

Tholepin

Old Anacortes Rowing and Sailing Society

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New Members

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WATERFRONT FESTIVAL

The Waterfront Festival was a success; here are the names of some new members; that want to get out and row. If you need a sub, please check their availability.



OARS BOOTH: MICHAEL, TORGY & JACKIE



SHOWING OFF THE ERICA

LAKE SAMMAMISH RACE REPORT

Saturday, June 11, 2016 - 6 Mile Course



Lady Oars Crew Unloading The Annie C

The Lady OARS Racing Team launched; the weather was threatening but held until 5 minutes before race time, then came the rain. The first leg of the race was wet but it stopped just as we were hitting our stride. Robin Pestarino: Cox, Cathy Schaeffer: Stroke, Jane Billingham: #2, Marilyn Sollers: #3, and Simone Spiess: #4. We hit the first marker in 31 minutes and then crossed the lake with a forceful starboard wind all the way across. The downward leg was going smoothly, we even had swing for a while - it's a thing of beauty, then we had difficulty finding the homeward marker. The chase boat directed us to go straight - we were dead on! We rounded the last marker on the starboard side and sprinted to the finish with a time of 1:36:39 for the 6-mile course.



Last year we had high winds after the start, white water coming over the bow, seaplanes landing, water skiers, jet skis, and power boats zooming past. We still had a respectable finish time of 1:42:47.8. This year was relatively calm with only the wind and a few boats on the lake! We gladly accepted our First Place blue ribbons and enjoyed the BBQ after.

Thanks to our shore crew, Jim Sollers, Bart and F. A. Pestarino, who drove the van and pulled the new trailer, which tracked beautifully and was a dream to load and unload. We'd also like to thank OARS' members for their encouragement, good wishes and allowing us to race under the OARS' name. We have four new members who would like to join our racing team!

Our next scheduled race is September 24 at Lake Sammish. Also, we are looking into an all-women's race in the Island Star against the Salish Star at the Wooden Boat Festival, in Port Townsend September 3, 2016. We'll keep you posted.

By: Robin Pestarino, Lady OARS Team Captain & President of OARS

Featured Members:

Von & Betty Kuehn



As I slipped into my parking space, I saw Von and Betty getting off their bikes. Von flashed me his big grin and I thought to myself, “how appropriate - a dentist with a big toothy grin”! I would soon find out, that warm smile...goes all the way to his heart. When we got inside Gere-a-Deli for our interview, Betty too was smiling, and looking almost “guilty”! She and Von glanced at me and then each other, and giggled? What is going on here, I thought? Did I use my red lip pencil for my eyebrow pencil this morning?

My first and favorite question: “what can you tell me about yourselves that your fellow OARS members may not know”? Again, they giggled and looked very mischievous! I’m sure I got a glimpse of the teenagers they once were - and still are. Here is a clue of why they both have such big smiles.

After retirement, they had an urge to find a mission to look outside of their immediate world and see how others lived. As an Anacortes

Rotarian, Von had an opportunity to travel to Guatemala and donate his time as a dentist; Betty joined him. For 14 years they both traveled to Eastern Guatemala villages for a month, practicing dental health care and training two assistants to do fillings, extractions, etc. They soon became in charge of the program, which included one trip to Kenya Africa. Von and Betty both talked about the indigenous people; how polite, positive and happy they were, even though by our standards they were very poor. Betty said, no one is depressed, rushing around or acting dissatisfied with their situation. They exclaimed, “what a reality check”, and how the experience has affected their attitude and lives. Von says, “it really puts life in perspective”; hence, that perpetual smile. Betty told me about how moved she was seeing the indigenous people slowly accepting technology, such as a woman she noticed in her traditional colorful dress and sandals talking on a cell phone. “She just seemed out of place”, says Betty.

Next I asked Von and Betty to share with me their history in OARS. Von became involved in OARS because of Ben Root, “he got us started rowing because of a challenge between Rotary and Kiwanis”. *The Pull-and-Be-Damned* race at Bowman Bay was out around a buoy close to Deception Island and back. Bob Dusenbury trained the crews and the Erica and Glide were pitted against each other. Betty chimed in, “They got beat bad!” Von explains, “Well, first of all, Terry Dorn was stroke and he fell off his seat at the start. We didn’t have a chance after that.”

Betty got involved with the Soroptimist Team. Bob Dusenbury also helped train them and Betty soon became a Master, long before Von. There is that giggle again, “We all had matching shirts and called ourselves, *The Dauntless Dames!* I had zero experience on the water being from Iowa; but, we had so much fun and lots of team spirit”.

Then Von started building Pygmy Kayaks, which is a kit made in Port Townsend. Additionally, he took several nautical courses, such as boating safety, seamanship, and piloting, and eventually built a kayak for Betty. They have kayaked the "Cascadia Water Trails", and continue to kayak throughout Puget Sound. Von and Betty both enjoy bicycling and have done "self-contained" trips for up to 5 weeks in Europe, and especially France. Self-contained touring is a style of bicycle touring where one carries all of your provisions for food preparation, shelter, clothing, etc., on your bike.



Betty told me about her large family and the reunion they will be traveling to in Iowa this summer, which takes place every three years. This is a weekend campout in a local county park and she expects over 100 family members to attend. She rolled her eyes, and said, "Von doesn't like the heat; but, he's going because I'm going". I have a feeling, these two "teenagers" do a lot for each other and very little without each other! What a delightful couple who live big and smile big... together!

By: Vicki O'Brien

Archivist & Tholepin

Board of Directors Update

Your board of directors met on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 and here are some issues that were considered:

- The Elizabeth BonAdventure is now an OARS owned boat. We are the sponsor for the Boy Scouts of America Sea Scouts. David Jackson and Cathy Schaeffer are on the Boy Scouts' board of directors and they will keep us up to date on the CB's happenings.
- It is suggested that we have the Media Club from the Anacortes High School make a video of one of our crews rowing to show how to row the correct way. It will be placed on our website for interested people to learn more about us.
- There will be a monthly article about the Masters' responsibilities to their crews. There will be a roll-call of sorts at the first meeting of each month to make sure all crews are represented as we are hearing that our members are not getting updates on club decisions.
- Mark your calendar to march with us on Monday, July 4, in the parade. Wear red, white and/or blue and a life vest! Find our boat – the Erica – in the lineup and be ready to walk by 1100. NO CANDY will be given to parade observers.

Robin Pestarino, President of OARS