



Spring 2023
www.porpa.org

Looking forward to the upcoming 2023 Season!

Introduction to Rowing sessions are available to all new rowers throughout the summer (please contact Secretary@PORPA.org). For experienced rowers, every weekend (at least one of the mornings) PORPA will hold a rowing session for all members. Our fleet of singles, doubles, and larger boats will afford everyone who shows up a seat in a boat! At least once per month (maybe more often), we will have a social hour following the weekend rowing sessions, where we can share a bite to eat, a beverage, and enjoy the beautiful summer day. Weekdays will be open for teams and self-directed rowing for all. Teams may be formed to practice for inter-club races, the PORPA SPRINTS (August 12), and possibly the Nelson Sprints in mid-July. Reserve your favorite boat on Go Motion for individual and small group rowing. No reservations needed for pre-planned sessions on the weekends. See You On The Water!



Board Member Position Open

Join our team and help shape the future of your rowing club! The Safety Director is a vital position in a rowing/paddling club. Duties include: maintaining and reviewing emergency action plans, ensuring incidents are documented and discussed for improved practices, and taking a leadership role at PORPA sponsored events with focus on safety.

Dues Renewal Deadline: May 31

Family Rowing	\$225
Individual Rowing	\$150
Junior Rowing	\$50
Social/Paddling Membership	\$20

Renew your dues online at: www.porpa.org under the Membership and Schedule Registration tab. Please be sure to verify email address when renewing.

PORPA in the Community

PORPA has been involved in two recent community initiatives representing the non-motorized boating users. The Joselyn Property Advisory Committee: PORPA participated on this committee in 2022 to help the City of Priest River devise possible development plans for about 30 acres of land at the western shore of the Pend Oreille River just upstream from Bonner County West Park. PORPA is also staying informed about the collaborative Priest River Watershed Group, whose goal is to find solutions (that everyone can agree on), to the issue of about the warming waters of the Priest River.

Free Water Safety Lessons

We all know how important it is for kids in the Inland NW to learn how to be safe around water. Drownings happen every year and PORPA, the Long Bridge Swim Assoc. and the US Army Corps of Engineers want to provide families with an opportunity to avoid this tragic possibility. As a result, we have partnered to offer free water safety instruction to youth ages 1-17 at the Priest River Recreation Area (the Mud hole) during August. Sessions will be a total of 3 hours over 1 or 2 weeks. We have enlisted the expertise of a local experienced swim instructor and would appreciate more instructors. Interested parents/guardians can send their name, email, phone number and number and ages of kids to be put on an email list for updates. Registration for classes will open on the www.porpa.org website in early June. Volunteers to assist with classes are needed. Please send your contact info to water_safety@porpa.org.

Boat Maintenance and Annual Meeting

Lets get this season started! Maintenance and team building will begin the morning of June 3rd with cleaning, prep and inspection of boats and equipment. Later we will set up racks at the "Mud hole" (bring your skeeter spray) and move boats. Two full days are required unless we get enough people to do it in only one day. Sunday, June 4th continues with seasonal set up and annual meeting at noon before the season opening bbq and potluck. For more information contact Erwin Muller secretary@PORPA.org.

Board Member Contact Info:

Gayne Sears - President	president@porpa.org
Erwin Muller - Secretary/Treasurer	secretary@porpa.org
▶ VACANT POSITION - Safety Director	safety@porpa.org
Stan Birnbaum - Advisor	director@porpa.org
Sheila Thomas - Assistant Treasurer	sheila@synergystudio.net



Warren Foresch Award

The Warren Foresch Award was introduced in 2019 to honor our now departed friend Warren Foresch. This award is a symbol of Warren's spirit to prevail against all odds and his endless optimism and commitment. The selection process takes into consideration a member's effort that greatly benefits our organization through improvement of personal technique or performance while adding value to the sport of rowing.



In 2022 there were two highly deserving individuals nominated. Members of the committee selected Okju Cha as the 2022 recipient of the Warren Foresch Award. Okju spent endless hours on the water in various boats practicing her stroke and was always open to suggestions for improvement. She has gained the confidence, balance, and oar handling ability to become an accomplished oarswoman in any boat. Her willingness to participate in races speaks to her love of the sport. Additionally, Okju contributes incredible value to the sport of rowing in northern Idaho, by freely contributing her time, cooking talents, and willingness to assist in the public facing aspects of the club - especially, encouraging people to participate in the PORPA Sprints every chance she got (even on hot summer afternoons at the Mudhole!). Congratulations Okju and Well-Deserved!

