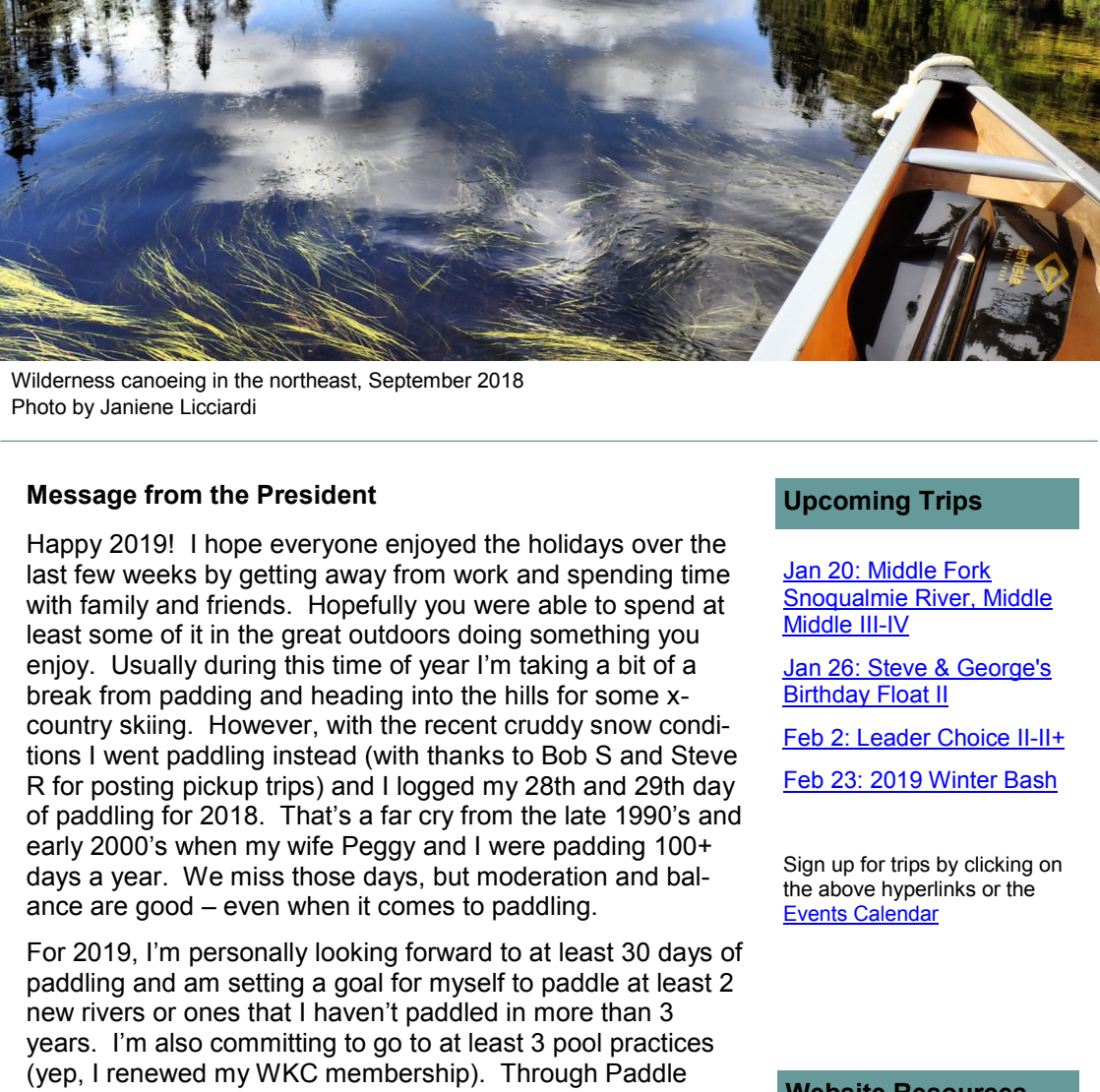


Paddle Trails Canoe Club

CANEWS

January 2019



Wilderness canoeing in the northeast, September 2018
Photo by Janiene Licciardi

Message from the President

Happy 2019! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays over the last few weeks by getting away from work and spending time with family and friends. Hopefully you were able to spend at least some of it in the great outdoors doing something you enjoy. Usually during this time of year I'm taking a bit of a break from paddling and heading into the hills for some x-country skiing. However, with the recent crudgy snow conditions I went paddling instead (with thanks to Bob S and Steve R for posting pickup trips) and I logged my 28th and 29th day of paddling for 2018. That's a far cry from the late 1990's and early 2000's when my wife Peggy and I were paddling 100+ days a year. We miss those days, but moderation and balance are good – even when it comes to paddling.

