



The Tholepin

November 2016

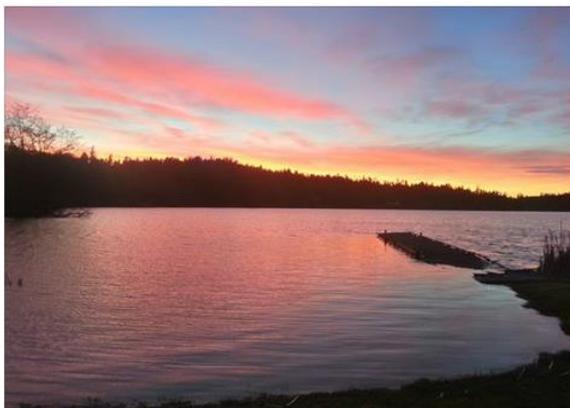
Old Anacortes Rowing and Sailing Society

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A Very Old Birchbark Canoe

I decided to take a little drive and enjoy another wonderful fall day on the island. The leaves are so colorful and it looked like a good day to check out Lake Erie. . . since my dog Lexie needed a little swim.



What a treat, every time I find another special place on Fidalgo Island I am reminded why we live here. On our way, back, it seemed appropriate to grab a snack at the

Lake Erie Grocery store; I had driven by many times and never stopped in. David Jackson had told me about the canoe inside. Whoa, hanging from the rafters was a beautiful birchbark canoe; handmade by Henri Vaillancourt in 1972.



The Grocery Store Owner was kind enough to let me take photos.



Vaillancourt's canoes have been chosen in competition for exhibits at the Renwick Gallery of the National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution. Exhibited there from 1975 to 1976 and then circulated throughout the USA until 1979.



Henri Vaillancourt 1972

Since 1965 Henri has been actively involved in the study of birchbark canoe construction and other aspects of Native material culture. For more information go to:
www.birchbarkcanoe.net/builder.htm

Member Interview for November Hans Rudolf Gahler



Rudy grew up in Switzerland, then in 1955 after medical school he did his internship in Hartford Connecticut. Apparently, everybody that studied in Switzerland had read the same ad, because when he got there they all spoke Swiss-German. After a year of internship, he noticed an ad in the medical journal for a residency in Salt Lake City. A good move for more than one reason... that is where Rudy met a lovely student nurse; he and Dolores were engaged in 1957.

Rudy always wanted to go back to Switzerland and practice medicine, so he and his bride headed off to Zurich. The pay was low, barely a stipend, so they were back in Salt Lake City after a year. Next, Rudy and Dolores drove a 1949 Ford from Salt Lake City to Seattle where Rudy took the State Board Exam and became licensed to practice medicine in the State of Washington. Next stop, St. John a small rural area south of Spokane. Here Rudy and Dolores settled in for 30 years; but, after being the main doctor and surgeon on call for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it was time for a change.

Most of us would have settled into retirement by this time; not Rudy and Dolores, they had raised their family and now it was off to travel mostly around Alaska and some other states for 6 years as a "locum tenens" physician. This was a nice change of pace and a great opportunity to see southeast Alaska; Juneau, Haines, Wrangle, Petersburg and Kodiak to name a few. Okay, now retirement? No way, seems it's time to head for the high-seas! Rudy now finds himself as a ships doctor for up to 145 passengers and as many as 90 crew members. As ships doctor, he is expected to mingle with the passengers as well as look after them and the crew's health care.

Rudy brought a family history and photo album to share with me, and it was full of all the exciting places he traveled as ships doctor.

A “few” of Rudy’s hobbies and activities include hunting on horse-back for elk, running half-marathons, (lots of 1st place for his age group), rock climbing (including glaciers), mountain climbing, downhill skiing, and he loves history. Of course, spending time with his three children and grandchildren is one of his most favorite activities. Rudy and Dolores have two daughters, one is a pharmacist in Juneau, the other is an attorney, administrative judge in Yakima, and their son is an electrical engineer with McDonald Douglas.

Travel? Did I mention that Rudy and Dolores like to travel? Here is a “short” list of some of their travels.

