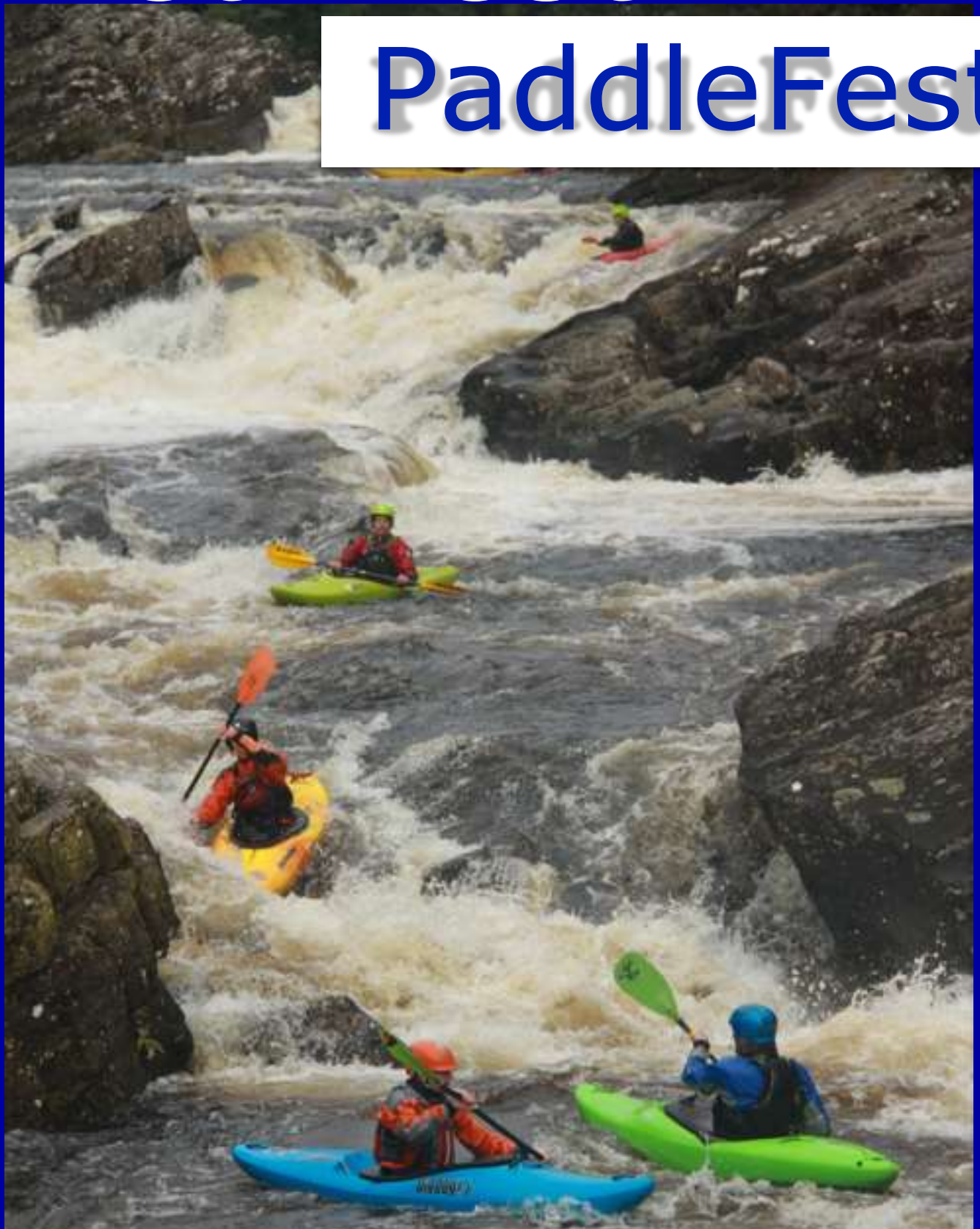


# Wet West

# PaddleFest



Scottish Canoe Association  
Comann Curach na h-Alba

# Welcome to WWPF!

The SCA welcomes you to WWPF! Whether you are one of our well initiated, or if its your first WWPF, **please** take a look through this leaflet as it contains important information for you all.

