

Who's in the Next Tent?

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Mark McGladrey had this great idea that we should start a column in our Newsletter called **Who's in the Next Tent?** This sounded so good, so we ran with it and this is the result. If you get asked to provide us with some info, don't be shy. Any material should be submitted to Mary McDowell at: mhmcowell@gmail.com and please send a photograph as well.

Biographies to date in alphabetical order: Phil Abenroth, Robert Allen, Sharon Colht, Denny and Delores DeMeyer, Bill Erickson, Lynee Forsyth, Jerry Franklin, Anne Haggerty, Royce Hill, Ken Johnson, Bernie and Nancy Kilonsky, Gord Linnell, Mary McDowell, Mark McGladrey and Diane Gregory, Stan Mrzygod, Dwaine Ronnie, and Bob Runnalls.

Phil Abenroth. I am 42 years old with a wife and three sons, ages 11, 9 and 6. I have lived in Washington State my entire life. My father, John Abenroth, is a Washington State Land Surveyor who donates much of his time to various surveying societies and as they say, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. I received my professional license number of 42666, on 6/6/06 (no joke) so if you're a believer in numbers you may require me to pitch my tent on the other side of the river. I have been active with the Land Surveyors' Association of Washington since about 2003 or 2004. I am thankful to have learned of David Thompson through Denny DeMeyer at an LSAW event just a few years ago and I have been trying to learn more and more about him ever since. I have worked for several survey firms, including cutting my teeth at my father's company in the late 80's. In 2009 the market left me without a job for the first time in 20+ years and not wanting to count on President Obama, I formed my own small company working out of a home office. The business started doing well so I had to ask my wife to leave her full time banking job to work for the family company and we know fluctuate between 3 and 5 staff. Our sons love race cars and we spend most weekends racing quarter midgets in Langley BC, Portland OR, Yakima WA or somewhere in between. We make 1 or 2 large racing trips out of the area per year. What little time I have left after being dad/field & office surveyor/husband/racer/survey association volunteer is spent in the outdoors. When I learned that this expedition was going to be traveling through my all time favorite fishing spot I just knew I had to go! I will be joining the Brigade on June 18 in Kettle Falls and leaving on June 27 in Wenatchee. Interestingly, I will be traveling with a group of 4 Snohomish Chapter LSAW Presidents. Lynee Forsyth – 2011, Jerry Franklin – 2010, Phil Abenroth 2008-2009, and Mary McDowell who was our 2006 President will be joining us all the way from California!



Rufus Woods Lake, which is the Columbia River from Coulee City to Bridgeport, is Washington States best Rainbow Trout fishery and produced Washington State's largest Rainbow Trout, a whopping 25 pound fish in 2001. I have been to the area several times with my sons and their friends and have included a picture of my nephew with an average summertime Rainbow trout, 3-4 pounds. I got skunked

once, but usually we catch enough to bring home some fish for granny. The fishing laws on this portion of the Columbia are different than most rivers/lakes and this stretch is also along the Colville Indian Reservation which has different rules, so make sure you find out the local laws before getting your line wet. I stay current on the laws, so if you don't research beforehand and you want to fish this stretch, find me the 42 yr old bald guy with a goatee. Fish On! phil@abenrothsurveying.com



Robert Allen. I am a British Columbia Land Surveyor and a Canada Lands Surveyor and I have lived in Sechelt, British Columbia, since 1972 where I had my own practice until I retired from the day-to-day surveying in 2004. I have been a David Thompson fan since about 1956 when I was ten years old and read a book, called *The Map Maker, the Story of David Thompson* by Kerry Wood, from the school library. I recently obtained a copy of the same book through E-Bay. The most recent book I have read about Thompson was written by Carl Haywood and it is

called *Sometimes Only Horses to Eat*. It is mainly about Thompson's time around Saleesh House near Thompson Falls, Montana, which is also Carl's home. He goes into great depth to prove his location of Saleesh House and it is in quite different from the previously accepted location(s). Lastly, I am an avid outdoors guy who likes biking, camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, and the like. You can check out my website for some further information and a few pictures at: <http://www.skylark.ca/surveyors.html> robert_allen@dccnet.com (Don't forget the underscore between my first and last names.)



My name is **Sharon Colht** and I am passionate about canoeing. I head out to the rivers whenever possible to sooth my soul's itch to explore.

