

FIFTH PEND OREILLE RENDEZVOUS - SANDPOINT, IDAHO - AUG 11-14,2000

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With a skiff of snow on the ground, the mountains white all about, and a wind blowing straight from the far North, it is time to get the film printed and cogitate on the summer past. Our fifth gathering, the fourth at this place we like and which welcomes us so, was a mixed bag of friends, boats, emotions.

What can you do? Get a goal in your mind's eye, put out the word, and enjoy the result. The Pend Oreille Rendezvous evolved into a small group of comfortable friends proven to enjoy the situation and each other's antics, much like a vacation at the cabin with old pals. So where are the NEW friends, NEW dogs, NEW kids, NEW boat story lies????



Lake Pend Oreille, situated in the Northern Panhandle of the State of Idaho, is approximately 42 miles long with 110 miles of shoreline and over 1500' deep in places. Glengary Bay can be seen just below the red lettering 'Gamble Lake'. During WWII, this lake was used as a secret training area for the submarine conning tower crews in the US Navy's Pacific Fleet.

Options for the future of the Rendezvous range all over. We could promote it as a wood event as it turned out to be this year and almost was last year. We could turn it into a buddies vacation. We could try to push it around the Ethernet, as I am freshly located there. Date and/or place could be changed. We even could let it die a natural death. The Winter is long here in North Idaho; we also can let the Rendezvous soak for a while and see what it feels like later.

All that aside, the Fifth Rendezvous brought a couple of boats new to us, and a return of some favorites.. As a retired builder/finisher, Gordon Gleason had some shop time available, and chose the WB peapod for a winter project... After all, he had almost all the material at hand, and wanted to learn to sail... Gordon made a beautiful job of her in glued lap marine fir plywood, and being a basic renaissance man he did all the metal work himself in stainless and bronze. Then he built the fitted trailer, and so on. Gordon and Sandy had been rowing this little boat since Spring, and at the Rendezvous she was fully ready to sail, so the learning experience proceeded.



Gordon's 13' sailing--rowing Pea Pod inspired by Doug Haylan's design in WoodenBoat Magazine Nos 133 (etc.). Sandy Gleason First Mate, & four footed 'Crew'.

We really liked Jim Byler's SPORTSMAN'S PRAM. Talk about the fellow who can do it all! Jim's main line of work is not related to wooden boats or bird hunting or fishing, but there is a major addiction in play here. So Jim dreams up and designs and builds this fine boat. With three side laps of glued ply and a fairly skinny flat bottom, this boat hauls mail with a 5 hp outboard in a Carolina well. This mode will speed you across the big lake, then fish virtually all day, with minimum dollar / environmental impact.



Take out the gas rig and plunk an electric trolling motor into the forward well, put the battery in where the gas motor just was, and there is a whole new boat. Lastly, get all the power off her, and row. If the boat then seems larger than you want or need, unbolt the aft three feet of the craft, and row the shortened boat off on any special mission that comes to mind. Jim is a peach, and this is the fourth boat he has shown us in three Rendezvous.

Additional highlights include Herb and Marla Barberie bringing back their Culler Catboat with the mast stepped aft and a six foot outboard bowsprit carrying a big jib to turn her into a fast summer sloop.



Herb Barberie's Culler Catboat gaining headway while working up a tack to exit Glengary Bay.

Mark Townsend's minimalist Blue Jay (sans paint or cleats, etc.) is still blazing fast and fun. Mark is a five year vet of the Rendezvous, and with partner Donna Hime added another swell dog to the mix this summer.



Donna Hime taking a paddle in the Paul Butler built 15' epoxy plywood kayak. The black is graphite epoxy used as scruph barrier protection.



Thom Vetromile's 15'3" Gilbert Vic designed Pacific City Dory Skiff resting after scampering about Lake Pend Oreille. Built by Gordon Gleason. Note the lack of internal frames as the motor well-center seat & 'T' structure help give the skiff stiffness while retaining low weight.

Thom Vetromile yet again lured a load of folks who should know better into a butt-pounding soaker of a ride in the Slam-Bang Skiff, but eventually we all dried out and could walk upright again. His Butler-built multi chine kayak gave lots of smooth glides across the weekend, somewhat offsetting the other. Weather was so fine through the whole time we didn't even consider trying to shelter the camp kitchen. However, due to severe drought, extreme fire hazard, and various edicts, the always popular campfire had to be given up. This forced Rendezvours, and Rendezvettes to exercise ingenuity in locating stages for their small pranks, tall tales, and outright lies. Fire-friendly Rendy doggies, were seen slinking about in the dim moonlight, wearing confused looks.



View from Rendezvous camp site overlooking Glengary Bay with the Cabinet Mountains in the background.

The unused fire pit looking towards the Clark Fork River drainage. The full moon just peaking through the smoky air.



Anyone interested in adding to the ongoing Rendezvous evolution is welcome to toss their two bits into the fire. Mixed metaphors welcome, too.

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