



The Tholepin

February 2017

Old Anacortes Rowing and Sailing Society

In This Issue

- Update from President: Jack Darnton
- Row Card Policy
- Featured Member: Lin Folsom
- Nautical Term – Bill Epler
- Lady Oars Racing Team – Year Five
- Bon Adventure – Crew 4081

Nautical Term from Bill Epler

'Bleed the Monkey' - To clandestinely remove spirits from a cask through a hole, usually by sucking through a straw or pipe.



Lady OARS racing team gathering navigational hazard from Fidalgo Bay. Jackie Boss, Priscilla Legg, Vicki O'Brien, Robin Pestarino took photo.

Update to Members from President

There was a big milestone for OARS recently with our members taking Salish Sea Deaf School students and their interpreter on their inaugural row Monday January 23 in the Elizabeth Bonaventure (a picture is attached). The new OARS outreach program with the school replaces Crew 4081, the longtime Sea Scout program our club headed up that came to an end here late last year due to dwindling youth participation.

The SSDS students will participate in weekly rows with OARS members and learn about the marine environment. Other topics will include navigation, knot tying, marine birds and mammals, how to understand tides and currents, wooden boat maintenance and many more related topics. OARS is sponsoring the students in our boat, with our members volunteering their time and expertise, as a way to enrich the students' lives and celebrate our maritime community. This certainly fits our nonprofit's mission: "Rowing together to enjoy, honor and promote wooden boats and small craft traditions."

There are minimal costs associated with the program — T-shirts, handouts, etc.,

— that the club will pick up. Note that the accrued Crew 4081 monies, which went through OARS, total about \$3,700 — so the financial part of all this is in fine shape. We'll be asking for approval of a 2017 budget amendment soon to account for program expenses since this change happened at the tail end of 2016 and was not in our financial plans.

You can learn more Feb. 3 at our regular first Friday meeting at 7:30 a.m. at San Juan Lanes.

Also Feb. 3 we will discuss and hopefully vote on the attached OARS Row Card Policy. Take a look. No big changes from what's probably been past practice, but we want to nail it down. We want to make it clear when members need to punch their cards in situations outside their regular rows.

Jack Darnton, President

Featured OARS Member Lin (Margaret) Folsom



Lin's next grandchild might be in line to be the 5th Margaret in their family. Back as far as Lin's grandmother, each generation has named a daughter Margaret.

Again, my first question to an OARS member is: what can you tell me about yourself that would surprise your fellow OARS members. Lin thought about it for only a minute and then replied; "I was in a Hurricane in the middle of the Atlantic". When Lin was a college student, boarding a former Dutch troop ship, the SS Volendam a cheap way of crossing the Atlantic for students. They left Amsterdam to Montreal with over 400 students on board, many were very sea-sick.

That was not a problem for Lin, although, she would soon face something a lot more frightening. Unexpectedly, a large wave broke over the side and nearly swept her overboard. At the last minute, Lin felt this huge hand grab her by the scruff of the neck, keeping her from falling into the Atlantic Ocean. During lunch (12 people showed up) the vessel plunged and tilted sideways so everything slid off the table etc. We changed course. We were within a ½ degree of rolling over. The baggage had not been stowed properly.

SS Volendam

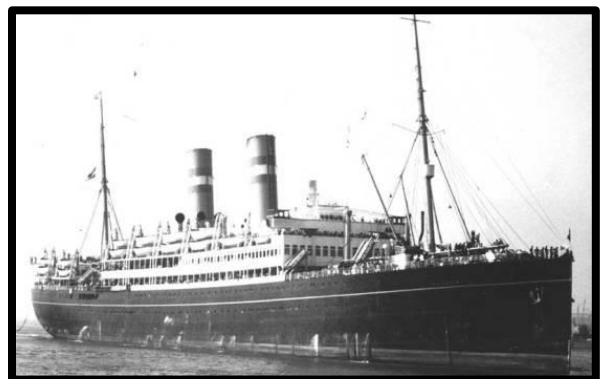


Photo courtesy of the Allen Collection

Lin's boating experience started when she was five years old living on Long Island Sound; her brother taught her

how to row in a heavy 12' wooden dinghy. Although her mother was trying to make Lin a lady, she insisted on spending many hours out by herself fishing for flounder, with her golden retriever laying behind her on the boat. Her mother would hang a sheet out the window as a sign that it was time to come in off the water.

