

# Wooden Canoe Heritage Association

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

## Northwest Chapter WCHA Spring Newsletter April 2022



**Spring Meet!**

**May 5, 6, 7, 8, 2022**

**Camp Bishop, Shelton, WA**

**Join us for Beautiful Boats, Canoeing and Camping!**

**Directions: Camp Bishop, 1476 West Lost Lake Rd., Shelton, WA**

- From I-5, take exit 104 to Hwy 8 and 101, west to Shelton
- Take first exit to Shelton, Hwy 3. Go 1.5 miles to first stoplight
- Turn left to Acadia Rd, then left to Lake Boulevard, (becoming Cloquallum Rd), go for about 9 miles.
- Turn right to West Lost Lake Rd, go 1-2 miles. Camp at road end.

**Accommodations: \$10 per person per night. *Check-in after 9 am Thursday***

- Covid protocols per Camp Bishop TBD (see website); additional precautions your choice.
- Ample tent area, non-heated sleeping cabins, heated lodge rooms.
- Small campers/trailers in parking lot/lodge area. No hook-ups.
- Restrooms and shower facilities. New bathhouses in cabin area.
- No cooking in cabins. Full kitchen/dining area.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times. If dogs in the buildings: kenneled + \$50 fee.

**Reminders: Work party on Thursday at the camp. All help welcome; bring gloves!**

- Vern's Salmon Barbecue Saturday evening potluck. \$10/person donation.
- Potluck: bring side or dessert to share, or eat on your own if you wish. Bring gently used and new "valuables" for Saturday fundraising auction.
- Bring musical instruments and voices for sing-alongs.
- Program information on our website: [northwest.wcha.org](http://northwest.wcha.org)

## Spring Meet Draft Program

- Thursday:** Arrive and set up camp. Work party day, bring gloves.  
Alternative: River Trip (off site) coordinated by Chip Asbury; contact Chip (see below).
- Friday:** Dawn Patrol  
Canoe the lake; program ideas related to canoeing welcome!  
Alternative: River Trip (off site) coordinated by Chip Asbury; contact Chip  
Dinner on your own  
Evening program
- Saturday:** Dawn Patrol  
Canoe class; canoe the lake,  
Meet the Canoes  
lunch  
new canoe house tour and open house  
canoe games  
Chapter meeting, photo; silent auction bidding  
Barbecue dinner +/- potluck (your choice)  
Auction: Bring great items and lots of money!
- Sunday:** Pack up, clean up. See you at Manning in September (tentatively September 18–21, 2022.)

### Camp Bishop Covid Protocol:

Camp Bishop follows the regulations and recommendations of the State of Washington. At present, masks are not required, and are optional. There is plenty of outdoor space to spread out, and use of masks indoors is a personal choice.

### Lost Lake Stocked with Fish!

Lost Lake, at Camp Bishop, has just been stocked with 400 red-fleshed trout similar to Kokanee. Vern Heikkila reports that fish were visible from Camp Bishop's dock. Those who want to fish should bring their equipment to the meet!



Dear NW WCHA friends,

During our Spring Meet, I'm planning to take **day-trips to paddle some of the nearby rivers**, and I'd dearly love to have company! There are many terrific paddling rivers very close to Camp Bishop, ranging from class 1 still water on the Black river, to class 1+/2- moving water on the Chehalis and Satsop rivers, to class 2 with riffles on the Wynoochee. If you're attending the Meet and you're interested in joining one or more river day-trips, please email or call me at [casbury@uw.edu](mailto:casbury@uw.edu) or 206-619-8287 — let's talk!

I hope to paddle Thursday (5/5), plus at least one additional day, embarking early AM and returning to Camp Bishop in the afternoon. My plans are flexible, and will depend on weather and flow levels. The closest river options are not tidal, so they would involve shuttling, by car or bike. Several tidal rivers flowing into Gray's Harbor also offer nice paddling, but would require longer drives away from Camp Bishop. I'll paste details about several options below.