Recently, I have retired from a career in Trusts and Estates as a tax accountant. Joining the NALS Team, I am honored to have landed with such an outstanding group of land surveyors. I have always been curious about the profession, especially after long hours chained to the desk.

My son Justin, is twenty-nine years old. Throughout the years, he has traveled with me and navigated our trips through all of the Canadian Provinces, a few Territories as well as the States. My partner Bill and I were so very fortunate to have participated in the 2008 David Thompson Brigade followed by a trip through the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary in the NWT in 2009.

I have volunteered as a historical interpreter of the fur trade with focus on the Illinois country and the Great Lakes region

in the early years of French explorations in the 1700's. In my reading about the Canadian Fur Trade, I find that my admiration for David Thompson and Charlotte Small continues to grow by leaps and bounds. I am extremely excited to be able to tap into the Canadian fur trade history and yearn to learn so much more.

My interests include nature, wilderness camping, cross-country skiing and geocaching. I have been a docent with Brookfield Zoo, naturalist at Volo Bog, French fur trader, bluebird monitor, canoe and kayak aide and water trail keeper.

I have a true deep-rooted love for the wild North America and all of its history and natural beauty. This epic adventure is a dream come true.

Denny & Delores DeMeyer are the grandparents of 4 grandchildren, all boys; Talan & Deegan, 5 ½ year old twins, Baker, 3 ½ years old and Madden, 2 ½ years old. They are the parents of 37 & 35 year old boys and been married for 39 years. Veterans of the 2008 David Thompson Brigade, they paddled from Rocky Mountain House, AB to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in the Alberta Land Surveyors Canoe.

Delores is a lifelong (60 year old) native of Whatcom County, Washington and has been a real estate agent for over 28 years. Her hobbies are finding corners and monuments her husband cannot find, playing guitar and vacationing. She shares Denny's passion for surveying history. Together with Diane Gregory, she will be our NALS Canoe Team's camp supervisor.

Denny is also a lifelong (62 year old) native of Whatcom County, Washington and has owned a small surveying business in Lynden, WA since 1988. Prior to that he was a logging engineer and land surveyor for a timber company for 19 years. Denny is team captain of our NALS canoe teams and is ably assisted by Robert Allen and Mark McGladrey. **WARNING:** Denny is an impossible "morning person".



Bill Erickson. I am 71 years old and retired 11 years ago from Los Alamos National Laboratory where I worked 35 years as a metallurgical engineer and then a budget analyst. My son and daughter have given me the joy of five granddaughters. My partner, Sharon, shares my passion for canoeing, the fur trade and geocaching.

I started canoeing as a scout and in 1956, I went on my first wilderness canoe trip in what is now Ontario's White Otter Wilderness. Canoeing took a long vacation until 1990 when my Boy Scout Troop went to the Boy Scout Canoe Base in Ely, MN. The 'Northwoods Bug Bite' really started itching then and I made several trips with my troop in the BWCAW, Quetico, and Atikaki Wilderness

(Manitoba). Since retirement, I have served on the Canoe Base summer staff in 2002 and 2004, paddled the Boundary Waters Fur Trade Route from Ft. Frances to Grand Portage and have done trips in the Barren Lands of the Northwest Territory.

The Boundary Waters Fur Trade Route trip triggered my interest in the fur trade, the North West Company and David Thompson. Since then I have visited places Thompson traveled and paddled the Peace River from Fort Vermillion to Fort Chipewyan and then on to Hay Camp on the Slave River stopping along the way to try to find places he referenced in his journals. I was a member of the 2008 David Thompson Brigade.

Lynee Forsyth is a rookie paddler in the next tent. I am in my mid thirties with no children but I have a horse, a dog and, up until 2 week ago, a bull. I graduated from the University of Washington with a forestry degree and naturally decided to become a land surveyor. For the first 12 years of my career I worked my way up through the ranks at a medium sized engineering & surveying firm in Snohomish County and received my PLS certificate in 2009. I recently took a land surveying position with the US Navy and now work in Kitsap County. I spend most of my free time horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, and cross country skiing (my newest hobby). I have very little experience in a canoe and plan to get out on the water this spring with some of the veterans from my team and learn the basics of paddling and more importantly canoe safety. I look forward to our adventure!



