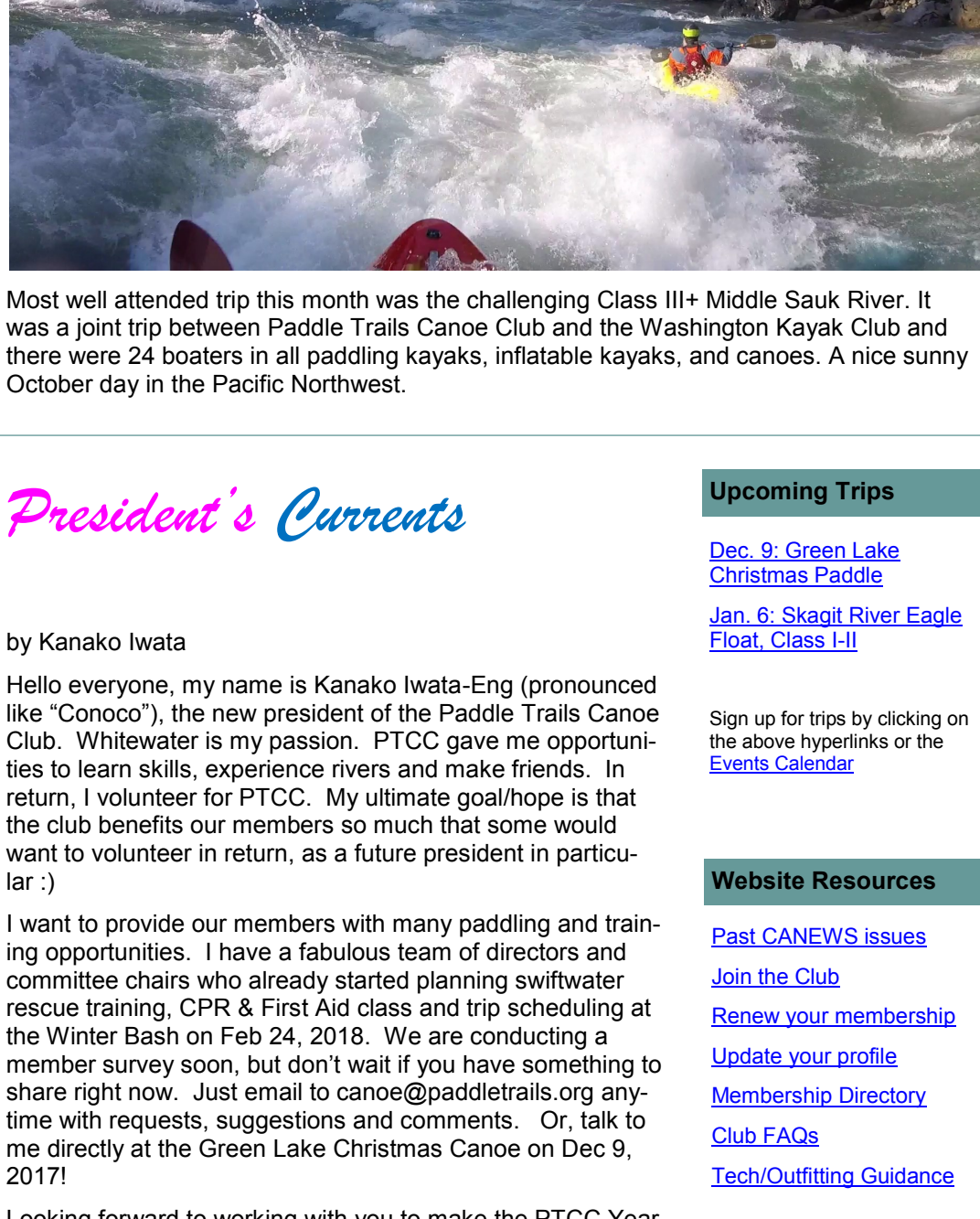


Paddle Trails Canoe Club

CANEWS

December 2017

Kayaks on the Middle Sauk River



Most well attended trip this month was the challenging Class III+ Middle Sauk River. It was a joint trip between Paddle Trails Canoe Club and the Washington Kayak Club and there were 24 boaters in all paddling kayaks, inflatable kayaks, and canoes. A nice sunny October day in the Pacific Northwest.

