**18th Ravenglass Seaquest**

**Sunday 13rd July 2025**

**Event Details**

Please download the entry form for the 18th Ravenglass Seaquest from the website and bring your completed form on the day. Keep advertising it amongst your friends/club members, and e-mail us beforehand if possible with names and categories so that we can get the start list up to date. Under-18s are welcome provided they are accompanied by a parent/guardian. **Please ensure you are fit to take part** and let us know (in confidence) of any medical issues that might affect your ability to take part.

The format will be mostly the same as previous years – 3 hours to navigate in kayaks, SUPs or canoes to as many controls as you can in the 3 estuaries of Ravenglass (West Cumbria). Any boats allowed (provided they don't have an engine!) - do remember it's an estuary which is usually sheltered but occasionally choppy.

**Key timings**: - Registration opens at 10:00, cars need to be off the beach by 11:30, briefing at 11:45, mass start at 12:15 and please be back by hopefully 15:15 (and definitely by 15:30 – we will be looking for you by then). High Water 13:53. We hope to hold prize giving at the Ratty Arms near the car park starting around 16:30.

**The event**: - There will be up to 21 numbered controls of values 10, 20 or 30 points and you choose a route taking into account tidal flow to enable you to collect as many points as possible in 3 hours. The controls are situated in the 3 arms of the estuary within the area:

* River Esk – up to bridge on A595 near Muncaster Castle
* River Mite – up to bridge on A595 near Muncaster Flour Mill
* River Irt – up to railway bridge near Drigg

A 1:25000 map (of the area) will be over-printed with numbered controls, values and control description. You will receive map at registration – hence there is an incentive to arrive early so you have time to study it whilst having a snack in a local café.

Controls are situated in obvious places like under bridges, by streams, on fences, etc, and a lot require you getting out of your boat to punch (don’t let boat or paddle float away!). Some will be floating - on buoys. A compass is not essential but advised in case of mist or you lose your sense of direction; GPS up to you.

**Joker – one, or possibly two, control places will be worth double points! No, we don’t tell you which ones!**

**Entry**: Entry on the day using either a downloaded entry form or you can pick one up from us at registration. Please e-mail me letting us know your intention to enter including details whether you will be in kayak or canoe, solo, pair, generation, etc... NB Club members no need to email, just accept your Spond invite.

Please note that organisers reserve the right to allocate boats to the most appropriate category.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday 13th July!

Karen, Andy, Alastair, Joe and Mark

[seaquest@copelandcanoe.org.uk](mailto:seaquest@copelandcanoe.org.uk) or [info@copelandcanoe.org.uk](file:///D:\Canoeing\Canoe2024\Activities\Seaquest\info@copelandcanoe.org.uk)

07721 039 596 (Karen)

*Important Information on Safety and Timings*

**On the Day**

1. Register between 09:15am and 10:45 at EVENT CENTRE vehicle - Ravenglass south beach GR084962.

* + **Complete the entry/safety form.**
  + Donation: £10 adults, £5 under 18, £15 family, to cover cost of maps, punch cards, BC insurance and donation to our chosen charity – Cumbria First Responders.
  + If you enter early, you may pay your donation by bank transfer to Copeland Canoe Club, Sort Code 20-66-97 Account no. 43821595. *Please ensure you fill in the reference with your name and “Seaquest” otherwise we can’t trace who made the payment!*
  + Collect punch, waterproof map (& string and plastic bag if needed) Control locations and values are on the map.
  + Read the event risk assessment on side of event centre vehicle / or read via website
  + See any member of Copeland Canoe Club for a brief on orienteering and ask them any questions about the event.

2. Unload your boat by very latest 11:15am on to Ravenglass south beach. Remove your car as soon as possible. *Cars need to be* ***off*** *the beach by 11:30!*

3. Park car in main car park (300 metres away) **(otherwise car will get washed away when tide comes in!).** NB no parking in Ravenglass main-street. Sorry – **the car park is pay and display**.

4. Place map under deck lines or think of another method of not letting it blow away, and tie punch card to something (eg on string attached to buoyancy aid).

5. **11:45 – compulsory briefing**. **Mass Start at 12:15**

6. Select route, visit controls, *help others in difficulty,* take care, etc.

7. Aim to return within 3 hours (by 15:15) (or you will soon be stranded on mud & lose points!).

8. Hand in control card otherwise we’ll send out rescue party. Please take care to clearly punch your card for all controls visited to help us avoid any mistakes, thanks.

9. 16:30pm onwards, we hope to hold prize-giving and refreshments at Ratty Arms (snacks available).

**Safety and Kit**: Kayaking/canoeing kit suitable for cool weather sea paddling – at a minimum:

* ***Buoyancy aid: - compulsory***. Spray deck for kayakers.
* Spare clothes in boat (in case you fall in when getting in or out)
* Mobile phone (in case of emergencies) In a waterproof bag!
* Whistle - blow it to attract other kayakers if you’re in trouble
* Food and drink!
* Compass recommended (GPS if you like)
* Watch - to time your 3 hours

We can supply a fuller checklist if you wish. (On the club’s website)

NB: - Windy weather alternative is Seaquest using just the Esk – any decision will be made at the briefing.

**Sea State**: High water is at 13:53 +/- 20 min depending on rainfall, wind direction & how far up-stream you are. Occasionally wind over tide sets up some challenging conditions in the middle of the estuaries and also under the bridges. It’s a spring tide again this year so there will be some fairly fast moving deep water for the first 2.5 hours and then sand banks quickly appearing near the end. Will be perfect for a cruise up the beautiful Esk, a picnic and then turn around when the tide turns. This will be the recommended route for novices and canoes if windy.

**Penalty Points for coming in late**

***You should return by 15:15...***

* 1-5 minutes late - 1 point loss per *full* minute (so no problem being a few minutes late): If you are less than 1 minute late you won’t lose points.
* 6-10 minutes late - On top of 5 points lost for the first 5 minutes, 2 more points lost per minute up to 15 minutes ( too risky! )
* >15 minutes - lose all points – sorry! (So don’t be late!)

A printed breakdown of each point lost will be available on the day should you wish to verify.

**Accommodation:** For those who want to camp, Ravenglass camp-site(019467 82777), Cumblands Farm https://m.pitchup.com/campsites/England/North\_West/Cumbria/Ravenglass/cumblands-farm-caravan-site/ Also recommended, Seven Acres Campsite at Gosforth, only a few miles from Ravenglass and very near the excellent pubs of Gosforth (019467 25480). They also have a camp-site at St Bees where you can surf if windy or potter underneath the sand-stone cliffs if calm. Hotels and B&Bs are also available nearby.

**Non-kayaking people:** For non-kayaking people who want to take part, it is possible to walk along the banks of the Esk and visit quite a few controls and also watch the kayakers. Also to catch a La’al Ratty Train and wave at us on the Mite. More details on http://www.visitcumbria.com/wc/raveng.htm.

**Chosen Charities**. Over the years, Ravenglass Seaquest has supported many charities. Recent beneficiaries: Whitehaven First Responders, The Great North Air Ambulance, Search and Rescue Dogs (SARDA), Wasdale Mountain Rescue and Maryport Lifeboat / RNLI (St Bees lifeboat), CFM's Cash 4 Kids, Northern Brainwave and our local NHS, Save the Children. We also put some of the monies towards acquiring a Club Defibrillator. Lately we have donated to Cystic Fibrosis and Wasdale Mountain Rescue. This year we are supporting Cumbria First Responders.