

UNIYAKER



**2013 Selection Event
Invites**

CALLUM STRONG

22/06/1993 2nd year Geology and Physical Geography at Edinburgh University.



Me Russian (with tash)

I always got picked last when we played football in primary school so I went looking for an alternative sport to prove my masculinity and get all the girls. I found kayaking. Unfortunately this proved to fulfill neither of my criteria but turned out to be much more fun. So I readjusted my goals and embarked on the life of a kayak bum, kayaking down splashy rivers as often as possible. Growing up in the middle of Scotland with great whitewater on my doorstep and a natural flair for winging it I talked my boat onto many a roofrack and obsessively paddled anything I could. The day my last school exam finished I packed up and headed to the Alps with a University group and at 16 my eyes were opened to the world

of international kayaking. There was no going back: since then I have kayaked in France, Italy, Norway, Uganda and recently I found myself in the Siberian wilderness for 2 months paddling some monster whitewater with a group of "Ze Czrazzee Rchus-sianz". An excellent exercise in weight loss and manning up. Fun activities included living almost exclusively of raw fish, buckwheat and vodka, taking your hole beatdowns "like a Russian" and walking for days with boats and kit, once climbing over 1500 vertical metres in two days! This trip opened my eyes to the world of unsurpassable alcohol consumption and serious international expedition kayaking.

What do I bring to the Expedition?

Besides outrageous good looks and endless Scottish charm I run a sideline in dirty moustaches often sporting an upper lip that prompts thoughts of childlike, this will allow the team to tap into the 'worldwide brotherhood and comradeship that exists between all mustached gentlemen regardless of linguistic, cultural or religious barriers.

Additionally I am an experienced class 4/5 kayaker with plenty of remote big volume and creek style multiday paddling under my belt. My recent trip to Russia involved self supported expeditions up to 8 days, 50+ km flatwater days, record highwater class 5 gorge runs (scary!) and even a first descent rapid on a classic run, now known as "The Scottish Drop". I even hold my three star inland kayak award.

Having been lucky enough to travel widely across the world I am used to tackling complex logistical problems (e.g. getting trucks out of lakes) and growing up paddling without a car has left me very capable at blagging transport and friends for kayaking.

Why I want BUKE

A chance at BUKE was one of my main reasons for attending University to start with, I have always been super keen to explore new whitewater. By 16 I had walked up every ditch within cycleable distance of my house. More recently exploring undocumented runs in Siberia and Northern Norway has given me a real buzz and sense of achievement. Whether in my backyard or the Siberian wilderness, there is nothing more fun than exploring an unknown river with a good strong team of friends!

Media Experience

I have produced several short online kayaking films and have a growing interest in photography to accompany my fancy DSLR. I am no stranger to spamming various online forums and news feeds with stories, pictures and videos of my kayaking adventures and to promote my Russian trip I am currently preparing for a talk/slideshow/video at Perth Paddle 2012 and writing an article for a so far unconfirmed magazine...

<https://vimeo.com/user9275325/videos>

Deborah Perry

D.o.B.: 16th March 1990
Internet name: Debs Perry

Studying Geology at Edinburgh University, 4th and final year.

Fave Rivers are The Nile, Guisane, Veneon, Romanche, Armot, Orchy, The Dochart (on super high)



Paddling

I started kayaking at Uni, as my brother had some cool kayaking stories and I wanted to give it a go, I soon became hooked! I spent the next half year swimming down most of Scotland's classic beginner rivers. I hit up the Uni Alps trip in my first year and then headed off to Uganda. Uganda was definitely a turning point for me, as rolling up in the eddy lines around the Nile Special really got my roll up to scratch. Since then I have spent my term times in Scotland heading up the Highlands most weekends, with summer trips to Norway (2011) and the French and Italian Alps (2012). I have been on the EUCC committee for 2 years first as Publicity then as Vice President. Whilst Vice I organised weekend trips for many people -I think the largest was 40, so this has given me experience with planning the logistics of transport, accommodation, food, and the managing of oh so many people on and off the river.



Nile Special, Uganda



The Hump, Uganda



Spanemfossen, Norway

Interests

I am highly interested in rocks and minerals, haha but I promise I am not your token geology nutter. I am in the University Air Squadron learning to fly planes, with the UAS I have had the opportunity to go on Canoeing expeditions, as well as on winter mountaineering courses and Ice climbing in the highlands, sailing... I love climbing, mountain biking and surfing, pretty much all the outdoorsy things and obviously top of the list is KAYAKING.

