

The GAM

Newsletter of the Oregon Ocean Paddling Society (OOPS)

April, 1998

EXPLORE BC

Klindt Vielbig

I asked, "where do you want to paddle in the next year, five years, ten years...?" Among other spots, you requested one area with resounding unanimity: "*Vancouver Island*", "*the West Coast of Vancouver Island*", "*the eastern shore of Vancouver Island*". Well, I heard you, and on March 25th, that is where we will go.

Our guide for this adventure will be experienced mountaineer and native Oregonian Klindt Vielbig. You may be familiar with his guiding abilities through his book Cross-Country Ski Routes: Oregon. You may recognize him as one of the charter members of the Oregon Nordic club, the program director for the Mazamas, or the grandson of an Oregon Trail alumna. What you may not know is that he began kayaking with his family in 1969 in Barkley Sound.

On March 25th, Klindt Vielbig will take us to three places on Vancouver Island and the British Columbia mainland. From a five day camping trip among old growth in the Tofino area to a paddle in the mountain fjord known as the Sechelt Inlet, Klindt will guide us through some of the prettiest scenery in the region. We will visit historic towns filled with murals and anthropological finds riddled with totems. Come join the fun and learn during this dynamic presentation of people, places, and scenery.

--Martha W. Wise

March 25, 1998

The SMILE Building

8210 SE 13th & Tacoma in Sellwood District, Portland, Oregon

► **6:30pm Social** ⌚

7:00pm Meeting



The Oregon Ocean Paddling Society (OOPS)

P.O. Box 69641, Portland, OR 97201

An Oregon non-profit corporation

Tax Exempt under IRC Sec. 501(c)(3)

1998 Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Gilah Tenenbaum 503/281-2980	<i>Environment</i>	Peter Natsios 503/246-2381
<i>Programs</i>	Martha Wise 503/245-1423 (playwise@juno.com)	<i>Education</i>	Steve Nelson 360/260-0326 (snelson@worldaccessnet.com)
<i>Secretary</i>	Ingrid Slezak 503/280-0212 (ieslezak@aol.com)	<i>Safety</i>	Suzann Schmele 503/690-6745 (schmeles@ohsu.edu)
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<i>Trips</i>	John Wallum 360/699-6447 (johnw@kentrox.com)		Steve Gorton 360/425-0353 (orops@teleport.com)
<i>Newsletter</i>	Steve Hughes 503/648-3237 503/640-0392 fax (shughes@teleport.com)		Laurie Heuermann 360/425-0353 (orops@teleport.com)
<i>Librarian</i>	Howard Blumenthal 503/366-1613		Valerie Kelly 503/281-5283

Membership Database Czar: **Clif Rose** 252-1240 (crks@hevanet.com)

Newsletter Mailing Coordinator: **Holly Nelson**

The GAM NEWS DEADLINES

May GAM is March 27

June GAM is May 1

July GAM is May 29

Send your articles, announcements, tidbits, gripes etc.
to the editor by any of the following means:

- Snail Mail: Send copy or IBM formatted 3 1/2" floppy with text file to:
Steve Hughes, 1060 S.E. Oak Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123
- Fax: (503)-640-0392 (include your name and voice number on fax)
- E-mail: **shughes@teleport.com** (include in message text or attach word processor text file, Microsoft Word file, or WordPerfect 6.0 file)
- Personal Delivery: If all else fails
- Voice (answering machine for messages – no dictation) 503/648-3237

All Copy Enthusiastically Welcomed!

Calendar

Trips: John Wallum 360 / 699-6447
Social Events: Nicole Peltz 503 / 232-8031
OOPS Website: www.teleport.com/~orops
OOPS Email Address: orops@teleport.com (Steve Gorton)
Trip Hot Line: 503 / 331-OOPS (331-6677)

