

# Wooden Canoe Heritage Association

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NORTHWEST CHAPTER

## Northwest Chapter WCHA Winter Newsletter October 2024



*A Lightning Lakes beach salute. (L to R) Chris Cooper and Bob Needham, Jim Ekins, and Jon and Sherry Hockersmith. Livdahl photo*

## Fall Meet at Manning Park, BC September 2024

Beautiful Manning! Does each Meet get better and better? The NW Chapter enjoyed a long weekend at Lightning Lakes September 17–22, 2024, with old and new friends, (mostly) good weather, and many interesting and lovely boats. The first days were spent setting up camp, meeting people, and enjoying the lake, with its ducks, loons and beavers, and many hiking trails. Friday included a paddle to the end of the lakes for lunch, and several intriguing talks. On Saturday, the group did “Meet the Canoes”, another paddle trip, and held a brief NW Chapter meeting. A successful Fall fundraising auction was held Saturday afternoon, followed by the traditional festive potluck dinner. After Sunday’s Dawn Patrol, people packed gear and boats, and said reluctant good-byes to friends until Camp Bishop in May. Thank you, President Mike Livdahl, Nancy Douglas, and Mike Elliott for a wonderful Meet!

## Macroinvertebrates of Lightning Lakes or, What's Going On Underneath Those Boats!



Jim Ekins of University of Idaho Extension, brought his "family canoe", a 1924 OTCA, purchased by his father in 1960. Livdahl photo



Jim set up water viewers and microscopes so that the NW Chapter could view the micro and macro invertebrates that he had captured in the lake. Norton photo



A Damselfly larvae swims with smaller creatures in a water viewer prior to release back into the lake. Livdahl photo

On Friday afternoon, Jim Ekins, an aquatic biologist from the University of Idaho Extension Service, fascinated the group with the life he captured from Lightning Lake. Based in Coeur d'Alene, Jim works to educate the public about water quality, water protection, and invasive species in our waterways. For the Meet, he brought his solar charged research van, outfitted with microscopes and water viewers, testing equipment, various nets and water gear. Setting up a viewing table by the lake, Jim displayed the results of dip-net samples in the lake—the macroinvertebrates—and the samples obtained by towing a plankton net behind his canoe: the smaller microinvertebrates.

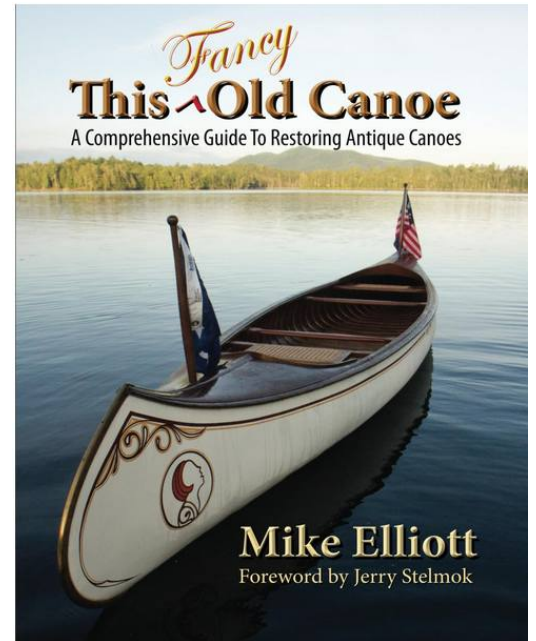
Jim identified a variety of life forms from the lake—caddisfly cases (sometimes called periwinkles) where the caddisfly nymph has covered itself in a protective case of silk and tiny rocks or sticks, damselflies, and mayflies—who can live for 1–2 years as a nymph, but only a few hours as a mouthless, egg laying adult (ephemeroptera). These are sensitive species indicative of fairly clean, good quality lake water. From the plankton net, thousands of tiny orange copepods and sideways-swimming daphnia—greenish from the algae in their GI tracts—could be seen via microscope. Snails, scuds and dragonfly adults were also seen. While dragonfly adults generally live weeks to a few months, the nymph forms can live for years—and in southern climates, the adults may live over the winter on occasion.