For 2019, I'm personally looking forward to at least 30 days of paddling and am setting a goal for myself to paddle at least 2 new rivers or ones that I haven't paddled in more than 3 years. I'm also committing to go to at least 3 pool practices (yep, I renewed my WKC membership). Through Paddle Trails Canoe Club, I'm committed to continuing to evangelize canoeing in our area. The PTCC board is going to help accomplish this through more instruction, better use of social media and a trip schedule that is more flexible and appeals to a broader range of paddlers. Above all, we want to make the club work for its members so please let us know how we're doing or if you have ideas about making the club better.

Lastly, I want to challenge all of you to get out and paddle more this year. If you have something that's preventing you, whether its equipment, lack of skill, lack of local knowledge or transportation, our supportive club and its members are willing to help if you ask.

Dave Mainer

Upcoming Trips

[Jan 20: Middle Fork Snoqualmie River, Middle Middle III-IV](#)

[Jan 26: Steve & George's Birthday Float II](#)

[Feb 2: Leader Choice II-II+](#)

[Feb 23: 2019 Winter Bash](#)

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 Winter Bash

Saturday, February 23rd, 6:30–9:00 PM

Shoreline Unitarian Church

14724 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98155

Mark your calendars for the Winter Bash. We'll again be holding the bash at the Shoreline Unitarian Church (while the University UUC is being remodeled). We'll be having Trip Coordinator Awards, the opportunity to add your favorite river trips to the 2019 Trip Schedule, and a great Potluck dinner. Beverages are provided by the club, so come enjoy an evening with your paddling friends and make plans for 2019 paddling adventures!

For more information, contact Steve Reutebuch (sereutebuch@yahoo.com, ph: 206-799-9138)

Lake Canoe Tripping in Ontario and New York, Fall 2018

Wind screamed through trees above as cold crept upward from below. We were tucked behind a natural berm of tree roots and duff with a few layers of clothing between our backs and the forest floor, a tarp stretched like a limpet a few inches above our noses.



Eight days earlier we had launched our 17-foot Kevlar canoe into the northwest edge of Algonquin Provincial Park. The park had held a mythic place in my imagination since I was eight years old when my aunt and uncle returned from a canoe trip with stories of snapping turtles in the rain, wolves howling in the night, moose dripping with pond weeds from their snouts, and black bears prowling the back sides of camp.

Now I was here for the first time, and I wanted to see how wild it still was. As part of a 3-4 week "canoe tour sampler" of the northeast, Algonquin was the centerpiece. We were feeling in the groove, we were in our canoe rhythm, but the storm stopped us in our tracks and blew humility into our souls.

The canoe tour began some weeks earlier in upstate New York, in a state park/ forest reserve larger than Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and the Great Smoky Mountains national parks put together. The Adirondack State Forest Reserve is astonishing in its size and unique in its mosaic of private and state lands dedicated to forever wild preservation. The Adirondacks were my stomping grounds as a kid but I had never canoed in the St. Regis Canoe Wilderness. For our canoe tour here and beyond, we bought a well-used but lightweight rental canoe from St. Regis Outfitters and set out to get to know her.

This land of northern NY is a forgotten corner of the country and it was sublime in mid-September, still warmed by summer, the lakes perfect for swimming. No permits are necessary in St. Regis, and camping is free. But what we loved most about it were the loons and the quiet solitude. There are no motor boats and we saw few other paddlers. We explored bogs of carnivorous plants, turtles, water lilies, and water snakes. We skirted along shores of 3 billion year old rocks- the southerly extension of the Canadian Shield- and beside stands of old-growth Eastern White Pine. The call of loons was ever-present, both a soothing and a tantalizing call of the wild. In a week we experienced a small part of what St. Regis is- Turtle Pond, Long Pond, Pollywog Pond, Floodwood Pond. We did not do the famous 9 Carries route (in the Adirondacks a portage is called a carry). The paddling was easy, intimate, civilized, though it retains a refreshing element of freedom. We reluctantly left most of it unexplored.

