

# The Tholepin

December 2016

Old Anacortes Rowing and Sailing Society

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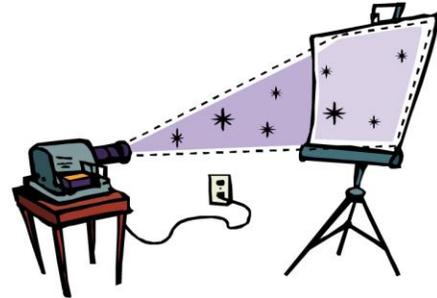
**Jack Darnton**

- New Members: Barbara & Samuel Buxton. Barbara would like to sub on M, W & F mornings. Samuel would like to sub any morning. Please keep them in mind the next time you need a sub. Barbara's can be reached at [206-419-0534](tel:206-419-0534) and Samuel at [206-719-6403](tel:206-719-6403). Their email address is [basasu@hotmail.com](mailto:basasu@hotmail.com)
- OARS Dues for 2017 are now payable and are due by the end of the year.
- Nautical Term of the Month

## Website Tip from Bill Testerman

The website below is the weather cam at the Port of Anacortes that gives the wind speed at the big lift next to Anthony's. Check it before rowing to see what the wind speed is on the water. It's helpful to make a decision as to the safety of going out. The same site can be found under the right-hand bullets on the web page under "Useful Sites to Boaters" but you have to navigate a bit to find it. Just make this one of your favorites and you can go to it quickly.

<https://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KWAANACO46>



## Movie Night at the Library

Cathy Schaeffer has arranged to show two movies at the library at the following times.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 4:00pm, "The Boys of 36" This is the story of the events that inspired the book of the same name. It was shown on PBS a few months ago but for those of you that missed it or want to see it again, here is your chance.

Saturday, Dec 10, 4:00pm, "Mending the Line" This is a documentary of a soldier in WW II that suffered what we would call today "Traumatic Stress Syndrome" when he returned from the war. At times, he lost interest in living and was in deep depression until he found the peace he was seeking with a fly rod and a rushing river. The movie follows his passion for fishing and his eventual return to a reason for living. It's a story that will make you want to follow in his footsteps with your fly rod.

**Bring popcorn and root Beer!**



Sammy Seal – by: Marcia Berg

### ATTENTION: OARS MEMBERS

Membership Dues must be paid by the end of December 2016. You will find the website below contains the proper forms. PLEASE complete the membership renewal form and include with your check and mail it to OARS or give to Bill Epler, Treasurer. This is important in keeping contact information, rowing schedule and sub list up-to-date.

[http://www.lifetime.info/OARSS\\_Membership\\_Form.PDF](http://www.lifetime.info/OARSS_Membership_Form.PDF)

**NO NEED** to complete the liability form if you have previously completed one.

## NAUTICAL TERM OF THE MONTH

BY: BILL EPLER

**Catch a crab** -To get an oar blade caught in the water with its forward edge lower than its after edge, so that the movement of the boat jams the oar in the oarlock.

**Single banked** - Said of a boat when it is pulled with one man on each oar. Also, a boat where only one oar is pulled at each thwart.

**Sheer strake** - Top strake or plank of a boat, to which the gunwale and capping are attached.

**Boatswain, or bosun, or bos'n** - Warrant officer responsible for handling the crew and for the ship's general maintenance. He is also the boat's executioner. One of the boatswain's badges of office is his 'cherriliccum', a cane sheathed in the cured penis of a bull, with which he beat the crew to encourage them to work.



DONALD TRUMP  
SIGHTING ?

Or

Torgy's version of a  
comb-over ?

## FEATURED MEMBER:

### JACK DARNTON – PRESIDENT

Since we elected Jack Darnton as President of OARS 2017, several folks mentioned that he should be my next ~~victim~~ uuh, featured member.

Great, that's just GREAT... I get to interview a professional journalist and write an article about him! Really? How intimidating, since my writing experience entails having my own diary until 4<sup>th</sup> grade... and then I lost it!