President's Currents

by Kanako Iwata

Hello everyone, my name is Kanako Iwata-Eng (pronounced like "Conoco"), the new president of the Paddle Trails Canoe Club. Whitewater is my passion. PTCC gave me opportunities to learn skills, experience rivers and make friends. In return, I volunteer for PTCC. My ultimate goal/hope is that the club benefits our members so much that some would want to volunteer in return, as a future president in particular :)

I want to provide our members with many paddling and training opportunities. I have a fabulous team of directors and committee chairs who already started planning swiftwater rescue training, CPR & First Aid class and trip scheduling at the Winter Bash on Feb 24, 2018. We are conducting a member survey soon, but don't wait if you have something to share right now. Just email to canoe@paddletrails.org anytime with requests, suggestions and comments. Or, talk to me directly at the Green Lake Christmas Canoe on Dec 9, 2017!

Looking forward to working with you to make the PTCC Year 2017-18 fun and productive!

Upcoming Trips

[Dec. 9: Green Lake Christmas Paddle](#)
[Jan. 6: Skagit River Eagle Float, Class I-II](#)

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

Website Resources

[Past CANEWS issues](#)
[Join the Club](#)
[Renew your membership](#)
[Update your profile](#)
[Membership Directory](#)
[Club FAQs](#)
[Tech/Outfitting Guidance](#)

PTCC Membership — Defined

by Carol Beers

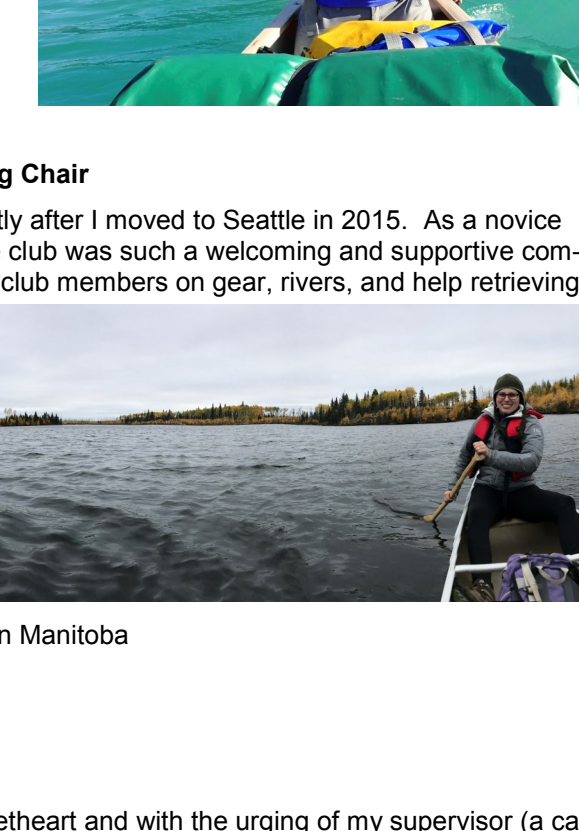
A couple years ago PTCC transitioned to a new website service (Club Express) and with that came new definitions of membership. I wanted to explain the old and the new.

Before, we had a household membership for a fee, which could include all members of the household....still does.... under the new system, and it includes one email address attached to the "primary" member, in Club Express terms. All additional family members are considered "tertiary members". But there is a new category called "secondary". This allows additional email addresses attached to the account, for an additional \$3 for each additional email address. This might be useful for several people living within the house or living away (say at college)...and each person with a secondary account gets all PTCC emails, and stays informed.

If you are interested in secondary memberships, contact membership chair, Carol Beers - via PTCC website.

PTCC Fall Bash was a Great Success!

We had a great turn out for our 47th Annual Fall Bash at the University Unitarian Church on October 21st. Over 50 people showed up, some in costume, to enjoy a fabulous potluck dinner. Before dinner, Tom O'Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director for American Whitewater (AW) outlined all the great things that AW has been doing both here in the PNW and across the country to ensure that we continue to protect and have access to the amazing rivers we all enjoy. He encouraged us all to go online and show our support for protecting the Methow river system from proposed mining.



During dinner Bob Schneider showed photos of his 5-week paddling and camping trip in New Zealand, including a 5-day paddle down the Whanganui river which is the first river in the world that has been officially given the legal protections of a person. After dinner, we held the business portion of the bash which included the election of new Club Officers and Directors, and a brief financial update. Outgoing club president Dave Mainer gave a big "Thank You" to all the people who give their time to make it possible for the club to continue to have such a wonderful variety of trips, classes, and social events throughout the year. We all owe Dave a great big "Thank You" for his tireless work over many, many years to keep the club vibrant and well run! We finished the night with Cookie Awards for notable incidents that club members were involved in over the past year. A great time was had by all.