- 15 MAR** **Cool Water Rescue Practice.** Silver Lake – See page 11 for details.
- 18 MAR** **Board of Directors Meeting.**
- 25 MAR** **Monthly Program Meeting.** See front page for details.
- 28 MAR** **Last Saturday Paddle.** Vancouver Lake to Ridgefield. Call Mark Johnson for details at (503)-655-2935.
- 22 APR** **Board of Directors Meeting.**
- 25 APR** **Last Saturday Paddle.** Call Trip line for details.
- 29 APR** **Monthly Program Meeting.**
- 30 APR-
02 MAY** **Groups That Work** (Class and Paddle) See page 9 or details.
- 12,16
MAY
02 JUNE** **Kayak Photography Class** (Class and Paddle) See page 19 for details.
- 22 – 25
MAY** **Mayne Island 98 –** Southern Gulf Islands outing. See page 15 for details.
- 13 – 14
JUN** **Kayak Navigation 101.** (Class and Paddle) See page 13 for details.
- 25 JULY** **OOPS “Play Day”**

OOPS TRIP POLICIES

All participants, including leaders, are required to:

1. Wear Coast Guard-approved PFD at all times on the water.
2. Have a boat with buoyancy enhancement in the form of flotation, secured bulkheads and hatches, and/or a properly fitted sea sock.
3. Have a spray skirt properly fitted to the boat and paddler.
4. Carry food and water supplies appropriate to the length of the trip.
5. Carry a personal first aid kit (self-selected contents).
6. Have a whistle readily accessible while on the water.
7. Have a flashlight, waterproof or packed in waterproof container, on evening or overnight trips.
8. Wear or have readily accessible cold water protective clothing as appropriate, per the Cold Water Protective Clothing policy.
9. Have and use other equipment as required at the discretion of the trip leader.

Whenever water temperatures are expected to be below 50° F (i.e. on most trips), all paddlers are required to wear or have readily accessible cold water protective clothing. Trip leaders will determine the specific type or types of clothing to be required for the trip based on anticipated conditions.

The leader may refuse or withdraw permission for any person to participate in an OOPS trip/activity on the grounds that the person does not have the requisite skill and/or physical vigor for the anticipated conditions or possible risks of the trip, or if the leader believes the person's equipment is not safe, seaworthy or otherwise appropriate for the trip, or if the leader believes that the participation of an individual may jeopardize his or her own safety or the safety of other participants. In the absence of the leader, an assistant leader has the same discretionary authority.

(excerpted from Activity Policies adopted 4/17/96)

NEW OOPS TRIP LINE NUMBER!

503 / 331-OOPS (331-6677)

Updated Wednesday night

For up-to-date trip and special events information. If you have a trip you want to take but not lead, contact the Trip Coordinator, John Wallum, at (360)-699-6447.

IRS GRANTS SEC. 501(C)(3) STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service on February 25, 1998 granted IRC Section 501(c)(3) status to OOPS, effective July 10, 1984, the day it was incorporated. The IRS accepted the OOPS Application for Exemption without raising a single question.

This means that contributions made to OOPS since 7/10/84 are tax deductible as itemized deductions. Dues paid to OOPS are not tax deductible, but unreimbursed expenses paid for OOPS are. If you have not yet filed your 1997 income tax returns, you can include unreimbursed expenses for that year. You can now tell your friends that they can make tax deductible contributions to OOPS. Also, they can make bequests to OOPS in their wills that would be deductible on their federal estate tax returns.

Advertising Policy

Commercial concerns may have **Paid advertising** in *The Gam*. However, *The Gam* will publish in the CALENDAR all educational notices *free of charge*, whether commercial activities or not. Individuals have **free** advertising in the "Classifieds" section for kayaking related equipment.

The following guidelines are in place:

- Advertisers are limited to one ad per issue.
- Ad dimensions & costs are:
 - 1/4 page 3.5" h x 4.5" w \$15/issue
 - 1/2 page 7.0" h x 4.5" w \$30/issue

- Space per issue for all ads must total no more than one page (8.5 x 11).
- Checks and scannable camera-ready copy must be received by the editor no later than the Wednesday **one week** prior to the program meeting. No ads w/o a check.

Send ad copy to:

Steve Hughes
1060 S.E. Oak Street
Hillsboro, OR 97123
shughes@teleport.com
(503)-640-0392 fax

The editor will make a good faith effort to



POTLUCK NEWS



Do you enjoy great food?
Interesting conversations?
Meeting new friends and fellow kayakers?

