

Dragon Tales

Fall 2000



Volume 5 No. 4

A Quarterly Publication of DragonSports USA

From the Bow of the Boat

Richard Cole, President

Fall is a good time to reflect on DSUSA's basic mission and purpose. We are a totally volunteer organization dedicated to fitness and friendship. Our weekly club practices and team boat rentals are the foundation for supporting experienced paddlers, developing new paddlers, and supporting new and established teams. By keeping our rates low and providing safe well led practices, our organization continues to grow with paddlers and teams.

Fundamental to our success is the volunteer nature of our program. Thanks to the hard working volunteer efforts of callers, tillers, committee leaders, and Board members our program is successful and growing. Every week several members willingly take the responsibilities of callers and tillers. They give up paddling time for the benefit of all the rest of us.

The volunteer callers have different amounts of experience. A positive result of this is the opportunity for club paddlers to experience a variety of coaching techniques and styles. In addition, the guest callers are gaining experience in leadership skills in a friendly and courteous environment. Of course, a volunteer caller will occasionally do or say something that a paddler may not agree with. When this happens we all know how important it is to act in a courteous manner.

DSUSA is dependent on members stepping forward and performing services beyond simply paying dues and paddling, I encourage you to take on these expanded roles. There are many things that need to be done for the good of paddling. These range from taking care of equipment and supplies, repair and maintenance of boats, calling and tilling, getting involved in committee work such as scheduling, article writing, race assistance, and Board membership.

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Recreation of Dale Buttenhoff's Rescue

Carolyn Stewart

September 14th was a beautiful, warm, sunny, late summer day unlike the chilly early morning hours on that unforgettable day last March 25th. On this September morning, nine Pink Phoenix members, along with Gloria Jones, Jon Colburn, Lorin Moentenich, and two fishermen, Bob and Jeff, recreated the dramatic rescue of Dale Buttenhoff.

Four of the original Pink Phoenix members who were actually involved in the March 14th rescue... Karen Zwickert, Pat Sims, Paula Zellers, and Joan Cavanagh were on DragonSports dragon boat to recreate the event for the TV show "It's a Miracle". Gloria played Karen Zwickert, who couldn't be there for part of the day. Gloria looked pretty cute in the red wig she wore to look like Karen! Jon played Dr. Jeff LeFlamme, who has since moved to Holland and Lorin played John Myers who was in Baltimore at the time.

With his life spinning downward because of drugs and alcohol, Dale had decided to end his life that early spring morning. But, it apparently was not his time to go. And the "pink angels" who were there that day feel it was because of divine intervention.

Being there on the boat, recreating what was a very emotional, traumatic event for the people involved. It brought back memories and a sense of the magnitude of what transpired that day when Dale felt he could no longer go on living. It was the realization of how differently it could have all turned out had the split second timing of events not been such that the Pink Phoenix team got to him when they did. Watching the dummy

being thrown off the bridge and seeing the actor, who played Dale, portraying a near-drowning Dale was very sobering.

It was exciting watching and being involved in the minute details of a TV production! The actor who played Dale couldn't even swim, so the recreation was a stretch for him!

Most of us decided that being an actor was a lot of "hurry up and wait"! We felt exhilarated, but tired by the end of the shoot.

Dale watched from the sidelines and seemed to take it all in stride. Introducing him to the two fishermen who helped to rescue him was very touching. I could see their hearts soften towards the person they had been very angry at for attempting to take his own life. Within a short time, Dale was in their boat chatting away like old friends. How rewarding to see a young man, who only a few months ago tried to end it all, now full of life and eagerly anticipating returning to college to get a degree in TV production and/or in mental health.

The Pink Phoenix team believes in angels.

What's Inside...

- Newly Painted Dragon Boats
- Vancouver Lake Race Update
- Christmas Caroling 2000
- Member Interview
- Stumptown Loves to Travel

Promoting fitness and friend

DragonSports USA Open Practices

Mon., Wed., and Fri. 9:00 AM
Tuesday 6:00 PM
Thursday 6:00 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM

All evening practices
should be using lights.

*Notice: Be considerate to other teams by
bringing the boats in 5 minutes before
your practice ends.*

For information concerning fees, please call
the information line 503-639-2799 x2.
Checks for dues or new memberships
should be mailed to **Bill Collet, Treasurer:**

3809 N.E. 35th Avenue
Portland, OR 97212

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www.dragonsports.org or
check out our egroups address at:
**www.egroups.com/group/
Dragonsports-U S A**

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Phone: 503-639-8520

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Phone: 503-297-3264

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Phone: 503-287-4201

From the Bow *cont. from page 1*

At present, we need our members to think about Board Membership and taking on responsibilities of policy making and committee leadership.

If you are interested in becoming more involved, please contact me. I am available by phone **503-289-0079**, Fax **503-289-3929**, or e-mail at: **rac@teleport.com**

By stepping forward and making yourself available, DSUSA will become even more effective.

Dragon Boats Come to Life

Shirley Ewart

On October 3, a ceremony at Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus marked the end of exactly three months' effort by thirty-five dragon boaters anxious to prove that their skill with the paint brush fully equals their skill with the paddle.