Note: the PTCC Winter Bash will be on Saturday, February 24th at the University Unitarian Church. We will be developing the 2018 paddling trip schedule and presenting trip leader awards, so mark your calendars and come join the fun.

by Steve Reutebuch

New PTCC Board for 2018

The following board was voted on by the club at the Fall Bash and elected and the following committee chairs volunteered for 2018.

Board	Chairpersons
President: Kanako Iwata	Membership: Carol Beers
Vice President: Bob Schneider	Social: Steve Reutebuch
Treasurer: Don Samdahl	Training: Lauren Lesser
Secretary: Kay Norton	Cruise: Alan Brachney
Director: Becca Polglase	Outreach: Erich Volkstorf
Director: Lauren Lesser	Editor: Howard Young
Director: Lori Lodzinski	Webmaster: Dave Mainer
Director: Janiene Licciardi	

Some of these people were bold enough to provide self introductions. Read on!

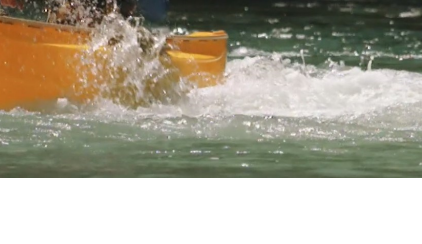
Kanako Iwata-Eng, President

Known as a pink kayaker, frequently seen in the Middle Sauk, my favorite. I first learned kayaking with the Washington Kayak Club in 2012 but also joined PTCC as it had more trips on the calendar that year. Providing our members with lots of paddling and training opportunities is my top priority.



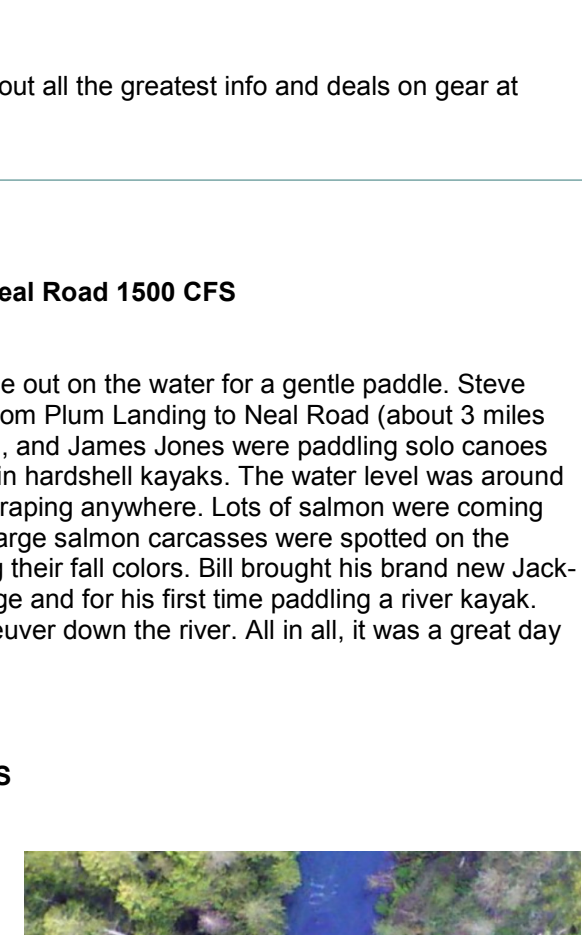
Bob Schneider, Vice President

Been a PTCC member since 1996. Before PTCC active member of Portland's Lower Columbia Canoe Club. Started paddling in 1970! Love S. Stilly, Sauk, Chilliwack, and Middle Fork of the Salmon R.



Becca Polglase, Director

I grew up paddling in New England and joined PTCC in 2014, a few years after moving out west. I love paddling tandem, especially on Class I-II water, and I love canoe tripping as well. The Skagit's my favorite river in this area, and I also enjoy pack rafting on alpine lakes in the summer when the rivers are low.



Lauren Lesser, Director and Training Chair

Hi, I'm Lauren and I joined PTCC shortly after I moved to Seattle in 2015. As a novice boater in the Northwest, I love how the club was such a welcoming and supportive community. I've gotten lots of advice from club members on gear, rivers, and help retrieving my boat after a swim - so I'm looking forward to giving back this year as trip coordinator! I paddle canoes & kayaks, and my favorite river is currently the Skykomish, for its crystal clear water & proximity to the delicious Sky Dell on Route 2.

