

PTCC has been getting out a lot this winter. Here are Steve and Bob braving the cold on the Skykomish River

President's Currents

by Kanako Iwata

Happy New Year!

Do you set New Year's goals? Two years ago, I started setting a New Year's paddling goal. Last year's goal was to 25 new runs. I was fortunate to paddle 37 new runs. Some of them were exciting Class 4 such as the Opal Creek section of the Little North Santiam in Oregon, the short section below the Fall in the Wall of the South Fork Snoqualmie and the Cooper River near Cle Elum. Some were remote and serene such as the White in Vancouver Island and the Dore in British Columbia. There were also some infrequently run local rivers such as the Raging near Fall City, the Class 3 section of the North Fork Snoqualmie, and the Miller in the Skykomish drainage.

This year, I am aiming for 25 more new runs. I am looking forward to running some rivers I have been dreaming of, such as the Jarbidge/Bruneau in Idaho and the Illinois in Oregon, but new river does not necessarily mean I have to travel far or whack through thick bushes. For example, the Skagit Eagle Float scheduled on January 6 would be a new run for me.

If you have any rivers you want to paddle this year, now is the good time to start planning. We will have the trip signups during the Winter Bash on February 24. Even if you are not ready to "lead" a trip, you shouldn't just sit and wait for someone to plan a trip for you. Contact our Trip Chair Alan Brackney or me to discuss how you can make the trip happen.

Let's make 2018 another exciting paddling year!

Upcoming Trips

Jan 27: [George & Steve's Birthday Adventure/Leader's Choice II Or II+](#)

Feb 10: [Leaders Choice II- II+](#)

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

Website Resources

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PTCC Winter Bash Coming Up!

Save the date — February 24th

University Unitarian Church in Seattle

We will be developing the 2018 paddling trip schedule and presenting trip leader awards, so mark your calendars and come join the fun.

Trips Leaders — You don't have to wait until the Winter Bash to sign up to lead trips. Go ahead and send our Trip Chair Alan Brackney and email with what trips you want to lead in 2018 and the dates and he will get it into the schedule. [Windriver50@yahoo.com](mailto:Windriver50@yahoo.com)

Parade of Lighted Christmas Canoes PTCC at Green Lake

The December 9th parade of lighted Christmas canoes had outstanding weather conditions this year. It was completely calm with no wind and a mirror like surface to Green Lake, perfect for reflecting the lights on our boats. Jim and Helens canoe featured a spectacular Christmas tree display, Steve and Kanako paddled frosty the Pirate and a second snowman crew with plenty of lights in dramatic overhead rigging! Snoopy adorned two different boats riding on his doghouse along with George and standing in as Santa with Pete and Kay. Linda had a new partner this year Bumble the Abominable snow monster, holding up a bright star! Sarah and Pat had a mix of characters from different stories with both Tigger with candy canes and Rudolph with a red nose shining! Lauren and Max were late arriving due to parking difficulties, but managed to have a string of lights adding one more splash of color to the evening.

Parking anywhere near, the lake was impossible this year if

you did not come early due to a huge turnout of people walking the lighted pathway. Thousands of people walked the luminary lined pathways most decked out in Christmas lights. Viewing the shore from the water was also quite a show! There were people juggling lights, lighted costumes including one woman dressed as a Christmas tree, my favorite was a couple dressed as glowing Jelly Fish!

One person set up on the end near our starting point and made Giant bubbles, which rolled, across the lake. Overhead were lighted drones checking out the scene from the above.

The Party after the trip was lots of fun with good food and friends, the best thing about the holidays. Hope to see everyone again next year second Sat in December I think we will start a little earlier.