We hope that you have a great time and paddle safely. The event is run by volunteers and we appreciate feedback so either grab one of us or by email at: [wwpf@canoescotland.org](mailto:wwpf@canoescotland.org)

## Our History

For a long time, paddlers dreamed of a summer paddling festival in Scotland, - perhaps centered around the dam-releases of the Rivers Garry and Moriston. The SCA access committee discussed it, but little progress was made.

In the most unfortunate set of circumstances, Andy Jackson, the SCA Access Officer died in December 2004. John Picken, the SCA National Access Coordinator took up the challenge of organising this longed-for event. He contacted the local landowners, fishery boards, SEPA and the hydro companies and discussed the possibility of an event.



They all agreed that it would be a fitting memorial to Andy and the first festival happened in April 2005 - born, was the paddling extravaganza that has been enjoyed every year since, something that would have made Andy very pleased!

About 150 people turned up for the first event, with a party in Fort William at the Ben Nevis Hotel. The occasion was a great success and the committee wanted to run it again. The recreational rivers committee of the SCA took over and in discussions with the local fishermen, realised that early season was when they valued fishing the most, so the event was moved to September and named 'The Wet West Paddle Fest'. September 2006 saw a second very successful festival with up to 200 paddlers attending, a number which increased to 280 in 2007 and 350 in 2008!

12 years after the first festival and the event is still going, run by literally a few volunteers who work very hard to make it happen! If you are attending this year and have time, please help out, but most of all: come, enjoy the atmosphere, look out for your fellow paddlers and raise a paddle to those that can't be here. By attending, not only will you have a top class weekend, you'll also become part of Andy's legacy.



# The Andy Jackson Fund for Access...

Those of you who knew Andy, or have heard of him, will have gathered how passionate he was about the rivers of Scotland and the fundamental premise of freedom for access for all.

Andy had a strong in-built sense of social rights and there would have been few places that he saw this as being more important than when kayaking his favorite rivers with his paddling buddies.

These values fueled Andy's commitment to the publishing of the first comprehensive guidebook to whitewater kayaking in Scotland in 2001. The idea behind this guidebook was for the paddling community to write it and the money raised would be put towards protecting their rivers. In particular, the proceeds would help to protect and secure access to the rivers of Scotland for years to come.

Scottish Whitewater was, and still is, one of the best kayaking guidebooks available throughout the world and is almost in its third edition (the third edition is in progress and due to be published later this year!).

Andy carried out the first descents of a high proportion of the 200 rivers in the guidebook and he made the selfless decision to share this hard-won information with others to help protect the rivers and to encourage others in the sport he loved.

Following Andy's death, a new charity was set up, the Andy Jackson Fund for Access (SCO38644). Proceeds from sales of the Scottish Whitewater Guidebook, as well as a more recent Scottish Canoe touring guidebook now go directly to this charity. A proportion of proceeds from Andy's biography 'Tall Stories', go to this charity - all facts that Andy would have been extremely proud of!

The fund is a discretionary trust fund and grant aid may be given to projects that protect and promote access to water in Scotland for paddling.

Protecting and promoting access to rivers and other waterways of Scotland is an ongoing task and all donations, both large and small are welcome. For more information about the fund and for details on how to donate, please visit the fund's website here, which also has information about applying for grant aid.

**[www.andyjacksonfund.org.uk](http://www.andyjacksonfund.org.uk)**



# General Info...

## Venues, addresses and maps

- Friday night registration – The Nevis Centre, Fort William, PH33 6AN
- The football field for the Moriston - IV63 7YQ (closest postcode), its the first left off the A887 after Riverside Park when heading away from the village.
- The shinty club for the Garry - PH35 4HG (closest postcode) left off of the A87, the turning is *opposite* the sign for Faichem and campsite.
- We've piled these and more into a map for you ... <http://goo.gl/Fk4PQ3>

## Registration

Collect pre-booked tickets from us at The Nevis Centre on Friday 6-9pm, or from the SCA tent from 9.45am at the football field. To purchase or collect a discounted membership ticket, you **must** bring proof of current SCA/CW/CANI or BCU membership & number. We won't be able to give you your discounts otherwise!

