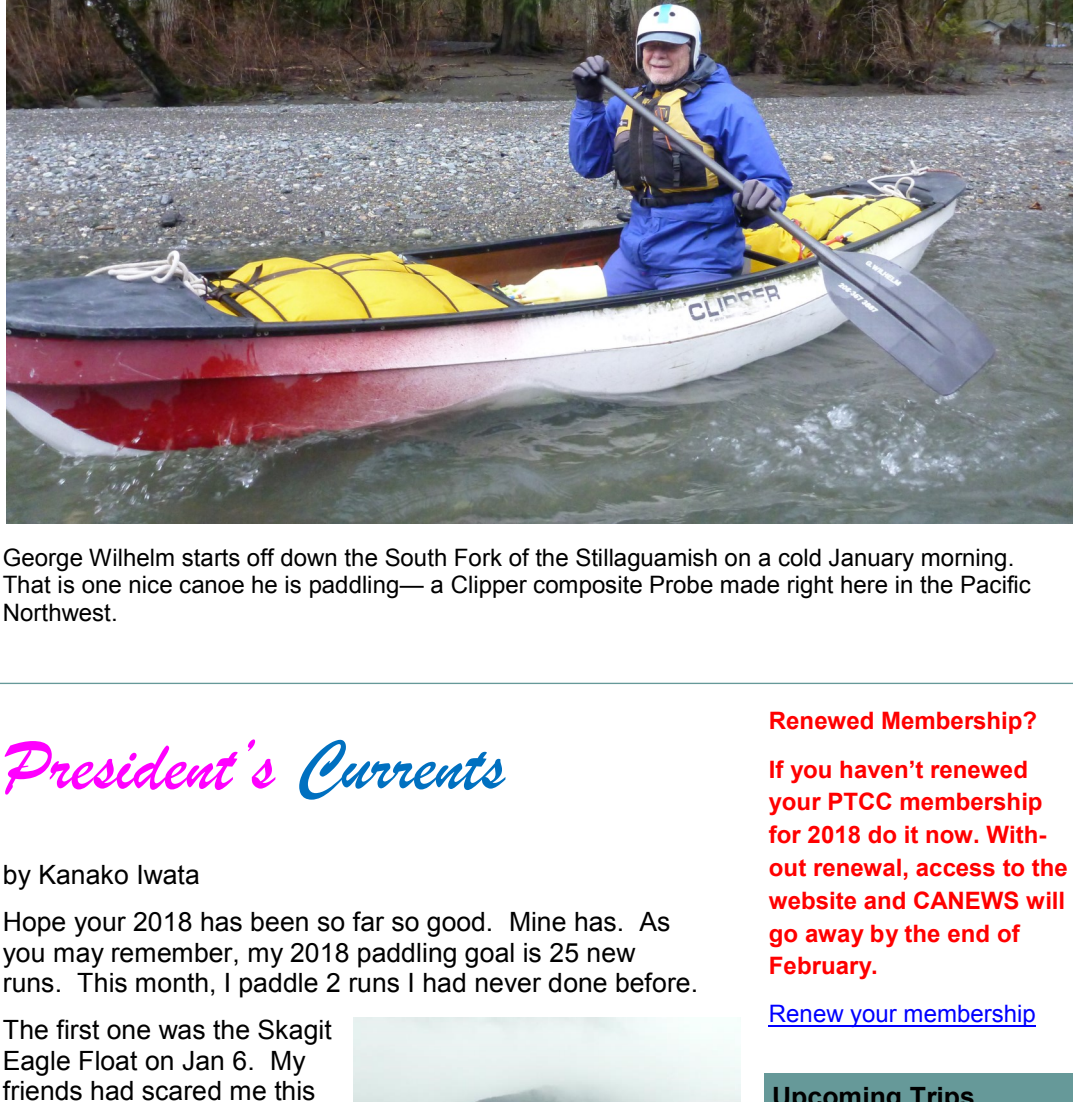


Paddle Trails Canoe Club

CANEWS

February 2018



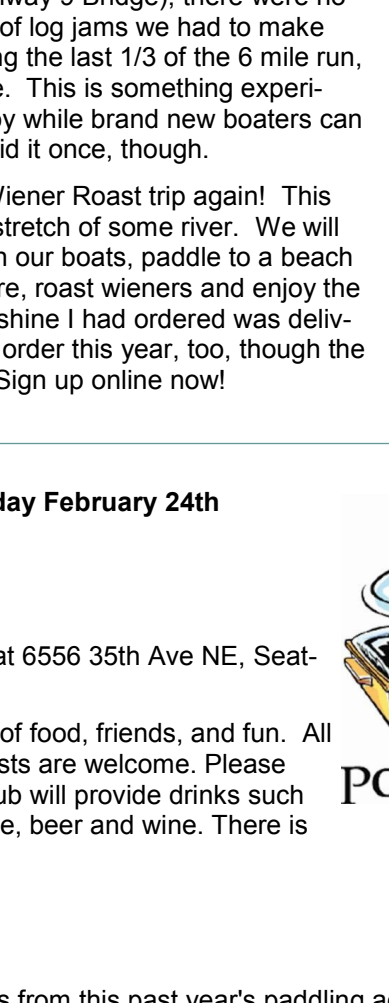
George Wilhelm starts off down the South Fork of the Stillaguamish on a cold January morning. That is one nice canoe he is paddling—a Clipper composite Probe made right here in the Pacific Northwest.

President's Currents

by Kanako Iwata

Hope your 2018 has been so far so good. Mine has. As you may remember, my 2018 paddling goal is 25 new runs. This month, I paddle 2 runs I had never done before.

The first one was the Skagit Eagle Float on Jan 6. My friends had scared me this would be COLD, because it was in the fidget time and place and it was a long flat water you don't have to paddle hard. Fortunately, it was not nearly as cold as anticipated, and the water was, although flat, moving fast. I took binoculars to watch eagles, but being alone in a kayak, I couldn't find as many as 6 sets of eyes on a raft. For the first time I saw a few eagles fighting for food. It turned out a very interesting day.



The second new run was the Pilchuck Creek from the Highway 9 to the Interstate 5. I had run the Class 3-4 sections above it but not this rarely run section. Five kayakers ventured out after a big rain on Jan 12. This was rated Class 2+ by American Whitewater, but at that level (4.9 feet on the stick gauge near the Old Highway 9 Bridge), there were no rapids. There were a couple of log jams we had to make easy portages. While paddling the last 1/3 of the 6 mile run, we were hearing the I-5 noise. This is something experienced boaters would not enjoy while brand new boaters can get into trouble. I am glad I did it once, though.