If this sounds interesting to you, please do not hesitate to reach out. I'm open to all suggestions, and eager to explore more rivers! **Let's USE our beautiful CANOES!**

Sincerely, Chip Asbury

### ***Lower Black river into Chehalis***

*Drive time from Camp Bishop:* about 30 min

*Difficulty:* class 1+ with sweepers and logjams listed as primary hazards

*Approximate paddling time:* 6 hrs (a shorter 3-hr option is also possible)

*Put-in:* <https://goo.gl/maps/XM9a7gaRgAZLpf5t5>

*Alternate intermediate access:* <https://goo.gl/maps/msP3fEJRAvYCu7e38>

*Take-out:* <https://goo.gl/maps/uZhoiPLfbRRsgeG66>

*\*Description:* The lower Black river is shallow and narrow, with a gravel bottom and abundant aquatic vegetation, slow with heavily wooded banks. The Chehalis below the mouth of the Black is a pleasant paddle on a moderate-sized river as it flows through a broad, undeveloped agricultural valley.

### ***Upper Black river***

*Drive time from Camp Bishop:* about 30 min

*Difficulty:* class 1 with vegetation masses, fallen trees and sweepers listed as primary hazards

*Approximate paddling time:* 5 to 6 hrs

*Put-in:*

<https://goo.gl/maps/W4YRRATUFCytEiNd7>

*Take-out:*

<https://goo.gl/maps/XM9a7gaRgAZLpf5t5>



Scott Christianson ties up boats on Rattlesnake Lake, January 2022. Brrrr!

*\*Description:* A unique Southern river placed in the Pacific Northwest, suggesting The Hobbit or Willow in its scenic beauty.

### ***Satsop river***

*Drive time from Camp Bishop:* about 30 min

*Difficulty:* class 2- with timber debris and sweepers listed as primary hazards

*Approximate paddling time:* 3 to 4 hrs

*Put-in:* <https://goo.gl/maps/piNcuS662Gegegy27>

*Take-out:* <https://goo.gl/maps/8AYjjV1ARR5jJ4HSA>

*\*Description:* Small intimate clearwater stream that flows out of the southern Olympics through rain-forest vegetation. The pool-and-drop character of the river offers challenges to the paddler, and the scenery provides an exciting and varied backdrop.

### ***Wynoochee river***

*Drive time from Camp Bishop:* about 45 min

*Difficulty:* class 2 with timber trash, sweepers, and a diversion structure listed as primary hazards

*Approximate paddling time:* 4 to 5 hrs

*Put-in:* <https://goo.gl/maps/Yu8T7gpsE3xeVXdK8>

*Take-out:* <https://goo.gl/maps/vk4gPrCguEhtcQSu9>

*\*Description:* A pool-and-riffle river with plenty of gravel bars and fine views of low, timbered hills. Throughout this segment the river flows past farmlands; an occasional barn or farmhouse is visible from the river, but the agricultural scene rarely intrudes.



*A cold day in January on Rattlesnake Lake: Mary Norton in Pygmy Taiga (L) and Chip Asbury in Cheemaun "Bean" (R)*

### ***Little Hoquiam***

*Drive time from Camp Bishop:* about 1 hr

*Difficulty:* tidal flatwater with contrary tides listed as primary hazard

*Approximate paddling time:* 2 to 3 hrs

*Put-in/take-out:* <https://goo.gl/maps/Z4MjUqUfunR6p4nG6>

*\*Description:* This small river's atmosphere suggests "wild" and its waters are full of life. Its upstream reach offers among the most peaceful experiences paddlers could seek. Even at tidal flux, it is so still and quiet that you can see insects alight on its surface and watch fish take them.

### ***Lower Humptulips***

*Drive time from Camp Bishop:* about 1 hr and 10 min (*perhaps too far away?*)

*Difficulty:* tidal flatwater

*Approximate paddling time:* variable

*Put-in/take-out:* <https://goo.gl/maps/AFLNetf7YwY9G79b6>

*Description:* This segment is not described in my guidebook, but I found youtube videos showing easy paddling near the Morley boat launch put-in. On Thu 5 May, there is a near-zero low tide at the river entrance at 11 am, rising to a 7-ft high around 6 pm, then falling by only 1 ft until sunset around 9 pm. So it'd probably be easy to paddle up-river in the afternoon, possibly slower on the way down, depending on flow rates.