## Accidents & First Aid

If you are involved in, or, witness an accident related to the event, please come to the SCA desk at the first opportunity with as much information as you can. Our volunteers (likely in hi-vis clothing) will be patrolling the banks and driving shuttles on the day - they are your first port of call. They have contact with first aid to get help quickly. Our volunteers and first aid will be at both rivers, please look out for them riverbank, at the dam lay-by on the Moriston or the SCA tent on both rivers. **A note on water cleanliness** - both rivers are known to be relatively clean, but please be mindful of this in any case!

## On the river, paddle safely and within your limits.

If you are in doubt, caution means that you'll be there for another day. If you need advice, please consult the SCA guidebook, or speak to someone at the SCA desk. Please paddle sensibly as per a normal day out, i.e. in groups of three or greater, with paddling ability adequate to safely navigate the river. As with any trip, take a few minutes to think how to avoid unnecessary hazards - ensure you have adequate equipment, clothing and nourishment available, do a bit of a warmup to make sure your fired up and ready!

## Safeguarding Children

The nominated guardian of all participants who are under the age of 16 at the time of the event **must** have completed & returned a *Consent form*. If this has not been done or you are registering on the day, contact the SCA desk. Anyone under the age of 16 **must** be accompanied by a nominated adult (parent/ carer/ guardian) at **all times** throughout the event, **including adult supervision on the water**. This also includes any evening entertainment. For any other issues or questions relating to child protection, contact the SCA desk or email us.

# General Info...

## Evening Entertainment

The evening's festivities will be at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, from 7pm Saturday to give everyone a chance to get back and eat etc. Just turn up when you are ready, the center will be open for us until midnight. Raffle will happen here around 9pm.

## Wrist bands

You will be issued one of these as you register, **DONT LOSE IT!** We will use these for the shuttles, and for the party on Saturday night. We don't really have spares, so keep hold of it please!

## Trade Stands

Shiny kit and demos will be located in the parking areas at both the Moriston and Garry. These are our kind sponsors, so please go along and say hi, and support the people that have come to make our event successful.

## Camping/facilities

A note on wild camping - Fort William is a busy town, so please do your best not to disturb any local residents. There should be plenty of camping nearby for us all. If you do decide to camp outside of a campsite, be sure to stick to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and please don't disrespect the local area in any way. Whatever you decide to do, **please respect the site and its other users.**

Finally, and very importantly, of course - don't drink and then drive, don't even be tempted. For the benefit of those travelling from England or elsewhere, the amount you can have before being 'over the limit' is much lower in Scotland, it basically equates to zero tolerance - *please* remember this.

## Spectating - Garry

The river has a path along both sides, with the river left path going from the get on to the bridge (may meander away from the river in places). Shuttles will be able to take spectators back to the field which is far safer than walking the road.

## Spectating - Moriston

The Moriston is a treat for spectators as well as paddlers. The bank access and 'spectator rock' is great but please, be very careful. There is no marked path in places and there are steep drops very close to (or into) the river - please accompany children, and be mindful of your own safety.

# Schedule...



Friday	6pm	Registration @ Nevis Centre
	9.30pm	Registration closes for the night
	Late - TBC	Nevis Centre Closes



Saturday	9.45am	SCA and shuttles arrive at the river to start as close to this as we can*. Please don't arrive early!
	2.30pm	Shuttles will start for the lower section*
	3.00pm	Last shuttle from the upper back to the field*
	4.45pm	Last shuttle from the lower car park back to the field (its not far anyway)*
	7.00pm- TBC	Party begins in the Nevis Centre
	midnight	Nevis Centre closes



Sunday	10.00am	Shuttles start at the Shinty field at the Garry* Please don't arrive early!
	4.00pm	LAST shuttle back to the field for spectators and anyone not paddling



\*Shuttle times are approx. but we'll do our best  
If you beat us anywhere, party, river etc, likely to be just a small delay, just hang out and were probably right behind you :)





Thank you to our sponsors...