In February, I am leading a Wiener Roast trip again! This will be for a Class 2 (not 2+) stretch of some river. We will divide up food and firewood in our boats, paddle to a beach or a gravel bar, build a nice fire, roast wieners and enjoy the company. Last year, the sunshine I had ordered was delivered just in time! I placed an order this year, too, though the delivery is not guaranteed ☺ Sign up online now!

Renewed Membership?

If you haven't renewed your PTCC membership for 2018 do it now. Without renewal, access to the website and CANEWS will go away by the end of February.

[Renew your membership](#)

Upcoming Trips

[Feb. 24: Winter Bash](#)

[Feb. 25: Wiener Roast, Class II](#)

[April 14 & 15: River Safety & Rescue Class](#)

[April 21: Nisqually River Cleanup, Class I - III](#)

Website Resources

[Past CANEWS issues](#)

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[Gear for sale](#)

PTCC Winter Bash – Saturday February 24th

Save the date!

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

University Unitarian Church at 6556 35th Ave NE, Seattle WA 98115

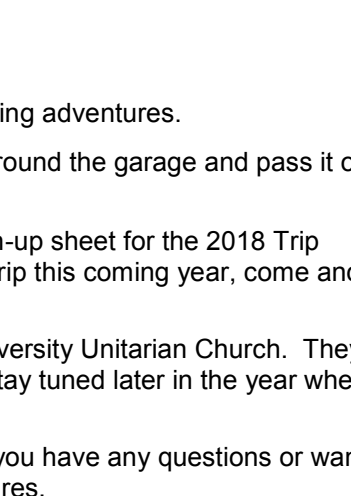
Come join us for an evening of food, friends, and fun. All Club members and their guests are welcome. Please bring a pot-luck dish. The Club will provide drinks such as coffee, tea, soda, fruit juice, beer and wine. There is no charge.

