

Wooden Canoe  
Heritage Association  

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NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Northwest Chapter WCHA Fall Newsletter

October 2018



Beautiful Manning, whatever the weather! Scattered rain and grim weather forecasts didn't discourage Northwest Chapter members as they gathered at British Columbia's Manning Park for this year's Fall Meet, September 13-16. With woolies, toques, rain gear and tarps, (as well as buttoned-down tents, trailers and motor homes!) the group was well-prepared for bad weather, and especially appreciative of the sunny times!

Over 30 people attended this Meet, despite the weather, with many arriving to set up camp and enjoy an extra day of canoeing on Thursday. Firewood brought by Canadian members kept the enclosed shelter building a place to warm up and gather all weekend, and many people did their cooking under the adjacent covered area. The new flush toilets, dish washing sink and warm shelter made deluxe accommodations for cold weather camping.

President Craig Dupler's schedule allowed flexible time for boating and hiking, as well as gathering times for presentations. For an interesting boating activity, he introduced canoe orienteering, explaining the use of the compass rose as used on sailing and other vessels. Each of the 32 points on the compass rose indicates 11.25 degrees, and magnetic compass use must be corrected for local deviation. Craig provided compasses, maps with a marked course, and bearings to be calculated, with the clue that local deviation could be deduced by a sun sighting and compass bearing at noon (or 1:04 pm that day.) Unfortunately, weather conditions precluded sun sightings this weekend, but happily for the enthusiastic canoeists, the orienteering course is ready to utilize at another Meet.

## Ray Arcand Paddle Talk

The first program for this Meet was a synthesis of a lifetime's thoughtful study of canoe paddles by Ray Arcand. Ray's family came to Canada in 1692, and originally worked in the fur trade. Ray grew up on the family dairy farm in the Fraser River valley, and carved his first canoe paddle at age 11, to be able to utilize a cedar dugout canoe on a nearby slough. A life-long interest in canoeing followed, including various aspects of canoe paddling.



*Ray Arcand speaks to an attentive crowd Marlene Stein photo*



*Joe McElroy admires Arcand paddle Mike Livdahl photo*

Ray demonstrated a wide variety of paddles for use in canoes and kayaks. Innovations and new materials have been amazing since WW II. Even more spectacular is that recently a kayak paddle which was carbon dated to be 4000 years old, was found in a burial cave on an Aleutian Island. Ray has built a replica of this paddle. The shaft is a modified triangular shape and indexes perfectly in the hands. One side of the blade is slightly rounded while the other face has a gentle "V", giving the paddle a power and cruising face. Wow! This 4000 year old paddle was made with primitive tools!!

Ray feels his innovations in marathon and white water paddles where he used epoxy glue in bent wood laminations, fire-hose presses, Kevlar and foam cores, pale in comparison to what was done 4000 years ago.

After a lifetime of making custom, recreational, racing and historical paddles, Ray's shafts and top handle shapes have also been influenced by ergonomics, power and control. In researching for a book on the origins of paddles, what better place than the Pacific Northwest Coasts of Canada and the US? There are few places in the world where canoes

are still used twelve months of the year. A whole culture is based around canoes and paddles . . .for thousands of years!

In the process of making and recreating historical paddles, Ray is amazed at what he has learned from his research. From a great number of paddles to choose from, he favors ones whose origins are from “the Salish Sea” to paddle his skin canoe, which is a replica of a Yukon River Canoe. The Salish Sea is the intricate network of coastal waterways that includes the southwestern portion of the Canadian province of British Columbia and the northwestern portion of the US state of Washington. Its major bodies of water are the Strait of Georgia, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Puget Sound.

Since moving to Pender Island, Ray’s paddles are made from old growth red and yellow cedar that is found as driftwood on the beaches. Thank you, Ray, for sharing some of your amazing knowledge with us!

## Meet the Canoes!



*The group discusses each boat in the varied line up Marlene Stein photo*

The chapter convened during a sunny period to discuss the varied array of 20-plus boats on the shore of Lightning Lake. Here for an (almost) first launch was Kurt Schmidt’s new light-weight baidarka, built during a 10-day class with Corey Freedman. With a frame of red and yellow cedar connected by 300

waxed nylon lash points, the boat was custom-designed for Kurt, after he tried a number of other baidarkas to determine specific characteristics he wanted. The attractive boat looked like a lot of fun!

