



Wooden Canoe Heritage Association

N O R T H W E S T C H A P T E R

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NEWSLETTER January 2012

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Northwest Chapter Fall Meet Priest Lake State Park, ID September 16 -18, 2011

NW Chapter members from near and far arrived with a warm welcome from Dick Howland and the Priest Lake State Park officials. Campsites were selected at Indian Creek with proximity to flush toilets and warm showers in mind. We also gauged the wind off the lake.

The club gathered that evening in a great indoor meeting room. The walls displayed poster size photos shot by Mike Livdahl. Mike's canoeing and outdoor images along with the chapter flag and good snack food made for a welcoming beginning to our Fall meet.

The evening presentation featured John Zinser and Cooper Schulte who conduct canoe journeys on the Columbia River for youth using a 25 foot birch bark canoe built by John in the woods of Ontario. Their organization, called "Voyages of Rediscovery", www.voyagesofrediscovery.com offers educational paddling trips that include ecological studies and youth team work. A table display included materials used on their journeys and information for the creation of a birch bark canoe. With their invitation we all looked forward to paddling their canoe the next day.

Thanks to Erin McKindree, Assistant Park Manager, who loaned her DVD of an old silent movie made by Nell Shipman, a famous movie maker of that black and white movie era. Shipman made some of her movies at the Lion Head area where Dick Howland's campground is located. Watching the overdramatic scenes was quite different from our contemporary media-savvy types of today. The peanut gallery piped in with the sound track!

Early Saturday morning we were back in that wonderful, warm room for coffee, morning muffins and fruit treats. By 8:30 a.m. everyone was loaded up and heading North to Lion Head Campground where Dick is the host for five months of the year. What a great setup he has there, tucked out of the wind facing West with a view of Priest Lake.

John and Cooper were ready with their birch bark canoe. In addition, Thomas Eier and Jim Jameson from Lewiston, Idaho arrived with a river-style native dugout. The wind was up on this section of the lake. The brave decided to go out for short paddles in the two visiting boats. The paddlers got creative in the bailer department for both craft.



Joe McElroy and Mary Norton went out in their wooden kayak, which in fact turned out to be the best boat for the conditions. We had all hoped to paddle through the “Thorofare” into Upper Priest Lake with its wilder environment. Weather conditions ruled that out.

Our lunch break and afternoon viewing of the canoes was enlivened by the bluegrass music of John and Cooper. Accompanied by guitar and mandolin, Cooper’s voice carried across the area as they rehearsed for their October musical tour of Idaho. As the afternoon wore on, Mike Monks joined the pair with guitar and voice.

The wind died down which allowed folks to get out on the water for a short paddle. Ivy Winterbottom rode like a queen in Dick’s Stelmok canoe paddled by Des Winterbottom and Bill Dengler. Ivy, a strong paddler, winner of chapter races, is recovering from surgery.

Bob Moore showed his beautiful inlaid stripper and two new paddles. These paddles even had fishing flies embedded in them. A beautiful boat with a new rawhide seat and backrest as well. At least the stern touched the water.

Jim Jameson demonstrated a dutch oven, a special model commemorating Sacajawea and the Lewis and Clark explorers. He created a beef stew on top of a tin can stove filled with briquettes. After browning the beef chunks and other items in the oven, he placed the lid upside down and added the briquettes to the top of the unit. Later that day, the crew was enjoying the stew. It must have been a success!

After helping our visitors to load their large canoes we headed back the 11 miles to our campsite ready for our evening meal together. We were joined by Dick’s fellow camp hosts who volunteer in this paradise. We enjoyed our conversation with them.

The huge outdoor barbeque was going full tilt with Dick's wife, Karen and her sister, Gayle, making sure the hamburgers and smokies were grilled to perfection. Salads, toppings and barbeque condiments made for a satisfying feast. A round of applause for the cooks. Thanks so much for filling us up!

After dinner came the auction! Thanks to Dwight Jacobson for his auctioneer skills. Mike Livdahl's posters flew off the wall and raised a considerable sum for our chapter treasury. Thanks Mike. With full stomachs and wind burned faces we settled down to watch a DVD about Spokane House http://riversidestatepark.org/spokane_house.htm provided by Daniel Day.

On Sunday Bill Dengler performed his last duties as President of the Board. Cheers for Bill and Sandi for their efforts to make our meets such pleasant and easy events to enjoy.

Scott Christianson assumed the President's paddle and a new board organized:

Scott Christianson, President

Mike Livdahl, Recording Secretary and Treasurer

Frank Gunness, Bob Moore, Dick Howland, Board Members

Welcome new board members and thanks for serving.