### ***Upper Humptulips***

*Drive time from Camp Bishop:* about 1 hr and 30 min (*perhaps too far away?*)

*Difficulty:* class 2- with logjams and sweepers listed as primary hazards

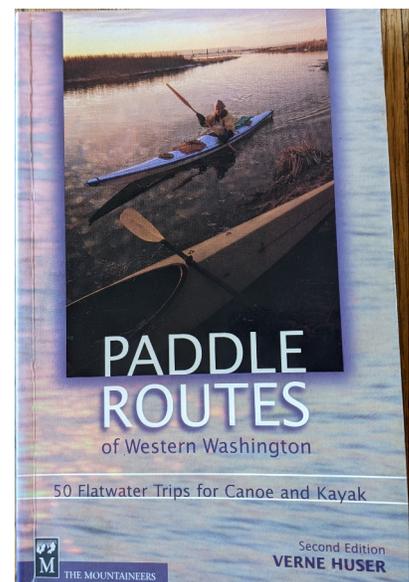
*Approximate paddling time:* 1 to 2 hrs

*Put-in:* <https://goo.gl/maps/NeFcrohDMztbVBc69>

*Take-out:* <https://goo.gl/maps/zV6JJgKSRf7robhJ9>

*\*Description:* This short, serpentine segment flows past steep bluffs, alternating between pools and shallows with occasional modest drops. The river is charming for its name as well as its lush vegetation and pristine character.

[\*all descriptions adapted from Paddle Routes of Western Washington, by Verne Huser]



## New NW Chapter Project!

We have a new NW Chapter canoe project to discuss at the Spring Meet, thanks to several fast-acting chapter members!

Camp Fire Camp Kirby, on Washington's Padilla Bay, is moving to all-plastic canoes. A friend-of-a-friend made the connection for Michael Davidson to check out their 1963 Old Town 25' War Canoe which was being surplused, and had just been moved to outdoor storage. Michael and Ginger Fortier surveyed the canoe at the camp: no canvas, no rot seen, with a small planking hole and one rib crack (see photos) but it otherwise appeared in good shape, and for free. It needed to be moved as soon as possible to better storage.



Ian from Camp Kirby shows Ginger Fortier the Canoe.

Michael and Ginger consulted with chapter members, decided to accept the canoe on behalf of the group, and made plans to move the canoe. Vern and Janet Heikkila volunteered their long canoe trailer, and arranged to meet to transfer the trailer for the trip to the camp, on Samish Island, near Bellingham. The canoe is presently at Michael and Ginger's, however, other projects presently occupy their shop. The canoe is on sawhorses and securely tarped, but outdoors.

The group will need to discuss key questions: does anyone have indoor shop room for this canoe? How and who might work on the repairs? Could it be a group project? Where will the eventual home for the canoe be? Vern has mentioned that the canoe house at Camp Bishop could accommodate another war canoe, so that is a possibility. Another option might be Camp Sweyolaken, already known for the care of their wood/canvas canoes. Or another camp? To be continued!



Planking damage



Meeting for trailer transfer: Ginger Fortier, Vern and Janet Heikkila



In the ferry line, heading to Michael and Ginger's place in Pt Townsend

SHIPPED	April 19, 1963	Canoe No.	172824
		Our Order No.	5864
TO	Camp Fire Girls	Your Order No.	
	Samish Council		
	Camp Kirby		
	Bow, Washington		
Via			
Length	25	Half Built	FEB 12 1963
Grade	Wood	Completed	FEB 19 1963
Model	Canoe	Hull Varnished	FEB 13 1963
Planking		Canvassed	FEB 18 1963
Gunwales		Filled	FEB 19 1963
Decks		Stored	
Thwarts		2nd Filled	
Seats		Stored	
Half Ribs		Railed	MAY 18 1962
Finish Rails		Fitted	
Keel	MAY 10 1962	Colored	
O. S. Stems	MAY 10 1962	1st Varnished	
Floor Rack		2nd Varnished	
Sponsons		Stored	
Color	Red		

New to Camp Kirby, 1963

## Remembering Friends: Christy Luke

Christine Louise Luke ('Christy' to everyone who knew and loved her) was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 5, 1950 to Marjorie (Lloyd) and Ellis Luke. She grew up in Barrington, Illinois with her older brother Greg and younger brother Marshall.

