

2024 Training

In order to help promote safe sea kayaking for SISKAs members, between March and May for each of the past few years, we have organized "Spring Training" sessions with professionals from kayaking skills companies as well as our own Paddle Canada certified SISKAs instructors.

This initiative succeeded in improving paddlers' skills and also introducing members to the fine kayaking companies operating here. For Spring Training 2023 and beyond we are planning a different approach to accomplish our goals and ensure that our members continue to receive great kayak skills training and experiences on an ongoing basis. After all, rather than being limited to the Spring months, training should be available year-round!

We will promote to our club members the paddling skills development and trip experience offerings of all commercial kayak companies that agree to provide these at a discount for all paid-up SISKAs members. Registration and payment for these will take place directly with the company involved and be subject to their normal customer policies. You will be able to book immediately, making it easier for your own planning and for the company involved. If companies provide discounts for gear, we will also promote those.

Of course, our SISKAs instructors will continue to offer on-water skills development workshops and courses to members as well, and information about these will be circulated to members when available.

"Training" 2024 offers received are listed below in alphabetical order by provider.

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BestCoast Outfitters

is a collective of industry professionals who together combine a retail business with paddling training and trip experiences. .

Bestcoast Outfitters are happy to offer a 15% discount to SISKAs members on select training courses. The discount is applicable on checkout using the discount code BESTCOASTxSISKA

We have a few more training courses in the works AND we are working on a monthly

rough water skills development program - [stay tuned](#) and [sign up to our newsletter!](#)

December

[DEC12 | Navigation, Tides & Currents: 865 Yates Street](#)

January

[JAN6 | Current Session: Tillicum Narrows](#)

[JAN9 | Pool Session: Pearson College](#)

[JAN16 | Navigation, Tides & Currents: 865 Yates Street](#)

[JAN20 | Current Session: Tillicum Narrows](#)

February

[FEB6 | Pool Session: Pearson College](#)

[FEB10-11 | Paddle Canada Level 3 Skills Preparation: Victoria](#)

[24FEB | White Water Day](#)

March

[MAR5 | Pool Session: Pearson College](#)

[MAR9 | Risk Management Session: Fleming Beach](#)

[MAR10 | Race Rocks Adventure: Race Rocks](#)

[MAR23-27 | Paddle Canada Level 3 Skills: Deer Group](#)

[MAR23-24 | Paddle Canada Level 2 Skills Preparation: Victoria](#)

[MAR30 | Spring Tune Up Current Session: Tillicum Narrows](#)

[MAR30 | Spring Tune Up Strokes: The Gorge](#)

[MAR31 | Spring Tune Up Rescues: The Gorge](#)

April

[APR9 | Pool Session: Pearson College](#)

[APR12-15 | Paddle Canada Level 2 Skills: Victoria](#)

[APR15 | Spring Tune Up Current Session: Tillicum Narrows](#)

[APR15 | Spring Tune Up Strokes Session: Tillicum Narrows](#)

[APR15 | Spring Tune Up Rescues Session: Tillicum Narrows](#)

[APR18-21 | Paddle Canada Level 1 Instructor: Victoria](#)

[APR20-21 | Paddle Canada Level 1 Skills: Victoria](#)

[APR27 | Spring Tune Up Rolling Session: Fleming Beach](#)

[APR27 | Risk Management Session: Fleming Beach](#)

May

[MAY7-11 | Paddle Canada Level 2 Instructor: Victoria](#)

[MAY12 | Spring Tune Up Rolling Session: Cadboro Bay Gyro Park](#)

[MAY14 | Spring Tune Up Current: The Gorge](#)

[MAY14 | Spring Tune Up Rescues: The Gorge](#)

[MAY14 | Spring Tune Up Strokes: The Gorge](#)

[MAY17-20 | Surf and Splash: Surge Narrows](#)

[MAY25-26 | Paddle Canada Level 1 Skills: Victoria](#)

June

[JUN8 | Spring Tune Up Rolling Session: The Gorge](#)

[JUN8 | Spring Tune Up Strokes: The Gorge](#)

[JUN14-16 | Introduction to Ocean Paddling: Victoria](#)

[JUN21-22 | Paddle Canada Level 1 Skills: Victoria](#)

Best regards,



Asger Pjetursson

Store Manager



+1 250-590-4625



asger@bestcoastoutfitters.com



www.bestcoastoutfitters.com



865 Yates St, Victoria BC V8W 1M1

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BLUE DOG KAYAKING

SISKA is pleased to recommend and promote Blue Dog's paddling instruction business as well as their online store.