Then you will love hosting a potluck in 1998.
We even help clean up afterwards!
Call Nicole Peltz for details!
232-8031

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE - WERNER CAMANO PADDLE, all graphite, 220 cm, one piece, unfeathered, excellent condition - \$115; SNAPDRAGON SPRAY SKIRT, all neoprene, small tunnel, large deck, new condition - \$70; EXTRASPORT PFD, small/long - \$5. Call Peter at (503)-246-2381

FOR SALE - DRY SUIT- Stohlquest, 2-piece medium (Blue/Black) with front pocket. great for kayaking. \$150.00/ Offer. Call Joe Wee at (503)-659-0739

FOR SALE - KOKATAT MERIDIAN DRY SUIT. Medium Size, New dealer-installed neck gasket. \$180.00. Call Linda at (503)-292-5826 or Email at lmclarke@teleport.com

FOR SALE - QUEST PREYING MANTIS 3 season tent -exc. condition - Integral fly rolls up/down in seconds. Approx. specs: wt: 5lb.3oz.; peak ht 45"; roll size: 6 x 20; 34 sq.ft floor + 14sq. ft. vestibule. lots mesh/ventilation. Good deal at \$195. Call Gilah at (503) 281-2980 or Email at gilah@worldstar.com

FOR SALE - KRUPP DRILL. Tired of pumping out your kayak? This specialized tool works great for putting drain holes in the bottom. \$75.00. Email george@lost.it.com

EL NIÑO IN BAJA

By Steve Nelson

I watched Sandy disappear behind a large breaking wave, and wondered if she would be upright the next time I saw her. It was December 9, 1997, and our group of four paddlers was making a nine-mile crossing from Isla Coronados to Isla Carmen, in the Sea of Cortez. The wind had come up suddenly about an hour before sunrise that morning, hitting our Coronado camp hard as we packed to leave. Now it was blowing at a steady 25 knots, whipping up four to five foot swells. At least the wind was with us! The seas were basically right rear quartering, but there was a tricky cross break, most likely caused by interference patterns as the waves refracted around Isla Coronados.

Sandy reappeared, still upright and paddling steadily. John and Rose Marie were in good shape too. We decided to make this bumpy crossing in order to get to Puerto Ballandra, an excellent protected cove on the west side of

(Continued on page 18)



-Steve Nelson Photo

RE: YOUR TENT AND THE DELUGE

By Mike Wentworth

I have spent more than a few days and nights in rain. Once, while camping on a wet Memorial Day weekend, after 1 ½ days of rain, I started suffering from micro drips. After examining my situation, I found that I had set my tent up under a tree, and the large drops from the tree when they hit the rain fly, were causing the condensation on the inside of my rain fly to drop off with enough force to hit the inner surface of the tent, and then split up into micro drops which I could feel on my head... I figured out how to solve this problem after several trips to Canada, where I noticed a lot of Canadians set up their tents with a tarp over the top of their tent and rain fly combinations. Since that time, and after a lot of practice, I have discovered that a well set up tarp over your tent has the following benefits:

1. Your tent builds up a lot less condensation, because without the rain on your rain fly, your tent fly does not have the extreme temperature variation which causes the condensation on the inside of your tent rain fly.
2. Under the tarp, you have room for hanging wet clothes, so you can keep them out of your tent, thus keeping the inside of your tent drier.
3. You don't have to worry so much about a perfect ground cloth because you can keep rain from running down the side of your tent and then under it.
4. You can also sit under the tarp out of the rain, which can go a long way to improve your morale in the rain.

Kayak Pool Schedule

The Beaverton Swim Center at 12850 SW 3rd, Beaverton, opens the pool for open kayak & scuba sessions on Monday and Wednesday nights. You can contact the Center at 644-1111. **Monday, Wednesday 9:30-10:30pm.**

Another site is the Marshall Center at 1009 East McLoughlin Blvd. Vancouver WA. 360-693-7946. **Saturday 3:30-5:30pm**

Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center has **Sunday 10AM - Noon** pool time through 1st week in June, **except** April 5, May 3 and May 31. Location: 15707 SW Walker Road, Beaverton. Phone: 645-7454.

GROUPS THAT WORK (CLASS AND PADDLE)

Instructors/Leaders: Steve Nelson and Linda Clarke

Paddle Rating: IIB

Target audience: Any OOPS member who plans to paddle with other people.

