



Wooden Canoe Heritage Association

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

NW Chapter WCHA Spring Newsletter March 2025



Lost Lake at 2015 Meet. J. McElroy photo

Hello, Spring! Mark your calendar now to attend the **Northwest Chapter's Spring Meet, at YMCA Camp Bishop, Shelton, WA., May 8—11, 2025!** Join old and new friends for an interesting program, sunshine on the lake, and of course, beautiful boats! Canoe Meets are great fun for all ages, so plan to bring your family and friends. Learn from expert paddlers and boat builders, and try different boats. Hike, fish and maybe even swim! Remember something really good for the auction! Camp Bishop offers lodge rooms, cabins, tent space and parking for your RV or trailer. Bring your canoe or boat, or come enjoy ours. See you at Lost Lake!

Spring Meet Details:

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: \$15 per adult per night. ***Check-in after 9 am Thursday***

- Covid protocols per Camp Bishop (see website); additional precautions your choice.
- Ample tent area, non-heated sleeping cabins (5 available, \$30/night, reserve by emailing Mike: michael.livdahl@gmail.com), 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:

- 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



Livdahl photo from the Spring Meet 2015

Draft Schedule: Spring Meet 2025

Thursday, May 8

Check in after 9 am. Greet friends, settle in, enjoy the lake.

Possible work project; bring gloves.

Meals on your own. Evening videos in lodge.



Friday, May 9

Dawn patrol! Meals on your own

Round table discussions; Builder's Forum; tour the Lake

Beginning Freestyle Lesson and Practice Time

Evening Programs TBD:



Saturday, May 10

Dawn Patrol; Breakfast and Lunch on your own.

Morning: TBD

1:00 Meet the Canoes

Group Photo: Be there!

2:00: Canoe Tours, possible Poker Paddle

6:00 Potluck Salmon Dinner

Brief Chapter Meeting

Auction: Bring Great Items, and Lots of \$\$\$!



Sunday, May 11

Dawn Patrol

Clean up, Pack Up. Happy Travels and Happy Boating!

**See you at Manning
Park, September
17—20, 2025**



Livdahl photos Spring Meet 2015

Hello Northwest Chapter Members! From Colleen Hovey, WCHA Board

I'm excited to share an update on what your Board of Directors has been working on over the past few months.

Board Transitions

January marked the departure of two long-standing and dedicated board members. Barclay Foord stepped down after serving as a thoughtful and valued voice on the board for many years. Additionally, our president, Michael Grace, completed his term limit after an incredible **nine years of service**, most of which he spent leading as president. Michael's contributions have been invaluable, and while our bylaws prevent a board member from serving more than three consecutive terms, we certainly hope to see him return in the future!

In their place, we're thrilled to welcome **Alex Welych Miller** and **Dan Miller**. Alex brings fresh energy and a younger perspective, which will be a great asset as we continue working to engage the next generation of WCHA members. Dan, a familiar name to many, previously served as editor of the Journal and webmaster. His expertise will be a tremendous resource moving forward.

We're also pleased to introduce our new president, **Nick Dombrowski**. Nick has been a dedicated WCHA member for many years, serving on the board and actively contributing to the WCHA community. With a young family, a wealth of enthusiasm, and a thoughtful, methodical approach, Nick is well-positioned to lead us forward. Keep an eye out for his updates in upcoming Journals!

A special thanks goes out to our very own Mary Norton who was the overseer of our election this year! This is a critical role in the organization, and we really appreciate your help!

Ongoing Projects & Initiatives

- **Website Members-Only Area:** We're in the final stages of launching the new members' section of the website! This project turned out to be more complex than anticipated, but we're excited to unveil it soon. I hope you'll find it well worth the wait!
- **2025 Assembly – Motorized Canoes:** Planning is well underway for this year's Assembly, and we're working hard to make it one of the best yet. The theme, **Motorized Canoes**, promises to be both unique and fascinating. Stay tuned for more details, and mark your calendars—**registration opens April 23, 2025!**
- **Strategic Planning:** Several board members have been actively involved in developing a new strategic plan to guide the WCHA's direction over the coming years. This important work will help shape our goals and priorities. The plan will be presented at our next board meeting, and we expect to share details around Assembly time.