On July 3, when dragon boats #6 and #8 were delivered to the maintenance yard at PCC's Sylvania Campus, they were a sad looking pair. Boat 8 had suffered damage when hit by a tug in 1997. The accident had taken the paint off one side and destroyed the original tail. The scales on the sides were blue and black, but the replacement tail had red and black scales. The paint on both boats was faded, and, in some places, several shades of touch-up paint only added to the general shabbiness. But the boats were in good hands.

First of all, both boats got a good wash and after the original paint colors were carefully matched, marine paint was purchased. Then came the dull part, sanding, sanding and more sanding. Finally, just a month later, painting began. Some painting was tedious; the huge number of scales, each in three colors, took careful work. Some painting was exciting. Dragon heads came to life as the red noses, white teeth, black eyes, and blue eyebrows all shone in glorious color.

In September, Fran Palk e-mailed the workers: "Ye ole #6 dragon raises its new engine red snout and sniffs the air. Its new red and white head glistens and shakes. Some of the new golden scales are beginning to glisten and reflect the light." Soon, dragon #6 had peach colored ear flairs and tail fins while #8 was resplendent with blue ear flairs, tail,

fins, and scales. One should note that a lot of needed repair made it possible for the painters to achieve their spectacular results. Liz Towill became "Bondo Expert", repairing everything from cracks in the gunnel to broken teeth. She also took charge of gel-coating the decks to produce a smooth new finish.

Through the three months, the work crew had grown fond of their dragons and it was with pride that we presented the boats to representatives of the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association. The presentation ceremony included a blessing by Buddhist priests and expressions of good will by Dr. Richard Moriarty and others from the Portland Community College Faculty. Especially recognized were those who worked on this project including members of Stumptown Paddlers and the PCC Dragon Boat teams as well as paddlers from Pink Phoenix, Golden Dragons, Hampton Woods, and MacDragons.

Now, as the two renovated boats join their tattered sisters, it is hoped that other dragon boat teams accept the challenge of adopting and refurbishing a boat. For more information, call Fran Palk at 503-977-4540 (w), or 503-234-3479 (h) or e-mail her at: **fpalk@pcc.ed**

Stumptown Paddlers Love to Travel!

Shirley Ewart

Following a June trip to Vancouver, B.C., in July, Stumptown Paddlers returned to Honolulu. We found the competition a little steeper than last year. The seventy teams included Vancouver's Port of Vancouver and Cruise Control, the Western Australia State Team and a Japanese team from Hong Kong. We learned that the Western Australian team consisted of the thirty best paddlers selected from over one hundred applicants living within a 300 mile radius of Perth – a formidable group of paddlers who swept all but the open division where they were beaten by Po'ola, the Hawaiian longshoreman's team.

Stumptown gained third place plaques in the international and mixed divisions. In the open, the Australians had a strong, mostly men's team and the Laotian Buddhists also had a very competitive team encouraged by a little band which marched down the beach

Friendship through paddle sports

with drums and tambourines as their team raced! With eight women paddlers, we made it to the semifinals but were overpowered by the all-male teams.

Stumptown owes special thanks to four guests from "Pink Phoenix", Portland's team of breast cancer survivors, Tiller Debbie Bunch, Caller Gwen Foley, Lead Stroke Nancy Heitz, and Paddler Carolyn Stewart. Great work by a great bunch of gals!

After enjoying moderate success in Victoria, B.C., and racing at Vancouver Lake in Washington, Stumptown was well primed for competition at Kelowna, B.C. This was only the second year for this event which, nevertheless attracted nearly one hundred crews from all over the Province. Stumptown was the only U.S. entry, and there was one crew from Calgary. Everyone was impressed by the beauty and cleanliness of the city and the site. We were also intrigued with the prospect of seeing "Ogopogo", a Loch Ness type monster living in the lake; a million dollars (Canadian) is offered for a confirmed sighting. Sadly, we had to be content with having our pictures taken with his (her?) statue!

On Saturday, Stumptown qualified for the "Competitive B Division". On Sunday, we won the semifinal. However, the first attempt at the final was aborted when gusty winds forced a return to the dock and over an hour's wait on the beach. Finally, an exciting race ended in a photo finish with Vancouver's "Dangerous When Wet". We learned that they had pipped us by 1.44 seconds and Stumptown Paddlers was awarded third place. DHFL (Deeper Harder Faster Longer), won first place. A great deal of credit is due to our "Guest Tiller", Kelowna's "Garry", Coach Yogi Bera, and Callers Liz Towill and Roberta Cobb. We were also glad to welcome back Kennedy Attong who came all the way from his home in Toronto to paddle with us.

Gloria Jones... A Dynamic Lady

Shirley Ewart

For Gloria Jones, Dragon Boating started in 1992 with a small advertisement in Security Pacific Bank internal newsletter; "Dragon Boat Drummer Wanted". Gloria who was a vocalist thought drumming would be fun; she had little idea of what a dragon boat was, and certainly had no intention of paddling one. But, in April when she turned up for her first practice she was surprised to be given a life jacket and a paddle and to learn that she wouldn't see a drum until the week before the June races. Gloria was a paddler - and she was hooked!

