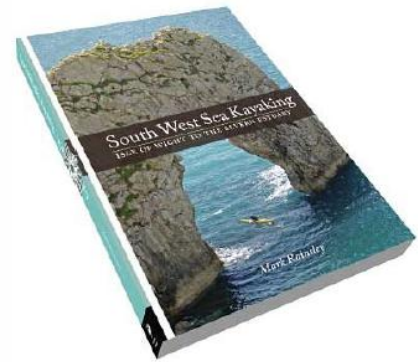


# South West Sea Kayaking Meet 2010



Thanks for coming! Hopefully it'll be an enjoyable and sociable weekend.

Back in 2008, we held a 'book launch weekend' to celebrate the arrival of 'South West Sea Kayaking'. The weekend was based at East Prawle in south Devon, and was a lot of fun. We did it again in 2009. Purely for want of a name, it became the South West Sea Kayaking Meet, and this appears to be becoming an annual event. So, let's do it again.

The weekend is aimed at folk who just want to get out paddling and enjoy the wonderful South Devon coast. The weekend is non-profit-making and is run simply for the fun of it by volunteers. We will however raise some money for two local charities; **Dartmoor Rescue Group** and the **Devon Air Ambulance**.

It's an informal get-together of friends and soon-to-be friends. It's not a Symposium or a Coaching Festival. There are no workshops or clinics. It's just some people going paddling and getting together socially. I'll do my best to make it all run smoothly (generously aided by volunteers) but don't expect a tightly choreographed event. Think: 'shambolic'.

PH Kayaks and Venture Kayaks are kindly supporting the weekend and will be offering a fleet of demo kayaks for use on the water, each day.

## **Outline**

This year's event is being held from 3rd to 5th September 2010.

The event starts at 9.30 am on Saturday morning with a **briefing** in the camping field. There will be a similar briefing on the Sunday morning.

On Saturday night starting c8pm, there will be an evening of talks in the hall attached to the wonderful Pig's Nose Inn. The hall is rather ramshackle and quirky (Health and Safety would find it interesting) and there are a very finite amount of seats. Consider bringing in a cushion or deckchair to sit on. The evening will feature a series of guest speakers giving short talks. Our speakers will probably include Eurion Brown, Kate Duffus and Heather Rainsley.

## **Camping**

The campsite is at Higher Farm in East Prawle village, South Devon. For folk reliant on a SatNav, the address is East Prawle, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 2BY. The camping field is located 50 metres past the telephone box on the same side, heading towards the sea. It's not a big village; you won't struggle to find the farm.

It's a farmer's field with limited facilities, so please don't expect *Butlin's*! There is a toilet block (assuming they've finished building it from last year). Please park and pitch your tents close together as quite a few of us will be camping. The owners ask for quiet in the evening. *Absolutely no fires are allowed, in boxes or otherwise.*

Your donation of £20 has already paid for your camping (the remainder will go to the charities involved).

## Food and drink

You can eat at the pub, but previous experience has suggested that it isn't well geared up for large numbers of paddlers descending upon it on the Saturday evening. I would *strongly suggest* that you consider bringing your own food and cooking at the campsite. I will be bringing along a large group barbeque and you are welcome to bring food to cook on it and be sociable. *Please don't disappear anti-socially off to Kingsbridge on Saturday evening; the talks and pub get-together are the main focus of the weekend.*

## The Paddling

We will get out on the water on both days, it is of course the reason why we came! There is a fantastic range of paddling in the area, suiting all abilities and weathers. During the briefing meeting, there will be discussion of the local trip possibilities. Weather and tidal information will be available, as will photocopied maps.

You will have the choice of either...

- Signing up to join a small guided/social group (led by experienced volunteers)..  
*or...*
- Planning your own day trip.

I would very strongly encourage paddlers to plan trip which are 'out and back', i.e. starting and finishing in the same location. The reasons for this are both environmental and practical (tiny lanes, limited parking in many places).

## Paddling Safety

All groups going out on the water will be expected to follow a few safety rules outlined at the briefing, e.g.

- Complete a simple **trip plan** and leave a copy with the event organiser (i.e. me).
- Groups have a designated leader. This may not be a coach, simply an experienced and sensible paddler.
- Appropriate safety and communication equipment carried.
- Paddling groups no larger than **nine** on the water.
- Groups paddle and remain together at all times.

The Coastguard will be informed of **all** paddlers on the water and their plans – I will take advice from them on the day, on whether they wish for contact from individual groups or from me collectively for all groups.

**All paddlers participating accept full personal responsibility for their own safety** (as frankly, you should do every time you go paddling...).

These safety rules are non-negotiable – please do not attend the event if they do not suit.

## PH Kayaks

PH Kayaks are attending and will be offering a fleet of demo kayaks for use. If you have a specific model in mind that you would like to try out, let them know beforehand –

[TimL@Pyranha.com](mailto:TimL@Pyranha.com)

PH Kayaks are attending as they hope to mingle with, talk to and get to know some 'ordinary' sea paddlers. They are bringing along an experienced paddler and coach, Kate Duffus. Talk to PH and say 'hello'! They'll be available for advice or just a chat all weekend.

Any queries – email me [mark@ukriversguidebook.co.uk](mailto:mark@ukriversguidebook.co.uk) or post them at [www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=136956172991604](http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=136956172991604)

## Mark Rainsley September 2010

