

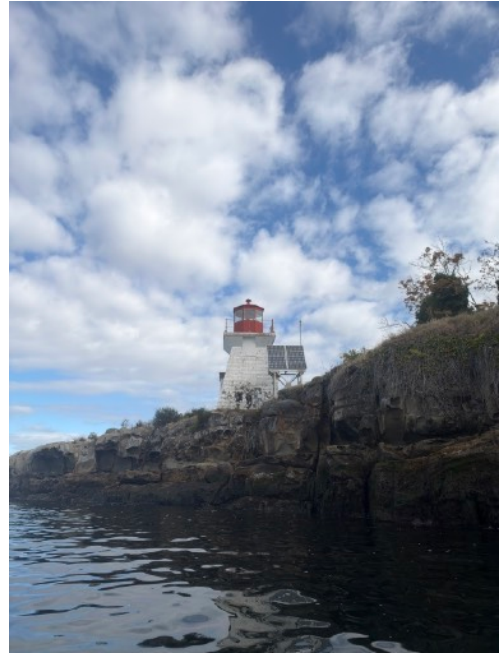
Energizer Paddle - Hudson Point (Salt Spring Island) Multi-day Camping Paddle

Our group on the multi-day camping paddle to Wallace Island this past weekend (September 25 to 27) possessed various levels of camping skills. Some were old hands at kayak camping, others were revisiting forgotten skills and one had never done a self-reliant kayak camping trip. SISKa paddle leader, Kirstin Stuart, limited the paddle to 6 campers for the Energizer level 3-day trip. Catching the 10:20 am Swartz Bay to Fulford Harbour ferry, we arrived at Hudson's Point at the north end of Salt Spring Island at about noon hoping to avoid predicted high winds. By the time our boats were loaded and cars parked, the winds had abated and the off and on rain had ended. The 3.5 nm paddle took us across Trincomali Channel and into Chivers Point campsite at the north end of Wallace Island Marine Provincial Park.

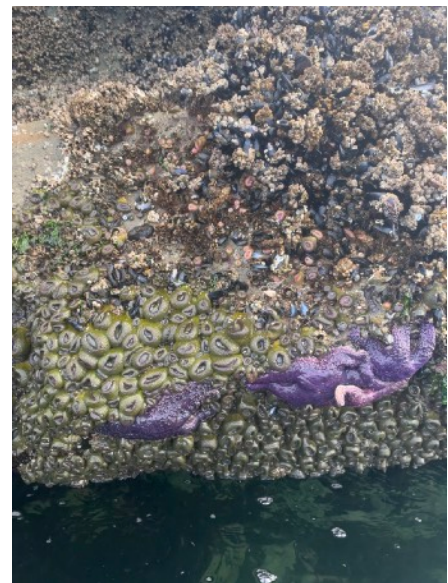


Luckily the 8 camp pads were vacant and we set up our tents and equipment on 5 of them. Our group consisted of Lawrie Spooner, Paul and Sara Neil, Lawrence and Elizabeth Croft, Pat Hill and Kirstin. Once settled, Kirstin, Lawrence and Elizabeth left for a paddle around adjacent Jackscrew Island and the Secretary Islands while the rest of us walked to the south end of Wallace passing the small but scenic Cabin Bay campsite

(2 camping pads) and Conover Cove with its grassy campground and several historic buildings. We arrived back at our campsite around 7:00 pm just in time for a downpour. Luckily Kirstin had advised us to put up tarps.



Saturday dawned bright and clear for our full day of kayaking and camping. On the water just before 10:00 am we headed east towards the north end of Gabriola Island and Porlier Pass. Along the way thanks to the low tide there was much marine life visible - sea urchins, sea anemones,



chitons, whelks. Hitting Porlier at slack we were able to paddle out to a decommissioned lighthouse and across the channel to Pylades Island, then Reid Island and finally Thetis Island where we stopped for lunch. The paddle back to Wallace took us by Penelakut Island, the Secretary Islands and Jackscrew Island to view a private collection of First Nation's poles. That evening we were entertained by a couple of seals fishing in a nearby herring ball while the sunset cast a pink glow on land and sea. Later the full moon changed the hue to silver.



Sunday, our last day, was another beautiful morning as we packed up our campsites and reversed course for Hudson's Point and our waiting cars. For a kayak camping refresher, the weekend's trip had given us a variety of weather conditions, paddling conditions and a chance to practice our camping skills as well as meet other SSKA



members and visit the unique and beautiful Westcoast jewel, Wallace Island. Many thanks to Kirstin for her planning and guidance.