

# The Tholepin

May 2017

## Old Anacortes Rowing and Sailing Society

The OARS Board has considered moving our twice-monthly membership meetings to the Anacortes Public Library & will present the idea at the regular membership meeting Friday, May 5.

### Jack Barnard

### Leaning over the Edge of First

There are so many ways to describe Jack! Energetic, bubbly, excited, adventuresome, and many, many more. Most of all I would describe Jack as FIRST. He always wanted to be the first one to try a new sport activity. Always on the edge, wind surfing in the early '70s when no one was doing it yet.



snowmobile up and ski back down the mountain.

**Jack likes water.** This picture was taken on day 4 of an August 2006 Sierra 9-day backpacking trip. Of course, Jack was the only one to jump into the mostly frozen Royce Lake at 11,725ft. One other water experience Jack boasts is his double

kayak, paddling in the Hudson River. He would carry it on his car to a creek that would get him into the river. However; this was very tricky because of the strong currents. One other activity on the Hudson was Jack wind-surfing. Yet, another time, single kayaking on Erie Canal or Hudson River.

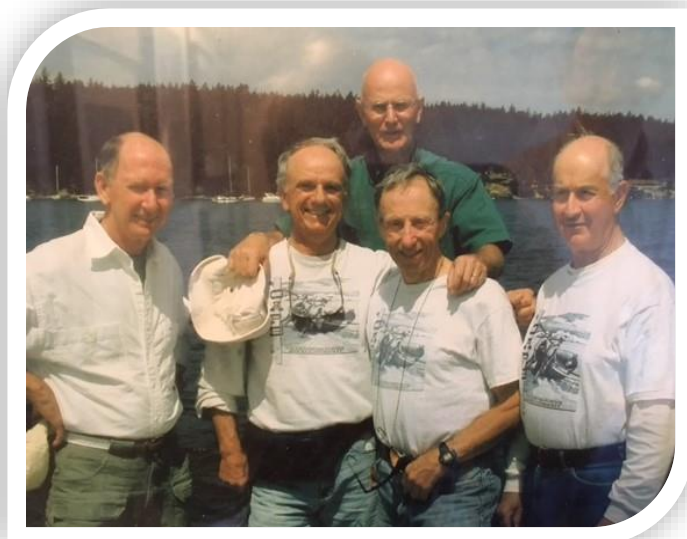
Roller-blading in San Jose, on the inside of the freeways for miles, falling one time because he stopped to talk with people. Board-sailing before it even became a sport. All kinds of skiing, downhill, back country; always the newest cutting edge equipment. Hungry for excitement – you will find him skiing down steep ravines in Colorado, New Hampshire, and even Europe.

Living in New Hampshire, Jack climbed up and skied down the ultra-steep Tuckerman's Ravine on Mt. Washington many times. Near Aspen, Colorado, at Snowmass ski resort, Jack would

Okay, who can say they saw a submarine on a lake? Yes, Jack had a sighting in the late '50s. While visiting his parents in New Hampshire, and camping, at the north end of Lake Umbagog he saw a strange object sticking out of the water – it was a homemade submarine. Inquisitive, Jack had a chance to talk to the owner who built the submarine.



Another First and form of water Jack is attracted to is Ice. He made a sail that he puts on his shoulder, and with ice skates on his feet, Jack sails across a newly frozen lake. He explained that you had to lean into the wind, hold the sail on the appropriate side of your body, and when he decided to “come around”, it was very tricky because if the wind caught the wrong side of the sail, he could wreck on the ice. “You would pick up a lot of speed on windy days”! Jack also build a smaller version for his son to go with him, skate-sailing!



Old Anacortes Rowing Society at Friday Harbor 8/1/02  
 after rowing 23 miles from Cap Sante, Anacortes in 6 hrs 10 min.  
 Bill Brown, Hal Forsey, Steve McLean, Jack Barnard, Herb Pearson

Jack has been a member of OARS for many years and did his first race in 2001 and his most recent was in 2013. In addition to many races with OARS, Jack has been involved in several longer trips from Cap Sante Marina to such places as Pelican Beach on Cypress Island, Friday Harbor, Guemes Island, Saddlebag Isle, East Sound on Orcas Island, Sunset Beach, WA Park, Bellingham Marina, and Skyline Marina.

walking along crevasses covered with snow bridges. Jack has taken mountaineering classes in Seattle where he had to climb two major peaks and build snow caves as part of the curriculum. Jack did off-trail and peak “bagging” trips through the Sierra Nevada. He and his guide were known to do some class-4 pitches which were cheating a little from the scheduled climb.