Ray Arcand showed his open skin-on-frame boat, also covered with ballistic nylon; this craft is a copy of native canoes of the Yukon River, used twice a year for caribou hunting. The caribou are driven into the water, and killed by hunters in the open canoes. Ray's boat has a flexible cedar-slat mat for floor boards, whose slats slide enough to allow the removable seat to lock into place. Clever wooden foot braces adjust and lock by foot pressure. Steve and Marlene Stein also brought skin-on-frame canoes, including their Mike Wootton-built St Francis canoe, from plans based on drawings in the Tappen Adney book. Their second boat, a 13' x 26" single canoe of Steve's own design, utilized a scant few red cedar ribs and stringers, and delicate laminated stems, with a Dacron heat-shrink fabric covering. At 18 pounds, it was easily the lightest boat of the meet.



*Craig Dupler's Atkinson Traveler* Mike Livdahl photo

Another first launch occasion (or the first launch in over 12 years!) celebrated Bill and Ursula Paine's Peterborough Minarette, after a complete restoration. Bill took the boat to a full tank immersion stripper to remove old varnish, and worked to remove and eliminate corrosion around old tack sites. With all new decks, glowing new sapele trim and bright new blue paint, the canoe looked happy to return to the water!

Other wooden boats were greeted as old friends: the Ellsworth's 1921 book-matched zebra-striped sleek Willits; Geoff Harvey's

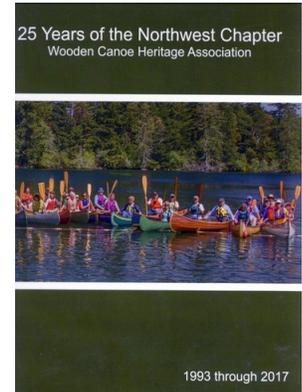


*The Stein's skin-on-frame St. Francis* Livdahl photo

1950's Chestnut Cruiser; the Moore's beautifully inlaid strip-built Morley; Mike Livdahl's sturdy ballistic nylon-covered mid-1960's OTCA, the McElroy's early 1940's Peterborough. Dick and Sue Cross brought the original family canoe, an Old Town HW in red, with hallmark pinstripe, once sold at a garage sale, and eventually returned home via search by a Eugene, Oregon television station! Craig Dupler and Sue Parker brought their Thurlow inspired Atkinson Traveler, built by Craig using recycled old growth cedar planking. Colleen Hovey and Claude Delisle showed their blue restored Huron from Quebec, with characteristic gapped planking, capped gunwales and babiche seats. Boudi and Joyce Van Oldenborgh's 17' ocean-going canoe featured decks smoothed as lift handles, a floor rack, and non-slick oil finished interior.

## History Book has Arrived!

Colleen Hovey brought the first box of the chapter's history book to the meet, commemorating the first 25 years of the Northwest Chapter. The photo and history book includes early pictures collected and scrap-booked by Ruth Hoth, and later, many Mike Livdahl photos, plus others. Notes from each meet are included. You, your boat and your friends (and maybe even your dog!) are probably in this book! Pre-ordered books were distributed, and enjoyed. Books can be ordered in hard cover or paper-back at **northwestchapter.picaboo.com** Thank you to the book committee, Joan, Mary and Colleen!



## Ray Arcand Crooked Knife Presentation



*Ray displayed an array of tools he had made Marlene Stein photo*

For his second presentation to the group, Ray Arcand discussed crooked knives and other carving tools, and how he makes them. A “crooked knife” is essentially a one-handed draw knife. The blade is not

sharpened on the back; the back surface is actually hollow-ground. However, a double bladed type of crooked knife is universally used by the West Coast Native People for almost all of their carvings.

