

Ravenglass Seaquest (Sequel) - Saturday 19th May 2007

A sequel because the event planned for 4th March had to be postponed due to 40mph winds from the south which obliterated all estuaries. Over 60 people had entered (30 teams) so we hope you can join us again. We are raising money for the new St Bees RNLI life boat.

WHAT IS A SEAQUEST? Orienteering in a kayak/canoe in the Ravenglass estuaries.

In May Ravenglass should be very sheltered. You (solo, pairs or groups) navigate to as many "controls" as you can returning to the start within 3 hours. Navigation is easy and views and wild-life are spectacular. Suitable for competent paddlers of Sea Kayaks, tourers and Canadians. Under 18's and novices welcome provided accompanied by competent paddlers.

There will be 17 numbered - values are 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.

A 1:25000 map (OS Leisure 6 - English Lakes, SW area) has been over-printed with numbered controls, values and control description.

Controls are situated in obvious places like under bridges, by streams, on fences, etc., and most (but not all) require you getting out of your boat to punch. A compass is not essential but advisable in case you lose your sense of direction. It just may be possible to visit all controls but you'll have to go some!

EVENT CENTRE - Ravenglass beach GR SD084962.

FORMAT ON THE DAY

1. Unload boat by 11.30am - drive on to Ravenglass south beach, unload and then park car in main free car park (300 metres away) (otherwise car may get washed away when tide comes in!), NB no parking in Ravenglass main street
2. Register between 10.30 and 11.45 - complete the entry/safety form (see attached) and donate £5 to cover cost of maps, punch cards, BCU insurance and donation to our chosen charity (RNLI), (NB discount for BCU and West Cumbria Canoe Club members)
3. 12 noon – compulsory briefing.
4. Issue of waterproof maps will be at Ravenglass (to give you time to plan!)
5. Place map under decking lines or in map case and punch cards on a string. (Emergency phone number also on map).
6. 12.15 –12.30 – start
7. Select route, visit controls, enjoy yourself, don't fall in, smile, etc.
8. Aim to return within 3 hours (or you will soon be stranded on mud & lose points!)
9. Hand in control card otherwise we'll send out rescue party
10. Prize-giving and refreshments at Holly House Hotel in Ravenglass.

NB Penalty points for coming in late (after 3.00pm even if you start late)

- 1-10 minutes late - 2 points loss per minute (so no problem being 10 minutes late)
- 11-20 minutes late - 5 points loss per minute (too risky)
- >20 minutes -lose all points (don't be late!)

High tide at 13.42 +/- 30 minutes depending on rainfall in fells, swell in Atlantic and wind direction, how far up-stream you are, etc. It's a medium tide so will be just enough water for 3 hours.

EVENT AREA

The controls are situated in the 3 arms of the estuary well within the area:

- River Esk – bridge on A595 near Muncaster Castle
- River Mite – bridge on A595 near Muncaster Flour Mill
- River Irt – railway bridge near Drigg

For non-kayaking partners/friends it is possible to walk along the banks of the Esk and watch the fun unfold. Also to catch a La'al Ratty Train and wave at us in the Mite. See pictures and maps on: <http://www.visitcumbria.com/wc/raveng.htm>. We will have more water!

SAFETY AND KIT

Please use your normal sea kayaking/canoeing kit – at a minimum:

- Buoyancy aid compulsory. Spray deck for kayakers.
- Paddle leash recommended
- Spare clothes in boat (in case you fall in when getting in or out)
- Mobile phone (in case of emergencies as we can drive round to most places)
- 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

NB Windy weather alternative is Seaquest in just the Esk – decision at briefing.

Sea State: Occasionally wind over tide sets up some challenging conditions in the middle of the estuaries but mostly just gentle tidal flows, which help enormously when you are with them. If you get stuck on a mud bank – hard luck you'll get very dirty but unlikely to sink out of sight.

Please e-mail me your intention to do the event so I can print sufficient maps.

Annette at potions.co.uk

Or phone me 019467 25842

(Please also state whether you will be in canoe or kayak, solo, pair or group and give me your phone number in case we get another horrible forecast)

NB Prizes donated by my sister's company "Potions & Possibilities" – see web-site www.potions.co.uk.

CAMPING

For those travelling there is a camp-site at Ravenglass 5 minutes from Start Area.

Ravenglass at campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk.

For B&Bs see

http://www.lakedistrictlets.go.co.uk/accommodation/ravenglass/ravenglass_acc_main.html

And we will socialise in Holly House Hotel at Ravenglass after event.

ST BEES LIFEBOAT APPEAL

All profit from this event is going towards the RNLI new lifeboat for St Bees. We expect they will enter a couple of teams again and may even bring a lifeboat round to support us.

Annette Morris

West Cumbria Canoe Club

Annette at blengdalerunners.co.uk or Annette at potions.co.uk

REGISTRATION FOR SEAQUEST

Name
Male/Female*
Canoe Club
BCU member Yes/Know*
DoB
e-mail
Address
Class: Solo/Double/Pair/Group* Sea kayak/Canoe/other*
Name of team mates (if in double, pair or group)

*ring correct one

Information for your safety in case of emergency
Colour and make of boat
Colour of buoyancy aid
Mobile number you are carrying
Car registration
Name of travelling companions

Disclaimer

I understand that sea kayaking and canoeing can be a hazardous activity. I have read the risk assessment (at start of event), understand the risks and control measures. I am competent and fully equipped to take part. I acknowledge that the organisers are not liable for any adverse event that occurs.

Signature:

Official use:	Map Number	
Time in	Penalties	Class
Score	Final Score	Position