Jerry Franklin. I am a licensed surveyor and manager in a private consulting firm located in Everett Washington. My land surveying career began in 1966 in the Lake Tahoe area of California. Though you could say I had a very early start in the profession when I took some nifty swords from the local construction site only to have my Dad escort me back to apologize to the really, really big surveyor on site. I've grown up on a farm in Utah and on construction sites across Alaska and California and then worked in Washington, New Jersey, Colorado, California, Connecticut and Texas having a great time all across the country. As I near

that "age of experience" I'm looking forward to doing fun things in life and canoeing is on the list. My wife and I have been in Washington for the past 18 years and we both enjoy travel, single and double kayaking, golf, biking, camping and outdoor activities. I first learned about this opportunity at the Snohomish Chapter of the Land Surveyors Association of Washington and from Denny's presentation at our LSAW Board meeting. I'm excited to be even a small part of this canoe trip as my love of water travel, along with the sporting challenge from my fellow surveyors, has me looking forward to this wet adventure. David Thompson's achievements are awe inspiring, even without a bent shaft paddle!

Anne Haggerty, rookie paddler, is in the next tent.

While not personally involved in surveying or survey related work, there's a strong family link- my dad was a land surveyor, and my brother John is as well- he'll be joining the brigade the week before me, and he's the one who suggested I come. By the time I join the brigade in July, I'll have finished my BA at the University of Alberta studying History and German, a language I initially began in high school by mistake- the French class I wanted was full. Though German is at times a frustratingly complex language (16 ways to say 'the'), it didn't take me long to realize it was the class I liked above anything else. The best part of my degree was the opportunity to study in Germany and travel through Europe for a year. As for History, I don't think I'll ever tire of learning about different eras, civilizations, or random historical facts- I greatly appreciate the ones in the news letters. I have ambitions to study speech language pathology after taking a bit of a break from university. I love learning about other cultures and meeting new people; the brigade is one of a few trips I have planned for the next year (though I think it'll likely be the most physical). I'm also planning to travel to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands in the winter of this year, a trip I've been looking forward to for years. In addition to being a bit of a globe trotter (at least a novice one), I am an avid reader and love finding new authors in different genres to explore- a great book I found about a canoe voyage (if anyone's interested) is Paddling South by Rick Ranson- he and his brother paddled from Winnipeg to New Orleans on a very eventful journey- with a few more close calls than I'm hoping for during our brigade. I play the cello and have been (slowly) teaching myself to play the fiddle, and I have a big yellow lab retriever named Ballou- who loves mud puddles almost as much as he hates having a bath- it's been a fun spring.



That's about all I can think of to say- I've attached a picture. This was taken at Mont Serrat near Barcelona, Spain.



Royce Hill spent 25 years in the Oregon and Washington Woods as a timber boundary surveyor; the last 15 years of that as an independent contractor. Then, for the last six years, I've worked as a land surveyor for the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. Currently, I write the "special instructions" (assignment specifics) for all the BLM Oregon and Washington employee and contract crews (15 crews) and answer technical questions. When not on my regular job, a good place to find me is either wrestling with my four-year old (she usually wins),

working in my orchard, black powder hunting with a traditional sidelock, or at church. Not too far from my place is Cowlitz Landing, where the mountain men dropped off their furs. My lovely wife Rebecca took the picture.

Ken Johnson is a David Thompson Brigade alumnus from the Paddle of 2008 from Rocky Mountain House to Elk Point. He is a professional engineer, and professional planner, who has focused his practice on work in northern Canada over the past 25 years. Ken was born and raised in the Kootenays, in particular Nelson, BC, so the 2011 Brigade has a particular geographic significance to him. His family history in the Columbia-Kootenay region goes back 125 years with his maternal great grandfather settling in the community of Nakusp after the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Ken spent time in the mid seventies through to the mid eighties working on land surveying crews throughout the east and west Kootenays, and on occasion along the shores of the Kootenay, Columbia and Pend Oreilles Rivers. He is an avid northern historian and still photographer, and he lives in St. Albert, Alberta with his wife, Krista, and children Adrian (17) and Taryn (14).