Ray showed a number of knives, tools and hatchets he has made, often from recycled materials, and with a variety of interesting and decorative handles. He enjoys finding natural crooks and other materials that comfortably fit his hand to use for handles, including African wart-hog teeth, and pronghorn antelope horn. The blades are set in with JB Weld epoxy, Loctite, or PL Sub-floor adhesive, and lashed with tarred seine twine. For some uses, he sets blades with peened brass rivets. The blades are sharpened with the steel of a carving set.



*Wood carving tools built by Ray Arcand Livdahl photo*

When recycling steel, there are procedures that should be understood if you plan to make a blade that is going to be bent. First, prior to shaping any blades you must anneal the steel before shaping or

bending. The easiest way is to place the steel on top of a wood fire (like in a wood stove) in the evening, and retrieve it from the ashes the following morning. This is especially important with any recycled sawmill blades, which can be heavily allowed. Cooling from a red heat to cold must be very slow.



*Ray demonstrates crooked knife use Livdahl photo*

Next, from the “annealed” state, the blade blank is easily shaped, i.e. grinding, filing, polishing, bending and drilling. Then, before fastening the blade to the handle, you must harden the steel again. Small blades are easily heated to a “red heat” with a small propane torch. “Red heat” is rather subjective; a more accurate measurement is to heat the blade you are making and touch it with a small

magnet. When the magnet is NOT drawn to the steel, take note of the shade of red. This is the “critical temperature”. This is best done in the shade. This is why blacksmith shops always seem dark. When you have determined the critical temperature color, you will quickly quench your blade in oil. Ray uses chain saw lubricating oil; it rarely bursts into flame. You have now hardened your crooked knife blade. It may be too hard if you used a file for a blade: files are very high carbon steel and very brittle. Ray does not recommend files.

Tempering steel is the last process, if you have used high carbon steel. After quenching, the steel could be too hard. A sharpened edge may chip or crumble. The steel can be softened slightly by heating the spine of the blade with a small torch using a small flame (red.) When the cutting edge color becomes a straw color, quench it again. Now you have hardened and tempered your blade. You are now ready to install your blade to a natural wood “crook”, crooked antler, pronghorn antelope horn, wart hog tusk, or anything which fits the hand comfortably. Traditionally, handles were fastened to blades with sinew, nettle cordage, seine twine and later with stove pope wire, and later still, with copper wire wraps or rivets. Today we use rivets and epoxies, or even construction adhesives.

You can avoid all of the above if you want a straight blade for detailing or whittling wood by shaping and beveling the blade on a grinder. BUT the metal must be dipped in water to keep the metal cold. If you see colors along the cutting edge, you have destroyed the tempering of the steel.

Seeing the display of tools, carved spoons, bowls and crooks Ray brought to show, we had a tantalizing glimpse of all the interesting things that go on in Ray’s shop. We hope he will share more of his thoughts at future meets! Thank you, Ray!



*Bob and Mikel Moore enjoy his Morley canoe Livdahl photo*

## Chapter Meeting

President Craig Dupler convened a meeting of the Northwest chapter in the warm shelter, very cozy with everyone inside! Treasurer Joan Ellsworth gave a report: the present bank balance is \$6,205.87. We owe WCHA dues money collected for them at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Show, and will have this meet's auction and raffle canoe proceeds coming in.



*Colleen Hovey travels with Charlie Livdahl photo*

For the Port Townsend show, Craig purchased a “Square” device and tablet to run it to enable us to process credit cards at events as well as cash and checks. The group voted to reimburse Craig for these purchases. The Dick Cross-design canoe stands, built by Bill Paine, were used at the boat show, and the chapter will reimburse Bill for his materials costs. Thank you, Bill! The chapter will keep these stands to use at shows and events.

The possibility of combining the Port Townsend boat show and our fall meet was discussed and rejected: we love our quiet, remote location to get together to boat and camp, and don't want to trade it for crowds, work, traffic, and salt water. We will keep the same two dates on the calendar, even though the two events are adjacent weekends. We need more people to participate if we continue to go to boat shows. There is also the possibility of having a team in Edensaw's boat-building contest—but that would involve even more people.

We will come back to Manning next year in the fall; Boudi will reserve the site. Other possible sites will be investigated, including Cultus Lake, for the following year.



