

Caithness Kayak Club

Autumn Newsletter 2010

Friday night sessions over the summer have been well attended, although the weather has often been quite unkind. The rescue and bonfire night early in the season was popular, but the planned midsummer barbecue had to be postponed to August when it was held with a great big bonfire, but on a rather wet evening. All paddlers have made good progress in their paddle skills and most have at least had one journey in quite tough conditions. Noss Head was not always as calm as this early morning shot in July.



Whales and dolphins have again been rare, but basking sharks have joined paddlers on two occasions, a very rare thing in recent years. The Caithness Cruise was again popular with over 20 paddlers each day. Even if strong winds kept activities to the east coast, there were two highly rated trips from Latheronwheel and from Sarclet. There was good feedback from visiting paddlers. This photo by Fiona shows the group getting organised at Sarclet.



Although various trips were planned in the Spring, we did not get these underway which has been a serious lack this year. Some family groups did explore in the Summer Isles, Edrachillis Bay, Kyle of Tongue and Orkney, but this is an aspect of club activities that we need to look at promoting next year. In the early summer we held both foundation safety and rescue and white water safety and rescue training courses. These should be available again next year. We have just introduced Paddle Power awards for younger paddlers. This includes open boating as on Loch Watten in April (courtesy of Margaret):



Paddling this month has switched to Saturdays because of the darker evenings and we have had a varied schedule including trips to Sandigoe, coaching of strokes, sprint racing, paddling on the lower Wick River and helping marshal the local cold water triathlon swim. Gavin, Matthew S and Matthew T took part in the Scottish Surf Championships in Thurso and Matthew T gained two seconds and a fourth in different classes. Well done!



The pool sessions will be starting on Friday evenings at Wick Swimming Pool from **Friday September 24th**. Terms are the same as last year, pay or use your Hi-Life card at pool reception and, if not a pool instructor, pay £1 to the club when getting your name ticked off in the café. The plan is to have a more varied menu, so if you have ideas speak to the instructors and we will see what we can do.

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, Margaret or Bill at Saturday sessions or at pool.

There will be a committee meeting shortly, which will include a look at finances and fund raising. At the moment a stall at a **car boot sale** is planned for mid October, - start gathering any unwanted items now -and a **Quiz night** at the Nethercliff Hotel on 28th January. If you have other ideas or items for the agenda please let a committee person know (Avril, Bill, Donnie, Elena, Fiona, Gavin, Graham, Helen, Harald, Iain, Margaret, Matthew T, Tomi, Valerie.)

The annual SCA Canoe Exhibition in Perth is on the 23rd and 24th October. See Canoe Scotland web site for info. Joining the SCA is a good idea and makes an excellent birthday or Christmas present for a family member. Two other web sites which have come to our notice lately are: www.paddling.net and www.oceanpaddler.com, both American, but both with useful info on canoeing and kayaking.