# Moriston - 4/5

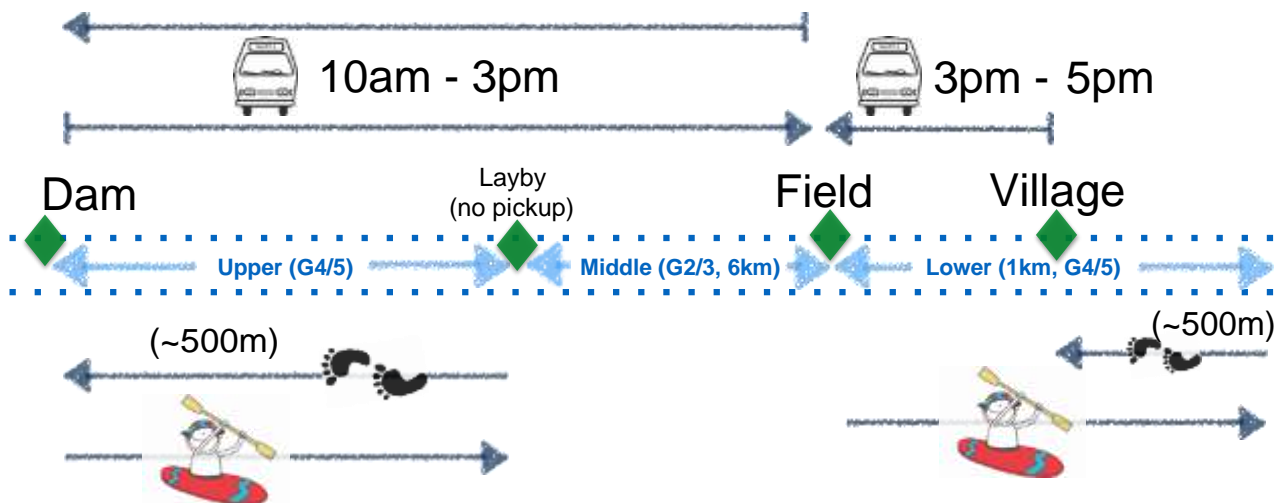
## Parking & Shuttles

Parking will be in Invermoriston village at the football field. Turn left in the village onto the A887 following the river. The field will be signposted, it's on the left side. Please drive carefully, and park as directed by signs and marshals. **Please be careful when walking around the car park areas** as there will be vehicles turning.

**Upper:** Get a lift from us to the upper from 10am, where we will leave you to get some laps in. You can hop on a shuttle back from the dam to the field as they drop off. **Please don't park** in the U-shaped layby, or at the dam.

**Lower:** Paddle from the football field down (get on marked) and a shuttle will pick you up from the village hall car park to bring you back to the field from about 3pm. Last shuttle back to the field around 4.45pm. Please do not park at the village hall, or *inspect the first drop on river left bank – it is private & there are guests staying in the house*. We have also received advice that **the bridge at the lower is getting very damaged, with loose chock stones etc, so please be careful here.**

Shuttle arrangements: (all times approx.)



## A few house rules... things that help the event run well ...

- Please don't use the hedgerow/trees in the field as a toilet. There are actual toilets a few minutes walk away in the village - **PLEASE** use them.
- Please keep driving in/out of the field to the bare minimum - this minimises chewing up the grass and there is a shop/toilet nearby and shuttles running all day and avoid traffic jams and delayed shuttles.

## Food during the day...

Bacon rolls and other cold/hot food/drink will be available from the village shop. or the local cafe. They're only a 5 min walk, and right opposite the toilets so just combine the trip. Please eat here & support the local community! Fresh drinking water is also available via a free outdoor tap at the village hall.



