

Morgan and Zamo Dicus canoeing the challenging Lunch Hole rapid on the Skykomish River. October 5, 2019. Photo by Steve Reutebuch

### Centennial Middle Sauk

On August 8, 2019, I paddled the Sauk from the Whitechuck to the Backman ("Middle Sauk") with Boo H, Mary K, Rich, and Pat C. The flow was low, and the water was cloudy with silts from glacier. The mountains were beautiful with the blue sky backdrop. This was my 100th run on this section since I first ran it on July 20, 2013.



My first run was with Bill P's group. The flow was 4,700 cfs, and it was the most exciting whitewater I had ever run. At that time, there was a wood in the river right eddy at the bottom of the Jaws. Following the leaders, I had to ferry from right to left in front of the Demon Seed hole and flipped. Fortunately, I could roll. The Whirlpool was big and thrilling. When I got out of my boat at the bottom of this rapid, my knees were shaking due to the rushing adrenalin.

As my skills improved, I learned to boof over rocks. My most favorite boof on this river is Popeye. As long as you have a good speed, the Popeye rock almost always gives you some airtime and flat landing. On the other hand, there is a rock I call my nemesis. One day last summer, I was paddling side by side with Jim H, casually chatting. Approaching this rock, I suddenly decided to go over it, though it wasn't hard to go around. Bad decision. It was a split-of-a-moment decision, and I didn't have a speed I needed. I nosed down. I paddled hard, but the hole sucked me back. Next moment, I saw the blue sky behind my bow, and the bow came down. The hole was sticky and didn't let me go until I got out of the boat. This was the only time I swam in this river.

This section is almost always runnable, even when nothing else is running around here. When the flow is low, the Clear Creek rapid is my favorite. I love to hop eddies and surf waves in this long rapid. Sometimes, particularly when it is cold, I spend so much time here that all fellow boaters desert me and head to the take-out.

I love this river and will continue paddling it and leading trips. Join me on the Middle Sauk in my next 100 runs!

By Kanako Iwata-Eng

### Upcoming Trips

[Oct 12 Lake Wenatchee to Plan Class 2](#)

[Oct 13 Leader's Choice \(Class II or II+\)](#)

[Oct 19 Leader's Choice \(Class II or II+\)](#)

[Oct 19 Introduction to Canoeing Rivers](#)

[Oct 26 Middle Sauk III+](#)

[Oct 26 Fall Bash](#)

Sign up for trips by clicking on the above hyperlinks or the [Events Calendar](#)

### Website Resources

[Past CANEWS issues](#)

[Join the Club](#)

[Renew your membership](#)

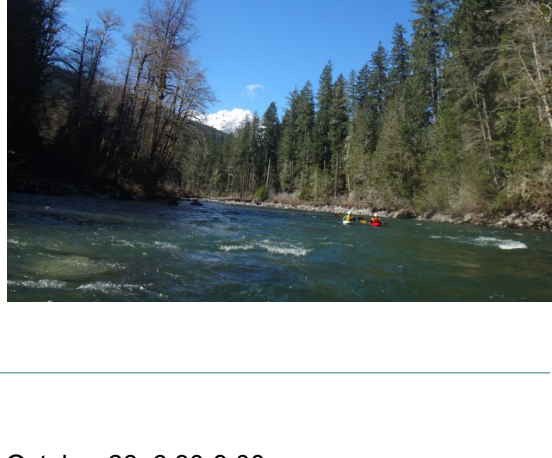
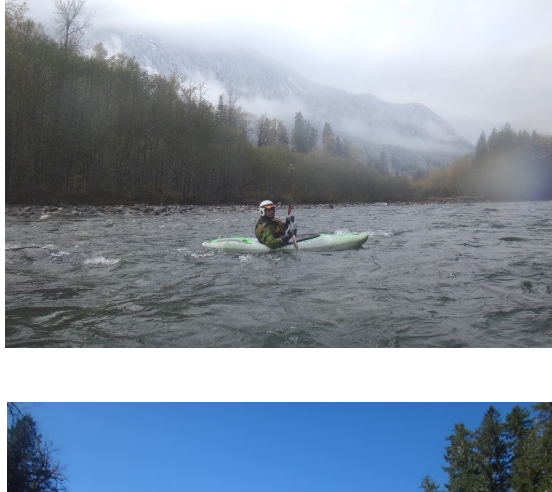
[Update your profile](#)

