



September 2020 Newsletter

Visit our website

To view useful information related to all things kayaking, re. calendar for trips and events, trip planning, photo gallery, WAKE trading post and library.

Paddle Baker Lake North End Trip

Saturday, June 27, 2020

Thanks to Amy Hammer for organizing one of the first paddles as we start opening up from the Covid Lockdown. Amy planned a trip leaving from Panorama Pt Campground on Baker Lake and touring the shoreline of the North end of the lake. Weather forecast was not great but not real bad either. We launched with low clouds and no sun, but pretty flat water. We proceeded in a clockwise direction in a lake that was at or above full pool. Almost no beaches were to be seen. Also the low clouds obscured the wonderful view of Mt. Baker you can get from this lake. As we proceeded around the lake we found just about every possible place to camp near the shoreline was occupied. Most campgrounds were open and all the other primitive sites were occupied also. About lunchtime we had made it up to where the Baker River runs into the lake and found a very nice gravel bar to land and have lunch. After a leisurely lunch we headed back along the far side of the lake. Fewer campers along this side but still quite a few. We also noted the wind picking up with white caps out in the main part of the lake. We mostly avoided the roughest water by staying close into the lee shore until we had to make our final crossing back over to Panorama Point. The crossing was definitely bouncy but not dangerous. We had to cross with the waves on our beam. It definitely looked worse than it really was. It was a real nice day on the water for five of us. Thank you Amy.

Links to Photos:

https://1drv.ms/u/s!AiP_gAgNYyH-jqURhAkFpEke87IydA?e=jclLJz

Ross Lake Reset

We all needed these six days, July 9 – 14, kayak camping Ross Lake. It was the absolute best to out of house, out of town, without cell service, on the blessed water, and, with friends! A Ross Lake newbie, I was in great company with Amy, Sharon and friend Molly, and Barb (Craig). An informal non-WAKE event, we launched Thursday afternoon from the Colonial Creek campground, Diablo Lake and made the short distance to Buster Brown camp. The cool temps and light rain was a good shakedown for being out of doors the next several days.

Having heard some not so encouraging portage tales of time and trouble hauling gear and boats up and over Ross Lake dam, I was pleasantly surprised at the relative ease of it all, both coming and going. It was comical and sometimes frustrating how gear that packed away so nicely earlier, could go rouge and be noncompliant on portage repacks.

Our first full day Friday, we paddled 15 miles, or over half the length of Ross Lake in good conditions to Lighting Creek camp on the east bank. Our first campfire facilitated a modest surprise party for Amy's upcoming birthday, contributing to a joyous and celebratory tone for the rest of our trip.

Saturday was a short push of about 5 miles further north to Little Beaver camp for two nights on the west bank. Amy made sure we did not miss a magical Devil's Creel slot canyon along the way with fun maneuvering through a log jam challenge to a sweet waterfall on at the end. Hauling gear up the bluff to camp was well worth it as we were had amazing views up and down the lake. Little Beaver camp also overlooks Little Beaver creek, an absolutely delightful, another lovely slot canyon.

Another evening, another wonderful campfire.

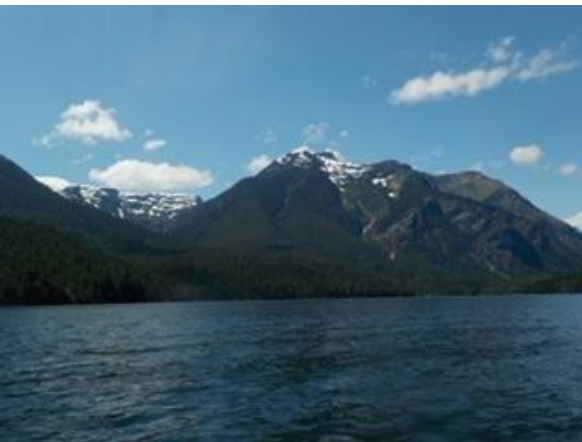
Amy and I took off Sunday morning with stormy skies, winds and choppy water for the far north end of Ross Lake (about 7 miles), destination first Hozomeen camp, and then across the border to Ross Lake camp. Not a fan of following winds and waves, I expressed some doubts that I might not make it all the way. Patient Amy, kept with me as right before Hozomeen, we rounded the corner into the upper end of the lake, out of the wind and waves, to light rain and clouds ringing Hozomeen peak. The exquisite perfection of it all will stay with us for life.

Trying to find a place to land at the far north shore, we struck up a conversation with a police officer, who was curious as to where we were from. Oh, a Mountie! We're not in Kansas anymore! He said it was okay to exit our boats and stretch our legs. There with two other officers poised with binoculars scanning down the lake. Our Mountie friend wanted to know "if we had seen a float plane", and commenting on what nice boats we had with lots of storage room.

Amy won them over by asking that they take our picture as we got silly ornamenting the back of our hands and cheeks with birthday flower tattoos. And no, we had not seen a float plane, nor would we see one, though Amy and I were certainly open to all such possibilities. The

paddle back to Little Beaver camp was head winds, waves, and what felt like to me “washing machine” conditions. All in all, by the end of the trip this meant Amy and I paddled all of Ross Lake, 23 miles and back. Monday morning we broke camp and headed south to Cougar Island, a few miles north of Ross Dam. Conditions were ideal and we enjoyed the long paddle down the west bank finding large and small falls along the way, with lunch at Big Beaver campground. Tuesday was an easy paddle out, with some winds, and the canyon section the Diablo side of Ross dam as lovely as ever.