Other species may be tolerant of pollution in the water: blackflies, mosquitoes, snails, and midges. Cyanobacteria—blue-green algae-- may produce cyanotoxin, a powerful neurotoxin which can sicken or kill those who drink the water. Idaho is presently concerned about invasive quagga mussels, which reproduce quickly, can block water and irrigation pipes, and damage fish populations. A six-mile section of the Snake River was treated with a drastic lethal-to-all copper solution to kill the invasive mussels in 2023, but they have recently been discovered again near Twin Falls, and a re-treatment is planned. Thank you, Jim, for this very interesting presentation!

## Six Stories of Antique Canoes, Introducing “*This Fancy Old Canoe*”



Mike Elliott enjoys the Chestnut canoe he restored for his son. Hockersmith photo



Mike's new book, companion to *This Old Canoe*, includes many photos and references to Northwest Chapter canoes.

Friday evening, Mike Elliott described experiences at this July's Assembly, where he was a keynote speaker as well as introducing his new book, *This Fancy Old Canoe*, to the wooden canoe community. The book, featuring a cover showing a lovely courting canoe owned by Ken Kelly, builds on the work of his 2016 book *This Old Canoe*. The new book explains and illustrates with photos and clear diagrams many additional specialized techniques needed to restore some older and more complex canoes.

Mike utilized six stories at the Assembly to illustrate the importance of canoes to their people, and the impact their restoration for new adventures can have for their present or new people. In "...Just Take It!" he recalled a phone call from an owner, wanting to give Mike an old canoe that needed work. With a full shop and waiting list, Mike didn't need it. The owner said, "It's the family canoe, we can't keep it anymore, and it's already loaded. I'll be there in 5 minutes." When the canoe arrived, it wasn't a just an old wooden canoe, but a 1940's Peterborough "Floatwell", with outer stems and sponsons. Restored, including veneered decks from African Mahogany from Cristy Luke's brother (who restored Steinway pianos), new green paint and contrasting wood trim, the canoe traveled to the Assembly auction where its sale happily benefited the WCHA. The "old family canoe" found a new life and new appreciative family on Saranac Lake!

Northwest chapter members may be familiar with "I think it's an Old Town". Planning his second book, Mike asked members at a Meet for canoes with certain specific characteristics he wanted to include, including closed gunwales. Joe McElroy had been given a heavy ugly plastic canoe for his daughter; a friend asked if he would trade the plastic canoe for a canoe that needed work, "I think it's an Old Town." The canoe was actually a 1905 Rushton Indian Girl, and Mike restored it for Joe and Mary with new steam-bent decks, new stems, new gunwales, new pocketed inwales and trapezoidal stern seat. The canoe is sleek, fast and beautiful.

Mike put out a similar call for a rib and batten canoe to use in the new book. Yes, Sam Browning had just what he was looking for—except Sam and the canoe were in the UK! Instead, Sam did the restoration work, and documented each step, sending 300+ photos of the process. The canoes are built on a construction form, using copper nails, each bent over and flattened, or “dubbed”. Sam’s outside stem and replacement planks were steamed with a wall paper steamer to keep the wood hot while bending. Broken ribs were sistered rather than replaced. The restored canoe elicits comments wherever it goes.



*Sam Browning paddles his restored rib and batten, or wide plank canoe.*

Sometimes things just work out. A Saskatchewan couple decided to ride their antique restored motorcycles to the coast. Retracing their path after hitting a dead end, they saw a canoe for sale at a junk yard they had passed ten minutes before. They negotiated the sale just as the next person to stop also wanted the canoe. Now with both motorcycles and the canoe in a large rented van, they started for home. But how were they going to get the canoe fixed up and usable? Looking over, they saw the “Kettle River Canoe” sign outside the home they were passing. The canoe was a long cedar strip Peterborough, with ribs, built using a process patented by John Stevenson in 1888, with its serial number on the coaming. Mike consulted with the Canadian Canoe Museum to acquire a template for the thwarts, and cast a replica of the brass mast ring. The goose neck or jaw of the sail rig was made of stem band material bent in three separately jigged operations to create the curved goose neck and its boom attachment. Tom Bradshaw of Wisconsin made new sails for the canoe. Now its name is “Serendipity”!

