

RAFT UP 2024
CVPC/SISKA
Comox Paddles: AUGUST 11-13, 2024



Hi SISKA Paddlers!

Our club thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of you last year at the inaugural "Raft Up 2023" event and we're enthused and very much looking forward to repeating this SISKA/CVPC event again this year.

The Comox Valley Paddlers Club wishes to invite up to 15 SISKA members to visit us in the Comox Valley August 11-13, 2024 and paddle some of our favourite destinations with us as your local "tour guides".

We will offer two paddles each day with one being longer than the other (you might refer to it as an "energized" paddle), with more exposure to active water, so the wind, swell and conditions on that day will be closely watched. The other trip will follow a shoreline but might include a short crossing (potentially a more "relaxed" paddle). You will paddle as guests of our club and will be asked to sign our liability waivers in advance.

POT LUCK: We will hold a potluck dinner/social, hosted by our CVPC members, for you on the evening of Monday, August 12. Details will be circulated later to those participating.

Sunday, August 11 (10 – 12 nm):

ENERGIZED: "The 4 Island Tour – Vancouver Island; Denman; Chrome; Hornby"

Sadly, this interesting paddle had to be cancelled last year due to windy conditions in Baynes Sound and especially in the more notorious Lambert Channel. Our plan this year is to offer this destination on the first day and, if conditions require us to cancel, we will again offer it on the 2nd or even the 3rd day. Launch will be from the Deep Bay Marina where there is parking and no launch fee (if you launch from the shore - not the boat ramp). Meet in the parking lot at 12 noon, launch is planned for 1 PM. The Ford's Cove Store on Hornby offers food and restrooms.

Please consider having supper at the Ship and Shore Restaurant (Deep Bay Marina) afterwards.

Monday, August 12 (10 – 12 nm):

ENERGIZED: "North Shoreline of Comox Lake - Past Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve"

This pristine lake is fed by the majestic Comox Glacier and is over 15 km long with an average depth of 61 m. Park on the road near BC Hydro's dam at 10:30 AM. Launch (no charge) at 11 AM from the lake shore near the dam after a short "carry in". An outhouse is located nearby however there are no facilities once paddling along the lake. Bring something for lunch.

The Pot Luck Social is tonight at the Lion's Den in Comox.

Tuesday, August 13 (9 – 12 nm):

ENERGIZED: "Our Tree Island 360"

This is a favourite paddle of ours but circumnavigating Tree Island (a.k.a. Sandy Island) and/or Seal Islets is optional and requires today's high tide. We offered this gem of a paddle last year and it's well worth repeating! Tree Island has gorgeous white sandy beaches which entice you to go swimming. The island has an outhouse and a lovely walking path. Launch is from the shore at the Union Bay boat ramp which has parking but **requires a \$5 launch fee**. A short walking tour of the historical buildings in Union Bay is possible prior to launch. Meet at UB boat ramp at noon, launch at launch at 1 PM. Consider bringing snacks or a late lunch to enjoy on the island.

Raft Up will "Wrap Up" with a meal at Roy's Towne Pub (7 minutes north) after we return.

RELAXED PADDLES: - DESTINATIONS TBA

Possible Destinations: Ship's Point; Royston; Comox Lake (from campsite); Puntledge/Tsolum Rivers; Comox Harbour; Goose Spit (inside or out); Cape Lazo/Point Holmes (north or south); Campbell River Estuary; Spyder Lake; McIvor Lake.

REGISTRATION:

Here's how you can register to join us for "Raft Up 2024" in the Comox Valley:

1. Send me and email at hkoziol@shaw.ca stating your name(s), preferred email address(s) and mobile phone number(s). Let me know if any "Relaxed" paddle destinations might interest you.
2. I will send you our club's liability waiver to be signed and returned (only one waiver required). You can either bring it with you or (preferably) e-mail me a copy before the event.
3. That's it! You're done! I'll notify SSKA's Debbie Leach once the 15 SSKA spots are filled.

Billets: Several of our members have offered to billet 1 or 2 of you in their homes while you are in the Comox Valley for this paddling event. Please inform me of your desire to be billeted and I will hopefully be able to find you lodging.

Timing: The idea is that you will drive up and head straight to Sunday's launch site for your first paddle. On the final day, please consider staying that last night. In 2023 several SSKA members joined CVPC members for a trail ride (cycling) on the following day before heading home. We would be pleased to offer this again...

We're really looking forward to seeing you again or getting to know you and showing you some of the great paddling we have here in the Comox Valley!

Helen Koziol, Raft Up Committee Chairperson
Comox Valley Paddlers Club