Ross Lake is a large reservoir in the North Cascade mountains, running north-south, is 23 miles long, up to 1.5 miles wide, and the full reservoir elevation is 1,604 feet above sea level. Campgrounds and facilities are well maintained, with campers required to pitch on designated tent pads.



American Canoe Association Level 1&2 Instructor Certification Workshop

October 23-25 2020 or April 2-4 2021 (The September date is cancelled due to lack of enrollment)

Washington Park, Anacortes

Cost: \$375 plus an additional \$65 due to the ACA for membership

The instructor criteria can be found

at https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/sei-courses/L2_EKT_InstCrit.pdf

Fundamentally, it is expected that participants should possess the paddling skills, technical knowledge, rescue ability, teaching ability, group management, and interpersonal skills commensurate with this level of certification prior to presenting themselves for evaluation as Instructor Candidates at an Instructor Certification Workshop. Participants have the ability to earn a Level 2 Essentials of Kayak Touring certification through the ACA, valid for 4 years and widely recognized throughout the paddlesports industry.

To enroll, or with any questions contact Jesse Janicula at 425-308-1799 or jessejanicula@gmail.com

Facebook Page

WAKE has a Facebook page! Search for “Friends of Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts”. Feel free to post kayak photos and comments about your kayaking adventures.

Membership

We appreciate your continued support of WAKE! At a recent Board Meeting we voted to extend current 2020 WAKE memberships through December 31, 2021 due to limited group paddling opportunities and cancelled monthly meetings this year because of COVID 19. You will need to sign a 2021 Liability Form come January to participate in any scheduled kayak trips or short-notice paddles. Questions? Please contact Susan Benepe, WAKE Membership Coordinator at (307) 349-0450 or sbenepe@gmail.com

Susan Benepe, WAKE Treasurer & Membership Coordinator

Eddyline Falcon 18 Kayak for sale – \$800.00

Sleek and beautiful Eddyline fiberglass kayak. It's fast and tracks very well. Used in 2 ski to sea races and placed well just need to sell with current conditions

Here's some specs from Eddyline's site:

LENGTH: 18' BEAM: 21" COCKPIT OPENING: 31.5" x 17" WEIGHT: 56 lbs

VOLUME: 11.1 cubic feet CAPACITY: 360 lbs DRY STORAGE HOLE WIDTH: 9.5"

Asking price is \$800.00

For more info, contact Ross at 425 659-8779 Email:

rossgranfors2@gmail.com

Surfski for sale

Think Evo made of Kevlar, with an Epic carbon double paddle. Price is \$1500. Super fast, ultra-light, and agile surf ski. See full [review here](#).

Specification (based on the manufacturer's website for Evo II)

Length: 20' 6" / 6.25m

* Width: 18.5" / 47cm

* Capacity: 120-230lbs / 55-105kg

* Weight: 10.5kg – made with Carbon/Kevlar

The ski has had a couple of repairs done by a professional a few years ago. It rides perfectly well and dry. Contact me for further details. Location is Kirkland, WA (East side of Seattle)

Email: olivier.ropars@gmail.com

Tel: [\(425\) 223-2751](tel:(425)223-2751)

-Click button below for WAKE posting and photos

[Trading Post link](#)



July 5th at Cherry Point with
Jeremy, Claus, and Nancy Joseph

Visit Report – Lummi DNR Campsite

Friday September 4, 2020

After announcing this trip on the short notice list I got multiple replies from people who wanted to go but for one reason or another they couldn't. Ultimately Bonnie and I paddled down to the Lummi Campsite to check on condition, restock the outhouses and do a little trail maintenance just prior to the Labor Day Weekend. The paddle down

from Gooseberry was very nice and assisted by a favorable current we arrived in near record time. I had received a report a week ago from WAKE member Dave Church that the outhouses had needed stocking and he had used up most of the reserve supply in the storage cabinet. When we arrived about noon we found one kayaker on the beach intending to stay only for a rest stop. We also found one campsite set up with two tents but no one around. The outhouses were in good shape except the TP was exhausted. We restocked both outhouses as well as the reserve supply and spiffed up the outhouses a little. I spent about an hour trimming brush along the trails. We found many invasive orchids going to seed. We picked the seed stalks. One campsite had more litter than normal, and we collected that. For the most part the camp was in very good shape and all sites had indication of recent use. I suspect the camp is seeing heavier than normal use. As we were leaving the person we met on the beach had decided to stay for the weekend. He was unaware of WAKE and its activities and I invited him to check us out online. The paddle back to Gooseberry was a little bouncy at first but flattened out as we got into Hale Passage proper. The expected favorable current was canceled out by a slight head wind (breeze), so our trip back was much slower than our trip down had been.

Ed Alm

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Got Photos?

We are in need of new images for our website, newsletters and announcements. Please submit your photos to tom@wakekayak.org and/or cheryl@wakekayak.org

Also, please, submit your newsletter submissions to cheryl@wakekayak.org by the the first week of every month. Thank you.

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