



**Wenatchee Row
& Paddle Club**

Volume 7 | Issue 1

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Wenatchee *SPLASH*

*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:

March 1 – May 31

Happenings From Your Board of Directors

March 1	Rowing practice begins
19	Green Lake Spring Regatta
26	Spring Clean-up Day & Open House, Linden Tree Park
April 4-8	Spring Break Paddle Camp
10	Lake Stevens Spring Regatta
16-17	Covered Bridge Regatta, OR
May 3	Saturday Canoe Trips
TBD	Youth on the Columbia
TBD	Warrior Challenge

Your Board of Directors meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Wenatchee World Conference Room. You are welcome to attend these meetings and raise an issue you may be concerned about at such meetings. It would be appreciated if you notify the Board President of your intent to do that in advance, however, so it can be planned into the agenda, which is set by an Executive Committee meeting about a week in advance.

The Board has been refining the budgetary plans for the Club this year. While we spent money on three new kayaks last year, in the coming year the plan is to buy a new voyageur type canoe for use in the Youth on Columbia Program and adult uses as well. This boat will cost us about \$5000 and we will pick it up in British Columbia from the Clipper Canoe Company in the latter half of March. We decided to name this new boat "Águila" which means "Eagle" in Spanish. There were several ideas submitted by members and this got the most votes. We have passed along the venerable "Koo Koo Sint" to the NCW Museum.

Another major acquisition for the Club this year will be a new "4," which is to say a new crew rowing shell that seats a coxswain plus four rowers. This will give the Club two such boats so they can compete with each other locally without twice the number of rowers involved with two "8s." The rowing committee is thinking about some fund raisers to supplement the \$7500 allocated by the budget for this purpose.

An important date for the club is the annual clean up work party on March 26 at 10:00 a.m. This will take about four hours of work for participants and the Club will provide some food for lunch but asks that participants bring some sort of potluck contribution so we are all well nourished as we work for the common good of the club. In addition to cleaning up the buildings we will be reviewing the serviceability of equipment and boats and deciding what boats can be sold to make room for more boats that get a lot of use.

Get Ready for Spring!

Guess what? Its time to start dusting off those boats and get out the summer workout gear! I can't believe its already March. Before you know it, the Youth on the Columbia will be making the maiden voyage in the new canoe and the rowing club will be heading out to prepare for sprint races. The WRPC is very excited about the successes of last year and looking forward to upcoming changes in the works for this year. Please consider this newsletter as a preview of developments to come. Stay tuned to the WRPC website <http://www.wenatcheepaddle.org/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NCWrowandpaddle> for upcoming events. Also check out the events calendar each newsletter for what's happening in the coming months.

The Youth on Columbia program (YOC) is shaping up as a busy time in May and the first half of June this year. We will have lots of kids and will need lots of volunteers to keep this program running smoothly. You will receive an email describing the dates and opportunities to help out with the YOC program.

See you on the river,

Larry Tobiska, Board President



Volunteer of the Year

Tribute by Pat Fitzgerald

Kim George has been selected by the Wenatchee Row & Paddle Club as Volunteer of the Year for 2015. She gave hours and hours of her time, and she always did it with a smile and a helpful attitude. Kim could be found taking members out on the water for a kayaking trip, rounding up volunteers for Youth on Columbia, leading the volunteers through their sessions in YOC, helping out with community events such as Get Outdoors Day, organizing and helping with clean-up day, serving on the Events Committee and the Facilities Committee, and even keeping the stats on boat usage.

The Row & Paddle Club could not exist without a strong volunteer force and there are many who give much of their time, but in 2015 Kim was definitely the star of the group. WRPC is very grateful for Kim's work. There is a plaque that hangs in the boat barn and her name has been added for 2015. Say thanks to Kim when you see her.

From the Web

In the spirit of honoring our volunteer of the year, please enjoy this article from the blog website written by Kin George. For more blog articles about things related to rowing and paddling activities, please visit the blog site here:

<http://www.wenatcheepaddle.org/RiverRamblings.cfm>

Nothing Beats Tuesday

Season in and season out there is a group of dedicated paddlers who meet each and every Tuesday for some shared time on the Columbia River here in the Wenatchee area. This is year number three or four or ... well, time doesn't really matter ... the group has been meeting up for awhile now!

Our personalities are as diverse as the colors of our boats and yet we have so much in common.

The routine of getting gear organized and boats to the river can be a bit hurried and hectic and yet we enjoy every minute of it. Once booty and boat connect, we leave it all at the dock and life just slows down. It becomes a laid-back, go-with-the-flow type of a morning.

A member's request for paddling partners when she joined the club was the origin for this weekly adventure. The need of a support group, with the goal of

slowing down to a pace that works for each individual, was addressed. I think we were a mere three boats that first time out. Now, during the warmer months of summer, we might be as many as 10. Nothing is routine or typical, always there is variation in the mix of people, the weather and river conditions and the focus of the day. Photography, bird watching, technique talk and simple socializing are a few common elements.

Once a year, usually in August, we fold a picnic into the day's paddle. With our lunches safely stowed and a paddle board in tow, we head upriver to our designated beach. This also is our annual practice of wet exits and re-entries. We experiment with different strategies and reward ourselves with good food and just plain play time, trying out each other's boats and soaking in that unique warmth that only sun on sand can create.

The bug to load boats on cars and find a different body of water to paddle on bites us periodically. It's a smart option when the spring runoff can be intimidating. Lake Chelan, Lake Wenatchee, Big Bow Pond in Rock Island and Lincoln Rock Park are always good alternatives. We don't necessarily limit ourselves to day trips. Currently there is discussion of a summer kayak camping trip on the upper part of Lake Chelan being tossed around. Last November, six of us joined up for a fabulous 10-day paddling trip in Mexico, circumnavigating Santo Espiritu Island, which is located off the Mexican State of Baha California Sur.

Being on the river can churn up some creative ideas that transpire into meaningful life experiences. Being on the river in a group can foster friendships that might not otherwise have a chance to sprout. If words can describe us, this is the Tuesday paddle group and everyone is welcome. We paddle year round, we paddle for ourselves and we paddle for each other.

Kim George
March 19, 2013

Regular Spring Happenings

Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday – Open Paddle

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday – Rowing Practice

Wednesday – Beginners/Open Paddle

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 Trista Welsh-Becker at trista.welsh@gmail.com

