



University Kayak Club

Information Sheet 2007-2008



For all current information, please visit our web site: <http://students.washington.edu/ukc>

The University Kayak Club (UKC) at the University of Washington is a registered student organization, having the primary purpose of helping members pursue the sports of kayaking and canoeing. The Kayak Club is oriented towards whitewater and ocean kayaking. People of all skill levels are welcome, and those who are new to the sport are especially encouraged to join. The Pacific Northwest is one of the best areas in the country for canoeing and kayaking. We enjoy a year round season, with easy access to a wide variety of paddling opportunities. From the thrill of the roaring Skykomish River to the quiet solitude of the Nisqually Delta, or a paddle workout on Lake Washington (which can be followed by a shower and sauna at the Waterfront Activities Center, or WAC facilities), the club provides an opportunity for members to enjoy the benefits of different paddling styles and adventures. There are over 15 good white water runs within a 90-minute drive of Seattle, and the many nearby islands, especially the San Juans, provide an abundance of exploration areas for sea kayakers.

Equipment:

The Kayak Club can provide all the essential gear needed by members for paddling. The club uses 23 plastic white water kayaks of various designs, 1 down river kayak, 2 C-1 decked canoes, 1 C-2 decked canoe, 1 OC open canoe, 15 plastic sea kayaks, and 1 fiberglass racing single sea kayak and 1 fiberglass double sea kayak. In addition, we have a supply of wet suits, dry tops, PFD's (life jackets), helmets, and paddles. Club equipment is stored at the WAC in the room opposite the canoe rental window.

Activities:

Informal instruction and practice is held most Sunday mornings during the 9-month academic year when classes are in session. Separate evening practice sessions on Lake Washington for whitewater paddling and sea kayaking, as well as kayak polo games, are conducted when daylight permits. You may visit the web site or contact a club officer for instruction times. Clinics in whitewater racing, rescue techniques, and sea kayak trip planning are scheduled according to interest. When the rivers are runnable, experienced club members usually lead trips of varying difficulty each weekend. Sea kayak outings are generally organized during the warmer seasons.

Membership:

The Kayak Club at the UW is a voluntary student sports club assisted by the Department of Recreational Sports Programs. All regularly enrolled UW students, and UW faculty and staff may join the UKC. Faculty and staff members or spouses must, however, pay the appropriate WAC facility use fee (although this fee is waived for those who have purchased an IMA card or already paid the WAC fee through another club, e.g., the WYC). There are three levels of membership: River/Sea, Lake, and Self-sufficient. An American Canoe Association (ACA) membership is required for all River/Sea and Self-sufficient members who participate in river/sea trips (at a cost of \$30 in addition to the club and WAC fees).

- **River/Sea** membership costs \$20.00/year and will allow you to use club equipment on Lake Washington and on any official club trip. A club trip consists of at least three club members, one of which must be an approved trip coordinator.
- **Lake** membership costs \$20.00/year and will allow you to use club equipment only on Lake Washington near the WAC.
- **Self-sufficient** membership costs \$5.00/year and will allow you to participate in all club activities, but will not allow you to use club equipment.

Membership Waiver Card:

All participants must complete a member data sheet and a waiver card prior to any club activity. Membership waiver cards are available from a club officer at the WAC clubroom.

To Join:

Attend a Sunday morning pool session, meeting at the WAC at 8:30AM, or an evening lake session during the summer and complete **ALL** of the following:

- Fill out a waiver card (both sides) and the member data sheet (both sides)
- Pass the swim test (wet exit a kayak and tow the boat 50 yards)
- Attend the orientation session right after the pool or lake session
- Pay your dues at the Hub Ticket Office and receive your membership card.

Insurance:

The American Canoe Association membership provides limited liability coverage for the club but not individual members. The Department of Recreational Sports Programs strongly recommends that all sports club members have adequate accident and medical insurance coverage while participating in club activities. Each sports club member is responsible for arranging his or her own coverage. Brochures on the Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan for registered UW students are available in the IMA Sports Club Office. ACA website: <<http://www.acanet.org>>.

Club Communication:

Being in the kayak club is basically what you make it to be. Paddling is an individual sport, but relies on group interaction and cooperation. All outings must be scheduled in advance, as the ACA must be notified 24 hours in advance for insurance coverage. Many of our river trips are planned at the last possible moment, because where we go is based on weather, river levels, and paddling skills of the people who attend. Most club activities are announced and organized through three automated e-mail lists. See the *UKC Listserv* info sheet for details. You are encouraged to actively contact fellow paddlers for practicing and paddling on the lake, or to find out the latest trip plan.

- It is the responsibility of the individual paddler to be aware of the difficulty and possible risks involved in any club activity, and to make an active decision to participate or not.

Equipment Use:

All equipment use is restricted to *river/sea* and *lake* members only! Club equipment **CANNOT** be loaned to friends or family. You must report lost or damaged equipment to the Equipment Manager as soon as possible. *River/Sea* and *Lake* members on Lake Washington can use equipment while the WAC is open. *River/Sea* members can use club equipment on “legal” club trips. A “legal” club trip consists of three club members, one of which is an approved trip coordinator for the type and difficulty of the trip. Work parties are scheduled each quarter for equipment repair and maintenance. Participation in a work party gives priority in equipment selection, and they are fun.

Club Pool Sessions:

Meet at the WAC at 8:30AM on posted Sunday mornings to load equipment. If you do not help move boats to the pool and wash them, you may not get into a boat! The pool session is from 9:00AM to 11:00AM at the Hec Edmundson Pool. Parking is free, located at the WAC or the Montlake Lot north of the IMA. Only club neoprene spray skirts marked “Pool” are allowed in the pool. **Note:** no pool sessions are held during final exam week, breaks or over the summer.

Equipment Checkout for Use on Lake Washington:

At the WAC window, exchange your UKC card for a club key. Return the key immediately after opening the door, to give others key access. Select your paddling gear. The following items are required: boat, paddle, spray skirt, and PFD. Fill out the yellow equipment use card, sign, and date the card before going out. (Cards are on the desk in the clubroom). Go paddle!

River Trips:

Note for Autumn quarter: routine river trips will not begin until the rivers have sufficient water. River trips are organized via the whitewater email list. The difficulty of the trip is usually determined by the ability of the group assembled or by the trip coordinator. Transportation is cooperative, and all riders should contribute gas money to the driver (usually \$3-5).

Any river trip that uses club equipment *must*:

- Be on a Safety Committee approved river
- Include at least 3 club members
- Fill out a trip sheet (in the binder on the table)
- Have a club Safety Committee approved trip coordinator
- Bring a first-aid kit, a throw rope, and a breakdown paddle.

Ocean Trips:

Most club sea kayak outings occur during the months of Daylight Savings Time. There are typically 2-4 trips per month during this period, with an occasional trip in winter. Trips may be one-day, overnight, or several nights in duration, to various locations in Washington or Canada. Upcoming trip information is sent out on the ukc-sea mailing list. All trips must be pre-approved by the club designated Sea Kayak officer.

Any ocean trip that uses club equipment *must*:

- Have a Safety Committee approved trip coordinator
- Include at least 3 club members.
- Bring a first-aid kit, flares, a bilge pump and a tow rope
- Fill out a trip sheet (in the binder on the table)

Highly Recommended To Read:

Safety Guidelines <http://students.washington.edu/~ukc/rules/safety.html>

By Laws <http://students.washington.edu/~ukc/rules/bylaws.html>

For More Information:

UKC Web Page <http://students.washington.edu/ukc>

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