Canoe restorations often affect an entire family, but one epic project involved “Restoring a Cultural Tradition.” Okanagan Lake is an 85 mile- long lake in British Columbia, with the towns of Penticton, Naramata, Vernon, Peachland and Summerland along its shores. In the past, boat houses and clubs hosted highly popular and competitive regattas in turn, with 30’ canoes racing around a triangular course. In recent years, the sport had languished and the canoes fallen into disrepair. Mike and a large crew of volunteers worked to restore a fleet of the racing canoes. The 30’ racing canoes were flush battened canoes with full floors built on stations in a herring bone style—the Canadian Canoe Museum was consulted regarding the details of the floor system. With school kids, friends and their friends as workers (stripping one canoe’s varnish took a month!) the canoes were rebuilt. In 2014, the first modern races were held with the restored canoes, and a silver cup was awarded to the winning team for the first time in 40 years!

Mike’s final story involved an elderly couple’s most special possessions. Their Peterborough canoe was their wedding present to each other in 1945. And they had a collection of Frederick Varley portrait paintings; the woman herself was the Group of Seven artist’s model as a young woman. In 2002, they and their Kelowna home were threatened by an advancing wildfire. With 5 minutes notice, even evacuation seemed doubtful. Suddenly out of the smoke, their neighbor raced up in his truck. “Save the paintings and the canoe!” he shouted, and with his help, the couple, canoe and paintings all were saved. Their home burned to the ground.

You can imagine the happy tears all around when the Peterborough wedding gift canoe –later fully restored, but with 60 years of special memories-- was reunited with its owner. Mike has found that canoe restoration has its special moments!

Buy the book! Northwest Chapter members will especially enjoy it even if they aren’t restoring complicated canoes.

## Paddling at Lightning Lakes



*The group of eight paddlers enjoyed lunch at the west end of the lake despite a rainy trip. Norton photo*

Scattered rain showers woke many campers Thursday night, and by Friday morning, people emerged in rain gear. Not everyone was interested in a rainy paddle to the end of the lake for lunch, but it never rained hard, and by afternoon, the sun was shining.

On Saturday, the sun was out and the lake was beautiful. Plans included a Regatta, but so many people were interested in being out on the lake in the sun instead that it was decided to share out the Regatta chocolate prizes and just go paddling!



*Steve Ellsworth and Dwight Jacobson, in Dwight's restored Willits; Jon Hockersmith in his Ami. Livdahl photo*



*Bob Needham and Jim Ekins in Jim's OT OTCA. Livdahl photo*



Walking the canoes through the shallow spot between lakes. Livdahl photo



Dylan Johnson and Annie McElroy walk Kazoo through the shallows. Livdahl photo



Chris Cooper and Bob Needham enjoy the Cooper's Bergevin canoe. Hockersmith photo



Dwight Jacobson and Steve Ellsworth check out the large beaver lodge in Dwight's Willits. Norton photo



Scott Christianson appreciates his Ray Arcand-built canoe. Norton photo

## Freeze-drying Food for Camping and More presented by Colleen Delisle

Friday evening, Colleen Delisle excited the group with the idea of freeze-drying food, rather than drying it, for camping. She and Claude spent time building a successful freeze-dried food business, selling three days per week at a farmer's market, but decided to focus on other projects rather than hire staff to expand further.

Drying food involves dehydrating it by cooking at low temperatures until it is drier or chewy; it will keep for 1–3 years. Freeze drying freezes the food quickly, then, under vacuum, the water is removed by sublimation. The water accumulates as ice on the walls of the machines chamber. Freeze drying began in the 1950's, and the technology was advanced by the military and NASA. Freeze dried food rehydrates faster, keeps longer (25 years+) without preservatives, and is lighter to carry. Commercial freeze-dried meals are often high in sodium—preparing your own meals can be much healthier.

For their business, Colleen and Claude used four large freeze dryers, running 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This doubled their normal electric bill. Food varies greatly in the time it takes to freeze-dry, depending on how the water is contained in the food. Pineapple and lemons can take up to 24 hours, but some candies—Skittles were very popular as “exploded”—take less than a few hours. Foods are packed in “barrier bags” of  $\geq 5$  mil plastic, with an O2 absorber packet in the bag.

Colleen and Claude offered delicious samples to the group as examples of the possibilities: apples slices, banana slices, cheese squares. A taco meat mixture was wonderful. And who would have thought of freeze-drying candies? Peach rings, Skittles . . . Colleen recommended against drying gummies unless you really like to clean the dryers. And she cautioned that some foods that are preferred to be chewy, such as beef jerky and fruit leathers, are actually better dried than freeze dried.