Dates: Class: Thur.-Fri., April 30-May 1, 7-9PM
Paddle: Sat., May 2, 9 AM to 4 PM.

Locations: Class: Linda Clarke's residence,
9910 NW Murlea, Portland, OR
Paddle: TBA

Sign up: Call Linda Clarke, 503-292-5826 or
Steve Nelson, 360-260-0326

Some of the most memorable and enjoyable paddling experiences are those shared with others. On the flip side, groups that just don't come together can produce frustration and disappointment. This class is all about finding the mix of individual and group initiative and responsibility that contributes to safe, successful and enjoyable group paddles. Through classroom presentations, discussion groups, and critiques of real paddling situations, you will develop an increased awareness of the principles of good leadership, good followership, and teamwork. On-water instruction, rescue practice, and other group skill-building activities follow the classroom sessions. In addition to enhancing group paddling experiences, this class will give you the rescue skills needed to qualify for participation in OOPS trips up to Skill Level II. This used to be called the "Leadership Class," but we've changed the emphasis in recognition of the important role that all group members play in successful trips. Fee: \$5 for classroom materials, payable at time of signup.

MORE ON CAMERAS FOR SEA KAYAKING

By Ron Floyd

I enjoyed reading Steve Wagner's excellent article on this subject in the February/March, 1998 issue of the GAM. He invites responses, and predictably, I have one. I'm hoping others will, too, since this is a subject with lots of potential.

About 10 years ago, in preparation for a 9-day trip on the Sea of Cortez, I puzzled how to protect my Nikon 35mm SLR with zoom lens while on the water. Cheap. (Of course.) At Andy & Bax I found an old WW-II gas mask bag – thick rubberized canvas with a creased inner flap closure and a snap-closure outer flap. The inner closure was purported to be waterproof; the outer closure was broken. So I naively trusted the inner closure and glued on some Velcro to supplant the outer closure.

On the water, I carried this bag on the foredeck with the charts, etc. We experienced some pretty lively weather, so the bag was soaked most days by wash and spray. It allowed pretty handy access to the camera, and never leaked. I still have it, but now I use a dive box – one of those rectangular plastic boxes with a hinged lid, O-ring seal, and snap closure. I attached bronze snap-hooks at the ends where they carry strap is connected, and hook these through the deck bungee ahead of the cockpit. Access is simple, and security is bomb-proof. Depending on my lens selection(s), there may also be room in the box for my monocular and a snack. I also like to keep a small towel in there to dry my hands before handling the camera.

About a dozen years ago I spoke with Ed Gillette after a slide show he gave on his solo trip up the west coast of South America. He had started the trip with three cameras, but was soon down to one, his Nikon, which lasted the whole grueling adventure, and was ultimately

COOL WATER RESCUE PRACTICE (AND SILVER LAKE PADDLE)

Instructor/Leaders: Steve Gorton, Laurie Heuermann

Paddle Rating: IIC

Date: March 15, 1998

Location: Silver Lake, Washington

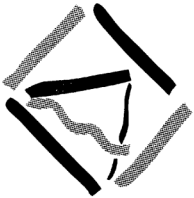
Sign up: Call Steve Gorton or Laurie Heuermann
after March 8 at (360)-425-0353 for details
or E-mail orops@teleport.com

Cold water protective gear will be a must---you will get wet and it will likely be cold. There will be a cabin with woodstove available for warm ups and dry outs, a stove and microwave for cooking or hot water (bring water) etc. Time, interest, and weather permitting we will also paddle to some of the farther reaches of the lake.

traded at a travel bureau in Quito for a plane ticket to Miami, the camera by then being the only object of value he had left. Upon my inquiry he indicated that Nikon and Canon made cameras that can take it. All the others are fair-weather friends. (We were discussing standard 35mm SLRs, not waterproof models.) So far I have no reason to doubt him. I've had great service from the Nikon I bought (very) used over ten years ago. It isn't auto-anything, and I like it that way.

