

Wooden Canoe Heritage Association

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Website

<http://www.geocities.com/nwoodencanoe/>

N E W S L E T T E R

January 2008

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We are on the lookout for a 1 page article, or a few paragraphs on your favourite paddle, how-to idea or trip equipment.

BE WARNED thou shalt be approached.....!

Thanks, Ed

Northwest Chapter Friends:

First off, a big thanks goes to Boudi van Oldenborgh for his time and fine work as Chair of our NW chapter over the past two years. Boudi's efforts brought back the newsletter as a way to keep us informed of chapter activities. He has been editor during his stint as Chair and, thankfully, has agreed to continue in that capacity. Boudi and Martin Ferwerda, Webmaster, worked closely to update the NW chapter roster and mailing list. This was no small undertaking and has resulted in a considerable saving of time and expense. Our Spring and Fall meets under Boudi's guidance have been entertaining, educational and don't forget fun! The canoe regatta at Manning Park last September comes to mind.

Many chapter members have contributed to the success of the NW chapter. Anyone who receives the national WCHA publication's Wooden Canoeer will agree our chapter has much to offer. Within the past two years the magazine has featured articles, building tips and photos submitted by NW chapter members Bill Dengler, Martin Ferwerda, Ray Irons, Pat Chapman, Ray Arcand, Bill Paine and Dick Cross. Our pool of talent goes far beyond those just mentioned, with many members skilled at restoration, new construction, paddling technique and backcountry camping. For those of us less talented, but eager to learn, it is much appreciated that they are willing to give freely of their time and knowledge.

The generous contribution of a new wood & canvas canoe by Larry and Alexandra Bowers (built by Larry of West Coast Canoe Company) was a significant boost for our chapter. The raffling of this beautiful canoe at our Fall meet in 2005 provided welcome financial support. The chapter canoe, restored by the skilled hands of Bill Paine, awaits a new home and will be auctioned or raffled at a future date. These assets, in addition to the generous contributions, and bidding, of chapter members at our ever popular auctions, have given us a solid financial footing. My thanks to Joan Ellsworth, Treasurer, for her dedication as keeper of records important to the function of our group. As incoming Chair, I am appreciative of the efforts put forth by Boudi, the Board of Directors and so many talented people.

I look forward to working with the Board and NW chapter members, and building on their success.

Frank Gunness, Chair

Northwest Chapter Fall Meet 2007

We met at Manning Park, BC on sept 14,15 & 16,2007. Attendance was strong with over 40 members enjoying the last days of summer blessed with sun and calm waters.

Friday evening officially opened with Ray Arcand's event, spoon carving with crooked knives. With the exception of one bloody thumb, carvers worked the weekend to shape and smooth their sculpted spoons.

Thanks to Mike Monks and his guitar as he travelled us back to our youth with folk and rock songs.

With calm waters each morning, Dawn Patrol opened the days with reflective, quiet paddle time. All day long, as the 30 canoes stretched on the grassy beach, the sun shone and brought us to shirt sleeve and shorts for the Saturday afternoon events:

Competitive events peppered the weekend. Saturday morning Larry Bowers led a group of ready fire makers in steel and flint fire making competition. With the use of his charcloth, participants worked to blow those sparks into small flames held in the hand and fueled with dry moss, wood chips and 'fatwood'. After much striking and blowing, Frank Gunness was proclaimed winner.

The second competitive event has become a chapter tradition. Miniature paddle carving, made possible with Ray Arcand's cedar blanks, allowed five carvers to participate. Frank Gunness won first place with the or a full size cedar blank ready for shaping.

With calm and hot sun the canoeing Regatta was a huge success. With easy access to the water we battled in mixed tandem, solo obstacle course, relay and balloon contests. Not a pretty sight. Boudi was able to corral the independence of these NW chapter canoeists in this co-operative and very competitive water event. Des and Ivy, congratulations, and to all the winners as well.