Freeze dryers cost around \$5,000 Canadian/\$3,000 US, and need a 20 amp circuit to run. Their dryers held about 15 lbs of food per dryer. Very small “home dryers” are available for much less, but are mainly for drying candies. Harvest Right is a popular brand of dryer, but are now produced in China. A new Canadian company, Peak and Prairie, is now producing dryers with a slightly larger capacity, and that use 15 amp circuits; Colleen recommends these. Production is presently limited, and the company has a waiting list. Thank you, Colleen and Claude!

## A Lake Rescue!

As the group lounged in the sun beside the lake, a great commotion was noticed in the water. A fish trying to fly? As it turned out, a dragon fly was desperately struggling after landing in the water.

Water rescue: “Reach, throw, row, go!” This looked like a reach rescue—wading out, a nearby paddle was extended and the dragonfly climbed on.. The victim was taken to a picnic table, where he rested for about 10 minutes, then flew away, hopefully now flying higher above the water!



*The dragonfly climbs onto the paddle. Livdahl photo*



*The dragonfly rests a moment before climbing all the way up. Livdahl photo*



*Colleen and Claude Delisle in their newly restored Chestnut Deer. Livdahl photo*

## Meet the Canoes!

Saturday morning, the group met on the beach to find out more about the canoes. Bob and Carolyn Podesta's sleek red **Greenwood**, beautifully restored, had already departed. Jim Ekins talked about his family canoe, a 1924 blue **Old Town Otca**. His father purchased it in 1960, and the family camped with it as he grew up, including southern platform camping. It was restored in Dayton, Ohio, in 1990. Claude and Colleen Delisle showed their **Chestnut 'Deer'**, a narrow ribbed canoe built on the same form as the 'Pal' model. This canoe now has 8 new ribs, 40 new rib tips, figured maple decks and seats, and cherry carry thwarts.

Dwight Jacobson brought his newly restored **Willits**, the canoe sold to the NW Chapter by Red Gavin, and purchased by Dwight. Finished just in time for the meet, with a touch of cherry stain in the new varnish, the lovely canoe glowed in the sun. Dwight is still looking for Willits #617, stolen from him some years ago. Mike Elliott showed the red **Chestnut** he restored for his son. Chip Asbury talked about the **Cheemaun** he built using the chapter's two-part form, with help from his son Matthew. Scott Christianson came with his 23 lb. **skin on frame canoe**, built by Ray Arcand following a skin on frame class by Corey Friedman in Anacortes. Mike Livdahl discussed his **Old Town Otca**, a 1960's canoe with a tough ballistic nylon skin.

Chris and Barb Cooper brought a new canoe for them, a large white **strip canoe** built by Glen Bergevin in 1999-2000, featuring bow decorations designed by Haida artist-sculptor Bill Reid. (Bill Reid created the amazing bronze "Spirit of Haida Gwaii" sculpture in the Vancouver airport.) With a salmon motif on the right bow, an otter on the left, and First Nation-decorated paddles, the canoe is striking and drew admiration all weekend.

Steve and Joan Ellsworth came with their first canoe, the 1921 **Old Town Charles River 'A'** model that Joan found in a Maine antique store. It had been originally sold to a New Hampshire girls camp, and repaired at Old Town after a mishap at the camp. Joe McElroy and Mary Norton showed the **Old Town HW 17'**, given to Ray and Beth Arcand by chapter founder Carl Hoth, and then given to the McElroy grandsons Charlie and Teddy, by Beth and Ray, "so the boys will have a good canoe!" The boys hope they will be at Manning with "The Explorer" next year.



Chris Cooper talks about his new canoe with Bill Reid art. Ekins photo



Chris and Barb Cooper's Bergevin strip canoe and custom paddles. Norton photo



Jon and Sherry Hockersmith showed their **53 lb. "Ami"**, built by Jon to a design similar to the Chestnut 'Pal' and lighter 'Deer'. After a career in the Navy, Jon has built strip canoes professionally as well as wood/canvas canoes, and the couple has traveled extensively in their RV. The Ami has strong bow seat hangers, planned to avoid an extra thwart. The glossy canoe showed the results of 7 coats of paint!