Looking Ahead

We hope you're all enjoying the arrival of spring and getting plenty of time out on the water! While Claude and I are disappointed that we won't be able to join the upcoming spring meet as planned, we'll be thinking of you and looking forward to seeing everyone again soon. As always, if you have comments or suggestions don't hesitate to reach out to me. You can find my contact information on the WCHA website on the Board of Directors page. Thank you for being part of this wonderful community—we appreciate your support and passion for wooden canoes! See you on the water,

Colleen Delisle (Hovey)
WCHA Board Member and Webmaster

4th Annual Willits Gathering!

The 4th Annual **Willits Gathering** will be held August 16, in Gig Harbor. We will meet at the Tacoma Narrows Airport's Antique Aero Museum 9 am to 11 am. Then the group will move to the waterfront in Gig Harbor. There is access to launch canoes there so that participants who would like to paddle can do so.

We believe that location will have great exposure to the public to come see these beautiful canoes. Contact Phil Miller for more information at Seeeds@comcast.net or 253 651 4703



Willits canoe restored by Pete Pride; photo by Pete Pride



Willits sailing canoe with many accessories, at 2nd Annual Willits Gathering; Ellsworth photo

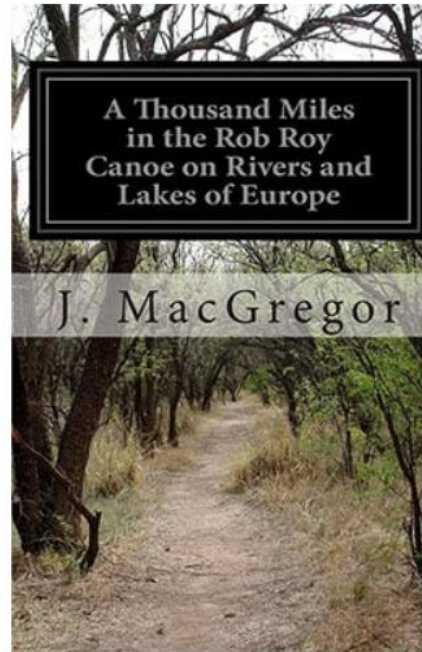
From Paddling Magazine . . .

Best canoeing books to read in 2024

A Thousand Miles in the Rob Roy Canoe on Rivers and Lakes of Europe

By J. MacGregor

This scarce antiquarian book is a facsimile reprint of the original. Due to its age, it may contain imperfections such as marks, notations, marginalia and flawed pages. Because we believe this work is culturally important, we have made it available as part of our commitment for protecting, preserving, and promoting the world's literature in affordable, high quality, modern editions that are true to the original work.



Canoeing in the Wilderness

By Henry David Thoreau

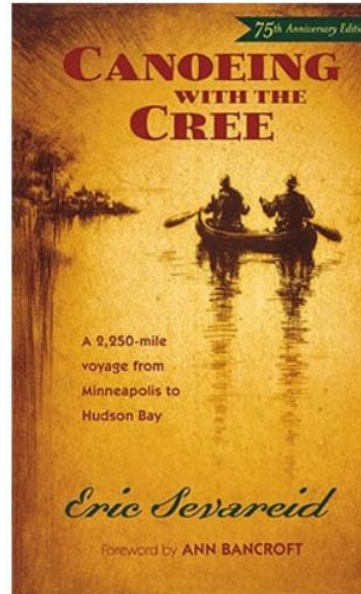
Thoreau paints the woods and waterways of Maine with the same loving hand that described his Walden home, and entertains with the successes and difficulties of the trip and the quirks of his companion and their guide, Joseph Polis, told with a wit and insight that can only be found in Thoreau.



Canoeing With The Cree

By Eric Sevareid

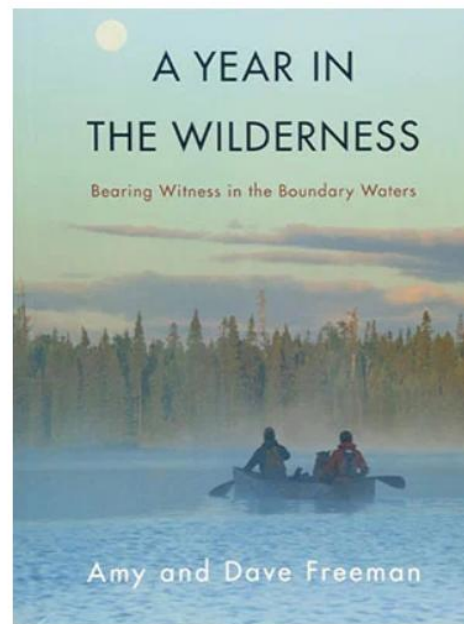
In 1930 two novice paddlers—Eric Sevareid and Walter C. Port—launched a secondhand 18-foot canvas canoe into the Minnesota River at Fort Snelling for an ambitious summer-long journey from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay. Without benefit of radio, motor, or good maps, the teenagers made their way over 2,250 miles of rivers, lakes, and difficult portages. Nearly four months later, after shooting hundreds of sets of rapids and surviving exceedingly bad conditions and even worse advice, the ragged, hungry adventurers arrived in York Factory on Hudson Bay—with winter freeze-up on their heels. First published in 1935, *Canoeing with the Cree* is Sevareid's classic account of this youthful odyssey.