The Saturday evening gathering began with a shared dessert time. Tasty indeed, and then of course the Auction. Dwight Jacobson skillfully drove the prices up and members generously bought those pieces of trash and treasure we exchange each year. One participant in particular touched the hearts of each member, seven year old Reagan. That he was a third the size of even the smallest NW member did nothing to diminish his robust friendliness. The grandson of Steve and Joan Ellsworth angled all day for the canoe shaped pocket knife. In multiple conversations he learned auction 'strategy' and bluffing skills from seasoned auction bidders. In the end he was over/under bid and proudly sported his pocket knife from the campfire event.

We were lulled off to bed with Bill Dengler's wooden flute music. Quiet and melancholy, haunting and very beautiful.

A special highlight this meet was the entire Carl and Ruth Noth family in attendance. The chapter's founding parents joyfully shared their children who flew in from New Mexico and Austria. The week before, the family celebrated the Hoth's 62nd wedding anniversary !

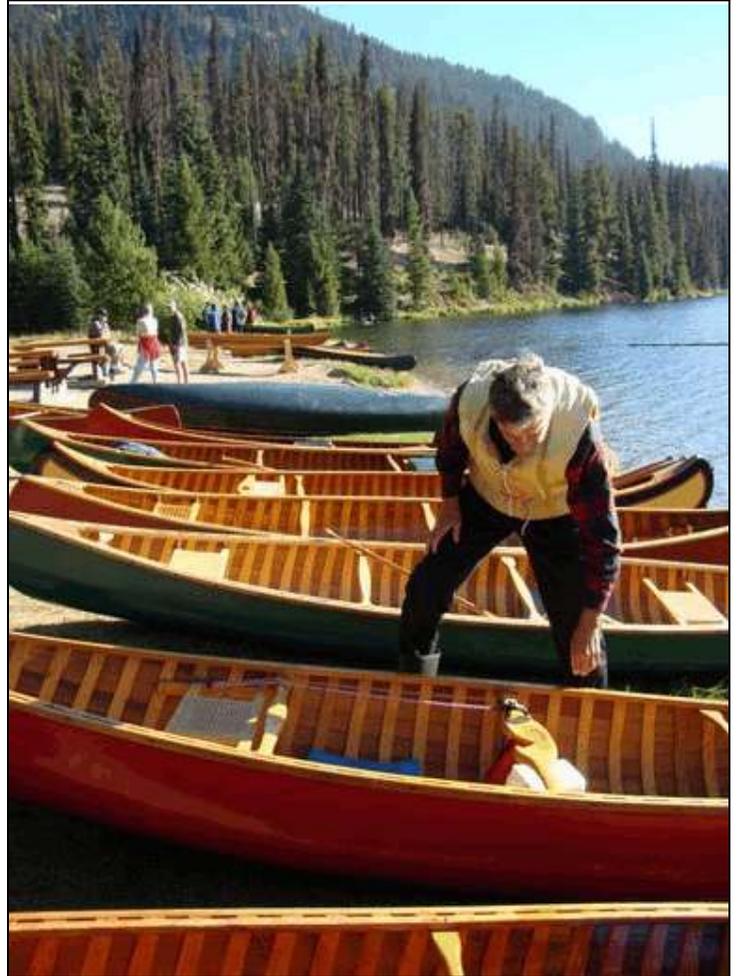
Elections went off without a hitch. Thanks to Mike, Gordon and Boudi as retiring board members. Congratulations to the new board members, Allane Brine, Dave Westell, Ray Irons, Dan Boles and to Frank Gunness who takes on the mantel of leadership. A huge thanks to Boudi for his able, spirited and organized leadership these past two years. (...was given strict orders by Ursula not to delete this sentence ...Ed)

Sunday morning we bid farewell again to the old and new friends we have come to treasure through the 14 years of the NW chapter meets.

We leave with group memories and many personal treasures received in those one-on-one and small group conversations that glue the weekend together.

Adieu until the Spring Rendezvous, 2008.

Ursula Paine



Many thanks to Mike Livdahl for more fine photos.

Also, check our Website.



The Tree of Life for an Ancient Highway

Part 5: Paddles for the Pullers

Update: After the repairs of the curious cracks and the painting of the hull, the carvers now needed to focus on creating the pullers paddles.

While one of the carvers, with the assistance of a couple of local helpers, put the finishing touches of paint on the inside of the hull, the other carver started on the yellow cedar blanks.

