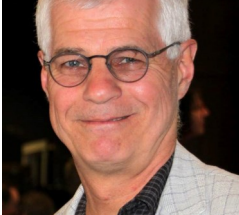




Skykomish River (Boulder Stretch to Big Eddy) in June. Left to right: British Columbia's Denise Wrathall, Einar Hansen, Heather Matthews, and Bellingham's Pat Contor.

Message from the President

Paddle Trails – 50 Years and Still Going



What does Paddle Trails mean to you?

As Paddle Trails approaches its 50-year mark (!!!), there are a lot of things to reflect on. I've been an active member for most of those 50 and have so many great memories, people, trips, and traditions that I treasure.

Much has changed in five decades, which has had a dramatic effect on us. Members have come and gone. Our region has grown dramatically. We now have the internet and social media — and it seems that the rate of change just keeps accelerating. All of this has had an impact on our culture as a society in general and specifically on our organization.

Most notably there has been a drop in participation, with fewer members volunteering, fewer signing up to coordinate trips, and fewer people signing up to participate. Interest in classes seems to be waning a bit, and we had a historically low turnout for the Spring Bash this year.

As we move into our 51st year and beyond, we need to think about what this club means to people and what we offer. Is Paddle Trails still relevant in today's culture? Whether you are a new member or have been around awhile, I need to hear your thoughts and preferably constructive ideas about what we can do to make and keep this organization relevant to you. Please take 10 minutes and send your feedback to me at o_boater@hotmail.com. Thank you! — Dave Mainer

Upcoming Trips

[July 4-7: Annual trip to Methow Valley](#)

[July 13: Snoqualmie Powerhouse](#)

[July 13-14: River Canoeing Class](#)

[July 19-21: Hoh Weekend](#)

[July 20: SF Sky](#)

[August 3: NF Nooksack](#)

[August 7: Powerhouse Skillbuilder](#)

[August 10: Sky \(Boulder Stretch\)](#)

Website Resources

[Past CANEWS issues](#)

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[Membership Directory](#)

[Club FAQs](#)

[Tech/Outfitting Guidance](#)



Fun Scale by Pat Contor

Do you know about the Type I, II, and III ratings for experiences?

It kind of relates to the differences between, "I want to be able to say I have done that, but will likely not like it," "I want to have done that," or "I want to be doing that as much as possible."

Type I is when the experience is fun when you're doing it and fun in memory. Type II is when it's challenging and sometimes unpleasant when you're

doing it but fun in memory. Type III is when it's bad when you're doing it and bad in memory.

Thinking back to my first run on Boulder Drop last fall, it was a Type I experience, but I was consciously committed to trying it even if it turned into a Type III experience. A big stretch in other words. Almost all my paddling is Type I, although last year the Main Salmon and my two runs down the middle White Salmon were Type II. My swim in the Wild Sheep rapid (Class IV, 15K CFS) was a Type III.

How about you? No doubt you're shooting for Type I experiences, but how often does it go to II or III?

Skykomish (Big Eddy) by Julie Titone

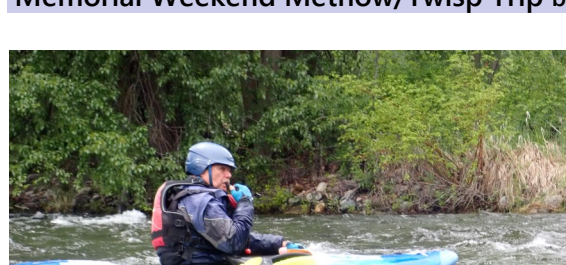
On June 15, a colorful expedition of 16 kayakers enjoyed the Skykomish River from Split Rock to Big Eddy, the sight of which inspired a passing raft guide to say "You guys look like a bunch of Skittles." The joint Paddle Trails/Washington Kayak Club outing included paddlers who had just taken the WKC beginning whitewater class and were eager to test their new skills.



The trip started with a brave dash across U.S. Highway 2, boats in hand, to reach the put-in. The biggest waves of the trip immediately greeted boaters, and the first unintentional boat exit happened under the bridge moments later. There were more swims downstream, with James taking the prize for pulling himself (clinging to paddle) from the hole that sucked him in. All emerged safe and smiling.

It was a blue-sky Saturday, with a friendly flow of about 2,500 CFS — not too pushy, but not unchallenging. Among those relieved to stay upright was the author, a longtime canoeist who was getting the hang of her inflatable kayak. As I bounced through the Class III- waves at the bridge, I blessed whoever invented self-bailing boats.

Memorial Weekend Methow/Twisp Trip by John Kelly



Our early deployment team arrived at Loup Loup campground on Thursday afternoon, May 23, and grabbed a few large campsites to share with late comers. We were met with nice weather, but on the cool side for eastern Washington.

This was a joint trip with PTCC and WKC, and on Friday afternoon, the early deployment went to the Twisp bakery to meet additional paddlers and campers. After our sugar fix, we headed off to paddle the Twisp River at a comfortable 650 CFS. Unfortunately the end of this paddle marked the beginning of the wet season.

On Saturday morning, all 25 of the campers and new arrivals met at the Methow McFarlane Creek to paddle to Burma Road and beyond. We had one raft and 22 kayakers for this descent on the Methow at 4,670 CFS. Our newer boaters took out at Burma Road while the rest of the crew went on to paddle the Black Canyon section. After a discussion of how to enter left and ferry right, the gaggle cued up above the rapid. Suddenly a first descent boater headed down river center just brushing the bus-sized hole and escaping upright, but several Black Canyon-experienced boaters and novice boaters followed along with river carnage. The remaining crew saw multiple boats cartwheeling through the hole and chose to take the conservative line, passing through unscathed. We gathered up boats and swimmers at the bottom of the drop and continued down to the takeout. The much-appreciated sun was soon followed by torrential rains.

On Sunday morning, we split into two groups: one group of less experienced boaters and the support team headed to McFarlane for the Methow (5,740 CFS) run down to Burma Road. The other group of 16 headed for the Twisp River. Remember the torrential rains? The Twisp was now running at 1,120 CFS and rising to 1,300 CFS. The rocks from Friday were replaced with waves and holes, still a fun level unless you have a swimmer. And we did. The chase was on; after the boat was freed from a mid-river log jam by a 16-inch four-foot floating battering ram it finally came to rest three or four miles after the swim near shore where a live bait rescue was possible. We left the boat at a farm house for later retrieval since the boater had long ago hiked out. Finally the monsoons ended, and we were met at camp by clear weather, peek-a-boo sun, and a nearly empty campground.

On Monday the seven remaining diehards met at the Twisp Bakery to rally for another run down the Twisp (1,030 CFS). This time we had a more typical 75-degree day. The water level meant fewer rocks and mostly waves and holes to push through. Following the run, the crew assembled at the Winthrop School brewery for food and drink prior to the march home over the North Cascades highway.

SAVE
the
DATE

Fall Bash

Saturday, October 26

Winter Bash

Saturday, February 22

Shoreline Church