Jon Hockersmith's 'Ami' showed the results of careful craftsmanship. Livdahl photo

Bob Moore showed the group his Kootenai-style cedar paddle, carved by Ray Arcand. Bob discovered **Morley Canoes** of Swan Lake, MT some years ago, and had his first strip canoe built by them when daughter Mikel was eight. More Morely boats soon followed . . . At the Meet, Bob showed Patra's lovely surprise present **kayak**, personalized with her name, and favorite mountains and bear motif on the deck. Bob also brought his Morely fishing canoe, with inlaid fish, and ducks, plus bear tracks inside to remind Bob to keep his bear bell with him.



Bob Moore shows his Kootenai's style paddle carved by Ray Arcand. Hockersmith photo

Chris and Barb Cooper also discussed their **larger canoes** while at the Meet, important parts of a life lived in wild and beautiful places as professional and personal adventure travelers. With them at this Meet, we met Bob Needham and Denise Caldwell. Bob, Chris' friend and adventure companion since high school, has been part of many canoeing, skiing and mountaineering expeditions with Chris.

Chris and Barb have specialized in corporate and student large canoe adventures, including multiple "Vision Quest" trips down the coast from Alaska to Victoria. With their large canoe "**Sambulyan**" 39' (named after Chief Roger Williams of the Squamish Nation's grandfather) they have made deep connections with that Nation. Their "**Spirit Dancer**" 42' canoe was transported to the UK, and has traveled the coasts of Scotland and the Shetland Islands, with students, Royal Navy, Coast Guard, and Lifeboat personnel. Squamish members made 300 small yellow cedar paddles as gifts when Spirit Dancer went to Great Britain, and the Coopers arranged for Squamish young people to travel to tour and paddle there. The Spirit Dancer canoe has a spray skirt with cockpits for open water, with a central aluminum beam under the skirt, in case walking the length of the canoe is needed.



(This is NOT Lightning Lake!) The Cooper's Spirit Dancer canoe touring the coastline of the Shetland Islands. Cooper photo

Chris and Barb presented everyone at the Meet with necklaces with the miniature yellow cedar Sambulyan paddles, and gave President Mike Livdahl a copy of their commemorative photo book for the chapter library. The beautiful photo book, “In Search of Wild Places” shows a life of amazing canoeing, skiing, camping and mountaineering in some of the world’s most remote areas. It will be something chapter members will enjoy at future Meets. Thank you, Chris and Barb!

## Northwest Chapter WCHA Meeting

President Mike Livdahl convened a meeting of the Chapter.

- We need to think about our next president.
- With the sale of the Willits canoe from Red Galvin, our treasury has funds beyond our basic expense level (we keep on hand enough to cover two Meets expenses). Several ideas were discussed, and the group voted to reserve \$1,000 as a fund to pay travel expenses for a future guest speaker. Given air fares, likely additional funds will be needed before we can invite someone.
- Our next Meet will be at Camp Bishop, May 8–11, 2025.
- Unfortunately, we were not able to reserve the Lone Duck 2 campground at Manning for 2025. As an alternative, we have reserved the neighboring Lone Duck 1 site, although the beach access is not as convenient. Camper accommodations are good, and we will still have access to the lake. This can be a placeholder reservation which we can cancel if we find a better alternative. **Ideas welcome**—ideally Canadian, with beach access and camper parking.

Colleen Delisle spoke to the group about the WCHA organization.

- People are encouraged to run for the board. Several positions are open, with three-year terms. Meetings are by Zoom, and one in-person meeting at the Assembly. The group is hoping to diversify, and Colleen would like to see more western and Canadian areas, and more women represented. Send a candidate’s statement to Mary for inclusion in the next WCHA journal.
- Go to an Assembly: all the great things about our Meets, with more friends, more boats, more classes, more hands-on things to do.
- The WCHA financial status is now sound. Donations to the Assembly auction, changes in the magazine, etc. have helped.
- Membership retention/renewals may be helped by automatic or opt-out renewals.
- Recruiting young people and new members will be a priority.



*Manning beach morning west. Hockersmith photo*



*Manning beach morning east. Ekins photo*

## Fall Meet Auction and Potluck

Mike Elliott, in the group's traditional voyageur auctioneer outfit, led the Chapter auction. A choice selection of canoe-related items filled the table: Willits hats from the Willits gathering, a cedar flute made by Jon Hockersmith, cherry canoe paddles, a Japanese chef's knife, a mini coffee press for camping, clean water cards from Jim Ekins, canoe seats from Boudi, copies of Freda Mellenthin's book from her family . . . After a spirited auction, the auction had earned \$799—enough to pay for the Manning campsite!

