

Paddlers on the NF Stillaguamish during annual Wiener Roast, February 2020

PADDLE TRAILS CANOE CLUB HITS 50 YEARS!!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

In 1970, a group of canoeing enthusiasts got together at the Poodle Dog Café in Fife, Washington with the idea that forming a canoe club would be a good idea. Here we are 50 years later in 2020 and still paddling and laughing our way around our favorite waterways. The current COVID-19 has clearly presented a challenging environment for throwing a celebration so how to celebrate in light of the current COVID-19 outbreak?

One way we are celebrating is by uploading some historic photos to the website. At the 2019 Fall Bash, we were given a scrapbook and we've recently had the pages digitized. They are now uploaded to the website. If you visit www.PaddleTrails.org, there is a short article on the home page about our 50th anniversary and a link to the photo album. There are 80 pages with many great photos, some great CANEWS issue covers and a few newspaper clips - all of them capturing a period of Paddle Trails' history - mostly during the mid to late 90s and early 2000s. As I uploaded these images, it brought back so many great memories of events and people, some who thankfully are still here and some who have since departed this earth but whose memories remain - all friends.

Since we may not be able to celebrate our 50th in person at the Spring Bash as hoped, I have two asks of you, dear members, to help us with a digital celebration. The **first** is, if you have any other photos, memorabilia or even just stories that you would like to share, please send them to canoeno@paddletrails.org. We would love to continue to add to this valuable archive. If you have photos or slides and you can have them digitized first, we'd love that. If not we'll get that done.

The **second** ask is we will create a poll later this year and ask you to pick your we will highlight the favorites. Then at the Fall Bash, we will highlight the favorites. So **please help us celebrate** in the best way possible given these difficult circumstances by contributing your photos and stories and keeping an eye out for the 50th Anniversary Favorite Memory Poll. Stay safe!

Upcoming Trips

Important note about COVID-19 – Paddle Trails Canoe Club has decided to cancel the trips scheduled for April but continues to be cautiously optimistic about our scheduled events for the future. However, like everyone, we need to consider cancelling or postponing additional events including scheduled trips and classes – even the Bash, that might cause harm. We will err on the side of caution. Staying safe has always been and still is the number one goal of Paddle Trails Canoe Club. For the time being we recommend that you stay home or that you exercise all social distancing guidelines if you go out.

Website Resources

[Past CANEWS issues](#)

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[Renew your membership](#)

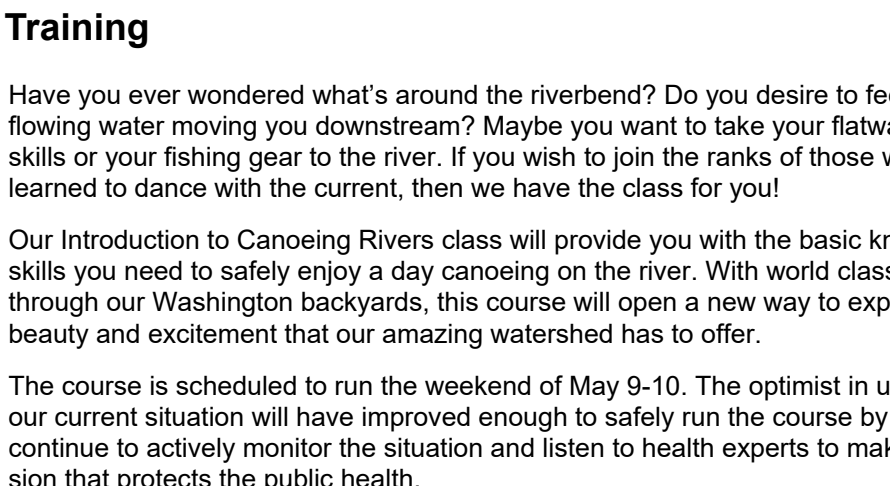
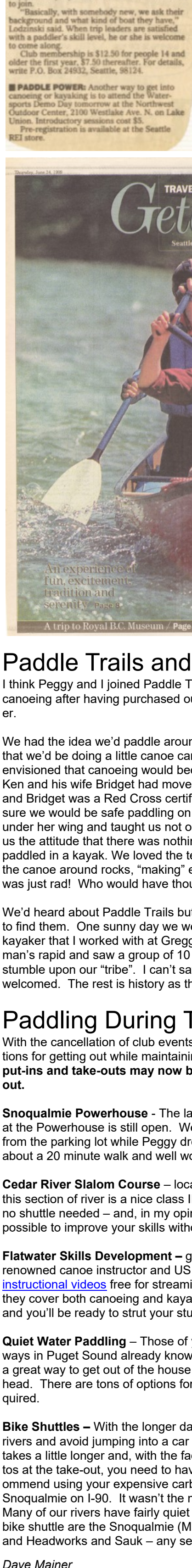
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Paddle Trails and the Mainers

I think Peggy and I joined Paddle Trails in 1986. By then we were already “hooked” on canoeing after having purchased our Ouzel from Ken at Easy Rider just a few years earlier.