Activities include:

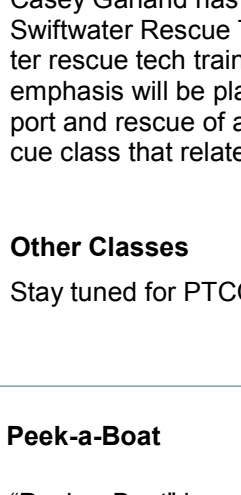
- Trip coordinator awards
- Member videos or photos from this past year's paddling adventures.
- Gear swap—bring any of that paddling gear setting around the garage and pass it onto another person who can put it to good use.
- 2018 Trip Schedule sign-up: We also will have a sign-up sheet for the 2018 Trip Schedule. So, if you want to coordinate a particular trip this coming year, come and help us build a great year of paddling in 2018.

Please note: This will be our last bash in the current University Unitarian Church. They will be tearing it down this summer and rebuilding. So, stay tuned later in the year when we announce the location for the 2018 Fall Bash.

Contact Steve Reutebuch (sereutebuch@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or want to show a video or photos from your 2017 paddling adventures.



PTCC stickers will be available at the Winter Bash. Come pick one up to stick on your boat, paddle, car, forehead, whatever!



Training

River Safety and Rescue Class April 14 & 15th

Casey Garland will present a course on river safety, rope utilization and rescue techniques. Team leadership and rescue planning will also be covered to achieve the best results in a rescue effort.

This class is great for a beginning whitewater boater or even a boater looking to tune up their rescue skills.

2-day class (Sat/Sun); Max 12 participants (6 Washington Kayak Club & 6 PTCC)

4/14 (Sa) 9am - 5pm

4/15 (Su) 9am - 5pm

Lectures will be held at Mike Grijalva's house in Issaquah Saturday morning before heading to the river. River work will likely be on the Cedar River, Landsburg site.

Cost: \$150. PTCC will subsidize \$75 to our members. If the class is full, we will give priorities to those who lead a club trip in 2018.

Casey Garland has 40 years of experience as a river rafting outfitter and guide. He is a Swiftwater Rescue Technician Master Instructor and responsible for introducing swiftwater rescue tech training in Washington, Oregon, Canada, Japan and Taiwan. The course emphasis will be placed on evaluation and management of an incident, rope work for support and rescue of a person, and any topic the participants want to discuss during the rescue class that relates specifically to swift water rescue scenarios.

Other Classes

Stay tuned for PTCC's training schedule for other classes in 2018.

Peek-a-Boat

"Peek-a-Boat" is a monthly article where we interview boaters from the club and look inside what gear they carry in their boat on river trips. This month's article is from Bob Schneider:

There's one item I carry with me on every boating trip that most other members do not. I carry a hydration pack on my back write under my life jacket. I'm mostly a kayaker. However, I picked up this trick from canoeist Morgan Dicus. I love it. Its so easy to get a drink of water whenever I get a thirst. I don't have to unclip or untie a water bottle. And for us kayakers we don't have to pop our skirt to get a drink. This can be especially valuable when paddling on hot summer days. We get "into" the paddling, scenery, and friends and we can forget to take a drink. This can lead to dehydration and heat exhaustion. Not only is that bad in general but becomes dangerous when you are paddling down a river as your brain ceases to operate at optimum ability.

Wearing a hydration pack on the river is comfortable. I usually don't even notice its there. I tuck the nozzle into the front of my life jacket or under a Velcro closer that is at the top front of my life jacket, so the nozzle is always very readily available. If you are worried about buoyancy, the bag is full of water and simply displaces water in the river if you are swimming. And, you can always leave some room in the bag for air, then you have additional buoyancy! I used to also carry a water bottle, and still do on overnight trips. However, on day trips I have never drank all the water in my hydration pack so I don't carry a water bottle any more.