Following the auction, the chapter enjoyed a lavish potluck dinner followed by a campfire.



Mike Elliott graciously dons the auctioneer's voyageur outfit for the occasion. Livdahl photo



M. Moore photo



The chapter enjoyed an amazing potluck, with leftovers for breakfast! M. Moore photo



Back row: Chris Cooper, Barb Cooper with Burnett, Jon Hockersmith, Sherry Hockersmith, Annie McElroy, Dylan Johnson, Jim Ekins, Chip Asbury, Dwight Jacobson, Mikel Moore, Bob Moore, Denise Caldwell, Nancy Douglas, Bob Needham, Mike Elliott, Mike Livdahl. Front row: Joe McElroy with Duff, Mary Norton with Sean, Scott Christianson, Clause Delisle, Colleen Delisle, Joan Ellsworth with Ryder, Patra Moore, Steve Ellsworth. Not pictured: Bob and Carole Podesta, Des Winterbottom, and dogs Copper Elliott, Molly Moore and Kazoo McElroy-Johnson. Livdahl photo

## NW Chapter Board

Joan Ellsworth *Treasurer*  
 Colleen Hovey *WCHA board rep*  
 Claude Delisle  
 Joe McElroy *Newsletter*  
 Geoff Harvey  
 Martin Ferwerda *Webmaster*  
 Mary Norton *Sect'y/Newsletter*  
 Michael Davidson  
 Ginger Fortier  
 Kurt Schmidt  
 Laura Schmidt  
 Craig Dupler *Past President*  
 Patra Moore  
 Mike Livdahl *President*

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Chip Asbury brings his Cheemaun canoe from the lake via his custom canoe cart. Livdahl photo



Chip climbs his camper stairs as the canoe moves onto the rack. Livdahl photo

## Loading a Canoe



Chip's padded custom cart. Livdahl photos

## The Cooper Canoe



Haida artist Bill Reid's otter design on the Cooper's canoe. Livdahl photo



Bill Reid salmon design on the Cooper canoe bow. Hockersmith photo



The late Bill Reid's sculpture "The Spirit of Haida Gwaii" at the Vancouver airport

What a treasure to have Bill Reid art on your canoe! The Haida artist's "Spirit of Haida Gwaii" sculpture at the Vancouver airport is iconic-- a stylized traditional dugout canoe about 20' long, with passengers of Haida mythology. Significantly, Raven, the trickster, is steering, with Mouse Woman, Grizzly, Bear Woman (Grizzly's human wife) and their cubs, Good Bear and Bad Bear. Beaver, Eagle, Frog and Dogfish Woman are in the canoe. Two humans are in the canoe; the tiny Reluctant Conscript is paddling, and the larger Shaman, in Haida cloak and spruce root hat with staff, is the focal point of the sculpture. The canoe's passengers are diverse, and they do not always get along, but they must depend on each other to live. The bronze sculpture weighs 11,000 pounds.



Dwight Jacobson turns over his frosty Willits. Livdahl photo



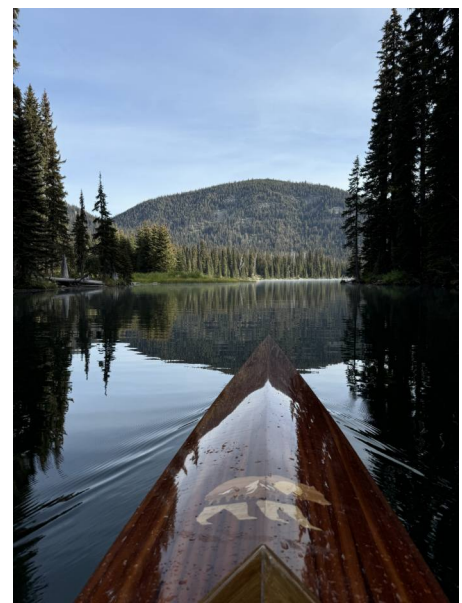
Scott Christianson fishes from his Ray Arcand skin on frame canoe. Hockersmith photo



Nancy Douglas' canoe cookies brighten everyone's day! Livdahl photo



Chip Asbury's Cheemaun and Jim Ekins' Otca approach the campground. M. Moore photo