Lin's Dad loved the water too; she begged him to get a sailboat, and finally he did. One evening about dusk, Lin was out sailing, and steering toward some lights to guide her home, (her brother had told her that is how you can get back safe). Turned out she was following a Ferry Boat!

After our interview, Lin sent me a note saying; "My heart is really in sailing and I owned a wooden sloop Myrica for 13 years. I did lots of racing and cruising with her, Great boat!!!" Also, she taught sailing to homeless kids at the Center for Wooden Boats, and coastal navigation for the USCGA and at the Senior College. She loved it.

When she was five a teacher asked her, "what do you want to do when you grow up?" (That was in the early 40s). Lin's answer was; "I want to be a ship's captain". Women didn't do those things then. Alas.

Additionally, Lin was instrumental in establishing the Anacortes City sailing program!!! And was a member of the USCGA for over 15 years. Not only boating, she is an avid reader and quilter, and has recently gotten into "felting" a technique which adds color and texture to knit projects.



Felted Crow by Lin Folsom

For pets, Lin has 6 cockatiels and one canary. Most mornings, you will find Lin tossing a handful of peanuts to the crows across from Mary Ann's restaurant on her way to breakfast. Several of us Lady Oars were at coffee and Lin joined us. I noticed when she sat down at our table, which was by the front window, a murder of crows flocked over to the front yard! Clearly, they had recognized Lin when she walked by the window.

Amazing Lady... yes, Lady, despite her rugged exterior, Margaret's Mother would be proud!

By, Vicki O'Brien, Archivist & Tholepin

Crew 4081 Inaugural Row

Seven middle school students from the Salish Sea Deaf School and their interpreter were aboard the Elizabeth Bonaventure for their very first row January 23. OARS members Frank Orr, Robin Pestarino, Walter Guterbock and Cathy Schaeffer had the students practice with the oars and commands at the dock prior to an hour row around the marina.

The students will participate in weekly rows with OARS members to gain experience with a water sport, rowing, and to learn about the marine environment. Other topics will include navigation, knot tying, marine birds and mammals, how to understand tides and currents, wooden boat

maintenance and many more related topics.

The OARS Club is sponsoring the students in our boats, with our members volunteering their time and expertise, to enrich the students' lives

By: Cathy Schaeffer

Crew 4081 Inaugural Row



Lady OARS Racing Team 2017 Race Schedule - Year Five

Below are the races that Lady Oars Racing Team have decided on entering this Season.

1. La Conner, February 4, 2017
2. Jetty Island, April Fool's Day 2017

3. Lake Whatcom, May 6, 2017
4. Lake Sammamish, July 8, 2015
5. Port Townsend, September 9, 2017
6. Lake Samish, September 23, 2017

As of 2017

OARS Row Card Policy

(For rows other than the regular rows with crews)

Outreach rows

Outreach rows where members are promoting the club and/or wooden boats and small craft traditions or taking part in community events or youth programs are free.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Racing
- Messabouts
- Veterans Day salute
- Waterfront Festival rides
- Youth outreach — Organized rows with students/youth aboard (such as the Salish Sea Deaf School program) are free.



Look Mom... No skates!

Recreational rows in the Elizabeth Bonaventure with other OARS members to build skills and/or just have fun are not.

Masters tests

- Free for examiners.

Prospective members

Rows planned to introduce OARS to prospective new members are free to the guests and the OARS members on board when the crew is predominantly new people. Examples would be the annual summer recruitment rows and the recent city/port rows.

New members

New members receive a card good for five free rows.

Guests/VIPS

Inviting community guests such as a new port director, parks director, etc. for free rows is encouraged. Same for maritime visitors in town such as Adventure crew, Northwest Maritime Center leaders, maritime speakers, shipyard guests, etc. They row free, members pay.

Please send your Tholepin Articles and Pictures to Vicki O'Brien: obrivi@gmail.com