

Stocken Träffen Sweden 2006

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This year we visited the 'Stocken Träff', a seakayak symposium on the island Orust in Sweden. The symposium is organised by Orust Kayak, a seakayak centre and outfitter in the little village Stocken. Besides the 'modern' seakayak, the 'traditional' seakayak is getting more coverage each year on this symposium. This year for instance the first 'Greenland' style rolling competition was organised. And the people of Qajaq.se (Magnus and Sten). thought we should also compete, as we are paddling a traditional kayak and we can do more than one roll.

Thursday - 24-08.

At 4 o'clock the alarm goes, a bit early. But we do have to drive a long distance for a weekend of paddling. At 4:15 I pick up Dick and then on to the Kayakclub to get the kayak's and secure them on the roof of the car. At 5:00 hrs we are on the motorway and the journey can begin. We are traveling through Germany and Denmark and use the two ferries (Puttgarden-Rödby and Helsingör-Helsingborg), this breaks up the journey and gives us the opportunity for a cup of coffee (You know, they serve the coffee of today tomorrow). After some 12 (17:00) hours of driving we can see (Tjörn bridge) that we are near our destination and half an hour later we are on the campsite. We are awaited by Sten, as we want the more traditional kayak-ers camping a bit together.

Friday - 25-08.

Today we will scout the archipel area and we paddle towards the south end of Härmanö. Just outside the channel from Stocken we encounter a beautiful schooner, unfortunately not under sail and we encounter several kayakers on the water. Once outside the archipel there is too little wind for building some nice waves, we paddle a short distance south and land on Tornö for our lunch. After lunch we climb to the top of the island to have a good view of the archipel. At the end of the afternoon Freya Hoffmeister demonstrates 'Greenland' style rolling. And although we have seen it before, it is still impressive to watch and it reminds us we still have a lot to learn (if we ever get that far).

Saturday - 26-08.

Today is the rolling competition and because the butterfly roll does not count, Dick is up early and quickly builds two roughly shaped Norsaq's. We should be able to roll with that instead (Dick does, but I do not). When the Norsaq's are ready we go for a paddle with Niklas and his brother Pär.

We paddle the reverse tour of yesterday. First through the small 'canyon' between Vallerö and Tornö and then over a short distance of open water to the south tip of Härmanö. We paddled through and around the big rocks now that there are only small waves. Then we have a very relaxed lunch on a (busy) beach. In the afternoon we participate in the rolling competition and before we take a little practice. The competition will have 16 participants, not bad for a first time. Most competitors outperform me by far, but Dick is doing well with the new Norsaq and ends as 9th overall with 44 points. The big winner is Sten, one of the organisers, with 164 points.

Sunday - 27-08.

Today we are going for a tour around the island Härmanö. We will be paddling with Magnus and Sten from Qajaq.se and Nils whom we met yesterday at the rolling competition. First we paddle to the village of Gullholmen, a nice little village on the north side of the island. This used to be a fishing community, but today it serves more as a village with holiday residences. Along the coast we also see a lot of cabins where locals and people from the big cities spend their spare time. Along the northern tip of Härmanö we reach the open sea and although there is more wind than the days before, the waves are still no bigger than 30-40 centimeters (1-1,5'). But that gives us an excellent opportunity to paddle very close to shore and in between the rock gardens without any danger to our SOF's. We lunch on a rocky island. Magnus goes scavenging for a snack in the shape of mussels. These things are really big here. After lunch we paddle to Tornö and then back to Stocken while paddling a massive rain shower during which the vision is limited to 100 metres. And because the rain persists most of the participants are traveling home today although some had planned to stay until

the monday. The rain was som bad, the campsite almost turned into swamp and that inlcuded some large puddles of water in our tent.

Monday - 28-08.

7:30 hrs, what a &^%\$# weather, it has continuously been raining since 6 :00 and when we go outside , it looks like it going to be that way the rest of the day (as predecited by the Swedish weather stations). So instead of staying and paddling through the rain all day we decide to pack and leave for home. About an hour later we are packed and drive towards Amersfoort - Netherlands, were we arrive at about 22:00 hours.

It has been a fantastic weekend and we are definitely contemplating a repeat for next year.

More photo's:

[Webshots album \(qajaq.nl\)](#)

[Orust Kayak - Stocken traffen](#)