Christy traveled to England to earn her undergraduate degree in English at Durham University in 1972. She returned to America and gained her credentials in radio. Christy eventually moved to British Columbia in the late-1970s and earned her teaching degree from Simon Fraser University.

Christy first lived in Grand Forks, BC in the late-1970s and early-1980s. She moved to Victoria, BC to pursue a career in radio. While there she was instrumental in making Victoria a twin city with Khabarovsk in eastern Russia. Christy was then hired by CBC and worked as a radio host in Prince Rupert, Kelowna (Daybreak South) and Charlottetown. While in PEI, she met Mike Elliott. Christy had always planned to move back to Grand Forks. In fact, she already owned a house there. Mike and Christy moved to Grand Forks in 1994 and soon became active members of the community.

The influence of Christy Luke can be seen all around the Kettle Valley. She helped establish the Grand Forks Community Trails Society which developed an extensive system of walking and hiking trails. She coordinated efforts to deck the old railway bridges from Grand Forks to Christina Lake (with help from the Canadian and British Armed Forces) as part of the Trans-Canada Trail. Christy was on the Art Gallery Board when they moved from their original location under the library to their present location in Gallery 2. She also contributed to the local arts scene as a long-time member of Rivers' Edge Theatre Company. She helped establish the Grand Forks Agricultural Society which created the Food Co-Op, the Community Gardens and the Learning Garden. Christy taught English at Selkirk College and developed literacy tutor programs as part of Literacy BC in the Kootenay/Boundary Region. It is fair to say Grand Forks and many of its citizens would not be the same without her energy, her determination and her absolute belief in everyone she met.

Christy died, age 71, at Kelowna General Hospital on December 18, 2021 after a long and courageous battle with Lupus (and related complications). She will be greatly missed.



## Remembering Friends: Freda Mellenthin

Freda passed away October 10, 2021 at the Sechelt Hospital at age 85. She was born to Dr. Harald and Dorothea Becker in Riga, Latvia in 1936 as the third child of five: Renate, Harald, Freda, Heinz and Hildegard. During the second world war, her family was displaced, and spent the war years in Poland. In 1945 they fled under drastic conditions to Germany, where Freda went to school. In 1956 she graduated from a German secondary school and then completed a two-year technical agricultural sciences program.

Freda was always an adventure-driven and sport-minded person, enjoying gymnastics, hiking, climbing, biking, skiing and swimming. In her teens she learned to love nature and wilderness camping while hiking through many European countries with members of a post-war youth organization.

In 1958 she immigrated to Canada and married Harro Starck a year later. Freda and Harro had four children: Hella, Olaf, Constantin and Elke. At the age of 42, when the kids had become more independent, she began attending Simon Fraser University where she received a Bachelor of Arts with honours in French, thereafter completing a teaching certificate.

In 1991, she became a widow when her husband, Harro, died suddenly. In 1998, Freda met Ted Mellenthin, an avid canoeist and outdoorsman. They got married on the last day of 1999 and enjoyed 20 years together.

Freda and Ted went on over 16 different long distance canoe excursions together as well as countless camping expeditions and cruises. Freda kept a daily journal during the canoe trips from which she later wrote a book entitled "Love in Northern Rapids". Impressively, she started whitewater canoeing at 64 years old. She translated her book into German in 2020.

Freda will be missed by her family, many friends, and the many she inspired.



## **Wooden Canoe Heritage Association**

### **42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly, July 12-17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The **Wooden Canoe Heritage Association** was founded in 1979 as a non-profit membership organization devoted to preserving, studying, building, restoring, and using wooden canoes, and to disseminating information about canoeing heritage throughout the world.

#### **Seeking Speakers & Resource People for;**

Feature Presentations, Information Sessions/Displays, Instructional Workshops, Demonstrations, Films, Musical Performance.