About six or seven years ago I also bought a Pentax IQ Zoom 90 WR. The "WR" stands for weather resistant. In fact, with sensible use, it's a waterproof camera (not suitable for diving). Besides this feature, the other good news includes a 28-90mm zoom, one-handed point-and-

(Continued on page 16)

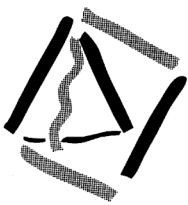


You are invited to the 4th annual
COLUMBIA RIVER PADDLE FESTIVAL

presented by

Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe AND the City of Vancouver

Saturday **APRIL 18, 9am to 5pm** & Sunday **April 19, 9am to 3pm**
at **Vancouver Washington's MARINE PARK**



Test paddle kayaks, canoes, paddles & gear

Obtain technical assistance and advice from our manufacturers

Network with local paddling clubs and conservation groups

Attend free clinics in paddling, packing, performance & preparation

All are welcome - events and clinics are FREE

Special Paddle Festival pricing on select boats and equipment April 18 - 20

GREAT food brought to you by the **BENTO BUGGY** featuring espresso drinks,
baked goodies, bento box lunches and soft drinks

Directions: from I-5 traveling north, cross the Interstate Bridge, take the
Camas-14 exit, proceed approx. 1 mile to Exit 1 SE Columbia Way,
turn right, at stop light turn left, continue 1.7 miles to the
"Marine Park" brick pillar, turn right and proceed .25 miles to the
tower/boat ramp. From I-5 traveling south take Exit 1-A which
is the East 14/Camas exit. Proceed the same as above (you will not
cross the I-5 bridge).

For further information contact Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe
503/285-0464 or www.aldercreek.com

KAYAK NAVIGATION 101

(CLASS AND PADDLE)

Instructor/Leader: Steve Nelson

Paddle Rating: IIC (10 miles total length).

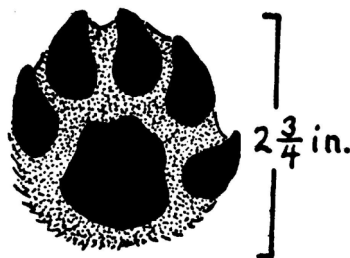
Dates: Class: Saturday, June 13, 9AM to 1PM
Paddle: Sunday, June 14, 9 AM to 4 PM.

Locations: Class: TBA (Portland area)
Paddle: Aldrich Point

Sign up: Call Steve Nelson, 360-260-0326.

This class is for beginning navigators, or those who have forgotten what they learned about compasses in Boy and Girl Scouts. Saturday's session will focus on reading navigation charts, use of hand-bearing and deck compasses, plotting bearings, tides and tide tables, and basic coastal navigation principles. Sunday's paddle will demonstrate the concepts learned in the classroom session. Class and paddle group size is limited to 6, OOPS members only. **This class fills fast, call now!** **Materials fee:** \$15 (Includes a course plotting protractor, charts, and workbook which the student can keep). Payable at time of signup.

RIVER OTTER



LEFT REAR



LEFT FRONT

Trip Rating System

Trips are classified by the sections with the greatest exposure to risk, even if most of the trip is much easier. Contact the Trip Leader for more precise information.

Exertion Level

- A** = relaxed pace, < 4 miles/day
- B** = moderate pace, 4 - 8 miles/day
- C** = moderate pace, 8 - 15 miles/day
- D** = fast pace and/or >15 miles/day

Potential Risk / Skill Level

- I** = experience with wet exit or leader's permission
- II** = experience with sea kayak rescue
- III** = bracing skills and group & self rescue abilities
- IV** = reflex bracing, paddle ruddering, water reading navigation & chart reading
- V** = self reliant paddling & self rescue skills (preferably Eskimo roll) in case of separation from the group
- VI** = extensive experience in rolling & kayak surfing