Bernie and Nancy Kilonsky: In the next tent you will find Bernie from Buffalo and Nancy from San Diego. Bernie has spent 2/3 of his life trying to get Nancy in trouble, and Nancy has somehow managed to keep Bernie honest. We are assuming that the upcoming voyage will provide opportunities for both Bernie and Nancy to exercise their options. From his childhood in Buffalo, Bernie migrated to Rochester for college and then was hosted by the Navy for the next 5 years. He survived the Marine DIs and flight training, met Nancy in San Diego, and they settled in Hawaii where he flew P3s out of NAS Barbers Pt. After his active duty gig, he returned to graduate school and studied meteorology. For the last 35 years he has worked for the University of Hawaii oceanography department as a researcher in the sea level center. Bernie has been lucky enough to work on ocean projects that vary from climate change to tsunami, and has been involved in volunteer work with various organizations, including the Polynesian Voyaging Society and the Hawaii Academy of Science.

Nancy was born in Iowa and grew up in San Diego California. She camped on the family trips back to see relatives in the mid-west. Camping by water was always the best. Moving to Hawaii was never expected, so she has to thank Bernie for getting her over there. Nancy finished her undergrad degree in Medieval European History at the same time Bernie received his master's. After the University's career placement office sent her a job announcement for a truck driver position, she decided further education was in order. A temporary job found her working with the Dean of the School of Public Health and, with his encouragement, she went back school and received an MPH and a certificate in planning. After some years at the state planning division, she found herself back at the School of Public Health as an assistant dean for students.

Bernie and Nancy were lucky enough to get involved with the Hui Nalu Canoe Club in the 70's and have been paddling in OC6 regattas (sprints) and long distance races for over 30 years. The club is like an extended family and is a big reason we stayed in Hawaii. We are looking forward to having a river canoe family!

Gord Linnell is an energetic rookie to this year's Brigade. Raised on a farm in southeastern Saskatchewan, Gord has never strayed too far from the outdoor world. He came west to work at the ski hill in Lake Louise for a winter back in 1986. Three years later he met his wife Laura, which precipitated a move to Canmore for slightly more stable work. An itch for the prairie horizon took them to north central Alberta and then to Calgary with a career in the agriculture industry. Gord's experience working with precision farming equipment and mapping led him to "discover" surveying after a merger-induced

layoff. He went back to school at SAIT to re-tool his career with the Geomatics Engineering Technology program. After two more years challenging the Canadian Board exams and then three years of articling, Gord gained his commission as an Alberta Land Surveyor in 2009.

Gord is no stranger to the waters as you can often find him on his kayak in Columbia River around Fairmont Hot Springs or in the Bow River around Calgary and Banff. Gord will be paddling the Thompson Falls to lone leg. Sharpen up your pegging skills as Gord will be looking for a game or two of Cribbage during the time spent in camp. Gord and his wife have two children and reside in Calgary until he can finally convince his wife that winter need not be tolerated.



Hello, my name is **Mary McDowell**. I have been involved in the land surveying industry since I was a teenager. My dad was a land surveyor and I worked for him after graduating from college with a business degree, as I found being outdoors much more interesting than board rooms. I was born in Edmonton, and grew up in California, outside San Francisco. After several years of working, I decided to get my land surveying degree, so left the state for the Pacific Northwest, first stopping in Klamath Falls, OR for school. I then spent the next 15 years surveying in the Bellingham and Everett, WA areas working in the private sector. I came

