

Winter 2019

# RiversWest News

We inspire people to build and use low-impact boats



**This is Randy Torgerson's latest boat, currently in process in Bay 6 at the boat shop. It is a Tolman Alaskan Skiff, the widebody model designed by Renn Tolman. The plans for the three Tolman skiffs are in the book "Tolman Alaskan Skiffs" by Renn Tolman. The length will be 21 feet give or take a few inches, the beam will be 7 feet 7 inches, and will have a pilot house open to the back. The main engine will be a Suzuki 90 hp which should drive the boat at 25 knots.**



## The President's Corner

As we start the new year, RiversWest is in a good place. A few enthusiastic members lead by Russ Smith constructed storage decks above Bays 3 & 4. A small ship's ladder provides access to this loft area. I'd like to acknowledge Russ, John Bouwsma, John Ost, Chuck Stuckey and Mitch West for their efforts on the "Deck Two Bays" project. These loft

areas allow us to organize the special equipment and displays that we use for the Family Boat Build and the Portland Boat Show. We now have most of these materials organized on the North mezzanine side of the decks, leaving the South ends near the sliding doors avail-



able for small boat storage. This space is available to members on a 6 month or annual lease to store small boats. We had two serendipitous results of this construction effort: First, the bays below became more pleasant. The new hard ceiling and framing is lighter and brighter in those spaces. Second, it started to clean up the mezzanine, making it more usable to us. We are in the process of expanding the library and creating a more pleasant, better lit space up there. The "Deck Two Bays" project then rolled into a general cleanup of the boat shop. As of this writing, it's well along the way with all of the heavier machines now on wheels, and we are separating much of the surplus gear to either keep or dispose of. Much of this will be sold, but there are also a great number of items free to members. I'd like to acknowledge Chuck Stuckey for launching this effort and maintaining its momentum. It's making a big improvement in the shop with more to come.

We had a visit from the Fire Marshall who let us know that while we had a lot of fire extinguishers, all them were out of

date and some of them were hidden. Turns out that we only needed five of them and United Fire set us up with five new ones, mounts and signage. They gave us a nice discount as a non-profit, then recycled our old extinguishers too. So we're all up to snuff with new, well-marked extinguishers on the columns and mezzanine. Next time you are in, please familiarize yourself with the

new locations. In the past year, we received several major donation of materials, books, hardware and bronze. These came from long-time members Steve Najjar, Arthur Wilson and Stu Whitcomb. RiversWest really appreciates these high quality donations. Many of the books have been placed in the library and the materials have been recorded and placed in RiversWest inventory.

### Happy Hour at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Show

These three donations, coming within the last year prompted us to create a new position at RiversWest: Chandler. Mitch West has volunteered to be the RW Chandler and will oversee all sales of donated goods. For most new or very good items, the cost from the RW Chandlery will be 50% of the cost of the item new. Most items are in new or excellent condition, so this is a very big benefit of membership. If you are looking for cleats or blocks or other small boat hardware, check with Mitch first. We welcomed 2020 with money in the bank - enough so that Treasurer Craig Bryant transferred \$50,000 into an insured, interest bearing account. This has our money working just a little harder for us. Thanks to all who have made generous donations to RiversWest. These donations continue to build toward finding RiversWest a permanent home. Finally, and most important of all, many thanks to all of you who volunteer! RiversWest is an all volunteer organization. That means that when things happen, it's because you made them happen! We accomplished a lot in 2019. Thank You! May you drop anchor among good friends! Mark





**January 8 – 12, 2020**  
**at the Portland Expo Center**

**\$10 General Admission**  
**FREE to children 12 & under**

Wednesday, January 8: 11am – 9pm  
 Thursday, January 9: 11am – 9pm  
 Friday, January 10: 11am – 9pm  
 Saturday, January 11: 10am – 8pm  
 Sunday, January 12: 10am – 6pm

*\*Does not include parking*



Box office closes 1 hour prior to show closing.