Trip Rules Summary

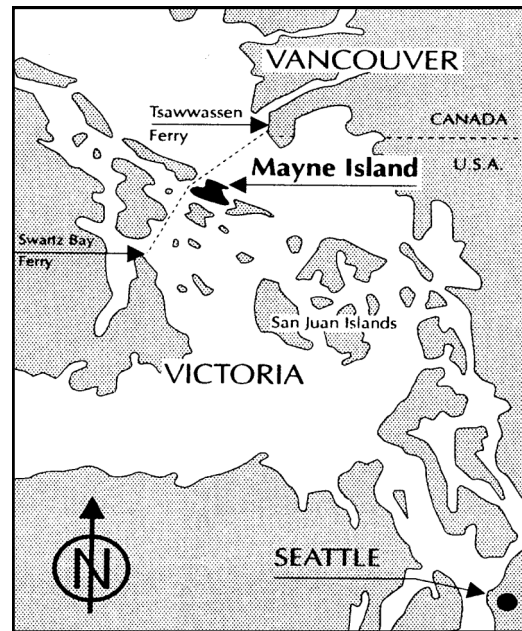
- ♦ Always wear your PFD (Personal Flotation Device) (no exceptions).
- ♦ Dress for the occasion and dress for the water; bring emergency clothing and rain gear and a dry set for the trip home.
- ♦ All participants are required to sign a liability release for each trip.
- ♦ Remember your '10 essentials'.
- ♦ Trip Leaders have the option to turn away ill-prepared or ill-equipped individuals.
- ♦ Trip Leaders are not guides. You are ultimately responsible for yourself.
- ♦ Non-members are welcome on many activities and are subject to the same policies and rules as OOPS members.
- ♦ Some OOPS activities may be designated as a members-only activity.
- ♦ Where trip size is limited, the Trip Leader will designate a sign-up deadline. OOPS Members will receive priority, with non-members placed on a space available waiting list.
- ♦ No alcohol consumption before or during on-water activities. Illegal drugs prohibited during all club activities.

Complete OOPS Policies are available at monthly meetings or from the Membership Coordinator.

MAYNE ISLAND 98

May 22-25, Southern Gulf Islands

Kayak past spectacular scenery amidst Bald Eagles, Stellar and California Sea Lions, Ravens, Harbour seals, Cormorants, River Otters, Oyster Catchers, Deer, King Fishers, Racoons, Orca whales, wild Mink and Marten, Dolphins and OOPS'ers. Our group will have exclusive use of the Mayne Island Kayak & Canoe campground at Miner's Bay on beautiful Active Pass. Prior cold water wet exit experience is required. Wet or



dry suits will also be required. Trip limited to OOPS Members Only.

Group size will be limited to 30 members. Sign-up for Mayne Island will be done by mail to Steve Hughes, 1060 SE Oak St., Hillsboro, OR 97123, postmarked **NO EARLIER** than April 1. Available spaces will be filled in the order of postmark. Please include your name, address and daytime and evening telephone numbers. Also include

Good Housekeeping in the Great Outdoors

(Courtesy Parks Canada)

A clean campsite is less likely to attract bears, raccoons or other creatures. After eating, burn food scraps or bag them securely for packing out. Return fish entrails to the sea.

Don't bury garbage - it won't stay that way for long. Hang food in trees, out of the reach of animals. (A net bag is useful for this.) Don't rely on a kayak's sealed storage compartments to keep supplies safe.

(Continued from page 11)

shoot

operation, and zillions of other neat features. And the optics are excellent, winning rave reviews from serious photographers. The bad news is that it costs over \$200. I think it's worth it. In the ensuing years, Pentax has expanded on this same basic design and now offers models with 105mm zoom, with or without the weather resistant feature, etc. If you buy, don't be confused by all this: just be sure you are getting the features you want.

Another testimonial on this camera came from a discussion I had with Heidi Tiura, who used one to photograph Steph Dutton during his winter assault on the Oregon Coast a couple years ago. She had boundless praise for the camera. Evidently it can withstand brutal abuse and still produce exquisite photographic quality.

On any waterproof camera, the major caveat is to examine the O-ring seal each time you load it, to be sure it is lying properly, undamaged, and totally clean.

On foul-weather day trips I take the Pentax. All other trips, I usually take my Nikon, because I don't happen to like automatic functions. Having both cameras, I'm in hog heaven. Oink!

The next big challenge is to devise a system for getting dramatic shots when the conditions are kicking. One solution is to paddle in a double. While one paddler maintains course and stability of the boat, the other is free to take pictures.

Another idea I haven't tried (yet) is to duct-tape the point-and-shoot camera to the paddle shaft, near the right-hand grip. There it should be functional with minimal compromise of paddle control. ("If women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy!")

So who's next? Has anyone tried securing a small tripod to the deck? Other ideas? Let's face it, we're engaged in one of

RED TIDE

PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING

(Courtesy of Parks Canada)

WHAT IS PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING (PSP)?