The inlaid grizzly bear-and-mountain decoration highlights Patra Moore's Morely kayak. M. Moore photo



Mike Livdahl and Nancy Douglas in his OT Otca. Norton photo



Jim Ekins and Bob Needham retrieve Jim's OT Otca. Livdahl photo

## Third Annual Willits Canoe Gathering

by Phil Miller and Joan Ellsworth

The third annual Willits Brothers Canoe Gathering was a success this year, in spite of the wind and rain that continued for most of the day . The event was held August 24, 2024 at the Gig Harbor (Washington) Vintage Aero Museum, and featured close to two dozen examples of the Willits brothers' craftsmanship. Estimates were that 200 plus people came to see the canoes.

One Willits owner came from Chicago for the second year in a row. He had purchased his Willits canoe at the WCHA Assembly in 2023 for \$50.00 during the auction. Then he spent a year restoring it so he could bring it back again this year. The event coordinators presented him with an award for his outstanding job with the restoration.

A date has not been set yet for the Willits Gathering 2025, but we'll make sure to get the date in the newsletter when it's available. You can get your very own Willits "fix" by checking out the permanent exhibit of Willits Canoes and the Willits Brothers Canoe history at the Foss Waterway Seaport Museum in Tacoma, Washington.

In addition, there is a new documentary called MAKERS ON THE TIDE screening at the Washington State History Museum, also in Tacoma. This film, by film maker Mick Flaaen and historian Michael Sullivan, (with Willits fact-checker Pat Chapman) tells the story of how Earl and Floyd Willits brought their passion for boat building to Tacoma and slowly built their business from a small shop on Tacoma's waterfront to a canoe manufacturer with customers around the world.



Visitors to the Gig Harbor Vintage Aero Museum enjoy classic cars and airplanes as well as beautiful Willits canoes. Ellsworth photo

Hello fellow paddlers,

By the time you get to this letter you will have already read Mary's great newsletter article about our Fall E.C. Manning Campout. So you know what a wonderful time we had Meeting new Friends, renewing acquaintances with Old Friends, admiring Lovely Canoes, Quietly Paddling on mountain lakes, learning about Caddis Flies, Listening to Stories Behind the Canoes, and filling up on a very Satisfying Pot Luck Dinner.

A big Thankyou for Joan Ellsworth, Mary Norton, Mike Elliot, Jim Eakins, Colleen Hovey, Claude Delisle and everyone else who helped make this meet such a success.

Wooden canoes make for warm generous friendships. This fall Chris Cooper, who Mary re-introduced in her article, very graciously offered to guide our members at cost on a 6ish day pre-meet trip into the wild up to Chilko Lake next fall.



Chilko Lake - Chris Cooper.

We will camp at the provincial park campground amongst the mountains and grizzlies along the shore of a lake so pure you just dip in your cup and drink. Chris will trailer in his big coastal canoe so we will have the ability to make day trips out into the big lake. We will also have some fairly sheltered water for our little canoes. If things work out, we may be invited to attend a 1st nations canoe naming ceremony. There may also be a chance to book a night at a guest ranch on our way out.

Tentatively we would meet in Williams Lake BC the morning of Sept 10, 2025 for breakfast then head to Chilko Lake caravanning the 120+ kilometers past the end of the pavement to the campground. We would camp at the lake through Sunday Sept 14, or Monday Sept 15. After which folks will be able to make their way to Manning Park where we have reservations for the Fall Campout from Sept 17 thru Sept 21.

A number of members have already informally and excitedly “booked” their reservations for the trip. Look for an official signup in the upcoming weeks.

With an exciting fall 2025 in the making, we also get to look forward to getting together this spring at Camp Bishop on Mother’s day weekend to feast on Salmon and celebrate canoes. All suggestions for meet programming will be happily received and occasionally acted on.

Looking forward to seeing you all again in May. ( or maybe for a paddle in the snow before?? )

Happy Paddling

Mike Livdahl



*Jim Ekins returns from Dawn Patrol. Hockersmith photo*



*Mike Livdahl, Hockersmith photo*

## **Mark Your Calendar!**

**Spring Meet: Camp Bishop, Shelton, WA., May 8–11, 2025**

**Fall Meet: Manning Park, BC, September 17–21, 2025**