**RiversWest will be there! We will be sending out a request for volunteers to staff the booth before Christmas. This is a great way to get into the show free and to socialize with other RiversWest members and wooden boat enthusiasts at the show!**



<https://www.pdxboatshow.com/show-information/discount-coupon/>

**This 2-for-1 discount coupon is only for use when purchasing tickets at the show. Save \$10 when you print out this coupon and bring to the box office at the show. This coupon is only good when purchasing two tickets. It is not valid for 1/2 off a single admission. Coupon has no cash value.**



## Fund Raising Opportunities

### Capital Campaign 2017/2018

Since the plan for the new Bridge across the Columbia River is out, with a deadline for acquiring land of October, 2024, we have a more more specific goal for raising money to find a new location. Our Capital campaign is more important than ever. See below for several ways you can contribute

<b>Corporate Donations:</b>	<b>8,088</b>
<b>Member Donations:</b>	<b>10,705</b>
<b>NonMember Donations:</b>	<b>4,082</b>
<b>Trusts :</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>
<b>Total Capital fund:</b>	<b>\$37,375</b>

### Amazon Prime

As an Amazon Prime member you can request a matching donation of 0.5% of each purchase from Amazon to go to the non-profit of your choice. This will cost you nothing, the entire cost is borne by Amazon.

1. Sign in to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to add a charity
3. Type in RiversWest Small Craft Center

### Fred Meyer

Fred Meyer has a program similar to Smile.Amazon.com. All you have to do is sign up; the entire cost is borne by Fred Meyer. You must have a Fred Meyer Rewards account to set this up

Need to sign up for a Fred Meyer Rewards account?

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/account/create??redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/>

Once you have a Fred Meyer Rewards account, you can link your account to RiversWest. At the end of each quarter, RiversWest will get a donation from Fred Meyer based upon your purchases.

To set up the matching donation,, follow this link:

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/> Sign in and select RiversWest as your designated non-profit. It's that simple. Do you have questions?

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-frequently-asked-questions>.

**This does not affect your rewards, but is on top of it.** It is a charitable donation to qualifying non-profits from Fred Meyer.



## Direct Donations

Direct donations may be in cash or in goods. Over the years we have had many members downsize prior to moving to retirement homes or smaller houses and apartments. We have often been the beneficiaries as they have thinned out their tools, boats, and materials. While we welcome these donations we have had to be careful about



what we accept. We had our annual garage sale in August, and following that we have been selling some things on Craig's List, some to members, and items we haven't been able to sell we have made available to members.



## Membership Renewals:

The day-to-day costs of maintaining the RiversWest shop are supported by membership fees and bay rentals to work on boats. It's time to renew your membership for 2020. Each year we change the door combination to protect our wood shop: tools, boats, and supplies. So keep current! As a member you get:

- Discount at Crosscut Hardwoods
- 24-hour access to our woodworking shop
- Ability to rent a bay in the shop
- Access to a fantastic library of boat building reference works and boat plans

Since we are a non-profit, your membership fees are tax-deductible. And of course we welcome donations! Fees are \$75, or \$50 for youth under 18 or college students with an ID.

You can join RiversWest or renew with a credit card or PayPal account at

<http://www.riverswest.org/join-us/>

Thanks!

## Participate in RiversWest Activities

We would be delighted to have you participate in any of our activities:

- Semi-monthly open house, 9:00AM-Noon, First and Third Saturdays, free doughnuts and coffee
- Frequent demonstrations of boat building and woodworking skills on first and third Saturdays
- Family Boat Build and Portland Wooden Boat Show
- Visit our booth at the Portland Boat Show, Jan 8-12 at the Expo Center
- On-the-water messabouts, as announced by e-mail
- Work on a boat
- Periodic tours of member's shops—

**More Details on the next page!**



## Calm Water Coalition

The Calm Water Coalition was formed to address the concerns of human powered boats on the Willamette over excessive wakes created by some river users. RiversWest is one of the many member organizations representing small boaters, swimmers, businesses and home owners using the Willamette River.

RiversWest has been represented on the Calm Water Coalition since its inception by Arthur Wilson. Art is stepping down from his Board and CWC positions with RiversWest and we will miss his voice. Dan Pence has agreed to represent RW at the Coalition. Dan's experience in advocacy and connections in the boating community will serve RiversWest and the CWC well.