With a smaller group in attendance the opportunity for good chatting in the sun and this beautiful location made for a great N.W. Chapter Fall Meet. See you in the Spring,
Barbara Dobre



ERIC MAST COMPLETES THE DAVID THOMPSON JOURNEY REENACTMENT

Our own Eric Mast joined this commemorative journey and reports the following:

During the summer of 2011 over 200 people formed the David Thompson Canoe Brigade and paddled down the Columbia River from its source at Invermere, BC to its mouth at Astoria, Oregon to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of David Thompson's 1811 landmark expedition.

Mr. Thompson was the first man to navigate and map the 1,243-mile Columbia River from its source to the Pacific Ocean. A complete description of the reenacted journey can be found at www.2011Brigade.org. Thompson's mapping completed the final leg of the Canadian fur trade highway from Montreal to the Pacific. His route would be used for over 50 years as the major route across the Rocky Mountains as the twice annual Columbia Express, later adapted by the Hudson's Bay Company as the York Factory Express.

Thompson opened up trading posts in what is now British Columbia, Montana, Idaho and Washington State. His maps were unsurpassed for over 100 years. History buffs will recognize the parallels to Lewis and Clark's expedition, their routes even overlapped from "Sacajawea park" in what is now Pasco, WA where the Columbia and Snake Rivers join. At this point control of the whole area west of the Rocky Mountains from California up through Alaska was contested by Spain, Russia and England, the USA being too small to even be considered a player yet.

A few years prior, Mr. Thompson, an employee of the Northwest Company, led a canoe brigade up the Saskatchewan River to its source from their large inland post at Old Fort William on Lake Ontario and established Rocky Mountain House. As the Company needed furs for the European market, primarily beaver for the ever changing fashions of the men's hat industry, they had to keep moving west and try to outmaneuver their rival The Hudson's Bay Company.

The Northwest Company had proven over time to be very adept at trading goods with the natives for these furs but they first had to find the natives, make deals with them, and build their forts and outposts. This expedition was an exploration of the Canadian Wilderness west of the Rockies to establish first contact with those tribes who could provide the furs. These hearty men wintered over in these relatively small log structures and would take their goods to their larger outposts like Old Fort William in the spring and rendezvous in the summer with those from Montreal. They would party a bit and exchange their furs for more native trade goods, maybe sign a new company contract, marry a native woman and then return to their western post before winter.

In 1811 it would be different for Thompson's men. The Company had been pushing Thompson for some time to lay claim to the areas west of the Rockies but he was always busy perfecting detailed maps, a perfect man for this job! Like all Company "clarks" and partners he kept very accurate logs and records. About all that he knew was that the mouth of the Columbia had been discovered and partially mapped and maybe a bit of Lewis and Clark's journey.

Eric reports, "One point I found fascinating was that Thompson purchased his navigation tools from the same source in Europe as did Lewis and Clark." He started in the spring, about February in Alberta to set out on this journey. He had to first make canoes. The problem was that the forest does not look like those of Ontario, no birch trees. The man had lived near the ocean and seen many types of watercraft so he designed his own boats for this journey. A total of nine were made and every canoe was designed with improvements over the last.

He set out from what is now Invermere only to discover he was heading north, could this be right? He second guessed himself stopped the canoe and asked for directions from the locals, who may or may not have known the truth, they sent him over the mountains to another river, the Kootenai. Things went well until the Kootenai turned north as well and Thompson knew he was still too far north of the Columbia's mouth so he asked for more directions from the friendly natives and again crossed more mountains, this time ending up on the Clark Fork River which turns into the Pend Oreille River. What? More bad directions? This river too turned north as well. Finally he portaged over some more mountains and ended up on the Columbia downstream from where he started, if only he had not asked for directions in the first place!

To the day of Thompson's historic arrival the reenactment group canoed into Astoria, Oregon where residents were celebrating the 200th Anniversary of their founding by John Jacob Astor who established a fur trading post for America. Thomson's quote from Astoria;

"July 15th [1811] Monday

A very fine day, somewhat cloudy. Staid 'till 6:25 Am shaving & arranging ourselves, when we set off. ... thank God for our safe arrival, we came to the House of Mr Astors Company - Messrs McDougall, Stuart, & Stuart - who received me in the most polite Manner, & here we hope to stay a few days to refresh ourselves."

-David Thompson upon arriving at Astoria

A few years later the Northwest Company established a Fur Trading post at Fort Vancouver, Washington. For decades over 50,000 furs were exported out of Fort Vancouver a year to Europe. Then came the wagons of the Oregon Trail and tensions between the two nations brewed. Mr. Thompson's played an important role as helping to mark the boundary between the U.S. and Canada. But that's a story for another time.