Swiss-Alps – hiked 30 summits

Himalayas

Climbed all local volcanoes in the north west

Kenya, Kilimanjaro

Chile – Argentina, Patagonia, stayed in tents

Inka trail – Peru – ended up at Galapagos

Rudy rode camels for 4 days in Morocco, and Elephants in the golden triangle

Traveled the Amazon

India, Nepal, Thailand, Hong Kong

Greece, Croatia, Switzerland

Romania to Crete

In Barrow Alaska Rudy worked with an emergency doctor, who said; “I liked to take a trip of a lifetime – three times a year”! Dolores and Rudy liked that idea and so they have Jordan, Israel and Cuba next on their travel itinerary list.

Oh, I almost forgot... Ivar got Rudy interested in rowing 16 years ago, he and Dolores have lived in Anacortes for 21 years.

Of course, I asked Rudy my standard question: “What else do you want the OARS Members to know about you that might surprise us”?

“I wish I could have used my travel experience to change the world.” But, what I did discover from my many travels and fascinating people I met, is “you can learn something from every single person you will ever meet. When meeting, and coming to understand so many different cultures, you may tend to dismiss the uneducated and/or poor, but they may teach you the largest lesson of your life.

While interviewing Rudy, the word humble came to mind, so I noodled around on the internet and found a description that fits Rudy perfectly:

“To be humble is not to think less of oneself, but to think of oneself less”. (Forbes Magazine, Jeff Boss, March 1, 2015).



Rudy helping with OARS Boat Maintenance

By: Vicki O’Brien, Archivist & Tholepin

OARS Annual Meeting 2016

The OARS Annual meeting was held October 22nd at the Anacortes Yacht Club. We had a great turnout and lots of incredibly delicious food.



From the President:

I would like to congratulate our newly elected executive board: President - Jack Darnton, Vice President - Cathy Schaeffer, Treasurer - Bill Epler, Secretary - Simone Spiess. The Trustees deserve a thank you for their willingness to serve the organization: Christine Mathes, Von Kuehn and David Jackson. Due to our new By-Laws, we will no longer have Trustees but I know these members will be available whenever asked to help.

In addition, I wish to acknowledge the hard working members who helped keep this organization running this year.

Crew 4081 - David Jackson & Cathy Schaeffer
Communications - Jack Darnton;
Archives & The Tholepin - Vicki O'Brien;
Manual & By-Laws - Mindy Sorensen;
Shelter - Gary Sandvig, Walt & Susan Guterbock;
Website - Bill Testerman
Events - Torgy Torgersen
Finance - Bill Epler; Bill Testerman, Diana Berge, Chuck Ackerman, Bill McGaw
Maintenance - Charley Drake, Chair - Bosun & Trailer; Boat Maintenance - Marty Foot
Scheduling - Christine Mathes

My executive directors were fabulous and we could not have accomplished as much as we did without their support, foresight and cooperation. I wish to thank the membership for my beautiful crossed-oars charm for my charm bracelet, I will treasure the charm always.

The holidays will be upon us shortly so if I don't see you on the water or at a meeting, it has been an honor to serve as your president this year. Have an incredible 2017!

Row hard, Robin

Input on the Budget

At the OARS annual meeting on October 22, 2016 the membership approved 2017 budgets for the operating and capital funds. Income for the operating fund assumes membership near the current level of 80-85 individual members and 20 family memberships. Sales of rowing cards similar to this year which is expected to be about \$5,100 by year end. Expenses for next year include heavy maintenance on the Glide and possibly production of a movie on "how to row" by the high school.

The budget anticipates a deficit for the year of about \$2300. The club is faced with some increased costs from past years, primarily a \$50 per month room fee at the bowling alley for our meetings and an increase in moorage cost due to the elimination on the '12 for 11' program which gave one month free moorage for annual payment in advance. The operating is currently carrying a large balance so even with the anticipated deficit the 2017 year-end balance is estimated to be over \$5,000. However, the club cannot continue to incur a deficit every year so the Board will be considering options to increase income and reduce expenses during the year.

The budget for the capital includes income of \$10 from each rowing card sale. The only anticipated expense from the capital fund is for two oars to complete the set for Erica. Andy Stewart will be making the oars and estimates the cost will not be more than \$1600. The 2017 year balance in the capital fund is estimated to be \$21,300.

By: Bill Epler, Treasurer