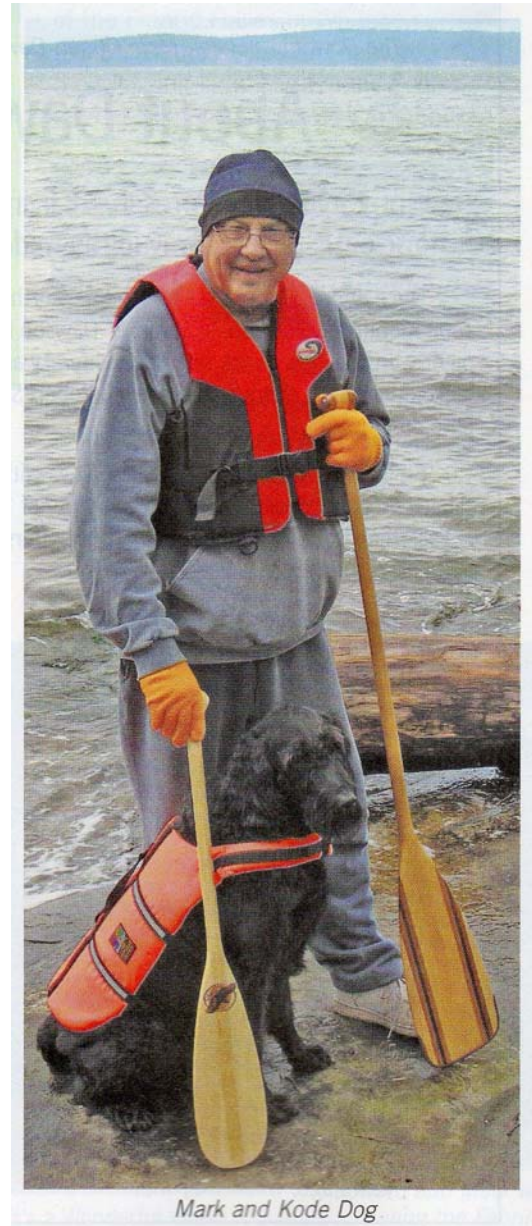
back to the San Francisco Bay Area four years ago to be close to my ailing parents. When the bad economy hit, I found myself without a job, so took time off to be second-in-line caretaker to my dad until his death. I'm now still waiting for the industry to make room for another surveyor, so until then I've received an Enrolled Agent certificate and for the past year have been involved in doing tax auditing, representation and tax return preparation. I look at it as an indoor version of surveying – lots of numbers and complex laws, with much room for interpretations and applications thereof. When I'm not working, I love to be outdoors - hiking, sailing, skiing and snowshoeing, and have done some white-water rafting through the years. I am also very involved in fundraising for breast cancer research and have participated, both as a walker and a crewmember, for the 3-Day for the Cure event organized by the Susan G. Komen Foundation. I figure my feet have carried me over 4000 miles in the past five years in cities all over the country! The picture I've sent along is from last year's walk in San Diego. I look forward to meeting everyone on this canoe trip, sharing the experience with the Pacific Northwest surveyors once again. See you all soon!

In the next tent you will find **Kode Dog** and his servants, **Mark McGladrey** and **Diane Gregory**. As to whether Kode is on the dog bed or the queen mattress remains to be seen. He does like his comforts. Kode is a black labradoodle and is looking forward to being camp dog, but he will have a sign on his neck saying "PLEASE DO NOT FEED ME". As much as he will mooch and suck-up, his system does not do well on a broad variety of human foods.

So, as to Kode's tent mates: **Mark McGladrey** was born and raised in Vancouver, BC, and is a British Columbia Land Surveyor and a Canada Lands Surveyor who has been practicing for almost 40 years. He has done mapping and precise off-shore positioning and navigation around the world and worked in over 21 countries, as well as microwave surveys in at least 37 states in the USA. These days he does project work out of a home office on their acreage in Yellow Point on Vancouver Island (south of Nanaimo). The "house/legal" surveys were left behind about 6 years ago when they moved from the rat race of North Vancouver, BC, to the peace and quiet of the countryside. Mark is building a Northeast Dory in the garage (what? you thought garages were for cars?) so tries to balance the work with that pleasure. Mark's other hobby is playing the "pipes" and he will be one of several bagpipers in the Brigade. He is a member of the Cowichan Pipes and Drums band (in Duncan, BC). Our neighbours haven't beaten down the doors yet from hearing the pipes played through the country air when he practices on the deck in the summer. Mark also enjoys fishing, but his method of "beating the waters to a foam" is not always successful. He is "in training" for the paddling with a group of incredibly fit women from a local dragon boat team, and managing to hold his own.

Diane Gregory was born in Australia, and moved to the east coast of Canada for high school and university. She worked in Australia and Nova Scotia as a geologist and in 1978 moved to the west coast. Diane met Mark at Eskay Creek, a mining camp in northwestern BC in 1990. As a geologist who hasn't really looked at rocks for about 30 years, she does know the Columbia Plateau is mostly basalt. She now works out of a home office doing land (mineral claim) management for the mining industry covering Canada and the USA. Although not paddling on this excursion, Diane did get her "expert" canoe badge at summer camp in the early 60's. The most remembered test is one of standing on the gunnels of a canoe and bobbing without falling off! What purpose that served is still unknown. She is looking forward to helping out in camp and travelling the scenic byways.

Diane and Mark managed to get his two daughters through the rigors of the teenage years and they've turned out very well. Now Grandad and Nan get to spoil four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.





