



**Nanaimo Paddlers  
2021 Year End Committee Reports  
AGM February 2, 2022**

**Director-At-Large Report - Kathleen McKinnell**

After two years as Membership Chair, my third and final year on the Board of Directors was as a Director at Large. My main goals for the year were to hand off the Membership Chair duties to the new Chair, and to complete the new Skills Self-Assessment project along with David Peters, IT Chair, and long-time member Jennifer Davidson representing Hosting. The project consisted of a member self-assessment questionnaire, a host query function, a “find my latest assessment” function, and a Rubric showing all the skills and levels possible. We were successful in launching the project after beta testing it with a number of members and hosts. Beginning this membership season, the Skills Self-Assessment is embedded as a required part of the membership renewal process.

It’s been a pleasure serving on the Nanaimo Paddlers Board of Directors under the consistent and supportive direction of Julie Bettney and Ron Everard these three years, and I look forward to continuing to volunteer for club activities in 2022.

**Featured Speaker Program - Caroline Ross and Ron Everard, Chair(s)**

This year, the club continued to hold general meetings online via Zoom. Zoom is proving to be an excellent venue for club meetings: it allows members (and speakers) from diverse geographical locations to attend, it removes the need for travel at night and in inclement weather, and it is environmentally friendly. Feedback indicates that members are engaged and happy with this format.

This year, the role of Featured Speaker Coordinator was shared by Caroline Ross (January to June 2021) and Ron Everard (September to December 2021).

**2021 Program:**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Topic and Speaker</b>	<b>Number of Registrants on Meetup</b>	<b>Number of Attendees on Zoom</b>
January 6, 2021	“Sea Kayaks in Peculiar Waters” with Jaime Sharp	63	40
February 3, 2021 (AGM)	“Kayaking Antarctica and South Georgia” with JF Marleau	84	65
March 3, 2021	“Paddling Haida Gwaii” with Yves Aquin and Patti Stevens	100	76
April 7, 2021	“Andes to Atlantic: Kayaking Patagonia” with Cole Wilde	66	45
May 5, 2021	“Kayaking the Salish Sea” with Susan Conrad	74	50
June 2, 2021	“100 km for a Cause” with Amber Champion	52	35
July 2021	Summer break – no meeting	-	-

August 2021	Summer break – no meeting	-	-
September 1, 2021	“A Paddler’s History of Nanaimo’s Harbours” with Lynne Bowen (did not proceed due to technical difficulties)	-	-
October 6, 2021	“Understanding Takaya – Lone Coastal Sea Wolf” with Cheryl Alexander	58	NA
November 3, 2021	“Trailblazing Women of Vancouver Island” with Haley Healey	50	NA
December 1, 2021	“Have Paddle Will Travel: The 4000 Year History of the Kayak” with Dr. Bill Stewart	50	NA
<b>Average number of registrants/attendees per meeting</b>		<b>66</b>	<b>52</b>
<i>2021 Averages (for comparison)</i>		<i>61</i>	<i>44</i>

### **Cross-Club Speaker Sharing**

Beginning this year, some clubs invited other clubs to attend their general meetings via Zoom. Our paddling friends at the South Island Sea Kayaking Association (SISKA) and the Comox Valley Paddlers, specifically, have been generous in inviting our club to their meetings and we have reciprocated: starting in September, we began inviting members of SISKA and the Comox Valley Paddlers to attend our general meetings.

SISKA, in particular, hosts many meetings on a variety of topics, and several of their presentations are subsequently available for viewing on YouTube.

We both enjoyed coordinating speakers for this year’s program. A big thank you to club members for your ongoing enthusiasm about and participation in the meetings!