Why I want to go

I want to go mainly because of my love of kayaking and exploring –I quite like roughing it. It is also the chance to meet new people which is exciting and to be part of the team spirit which develops as you get to know each other and go out into the unknown together. I have also yet to paddle anything Welsh other than the Tryweryn so I am super keen for the weekend. I have never done a Kayaking Expedition but the thought of multiday paddling is very exciting, being totally self-sufficient. I love the feeling of being remote and in the wilderness. I also like to push myself and this is a perfect opportunity to do just that, stepping up to the many new horizons.

Why you want me to go...

- I have rather high levels of enthusiasm, and am a generally happy and helpful person.
- I speak Spanish and hopefully some Portuguese (I am currently learning).
- Travelling skills after spending time both solo and group travelling in Spain, South & Central America, Other parts of Europe, Uganda, Norway and Canada. I completely understand the dangers of border crossings in the middle of the night...
- I always keep a diary on my trips so if selected could be chief diary writer for the expedition.
- I would be a very active and helpful team member.
- I am well practiced in writing articles and press releases (I am gathering experience with the Press in a competition run by npower promoting sustainability where the winners get to go to the North Pole!).
- I am also pretty good at bartering... and make a pretty mean lemon drizzle cake.



Media Summary

Just a bit of blogging here and there.
Lots of the photos in the articles are mine.

Big Blue Tree articles

Alps 2012 <http://stories.thebigbluetree.com/2012/10/debs-and-sandy-go-to-alps.html>

Uganda: <http://stories.thebigbluetree.com/2010/10/white-nile-uganda-2010.html>

Norway <http://stories.thebigbluetree.com/2011/09/debs-norwegian-top-three.html>

Magnetic Junction Responsible Travel website

<http://www.magneticjunction.com/jinja-the-heart-of-african-adventure/>

Desperate Measures Blog posts.

<http://www.desperate-measures.co.uk/paddling-news/?p=1897> Intro for their website

<http://www.desperate-measures.co.uk/paddling-news/?p=1961> Uganda

<http://www.desperate-measures.co.uk/paddling-news/?p=2741> Habitat 74 review

<http://www.desperate-measures.co.uk/paddling-news/?p=2747> Typhoon Dry suit review.

North pole Competition ☺

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/Greneco?fref=ts>

<http://www.greneco.org/>





Jamie Conn

DOB: 29.07.93
2nd year Natural Sciences
Durham Uni

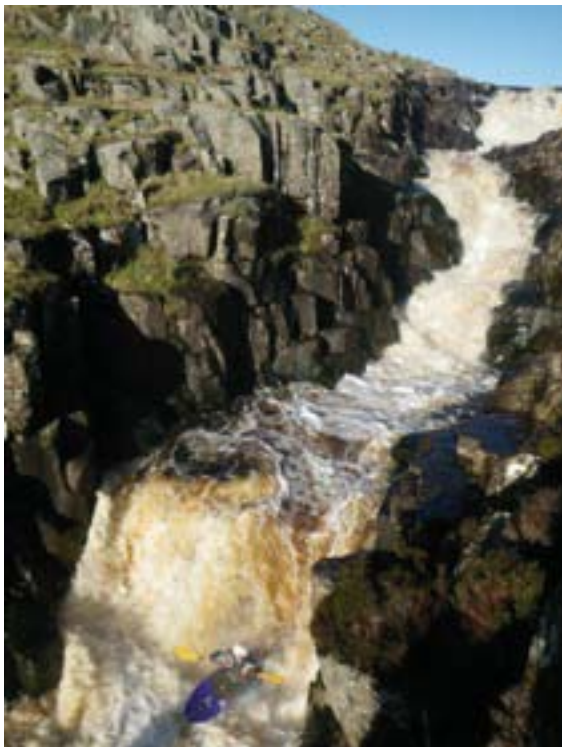
Experience

I first got in a boat on the mighty exe canal in a dancer and to be honest I wasn't a fan. Luckily I stuck with it and it got **much** better...

That was 9 years ago, and now I am well and truly hooked. You can generally find me sitting in the car-park at Newbridge waiting for the the Dart (and the sun) to rise, or getting on a little Northern ditch when it's just a little bit too high in a Lil' Joe.

I got the travel bug when I was 16 with my school canoe club on the Zaskar river in India. Since then I've spent every last penny getting myself to the some of the best rivers in the world, even if it meant living in the back of a van, eating tinned spaghetti for months at a time.

A lot of this time I've spent on the river has been with Tom "Suicide Bunny" Rainey, and those who've met him will know that this is like one long and slightly scary WWSR course.



Why Apply?

Epic paddling, unexplored destinations, good team...Why not?

What Can I Offer?