Blue Dog is now the dealer for Kokatat, Lendal and Gear Lab paddles as well as the Canadian Dealer and expedition center for NDK Kayaks.

You can find out all about Blue Dog Kayaking's workshops, courses, trips and gear, and make your purchases at <https://bluedogkayaking.com/>.

Here is their message to SISKA members:

Blue Dog Kayaking is delighted to support SISKA during 2024, and will provide:

1. A 10% discount to ALL club members on paddling gear, dry suits, PFDs, Paddles etc
2. A 10% discount to ALL club members on Expeditions and courses

To redeem the discount on gear, members will need to apply the coupon code **SISKA24** at check out when ordering online at our online store.
www.bluedogretail.com

To redeem the discount on expeditions and courses, except anything lodge based, Belize, GSL or Haida Gwaii, members will need to apply coupon code **SISKA24** when booking online.

Blue Dog Kayaking

250 710 7693



Bluedogkayaking.com

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CROSSCURRENT KAYAKS

[Crosscurrents Kayak](#) is pleased to offer SISKa members a 10% discount on regular course fees for the following 2024 programs:

- [Paddle Canada Skills courses](#) (Basic, Level 1, Level 2)
- [Women on Water \(WoW\) sessions](#)
- [Spring Skill-Building Series](#)

We also invite SISKa members to participate in our [Paddling Club Clinics](#), which take place in spring 2024.

We are based in Nanaimo and occasionally offer sessions in other parts of the Island. View our full schedule of [Courses & Clinics](#).

We look forward to seeing you on the water!

Caroline Ross
Crosscurrents Kayak
Nanaimo BC
778-268-1338
Web - crosscurrentskayak.ca

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DANCING WITH THE SEA

Paulo Ouellette at Dancing with the Sea has been a friend and supporter of SISKa for many years. A Greenland paddler and a talented instructor, Paulo is offering the following:

Greenland Paddling Lessons

I have a few courses set up with a 33% discount for Siska Members. Discount code "siska33"

Here is the link to the lessons

<https://courses.dancingwiththesea.net/intro-to-greenland-paddling-lesson>

Thanks,

Paulo

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GO KAYAK

For the past several years, Go Kayak's focused paddling skills workshops and other sea kayaking programs have been very popular with SISKA members, and we're sure 2024 will be no exception!

If any Go Kayak advertised courses are booked at more than 75% of their max, Go Kayak will be able to offer a discount of 15% for SISKA members.

You can find "Go Kayak Courses and Paddling Program" at <http://gokayak.ca/courses.html>

And for What's Happening at Go Kayak, members can also click on the "Go Kayak Newsletter" home page

<http://gokayak.ca/newsletter>

Yves and Patti (email: gokayakca@yahoo.ca/info@gokayak.ca)

Sea Kayak Surf in Tofino - Intro and Intermediate

\$350.00 - Regular Price

\$290.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sat - Sun March 23-24

. Sat - Sun April 27-28

. Sat - Sun May 11-12

. Sat - Sun May 25-26

Description: This course teaches you how to deal with surf by:

1- Avoiding it. Apply knowledge and seamanship to launch and land in surf zone. Very useful when paddling on West Coast Vancouver Island.

2- Learning how to deal with the surf if a wave catches you.

3- Having fun playing in the surf zone, building confidence, and paddling skills.

Sea Kayak Surf in Tofino – Advanced

\$350.00 - Regular Price

\$290.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

Prerequisites: Participants are required to have completed a basic sea kayaking course and have a good level of fitness and comfort in the water. Proficiency in skills like kayak handling, rescues, and navigation is assumed.