Topics include (but not limited to);

Paddle-Carving, Repair

Canoe; Building, Repair, Refinishing, Restoration

Paddling Heritage and History, Trip/Expedition Reports

Canoe Tripping, Cooking & Camp Craft

Paddling Instruction/Skills/Safety, including Canoe Sailing

Ecology, Flora and Fauna

Children's Program; ages 5-12 (some requiring parental participation)

**Venue: Paul Smith's College of the Adirondacks, Paul Smith's, NY**

<https://www.paulsmiths.edu/>

**More info, contact;**

**Rob Stevens** ([robstevens7777@gmail.com](mailto:robstevens7777@gmail.com))

**Program Coordinator, Annual Assembly, WCHA**

**Note!** This will be the last Assembly at Paul Smith's College, a wonderful location for the event, with extensive lake frontage, dorms, food service and exhibit space. The surrounding area is Adirondack State Park, with many other lakes and interesting places to visit. The college will focus on summer school programming in the future, and will no longer host large rental events such as ours.

If you can go, this beautiful area, the college, and the Assembly are well worth the trip!

## Sweyolakan Canoe Restoration Update 4/22

Text and Photos by Eileen Mathews

Since inception of the Sweyolakan Canoe Restoration Program in 2010, the canoe crew has logged thousands of hours restoring Camp's fleet of twenty-four canoes.

To date four small canoes (Echo, Kanxi, Kuktu and Tye) and six war canoes (Kiwanis, Keladi, Wanagi, Phantom, Wacatawani and Wocanda) have been fully restored and returned to the water. Three small canoes are currently undergoing restoration along with two war canoes. The Phantom and the Wacatawani were just recently completed and put into service during the summer of 2020. While the Phantom stayed at camp, the Wacatawani was taken into town to be restored. Campers were thrilled to use these two newly restored canoes.

**The Phantom** arrived at camp in 1959 along with the Kiwanis (restored in 2011). The two war canoes are the last and newest war canoes to arrive at camp. A total of 633 war canoes were produced by Old Town over 48 years from 1913 to 1960.

The Phantom was in remarkably good condition and unlike other war canoes at Sweyolakan, had not been fiberglassed, making restoration much easier. At some point the outwales had been replaced with cedar. The profile was quite large (2 inches tall). For the most part the outwales were in good shape except for the ends which we replaced, matching the profile and using Cyprus to color match and a much better option than cedar.



## Sweyolakan Canoe Restoration Update 4/22

The original color of the Phantom was black which we maintained. However, wanting the Phantom to stand out a bit when on the water, we added a very special paint job. After much research and direction from Seattle Fisheries and Epifanes of North America, the Phantom received a single primer coat, 3 coats of black Epifanes and three coats of Epifanes Clear.

"House of Colors" Ice Pearl, pearlized flakes were added to the Epifanes Clear, giving the Phantom a "sparkle" from sun and water reflections. The paint job accomplished what we wanted and the Phantom truly stands out and shines on the water.

The last two war canoes, were stripped late in 2019. Both the Sweyolakan and the Wocanda, 1924 Old Town war canoes, were the first canoes to arrive at Camp and have carried thousands of campers across the waters of Mica Bay on overnights, canoe lunches, serenades and excursions to "State Park".

The Sweyolakan, below, prior to restoration.



**The Sweyolakan** is currently under restoration. After replacing ends of inner gunwales and stems; building deck supports; adding new ribs and rib tips; fabricating new decks, outwales; a keel, and stern seat; refurbishing the keelson and thwarts; 41 broken ribs were replaced. While removing a considerable amount of planking to replace ribs we found the planking to be quite brittle. The decision was made to replace all of the planking!

The keelson proved to be an issue as it was extremely difficult to remove. The wood was in good shape so we wanted to reuse it (at 21 feet long). After much trial and error and a lot of elbow grease, we finally freed it from the ribs. We never did quite figure out what the rubbery, sticky substance was (seen in the picture below). But the keelson cleaned up quite nicely and we were able to reuse it.

## Sweyolakan Canoe Restoration Update 4/22



Forty-one ribs were replaced.

For bending ribs, we decided to utilize a new method (to us, at least) Rather than steaming ribs, we place them in a piece of black pipe and filled it with boiling water. The ribs were allowed to soak for about twenty minutes at which point they were removed and immediately bent over the old rib space and clamped to batons that were placed inside the canoe, on the curves, to maintain the proper shape and to hold the new rib in place. The batons spanned the curve from two existing ribs. The fit was quite good thus our new method worked well.



First five canoes restored include two wars; Kiwanis and Keladi and three smalls; Kanxi Tyee and Echo.