The group successfully lobbied for HB2352 which was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. At this time, this legislation covers the Newberg Pool area above Willamette Falls. It is anticipated that the legislature will expand this to the Lower Willamette this coming session.

Newberg Pool Rules prohibiting wake surfing in selected areas in the Upper Willamette has exacerbated the situation in the Lower Willamette by moving those activities there. Members are concerned about increasing high intensity wakes, and the associated steep rise in swampings, accidents and capsizings of rowing crews, kayakers, small boaters and Dragon boat teams.

Recent wake accident incidents in the Lower Willamette:

2018: Seven incidents of paddler team swampings and capsizings

## Tours of Members Shops

We have a program of shop tours of members' shops. So far we have had five of these; all were very well attended and appreciated. These shop tours provide an excellent opportunity for members to get ideas for their own shops, and for members to become better acquainted with what each of us is doing in their own shop, and what we might be able to get a little bit of help with. At present we have no shop tours on the schedule, so if you are willing to participate by opening up your shop for a few hours please contact John Bouwsma.

2019: 50 reported wake-related swampings, 100 rowers in the water, 2 broken rowing shells. August 2019: 8-seat shell broken in half by a wake boat heavy launch ; 14-18 year-old rowers Coaches report weekly swampings of team boats during Summer 2019

Two recent KPTV news stories illustrate the danger to rowers and paddlers.

<https://youtu.be/ZovZfK9hhG0> <https://youtu.be/SeM2xTbtaHQ>

In addition to lobbying for expansion of the HB2352 rules to the Lower Willamette, CWC is advocating for the restoration of River Patrols in the lower Willamette which have been de-funded in recent years.

For more information on the Calm Water Coalition, please contact Renee Morgan: [renee-number6@gmail.com](mailto:renee-number6@gmail.com)

## Rowing shell broken by wake board boat



## Some Activities at RiversWest

### 2019 Family Boat Build

This year's family boat build was a huge success, a milestone actually. It's our tenth year of offering this fun event to the Portland community. Over those ten years we have helped 116 "families" of all shapes and sizes build a boat in one weekend. The enormous help from members of RiversWest, from the building of the kits to the event itself, is what makes this the success it is. And the families just love it. As word spreads about the event, we seem to

get families trying to sign up earlier and earlier. We even had visitors on Sunday try to sign up for next year. Of course we fill up every year and 2020 looks to be no exception. So if anyone is interested or knows a family who might be just send us a note on the website and we will add you to the "I'm interested in the FBB" email list and we'll send you updates when we get closer to the event.

### Demonstrations



Chip Gardes demonstrating his ships in bottles



John Bouwsma demonstrating knife making



Painting the Hall Templeton



Anne West demonstrating the sail sewing machine



## Some Say It's Just a Boat

I built my first boat twelve years ago. Actually it's the only boat I've built. I always thought I wanted to build one, so when I first found RiversWest 13 years ago I joined for the purpose of doing just that. Of course I had no idea what I was doing, but why let ignorance get in the way of a plan. Our family needed (or maybe I just wanted) a nice classic dingy for our family sailboat. The Shellback, a nice little 11 foot design by Joel White, a kinda famous designer, looked about right. I was sure I would mess it up and not wanting to waste money decided to use shop grade CX plywood. My thought was learn on this one and then build a second one later using the good stuff. Some members of RiversWest watched the new guy stumble along, offering help at times and advice here and there. One guy said "gee, I've never seen it done quite like that" which I later learned is polite code for "boy the new guy is a bit of a dummy". Anyway, on I went. The finished product looked good enough for a beginner so it was time to paint. Again I used cheap house paint to save money because I knew it wouldn't last and on the next one I'd spring for real paint. Our family sailboat was docked in Portland, but our favorite cruising was in Puget Sound and Canada. So every summer I'd tow this little boat be-



hind, down the Columbia River, across the bar, up the Washington coast, down the strait of Juan de Fuca, cruise around in circles and then return, Must have towed her up and back a dozen times. I sort of expected her to fall apart at any time, but she didn't. I had some fiberglass cloth I used to cover her flat bottom just in case. Over the years I've pulled her up on rocky beaches a hundred times with