We had the idea we'd paddle around on our abundance of water ways. We envisioned that we'd be doing a little canoe camping here, a little fishing or crabbing there but never envisioned that canoeing would become such a big part of our lives. It so happened that Ken and his wife Bridget had moved here from Tennessee, a hot bed of river canoeing, and Bridget was a Red Cross certified river canoe instructor and Ken wanted to make sure we would be safe paddling on our rivers so he introduced us to Bridget. She took us under her wing and taught us not only the basics of safely paddling rivers but instilled in us the attitude that there was nothing that couldn't be paddled in a canoe that could be paddled in a kayak. We loved the technical challenges of working together to maneuver the canoe around rocks, “making” eddies and wow, surfing standing waves in a canoe was just rad! Who would have thought you could do that!

We'd heard about Paddle Trails but this was before the internet and we had no idea how to find them. One sunny day we were paddling on the Skykomish with our friend Mark, a kayaker that I worked with at Greggs Green Lake Cycle. We were downstream of Fisherman's rapid and saw a group of 10 canoes ahead of us and what excitement it was to stumble upon our “tribe”. I can't say for sure who the individuals were, but I know we felt welcomed. The rest is history as they say.

Paddling During These Trying Times

With the cancellation of club events for the foreseeable future, here are a few suggestions for getting out while maintaining social distancing best practices. **Note that some put-ins and take-outs may now be closed so get current information before going out.**

Snoqualmie Powerhouse - The latest information I have is that the access to the put-in at the Powerhouse is still open. We did this recently. I carried boats down to the river from the parking lot while Peggy drove the car to the take-out and walked back up. It's about a 20 minute walk and well worth the effort.

Cedar River Slalom Course – located in Landsburg, WA, just a short hop from Seattle, this section of river is a nice class II or II+ practice run. Here, you can “park and play” – no shuttle needed – and, in my opinion, practicing in the slalom gates is the best way possible to improve your skills without raising the threat level of paddling harder rivers.

Flatwater Skills Development – get out on a lake and practice your skills. Just recently, renowned canoe instructor and US Olympic C-1 team paddler **Kent Ford** has made his [instructional videos](#) free for streaming and download. These are super high quality and they cover both canoeing and kayaking. Spend some time practicing using these videos and you'll be ready to strut your stuff once the virus subsides.

Quiet Water Paddling – Those of you who prefer paddling lakes and protected waterways in Puget Sound already know this but for you river runners, paddling quiet water in a great way to get out of the house and wash the cobwebs off your gear and out of your head. There are tons of options for quiet water paddling in our area and no shuttles required.

Bike Shuttles – With the longer daylight hours, it isn't hard to run some of your favorite rivers and avoid jumping into a car with your potentially germey paddling buds. Yes, it takes a little longer and, with the fact that a bike can disappear faster than a bag of Fritos at the take-out, you need to have a good place to hide and lock your bike (I don't recommend using your expensive carbon road bike). I've even bike shuttled the S. F. Snoqualmie on I-90. It wasn't the most pleasant but hey, it was better than not paddling. Many of our rivers have fairly quiet roads to ride on. Some other suggestions for rivers to bike shuttle are the Snoqualmie (Middle Middle, Club Stretch), the Green Upper Gorge and Headworks and Sauk – any section above Darrington. I'm sure there are others.

Dave Mainer

Training

Have you ever wondered what's around the riverbend? Do you desire to feel the power of flowing water moving you downstream? Maybe you want to take your flatwater canoeing skills or your fishing gear to the river. If you wish to join the ranks of those who have learned to dance with the current, then we have the class for you!

Our Introduction to Canoeing Rivers class will provide you with the basic knowledge and skills you need to safely enjoy a day canoeing on the river. With world class rivers running through our Washington backyards, this course will open a new way to experience the beauty and excitement that our amazing watershed has to offer.

The course is scheduled to run the weekend of May 9-10. The optimist in us hopes that our current situation will have improved enough to safely run the course by then. We will continue to actively monitor the situation and listen to health experts to make a wise decision that protects the public health.

Introduction to Canoeing Rivers: Spring Session, May 9-10, 2020

In this 2 day course, come learn about how moving water affects your boat. This is pre-whitewater, so we are covering some of the basics: entering and exiting current, paddle strokes, and being an active group member. Based on the time of year and cold water temperatures, a drysuit or wetsuit with dry top is required for safety. Canoes must be suitable for easy rivers and have flotation. Contact the training coordinators at training@paddletrails.org if have questions or you need to borrow equipment. Children 12 and older accompanied by an adult are welcome if they are taking the class as a paddler.

Difficulty: Class I – II
Cost is \$50.00 per boat (solo or tandem)

If interested please register on the Paddle Trails website. We hope to see you on the river!

Jesse Swedlund



Trip Reports

2020 Wiener Roast - North Fork of the Sillaguamish — February 29, 2020

On the Leap Day of 2/29/2020, 14 people and 1 dog gathered to participate in the PTCC/WKC joint Wiener Roast trip. It was a hard morning testing my patience – one boater arrived at the meeting location early but had to go home to get the forgotten booties, a family was more than an hour late, another boater found she left the spray skirt in her car in Arlington – but it later turned out that everything was timed just right.