**“There is no strength
Without unity”**

Non-Motorized Boat Launch Dedication

On 23 July 2023, the new non-motorized boat launch beach was officially opened to public use at the Priest River Recreation area (a.k.a. The Mudhole). PORPA worked with the Albeni Falls Recreation Department of the US Army Corps of Engineers to slightly adjust the previous swim area ropes to allow for non-motorized boat launching in a safe spot. The site is very popular and is used often. This new launch site keeps non-motorized boats from having to use the motorized boat ramp and separates them from the swim area as well. PORPA appreciates the positive working relationship with the US ACE!



Safety Corner

Safe practices and skills are integral to this sport! PORPA requires that all active club rowers pass a swim test and watch the US Rowing Safety video (available through porpa.org under Safety). Advanced single rowers are to participate in what is called a “flip” test. During the test, rower will turn the single shell over in the water, then right the shell and proceed to get back in. Tests will be administered at the “Mudhole” once operations have started. PORPA continues to use safe practices to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and follows local health department and US Rowing guidelines.



1st Annual PORPA SPRINTS! What a great success!

The 2022 PORPA SPRINTS was a day of fun races for non-motorized boating enthusiasts. We had nearly 50 entries for stand-up paddle board, kayak, canoe, and rowing shell races. The last race of the day had two teams of four for the multi-craft relay-races. Racers passed a baton (floating dog frisbee) to their teammate at the end of each leg. It was a close race, with kayaks, stand-up paddle board, canoes, and a rowing shell participating in this first ever multi-craft relay race! Medals were given to five young racers for their enthusiast efforts!

A highlight for participants was paddling in the amazing single log Kalispel Tribe dugout canoe (it holds eight paddlers). About 100 spectators enjoyed the races and learned about various non-motorized watercraft during the demonstrations after the races. It was a day of good family fun on the water.



We hear you! PORPA Board Listens to Member Ideas

During winter 2023, your PORPA Board of Directors offered an in-person survey to all current, past, and possible members. The Board desired to assess interests, ideas, and suggestions for how the club should proceed into the future. Here is a synopsis of what they heard from 13 people:

We would participate more if there were both team and recreational rowing options; the fee levels are just about right for the current opportunities; we would like the next club purchase to be a quad and a heavy weight double to expand the fleet to fit more people (including youth); we would like and would pay for coaching; we desire more social activities during the rowing season, we have ideas to help with recruitment of adult and youth rowers (i.e hosting a "Family Day"); we want to interact more with the other rowing clubs in the area (CdA and Spokane River Rowing); and some want the club to consider purchasing a couple kayaks and/or stand up paddle boards for member use. Thank you all who participated in the survey!

Get ready for the 2023 PORPA SPRINTS on the Priest River. Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023

The Pend Oreille Rowing and Paddling Association (PORPA) is excited to announce the Second Annual PORPA SPRINTS on the Priest River at the Priest River Recreation Area (Mudhole) on Saturday 12 August 2023. The event is a day of non-motorized fun races for stand-up paddle boards, kayaks, canoes, rowing shells, water bikes, and even boats made of cardboard! All ages and abilities are welcome at the beautiful Priest River. Like last year, the highlight events will be multi-craft relay races and paddling in the Kalispel Tribe's dugout canoe.

One of PORPA's goals is to encourage youth enjoyment of our spectacular Inland Northwest water recreation so, **youth register and participate for free** and receive a free event t-shirt. Prizes will be awarded to youth racers and the winning relay team. Free parking and no entry fee for spectators, who can watch from the beach or the Hwy 2 Bridge. For registration and information go to www.PORPA.org. Donations from individuals and businesses have been received and more are welcome- they help cover costs like free registration for youth.

PORPA extends our gratitude and appreciation to Axel Images (Priest River, ID) for many of these spectacular photographs and Synergy Design Studio, Inc. (Newport, WA) for producing this newsletter and Porpa logos.



