

## March 2008 Hoot & Blat News – White Squall

### HI Everyone

We lost a dear friend **Willie P. Bennett** a short while ago. Many of you would remember him backing up **Fred Eaglsmith** at our spring gatherings and know what an incredible talent and special man he was. Willie was a legend in Canadian music and we were so very lucky to know him.

### Meteorites and Kite Skiing

Big news around here this past week was a meteorite falling out of the sky west of the Limestone Islands - (<http://www.parrysound.com/press/1204911675/>) **CBC phoned asking if we had a run on snowshoe rentals from folks trying to find pieces of it.** I wanted to cook up a story for them about gangs of Parry Sounders running out over ten miles of the Bay icepack with their trusty snow shoes, but apart from the odd sled roaring out and quickly turning back part way, I think that was all the rise mr. meteorite got out of us. Talk at Horton's was mostly round how hot space rocks melt into ice really quick huh? One of our friends did try to kite-ski out, but got turned back by bad ice. So....a bit of space history is lodged firmly out there in the big beyond. Speaking of being out of this world, the skiing on the Bay has been unbelievable these past few weeks. You can glide forever - and ever and ever.

### Wilderness First Aid

We have a few spots left in our upcoming two day course April 5/6 and also in the 4 day course April 25-28. Taught by **Wilderness Medical Associates**, you can take either one without prerequisites-and I can't think of any better short course for anyone who enjoys the outdoors and wants to be safe. We have a staff member who is a doctor, and she still comes because they are so sensibly practical. A special rant to "today's youth" ....courses like these teach a lot about life in a short time - and it's good for you, for those you help - and especially dazzling on the old resume! [http://www.whitesquall.com/certification\\_programs.php](http://www.whitesquall.com/certification_programs.php)

### Early Birds Get the Worms!!

Ok, bad pun-blame Graham and Kathy, I don't do bad buns and I've told you a thousand times I don't exaggerate either. Point is - we have a **Big, Fun Festival May 3/4** (<http://www.whitesquall.com/festival.php>) and there is an early bird discount if you register by April 1. So there ya go. **The Arrogant Worms** are coming Saturday evening and the **International Reel Paddling Film Festival** ( speaking of puns) is coming Friday evening. All weekend long there are workshops of all sorts and tons of on-water clinics for kayaking and canoeing. **It's a Folk Festival for Paddlers** and we are really excited about it. **The latest**

**presenter to sign on is Kelly Blades** - a top BCU coach from the states and a kindred spirit seriously into having paddling fun in wild and wonderful ways. Not to blow our own foghorn, but have a look at the range of presenters coming, and you'll see what a jam (and peanut butter) packed weekend it will be for the entire family.

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## **Tim's Tips # 1**

We're coming into the early paddling season where the water is still icy cold. If someone suddenly dumps in cold water, one of the things you have to watch and treat for is Cold Shock. This involuntary inhalation of water into the lungs is not always easy to detect - and it can happen in conjunction with a severe cardiac and pulmonary response. So...treat every cold water dump as potentially serious and do yourself a favour - read the best article I've ever seen on this topic in the February 08 edition of Sea Kayaker magazine.

## **Tip #2**

Before I zip up my map case for a trip, besides a compass, I always throw in a sheet or two of paper and a pencil. The pencil is kinda obvious, and sure-the paper is to write upon – BUT – the edge is also a really simple way to draw a straight line if ya don't have a ruler-and by pencilling on the edge your start and endpoints-you can transfer that down to the map scale and measure out distance travelled really quick. You can also use that edge to walk a track or travel line over to a compass rose on a marine chart. So....we don't need no stinkin' dividers or parallel rulers eh?

Thanks for listening! Tim

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Free Test Paddling available any day of the week!

Top 25 Canadian Trips of a Lifetime: "Kayak Georgian Bay with White Squall"  
Explore Magazine (March April 08)

White Squall in Top 5 of Best Adventure Travel (Paddlesports) Companies on Earth – National Geographic  
Adventures – October 2007

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