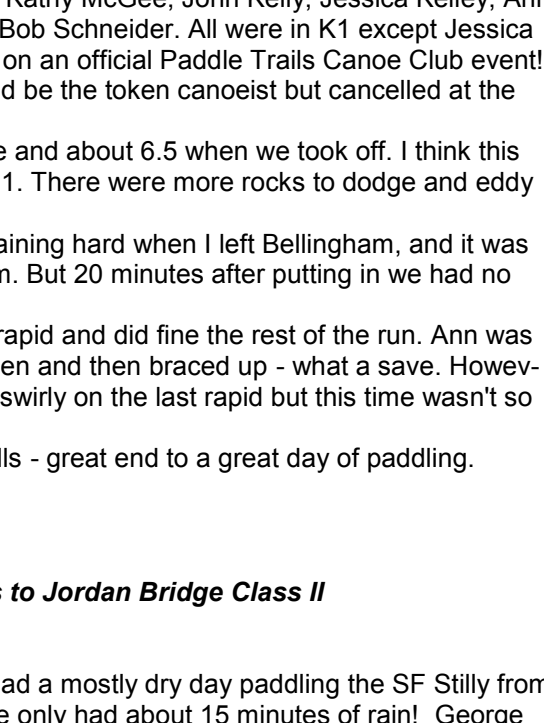
Drink that water – wear a hydration pack!

Trip Reports

Skagit River Eagle Float

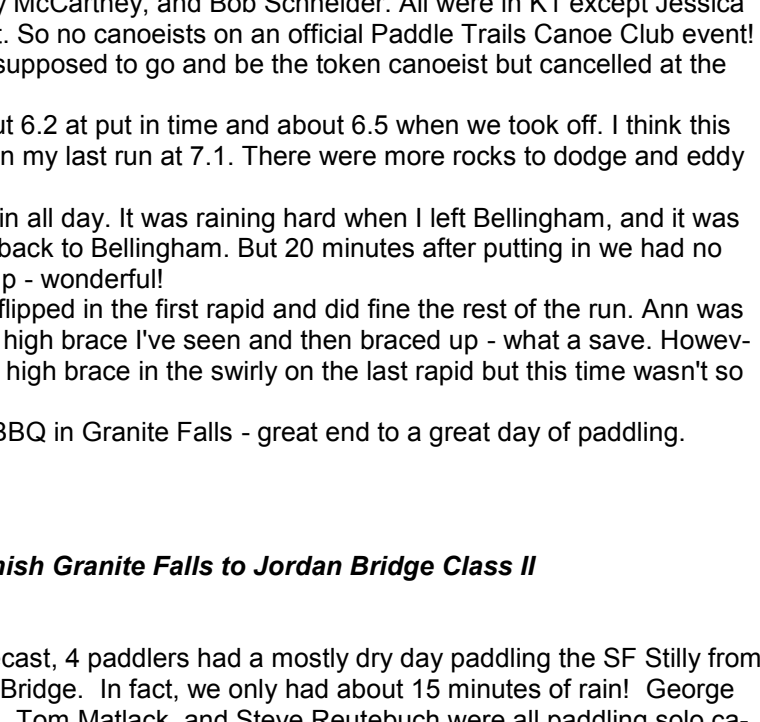
January 6th

This year we had 13 people on the Skagit Eagle float from Marblemount to Rockport. Steve Reutebuch brought his 14-ft paddle raft and had 5 guest join him: Carol, Clint, Beth, Carrie, and Steve C. Morgan Dicus and his 7-year-old son Zamo paddled their tandem canoe. Jessica Kelley was in her pakraft. Pat Maxwell and Sarah Conyer paddled their tandem and Jim Asa rowed his small cataraft. The day was mostly overcast with minimal light showers until we were off the river, so everyone was warm and dry. People riding in the raft counted 58 eagles. Pat took some great pictures which are available at [Skagit Eagle Float](#)



After the trip, most of us went to the Rhodes River Ranch in Oso for some great post-paddling food and drinks!

-Steve Reutebuch



Canyon Creek Class II+

January 21st

On a forecast of rising water and rain, 9 boaters paddled the Canyon Creek, Class 2+. Boaters were: Dale Perry, Meryl Douglas, Kathy McGee, John Kelly, Jessica Kelley, Ann Brindle, Bill Petty, Corey McCartney, and Bob Schneider. All were in K1 except Jessica who paddled a pack raft. So no canoeists on an official Paddle Trails Canoe Club event!

Steve Reutebuch was supposed to go and be the token canoeist but cancelled at the 11th hour due to the flu.

S. Stilly River was about 6.2 at put in time and about 6.5 when we took off. I think this was a little more fun than my last run at 7.1. There were more rocks to dodge and eddy behind.

