

Sea Kayaking – Trip Leader Guidelines

- review the potential hazards on the journey
- obtain tidal data for the area
- obtain the Coastguard's telephone number
- consider contingency plans should the weather be unsuitable on the day
- discuss weather conditions with other experienced paddlers, and don't be afraid to cancel the trip even if conditions are 'forecast' to improve later.
- ensure the mix of paddlers on the trip have enough experience to complete the journey safely – knowing the groups limitations is a key fact. Recommended ratio is 1 leader to 6 paddlers.
- ensure adequate kayaking equipment is taken on the trip and adequate clothes are worn
- be aware of the Col-Regs (Collision Regulations) so that you know of how ships "behave" if they suspect a collision is possible
- if there is a capsize be prepared to supervise the rescue – you do not have to carry out the actual rescue. Delegate to a competent paddler. However you must stay in charge
- briefing to be carried out before getting on the water and deputy(s) declared
- count the number of paddlers (often)
- Think about how the group is organised on the water; choice between laissez faire v genial dictator? Stronger paddles bringing up the rear.

Hints for Trip Organisers

Preparation

Paddlers on Club trips must be paid up members, for insurance purposes.

Ensure people who ask to join trips have the level of experience required for the trip - get prior experience from new members. MembershipMojo will have some information. If not please contact them, Assumptions and expectations vary widely... Ask them what recent paddling has been done

Transport

Trip will be subject to available shared transport. Ask if they have their own kayak, car and roof rack. Also how many kayaks and people they can take. Once the drivers are established then the size of the group is fixed. Normal ratio is 1:6 leader to paddlers. More paddlers more leaders required

To save on large quantity of emails – when you advertise the trip – put in a deadline for responding. Ideally one week before the trip. Then the list is closed. Use of google forms can help

After the deadline and 4 days before the trip compile trip notes and send out (see sample overleaf). Include latest weather check, plus telephone number of organisers on the email.

Include a list of the drivers and which boats they are able to transport and a list of participants and the boats they are using for the trip to avoid confusion early in day when participants are picking up boats from the container at an early hour.

Warn people they will need to read the final email sent the day before as meeting points / plans may change as the weather does/and in the instance of transport plans failing/needing to change!

Printable trip notes are very handy ...

If a trip is popular, and transport limited (including boats) – decide how choice is made

On the day:

Bring boat locks in case anyone unable to attend on day itself and boats need to be locked on car.

Available club boats: 9 - 11 boats, 10-12 paddlers. Paddlers should have paddled their chosen boat previously on the Thames; to check fit, comfort etc.

	Sea Kayak	Size	Note
1	P&H Leo	small-med 4.7m	
2			
3	Aquanaut LV- orange	med	
4	Aquanaut Club – Yellow	Large	
5	Capella - orange	Med	
6	Rainbow double	small /med-large	38kg so a strong trolley useful
7	Rainbow – Yellow red	med – large	
8	Rainbow – green	med – large	Larger - Thigh braces removed
9	Weekender – Fibre glass	Small - large	for sea state less than F4
10	Tiderace Pace – Fibre glass	Med-Large	Has rudder.- treat nicely
11	Surfskis - fine weather or experienced paddlers	all sizes,	needs waist or leg strap

The P&H is good for smaller paddlers. The red Aquanaut low volume also good for smallish paddlers – larger people may find the leg position too flat. Capella, Aquanaut Club, Rainbows all med-large boats and stable for less experienced. Front cockpit in the Rainbow double is for short-med people.

For sea paddling the Weekender is not for beginners (very different to the Thames) . Narrow bow and likely to bury it’s nose in a wave than sea kayaks..

Sample trip Plan & Notes

Training Trip. 10am (on the water time) Saturday 3 September 20XX

Leader/coach/organiser name..... Forecast: sunny SW F1-F4.. Sea temp 18°C Meet Eastney car park Ready to paddle – trip briefing 09:45 On the water: at 10:00. Lunch bring packed lunch + hot drinks. Hat Return: at 15:00 – 16:30	Tides:	Portsmouth – Spirits 85 coef
	LW	6:30
	HW	13:25
	LW	22:30

Meet at Xyz car park (include map screen shot and post code)

Safety Notes

Strong currents at entrance to Xyz Harbour around moored boats and buoys.

Other users: - kite surfers SW corner of Hayling Island,

Club boats Hire fees (£12/day) paid to X on Saturday.

Trip participants and designated boats:

Club boats: Avocet –

Drivers +passengers	Transporting boats	No boats	Mobile	UK - ICE -