Gloria remained a member of Security Pacific's team until 1995, when the company withdrew its sponsorship and she joined Hampton Woods team. In 1996, they asked her to coach and that year took a 6-week course and qualified and was certified to coach. The following year, Hampton Woods second team, "Karashi" was formed and Gloria took over as its coach. A couple of years later, she also volunteered to coach "Snapdragons", an all women's team. She recalls the thrill of taking a team that hadn't made it to the finals before and finishing second in their division.

For the past five years, Gloria has enjoyed competing and coaching in Vancouver, B.C., Seattle, and Vancouver Lake. The Hosers and other teams have solicited her right off the dock and she has always been willing, as time allows to coach teams.

To all those who come to "Open Practice", Gloria is familiar as a caller. She also organizes the December Christmas Caroling during the Christmas Ships on the Willamette. Her administrative talents are put to full use as she serves on the Steering Committee for Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association Dragon Boat Races, handling all registrations. Furthermore, she is in her second year as Treasurer of the Pacific Dragon Boat Association.

Teamwork comes naturally to this Portland native. She grew up as the middle child in a family of ten children. Today, she lives in Tigard with her husband Dick. He is her support at races and loves to be a finish



line timer, but refuses to paddle. Gloria has not, however, abandoned her hope of getting him into a boat with her.

The past three years have brought vast changes in Gloria's life. In 1997, she moved to a new career selling life insurance and mortgage financing. She then earned a securities license and now has her own business. And recently, Gloria, whose son and daughter are both grown, acquired a new sense of motherhood when her daughter and four lovely grandchildren, moved into their home. Sadly, her daughter's husband is critically ill in a nursing home. Anyone who has shared a house with four children under eight years old knows what chaos this can be, but Gloria takes it all in stride.

Hobbies? Music, singing to be specific must be ranked Gloria's first love. She donates time to her church and sings for weddings and funerals. For the past eight years she has been part of Portland's One Voice Productions "Singing Christmas Tree". She also enjoys hiking, an evening walk with her grandchildren, and of course shopping!

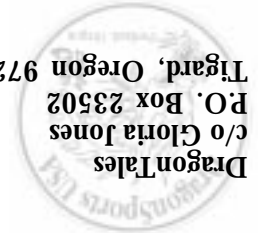
Asked if she had any words of advice for fellow paddlers, Gloria said she would like to encourage paddlers to come out during open club practices and urged all paddlers to remember that dragon boating is a year-round sport. She described the winter river as "tranquil and very soothing." Clearly, the peace of the river, her music, and the love of her family all offer stability to this truly dynamic lady.

It's
time
to come and
join in the joy of
the Christmas Season,
tell them Gloria Jones sent you,
tickets on sale now, call (503) 557-tree
visit our web www.singingchristmastree.org
One Voice Productions presents the 38th
Annual Singing Christmas Tree • November 24-29
2000

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Advertising in DragonTales

Readers who are interested in placing an advertisement in DragonTales are welcome to do so as follows:

Rates:

\$10 for active members

\$20 for corporations or nonmembers

Ad Format:

2³/₈" x 2³/₁₆"

Advertisers should furnish either electronic files, camera-ready art, or a proof copy. Advertising copy acceptance is subject to space availability and approval by DragonSports USA. For more information please contact Stephanie Travis at 503-283-6450.

Do you have any ideas or topics you'd like to see covered in DragonTales? Comments and article inspirations are always welcome.

2000 Vancouver Lake Regatta Results

Competitive Division

1st: Wasabi Mixed 2:24.82
 2nd: Kai Ikaika 2:25.08
 3rd: DBI 2:29.11
 4th: Stumptown 2:29.72

Recreational Division

1st: Two Cans Short 2:35.09
 2nd: Hampton Woods Monitors 2:35.53
 3rd: Sync or Swim 2:35.63
 4th: Golden Dragons 2:37.60

Women's Division

1st: Wasabi Women 2:35.38
 2nd: Red Dragon 2:45.85
 3rd: Dragon Flies 2:55.18
 4th: Pill Hill Too 2:56.20

Coaches Clinic Sponsored by DragonSports U.S.A.

We are looking for interested persons and will hold a class that will provide indepth training and certification. Please call our hotline or e-mail Gloria Jones if you are interested at: grace@spiretech.com

Calendar of Events

Christmas Caroling RiverPlace Marina	December 11, 2000 6:30 PM
PKSCA Dragon Boat Races	June 9-10, 2001
Alcan Dragon Boat Festival	June 22-24, 2001
Dragon Cup Festival	July 8, 2001
4th IDBF World DB Championships Philadelphia, PA	August 1-5, 2001
5th Annual California International Dragon Boat Festival Oakland, CA	August 11-12, 2001

Help Wanted: Board Members

Do you...

- Provide guidance
- Have good leadership skills
- Enjoy challenging opportunities

Contact Richard Cole at 503-289-0079
 or e-mail at: rac@teleport.com