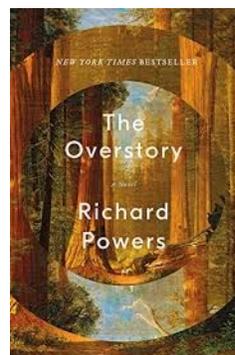
*Steve Ellsworth packs out Livdahl photo*

Craig discussed the international WCHA. There are three open board positions if people are interested. He feels the WCHA could do more to help the chapters, such as updating membership lists, and utilizing the non-profit status to facilitate donations at the chapter level. Craig discussed a report given by Michael Grace regarding paddle sports: any growth nationally is seen in the northwest and Texas, but this is primarily in kayaks and SUPs. The WCHA is aging out, with a slightly declining membership, while costs are increasing. The WCHA would appreciate help from the chapters to increase interest and membership.

The Chapter mailing list was discussed. This has generally been closely guarded, and not released to the WCHA; not all NW members are WCHA members. Craig would like the president, at least, to have access to the membership list to send emails to the membership. The group approved to have Martin, as webmaster, share the list with Craig, as president.

## Book Club!

A number of members plan to read the same book, with the idea of discussing it at the Spring Meet in May. The book chosen for this first Book Club read is ***Overstory***, by National Book award-winning author Richard Powers. A story of trees and people, the novel is called an “eco epic”, and is short-listed for the Man Booker prize. Early reports indicate wonderful writing . . .read it this winter, to discuss this spring!



## Auction Report



*Claude DeLisle and Bear enjoy refurbished Huron  
Livdahl photo*

Following the chapter meeting, Claude Delisle led the chapter auction. A wide variety of interesting items—jams, a framed photo of our business card, the ubiquitous rain gear, smoked cheese, books—all donated by members-- filled the auction tables. Auction-topping items were a pair of Chestnut rawhide snowshoes donated by Boudi and purchased by Claude. When the fast-talking auctioneer had cleared the tables, \$1040 was added to the treasury! Thank you to Claude, auction donors, and auction bidders!

## Potluck in the Dark!

Following the auction, the group gathered in the twilight for the traditional potluck dinner. Fortunately, picnic tables adjacent to the shelter were lit, courtesy of Des and Ivy Winterbottom’s nearby motorhome. Following dinner, with a luscious dessert selection, people chatted in the warm shelter, or retired for an early night.

Sunday morning dawned with mist on the lake, and loons in the farther reaches. Early boaters enjoyed beautiful paddling weather, but soon the skies darkened, and just as people began loading canoes, rain started again. Reluctantly, the group said goodbyes to friends, and headed for home. Thank you to all who made the meet another success, and especially to auctioneer Claude Delisle, past president Colleen Hovey, presenter Ray Arcand, and President Craig Dupler, ably assisted by Sue Parker.



*Sue Cross, Bill Paine, Boudi Van Oldenborgh,  
Bob Moore and Dick Cross carry canoe.  
Livdahl photo*

## Boat Show Report:

Craig Dupler, Scott Christianson, Michael Davidson, Ginger Fortier, and Kurt and Laura Schmidt created a very popular booth at the **Port Townsend Wooden Boat show**, at the spar shop owned by friends of Michael. They displayed the new Thompson Hiawatha canoe donated to the chapter by Martin Ferwerda in return for some of the Bielenberg wood donation, plus Michael and Ginger's 1928 gold-leaf decorated Old Town and their project canoe. The Hiawatha had many admirers, including people who returned several times to stroke and hug it! Several people joined the WCHA, and tickets to win the Hiawatha canoe were popular. The booth was busy with people throughout the show. Thank you to all who worked at the booth, to Michael and Ginger for hosting everyone, and to their friends Bruce Tipton at the Spar Shop, and Jana Allen of the Captain's Cottage, for letting us use their yard for a booth!

Two weekends later, Scott Christianson, Craig Dupler, Mary Norton, and Bill and Ursula Paine set up a NW WCHA booth at the **Center for Wooden Boats show** in Seattle, displaying Scott's owner-built E.M. White and the Ferwerda Thompson Hiawatha donated by Martin Ferwerda. Again, the boats were hugged and petted, with the canoes a strong contender for the People's Choice award. A number of people signed up for the NW chapter's mailing list, including another WCHA member. Common questions stimulated ideas to improve the display for future shows, including large explanatory construction photos, canvas samples, and perhaps videos, or a project in action.



