



NORTH AMERICAN LAND SURVEYORS

Canoe Team

2011 David Thompson Columbia Brigade

Invermere, British Columbia to Astoria, Oregon

Via the Kootenai, Clark Fork, Pend Oreille & Columbia Rivers

June 1 to July 15, 2011

Website: www.skylark.ca/nals.htm Blog: www.nalscanoeteam.blogspot.com/

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NALS CANOE TEAM NEWSLETTER No. 8

Date: 12 May 2011.

If any readers wish to have anything added to a newsletter, please forward it to Robert at robert_allen@dccnet.com or if any of you have any subject you would like to write about, don't be shy, just send it in. Please bookmark our blog and check it out on occasion to see what we have been up to – as long as I can find a place to connect to the internet and update it.

PLEASE NOTE: You will see this portion highlighted in yellow in each Newsletter as they come out. We can't stress enough how important that this is.

Safety is Priority Number One!

All of us have a duty of care as individuals to take personal responsibility for our participation and health and we must emphasize this to everyone who is joining us.

This may be the last Newsletter as I will be spending more time getting myself organized in the next few weeks. If there is one more, you will see it. If not, thank you for reading them all to date. To our Team paddlers, see you in a few weeks and to our Team sponsors, THANK YOU very much.

Brigade Website: Again, if you haven't been there yet, you should check out the Brigade's website: http://www.voyageurbrigade.org/thompson/2011_Thompson_Columbia_Brigade/

and while there go to the paddlers' page for more important information. This is a direct link to it:

http://www.voyageurbrigade.org/thompson/2011_Thompson_Columbia_Brigade/Paddler_info_and_registration.html

One of the more important links on that page is to the 'Paddlers Manual'. It was sent out to all of our Team members by a separate email a short while back. You must read it.

Other equally important documents that you must read are:

1. Brigade Communication Protocols.
2. NALS Comings and Goings.
3. NALS Personal Clothing & Equipment Guidelines.
4. Risks and Safety Notices.

http://voyageurbrigade.org/thompson/2011_Thompson_Columbia_Brigade/Safety_Notice.html

These were all sent out with the previous Newsletter. Again, it might be a wise idea to print them all and take them with you to ensure that you have all the information. You must also watch this great paddling video, the link to which was sent in by Bernie Kilonsky:

<http://info.huinalucanoclub.com/2011/04/14/paddle-technique-video/>

Again, there won't be a test on any of these but you are expected to read all the documents and view the video and understand it all.

NALS Team Safety Matrix:

A Team safety matrix has been put together by Bill Erickson and it accompanies this Newsletter. Please print it and bring it along with you.

Other information may still be sent out to everyone as well and you are expected to read it and understand it all as well.

Purchases in Camp: If you make any purchases in camp, they must be made in cash, in either US or Canadian funds, and we will be treating the dollar as being at par. We are not set up for taking cheques and that is why we want cash. Besides, if a cheque is written, it means that one of us has to go the bank and it may as well be you! If you need cash along the way, there will be banks in each town and I am sure they will all have cash machines.

Brigade Community Information: Attached to the email that sent out this Newsletter is a draft version of the Community Involvement. Please note that it is written in jello and is subject to change but it will give you a good indication of what to possibly expect.

Who's in the next tent?

We are still looking for more biographies to put in this column, so don't be shy. Please send a photograph as well so we can add it to our webpage. They should be submitted to Mary McDowell at: mhmcdowell@gmail.com

Scheduling: There are only two seats open for about nine days from Kettle Falls to Wenatchee so if you know of anyone who would enjoy the experience of a life time, please contact Mark before someone else does. He can be reached at: markmcgladrey@shaw.ca

When Nature Calls:

During one of Mark's working trips to Pakistan, he came across some marine outhouses, or 'heads' as we prefer to call them in the western world.

Mark says:

Actually, the marine outhouses were quite nice once you got over your shyness about doing your business in public. You had a great view while you contemplated the world.

Now, they would affect the balance of the canoe so we would have to mount them either off the stern or on the bow. I guess we could also position them according to the prevailing wind direction.



New Team Members:

We have had three new paddlers join our Team. Two of them are: Sue Duxbury and her husband, Steve Sleep, and they both live in Gibsons, BC, and are very much outdoor enthusiasts. Sue has been in Sunshine Coast Search and Rescue with me for as far back as we can remember and Steve manages the local cablevision programming centre. They will join us for the first part of the trip from Invermere to Libby and joining us for last part of the trip from Pasco to Astoria is Richard Bastin. Richard is Manitoba Land Surveyor and a British Columbia Land Surveyor and he retired to Gambier Island, not too far from Gibsons, a few years ago. Richard and I go back over 20 years as well. Welcome aboard (so to speak) to the three of them.

Brigade Spring Newsletter:

Check out the Spring Newsletter for up and coming events all along the route:

http://www.davidthompson200.ca/eng/downloads/DT200_Spring_2011_Newsletter.pdf

Ken's blog - Conditioning the mind for a three week paddle.