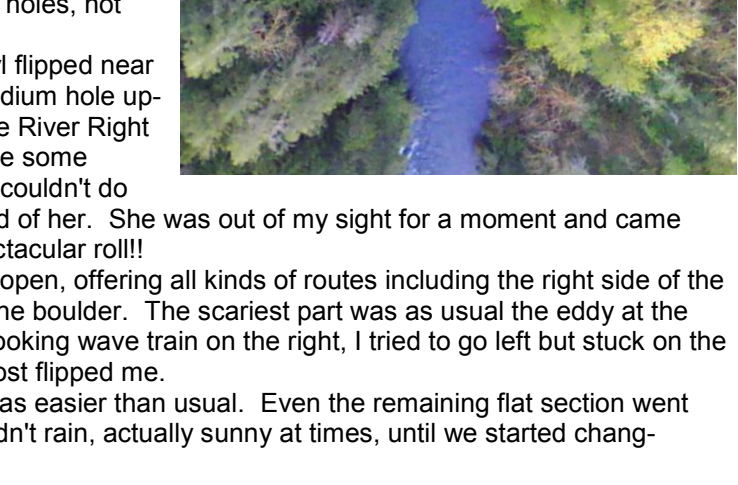
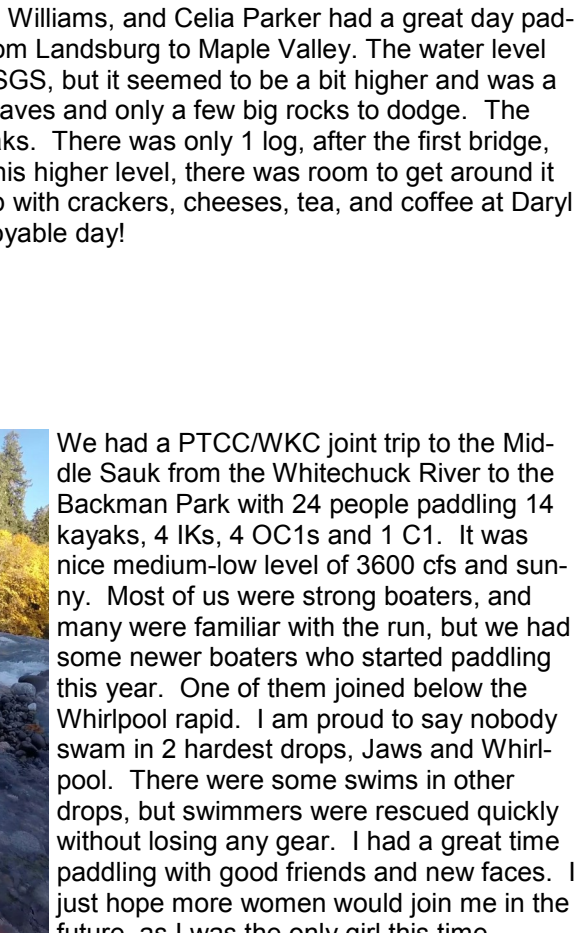


