



Volume 8 | Issue 1  
Winter 2017/  
Spring 2018



*Bringing the Columbia  
River to your home*

The official newsletter of the Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club (WRPC). Made by members for members.

Any opinions, views, and/or recommendations presented in the following content do not represent the official viewpoint and/or position of the WRPC.

### Club Calendar

### *Under Construction*

<b>March</b>	
<b>1</b>	Crew season begins
<b>31</b>	Boathouse cleanup day
<b>May</b>	
<b>2</b>	Youth on Columbia starts
<b>June 6</b>	Kayak class starts

If you've been looking for our winter 2017 newsletter and not finding it, there's a reason. Our website software stopped working last winter, and although the site was still visible, we were unable to upload the newsletter. Thanks to our Membership/Communications Committee, led by Tom Cushing, for all their hard work in restoring the site.

We've combined the winter and spring newsletters into this edition – but we'll return to our usual quarterly schedule with our next issue on June 1. Thank you for your patience in the meantime.

### *Your Board Charges Ahead in Retreat*

ALSO check out the Wenatchee Outdoor Calendar for other regional events:

<http://www.wenatcheeoutdoorsforum.org/calendar.php>

The WRPC Board of Directors, i.e. Larry Tobiska, Hugh Owen, David Bentsen, Pat Fitzgerald, Susan Valaas, Allison Brodine, Susan Collaer, Tom Cushing and Gretchen Woods, discussed purposes, organization and plans on January 27 in its annual retreat. Some highlights from our meeting:

**Volunteer of the Year.** Our 2017 honors go to Jo Reaume for her tireless efforts on the Membership/Communications Committee. Thank you, Jo!

**Major website revision.** Our website was set up based on software that is outdated. We are looking at re-doing the website completely through an outfit called "[Wild Apricot](#)" which will provide a range of services we need that are now being handled in a variety of ways. Wild Apricot offers a solution that is efficient and cost-effective.

## CLEAN-UP DAY

**Saturday, March 24, 9-12**

We will be cleaning up both boat houses and making sure things are in their right place so the facilities and equipment can serve you and your fellow club members as well as possible.

Work gloves and a willingness to pitch in is about all that is required. We may be doing some touch up painting.

Coffee and donuts to be provided.

**Permit for use of facilities.** We are close to finalizing a five-year permit with the PUD which will include the right to expand our usable space by adding a 40' by 40" area for parking trailers on the East end of the annex building.

**Acquisition of a safety boat.** We have been thinking about what kind of safety boat we should buy for the long term. We have figured out some criteria and will now proceed to look for boats that would serve us best.

**Upgrade of voyageur canoe.** Because of dissatisfaction with the voyageur canoe acquired two years ago we are looking at a replacement that would best serve the Youth on Columbia Program.

The Board adopted a budget designed to keep us providing the same services we have been providing in the past plus expand our facilities and buy the safety boat and big canoe.

**Committees.** Most of the work that gets done in WRPC is done by five committees:

1. Executive Committee: Larry Tobiska (Chair), Hugh Owen (Vice President), David Bentsen (Secretary) and Amber Parker (Treasurer)
2. Membership/Communications and Tech: Tom Cushing (Chair), Allison Brodine, Becky Peters, Jo Reaume (Membership Interface), and Gretchen Woods (Newsletter)
3. Facilities and Equipment: Pat Fitzgerald (Chair), Dan Garrison, Susan Collaer, Gretchen Woods, and Larry Tobiska
4. Youth on Columbia: Penelope Tobiska (Chair), Tom Cushing, Larry Tobiska, Wolf Mueller and Debbie Sawyer.
5. Rowing: David Bentsen (Chair), Allison Brodine, Dan Garrison and David Hyde.

## Checkouts:

**2017 club member checkout history is available by request. In addition to being able to satisfy your curiosity about your boat usage, the information can be useful documentation for employer wellness programs.**

**Email Dan at [pyrite2357@gmail.com](mailto:pyrite2357@gmail.com) with your name and request, and he will send you a custom report.**

If you have input or concerns about how the club is operating, you may want to bring it to the attention of one of our committee members, who can then bring it to the board.

Or you can bring it to a board meeting yourself. (But please alert Board president Larry Tobiska first, so it can be placed on the agenda). The Board usually meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., in the Wenatchee World conference room.

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## MAKE WRPC YOUR DESIGNATED RECIPIENT FOR AMAZONSMILE PROGRAM

The Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club (EIN: 91-1661493) is eligible to participate in the Amazonsmile program. When you buy eligible items on Amazon and designate WRPC as the nonprofit of your choice, the 0.5% of the purchase price is donated to the organization.

Designating WRPC as a recipient will not increase the price of whatever you are buying and it is a painless way to help the Club achieve its mission.

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## Calling all Volunteers!

The 2018 Youth on Columbia program begins in a few short weeks on May 2.

Youth on Columbia is one of our most visible programs, serving hundreds of local public- and private-school students each year.

We're looking for adult volunteers to help out as bow or stern paddlers for our morning and/or afternoon sessions.

The spring program is scheduled Wednesdays through Fridays, from May 2 to June 8.

If you're interested, please contact Penny Tobiska at [ptobiska@nwi.net](mailto:ptobiska@nwi.net).

## Come Snowshoe with WRPC

The winter of 2017-18 has been a disappointment so far – snow followed by rain followed by dry periods with warm temperatures – there's still hope for a late-winter revival.



*Gentle Ridgetop Walk off Devil's Spur Trail*

A group has been doing short, easy snowshoe trips on Wednesdays for the past two seasons. We go to places such as Squilchuck State Park, Mission Ridge, and Number Two Canyon. Beginners are welcome and we provide instruction.

If you'd like to join us, pray for snow and contact Tom Cushing at [TomC@WenatcheePaddle.org](mailto:TomC@WenatcheePaddle.org).

## Interested in Paddling Other Places?

We're fortunate to have our Columbia River flowing past Wenatchee, and even more fortunate to have our Club's facilities located right on its riverbank. But have you ever wanted to paddle other sections of the Columbia, or other bodies of water entirely? There's the Greater Columbia Water Trail System, for example, as well as other rivers, such as the White and the Yakima, and lakes like Lake Wenatchee and Banks Lake.



*Yakima River Canyon*

One boat per car works for locations where the put-in and take-out is the same, but is a major logistical problem when the take-out is miles from the put-in. The solution is a canoe/kayak trailer that can drop off boats in one location and pick them up in another, together with a cadre of rotating volunteer non-paddling drivers.

We're trying to gauge interest within the Club for doing trips away from our home base, with the potential for some overnights, before investing in another boat trailer (no, our existing trailers, for various reasons, won't work). If you would like to participate in such activities, please email Tom Cushing at [TomC@WenatcheePaddle.org](mailto:TomC@WenatcheePaddle.org), and give him your take on the idea. If you have experience towing, also let us know if you'd be willing to be an occasional trailer jockey.

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### *It's Time to Renew*

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Our dues are due! You'll find the downloadable membership form, prices and mailing address on our website under the "Club" tab.

If you have a boat stored in one of the club buildings but you're not paying for a slip, please remove your boat before the locks are changed on March 24.

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### **Newsletter Submissions**

If you have ideas, letters, articles, pictures, etc. that you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please feel free to email them to Gretchen Woods at [sonofabach@nwi.net](mailto:sonofabach@nwi.net)