

# The Tholepin

October 2016

Old Anacortes Rowing and Sailing Society

## *In This Issue*

- Why We Row !
- Lady Oars Port Townsend Race 2016
- Featured Member: **Peter Heffelfinger**
- Safety - Notice to All Masters
- OARS 2016 Annual Meeting.

## WHY WE ROW

There's no better way to start your day! Our Wednesday morning 7:00 crew on Sept. 21st was treated to another lovely sight as the sun rose over glassy smooth water. The wildlife report included two harbor porpoises, lots of little jumping fish along the shore, quite a few seals, and three deer bedded down on the rocky hillside of east Cap Santé, not to mention the usual herons, gulls and cormorants. The only critter missing was the blonde mink that we sometimes see along the water's edge. What a great time!

**BY: BETTY K, ERICA P, BOOSHIE M.  
MICKY F AND DIANA B.**



## LADY OARS RACE THE ISLAND STAR, PORT TOWNSEND, 2016



Marty Foot, shore crew with the Island Star, apparently all the ladies are enjoying breakfast and coffee before the big race!



Single Scull: Ready, Set, Go!

We all enjoyed seeing the Pocock boats in the shelter, and a few on the water.

*George Pocock was a leading designer and builder of racing shells. He achieved international recognition by providing the eight-oared racing shells which won gold medals in the 1936 Summer Olympics with a crew from the University of Washington.*



Pocock Shell, prior to the race.

A few of us peeked up into the rafters of the boat house and spied the “Salish Star”, sadly, they were not able to put a crew together for the race, so the Island Star raced against their previous time. Total time 34 minutes and 21 seconds. First Place Ribbon, again!



Robin P. & Vicki O. experiencing the thrill of a Dragon Boat, with Jackie Boss and Pricilla Legg, who row with a team in Oak Harbor.

## Who Knew?

### “Helping Finger”

Peter Heffelfinger’s last name means just that! (Index Finger” to be exact!)

Peter’s mother is Pennsylvania Dutch, which is really German, and his father’s side is from Switzerland, and in the late century, they migrated to Pennsylvania. Peter’s beard is traditional for the Pennsylvania Dutch; however, he didn’t really know that when he grew it in college. Later, when he traveled to his home town, everyone there assumed he was aware of the tradition and grew it for that reason. After college, Peter taught English back East, and was an oral historian.

Peter has always been in the outdoors, he started early on as a canoe trip leader while he was in college. He loved showing the youth the outdoors from a canoe; they used the classic Old Town Canoes, paddling from Maine up lakes and rivers into Ontario. He mostly paddled wooden canoes and native American built canoes, with Indian style paddles. They were made of white Spruce, 16 feet long. Some were made by Harley

Fitch, hand-made out of ash, which made them very strong and flexible. While canoeing in the Northern Lakes in Maine and Canada, Peter said some days it was so windy you could raise your poncho and use it as a sail. The Indian canoes had no keel which makes them really fast, but very tippy. Peter managed a group of 12-year-old kids for several days on the canoe and camping trips deep in the forest.

Peter moved to Anacortes in 1973, and began working for Department of Natural Resources, building new trails in Mt. Vernon. He spent many years on the Board of Directors with the Anacortes Arts Festival. He wrote art grants for the festival, and promoted art for the school's programs. Peter was executive director for the Lincoln Theater for 12 years. He oversaw the total restoration of the theater and brought it back to the 1927 classic. It had been closed for several years; the restoration was the keystone to developing and revitalizing downtown Mt. Vernon including the Riverwalk.

One memorable time during the restoration phase, there was some flooding; the water would come up from the drain and threaten to flood the entire building. Peter said he had no choice but to enact a very delicate emergency procedure in order to save the building. This "procedure" consisted of shoving a tennis ball into the floor drain, until the water subsided! It worked more than once.

Peter is also a Master Gardner. He teaches a class on the four seasons of gardening called, "Beat the Heat, Eat Your Yard", the four seasons of organic gardening. South Fidalgo Island is one of the best sites for year-around-gardening. If you would like to check out his column in Anacortes Now, you can find his essays on small gardens:

<http://www.anacortesnow.com/blogs/entry/year-around-gardening-december-2010>.

Peter's wife also, has contributed much to our community. She established and taught the Challenge Program (a class for highly productive students) for three years. And, all three of their daughters attended and completed the program. Peter is very proud of his family, and says his wife is an amazing quilter. He assists her with the "Quilting with Children" program in the schools at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Peter shared other stories about how much Anacortes has changed since he moved here in the 70s. Truly, the Heffelfinger family is the "Helping Hands Family", with giving of their time and talents, they have all contributed so much to Anacortes and the local community.

By: Vicki O'Brien, Archivist & Tholepin



Peter Heffelfinger, Charley Drake, Lin Folsom, Nancy Drake, & David Hall as Cox

### Notice to all Masters

As of the end of September fewer than 50% of OARS Masters have completed the annual requirement to perform the docking, serpentine and man overboard routines plus review the procedure manual. As these are successfully completed you must make an entry on the sheet in the front of the log book.

This is an OARS requirement for all masters except those who have received their master certification in the current year. Failure to successfully complete all of this requirement by year end will result in the loss of master certification.

Should a master lose certification due to missing the December 31 deadline, they will have until March 31, 2017 to successfully complete the maneuvers test and procedures manual review to restore their status as a master. If the March 31 deadline is missed, restoration of master status will require a successful completion of the full master certification process including the written/oral exam and the practical (on the water) exam.

Jim Laurel  
Safety Committee

### *From the President*

Ahoy Members,

On Saturday, October 22, 2016, OARS will hold its Annual Meeting at the Anacortes Yacht Club. You are welcome

to help set-up the room at 5:00 PM with a 6:00 PM starting time for the meeting and festivities. Our featured speaker for the evening will be Jake Beattie of the Port Townsend Marine Center. The evening is scheduled from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

We ask that you bring a dish of your choice to share with the other members – appetizers, salads, breads, entrees, desserts. PLEASE mark your dishes and utensils so they may be returned to you after the dinner meeting. You will also need to bring a dinner plate, fork/knife/spoon, napkins, glass, etc. as these things will not be provided. Any beverages you chose to bring is acceptable but make sure you also bring an opener for it. We appreciate all help in restoring the room to its original state.

Just a reminder – the holidays will be upon us soon. Your Board of Directors voted to have the meeting days and times as scheduled with the exception of Friday, October 21, as we have the Annual Meeting the next day we will not be having a meeting on Friday.

We hope to see you at the Friday, October 7, Masters' Meeting, 0730 at San Juan Lanes meeting room, and the Saturday, October 22, Annual Meeting 6:00 PM at the Anacortes Yacht Club!

Until then,  
Robin H. Pestarino  
President, OARS

Next meetings for 2016:  
Oct. 7 & 22;  
November 4 & 18;  
December 2 & 16

