



YUKON CANOE & KAYAK CLUB
A leader in the Yukon paddling community since 1961

**Executive Board Meeting
October 8th, 2024
Meeting Minutes**

Attending: Colleen, Dave, Lawrence, Peta, Simon, Geoff, Karen.

Regrets: Luke, Derrick, Bobbie Rose, Theresa

Proxy: NA

Call to Order:

1) Approve Agenda for October 8th, 2024

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2. Review September 9th, 2024 Minutes
3. Financial Update
4. 2024 Summer Review

No quorum

2) Review of minutes from September 9th, 2024 Meeting.

Tabled to next meeting

3) Financial Update

- Geoff delivered financial update.
 - Current bank balance: \$64,000 minus payments owed (trip reimbursements, and a couple of other things). And we have some cheques coming in.
 - Geoff says we are sitting pretty financially 😊
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4) 2024 Summer Review

Paddling Film Festival – April 18, 2024 at Beringia.

- Lawrence says we had 40-70 people less than previous year at Arts Centre.
- We ordered too many pizzas (check to see how many we ordered). Worthwhile to have pizza available though. Pizzas were sold off cheap at end of event.



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- Had some sound system issues. Staff couldn't help. We eventually figured it out.
- Dave thinks Beringia is a good venue.
- Lawrence says Arts Centre might draw more people.
- In 2025, aim for first week of April.
- Geoff votes for YAC. Logistics at Beringia more complicated.
- Lawrence will look into it (dates, etc).
- Get raffle tickets in time to distribute them to volunteers at film festival and sell them.

Gear Swap / AGM

- Hosting AGM as part of gear swap was great!
- Gear swap has minimal participation in terms of items, still worthwhile.
- Move the AGM earlier, around 7 ish (last year it was at 8 ish).
- Could do some events (in the past there was a downriver race). That could be too many moving parts with AGM also happening but something to consider. Maybe the race could be after the AGM. Maybe a prize.
- Good social event; BBQ is a draw.

Beginner Whitewater Kayak Program (Youth / Adult / Women & Gender Diverse)

- This year's program was a bit too intense at the beginning (too many sessions too close together).
- Some communication might have been late.
- Lawrence suggests next year: grab Friday night sessions when polo ends and use those as the beginner sessions.
- Youth numbers were down. Four at one point. Getting one or two a night. Lawrence went to classrooms to promote paddling but still didn't get recruits. Suggests instead doing a four or five-day camp right when school ends then roll it into youth drop in. Make sure it doesn't conflict with Tat camps. We target older youths than them (age 13 to 16ish). This would involve paid instructors.
- Kailee Marland is going to look at Lawrences skills manual and provide some feedback on simplifying it.
- Distribute manual to volunteers in spring.
- Advertise beginner programs in January to encourage people to come to drop-in pool sessions. Include date when registration opens so they can put it in their calendar.
- Consider a participant survey after the courses to get feedback about why people dropped out or whatever other feedback.
- Do another instructor prep session .
- Wave by Robert Service is a great teaching spot when water level is right. Good to



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take advantage of when it comes in (end of June?).

- Keep same start date of program. Or could start one week earlier so beginners have one day on the Yukon river before going to the Tutshi.
- Culminate adult program with day trip on Takhini River. All adult beginners together.
- One pool session, one lake session, four sessions on the Yukon, and one on the Takhini. Six weeks.
- Include in beginner sessions some self-rescue practice.

Drop-In

- Question: Was two nights a week too much? No. Those who volunteered on Tuesdays agreed it was worthwhile having a beginner drop in night. Most beginners are not comfortable coming out on Thursdays.
- Tuesday night volunteers were rotated. Next year try four core volunteers who sort out amongst themselves who shows up. Min two volunteers per night.
- C1 drop-in nights didn't have people coming out

Day Trips

Lawrence: The number of trips (day trips and weekend trips) felt like a good amount. We didn't miss having the Watson. Too busy to add another day trip.

Earlier starts in the morning work best. Day trips are going to be long days.

Try to give creek boats to beginner paddlers before club trips (or packrafts)

- *Takhini River*
 - Good variety with canoes, kayaks, and rafts with kiddies.
- *Wheaton River*
 - In July. Water a bit lower. June was too busy to organize a trip.
 - Go too bunched up. Started in three specific groups and then everyone sat on top of each other. Try to space out more.
- *Kathleen River*
 - Split into three groups. Got a bit squished up.
 - Starting at Quill Creek worked well.
 - No tandem canoes if starting at Quill Creek.
 - Dave: suggests taking out at the bridge in town rather than the Mendenhall Road for simpler logistics.



