

Western Canadian Paddlesports Leadership Conference

The 2nd Annual Western Canadian Paddlesports Leadership Conference will take place May 2 – 4 at Camp Columbia on Thetis Island, BC. Workshops, seminars, and panel discussions led by industry leaders and peers provide up-to-date techniques, knowledge, and information for paddlesports professionals.

Special themes and topics at the 2008 event include: New Transport Canada regulations for commercial human powered vessel; Roles and responsibilities of volunteer leaders in pad-

dlesports; Reviving the BC Marine Trail Initiative; Equivalency between Paddle Canada and the SKGABC; Threats to access along the BC Coast; Business to business round table.

Contact Conference Coordinator, Michael Parady, at info@wcpaddlesportsconference.org www.wcpaddlesportsconference.org

Great Bear Rainforest Cruise

Westwind Tugboat Adventures has been operating wilderness cruises in the Great Bear Rainforest of British Columbia for over 35 years, primarily catering to fishermen. This year

they are adding kayaks to the decks of their restored, classic 85 foot tugboats, and taking paddlers deep into the majestic fjords and secluded waterways of the unspoiled, ancient rainforest. Located 350 miles north of Vancouver, BC, the Great Bear Rainforest is the ancestral home of the fabled kermode or spirit bear as well as wolves, grizzlies and eagles, and the traditional summer habitat of the great whales. Whether paddling or fishing from the tugboat mother-ship (kayaks, tackle, skiffs and guide supplied) guests are invited to enjoy the lush vegetation, thundering waterfalls and breathtaking mountain scenery in peaceful waters cloaked in the hush of a rainforest. 8-12 guests per week. Contact: 1-888-599-TUGS (8847) or cruise@tugboatcruise.com.

www.tugboatcruise.com.

Fish Farm Moratorium for North Coast

Environmental organizations are applauding the BC government's March 27 declaration of an indefinite moratorium on open net-cage salmon farming in northern BC waters, but have concerns that there has been no move to stop salmon farm approvals on the south coast.

For more information visit: www.farmedanddangerous.org

The Complete Paddler Program

Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak Centre is launching a new kayaker development program. The program will run from April June. The goal of the Complete Paddler Program is to take a long-term approach to developing kayakers and will develop the participant's skills and stroke techniques, develop paddling strength and stamina, and create a broader knowledge base in navigation, tides, currents and weather, thus creating a base for solid decision making skills. Some training sessions will be with an instructor and some will be homework sessions in which participants will be required to accomplish various tasks. The CPP program will be a demanding and challenging course that will push all levels of paddlers to explore their potential. Registration is limited. People interested can contact James at 604-929-2268.

Tuesday Night Races in Deep Cove

Tuesday night kayak races in Deep Cove resume in April. This fun, weekly race has become an institution for Vancouver area paddlesports



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enthusiasts. 80 – 130 paddlers line up and do battle in short, fun races in sea kayaks, surf skis, outriggers, dugout canoes or anything that floats. Paddlers of all abilities welcome. Some races may include short runs and swims during the warmer summer months. Weekly April 8 – September 16. Races start at 7 pm. \$3 Race fee. Rentals available by reservation only. www.deepcovekayak.com

THINK Kayak International Challenge

Whatcom Lake, WA vs Deep Cove, BC. This two-day event on May 3 and 4 will see paddlers from both sides of the border putting it all on the line for bragging rights. The THINK Kayak International Challenge Trophy will go to the nation who fronts the fastest 10 paddlers. For more information: www.thinkkayaks.com/blog/?p=19

Big Chop Summer Paddle Series

The Mountain Equipment Co-op Big Chop Summer Paddle Series is a 10 race series happening on Thursday evenings in Vanier Park, Vancouver, BC. The race is open to OC 1 & 2, Kayaks and Canoes. The Series starts on Thurs-

day, May 17th, at 7pm. Collect series points and win great prizes! www.bigchop.ca

New Nautical Maps for Google Earth

EarthNC, Inc. has extended coverage of their "EarthNC Online" Google Earth chart service. Based on new government chart data, EarthNC Online now provides buoys, lights and other chart layers for the Potomac River, California Delta / San Joaquin River, Connecticut shore of Long Island Sound, and Nantucket/Martha's Vineyard areas which were not previously available in vector form. These new areas are in addition to over 600 U.S. coastal and river charts already included with EarthNC Online. Besides nautical charting, EarthNC Online also offers marine forecasts, tide predictions, estuarine bathymetry, and other nautical point-of-interest layers accessible through a common Google Earth interface. EarthNC Online is free with registration and serves as a compliment to EarthNC's full Google Earth Vector and Raster chart offerings sold via DVD and download. www.earthnc.com



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