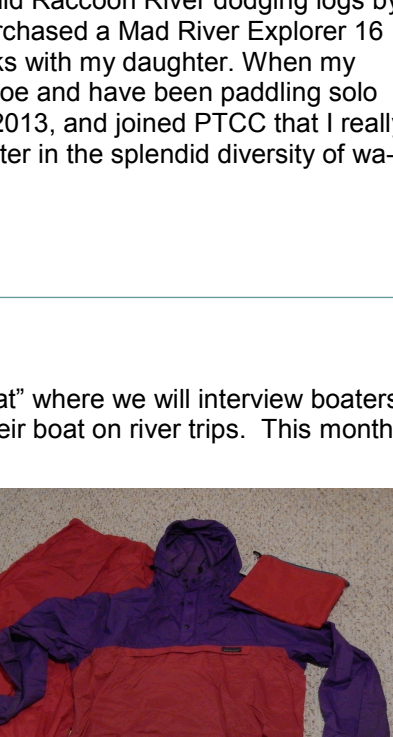
-Pat Maxwell

PTCC Board and Committee Chairs for 2018

Last issue, we announced the 2018 board and chairpersons and told you a bit about them. Here are a few more.

Kay Norton, Secretary

Canoeed for a couple of years, enjoyed class 1-2 and flatwater and served on the board supporting the club and its activities.



Don Samdahl, Treasurer

I've been boating since the 70's, starting in rafting and Kayaking in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Then I got into kayaking white water, which I've continued since we moved to Kirkland in 1987. I also love flatwater canoeing, which I've done on several extended trips in the Boundary Waters, Algonquin, and Canada. I think my favorite river these days is the South Fork Snoqualmie, which is playful enough most of the time when I don't need an extra boost on the Middle-Middle.



Alan Brackney, Trip Chair

I was born and raised in Iowa where all the waters are flat and paddled my first extended canoe trip with a friend at the age of 18 on the not-so-wild Raccoon River dodging logs by day and eating field corn at night. Many years later I purchased a Mad River Explorer 16 in Alaska to paddle the local Chena River near Fairbanks with my daughter. When my canoeing partner went off to college I bought a solo canoe and have been paddling solo ever since. It wasn't until I retired, moved to Sequim in 2013, and joined PTCC that I really learned to paddle a canoe properly and paddle whitewater in the splendid diversity of waters here in the PNW.

Peek-a-Boat

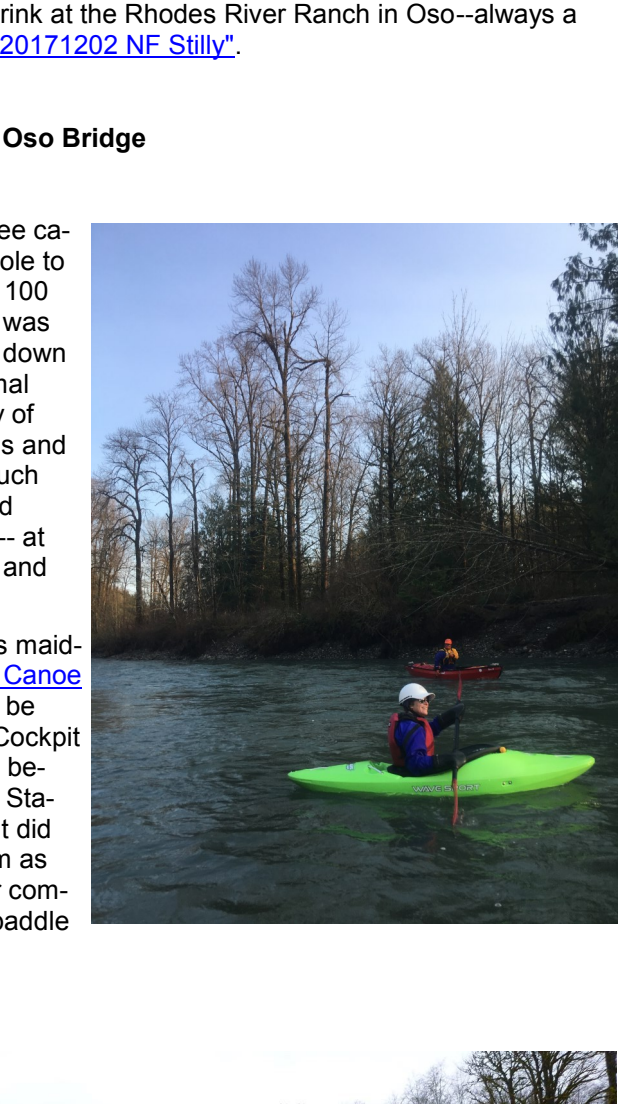
Here is a new article we are starting called "Peek-a-Boat" where we will interview boaters from the club and look inside what gear they carry in their boat on river trips. This months article is from George Wilhelm:

I have been carrying this item in my personal gear bag for more than 20 years. During that period I have used it no more than a dozen times myself, but have loaned to it trip members' at least six-plus times.