Photo: Canoeing on a windy morning in Manitoba

Lori Lodzinski, Director

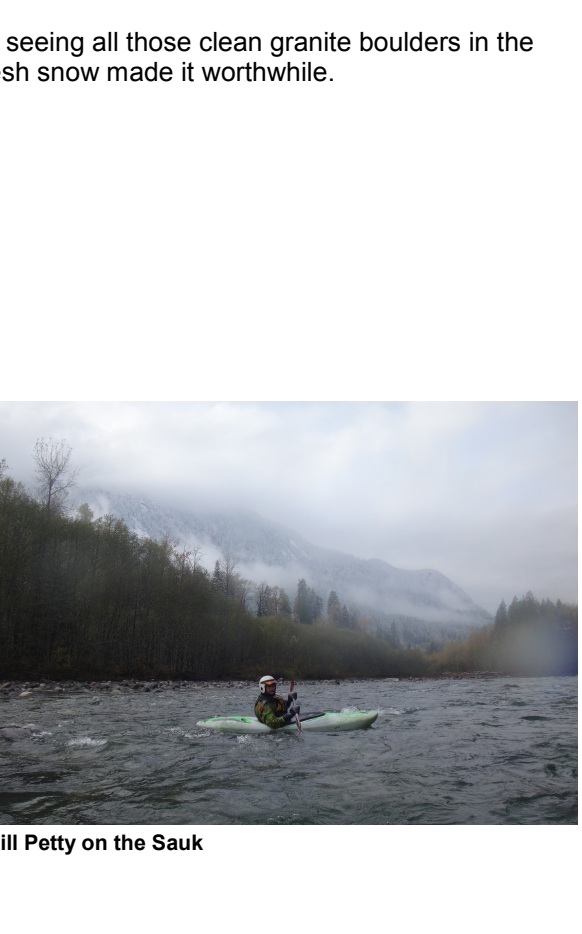
After breaking up with my college sweetheart and with the urging of my supervisor (a canoeist) I joined Paddle Trails. In the spring of 1989 fellow classmates and still members, Pat Maxwell, Sarah Conyers, and I signed up for the spring training class entrusting our training and the safety to Dan McMonagle, Dan Johnson, and Steve Salins. Joining PTCC was one of the best decisions I ever made. I started as a tandem boater until I bought my first dual sole/tandem canoe, a hand-made by Dan Johnston Merganser. My first tandem run (also my first camping trip) was on the Sol Duc and my first solo run was on the North Umpqua; two of my favorite rivers to this day.



If you ever wonder where I came up with my email address, or why I chew bubblegum, or why I love to "hoot and holler" on the river then read on. "Boaterbabe28" is my birthday (the day, not the year) and a nickname given to me by a good boating friend, Steve Crumley. I started chewing gum when after church my dad would stop at the local drug store for the Sunday paper and he would let me buy a pack of gum. I then chewed gum when I played basketball in junior high (yes, I was on the first string) to keep my mouth from drying out, then again when boating to keep from clenching my teeth and damaging my veneers. Actually, I chew gum and blow bubbles for the extra flotation. Yelling on the river takes me back to going to hockey games, which is the only other place where you can just let it all out. Canoeing is my first love and I have too many favorite rivers to list, except maybe in the most challenging canoe runs I would say the Upper Dosewallips, the Thompson in Canada, Bruneau-Jarbridge and Lochsa in Idaho, and Husum Falls on the White Salmon. Most fun raft trips include the Grand Canyon and the Zambesi and the Source of the Nile in Africa. Favorite sea kayaking trips include Desolation Sound, Monterey Bay, Caribbean. In past years I have been President, Director, Membership and Cruise chairs, and happy to be a Director again.

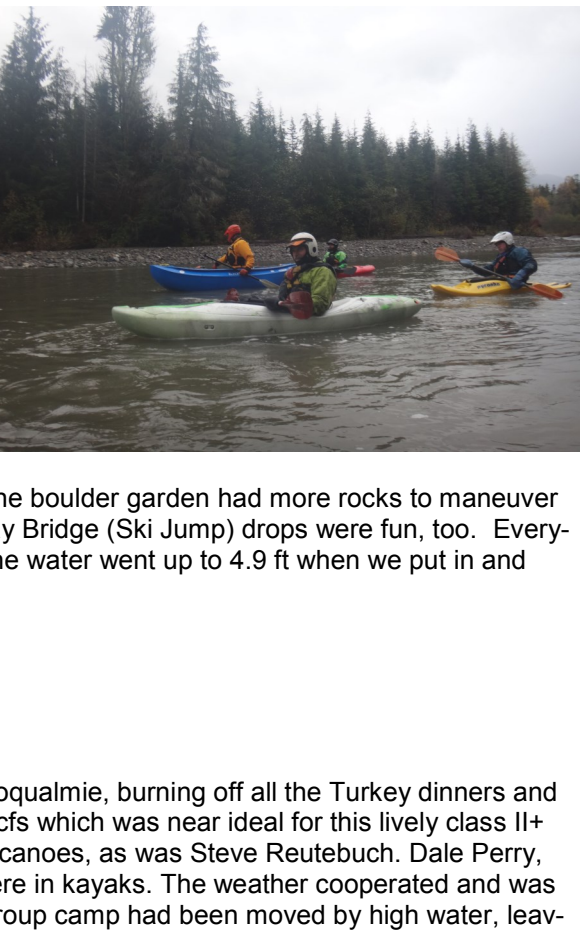
Janiene Licciardi, Director

I've been sea kayaking for a decade or two, but my first taste of paddling was in a canoe. The first of many summers canoeing in the Adirondacks began when I was 7 years old. I had a couple of forays into river canoeing at about the middle of the timeline between then and now, and for a few years I had some fun as a not-very-good whitewater kayaker. In 2014 I took the Paddle Trails whitewater class with my partner Katie in our Nova Craft Prospector. Since then I have been doing my best to dabble in whitewater canoeing. I like to paddle tandem and solo, and if I had only one hobby I like to think I'd be a lot better paddler by now! I am a class 2 boater at this juncture and it's OK. I like to explore wilderness, and mostly I think of the canoe as a (graceful) way to get me there. I still love my sea kayak and the salty wilds too.