The forecast was for rain all day. It was raining hard when I left Bellingham, and it was raining hard when I got back to Bellingham. But 20 minutes after putting in we had no rain for the rest of the trip - wonderful!

Jessica in the pack raft flipped in the first rapid and did fine the rest of the run. Ann was on probably the longest high brace I've seen and then braced up - what a save. However, she did another long high brace in the swirly on the last rapid but this time wasn't so lucky.

Five of us stopped for BBQ in Granite Falls - great end to a great day of paddling.

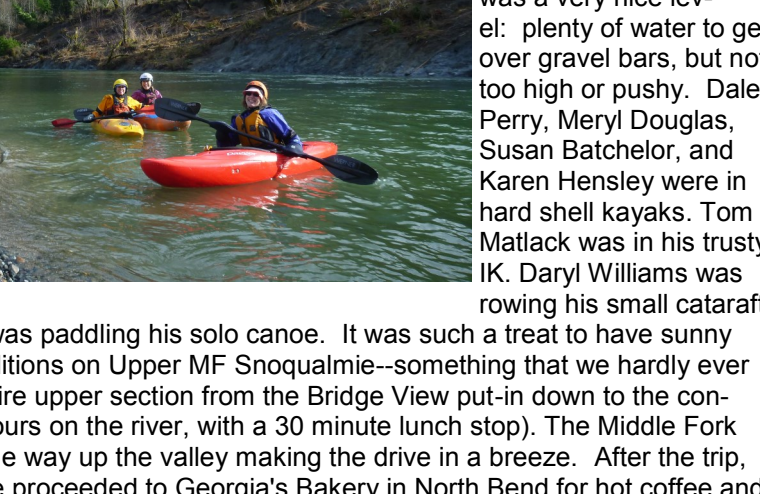
-Bob Schneider

South Fork Stillaguamish Granite Falls to Jordan Bridge Class II

January 27th

In spite of the rainy forecast, 4 paddlers had a mostly dry day paddling the SF Stilly from Granite Falls to Jordan Bridge. In fact, we only had about 15 minutes of rain! George Wilhelm, Robin Stanton, Tom Matlack, and Steve Reutebuch were all paddling solo canoes. George and Steve were celebrating their in January, so doing a run around the end of January has become a tradition. George says he plans on doing it until he's 100 (15 years to go!)

The water level are just at 6.0 ft on the Granite Falls gauge which is a very nice level. The temperature was around 45 degrees which was very pleasant. Robin did indulge in a short swim which was otherwise uneventful. The slide on river right about 2 miles above the take-out has become a monster. There was a double-wise trailer hanging over the abyss which probably will slide 100 ft down into the river in the next day or two (see photo album 20180127 SF Stilly at 6 ft).



After the trip, we retreated to Granite Falls with great hopes of trying out the new pie place in town: Hanky Pies (<https://www.facebook.com/hankypies/>). Unfortunately, they had just closed for the day. So, George, Steve, and Robin settled for store-bought solo pies at the supermarket in Granite Falls...not so good, but at least we got our pie.

-Steve Reutebuch

Upper Middle Fork Snoqualmie at 1850 CFS

February 11th



Seven of us had a beautiful day on one of the most scenic river sections in our area on Saturday Feb. 11th. The weather was sunny and very mild. The river flow was 1850 cfs on the Tanner gauge which was a very nice level: plenty of water to get over gravel bars, but not too high or pushy. Dale Perry, Meryl Douglas, Susan Batchelor, and Karen Hensley were in hard shell kayaks. Tom Matlack was in his trusty IK. Daryl Williams was rowing his small cataraft,

and Steve Reutebuch was paddling his solo canoe. It was such a treat to have sunny weather and great conditions on Upper MF Snoqualmie--something that we hardly ever get! We floated the entire upper section from the Bridge View put-in down to the concrete bridge (about 3 hours on the river, with a 30 minute lunch stop). The Middle Fork road is now paved all the way up the valley making the drive in a breeze. After the trip, Daryl, Karen, and Steve proceeded to Georgia's Bakery in North Bend for hot coffee and pie. Photo from the trip are in the album titled 20180210 Upper MF Snoqualmie

-Steve Reutebuch