

VOCene #4 May 5th, 2010

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I. Upcoming Events and Trips

- 1) VOC Summer BBQ, May 5 (Wed)

The traditional VOC Summer BBQ's are back! These are a great place to meet new friends, have trip meetings, or talk about ideas and plans for the upcoming month. Don't forget to bring your own hamburgers, weiners, roastable veggies or whatever along. Someone usually brings a barbecue. Frisbee, hacky sac, and slack lines are also encouraged.

Where: Jericho beach, on the lawn by the parking lot at the foot of Tolmie st.

When: First Wednesday of May, June, July, August and September, 6:30ish

http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Summer_Barbeques

- 2) Weekly Kayak Polo (ongoing, usually Tuesdays)

For a while now, VOCers have been holding weekly kayak-polo sessions at the UBC pool. Typically, half the time is spent practicing rolls, as there's always people that want to learn, and the rest of the time we play kayak-polo. The practices were recently moved to the beach, and are usually on Tuesdays 8:30-10:00pm (but this might change). Please check the message board thread, and if you are coming, write your name on the wiki page.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=10773&t=10773>

http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Kayak_Polo_%40_the_Aquatic_Centre

- 3) MEC Gear Swap, May 16 (Sun)

Twice per year MEC holds a great big gear swap. Due to the popularity of the event, people will show up and sleep in front of the store starting on Saturday afternoon/evening to get the best choices and deals. Many VOCers have done the trip over the years and it has become a tradition.

Usually the way they run things is to only allow people into the tent where the swap takes place in waves. If you are one of people in the first wave then you will get the best choice. It doesn't really make any difference if you are the first, or the 20th, as long as you are in the first wave.

http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=47629&t=47586#reply_47629
http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/MEC_Gear_Swap

4) Brew Recce, May 22-24 (Sat-Mon, long weekend)

The plan is to go up to our Brew Hut, and take measurements and notes and otherwise fine tune our plans for the two renovation trips which will happen in June. We will probably not do a lot of work on this trip unless we get bored.

This is a three day weekend, but we probably have a max of 2 days work to do on the recce, so we have time for some serious hiking around in addition to working. If you want to stay only one night, that should also work, depending on your driver.

http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/2010_Brew_recce_trip

II. Miscellaneous

1) Ms. Manners

Do you have a question for Ms. Manners? If so, email it to to your friendly neighbourhood VOCene editor and he'll forward it to Ms. Manners for review. Remember, there's no such thing as a stupid question, so ask away.

Dear Ms. Manners,

I'm broke. I spend all my money on rent, tuition, food and Starbucks coffee (three times a day), so I have close to nothing left for gear. Summer is coming up, and I need a tent, sleeping bag, backpack etc. Where can I get cheap gear in Vancouver?

I hope to hear from you soon,
Cheap Gear Now

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Dear CGN,

Most of us have been in a similar bind before. Here are a few ideas on how to minimize your expenditure on gear. Since this is such an important question, I'll answer it in two parts. This week I'll write about places to shop for gear in Vancouver, and next week about ways to save money by buying online.

In Vancouver:

1. MEC Gear Swap: the gear swap is coming up (see above). This is a great way to get lots of cheap gear all at once. You'll have to spend a night on the street and draw out a small fortune in cash, but you could score big time deals. This event happens twice a year (spring and fall).

2. Sports Junkies: Just one block east of MEC, on Broadway, this store sells some used gear, samples and consignment. Some of it is lower quality, but you can still find good solutions to your gear needs (I once got a Gregory Palisade in excellent condition for \$90 there).

3. Cheapskates: a consignment store of sports and (some) low-end outdoor gear. They recently closed one of their stores, but they are still open at the corner of 16th and Alma (they might have cut their outdoor gear offerings).

4. Clearance: check MEC, Taiga (across the street) for clearance items. Also check Valhalla Pure, just west of MEC.

5. Sample Sales: watch the message board. Every now and then Arctery'x, G3, and recently Cascade Designs, have very worthwhile sales. It's best to arrive early.

Perhaps our readers have other suggestions?

Yours,
Ms. Manners

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CONTRIBUTIONS to the VOCene are welcome. Please send all inquires or additions to: vocene@ubc-voc.com. To unsubscribe from the VOCene mailing list, sign in at <http://www.ubc-voc.com/member/update.php> and uncheck the want VOCene box

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<http://www.ubc-voc.com>

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