I didn't just jump in and start paddling grade 5, I spent years training and gaining experience and as such I have good judgement on and off the river. I know when to step up and when to call it a day. Over the years there have been a lot of bad situations and massive epics, I can keep a cool head and make good decisions when everything goes to shit! I've also spent a lot of time travelling with a kayak in difficult places so I know what's required to get an expedition off the ground.

Media

A few years ago I bought myself a Gopro and I've been putting the best stuff up on Vimeo.

<https://vimeo.com/jamieconn/videos>

Also this summer Tom and I (slightly optimistically) put an entry into the Kayak Session Short Film Competition.

<https://vimeo.com/45301899>

Photos Top Down...

Double drop, Teigdal...Vic Falls, Zambezi... Cauldron Snout, Tees



Photo courtesy of Adam Devitt-Spooner

Name- John Tomlinson
Date of Birth- 20/02/1988
University- Durham
Course- Masters in Social Work
Year- 2 of a 2 year masters



Kayaking History:

My dad bought a canoe when I was little so our family could get into that, however on the river I saw kayakers and they looked much cooler so I took up kayaking.

By 14 I saw some playboaters, I thought that looked cool, got into that in a big way. Hours and hours were spent at hurley, hpp, the nene or cycling round Norfolk's weirs hoping to discover some hidden treasures.

In the summers I was lucky enough to go on trips to Austria and France with Kayakojacko, and this gave me an interest in running rivers, visiting new countries and meeting other people that loved kayaking.

A trip to the Zambezi was the last big trip for me in a little playboat, when I got to university I was quickly convinced into a bigger boat and exploring the rivers that the UK offered.

In my 2nd year I became captain of Birmingham Uni canoe club and this gave me plenty of opportunities get out kayaking, meet new people, plan trips for large groups and to have fun. Since then I've had lots of fun adventures in boats at home and abroad, Highlights from the past year have included a high water descent of the upper swale and running couldron snout.

Why I want to go on the trip:

To become a kayaking rockstar..... joking..... kind of. Haha I've done lots of cool kayaking holidays but I've never done an expedition. I think uniyakers would provide an awesome opportunity to take my kayaking a step further into the realm of expeditions, along with a group of like minded people.

I would also relish the chance to visit some more 'off the beaten track' kayaking destinations, make some more friends, have some adventures, collect some great stories, and have an immense amount of fun.



Photo courtesy of Rory Woods

What can I offer:

Truth be told I don't have any specialist media, medical or linguistic skills. I'm alright in a kayak and I work well in a team on and off a river. I'm good at keeping my head when things get difficult and working hard for the group.

Having previously organised trips as captain of Birmingham uni canoe club, I've got some capacity to help plan trips, think about logistics and that kind of thing.

I really really love kayaking.



Photo courtesy of Tom Strongman



Photo courtesy of Jamie Conn

PETER TYRRELL

05/08/92

Second year biologist
Oxford University

ABOUT ME

Having grown up in Kenya I have had the fortune of learning to paddle under a blazing sun and spending a lot of that time swimming in the warm (albeit slightly brown) water of the East African region. Working as a raft guide and kayaking instructor/guide on the awesome Tana River helped me develop the skills I have today. I've been lucky enough to paddle in an area which is still in the relatively early stages of exploration and manage to paddle on half a dozen virgin rivers, a treat and a challenge for any paddler! Arriving in the UK for university last year was a shock to the system; new warm and waterproof gear was quickly acquired to fight off the cold weather. The benefits of paddling here are immediately obvious; the sheer number of people to meet, chat and paddle within the kayaking community is enormous in comparison to the 5 or so Kenyan paddlers. I've taken full advantage of this: and expanded my experience with trips to the Thames weirs, Pubs, Wales, HPP and further afield to spend early summer in the French Alps before heading to Norway for a month. This year has further pushed my kayaking ability and this coming year should be even better!



WHY?

In my opinion expedition paddling is the most enjoyable and rewarding type of paddling. Heading to a new and unknown destination to explore pristine rivers is what I want to do. I've spent my whole life wanting to discover new unspoilt regions of the world, and kayaking is an extension of this and Uniyaker gives you the ability to reveal these places with a group of like minded people.

WHAT CAN I OFFER?

I already have some expedition experience; having already spent hours peering over maps, organized logistics in incredibly unorganized countries and had awesome times on new rivers. This is complemented by the general first aid and white water rescue experience. Swahili speaker. In regards to media, I have experience in editing and publishing a quarterly newsletter and annual yearbook for Peponi School, Nairobi. On top of this I have limited self taught experience in website design, having designed the Riding for the Disabled Kenya website (not online yet).