

## Sheltered Norwegian Waters



Once again I want to thank Nick and Vortex for outstanding support this year. I have purchased a number of items, and raised a few queries, to support our Norwegian kayaking endeavors and the service from Nick and Vortex and been professional, friendly and prompt.

The ease and convenience of launching the **AdvancedFrame** and the **Expedition** from our local beach vindicated totally our decision to buy them. A kayak kart – albeit I have had to mount a board above the wheels so they don't rub the fabric – makes this an easy journey. The great stability of the AdvancedElements kayaks means that we dress for the air temperature, while friends who have hard shell kayaks must

always dress for the water temperature and their inevitable capsize. I have added spray decks, dry bags and a Baltic Pro buoyancy aid from Nick, and an air horn sourced locally to scare off the in-attendant Stavanger sailors!

So, what of our second season in the sheltered Norwegian waters of Stavanger. We adopted a 'candy floss' test to our kayaking this year i.e. if the 'candy floss' is in danger of either getting wet or being blown off its stick then we find another activity! While this could have limited the number of forays afloat we managed several dozen trips and enjoyed some fantastic conditions. The autumnal conditions last weekend were beautiful to behold.



You can also see from the photos (and ensign on the foredeck) that I have elevated myself to Commodore, RAF Stavanger Kayaking Association – membership of this prestigious group now resides at two (Ali and me)!! Our two boys regularly join us in our mini expeditions but I have to tell you, never trust a young teenager when he tells you he has inflated all the air chambers to the correct pressure. By the time I had discovered that Andrew had failed to pump the main chambers to 2 Bar I was already fighting the steepening swell and felt as though I was paddling a soggy sitting-room sofa.



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What's coming up? The Stavanger mice took a likening for the rubber kayak handles and had a good munch last winter, so they are about to be dried out and stored upstairs in the spare bedroom; as you can imagine, Ali is delighted that her mother will have to sleep alongside my kayak. And I'm thinking of adding a backbone – I'll leave you to consider whether this applies to my kayak or my 'candy floss' philosophy!

Mark from Stavanger.  
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