I expected bigger wilder country up north, though the surprising truth is that Adirondack Park is far larger than Algonquin, about 3 times as big. The northern park seems more wild because it's not as hemmed in by development, and because it has wolves. Wolves, moose, and people. Of the several entrances to the park we chose the NW entrance because it was the farthest from Ottawa and Toronto and is one of the least popular. I was excited to finally dip my paddle into the waters of Algonquin and I wanted to see it as untrammelled as possible.

The map of Algonquin is like St. Regis multiplied by 100 (The St. Regis Canoe Wilderness is just a small part of Adirondack Park). It is a beautiful, amazing tapestry of lakes and tiny waterways, bigger rivers, portage trails connecting pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, place names that conjure up deep mossy woody places. Our chosen route got nowhere near the heart of the parks interior, as this would entail at least a 2 week trip or "cheating" by hiring a water taxi up one of the large southern lakes. But large places swallow and disperse, and we felt alone a good amount of our days. Campsites were universally well-worn and portage trails well-tramped, signs of a busy summer. We saw one moose, a close encounter on the trail. There were loons, big lakes to cross, and there was weather. Summer blew out in a wild night of thunderstorms and a near miss with a tornado.



We had puzzled over notes on our map that read "the tornado and storm of July 2006 has left this area devastated" and another, "this area of forest flattened by a storm in 1997". So when the wind picked up on our second to last day we took note. We had just finished portaging through a swaying forest and arrived at a wind-whipped, frothing lake. This was the smallest lake on our whole route, little more than a large pond, and it was a cauldron of troughs and sweeping veils of spray. We thought we would have lunch and wait it out. Instead of dying down the wind ramped up. The sky was like an Imax film of flying cloud-forms, weird pink and orange colors. Trees cracked and crashed all around us, two right in front of us, 20 feet away.

It was a crapshoot where to stow the canoe, even where to stand. When dusk came we had little choice but to take shelter under a tarp- there would be no setting up a tent. The wind bore like a freight train across the lake at us so we got as close to the shore as possible. This way we were able to eliminate all but 4 trees that could fall on us. We set up the tarp the only way possible-flat so that the wind wouldn't rip it away and we crawled under it. Wind battered the tarp and trees, and whipped up the lake under after midnight.

Morning dawned on polished water reflecting a clear sky. We emerged like bears from a den. We paddled silently across the lake and carried our gear on a portage trail littered with freshly broken and uprooted trees. On the final paddle out we met a few other storm-stunned canoeists. At the ranger station we learned that a tornado had flattened 140 year old trees in suburban Ottawa.

This was not the chronological ending of our canoe tour, but it was the end in our hearts; as our car dodged down powerlines and trees on the way to Killarney Provincial Park, we felt the summer and our enthusiasm slip away.

Killarney was a place of delicate grace dominated by starkly beautiful rock domes and outcroppings. We waited out more stormy weather and chose a short route with few and short portages. Fall colors were just beginning to paint the forest. We saw a few flocks of warblers on their way south, and with that we were ready to begin our migration home as well. Our canoe foray into the northeast had been just a tease, really, and though we only nosed into the edges of wilderness we were reminded that wildness can sometimes come on the wind.

Janiene Licciardi

Peek - a - Boat

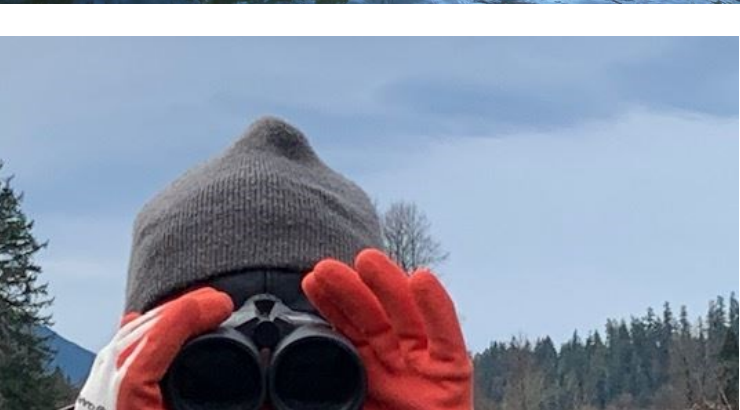
Here is a column we are calling "Peek-a-Boat" where we will interview boaters from the club and look inside what gear they carry in their boat on river trips. This months column is from Kathy McGee.