### **Information Technology - Dave Peters, Chair**

Activities during 2021 were centered around using technology to aid in information sharing, streamlining repetitive tasks and developing tools to assist members, hosts and the executive with club activities. Specific tasks and accomplishments over the past 12 months include:

- 1) Assisted in the creation of a self-assessment form for members to use
- 2) Assisted in the creation of a query for members to look up their latest self-assessment
- 3) Created the host query form for hosts to review members self-assessments
- 4) Established online document sharing between executive members
- 5) Incorporated PayPal/credit card payment options for club paid events through Meetup
- 6) Added PayPal/credit card payment buttons for purchasing calendars and notepads

In addition to the new capabilities listed above, time was spent maintaining the content on the website, adding new pages, updating and adding new information (including a RSS feed), as well as responding to queries from general members about using Meetup, queries from the executive about using Meetup, Mailchimp and Smartwaiver.

### **Insurance Report - Ron Everard**

The Club maintains two policies of insurance, both covering the period from August 1, 2021-July 31, 2022. The insurance premiums are the most significant club expenditure every year. This year the cost was \$3871.

## **Comprehensive General Liability (CGL) Policy**

Our broker is Waypoint Insurance in Parksville. The insurer is Markel Insurance and the Club has \$3 million of liability insurance. The policy provides protection in most situations, including claims by a member against another member or the Club, and claims by a third party against a member or the Club.

As a condition of issuing the policy, the insurer requires that members sign a Release. We require a Release from members as part of the membership application.

## **Directors' Errors and Omission Insurance**

Our broker is Waypoint Insurance in Parksville. The insurer is Intact Insurance and the Club has \$3 million of E and O insurance for Directors.

## **Claims**

There have been no claims under either policy.

## **Membership Report - Rhonda Johnson, Chair**

In 2021 I as Membership Chair, I processed 67 new members. The process is sending a "welcome to Nanaimo Paddlers" letter along with 3 attachments for the new member to read and process.

Within the attachments are: #1 a link to the smart waiver form, #2 Guideline information sheet made up from the Board and updated as needed. #3 Information list of email addresses to reach board members at their nanaimopaddlers.org link. I then go to our membership card link, make them a card and send them another email directing them to our website to view the discounts offered to our members.

New members well as regular members were assisted to get signed up onto Meetup. Checked on new members to follow through if they had filled out and recorded their Proficiency level on meetup. Assisted members who had a problem with their meetup accounts. If I couldn't solve, would ask Dave Peters for his expertise on the matter.

Held Beginner paddles in lieu of restricted in house meets (due to Covid) to help member's with questions as well as make sure their kayaks were equipped to meet our guidelines. Also, attended some Paddle Practice and Play paddles to assist Ian with helping out with beginner paddlers.

Answered email inquiries from members new and existing.

## **Skills & Education Committee - Caroline Ross, (Chair), Ian Baker, Brad Wipp**

Our Committee had a very successful year, even as we were required to navigate the ever-changing landscape of COVID. Highlights from our year are below:

### **Spring Training Program**

Skills & Education took a new direction in 2021 with the introduction of a new Spring Training Program of club-only clinics taught by regional providers, offered to club members at special rates. The program was very well-received by members and providers alike!

Here are a few highlights from the 2021 program:

- 1) We ran 24 clinics (23 on-water, 1 online) from March 20 to June 17.
- 2) The clinics offered 146 seats, 137 of which filled (94% registration rate).
- 3) 72 members participated in the program: 30 enrolled in one clinic; 42 enrolled in 2 or more clinics.
- 4) Clinics catered to all skill levels: we ran 8 clinics at the beginner level (Paddle Canada Level 1 skills or below), 7 clinics at the advanced level (Paddle Canada Level 2 skills and above), and 9 clinics for paddlers of any skill level (all levels).
- 5) We received 49 unique responses to our post-clinic feedback form, which we sent to all participants. View a [summary of the survey responses](#).
- 6) We worked with 6 awesome providers: Adventuress Sea Kayaking, BC Kayak Centre, Go Kayak, James Manke/All Things Qajaq, Ocean River Sports/Gordon Brown Sea Kayak Centre of Excellence, and SKILS. Thank you so much for working with us!

We invite you to view the [archived schedule of our 2021 Spring Training Program](#), which includes all clinic topics, dates and providers.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in this program and helped make it such a success!