Sat - Sun April 6-7

.Mon - Tue April 8-9

Description: An advanced sea kayak surf course is designed to build upon the skills and knowledge gained in intro and intermediate sea kayaking surf courses. This course is typically intended for experienced kayakers who are comfortable with basic sea kayak surf techniques and safety procedures. The focus of the course is on paddling in dynamic, open water environments where you'll encounter waves and surf conditions. Topics: Safety and Risk Management - Understanding Waves and Surf - Surf Zone Navigation - Wave Riding Techniques - Boat Control - Rescue Skills - Surf Etiquette – Rolling

Fun at Trial (3hrs)

\$155.00 - Regular Price

\$85.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Tue March 26 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

. Thu April 25 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

. Wed May 8 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Description: *This course is all about playing at Trial Island. We are going to paddle in active water with emphasis on current, paddling and re-entry skills.*

Prerequisites: *Participants MUST have Lv2 Skills or equivalent.*

Baynes Fun (3hrs)

\$155.00 - Regular Price

\$85.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Wed March 13 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

. Sat March 30 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

. Thu April 11 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Description: This course is all about playing in Baynes Channel. We are going to paddle in active water with emphasis on current, paddling and re-entry skills.

Prerequisites: Participants **MUST** have Lv2 Skills or equivalent.

Rock Garden in Port Renfrew (5 hrs)

\$190.00 - Regular Price

\$160.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sun March 10 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

. Mon March 11 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Description: This course is designed for sea kayakers who want to learn how to play and explore rock gardens and whitewater features of the ocean. It will help you with the process of making good judgement decisions when paddling in active water.

Prerequisites: Participants must be confident in self and assisted re-entries

Currents at Tillicum Bridge (2.5 hrs)

\$130.00 - Regular Price

\$85.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sat March 2nd from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

. Sun March 3rd from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

. Sat April 13 from 9:00 am to 11:30 pm

. Sun April 14 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

. Thu May 30 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Description: This course is designed for individuals who want to learn how to navigate sea kayaks safely and effectively in various current conditions. Participants will learn essential skills, safety protocols, and techniques to paddle in currents, tides, and changing water conditions.

Beginner and Intermediate Re-Entries (2 hrs)

\$130.00 - Regular Price

\$75.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Fri Apr 19 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm - Cadboro Bay (Gyro Park)

. Sat May 4 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm - Cadboro Bay (Gyro Park)

Description: Learn how to deal with a possible capsized by performing rescue skills such as wet exit, self and assisted re-entries; essential skills to review every year.

Advanced Re-Entries (3 hrs)

\$140.00 - Regular Price

\$85.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sat March 16 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm - Cadboro Bay (Gyro Park)

. Wed May 29 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am - Cadboro Bay (Gyro Park)

Description: Learn how to deal with a possible capsize by performing re-entry skills in moving and dynamic waters. Essential skills to master if you are planning to paddle Vancouver Island West Coast. Prerequisites: Participants MUST have Lv2 Skills or equivalent.

Edging and Bracing (2 hrs)

\$130.00 - Regular Price

\$75.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Fri Apr 19 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am (Cadboro Bay)

. Sat May 4 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am (Cadboro Bay)

. Thu May 30 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Banfield Park - Gorge)

Description: This Edging and Bracing workshop will provide you with the skills to effectively develop reflexive paddle braces and edging your kayak, therefore enhancing your confidence and paddling skills.

Forward Strokes (2 hrs)

\$130.00 - Regular Price

\$75.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sat March 2nd from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Banfield Park - Gorge)

. Sat April 13 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Banfield Park - Gorge)

Description: Learn how to perform an effective forward stroke without losing efficiency and energy.

Turning Strokes (2 hrs)

\$130.00 - Regular Price

\$75.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sun March 3rd from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm (Banfield Park - Gorge)

. Sun April 14 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Banfield Park - Gorge)

Description: Learn how to use the right turning stroke in the right situation. This workshop will teach you how to use different paddling turning strokes without losing efficiency and energy.

Sea Kayak Paddle Canada Basic Kayak Skills - Location: Victoria

\$250.00 - Regular Price

\$200.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sat June 1

Description: This is the primary starting point of the Paddle Canada Sea Kayak skills progression. With a focus on foundation skills and knowledge, Basic Kayak Skills inspires students to go out on short paddling excursions in class-0 or calm and sheltered waters.

Sea Kayak Paddle Canada Level 1 Skills - Location: Victoria

\$350.00 - Regular Price

\$280.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sat-Sun Apr 20-21

. Sat-Sun May 18-19

Description: Building on the information covered in Basic Skills, Sea Kayak Level-1 Skills is a two-day course that moves participants beyond flatwater kayaking and into the sport of sea kayaking.