We all know how important it is to stay hydrated, but at times, staying hydrated isn't too convenient. What goes in must come out, right? As kayakers, peeing on a river trip isn't convenient at all. Well, maybe for guys, but not for women. It doesn't matter whether you have a front or back relief zipper, or even if you take all your gear off – unless you're carrying around a wad of toilet paper, you're left with residual wetness. Enter the [Kula Cloth](#) – it's a game changer. One side is waterproof (no wet hands) and the other is made of antimicrobial silver-infused absorbent material. It comes with a double snap so it can be folded for cleanliness and tucked in a drybag or attached to a backpack. It's my favorite kayaking and wilderness accessory, and with it, you'll not only stay dry, you'll leave no trace.

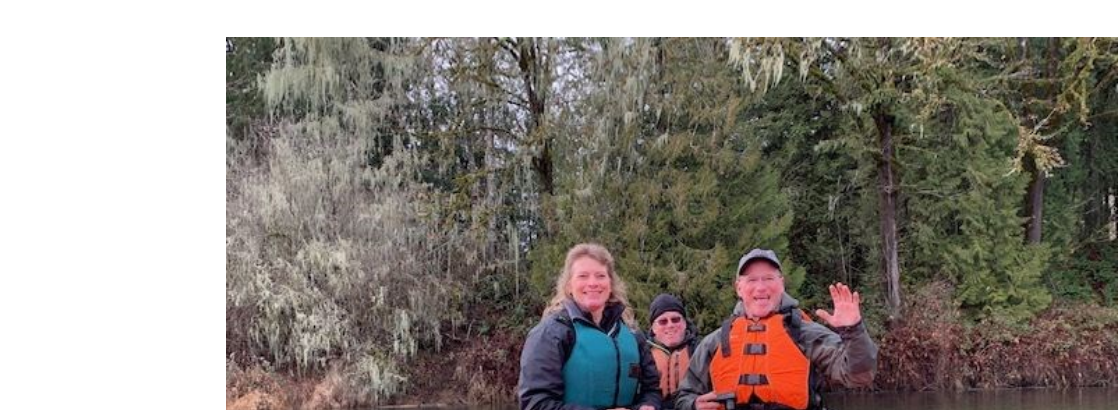
2019 Annual Skagit River Eagle Float

What a wonderful Skagit Eagle trip this year!

We had 34 people on the trip: 9 tandem canoes, 3 solo canoes, 2 rafts, and 1 kayak. I believe this is the highest turnout for a club trip (excluding the Methow week-end) that I have seen in my 14 years in the club. Eight paddlers from the Canadian Beaver Club joined us and several members had guests along. The flow was about 7,500 cfs, a bit higher than normal, but still a nice level. With the higher water, there weren't many gravel bars with salmon carcasses, but in spite of that, we still spotted 71 eagles. The weather was very good for January: 45 degrees and NO rain!



After the trip, about 20 of the group stopped at Mi Mexico restaurant in Burlington for food and drinks--a great day was had by all!



Gear Talk

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

Paddle Trails Trainings in 2019: Ideas wanted!

Hi everyone, your friendly neighborhood Training Chair here! One of the reasons I signed up to be training chair is that I've learned so much from my fellow paddlers - better river reading, eddy skills, gear tips, location of the best pubs to go to after paddling, etc.

The club usually offers a at minimum the following classes: "Intro to Moving Water" class, for river paddlers, and "Intro to Canoeing Whitewater" for people looking to up their skills in Class II water and above. We also offer "Trip Coordinator Training" for people who want to organize their own trips with the club. We also strive to provide River Safety & Rescue training options. Last year we subsidized a Swift Water Rescue class which was excellent.

I'd love to hear your suggestions for training you'd like the club to support in 2019! What do you want to learn this year? From boat rolling to canoe sailing, there's probably someone who can teach it! E-mail training@paddletails.org if you have ideas for a training you'd like to help make happen, or general suggestions (for paddling, training, club business, or new pubs to try...)

Thanks, Lauren

Recent Trip Reports

Check out the links to the trip reports below for stories or browse the photo gallery on the website for more photographs [Photo Gallery](#).

December 8th

Parade of Light, Xmas Canoes—Green Lake Night Paddle

[Trip Report](#)

December 31st

South Fork of the Snoqualmie at 550 CFS

[Trip Report](#)

January 5th

Skagit Eagle Float, Marble-mount to Rockport at 7500 CFS

[Trip Report](#)

Photos by Steve Reutebuch