Well, it's NOT a surveyor; it's me, **Stan Mrzygod** from Spokane WA! So how did I get lucky enough to be with your NALS crews? After hearing Brigade ambassadors Dave Watson, Denny and Delores De Meyer present the 2011 David Thompson program to the Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club last fall, I knew that I just had to be part of this adventure. Paddling the venerable Koo Koo Sint at the site of Thompson's Spokane House clinched it. I have been a "fan" of David Thompson since reading several books by author Jack Nisbet and listening to a couple of his lectures on the same subject. Spokane has a connection with David Thompson

dating back to 1809 when he sent Jaco Finlay to establish a trade house to serve the Spokane and Colville Tribes on the Spokane River. Thompson himself passed through the Spokane House outpost in early June of 1811 along his trek to the Pacific which we will be commemorating. The outdoors and canoeing have been a large part of my life, for most of my life. I have fished, hunted, camped, toured, raced, mineral prospected, geocached, and spilled out of canoes. Two years ago I retired from a 25 year "career" as a more or less successful tandem recreational canoe racer. I paddled in and organized two dragon boat crews which was a blast! Additionally I have coached a few university concrete canoe racing teams. Some of my more memorable trips were rafting the Snake River through Hells Canyon, canoeing Bowron Lakes, Slocan and Taseko Lakes in British Columbia. To my delight, all my children and grand children paddle canoes. Our cars sit outside in the frigid winters and blistering summers since the garage is stuffed with canoes. One of these is an 18' wood strip which my father in law and I built from a pile of long, thin slats. My wife and I enjoy paddling it whenever we get the opportunity. During the last two winters I rafted the Grand Canyon during the January – February months which adds up to a total of 45 days of bone chilling, soaking adventure in a fantastic setting. It was extremely cold at times. More of this around the campfire on the Thompson Falls to Tiger stretch which I will be joining you on. Currently my wife Lynn and I are working on a committee as representatives of the Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club to assist the Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance establish a water trail along the segment of that river which we will be paddling during the second week of June. You will just love this part of our expedition; mountain views, blue skies, blue birds, tail winds and a strong current at our backs. Well, if we are lucky, perhaps a couple of these desirable conditions will materialize! Looking forward to meeting you in June!



My name is **Dwayne Ronnie**. I am of Norwegian and German descent - pickled herring and sauerkraut. I fell into land surveying while I was talking to a friend in the unemployment line. He mentioned an opening at a local surveyor's office. I immediately went down and applied for a job as a chainman. As luck would have it, one poor fellow found out he was allergic to bees that week and I was hired to fill his spot while he recovered at home. I was instantly hooked!

The company in question was looking for healthy young men that enjoyed the outdoors - that was me in a heartbeat. I had grown up in Germany, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Northern Alberta. You guessed it - Air Force brat. Always living in remote stations, as my father was a

radar tech, I spent my childhood literally in the bush. I love to fish, paddle my small kayak, hike, quad, skidoo, snowshoe etc. Basically, anything that has anything to do with activities in the outdoors.

I stayed in the field until just recently. I ran many projects in Northern Alberta with many crews, where helicopters, argos and quads were all part of the daily work routine. Over the years, I have worked on all four of the borders of Alberta. An opening for an Operations Manager in the small office of Slave Lake, Alberta became available. I grabbed it and started my office career!

My wife and best friend is Marilyn. We have three children between us - two boys who live in Vancouver and a daughter that lives in Edmonton. We built a new house in the Slave Lake area. This is a beautiful place that has many wonderful things to do with many outdoor activities. Many are water related as we live near the biggest enclosed lake in Alberta. The Pickerel fishing here is fabulous. In October 2007 I was looking for something to do outside to get myself out of doors. Geocaching was suggested. After I had found my first geocache, the rest was going to be history. I have over 1600 finds and about 110 hides to my credit. This adventure will be a trip of a lifetime. I have always been a history buff of sorts, of any and all things Canadian. David Thompson has always been my hero. I can hardly wait to get started paddling.

Bob Runnalls is/was a Land Surveyor in private practice in Kelowna, B.C. since 1971, now retired. He has two children and two exceptional grand children who has enjoyed flying both fixed-wing float planes (C185) and Helicopters (B47G-3B) and he has commercial licenses on both. Skiing, hiking & fly-fishing are his favourite outdoor activities. He has had had interest in David Thompson for many years and followed in his footsteps through both Athabasca and Howe's Passes. His favourite hiking/camping companion is his Labrador "Thompson", who coincidentally learned to swim (more accurately avoided drowning) in the Tobacco River in 2007.

