

WELCOME ALL NEW UMZINYATHI MEMBERS

Umzinyathi Canoe Club was first started 27 years ago by a handful of dedicated paddlers who used to meet at Lahee Park in Pinetown to discuss the strategies, and paddle at Shongweni Dam.

Over the years a magnificent club house has developed with a club membership of 400+ people. Most are enthusiastic paddlers, some social paddlers and others people who are simply keen to share the fun of the sport, being “drivers” for their friends or partners. Our clubhouse offers a wonderful escape from the busy lifestyle most of us lead during the week, especially the Wednesday evening get together which seems to bring the weekends closer together!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Our time trial takes place on a Wednesday evening with members gathering from late afternoon. The time trial, a 10km course mapped with buoys, commences at 17h15 in the winter and 17h30 in the summer. This is followed by a braai. Everyone brings their supper, Wiseman the barman lights the fires around 17h00. The Msinsi gates close at 22h00 sharp and members need to be out of the gates by then. They are VERY strict about this rule. Being a fully licenced premises, the pub is open from approximately 16h30. Please try to bring small notes:

GATE FEE

Since Umzinyathi is situated in an Msinsi Reserve a gate fee is charged. This charge is reduced considerably once membership is paid up and the driver of the car is issued with a parking disc. (See Msinsi membership further along).

A brief explanation of how canoeing works:

Umzinyathi Canoe club is controlled by a body called the Kwa Zulu Natal Canoe Union, or KNCU and the CSA or Canoeing South Africa. Both these bodies lay down the rules and regulations for canoeing and charge a membership fee. To participate in any river races members are required to be part of these bodies, as well as a member of their chosen club. This fee is laid down by the relevant bodies and included in our annual subscription – renewable from May onwards.

THE PROCESS OF REGISTRATION

Each individual is required to fill out a club membership form as well as a KNCU form. These forms are available at the club from myself, or once you are a registered member will be posted to you with an invoice. The KNCU form needs to be signed by the

member and a club official. The original form with an original signature is then forwarded to Pietermaritzburg where it is processed and the paddler loaded on the database.

An Umzinyathi membership form is completed simultaneously and this is filed with the club membership to provide the data base. Forms need to be completed 2 weeks before the first race to ensure that they are processed in time.

RACING NUMBERS

Members wishing to participate in races are issued with an allocated number which is to be used for all race entries. This number is filled out on the KNCU and Umzinyathi form, and will serve as your reference for point allocation in racing logs, as well as being a reference to the paddler. It is displayed on both sides of the nose of your boat. Numbers may be purchased at any canoe shop. It is advisable to display your number on each paddle blade as well, so as to assist in the return of lost paddles.

REQUIREMENTS TO RACE AND PROFICIENCY

The individual is required to be a paid up club and KNCU member. The start is made by completing a test in the dam to ensure the person is water safe and is taught the basics of paddling. The next test, is to be taken onto a small river to perform some basic tasks through small rapids under the instruction of the qualifying officer. Once the officer is satisfied that the paddler is competent he will sign them off and issue a safety booklet.

The paddler is then able to enter his first novice race, using the number issued by the club, and gradually work his way up through qualifying races until he has his "river rating" eg: C B OR A grade proficient. SEE LATEST NEWS LETTER FOR CURRENT PROFICIENCY TESTING OFFICER.

DUCT

Duct is an organization put together to clean up the river along the Duzi route. A compulsory fee has been laid down by the KNCU. This is payable with your registration fees.

CLUB CLOTHING

The club colours are to be worn at all races. This is a rule laid down by the KNCU. It is also really great to see all your fellow club members on the water – easily identifiable when paddling. Clothing is available on sale at the club- speak to anyone on the committee.

BOAT RACKS

There are racks at the club for storing your boat. At times there is a waiting list, but we will shortly be building more racks eliminating the frustration of carrying a boat to work on Wednesday mornings!

THERE ARE VARIOUS OPTIONS TO JOINING OUR CLUB:

A SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP:

These members are not competing in races, but simply enjoy the vibe of the canoeing fraternity, or, just wish to come down to Shongweni and enjoy a quiet paddle on the dam. They are therefore not members of the KNCU, only social members.

COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP:

This is for the guys who are *already members of one of the other clubs* but wish to spend some time at Umzinyathi and participate in the time trial. They are offered the same privileges as our full members.

RACING MEMBERSHIP:

The paddler wishing to compete in races must be a member of Umzinyathi as well as KNCU and CSA.

SKI BOAT MEMBERSHIP:

A KNCU club affiliation is essential should you wish to participate in surfski events. Basic requirement is that you would join the specified club eg Umz, get your race number and that entitles you to enter river and surf ski events. Should you only wish to do surfski, you may join any one of the surf ski clubs that are affiliated with KNCU but then you are not allowed to participate in any river events.

FAMILY MEMBERS:

A full fee is paid by the primary member, 50% by the spouse/second member. Children under 18 years in January of the new year are free as long as they are still dependant on their parents.

MSINSI CARDS:

Application forms for the Msisni cards are available from the Msisni offices in Hillcrest or at the dam offices (business hrs only). These provide free entry to Shongweni, Inanda and Albert Falls as well as other options of other "clusters" for an annual fee payable to Msisni. (An investment well worth it!)

BUOYANCY DEVICES:

Lifejackets are compulsory on the dam.

It is advisable for new members to purchase a jacket prior to paddling since there is a limited source in the club house. The paddling life jacket is slightly shorter than a water

ski jacket and is best purchased from a canoe supply shop. Some have what is known as a “tripper” built in. This is for easy access to liquids while paddling.

BOATS

The club does have some boats for potential members to try out. The K1 is a single K2 a double K3 3 seater and K4 4 seater. Anyone wishing to purchase a boat can look for a second hand one via the club email, alternatively from any canoe shop.

NEWS

Once a member of KNCU you will receive a copy of the SA Paddler, a most informative magazine. You will also be linked to the club email system updating you on the latest happenings.

FUNCTIONS:

As a paid up club member you are entitled to utilize the club for private functions at a fee. **Contact Jean 0828024906**. Non-members may also hire for Weddings etc at a prescribed rate.

LEARNING THE ROPES:

The Club captain and Safety officers are available to show you the ropes and take you through the process of learning basic paddling, how to transport your boats etc. They are mine of information with many years of experience in the game. They will prepare you for your proficiency test, and once the officer has completed they will be there to guide you through the ins and outs of the world of canoeing.

IMPORTANT USEFUL INFORMATION

ANY QUERIES CONTACT: Dawn 0822247755 or admin@umz.co.za

Dawn is usually at the club on a Wednesday evening after the time trial if you wish to come and join the club or any queries:

New Boats or repairs:

Kayak Centre :

Rick Whitton and Ken Holden :**031 765 7041**

Apart from supplying equipment and boats they specialize in repairing craft and paddles. They are long standing members of the club and therefore we encourage you to support them.

BANKING DETAILS:

**UMZINYATHI CANOE CLUB
STANDARD BANK
HILLCREST BRANCH
BRANCH CODE: 0 45726
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 250834790**

**PLEASE NOTE FOR ANY RACE EVENTS WE HAVE A SEPARATE SERIES
ACCOUNT NUMBER.**