*Scott Christianson and Craig Dupler at NW WCHA booth at Center for Wooden Boats Festival, Seattle, WA M. Norton photo*

## Canoes for Sale:

Mid '60's **Old Town 15' Sailing Canoe** # 176653, with all sailing equipment. In beautiful condition, ready to sail, no work needed. Lightly used by original owner, always stored indoors. Presently located in Portland, OR. Asking \$3,000. Ellen Kritzman, 206 567 4837 [ekritzman@centurytel.net](mailto:ekritzman@centurytel.net)



**1977 Old Town 9' Dinghy** in excellent condition. White. Serial number 216043. \$3000 OBO

**1952 Old Town 12' Sportboat** in good condition. Green.

Serial number 157254. Comes with a trailer (no plates). \$2000 combined OBO

**1950s Penn Yann Cartopper** in good condition. Red. \$1800 OBO

**1963 Old Town 9' Dinghy** in good condition. White.

Serial number 172716. \$1800 OBO

Unique **18' Peterborough square stern sailing canoe** (no mast).

Is on an old trailer (unsure of road worthiness). Needs cosmetic help and maybe one or two minor structural repairs. \$1000 OBO

**Bare hull in need of complete restoration.** Free with purchase of another boat or \$250 on it's own.

Contact Jamie Cornelius (boats are in Washington, in collection of her late dad, long-time NW chapter member Terry Cornelius) 530-902-2359 or [corntwin@hotmail.com](mailto:corntwin@hotmail.com)



## Trip Report

10 days in the Inside Passage: Johnstone Strait, the Broughton, and the Bird Wood group of islands, under Mike Monk's leadership (2000), by Ursula Paine

It is the effort of human push and pull, the reading of charts and compass and our surrender to this wild place that creates our "organic" vacation.

In our fifty year old wood canvas canoe, restored by my husband's tools and skillful hands, we enjoy a recreation powered by our arms and a desire to enter a quiet world.

For a few weeks each summer we climb out of our suburban, gadgeted, fossil fuel powered lives and travel in the curve of this ancient form, the canoe.



*Ursula and Bill Paine exploring Ross Lake by canoe.*

The history of the first people recorded in the clam shell midden

and the underwater kelp forest lure us to a quiet essential place within ourselves.

## President's message:

The Northwest Chapter is off and paddling furiously into our second quarter century! We had a great Fall Meet at Manning. We have welcomed new participants. We had fun doing both the Port Townsend and Seattle wooden boat festivals, during which we signed up five new WCHA members who fully paid on the spot thanks to our new Square account. And, we gathered several dozen names and addresses from folks who said they would like to join in the fun. I think that Carl would have been pleased. In looking forward to the Spring Meet, we will once again be back at Camp Bishop and, while it is too early to make a formal announcement we are working to try and get another VERY SPECIAL guest speaker for the meet. But, we don't have to wait until Spring to have more chapter fun. Over the winter some of our canoes may need a little maintenance; there are some restorations that will be making good progress, and at least a couple of new builds going on in the chapter can be advanced at least a little closer to their launch days. We also have opportunities to get out to places where boat-craft and woodworking people gather to share the excitement. Also, for our readers don't forget the book club selection of "[The Overstory](#)" by Richard Powers. Finally, a safe paddling reminder - when paddling on cold water, dressing for the water temperature is always a good idea. cd



*Sue Parker and Craig Dupler enjoy Atkinson Traveler Livdahl photo*

## northwest.wcha.org

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**Wooden Canoe Heritage Association  
Northwest Chapter's**

**Spring Meet!**

**May 9-12, 2019  
Shelton, WA**

**Join us for Beautiful Boats, Canoeing,  
Camping, Guest Speakers!**

**Details at [northwest.wcha.org](http://northwest.wcha.org)**



**See you at Camp Bishop, Shelton, WA,  
May 9-12, 2019!**