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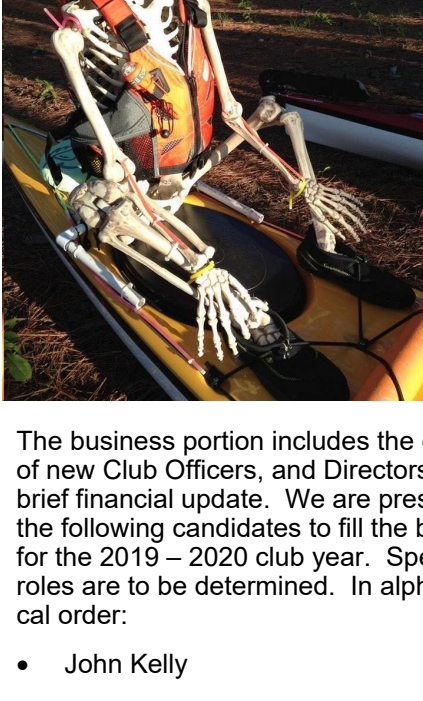
[Club FAQs](#)

[Tech/Outfitting Guidance](#)

[Gear for sale](#)



### Fall Bash is on October 26th



Saturday, October 26, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Shoreline Unitarian Church

14724 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155

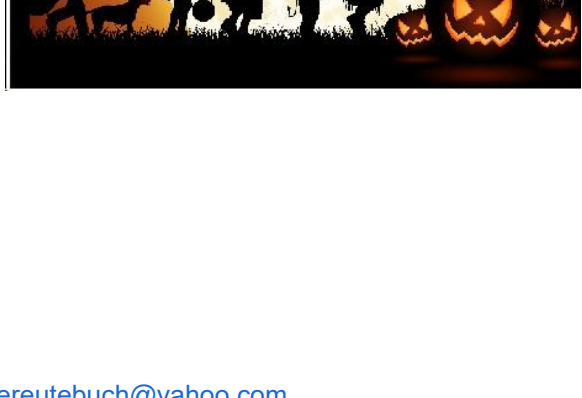
After such a great summer, it's your chance to get together with all your paddling friends and plan for fall paddling! As always, we'll have a wonderful potluck dinner with beverages supplied by the club. It's a great way to meet new and old club members. Halloween costumes are highly encouraged. The business portion includes the election of new Club Officers, and Directors, a brief financial update, and Gear Swap. Also, we'll be doing Cookie Awards to "honor" those people who did "remarkable/silly" things during this past paddling season. So, bring your favorite potluck dish and come for a great evening with boating friends!

The business portion includes the election of new Club Officers, and Directors, a brief financial update. We are presenting the following candidates to fill the board for the 2019 – 2020 club year. Specific roles are to be determined. In alphabetical order:

- John Kelly
- Dave Mainer
- Linda Newman
- Don Samdahl
- Bob Schneider
- Robin Stanton
- Jesse Swedlund
- Oliver Williams

Questions?

Contact Steve Reutebuch 206-525-8678 [sereutebuch@yahoo.com](mailto:sereutebuch@yahoo.com)



### Cookie Awards

The PTCC board is seeking nominations for 2019 Paddle Trails Cookie Awards. For those not familiar with these coveted awards, they are given out to (unsuspecting) club members who have done extraordinaire (or really dumb) things throughout the year while on a boat trip. We honor such things as the "Most Improved Male & Female Paddlers", the "Michael Phelps Swimming Award" and a variety of other weird and wonderful events members have had on trips this past year. Please send your nominees to any PTCC board member.