For the sake of the quickly upcoming July 1st parade, it was decided to have the blanks cut out with a bandsaw. The rest of the shaping of each of the dozen paddles was all done with a crooked knife. The paddle for the helm was much larger and a much different shape. A large blade is needed to steer a 35 foot canoe !

While these preparations were taking place there was a lot of activity going on around the upcoming Tribal Journey. One item that needed to be addressed was training the "pullers" from the village. After over 100 years of not having a canoe in the village there were very few youth and adults who knew how to paddle efficiently. Of course this was very important as there would be many other canoes arriving for the journey and there was sure to be competition between them on the trip South.

For training purposes a very old 25 foot fibreglass canoe was borrowed from the Powell River Fire Hall. We never did find out what they were using it for. It was so old that it had an Expo '67 sticker on it from Montreal. The seats were mostly in tough shape but we managed to get everyone paired up safely. After an initial short instruction session while we stood in the water of the estuary, we were off upstream. Practice sessions were held according to the state of the tide and its effect on the river.

As well as focusing on the physical dynamics of pulling together, there were chants to learn as well. These involved rhythmic chants along with rapping on the hull. Of course with all youth, maintaining their attention and interest sometime became an issue. Soon they knew there was "no whining" allowed in the canoe and that we had to paddle upstream as far as the blue heron's nest. The helmsperson was also leading the chants and passed off that role to the youth themselves.

Returning downstream they created their own chant that really made everyone laugh. Across the road from the village there appeared every summer, a mobile fish and chip truck, so their chant went like this:

"Chip wagon, chip wagon Pop, pop "
...whatever it took to get them pulling !

Next:

"I-Hos" and the Komoux pullers depart on their Tribal Journey.
Barb Dobree

(Barb modestly hasn't mentioned she trained the pullers, and reintroduced them to their lost paddling and canoeing skills,,.Ed)

Northwest Chapter SPRING RENDEZVOUS April 25,26,27,2008

Millersylvania State Park, WA - Environmental Learning Center

ACCESS From I-5, ten miles south of Olympia, WA take exit 95. Drive East allow signs to the park, about 3 miles NE of the freeway. After entering the park follow signs to the boatlaunch. The road to the ELC is on the right side of the boat launch.

COST \$10 per person, per night. Your choice of RV, tent or use of rustic sleeping cabins. The 19 cabins (with heat) can accommodate 6-8 people each. There is a centrally located bathroom/shower building. Cabins will be assigned on a first-come basis. No cooking in cabins as an indoor kitchen is available

PROGRAM

Friday	1:00 pm	Check in, set up, paddle & meet friends
	5:00 pm	Dinner on your own (indoor kitchen available)
	7:00 pm	Baidarka talk (skin-on-frame) kayak. Red Galvin
	8:00 pm	Canoe related readings (book passages, humor, adventure, poetry, etc.) Open participation Led by Robert Schuwedler
Saturday	7:00 am	Dawn Patrol - on Deep Lake
	10:00 am	Tool Sharpening Techniques Dennis Bohrer
	11:00 am	Camp Gear Discussion (your favourite "must have" item, luxury item, unique item, homemade, etc.)
	12:00 pm	Lunch, view canoes, paddling, socializing
	2:00 pm	Solo paddling techniques Ray Arcand
	3:30 pm	Dinner crew prep time. Prepare/gather your desserts More paddling
	5:00 pm*	Chili dinner & dessert potluck Eric Mast & Mike Livdahl
	7:00 pm	Auction Mike Monks
	8:30 pm	Fireside entertainment. Sing along or just listen and enjoy. Mike Monks & Friends
Sunday	7:00 am	Dawn Patrol
	9:00 am	Board Meeting. Everyone welcome and encouraged to offer suggestions for future meets.

*The Saturday night chili dinner is sponsored by Eric Mast, Mike Livdahl and the NW chapter. Remember to bring goodies for our dessert potluck.

PLEASE NOTE

- No pets allowed at the Environmental Learning Center - There are no RV hookups

REMEMBER TO BRING

....Tent, RV, food & canoeFirewood
....Items for the auctionKids or GrandkidsYour "favourite camp gear" and "dessert"