

Caithness Kayak Club

Autumn Newsletter 2009

Friday night sessions have continued for the most of the summer with some really excellent weather some weeks and almost impossible weather other weeks. The stretch out to Noss Head has been thoroughly explored including one night when 14 paddlers squeezed successfully through the "Eye of the Needle." Junior paddlers have continued to make good progress trying out a range of boats including the club open canoe. Capsize drills and rescues have been practised. A journey was made one evening from Ackergill to Staxigoe.



There has been a scarcity of whale and dolphin sighting this year both in the Bay and on the trips we have done. The planned programme of a trip away each month has been accomplished. The June trip to the Summer Isles was blessed with sunny weather and nine paddlers including some younger paddlers in the double kayaks enjoyed their exploration of these magical islands.



The July trip saw us head west again to Scourie to visit Handa Island on the Friday evening in warm sunshine. The sun shone again on Saturday for the 23km trip from Kylesku back to Scourie through the islands of Edrachillis Bay, the bay of a thousand islands. Below, Matthew, Marc, Bill and Ros set out for Handa



In August a group of eight headed to Eilann nan Roinn to explore the old crofts and cliff girt shoreline of this deserted island. The conglomerate "pudding stone" rock is a strange thing to see and touch and this photo shows part of the group taking a break during their exploration..



The Caithness Cruise in June saw 27 paddlers explore the cliffs from Auckengill north to Duncansby, while twenty set out on the Sunday to cross to Stroma and paddle up the east side to land and view the surging waters of the Swilkie Race. Some very sustained paddling was needed to combat the tide as we started our return journey, but once round that headland, good use of the tide gave an easy return to Gills.



The pool sessions will be starting on Friday evenings at Wick Swimming Pool in September. Information is in the minutes and an email will go out shortly.

In the meantime we are going to keep Fri sessions in the Bay going, hoping to get surf conditions. Please come earlier at 6.00pm if you can so that we can get the show on the road. However, there will still be someone there until 6.45 to say where we have gone if we move venue. Sat 19th: Family Day, Loch Watten

Membership fees are also due to be paid this month.
Adult: £15,
Family: £20, adults + juniors in one household.
Junior: £10, also students, over 60s etc.
Please pay to Avril or Bill at sessions or pool.

Sweatshirt Design needed to Fiona.
Photos for 2010 calendar needed to Matthew T.
Both needed by 11 Sept, so get inspired. See 27 Aug minutes for details.