Our meeting time was 10:30am in Arlington, and we finally put in close to 1pm at the Hazel Hole. At the put-in, I saw the snow-covered mountain in front of the blue sky, but gray clouds were coming towards us. Shortly after launching, we were attacked by a violent hail shower. Lief, 14-year-old Cameron, 12-year-old Noa and Dog Tesla in a family canoe filled with an IK as the float bag did OK through riffles and woods, but the kids got too cold quickly. They had to stop for a while. The leading group went ahead to prep the fire. Dave who had run this section last week waited for us to point out the logs, so we paddle around on the left shore.

When we got to the lunch beach, the good fire was ready, thanks to John & Barbara who brought firewood, to Bill who brought kindling, and to Doug who brought a torch. Doug even set up a small tarp. However, just in time, the sun started shining on us. If we didn't waste time in the morning and put in at 11:30, we had to eat in the hail. Noa in a thin wet-suit over regular clothes who were shaking on the boat was now enjoying the sun in his shorts.

Except Bill and Doug with the special diet, the hungry bunch roasted the wieners sponsored by WKC. Bill cooked an elegant salmon dinner, while Doug was eating veggie sausages not too appealing to us carnivores. Though I brought store-bought Madelines, the popular sweet of the day was S'mores provided by Sweet Barbara & John. The kids of every age had a great time in the bright sunlight.

We paddled the short remaining section uneventfully and ended the trip in the sun-shine. Glad I didn't lose my temper and declare “this is the last time I organize the wiener roast!” I look forward to organizing the next!

Kanako Iwata-Eng

Boulder Drop to Boulder Stretch at 3,000 CFS — March 9, 2020

They said a Paddle Trails trip on a Monday would flop... they were wrong. On Monday, March 9th, 2020, a group of Paddle Trails members paddled the Boulder Stretch of the Skykomish River, from Boulder Drop to Big Eddy at about 3,000 cfs. Tom Matlack and Jimmy Nipper saved the trip from the clutches of a cancellation, as Monday drew near. I awoke to messages that Jesse Swedlund and Alex Jones would join us as well. In just three days, the trip went from uncertain to robust.

Tom rolled into Big Eddy, feverish (figuratively, he is healthy) from doubling back for forgotten paddles. A sense of relief swept across his face, learning he was not the last to arrive. Admittedly, a last minute start time change destabilized our timeline. We lashed my open canoe, Jimmy's hardshell kayak, Jesse's borrowed hardshell kayak, and Tom's IK to Jimmy's truck. We headed to Boulder Drop where we met Alex with his open canoe.

Jesse paddled Boulder Drop and the rest of us met below. As we paddled away from BD, we noticed a mysterious kayaker at our end. This jovial paddler stalked us the whole way, no doubt hoping we'd pluck him from the river if he were to float past. It did not come to pass.

After several weeks away, Alex dusted the rust off of his self rescue skills, executing two flawless self rescues, one below BD and one in Lunch Hole. Jesse too showed his hull to the sun, in Lunch Hole too, where an ill placed rock thwarted roll attempts. Tom worked himself far enough to the right to avoid his feared Lunch Hole swim. Nothing seemed to phase Jimmy.

It was a pleasurable float with a fine group of boaters. Fun level, fun lines, good times. Handshakes and high fives were postponed due to COVID-19 concerns.

Ollie Williams

Green River Headworks — March 14, 2020

Even with temperatures predicted to be in the mid 30s with wind and a chance of snow, 8 Paddle Trails members signed up to join me on the Headworks section of the Green River today. Surprisingly (or maybe not) it turned out to be a pretty pleasant paddle as we were all dressed warmly. Aside from hands, no one mentioned being uncomfortable.

We had 4 hard-shell kayaks; Meryl Douglas, Dale Perry, Chris Peele and Celia Parker, 3 inflatables; Karen Kramer and Tom Unger in ultra light Pack Kayaks and Tom Matlack in his IK and 2 open canoes; Darren Greenhalgh and myself.

With low water we decided to use the lower beach (below the gate) put-in where, if you looked very carefully, tiny flakes of fine falling snow were perceptible - but there was none on the ground. We made good time heading down the river. There wasn't really enough water for playboating (and it was a bit too cold) so we kept ourselves warm by paddling downstream.

We stopped at the weir to have a scout off of the bedrock dam. The route was clear and everyone ran it. We had two swims, but paddlers and boats were quickly reunited and the run continued. As we closed in on the take out we noticed that the air was warming up and by the time we hauled our boats up to the parking lot it was quite sunny and, aside from the occasional gusts of wind, pleasant.

As of this writing, aside from some incidental wood in the rock gardens above the take-out, the run is clear.

One gentle reminder to members - please try to sign up for trips at least a few days in advance. If you want to sign up later than that, give the trip coordinator a call. This gives the trip coordinator time to contact you with any last minute changes or details.

Dave Mainer

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