PSP, also known as Red Tide, is the contamination of bivalve shellfish by microorganisms called dinoflagellates. When people eat shellfish contaminated with these microorganisms, death may result.

HOW DO THE SHELLFISH GET CONTAMINATED?

These microorganisms are always in the water. When conditions such as salinity, temperature and nutrients are right, the microorganisms have a population explosion known as blooms. Little is known on how or why the organisms produce the toxin, but as the hinged shellfish filter feed on the blooms they store vast amounts of the toxin in their tissue, without being affected.

WHAT IS THE TOXIN?

The toxin produced is among the most potent natural poisons in the world. There is no known antidote.

RED TIDE?

Red tide does not always mean the water will appear red. The organism can have many different pigments, resulting in different colors in the water or no color change at all.

WHAT SHELLFISH FAMILIES ARE AFFECTED?

Cockles, Scallops, Mussels, Oysters and clams. There are many varieties of these shellfish and all should be treated as being contaminated during closures.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF PSP

Common symptoms are tingling or numbness beginning around the lips and spreading to the face and neck within one-half hour of ingestion. This is followed by headache, dizziness, nausea and a feeling of weakness. Similar sensations happen in the fingertips and tongue, followed by loss of voluntary movement. Rapid pulse and difficulty in breathing can occur. Cardiac failure and paralysis of the chest and diaphragm can cause death within 12 hours.

WHAT TO DO?

If PSP is suspected, seek medical attention IMMEDIATELY.



-Steve Nelson Photo

(Continued from page 7)

Isla Carmen. This was no daily onshore breeze, but a full "Norther," and most likely we would be holed up for a few days waiting out the storm. Our campsite on Coronados had been on a narrow spit of land directly exposed to the north wind and swells: an untenable place to wait out a big blow. We had paddled together many times, and I had great

(Continued on page 19)



OOPSers who have taken the CPR/First Aid class from Suzann Schmele will recognize the Laerdal Pocket Mask. Suzann can get you one if you send \$13.25 to her at 17993 NW Maudlsey Ct., Beaverton, OR 97006 by April 30.

KAYAK PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

Joe Wee, noted OOPS wet environment photographer and Lynn Dinger, not so noted, are offering a class that is bound to improve those photos of your memorable kayak adventures. Registration will take place in April, class size is 12 students. However, for those of you who plan ahead here is a teaser.

Class 1 - Tuesday, May 12th, 7 to 9 p.m. First hour covers equipment and the second hour will cover composition.

Class 2 - Saturday, May 16th in the morning and on water. We will go to a local paddle haunt, take pictures and discuss opportunities for pictures.

Gathering 3 - Tuesday, June 2nd, evening. We will get together to critique the slides we took during the on-water part of the class.

(Continued from page 18)

confidence that we would do fine on this crossing. I also took confidence in the fact that all knew rescue procedures, and that the water temperature was a balmy 77°F.

We aimed for the navigation light on Isla Cholla, just off the northwest corner of Carmen. We couldn't see it because we were paddling directly into the rising sun, and because the swells obscured the horizon. Despite the lack of visual references, we steered a remarkably straight course with a GPS. After two hours of paddling, the light tower finally appeared about a mile in front of us, right where the GPS said it would be.

Puerto Ballandra, normally a popular yacht anchorage, was deserted. Obviously, the big boys had advance warning of this storm and headed for port. We set up camp on the beach at the mouth of a canyon. We felt very fortunate to have this beautiful spot to ourselves.

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

That night the wind blew hard down the canyon. The flapping tent made it difficult to hear the surf, which was rapidly approaching. Larger swells, arriving from hundreds of miles to the north, were now penetrating into the harbor. As I lay in my bed listening to the wind, I watched incredulously as a giant wave came to within 5 feet of my tent. I checked my watch. 0545. High tide. And the tide would be higher tomorrow! We abandoned our beach in the face of the rising tide early on the second morning, and spent the third night at a more protected site beyond the harbor's inner mangrove lagoon.