little or no damage. I really didn't care because as I've said I always expected to build another. I did need to replace the transom because of a big rotten spot, and I've repainted her several times, and one of the seats came out when it shouldn't have, but it's still a boat and after 12 years I've not built another. I get compliments from strangers in remote anchorages and from dock

walkers here and there. Over the years I made the sail rig and sailed her once and reinforced the transom to accept a little outboard, but mainly she's a rowing dinghy. My joy is not simply a having a nice classy little dingy, but knowing that I made her myself with the support of RiversWest members. And of course I'll build another if she ever gives up. but in the mean time she's a nice spot for this seagull to rest.

## Mark Ramsby's New Cedar Strip Canoe

Mark's latest work of art: a 15', 32 lbs, Western Red Cedar and Alaskan Yellow Cedar. True to form, Mark applied eight coats of varnish + 2 coats of satin on the interior. The design is Ashes Solo Day out of Canada. It's a nice little boat.





## New Launchings

John Ost

### Skin-on-Frame Boat

This 15 ft. 6 in. skin-on-frame touring canoe was completed at Rivers West the end of June, 2019. It got weekly use through the end of September. It is a stable, comfortable, responsive, and seaworthy canoe. It is also the quietest canoe that I have ever paddled. At 45 pounds it is light enough that my wife and I can cartop it and carry it to and from the water ourselves. This picture was taken by Chuck Stewart on Lacamas Lake. Some other outings with the boat were around Bachelor Island near Ridgefield, Washington and round trips from the canoe launch in Columbia Slough near the entrance of Kelly Point Park to Fred's Marina at the head of Multnomah Channel. On one return trip from Fred's the wind was blowing and there was a foot chop. Made a dry crossing. The design is a Geodesic Airolite Boat, the Snowshoe 16.



### Rowing Shell

Many of you will have seen Oona Lawson's rowing shell as it was being built at RiversWest. Oona was a high school senior while she was building the boat, and a member of her high school rowing team,. Now she is a Freshman at the U of Wisconsin, and a rising star on the rowing team there. She launched her boat during the summer.



### John Whitehouse to the Rescue!

The intrepid John Whitehouse has come to the rescue of yet another otherwise doomed boat. John has a remarkable knack for taking on boats that might otherwise have died a horrible death and resuscitating them. This one he bought for \$100, including the trailer, which gives an idea of what the former owner thought the boat was worth.



## RiversWest Small Craft Center

### Open House - First and Third Saturdays

Our boat shop is open to visitors on the first and third Saturday of every month. Stop by in the morning and have a free cup of coffee and a donut. Take the opportunity to meet the members who are a friendly group of boating



enthusiasts. We will take you on a tour of our facility which includes our wood shop, boat building spaces which are available for members to rent and our livery of boats. You can even browse through our extensive lending library including our collection of WoodenBoat Magazines.

### Boat Shop

Our boat shop is equipped with the necessary equipment to build your boat. Many members who are building their boats at home take advantage of our complete wood shop, saving the cost of renting or purchasing their own tools. Fellow



members can provide free advice and helping hands when you need it.

### Bay Rentals

Our boat shop is configured with bays that members can use for restoring or building their dream boat. Available for rent on a monthly basis, these bays, 10 x 23 feet, offer a dedicated workspace with light, electrical power and immediate access to our



wood shop. And best of all, there are plenty of friendly and experienced craftsmen available to offer advice on the techniques of building a boat.

**When you're a member of RiversWest, you don't need to be a shipwright, own a shop full of tools or have a large space at home to build your dream boat. We have it all.**

**[riverswest.org](http://riverswest.org)**

## Crater Lake Boats Still Available

We are still looking for good homes to adopt the remaining two Crater lake Boats. We sold one several years ago; we thought we had a deal for the other two but it fell through at the last minute. We hope that these boats will have a new life somewhere, they are beautifully designed and built, with solid mahogany planking. These boats would make truly luxurious cabin cruisers.