Paddle Canada Level 2 Ready - Location: Victoria

\$350.00 - Regular Price

\$300.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sat-Sun Feb 24-25

. Sun-Mon Mar 31-Apr 1

Description: The Paddle Canada Level 2 Ready course is designed for intermediate

sea kayakers who want to prepare for their Level 2 certification. This course will enhance your existing skills and knowledge, with a focus on advanced techniques and safety.

Sea Kayak Paddle Canada Level 2 Skills - Location: Victoria No Camping

\$700.00 - Regular Price

\$560.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Tue-Fri March 5 to 8

. Mon-Thu May 20 to 23

Description: Building on the skills developed in Level-1, Level-2 provides paddlers with the intermediate skills they need to go sea kayaking in class-2 conditions along semi-exposed shoreline with a possible overnight bivy. Leadership, incident management, open-water rescue, self-care, and navigation are core parts of the curriculum.

Go Tarp 101 (3 hrs)

\$100.00 - Regular Price

\$65.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sat May 5 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Description: Go Tarp 101 is a course designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively set up and utilize tarps in various outdoor situations. Understanding the art of tarpology is essential for shelter, protection, and

improvisation.

Chart and Navigation (On-Land 4 hrs)

\$150.00 - Regular Price

\$100.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Wed May 1 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Description: *This course is designed to teach participants the skills and knowledge required for safely navigating a sea kayak using nautical charts, compasses, and other navigation tools. The course covers topics such as reading and interpreting nautical charts, using compasses, and planning a safe sea kayaking trip. The goal of the course is to equip kayakers with the necessary skills to confidently navigate on the water, whether they are exploring new waters or making a longer voyage.*

Dehydrated Food Preparation (4 hrs)

\$150.00 - Regular Price

\$100.00 - Spring Training Special offer for Vancouver Island Paddle Club Members.

. Sat March 9 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Description: *This course is designed to teach participants the basics for dehydrating food for their outdoor adventures. Making your own is cheaper, healthier, and better tasting! Through a combination of theory and hands-on experience, participants will learn how to dehydrate a wide variety of food.*

Contact: Yves Aquin & Patti Stevens

Go Kayak, Your first steps to kayaking!

Tel: (250) 477-9881

Web: www.gokayak.ca

Email: info@gokayak.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gokayakca>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/gokayak.ca/>

Come and play with us!

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OCEAN RIVER SPORTS

Ocean River Sports, one of the original kayaking companies in our area, has long been a strong supporter of SSKA – we're delighted that ORS continues to offer services and gear for sea kayakers and special deals for SSKA members!

Ocean River Sports is pleased to continue to offer a 10% discount to SSKA members on all courses and rentals in 2024.

<https://oceanriver.com/course-length/kayak-courses/>

<https://oceanriver.com/rentals/>

In addition, members are eligible for a 10% discount on many items for sale in the Ocean River store at Oak Bay Marina. This does not apply to kayaks, electronics or paddles.

<https://shop.oceanriver.com//>

To receive discounts, SSKA members will be requested to show their membership card to confirm they are current members when they request a discount.

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PACIFICA PADDLE SPORTS

Pacifica Paddle Sports is a well-established professional sea kayaking business in Brentwood Bay, and, more recently, Swartz Bay as well.

"Pacifica maintains the largest fleet of rental kayaks, canoes and stand up paddle boards on the West Coast. They also offer sales, repairs, lessons, tours, corporate programs & summer camps.

E-J and Ted are continuing to improve the Pacifica Paddle experience, from upgrading the Brentwood dock and Swartz Bay boat barn, to improving the website and customer booking experience."

From E-J...

We would like to offer a 10% discount for SISKAs members on our regularly scheduled rescue lessons. A refresher on wet exit and rescue skills is good to do each season, so I hope this offer will be valuable to your group.

Rescue lessons will be held at Pacifica Paddle in Brentwood Bay every other Saturday, May through September. People can sign up here:

<https://www.pacificapaddle.com/kayak-lessons>

They can enter promo code SSKA10 for their discount.

Kind regards, E-J

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SKILS

SKILS has been a strong supporter of SSKA for a number of years, so we are delighted to work with them again in 2024!