It is a light weight rain and windproof jacket and pants that fit in a zippered 8" X 10" pouch.

Even though I'm wearing a dry suit I need protection from hyperthermia, if my dry suit is wet, the wind evaporating the moisture from the outside surface will have a cooling effect on my body. In the summer time it can be very handy if you or a paddling friend needs additional protection from the sun.

Most important is that it be large enough to easily fit over your helmet and PDF.



Gear Talk

Need some gear? Check out all the greatest info and deals on gear at [Gear Talk](#)

Trip Reports

North Fork Stillaguamish: Road-to-Nowhere to Swede Heaven

December 2nd

We had a wonderful run on the class II section of the NF Stilly from the "Road-to-Nowhere" put -in down to Swede Heaven. The flow was 3500 on the NF Stilly gauge in Arlington, but the flow in this section was probably 400 -500 cfs, a very nice level for this small river. The weather was a bit rainy, but not too much. Bob Schneider, Dale Perry, Meryl Douglas, and Erin Moore were paddling kayaks. Pat Contor and Steve Reutebuch were paddling solo canoes. In several spots, there were modest surf spots to enjoy at this level. As always, this section had quite a lot of wood; however, no portages were needed. We spotted around 5 or 6 eagles which is low for this time of year. After paddling, Bob and Steve had food and drink at the Rhodes River Ranch in Oso--always a treat! Photos are in the album titled ["20171202 NF Stilly"](#).



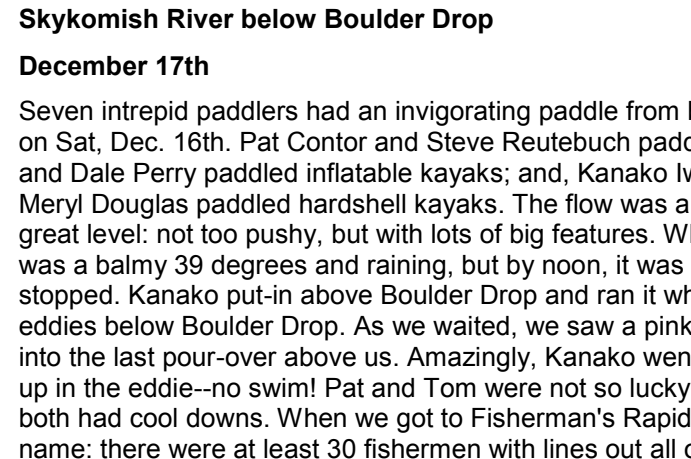
North Fork Stillaguamish Hazel to Oso Bridge

December 9th

'Lovely clear and coolish :- ) day. Three canoes and one Kayak ran the Hazel hole to Oso bridge run. Level was at about 1100 on the USGS Arlington gauge which was quite nice. We trundled and scraped down only 2~3 gravel bars and all the normal mini-surf waves were running. Plenty of choices through the three main rapids and all the boulder gardens offered as much slalom course action as anyone could want. There were quite a few eagles-- at lunch there were 4-5 in nearby trees and flying by.

The highlight of the day was Darren's maiden voyage in his new triple seat ([MT Canoe composite](#)) Caption. The boat has to be seen in person to really appreciate. Cockpit and stern are nearly see through red behind a very shiny opaque black bow. Stable, fast, light and pivots on a dime. It did suffer a few scrapes but did not seem as fussy as some other brands/ or older composite boats. Definitely worth a trial paddle if you get a chance!