Special thanks to Skills & Ed Chair Caroline Ross and club Treasurer Kim Barrington for organizing and administering the program.

We look forward to welcoming everyone in our [2022 Spring Training Program](#)!

### **P3 Program**

Ian Baker joined the Skills & Education Committee in June, bringing with him his excellent Paddle, Practice and Play (P3) program. This program is very popular among new and experienced paddlers alike. It gives members of all skill levels an opportunity to paddle together and practice skills under the guidance of more experienced club members. It also serves to welcome newer club members and orient them to the club's on-water activities, and it provides more experienced club members with an opportunity to share their skills with newer paddlers in a mentorship role.

From April 22 to November 16, Ian and his crew of helpers hosted 36 P3 sessions that attracted 263 attendees (approx. 7 attendees per session). Many of these participants were "P3 regulars" who honed and refined their skills through the program.

A dedicated handful of more experienced club members regularly attended the P3s as co-hosts. Having more P3 mentors on the water allowed Ian's team to cater to different skill levels and interests in a single session, and created more opportunities for individual attention.

P3s were most popular in the summer months (there were 8 sessions in July, 10 in August and 7 in September), due to the weather and the more relaxed COVID situation.

A big thank you to Ian Baker for creating and leading this program, and to Ian's crew of invaluable co-hosts: Julie Bettney, John Burgham, Gary Davidson, Reale Emond, Rhonda Johnson, Brian Hanley, Jeff Platt, David Robinson, Mark Vinden and Brad Wipp.

The P3 program will resume in the spring as weather and interest permits. See you at a P3 in 2022!

### **Internal Club Clinics**

We were able to run a small number of clinics taught by our talented club instructors this year, as COVID protocols allowed. A big thank you to club instructors Brad Wipp and Rick Powley, who

collectively organized and hosted 8 clinics, attended by 39 members:

- Towing basics – 3 clinics; 16 attendees
- Packing for a multi-day trip – 2 clinics; 10 attendees
- Managing deck perimeter and bungee lines – 1 clinic; 5 attendees
- Intro to paddling in currents (Gabriola Passage) – 2 clinics; 8 attendees

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Thank you to club members and the club executive for supporting our programs and initiatives this year. It remains our aim to serve you, our members, in giving you lots of great opportunities and options to learn, practice and refine your sea kayak skills!  
See you soon on the water!

### **Special Events - Sue Gueulette, Chair**

Due to Covid restrictions, NP hosted only two outdoor social events in 2021.

- 1) Fall gathering at Spider Lake with sunshine. 25 people attended and it was a fun gathering. Dave Peters and Rhonda Johnson were great and provided their expertise in rolling. We had tea, coffee, scones and warmed up by the fire.
- 2) Nanaimo Paddlers second social event was held on Saturday, Dec. 4th, from 10:30 to 2:30 pm at Westwood on a cold sunny day. Jo-Anne Racette, Kim Barrington and Brad Wipp were there to help set up the area for the event. The event started off with a meet and greet then Rhonda Johnson took over 20 paddlers on a Xmas parade paddle around Westwood. Many paddlers dressed up their boats and lots came dressed for festive fun. After the paddle the group of paddlers and others who came to watch enjoyed singing songs with the talented Carolyn Lambrechts on guitar. Everyone was feeling merry around the fire pit, drinking hot chocolate and eating Christmas treats. We had an area for perishables and a donation table set up for Loaves and Fishes. There was 36 paddlers who attended.

Nanaimo Paddlers were very generous in their donation giving. We are able to donate approximately \$200. to Loaves and Fishes. Later the club matched that donation and we were able to donate a total of \$400. to a great charity.

### **Vice President's Report - Ron Everard**

My role as Vice President is to support the President by doing those things she requests of me, and also to cover for her when she is on holidays. Our President was away a couple of times this year, once in the summer and all of November. As far as I am aware, we didn't lose any members while she was away, and the club remains solvent.  
All in all, I think I did a pretty good job.