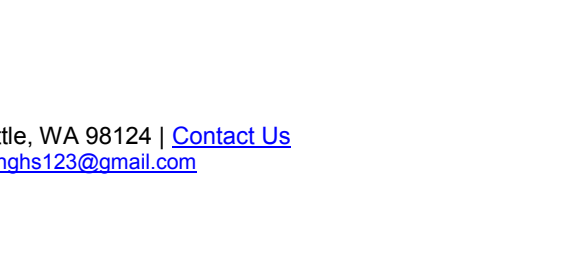
Steve Reutebuch, Social Chair

I first joined PTCC in 2004 when I figured out that my wife Trish and I needed to find others to paddle with so that we'd have people to shuttle cars from the put-in to the take-out. Little did I know that I was joining a group that has become one of my favorite bunch of people! I now have been paddling 13 years and continue to learn more every year. I've been teaching solo canoeing in our Intro to River Canoeing class for about 10 years and really enjoy introducing new people to the joys of our local rivers. In addition, I love week-long trips down the John Day and Grande Ronde in eastern Oregon each summer, usually with other club members. As Social Chair, I organize the supplies and venues for our Fall, Winter, and Spring Bashes.



Erich Volkstorf, Outreach Chair

My name is Erich Volkstorf and I'm the Outreach Chair. If you are a new member, contact from me is one of the first communications you get from Paddle Trails. I took my first canoe trip in 1971 when I paddled the Bowron Lakes circuit with a school chum. A hiatus from canoeing followed that and I reconnected with the sport in 2002. I joined PTCC because I wanted to do longer and harder trips in Northern Canada and needed more whitewater experience. My favorite boat is the one that I happen to be paddling at the time. It might be a W/C Prospector, or an Outrage X or a Bob's Special. Though I have a number of rivers that I like, the Finlay has to be at the top of my list, for its difficult whitewater and great history. Doing the third descent and seeing old portage blazes made it even more memorable. The Nanika-Kidprie route is my top choice for a lake system. Great scenery and a mix of terrain.



Howard Young, CANEWS Editor

I discovered canoeing and Paddle Trails in 2010. I like paddling Pacific Northwest rivers for the mountain scenes, interesting geology, and exciting rapids. My favorite boat is the Dagger Ocoee, although I don't paddle one.

Dave Mainer, Webmaster and Ex-pres
Canoeing since 1983
Member since 1985
Favorite River – Middle Sauk

Gear Talk

Who doesn't need another boat? Check out all the greatest info and deals on gear at [Gear Talk](#)

Trip Reports

Snoqualmie River Plum Landing to Neal Road 1500 CFS

October 14th

Sat, Oct 14 was a beautiful Fall day to be out on the water for a gentle paddle. Steve Reutebuch lead a group of 5 paddlers from Plum Landing to Neal Road (about 3 miles below Fall City). Steve, George Wilhelm, and James Jones were paddling solo canoes and Jeff Colehour and Bill Ritchie were in hardshell kayaks. The water level was around 1,500 cfs which was enough to avoid scarping anywhere. Lots of salmon were coming up the river to spawn and several very large salmon carcasses were spotted on the shoreline. The banks also were showing their fall colors. Bill brought his brand new Jackson Traverse kayak for its maiden voyage and for his first time paddling a river kayak. He did great as he learned how to maneuver down the river. All in all, it was a great day out on the water!

-Steve Reutebuch

Lower Green River Gorge at 3720 CFS

October 22nd

In the morning after the big rain, Bill P, Meryl D, Don V and I chose the Lower Green as a safe and fun destination. When we put in around 11:30, it was about 3720 cfs - my new high. Assuming the usual put-in at the Paradise was under the water, we walked down to Kay's Landing. Water was brown and fast. Some holes were huge, but there were lots of room between holes, not hard to maneuver through. In the Hatchery drop, Meryl flipped near the top and went into a medium hole upside down going toward the River Right shore where we usually see some logs. Don and I saw it but couldn't do anything as we were ahead of her. She was out of my sight for a moment and came back in right side up! Spectacular roll!!