## Sweyolakan Canoe Restoration Update 4/22



The bow after stripping (left).

The new bow supports. (right)



A unique paint job is planned for the Sweyolakan. As one of the first canoes delivered to camp and being camp's namesake, which means sighing of the pines, the following steps will be taken:

Above the water line, after primer, we will add three coats of Epifanes cream. Below the waterline we will apply three coats of dark green. Trees from the water-line to the gunwales in varying heights will be painted from bow to stern. Three coats of Epifanes Clear over the top will complete the painting.

Gunwales and the keel will be secured, new stem bands attached and a caned seat of multi-green Paracord bolted in place. The Sweyolakan will be re-launched during the 100th Birthday Celebration for Camp Sweyolakan this July. Below is the final result:



## Sweyolakan Canoe Restoration Update 4/22

**The Wocanda** is a 1922 Old Town War Canoe. At some point (best guess is in the mid 80's) it was "repainted" along with another war and the two were mixed up. When we stripped the canoes and checked the serial numbers, we realized a previous mistake had been made in identification of the canoes: the Wocanda and the Keladi - hence the name on the canoe in the picture below. It is actually the Wocanda.



The Wocanda was in quite a state of disrepair. It had been fibreglassed so had to be soaked in the lake prior to stripping. As with all of the Sweyolakan canoes, the inner stems, especially in the stern, needed to be replaced. Several ribs and rib tips were replaced along with planking which was so brittle that the decision was made to completely replace it as we had done with the Sweyolakan. New outer gunwales and decks (plywood had been attached over the original that was rotted) were also fabricated to replace the original. The thwarts and stern seat were refinished and the seat re-woven with paracord.



The above picture shows plywood over the deck and condition of the gunwales.

New ribs are pictured at the right.



## Sweyolakan Canoe Restoration Update 4/22

The Wocanda was re-planked, clinched and linseed oil was applied. The interior, decks, thwarts and gunwales were varnished with base coats. The canoe was then canvassed and filler was applied.

Four more coats of varnish were applied to the wood components. Finally the color coats were applied to the hull. Epifanes Dark Red #23 was used to highlight this beauty. The final step was to apply, in vinyl, the Camp Fire Prayer under the gunwales.



### What's Next?

At this point, seven war canoes dating from 1922 through 1959 have been restored. Meanwhile six small canoes have also been restored: two Old Town Otca, one Old Town 50#, one H.W Model, and two Thompsons. We are finally nearing the end of "Sweyolakan Canoe Restoration", chapter one as only six small canoes remain to be restored!



Canoes on the beach prior to restoration

## President's Message

Northwest chapter canoe friends, While our group is united by a defining, and perhaps unusual bond, in almost every other way, we are a normal cross section of society at large. The things that bind us together are a deep appreciation for the art and beauty of a watercraft, and the tools and skills that are used to create and maintain it. Our average age is a larger number than I care to admit. And that makes us a more vulnerable group than many when it comes to some of life's risks, including microbiological forms of life that would do us harm. The disease called COVID-19 which is one possible manifestation of a tiny virus known as SARS-COV-2, is just such a risk.



*Sue Parker and Craig Dupler enjoy a sunny day.*

The risk/response logic we use for most decisions regarding what constitute both a reasonable safety precaution and responsible adult behavior has failed us in this particular instance. This is probably because the needed reasonable response was dependent upon each of us making a rational choice based on the math of large numbers and probability, which is not something that humans are very good at, even highly educated humans with advanced degrees. The casino business and state lotteries depend on this, and they operate on comparatively slim margins compared to what we are dealing with when it comes to COVID.

This may be a bit coarse, but let me provide some numbers for comparison. The odds against drawing to an inside straight in simple draw (not stud) poker are 4:52, or 1:13. Those are considered to be such terrible odds, that one should never do it. In virtually every state and province it is a ticket-able offense to drive without buckling your seatbelt. When cleaning up after a fatal accident, the odds of the first responders having to release a seatbelt in order to remove someone who has died are only 1.8:1. Seatbelts save a lot of lives, but they actually only improve any one individual's chances of survival buy a factor of 1.8. What makes that a big deal is that there are thousands of fatal accidents each year, so the impact on society at large is actually quite significant. Well, the odds on COVID put all of these examples to shame. They are extreme in comparison.