The Cookie Awards will be presented at the Fall Bash.

### Gear Talk

#### Peek-a-boat

Here is a column we are calling "Peek-a-Boat" where we will interview boaters from the club and look inside what gear they carry in their boat on river trips. This months column is from Pat Contor.

Thinking about the one thing I consistently carry when paddling that may be of surprise to others, it comes down to carrying scissors instead of a river knife. This was highlighted in a previous PTCC safety clinic. In the clinic it was pointed out by an EMT, that in a rescue situation high strength scissors are easier to use with one hand and are inherently safer. Thinking about it just a little, my guess is that if you were in a pin situation tangled in something that needed to be cut, you'd much rather have somebody wading towards you with a pair of EMT scissors than a dagger! Have I used them? You bet-- mostly for cutting the odd blackberry vine lurking overhead in eddies. With one hand on the paddle or the bank, I can reach over single handed to clip the vine. Ever try that with your river knife? If you have, the vine probably won the battle single handed!



Details:

I've moved on from EMT scissors because over time they rust. Instead, I carry a pair of Bessy brand "Reds", which are industrial construction scissors made of a very high quality stainless steel and which can cut just about anything, including mild sheet metal.

They're always on an arm-length bungee tether in one of my PFD front pockets, just in case.

#### Classifieds

Royalex Wenonah Spirit II Canoe for Sale—\$600 OBO, proceeds will be donated to the club. It is in excellent condition with knee pads, thigh straps and small bow and stern air bags. Here's a link that describes this canoe. Always stored indoors.

<https://www.adventuresportsnetwork.com/sport/paddle-sports/canoe-kayak/wenonah-spirit-ii-review/>

Contact Dave at [o\\_boater@hotmail.com](mailto:o_boater@hotmail.com)

Mad River Explorer Royalex Canoe for Sale - \$425 OBO

For technical specs, features, signs of use/damage, and other information, please read PDF, which includes photographs as well at the link. [Explorer](#)

If interested, please contact Derek Zimmer at [derek.w.zimmer@gmail.com](mailto:derek.w.zimmer@gmail.com)

### Recent Trip Reports

#### Skykomish River—Boulder Stretch on October 5, 2019

Twelve intrepid PTCC paddlers kicked off the Fall paddling season with a bang on Saturday by paddling the Skykomish from below Boulder Drop to Big Eddy (class III). The water level was a very playful 1,500 cfs and the weather was dry and in the upper 50's. Esther and Kira Andrews were in hard shell kayaks. It was Kira's first time running this section. At 10 years old, Kira is probably the youngest PTCC member to do this run. Morgan and Zamo Dicus paddled a tandem canoe. At 9 years old, Zamo was the youngest person on the trip. Bob Schneider, John Kelly, and Dale Perry paddled kayaks and Tom Matlack was in his IK. Dave & Peggy Mainer, Alex Jones, and Steve Reutebuch were in solo canoes. About 1/2 mile below the put-in is Lunch Hole rapid, one of the more challenging of the trip. Kira almost made it, but flipped at the last ledge. She was quickly rescued and was all smiles. We had lunch at Lunch Hole and then proceeded on down to Aquagasum rapid. Alex decided to swim somewhere in the rapid, but quickly self-rescued in the pool at the bottom. Everyone zipped through Split Rock, Railroad Bridge, and Fisherman's rapids. Alex and Kira each had another fish count in one of the unnamed rapids below Fisherman's, but both came up all smiles. The last drop, just about Big Eddy provided the final bang to a great start to Fall boating.

Trip photos are in the photo album titled "[20191005 Skykomish Boulder Stretch at 1500 cfs](#)"

Dave, Peggy, John, Bob, and Steve stopped at Timber Monster Brewery in Sultan for after paddling refreshments--this new establishment has a very tasty menu and brews their own Rootbeer!

Steve Reutebuch