The Island Drop was wide open, offering all kinds of routes including the right side of the island and the left side of the boulder. The scariest part was as usual the eddy at the bottom. To avoid violent-looking wave train on the right, I tried to go left but stuck on the strong eddyline which almost flipped me. The last drop, Claudia's, was easier than usual. Even the remaining flat section went fast without paddling. It didn't rain, actually sunny at times, until we started changing. We had a great time.

-Kanako Iwata

Cedar River from Landsburg at 1000 CFS

October 22nd

Steve Reutebuch, Karen Hensley, Daryl Williams, and Celia Parker had a great day paddling the class II section of the Cedar from Landsburg to Maple Valley. The water level was about 1,000 cfs according to the USGS, but it seemed to be a bit higher and was a little pushy. This made for a lot of fun waves and only a few big rocks to dodge. The weather was partly cloudy with sun breaks. There was only 1 log, after the first bridge, that nearly spans the river. Luckily, at this higher level, there was room to get around it on the left side. The trip was followed up with crackers, cheeses, tea, and coffee at Daryl and Karen's house. All in all a very enjoyable day!

-Steve Reutebuch

Middle Sauk River at 3600 CFS

October 28th

We had a PTCC/WKC joint trip to the Middle Sauk from the Whitechuck River to the Backman Park with 24 people paddling 14 kayaks, 4 IKs, 4 OC1s and 1 C1. It was a nice medium-low level of 3600 cfs and sunny. Most of us were strong boaters, and many were familiar with the run, but we had some newer boaters who started paddling this year. One of them joined below the Whirlpool rapid. I am proud to say nobody swam in 2 hardest drops, Jaws and Whirlpool. There were some swims in other drops, but swimmers were rescued quickly without losing any gear. I had a great time paddling with good friends and new faces. I just hope more women would join me in the future, as I was the only girl this time. Howard Young was there to film us using a drone-mounted camera, but due to some technical difficulties, it had to be postponed.

-Kanako Iwata

Skykomish Split Rock to Big Eddy at 1900 CFS

November 4th

Due to low water on the Green River, we changed the PTCC scheduled trip on the Headworks to the Skykomish River. The flow was 1900 CFS, just fine for us. There were 5 of us total including Dale, Meryl, and Bill Ritchey paddling kayaks and Jeff Styles and I paddling open boats. Aside from being a competitive slalom open boater, Jeff is the founder/boat builder of MT Canoes and was paddling one of his own boats, called the MO. MO stands for "Modified Ocoee" and it is a shortened version of the original Frankie Hubbard Ocoee. The MO is a highly maneuverable playboat and he built it with a special composite layup, with beautiful graphics built into the outer layer (see photos on the PTCC photo page). I liked the electric pump and double thigh strap outfitting that comes with the boat.

After giving a long safety lecture and a lot of advice to new whitewater kayaker, Bill Ritchey, I set off down Railroad Bridge rapid and flipped my boat a short way into the rapid. I had a long swim, which did not improve my comfort level on this cold day with air temps in the 30s but at least I got to demonstrate self rescue to Bill. The rest of the trip was uneventful. Bill did great for being new to whitewater boating and I am sure we will see him out on the river a lot this winter. It was almost too cold to be out today but seeing all those clean granite boulders in the river and the towering peaks with the fresh snow made it worthwhile.

[Trip Photos](#)