First, I must say Jack is very easygoing, calm, and soft spoken. Immediately I felt my hesitation disappear and before no time at all we had chatted up a storm for over an hour! Really, really nice man and soooo easy to talk to.

Jack grew up around Tacoma and went to college at University of Washington – English Major. Although he taught English for a while; Jack has been in journalism for most of his career. To get started when he was “green as grass”, he took a job for the Northwest Bowler. Yep, a job writing features for a “Bowling” newspaper, (he was amazed at how many people read it and contributed articles about bowling)! The news was important to the local people, and he could get some experience to put on his resume for his next job, which was in Issaquah. Next, off to an old fishing town of Ilwaco, WA where he was editor of a small paper. Later, while Jack was working for a newspaper in Longview, WA they won The Pulitzer Prize in 1981 for *spot news reporting* for the staff's coverage of the Mt. St. Helen's story. Then Jack spent 6 -7 years as publisher of the Enumclaw Newspaper. Jack and Nancy came to Anacortes in 2001, and he was publisher of the Anacortes American until in retired in 2105.



Jack and his wife Nancy in their Geo-dome House – Thanksgiving 1976

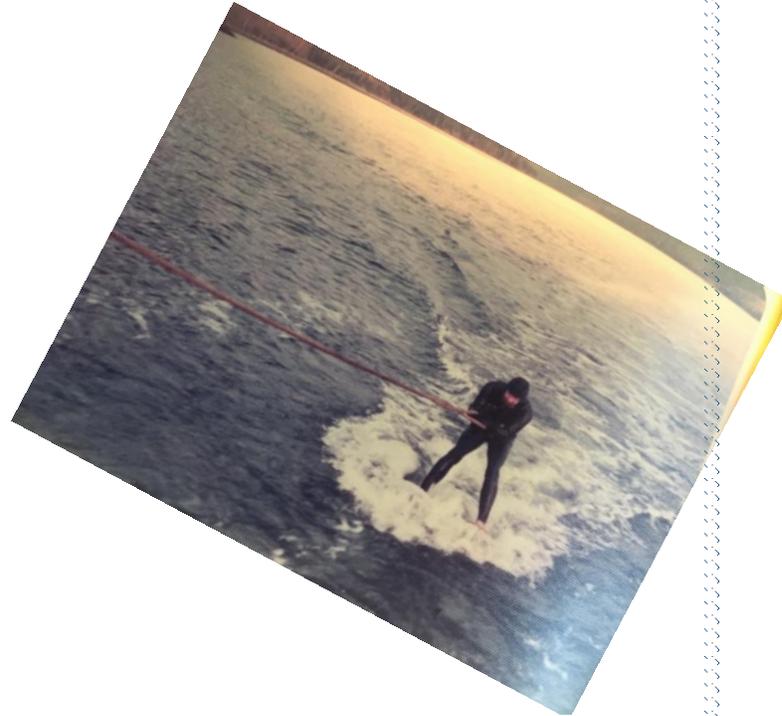
The Darntons spent about 6 years teaching in Craig Alaska, where they also built a geodesic dome house. They read books, house specifications, and geo-dome house plans; then designed and built their house. All the materials were ordered and barged up from Seattle. It was built in the shape of a salt shaker, and provided them a beautiful view of the bay. While he and his wife Nancy were in Craig, they ran around the bay in a 15' skiff. They both enjoyed all the fresh seafood they could catch while living and teaching in Craig Alaska.



Jack building the Geo-dome



*Water Skiing in a Wet Suit... Only in Alaska!*



Even though Jack's boating experience is limited, he has fond memories of spending time in a rowboat when he was with his grandparents on Bainbridge Island. Jack said he owes Andy, David, James and Mark for helping him learn to row with the crews; he is looking forward to rowing with the different crews to get to know each member. So, give him a call if you are looking for a sub at: 360-588-1661.

After our "interview" Jack and I discussed some ideas for the Tholepin and other creative ideas that might be new and exciting for our OARS Club. Stay tuned, you have picked an interesting person for the club president who will be bringing us new ideas over the next few months!

By: Vicki O'Brien, Tholepin & Archivist