Thanks to Eric Mast for this historical refresher. We look forward to conversation at the Spring Rendezvous regarding his personal experiences on the journey. Maybe he will be a presenter?

OUR DEAR FRIENDS

It is with great sadness we report the passing of two of our chapter friends, Carl Hoth and Morris Elliott.

Carl L. Hoth

March 4, 1920 – November 27, 2011

The following is lifted from the article in the August 2008 Wooden Canoe magazine written by Beth and Ray Arcand.

The driving force behind the founding of the NW Chapter was Carl Hoth. For the first few years, Carl would delegate jobs to whomever he felt would do a good job with a particular part of the program. Later, as the chapter grew, we began to elect officers. ...If he could get a guest speaker to come to our meet, he would pay any costs himself, if necessary, rather than miss the opportunity for the event.

He was the auctioneer at many of our meets and always made us laugh as he made sure that children who were bidding got what they wanted.

Carl and Ruth bought their first canoe 1950, a 1934 Old Town Yankee. "Old Red" was frequent member of our canoe fleet. The canoe is still in the hands of the Hoth family.

Carl was a generous and patient man who led many people to the satisfying pleasure of canoeing and camping. In the Wooden Canoe article, Beth shares, "Carl contributed immensely to my canoe education and my pleasure in being 'on the water'. He is one of my very best pals." Many of us chapter members share that sentiment. Carl is missed.

Ruth continues to live in Sun City, Arizona during the winter months with a return to Bellingham for the summer. Ruth remains in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Chapter Founder and his loving wife, Ruth.



In loving memory of Morris Elliott November 27, 1939 - June 30, 2011

Our dear N.W. Chapter friend, Morris Elliott died in June, 2011. His wife of 47 years, Edith, shared news of his passing. "Morris loved the outdoors and was never happier than when out camping, hunting or canoeing. After retiring from the carpentry trades in 1996, he started his dream job and opened Kanaka Creek Canoes. Here he created beautiful hand crafted wood and canvas canoes."

Morris served as president of the NW Chapter in 1995-96. Ray Arcand shared, "I think he is best remembered for his Frontier canoes. He also liked to make vintage style paddles which went nicely with his Frontier canoes. On some of these canoes the ends were swept up like a voyageur canoe which made them striking in appearance."

"An interesting aside is that Carl Hoth bought one of the first solo canoes that Morris made. Carl named it Autumn Leaf; at some point he sold it to Corey Freidman of skin boat fame. He in turn sold it to a man in the Yukon who sold it to John Lucking of Alaska. (our NW chapter member) So the Autumn Leaf through a circuitous path is back in the Northwest chapter where it started years ago."

Northwest Chapter Spring Rendezvous Camp Bishop, WA May 11-13, 2012

Access: From Highway I-5 North or South, at Olympia, take Exit 104 onto Hwy 8 and 101 heading towards Shelton. Take first exit in Shelton onto Hwy 3 (Bremerton) and follow 1-2 miles to first stop light. Turn left onto Acadia Road. Follow Acadia and turn left onto Lake Boulevard (which becomes Cloquallum Road) for about 9 miles. Turn right onto West Lost Lake Road for about 1.5 miles to Camp Bishop at road end.

(Do not use MapQuest or Google. Both are wrong.)
WCHA Northwest Chapter Spring Rendezvous

Camp Bishop 1476 West Lost Lake Road Shelton, Wa

May 11, 12, 13th 2012

Cost: \$10 per person per night

Friday: 1200 Check in-meet & greet. Go for a paddle!

3:00 Paddling technique-we have 2 or more possible instructors. Will continue with this theme Saturday before the Poker Run!

5:00 Dinner on your own

7:00 Martin Ferwerda presentation on Thompson Brothers canoes

8:00 Showing Becky Mason's new DVD Advanced paddling techniques

Saturday 7:00 Dawn Patrol

10:00 Pat Chapman presentation on Willits Canoes

12:00 Paddling technique with Boudi Van Oldenborgh

2:00 Poker Run utilizing all your great paddling techniques!

5:00 BBQ Hamburgers and Hot Dogs with shared "famous" Desserts/salads

7:00 Eric Mast, David Thompson Canoe Brigade reenactment journey

8:30 Auction , so bring your "good stuff"

Sunday 7:00 Dawn Patrol

9:00 Board meeting everyone welcome

1100 Break camp and clean-up

Remember to bring: Tent, RV, food

Dessert/ Salad to share at the Saturday dinner

Auction items

Firewood US only

Photos of past meets

Kids and grandkids!

FALL MEET MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK Sept. 14,15,16
Boudi suggests, “wear your woolies and toques” – 4,000 feet up
Primitive Camping at Lone Duck campsite #2

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