-Pat Contor



Skykomish River below Boulder Drop

December 17th

Seven intrepid paddlers had an invigorating paddle from below Boulder Drop to Big Eddy on Sat, Dec. 16th. Pat Contor and Steve Reutebuch paddled solo canoes; Tom Matlack and Dale Perry paddled inflatable kayaks; and, Kanako Iwata-Eng, Bob Schneider and Meryl Douglas paddled hardshell kayaks. The flow was around 1,800 cfs which was a great level: not too pushy, but with lots of big features. When we arrived at the put-in, it was a balmy 39 degrees and raining, but by noon, it was up to 40 or so and the rain had stopped. Kanako put-in above Boulder Drop and ran it while the rest of us waited in the eddies below Boulder Drop. As we waited, we saw a pink kayak up-side-down coming into the last pour-over above us. Amazingly, Kanako went over the pour-over and rolled up in the eddie--no swim! Pat and Tom were not so lucky at Lunch Hole rapid, where both had cool downs. When we got to Fisherman's Rapid, it was apparent how it got its name: there were at least 30 fishermen with lines out all over the place. We had an uneventful float on down to Big Eddy. Steve and Bob retreated to the Mountain View Diner in Gold Bar for refreshments. (They have a great pie selection).

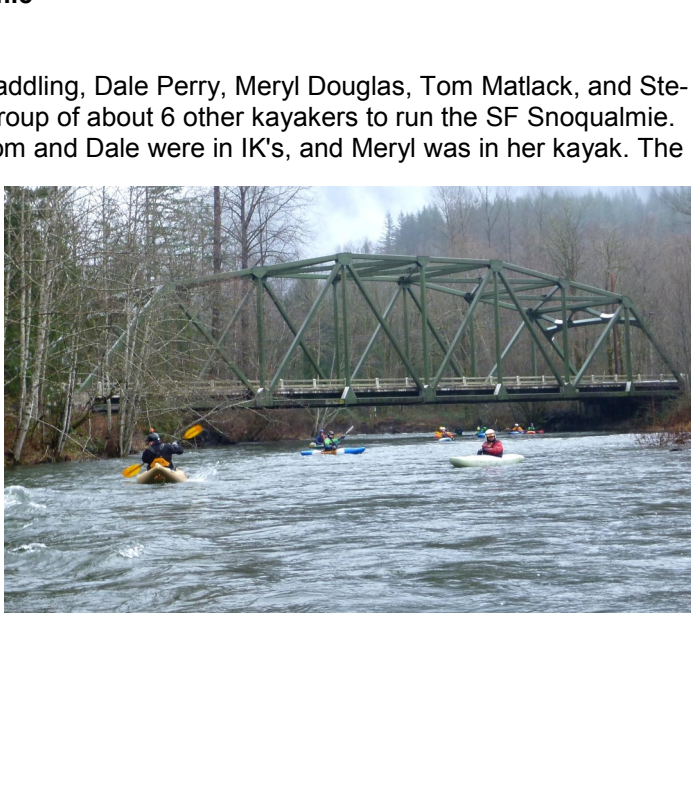
-Steve Reutebuch

Skagit River Marblemount to Rockport

December 26th

Four of us burnt off some of the Christmas dinner calories by going up to the Skagit river on Boxing Day and floating from Marblemount to Rockport (class 1+). The weather was cloudy and cool (around 32 degrees), but no rain! We were all in my 14-foot raft which provided a cushy ride down the river as we looked for eagles. We spotted 86 eagles in the section. The 2018 PTCC Skagit Eagle Float is scheduled for Sat, January 6th.

-Steve Reutebuch



South Fork of the Snoqualmie

January 3rd

To finish off a great year of paddling, Dale Perry, Meryl Douglas, Tom Matlack, and Steve Reutebuch joined with a group of about 6 other kayakers to run the SF Snoqualmie. Steve was the only canoe, Tom and Dale were in IK's, and Meryl was in her kayak. The level was about 800 cfs on the Garcia gauge and weather was cool, but not raining (too much). At 800 cfs, it's a pretty quick trip. Tom and Steve continued on down to the lower takeout, while the rest of the group took out at the 436th Ave bridge. Steve indulged in wonderful apple pie at Georgia's Bakery after the paddle --a great way to celebrate the end of 2017 paddling & pie season!

-Steve Reutebuch