# Garry - 3(3+)

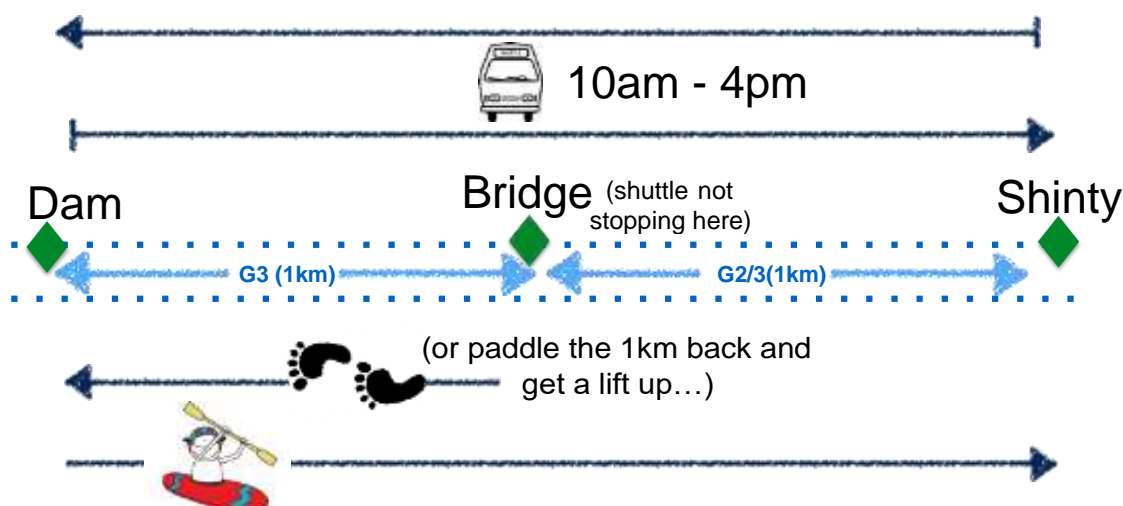
## Parking & Shuttles

Follow the A82 north, turn onto the A87 (toward Kyle of Lochalsh) and look for the signs to the parking at the Shinty Club. Shuttles will run from here. Once at the bottom of the play section you can walk back up (~10mins) and paddle again or wait for a shuttle up/home. You can also paddle back to the Shinty Club. Please do not park at the Dam site or Whitebridge (end of the play section). Shuttles will operate from 1000 until 1600.

**Egress** ... If getting out of the river at the Shinty Club, please make sure to follow the signs and cross fences at the stiles provided.

**Food** ... butties and hot drinks are available from the lovely ladies at Shinty Club hut. Please eat here and support the local community and our kind hosts!

## Shuttle Arrangements



## Done with the Garry and still want to paddle?

Below are a few suggestions for rivers that should be runnable even in low water, if there's lots of water and you're looking for ideas just be sure you have a copy of Scottish Whitewater.

Roy Gorge 3/4(5); Meig - 4; Arkaig - 2+ (4); Ness - 1/2; Lochy - 1(2/3) (the Lochaber one, not the other one! ).

# Other paddles in the area...

Coming a long way for the WWPF? - Making a long weekend of it?

Thanks to a road network pretty much free of commuters once north of the Central Belt there's little in the way of me difference in travelling to "the Fort" by a variety of routes.

But Scotland being Scotland, any of the suggested routes will take you past some great whitewater to tick off on the way there or on the way home. Here are a few suggestions ...

"Up the West"	"Through the Middle"	"Up the East"
Glasgow - Crianlarich (via Loch Lomond)	Glasgow - Crianlarich (via Stirling) Edinburgh - Crianlarich (via Stirling)	Edinburgh - Fort Bill (via Perth and Laggan)
Upper Falloch - 4(5) Lower Falloch - 4/5	Leny - 3/4(5) Dochart - 4	Tay at Stanley - 1/2(3) (playboat time!) Lower Braan - 4/5 Tilt - 4(5) Pattack - 3/4(5) Roy Gorge - 3/4(5) Spean Gorge - 3/4(5)
Crianlarich - Fort Bill (via Glen Coe)		
Middle Orchy - 3/4 (5) Middle Etive - 4+	Coe (only if it's wet) - 4/5 Leven - 5/5+	

Falls of Lora black tides on Tuesday 11th timetable here: <http://www.fallsoflora.info/2018.htm>

## ... and finally.... thank you for coming!

You guys coming along keeps the event alive and we applaud you for coming out to see us, we hope you enjoy the weekend!!

If you would like to give us any feedback or need any advice for extra addling etc, then get in touch!

# Map...