A Year in the Wilderness: Bearing Witness in the Boundary Waters

By Amy Freeman

Since its establishment as a federally protected wilderness in 1964, the Boundary Waters has become one of our nation's most valuable—and most frequently visited—natural treasures. When Amy and Dave Freeman learned of toxic mining proposed within this area's watershed, they decided to take action—by spending a year in the wilderness, and sharing their experience through video, photos, and blogs with an audience of hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens. This book tells the deeper story of their adventure in northern Minnesota: of loons whistling under a moonrise, of ice booming as it forms and cracks, of a moose and her calf swimming across a misty lake.



Hudson Bay Bound: Two Women, One Dog, Two Thousand Miles to the Arctic

By Natalie Warren

The remarkable eighty-five-day journey of the first two women to canoe the 2,000-mile route from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay.

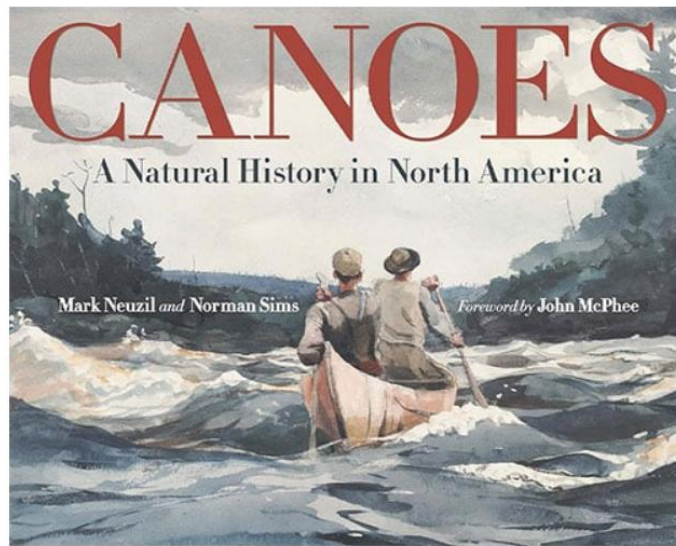
Unrelenting winds, carnivorous polar bears, snake nests, sweltering heat, and constant hunger. Paddling from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay, following the 2,000-mile route made famous by Eric Severeid in his 1935 classic *Canoeing with the Cree* [see above], Natalie Warren and Ann Raiho faced unexpected trials, some harrowing, some simply odd. But for the two friends—the first women to make this expedition—there was one timeless challenge: the occasional pitfalls that test character and friendship. Warren's spellbinding account retraces the women's journey from inspiration to Arctic waters, giving readers an insider view from the practicalities of planning a three-month canoe expedition to the successful accomplishment of the adventure of a lifetime.



Canoes: A Natural History in North America

By Mark Neuzil

Ancient records of canoes are found from the Pacific Northwest to the



coast of Maine, in Minnesota and Mexico, in the Southeast and across the Caribbean. And if a native of those distant times might encounter a canoe of our day—whether birch bark or dugout or a modern marvel made of carbon fiber—its silhouette would be instantly recognizable. This is the story of that singular American artifact, so little changed over time: of canoes, old and new, the people who made them, and the labors and adventures they shared. With features of technology, industry, art, and survival, the canoe carries us deep into the natural and cultural history of North America.

Mark Your Calendar!

- **NW Chapter Spring Meet:** May 8—11, 2025 Camp Bishop, Shelton, WA
- **4th Annual Willits Gathering:** August 16, 2025 Tacoma Narrows Airport Antique Aero Museum, Gig Harbor, WA 9 am
- **NW Chapter Fall Meet:** September 17—20, 2025 Manning Park, BC, Canada



Lost Lake Beach 2019 Tim Coglan photo

See You at Camp Bishop, May 8—11, 2025!

Northwest.wcha.org

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