Now, Jack might be wiry and a tough athlete. . . his whole family is athletic. Jack is not too tough though, as he teased up when he told me

Oh, did I mention Jack is also a certified diver? However, Jack prefers to free-dive with his snorkel gear, and has spent many hours diving the Caribbean. In the 1970s Jack and Nancy, along with three other couples, rented a boat and spent weeks snorkeling

and taking photos in the Caribbean. Let’s not forget mountain, technical rock and glacier climbing. Jack has climbed for years, from glaciated peaks, to crevasse on Mt. Baker. He likes to go up the mountain early, and is always roped up while

about his favorite photo, which is of him and his Dad on the top of a peak . . . their last climb together.

Tennis anyone? Yes, Jack and Nancy both played tennis once a week. Golf anyone?

Nope, not for Jack and Nancy... probably too slow, not nearly dangerous enough and much too "relaxing". While looking at potential "retirement" property they noticed it was surrounding a golf course. Nancy said, "we

knew right away golf was never going to be for us"! They came here instead. Jack and Nancy both liked white water rafting and spend 10 days in the Grand Canyon. That's their style of relaxation!

Jack has biked his whole life, commuting to work when he worked at IBM in Poughkeepsie, NY for 35 years. Snow or rain day or night with a headlamp. Jack belongs to the League of American Wheelman, an antique bike organization. Jack has gone on the Century Ride, which is an annual 100mi single day bike ride and twice did the 200mi.



Jack's high wheel is an 1888 Singer; he still rides it so watch for him in our local parade.

As I am sitting with Jack and his wife Nance at Gere-a-Deli, I am so delighted to hear their stories. Nancy also skis, canoes, hikes, and snorkels with Jack on many of these adventures. While we were together, she would expound on Jack's stories and help him keep which time he did what trip or hike, and where or with whom! I couldn't help but think, "gee, I couldn't keep up with this guy, nor could I handle all the different directions he is going"! Nancy just beamed with every story, and joined in excitedly as they strolled down memory lane together. Nancy is Jack's rudder; she has kept him off the rocks for many years; I expect she will for many more.

**Note:** *The May issue of the Chamber of Commerce newsletter will feature an article about Jack & Nancy for their work at the Visitor Center.*





## May Safety Notes

### **19-Year-old Rowing Club member drowns during crew practice.**

An Auburn, Washington native attending Northwestern University in freshman year. During a crew club practice session on Monday, April 10, 2017, the victim, Mohammad Ramzan, somehow fell from the racing eight shell and was not recovered for over twelve hours. The cause of his movement overboard is not clear, there is speculation among rowers that he caught a crab and was ejected from the shell. The water temperature was about 48 degrees F. The rowers do not wear life preservers, nor does the school require it. The sport of crew racing does not require life preservers in sanctioned events, but there are some crews who do wear inflatable life vests in a fanny pack. This is the first drowning from a racing shell since 1981.

The water-way itself may have contributed to the drowning for they were not on a lake, pond, or river, the body of water is part of the Chicago sanitary and storm water drainage system. This waterway, the North Shore Channel, was constructed between 1907-10 to drain water from Lake Michigan into the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal causing sewer water to flow South rather than draining North into lake Michigan. This drainage moves sewage and storm water away from the Chicago area into the Des Plaines and Illinois Rivers, eventually reaching the Mississippi River near Grafton, Illinois about 25 miles North of St. Louis, Missouri.

Water quality has improved enough in the north Shore Channel to allow canoeing, kayaking, and rowing. The Northwestern University rowing club puts in at the Dammrich Rowing Center in Skokie, Illinois. The canal runs parallel to the major North-South boulevard in the area, McCormick Boulevard. During the spring, there is a strong Southerly flow in the canal. When Mr. Ramzan went into the water, he may have succumbed to the cold water “gasp “. This gasp can occur underwater and floods the victim’s lungs. The autopsy confirmed death by drowning. The boat would have been rowing against the current at the time of the accident because there is no sea room South due to a railroad trestle about one city block South of the rowing center. Although his coach jumped in from the chase boat and one of the shell members jumped in for him, too, they could not find him in the murky waters which are about ten feet deep. His body was recovered South of the Dammrich Rowing center near the railroad trestle by rescue teams using sonar at 930 pm Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The victim fell in around 740 am that morning.

Lessons learned for OARS members. Wear your life preserver. Dress appropriately for the weather. Maintain an even keel. You are more likely to catch a crab when you feather the oar but anytime you speed up the cadence, you are prone to make an error in the recovery. Keep the stroke appropriate for the condition of the crew.

By Skip Dassler