-Howard Young

Snowy Day on the Sauk

November 5th

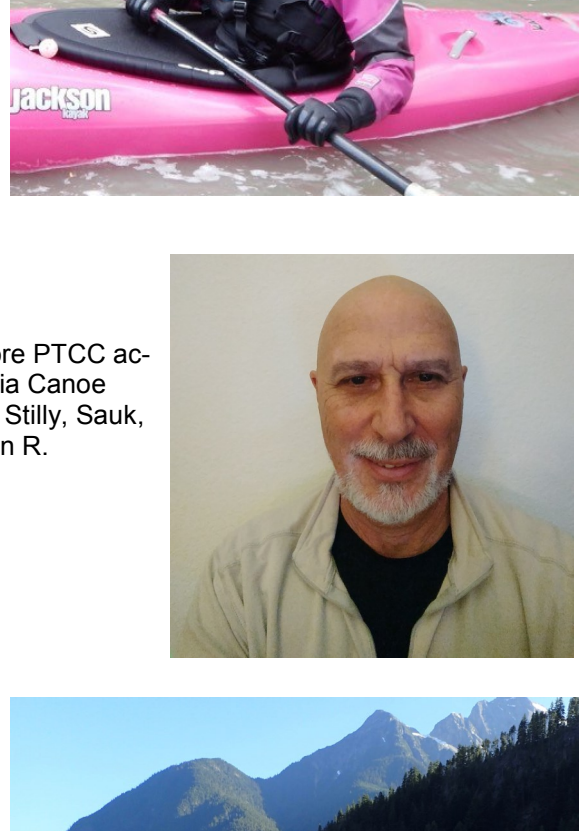
Bill Petty and I were the only "dedicated" (note: NOT CRAZY) boaters on the Sauk today. It was 32 degrees and snowing. The Sauk@Sauk gauge was at 1850 cfs. This is low for sure but probably twice more water than 1850 cfs in the summer. When it is hot and the glacier is melting, the Skiatle contributes a lot, but right now, water is mainly from the Sauk. The mountains surrounding the river are always beautiful, but they were sugar dusted and breathtaking today. We paddled non-stop and finished in 1 hour and 40 minutes.

-Kanaoko Iwata

Middle South Fork Stillagamish

November 12th

It had been raining all night, but the gauge was still at 4.49 ft in the morning. We usually say 5.7 ft is the minimum whitewater level. My lowest before was 4.9 ft. But hoping the continuing rain will fill this small river quickly, I emailed to the registrants at 7am. 10 brave and highly capable boaters in 9 kayaks and 1 open canoe showed up and were pleasantly surprised to see a pretty good flow!



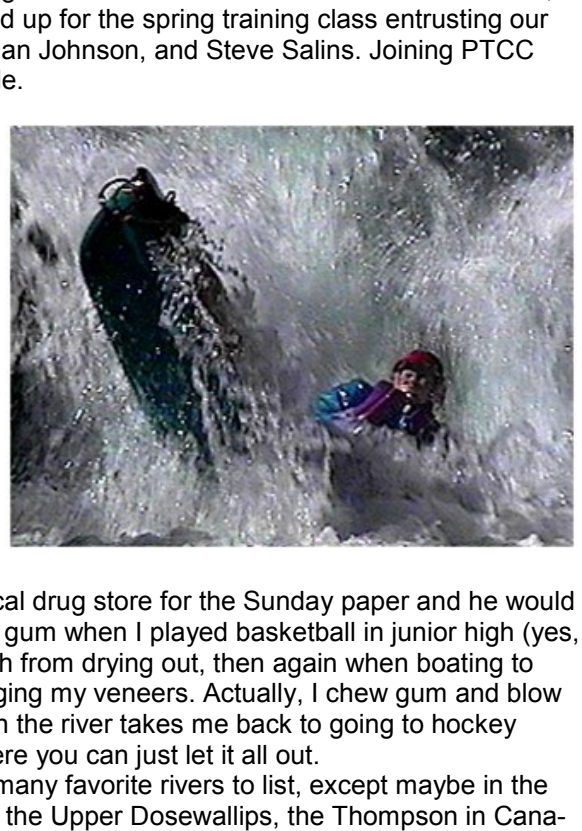
The Wiley Creek rapid was exciting and challenging as usual. The Black Creek rapid had more eddies to hop through. The Landslide and the Highway Bridge (Ski Jump) drops were fun, too. Everyone was happy to come. It turned out the water went up to 4.9 ft when we put in and nearly 5.5 ft before we took out.

-Kanako Iwata

South Fork Snoqualmie at 700 cfs

November 25th

Six of us had a great time on the SF Snoqualmie, burning off all the Turkey dinners and desserts from Thurs. The flow was 700 cfs which was near ideal for this lively class II+ run. Dave & Peggy Mainer were in solo canoes, as was Steve Reutebuch. Dale Perry, Meryl Douglas, and Susan Batchelor were in kayaks. The weather cooperated and was cloudy, but no rain. The log below the group camp had been moved by high water, leaving lots of room to pass on the right. After paddling, Dave, Peggy, and Steve enjoyed a bite at the Iron Duck (formerly the Brickyard Brewery).



-Steve Reutebuch