The anticipation grows as we wind down (or maybe wind up) to the beginning of June. I am trying to complete some additional conditioning exercises specifically designed for shoulder strengthening - this is one positive legacy of my shoulder injury two years ago and the physiotherapy that followed the injury. So I am somewhat confident that the body won't be "mush" for the trip, but what about the mind? As thrilling as this adventure will be, we are going to be faced with long days in a boat paddling non-stop - how do I condition my mind for this drastic change in pace and perspective - this is a far cry from my office overlooking a parking lot in the west end of Edmonton? A few thoughts on the "thoughts" I may be dwelling on during our days on the water (in random order): food - meals will be a highlight of the day, particularly considering the great cuisine that we experienced during the 2008 brigade; stories - given that we will be spending our with a boatload of surveyors, there are enough "yarns" to knit many, many sweaters; song - not that I have a notable voice, but we could probably sing a chorus or two of voyageur songs; and scenery - the passing scenery will be a little

more notably than the prairie of 2008 - nothing personal, of course, against the prairie folk in our midst.

AND if we really get desperate for conversation, we can start trying to explain Canadian politics to our American friends - a discussion of the Bloc Quebecois could occupy several days.

KRJ

The following are some Ken Johnson's photos from 2008:



2011 Captain Denny DeMeyer having an afternoon snooze in 2008



2008 Captain Monroe Kinloch



John Haggerty on patrol duty in 2008



1.5 metres (5 feet) of ice on the river's edge in 2008

Some of our Expected Guests:



This is a photo of the SoBs, also known as Surveyors on Bikes, during their 2010 get together in New Denver, BC. This year they will join us for various stages of the Brigade from Invermere to the Border Crossing Ceremony. Some of the SoBs are also members of our Canoe Team.

Bannock Contest:

Mark is suggesting that we have an ongoing NALS Bannock baking contest, perhaps on non-paddling days or as a appetizer at the odd afternoon 'Happy Hour'. Team members should plan to bring their favourite bannock recipe and be prepared for some stiff competition.

We are hoping to see some regional recipes such as Hawaiian, Wisconsin, BC, Alberta, Washington, Montana and Idaho bannocks, some local such as Sechelt, Vancouver Island, West Vancouver bannocks and some personal recipes.

If you are looking for a basic bannock recipe, go to our website <http://www.skylark.ca/nals.htm> and scroll down to the very bottom.

Mark

PS Judging will be done by the entire crew. Influencing the judging with various beverages, toppings and other incentives is permitted and encouraged.

Great Paddling Exercise Resource websites:

<http://www.paddling.net/guidelines/showCategory.html?category=26>

<http://www.bodyresults.com/e2paddlingexercises.asp>

Check these out to help you get into shape for our trip.

More Song and Dance Info:

Voyageurs worked long hours at a very dangerous job. They were expected to paddle 55 strokes per minute while in the canoes and could only stop during “official breaks”. They carried 180 pound packs at a trot across rugged portages! Rest stops (pose) were located up to ½ mile apart. They suffered through difficult weather, eating very plain food (corn mush and grease). It might seem strange that through all of this it was very likely that they were singing a good part of the time!

The songs were adapted to accompany the motion of paddles dipped in unison. Singing helped to pass the time and made the work seem lighter. In fact, it is likely that the Montreal Agents and Wintering Partners sought out and preferred to hire voyageurs who liked to sing and were good at it. They believed that singing helped the voyageurs to paddle faster and longer. However, the French Canadian voyageurs were a gay people and did not need a reason to sing. They sang on just about every occasion.

The voyageurs sang of simple things and events. They were fond of songs about wind and weather, spring, love and especially fair ladies. A la claire fontaine tells of a lost love because of an undelivered bouquet of roses. Alouette informs the lark that the singer will pluck its head, nose, eyes and wings and tail. En roulant ma boule sings of ponds, bonnie ducks and a prince “on hunting bound”. Many of the songs favoured by the voyageurs have been passed down to our own era.

Again, this is from Matt of No Way Corvee:

SONG: In order to keep time in a canoe (and to have fun!) voyageurs were known for their singing. Attached to this email is a document with three common voyageur songs that are fairly easy and fun. If you speak French you will find them easy to learn and if you speak very little French you'll be in the same boat as me (it just takes some practice). Also attached to this email are mp3 files of the three songs so you can hear the tune and pronunciation. Start by trying to learn the chorus.

Quotable Quote:

The following is a quote from a long time BC Land Surveyor friend, Ken Wong, who is also one of our sponsors:

“May all your necessary “pit-stops” be on solid firm earth!”

I think we can all agree to that.

Historical fact:

DAVID THOMPSON: NORTH AMERICA'S GREAT SURVEYOR: "He was plainly dressed, quiet and observant. His figure was short and compact, and his black hair was worn long all around and cut square, as if by one stroke of the shears, just above the eyebrows. His complexion was of the gardener's ruddy brown, while the expression of deeply furrowed features was friendly and intelligent."

No known picture or portrait of North America's greatest land surveyor exists. The man that mapped over 1.5 million square miles of North America and traveled over 55,000 miles by foot, horseback, dogsled and canoe is largely forgotten.

We have probably all heard of charcoal filters and think of them as something relatively new. Wrong! I don't know when they first appeared but David Thompson made reference to them in his journal. At one point, they discovered a dead deer already half eaten by the eagles. He says: "*It smelt strongly, but as we were without Food, we were glad to take what remained, altho we could hardly bear the Smell.*" They boiled it and ate it for dinner that night and then spent a long sleepless night getting over the bad meat. He then went on to say: "*... had we had the time to make charcoal, and boiled this with the meat, the taint would have been taken away from the meat.*" Let that be a lesson to us all: if we find a deer carcass while en route, be sure to boil some charcoal with it.

So, again this is most likely our last Newsletter unless I get the urge to "put pen to paper" once more. Again, thank you to all of our readers, contributors, and especially our sponsors.

Look out Astoria, here we come

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