You can see their 2024 offerings now online at <https://skils.ca/>

Check out the details of their discount offer to SISKA members below and consider joining them with a couple of paddling friends in one or more of these paddling events next year.

In 2024, SKILS provides a 15% discount when a group of 3 SISKA paddlers book for a specific program. This must be the same program with the same dates. Our goal is to provide the highest quality of instruction or guiding to our participants.

Below is a list of programs eligible

March

[March 16-17 Course in the currents in Victoria](#)

[March 27-31 SKGABC Level 1 Guide](#)

April

[April 5-7 SKGABC Level 3 Guide workshop](#)

[April 9-10 Kayak Fishing Level 1 in Victoria](#)

[April 20-24 SKGABC Level 1 Guide](#)

[April 20-24 Paddle Canada Level 3 skills in Clayoquot](#)

[April 27-May 5: SKGABC Assistant Overnight Guide Training Course/Paddle Canada Level 2 skills](#)

May

[May 4-5 Paddle Canada Level 1 skills in Ucluelet](#)

[May 8-12 SKGABC Assistant Overnight Guide Upgrade Training Course](#)

[May 8-12 Paddle Canada Level 1 Instructor Course in Ucluelet](#)

[May 11-19 SKGABC Assistant Overnight Guide Training Course/Paddle Canada Level 2 skills](#)

[May 13-17 SKGABC Level 1 Guide in Ucluelet](#)

[May 18-24 Paddle Canada Level 4 skills](#)

[May 22-26 Paddle Canada Level 2 skills at Discovery Island Lodge](#)

[May 24-28 Paddle Canada Level 3 skills in Clayoquot](#)

[May 25-26 Paddle Canada Level 1 skills](#)

[May 29-June 2 Paddle Canada Level 2 instructor course](#)

June

[**June 1-2 Kayak Surfing**](#)

[June 2-6 Level 2 skills at Discovery Island Lodge](#)

[June 2-4 Advanced course in the Currents at Discovery Island Lodge](#)

[June 8-9 Paddle Canada Level 1 skills](#)
[June 8-9 Kayak Surfing](#)
[June 10-11 Advanced Kayak Surfing](#)
[June 11-21 Cape Scott Challenge](#)
[June 15-16 Kayak Surfing](#)
[June 20-23 Paddle Canada Level 2 skills in Victoria \(no camping\)](#)
[June 23-July 6 Brook Challenge](#)

July

[July 5-13, SKGABC Assistant Overnight Guide Training Course/Paddle Canada Level 2 skills.](#)
[July 10-16 Harvesting from the Wild](#)
[July 13-16 Intro to Skook \(meet 17:30pm on July 24th and finish at 1730 on the 27th\)](#)

August

[August 8-11 Paddle Canada Level 2 skills in Victoria \(no camping\)](#)
[August TBA Spirit Bear Quest. We are waiting for the dates from BC Ferries to have our 2024 trip dates](#)
[August 10-14 Instructional Trip in Clayoquot](#)
[August 10-13 \(meet 16:00pm on August 10 and course ends at 1600 on the 13th\) Intermediate/Advanced to Skook course](#)
[August 25-28 Kayak Fishing Level 3 in Clayoquot Sound](#)
[August 26-28 Kayak Fishing Level 2](#)
[August 26-September 1, Tofino to Hot Springs Cove Adventures](#)

September

[September 7-8 Kayak Surfing](#)
[September 14-22 SKGABC Assistant Overnight Guide Training Course/Paddle Canada Level 2 skills](#)
[September 14-18 SKGABC Assistant Overnight Guide Upgrade Training Course](#)
[September 21-25 Paddle Canada Level 3 skills in the BGI](#)

October

[October 5-9 SKGABC Level 1 Guide](#)
[October 5-9 Paddle Canada Level 1 instructor in Victoria](#)

Jean-Francois(JF) Marleau
Certified SKGABC Lead Guide Level 4, Guide Trainer and Examiner
Certified Paddle Canada Level 4 Instructor, Level 3 Instructor Trainer
Sea Kayak Instruction and Leadership Systems Ltd (SKILS)
www.skils.ca

"Innovation by Nature"

SKILS Courses are Fun, Challenging and Rewarding!