For the months of October and November last year, when looking only at people who were reported by their local medical examiners as having died of COVID, for every one who had been fully vaxed and boosted, over 720 were unvaxed. Of those, just over 89% were over the age of 54. While only a relatively small percentage of folks who get COVID die from it, over 89% who do are just like us. And, those odds are 720:1, which makes that inside straight look like a sure thing by comparison, and seatbelts like some foolish waste of money that we have in our cars. And yet, a full 25% of the population has chosen to ignore our best advice and not get vaxed. Also, there is no reason to believe that the vax rate percentage in our club is not perfectly in alignment with that. But unlike seatbelts, there was no way to mandate it. And unlike the very dramatic decline and death of FDR, the public fear that drove mass vaccination against Small Pox in the 1950s, our generation does not have the benefit of such a dramatic example driving our behavior over the past few years. So we are in the mess we are in.

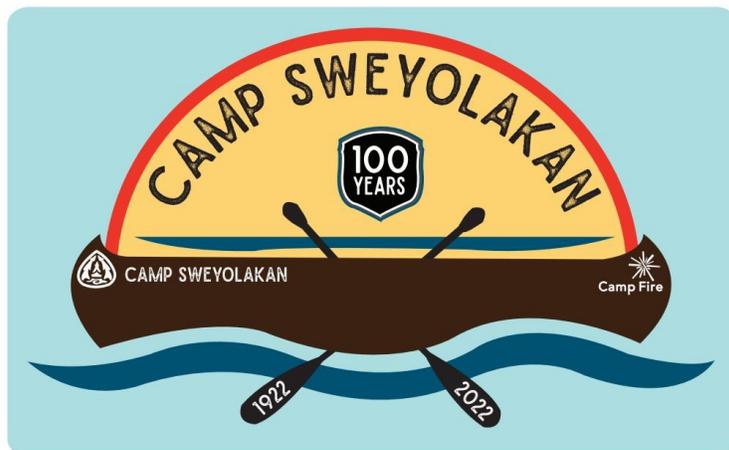
The guidelines from public policy makers have been inconsistent and difficult. The people who work on these things in such places as the CDC did not, and still do not know how best to deal with a public that incapable of recognizing and properly evaluating this sort of risk/response situation. They quite literally have had an impossible job, so we should not be too harsh when observing that they have failed at it. Maybe if we had a president die of COVID things would have been different but that was not the case, and we are where we are. So the public policy decision has finally come to where all mandates as a matter of policy have been lifted, while at the same time strongly advising people to use their own best judgment and act accordingly. And this is from state governments that depend on lottery ticket sales where the odds against winning are a little worse than 27:1, which is more than twice as bad as drawing to that inside straight. The odds are awful, but what's a governor to do? They throw up their hands and try to encourage as many people to do the right thing as they can, and take the hit. It's one of the prices we pay for living in a society that puts such a high premium on personal liberty and responsibility.

**So my advice on meet attendance for now is to use your own best judgment, but please don't draw to an inside straight, and please do buckle-up when riding in a car.**

**Cd**

## Camp Sweyolaken celebrates 100 years!

This summer, Camp Fire Camp Sweyolaken will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a gala weekend celebration July 2 and 3, 2022. The Inland Empire Camp Fire Council has planned a variety of events throughout the days, including a festive overnight for camp staff alumni. Camp Sweyolaken is noteworthy for its exclusive use of wood/canvas canoes, and the care given these canoes. The canoe project volunteers have worked very hard to have boats restored, ready, and on display for this event. We look forward to event photos with the canoes arrayed like jewels along the white sands of Lake Couer d' Alene, receiving pats and hugs from former campers. Pre-registration at <https://campfireinc.org/birthday///> is required for the birthday celebration, and will include boat transportation to camp and lunch. Happy Birthday, Camp Sweyolaken! Fair winds and smooth waters to Sweyolaken (the canoe) at its celebratory re-launch! Good work, canoe project volunteers!



Vern Heikkila, Spring Meet 2019



Claude DeLisle, Spring Meet 2019



Sue Cross, Spring Meet 2019 *Coglan photos*

### Northwest.wcha.org

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