PORPA acknowledges that we are in the homelands of the Kalispel people. We offer our respect for their history and culture, and for their wisdom in caring for this place for the generations to come.

Welcome New PORPA Members!

The Merrill Family: *Clint and Caroline (caro-leen) have 2 children - Hannah (16) and Max (13). They moved to the Sandpoint area in 2022 from Oregon. Caroline is from France and met Clint at the University of Texas in Austin, TX. They are new to rowing, although Caroline experienced rowing during summer camp as a 10-year old and she never forgot it. Clint and Caroline work remotely for high tech companies. Caroline enjoys baking, sewing, knitting, and skiing. Clint loves reading and photography. Max has fallen in love with snowboarding; and loves soccer and drumming. Hannah plays basketball at Sandpoint high school, enjoys taking sports pictures for the yearbook, and is also getting into snowboarding. Clint and Caroline look forward to learning how to row this summer!*

Mike Lowry and Jim Russell: *Mike began rowing in college (1976). He excelled and was a tentative candidate for 1980 Olympic trials, but the US boycotted participation in the Olympics the year. He rowed with North Idaho College Masters Crew (now CdA Rowing Association) since moving to the area in 1987, and donated his time as a Board member and equipment manager with the club. He and Jim Russell (a new PORPA member in 2022) have been rowing partners for 20+ years. Jim (PORPA's first ever coach) and Mike were formerly competing extensively in the Pacific NW. Mike and Jim rowed on Cocolalla Lake, ID until they lost their waterfront rowing venue a few years ago. The two of them add extensive experience to our organization.*

Gwen Welch: *Gwen grew up in eastern WA (farming area near Spokane), lived in the Seattle area and returned to Spokane area in 2015. She started rowing after seeing really long boats come in from practices every morning while driving to work near Seattle. She took a learn-to-row class on Lake Union and while it was really challenging, she was hooked. She joined Mount Baker Rowing and Renton Rowing and rounded out her time with sailing and hiking. When moved back to Spokane, she joined SRRA (Spokane River Rowing Association) and says that SRRA provided some of the best coaching she had ever received. More recently, she purchased a single scull and has been rowing on the Pend Oreille River. She is ready to get back into fun group rowing again.*

The 2022 Season in Review

PORPA members enjoyed some very fine days on the water in 2022. Our fleet of small boats, four singles and two doubles, provided rowers with opportunities to scull nearly every hour of the day. The big boats (eight and four) were also taken out for several sessions. The large boat sessions allowed rowers to build and refine skills with their stroke. Several members competed during PORPA Sprints on the Priest River in the 1000-meter races. What a beautiful August day to be on the water.

PORPA provides opportunities for all levels of skill. If you're an experienced rower or someone just learning how to row, we can help with safety, training and guidance.

Boat and Gear Updates

Big Boats: GB-3(eight) and Yam Pa Pah (four) are operational. Since Vespoli is no longer manufacturing sets of Euro Riggers, looking for alternatives, we acquired a Pocock Quad through a rent-to-own plan. The matching sculling oars will need to be sanded and painted.

Doubles: The Bard (LW 2x) is active and can be used as a pair. The SeaShell recreational 2x will be used for training. Vespoli HW 2x through a rent to own program, is a new addition to our fleet along with a set of matching oars (sanding & paint needed). This double is the same model as the Yam Pa Paha and according to Vespoli the rigging may be suitable for the QUAD. Using as a template, it may be possible to copy them to build four sets to support the QUAD use.

Singles: PORPA owns the Roman recreational 1x(learning single), and the Neher, our showpiece wooden 1x. Four Singles on loan to PORPA are the Warren (Pro-Am 25), MAAS (MAAS 24), Star (Alden Star) and Ocean (Alden Ocean) and are available for use by all members with specific certification. All singles have dedicated oar sets.

Retiring: Two Trimline singles will be donated to the Boy Scouts Camp in Coeur D'Alene to be used for badge specific activities.

Repaired: The Warren single has been fixed and will be painted to look nice. Along with newly acquired oars, several in stock sweep oars still need sanding and painting.

PORPA gets a Fresh Look!



T-shirts, hats, visors and other Porpa gear are available for sale. Contact: secretary@porpa.org for more information.