Our time was up. On Friday, December 12, we made a run for the south end of Carmen, paddling 10 miles in big following seas to a camp at Bahia Marquer. Early the next morning, the wind finally died, at least for a couple of hours. It reappeared with the sunrise, giving us two to three foot beam seas as we crossed seven miles to make a surf landing at Playa Juncalito, our takeout. The hotel owner who came to pick us up was surprised to see us at the appointed hour and place. The local fishing fleet had been confined to port for the last four days, and several commercial kayak groups were stranded at various points up and down the coast. We were tired but proud. El Niño had abbreviated our itinerary, but it hadn't stopped us.

OOPS ON WATER COMMUNICATIONS

WHISTLE:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Blast: | ATTENTION |
| 3 Blasts or more: | ATTENTION - HELP!!!! |

PADDLE SIGNALS:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Verticle Static: | STRAIGHT AHEAD, COME AHEAD |
| 45 Deg. Right or Left: | PREFERRED ROUTE |
| Verticle Waiving: | HELP |
| Horizontal above head: | STOP, GATHER AROUND |

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Renewal Policy

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. This label indicates your renewal month. In the month of your due date, the mailing label will state **TIME TO RENEW**. Your name is dropped from *The GAM* mailing list 45 days after your anniversary month. In other words, you get two free newsletters and then nada unless you renew. For these two months, your mailing label says **DUES EXPIRED LAST GAM**.

Keep in mind that these club services are brought to you by VOLUNTEERS. We do our best but have other commitments. It is best to renew ASAP so that enough time exists in order to process your renewal – Check mail box, deposit renewal check, pass info onto Membership Director, pass info on to Membership Database Czar.

Your renewal is not final until both the membership application is completed and signed and a check is mailed to the club PO Box. The Membership Application will not always appear in each issue of *The GAM*. Be sure you save an application for later use.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

(Contact Secretary for Full Minutes)

February 18, 1998

The meeting, held at Markham Plaza, was called to order by Gilah.

Environment. The Board is considering a possible change of site for the spring cleanup.

Safegy. Suzann Schmele suggested having one or more wilderness medicine texts and First Aid kits to recommend or have available for OOPS members.

Newsletter. Steve Hughes is looking for articles for the GAM and also wants to increase advertising.

Membership. Membership applications will be available for new members at the monthly general meeting.

Trips. OOPS has a new trip line number - 331-OOPS (6677). Mark Johnson will lead the March last Saturday paddle from Vancouver Lake to Ridgefield. Trips for specific focus groups, such as wildlife viewing, photography, open ocean kayaking, will be investigated. A subcommittee will further explore interest for this concept.

Education. Steve Nelson and Linda Clarke will lead a skills class, to be held April 30, May 1 (evenings) followed by a rescue class on May 2. Steve Gorton suggested a Silver Lake Paddle & Rescue day on March 15. Steve Nelson will teach two navigation classes: June 13 & 14 and August 8 & 9. Lynn Dinger is working on a photography class.

OOPS Play Day. July 25 has been proposed as a possible date for an OOPS "play day".



I do the 100 yd.
dash in 5.0 sec.
flat.

How about you?

THE KATSALANO (S) FROM FEATHERCRAFT

By Ron Floyd

In April 1996, Feathercraft's Greenland style folding kayak, the Khatsalano S was reviewed in Sea Kayaker magazine. In July 1997 Wolfgang Dinter reviewed both the Khatsalano and the Khatsalano S in an article published in Germany's Seekajak.

I mention this here for two reasons. One is to notify GAM readers who might be interested in purchasing one of these boats that a very thorough review is available (see me for details).

The other reason is to utilize this opportunity to comment on a difference in styles between the US and German sea kayaking publications. In this country our reviews and evaluations are so polite, objective, and "official", and make some effort to steer clear of controversy, or at the very least, avoid insults. The Germans aren't that way – an observation that applies to many of the articles published in Seekajak. As a reader of both magazines, I am constantly amazed at the difference in styles.

Dinter is a kayaker who watched the market for folding Jgreenland style boats over the years. His article is quite long and exhaustive. He brings in all the competitors for comparison, and says what he thinks based on his own experiences with the boats. In spite of his admitted subjectivity, I think his comments can be taken seriously, since he exhibits ample intelligence, ability, and fair-mindedness throughout the article. He gives credible explanations for his criticisms. But he fully expects to raise a hue and cry among other kayakers, and is braced for the polemics which will ensue on the pages of future

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