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- Some sketchy swims.
 - Spent a long time at the canyon. Maybe don't let people do a second run.
- *Tutshi River (upper)*
 - Vet people better for this river.
 - Have a low water cutoff: 2 m.
 - Could push earlier in August.
- Morely: Got cancelled.

Weekend Events

- Having food at these events is a nice touch.
- Think about mileage reimbursement for volunteers. Should we keep doing this? Peta say yet. Discuss again in future.
- *Tutshi*
 - Saturday is quite busy. Over 30 people. Great day. Split into two groups. One group paddled to the lake and the other group did skills then switched. Might be better just to do all skills in the morning with everyone and an optional float in the afternoon. Lawrence suggests just one day of organized activities because there was a skeleton crew on Sunday. End with dinner on Saturday. That lets experienced paddlers who want to paddle the upper on Sunday.
 - Push back by one weekend if possible so the beginner program has one more session on the river before this. Or start adult program one week earlier?
- *Lapie*
 - No tandems on the Bacon creek run (or vet before).
 - Suggest giving more information about the skills required for different levels (eg intermediate paddlers must know how to back and front ferry, etc) on website or trip sign up (get details from Simon).
 - Divide into groups before loading boats and leaving Mushroom camp so group leaders can vet group and make boat decisions.
 - Try to give creek boats to beginner paddlers before club trips (or packrafts).
 - Dinner was great. Lawrence going to deep fry a turkey but couldn't find one. So he deep fried a bunch of chicken.
 - 2025: Sat/Sun/Mon (people might take Monday off because July 1 is a Tuesday).
 - Move campground run earlier on first day.
 - More people might want to run the hard canyon (Brendan's canyon).
- *Tatshenshini*
 - Club trip on Saturday and Sunday again. Smaller group (30 ish) this year. Fun.



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Sunday run had more people than previously. Shuttle booked both days. Water level was 35ish.

Freestyle clinics

- Dave likes this event.
- Nice having a woman lead the event.
- Sophie's confidence improved throughout the weekend
- Peta liked the teaching. Liked the emphasis on technique.
- Beginner one: teaching feedback not as strong.
- Have a volunteer doing safety so instructor isn't wasting time doing rescue.
- Maybe ditch the intro to surfing at the intake and keep it focused just on the spin wave
- Could do a river run session on the Tat. Skill refining. Could have an instructor who could do both.
- Be clear about expectations for instructors and instructors about skill levels necessary and skills that will be worked on in the session.
- Could do freestyle clinics in the evening and do a river running course on the weekend.

Instructor courses with Katrina

- Could do a refresh and Intro to teaching for two – three days.
- She would tailor a course to the six or eight skills we want to each in the beginner course.
- Next time: Don't run another L2, in the future run L1, if that covers our needs. Or do this instead of the intro if it meets the needs.

Swiftwater Rescue

- 2022: Course sold out
- 2023: canoe SRT
- 2024: Cancelled due to low registration. But maybe communications/advertising could have been better. Could use Sport Yukon billboard.
- 2025: Take a year off from offering this.

Whitewater Rodeo

- Issues have already been discussed by the board: more people were away, water was sub-ideal, (flash flood helped bump it up right before).
- People didn't have a lot of time to practice in the season ahead of time
- The number of events was good. Adding more would have been too hectic.
- Schedule of events could be adjusted. Lost a lot of participants in between events.



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People got changed after freestyle and didn't get back in for downriver race.

Suggestion: Start with first heat of downriver race, then freestyle kayaking, then packraft royal rumble then second heat of downriver race. (Or have everyone do downriver race at same time, at beginning of evening).

- Bring in some goofy stoke: boogie board, duo, mattresses.
- We will revisit this conversation.

Indigenous Youth Intro to Whitewater Kayaking

Lawrence: It was a struggle combine youth from various First Nations. Tried to go too big. Ended up being small groups. Worth while initiative but need re-jigging.

Website: Could use an update. Wild Apricot is a web platform specifically for societies. Very user friendly (ask Simon). Integrated payment, finances, events, sign up sheets, etc. Let's apply for Funding.

Meeting End: 10:00 pm.

Next Meeting: November 12, 2024. 7PM