from the City of Whitehorse to purchase 20 new whitewater kayaks & paddling gear.
- From June 6th meeting, decided to purchase Jackson Antix & Zen Boats
- Lawrence has been negotiating with Up North to try and go through a local business.
- Original Up North Quote: **\$64,711.40**
- Original Aquabatics Quote: **\$53,466.00** (difference of ~\$11,000)
- Up North September Quote: **\$52,366.55**
  - 20 boats for the price of 19.

**Motioned by** Lauren Wonfor **to approve purchasing 20 Whitewater kayaks from Up North Adventures**

**Second:** Virginia, passed

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**Meeting End:** 9:20 pm

**Next Meeting:** October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7PM [later changed to October 16<sup>th</sup>]