

# POLO LOOP

What a summer! The weather has been awesome and we've had a lot of opportunities to get out and paddle, sometimes with goals and sometimes just to work on skills and endurance. Best part is... it's not over!

~Amy



## Fresh out of the mold: 6 new Fluid Vuvubats arrive in Portland!

**New Boats:** Huge THANKYOU to Rob Fletcher, President of Chilliwack Center of Excellence, and his son Sam for delivering six brand new Fluid Vuvubats from Vancouver, BC. Rob organized smokin' hot deals for new boats from Fluid and new spray skirts and products from Snap Dragon Design. Seeing all the shiny new polo boats, sans duct tape, on the river is awesome! Polo boats are so hard to come by in this region, it's great to see pdxkpers purchasing their own boats and gear.

**Club Gear:** PDXKP purchased a good condition Dagger Revenge. This boat is very forgiving and works for slightly larger paddlers. This brings the club polo boat count to three! Next Adventure also donated four spray skirts. Thanks!

As always, our club gear is available for borrow by pdxkp members. However, we do encourage regulars to purchase their own equipment, especially helmets. If you are interested in buying your own polo gear, PDXKP can help you source what you need.

## September Polo Fun

September is pretty exciting for kayak polo. Mark your calendars...we have two fun opportunities to learn a lot and improve our polo skills!

### Pacific Northwest Kayak Polo Training Camp

Date: September 13–15

Location: Green Lake, Seattle, WA

Camp costs: \$20 (covers gas and food for the coach), \$5 ACA (if needed)

Seattle Kayak Polo and PDXKP will be hosting a training camp in Seattle, WA. We are very lucky to have Keegan Smith coaching our camp. Keegan is a former Canadian national player and the current Canadian U21 women's coach. The camp is intended for *intermediate* level players and will cover a lot of skills and techniques with a focus on offense/defense. Since many of the players who will be at the camp are also going to Nationals, we'll have some breakout sessions to work with those teams on strategy. This will give everyone a lot of focused training and those going to Nationals will have a feel for their teammates which will help a lot in the early games of the tournament.



I anticipate pdxkpers carpooling to and from Seattle on Friday and Sunday evenings and billeting with Seattle players on Friday and Saturday nights. *Players will be responsible for camp cost(s), their own food, and sharing the cost of gas.*

### US Kayak Polo Nationals

Date: September 27 – 29

Location: Mountain View California

<http://www.bayareakayakpolo.org/2013-us-nationals>

When I first started playing kayak polo in Boston, I thought it was insane that Boston players would fly to Austin, Los Angeles, or Charlotte to play kayak polo. Then I attended a few regional tournaments and I realized how much fun it is to play against other teams and be around other kayak polo enthusiasts. I attended Nationals in Los Angeles in 2009 and Omaha in 2011 and loved every minute. It's not nearly as intense as you might picture. B division is a fun intermediate division. You don't need a bombproof roll or to be a star polo player to have a great time. Mostly, I feel US Nationals is like a big family reunion where you meet a lot of great folks from the US and Canada. And you get to play kayak polo in the sunshine all day long for an entire weekend! What's not to like about that, right!? For more info check out our [Q&A](#).

## Promote Polo

In a perfect world, polo would be played everywhere...



### Special Guest

On Sunday, June 9, [Sol Neelman](#), author of *Weird Sports*, heard about Portland Kayak Polo and came out to take pictures of kayak polo at Vancouver Lake. Sol lives in Portland and has traveled far and near to take pictures of unusual sports. He heard about us through a friend at the *Oregonian* and was excited to hear about us playing in his proverbial backyard. We cannot wait to see to see the results, maybe we'll even make it into his second book!

### Corporate Polo

Looking for a fun team building activity for your work place? Consider booking a PDXKP event. We will make all the arrangements and provide gear, instructions and photos. We cater to all abilities. Our sessions are affordable and fun! We have references.

**Don't wait, book today!**

### Regional Kayak Polo Club Spotlight

Regional clubs are vital for the development of kayak polo in the US and Canada. If we could have four clubs in the PNW, we would see a lot of individual improvement and have a great time traveling and playing polo at various venues.

**Portland, OR** – We're playing. We're awesome!

**Seattle, WA** – There is a small group of polo players in Seattle, many of you have met them at our Seattle camp year before last, our 2012 Gig Harbor Play Date, or our Alder Cup.

**Chilliwack, BC** – The Chilliwack club just purchased 10 new Fluid Vuvubats. Hopefully we can help them get up and running and eventually have some regional camps and tournaments!

**Vancouver, BC** – Vancouver used to have a thriving kayak polo club, but sadly I do not believe they are playing these days. Hopefully their club can find someone to get it started back up again.



# Outdoor Venues

With so much water in the area, whoever thought finding an outdoor venue would be so difficult. Below is a list of our current haunts, but we are always on the lookout for new areas (preferably clean water more than a meter deep). If you have any suggestions let us know!

## Vancouver Lake (VL)

6801 NW Lower River Road  
Vancouver, WA 98660

We've had luck hosting the Alder Cup here in the spring, but have had bad luck with strong winds, soft sediment and diminished water quality later in the summer.

## St. John's Green Anchors (SJ)

8940 N Bradford Street,  
Portland, Oregon 97203

This venue has an easy location to hang a goal and is centrally located. This area is within the Portland Harbor Superfund site. The Willamette River Keeper has assured us that the water is acceptable for swimming just do not ingest the sediment or resident fish. For more info on the superfund cleanup area visit:

[MarCom South](#)  
[MarCom North](#)

## Clackamas Cove (CC)

Just east of Clackamette Park  
Oregon City, OR 97045

Sheltered, deep and stagnant water, unfortunately very far and inconvenient for most pdxkpers.

## Cedaroak Boat Ramp (CO)

4593 Elmran Dr,  
West Linn, OR 97068

Nicely protected cove where we occasionally meet for paddling skills and polo drills. We generally do not set up the goals here.

## George Rogers City Park (LO)

Lake Oswego, OR 97034

We can hang a goal off the bridge and run polo drills on the sheltered Oswego Creek, however low water level prevents playing here past June.

## Paddling Locations at a Glance

Location	Hanging goal	Portable goal	Free parking	Bathrooms	Drinking water*	Waves	Walk to launch
CC	Y	Y	Y				Long
CO		Y	Y	Y	Y		Medium
LO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Long
SJ	Y	Y	Y	Y			Short
VL		Y	Y	Y	varies	Y	Long

\*Onsite potable water, e.g., drinking fountains or clean water in bathrooms, not river or lake water

Note: In addition to industrial contaminants, local waterways can contain other pollutants, e.g. agricultural runoff and high levels of fecal matter. It is your responsibility to stay informed about water quality and support efforts to improve water quality in the Portland area.