They can be viewed underneath the ramp leading to the Hawthorn Bridge, at Salmon and Water Streets. If you want to get a close look inside the fence, please contact a board member.



## Lake Adventures in a Salt Bay Skiff

Torin Lee

As I sat today drifting along with rain dripping on my head, I dreamt of a summer spent on the lakes in my Salt Bay Skiff. From May to September this year, my friends and I visited a lake a month. Kimchi, my Salt Bay, accompanied us to three of them. Apart from having a great time, I learned a few things about the capacity and characteristics of the Salt Bay Skiff.

**Crescent Lake** - Summer had not really set in yet, as half the campers at Spring Campground decided to go home early because of the cold. But we were well enough back from the shore that the trees blocked the worst of the wind and chill. We sailed the first night launching at dusk and slipping quietly over the lake in the dark, and messing about in the early morning breeze on the day we left. We went for the long haul on the second day, loading up Kimchi with four people and some food, and threw a tow line to our other three friends in the canoe behind us. Our goal: to sail across the long length of the lake to the lodge and eat lunch there. With a steady 12 knot westerly, the 45 sq ft sail on the Salt Bay tugged the four of us in the boat and the three in the canoe across the

three mile lake in under an hour. The structure of the boat held, even when the canoe strained against the towline, bowing the hull. On the far east end of the lake, the waves



grew large enough that we took water over our stern. Using a gallon jug with the bottom cut off as a bailer, we emptied

the boat out, all the while singing The Beach Boys' "Kokomo." I knew the Salt Bay could handle decent wind, but I'm now convinced in its strength to carry a load in the same kind of breeze.

**Paulina Lake:** On the weekend of the Solstice we traveled to Paulina Lake and East Lake. I discovered another trait of the Salt Bay. I had always known that Kimchi's upwind performance was less than optimal with a gaff rig and a leeboard, and when sailing alone it usually takes forever to get anywhere beating. There were four of us in the boat that evening however, and right away I noticed how much better the boat tracked. This of course makes sense when considering the boat's design. With 500 lbs onboard, the freeboard is drastically reduced, and the hard chine rides well below the waterline. The entire length of the boat now provides lateral resistance, in addition to the leeboard--which before was the only thing doing any work.

**Trillium Lake :** Trillium is not very big, and the crowds are overwhelming during the day, but during early morning and night the lake quiets down. We went for a moonlit row, as the lights on the ski lift ascending Mt. Hood's south slope winked on. Five of us fit, if not roomily, with at least a snug sort of comfort. The most Kimchi had borne that day was six, and we perhaps could have gotten seven if the seventh had lain across the four in the middle. The boat sailed and rowed just fine with that many onboard, although we did not attempt any sporty maneuvers.



Student \$50  General Membership \$75

Donations: \$50  \$100  \$250  Other\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues and donations to RiversWest qualify for tax deductions. Ask your tax advisor.

*Please return the following with your check to the address below,  
or sign up online at [riverswest.org](http://riverswest.org)*

New member  Renewing member  Change of information  Additional donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Day/Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Benefits:

Members receive the RiversWest newsletter      Access to RiversWest boat shop and space rentals  
Access to all RiversWest educational programs      Invitation to all RiversWest boating and social functions

**RiversWest Small Craft Center Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 19234, Portland, OR 97280**

### Membership Form

RiversWest is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to encourage personal involvement in the construction of small recreational wooden craft and their accessories.

## RiversWest Board

### Officers:

Mark Ramsby, President:

[president@riverswest.org](mailto:president@riverswest.org)

Craig Bryant, Treasurer & Web Mgr:

[treasurer@riverswest.org](mailto:treasurer@riverswest.org)

[website@riverswest.org](mailto:website@riverswest.org)

John Bouwsma Secretary, Newsletter, Demos

[secretary@riverswest.org](mailto:secretary@riverswest.org)

### Directors:

John Whitehouse Membership Coord

John Ost Shop Mgr

Bruce Goodrich, Librarian

Mitch West Donations Coordinator

Chuck Stuckey Family Boat Build

Russ Smith

Bob Meehan

Steve Najjar

Mike Simmons, Board Member Emeritus

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