



NORUMBEGA CHAPTER ~ WCHA

The Southern New England Chapter of the
Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, Ltd.

March 12, 2018

Winter Meeting Report

Norumbega's 2018 Winter Meeting was held on Sunday March 11, 2018 at Veasey Memorial Park in Groveland. We had 20 members and one guest for the event.

Originally scheduled to be held at the Hale Reservation in Westwood, we had to scramble to make alternate arrangements as we were notified by the Hale on Friday afternoon that they had multiple trees down on the wires leading to the Trading Post and that they had no idea when power would be restored.

We agreed that we would try to make alternate plans and make the final decision at the latest by 10:00 am Saturday if we had to change the location or change the date.

Luckily, we were able to secure space for the meeting right here in Groveland at Veasey Park on such short notice. Vanessa, the manager, bent over backwards to get things ready and things went off without a hitch. E-mail notices went out at 10:08 Saturday so people would be aware of the change.

At 12:28 pm on Saturday the Hale sent us an e-mail that power had been restored to their office, but they still were not sure about the Trading Post. We told them it was too late, we had already made the change.

At the meeting we did the usual things, lunch, socializing and sharing news about wooden canoes.

David Dumas did a show and tell of his new Kelly Kettle Stove, an interesting little gadget that burns small twigs and is capable of bringing 22 ounces of water to a boil in 5 minutes. Dave

explained that by using a stove like this on a canoe trip to prepare freeze dried meals eliminates the need to carry the fuel needed for an ordinary stove. There is always an endless supply of small dead branches at any campsite, when carrying fuel bottles the only sure thing is that at some point in time you are going to run out of fuel. And with the Kelly Kettle there are no generators or valves to fail as they have been known to do, always at an inopportune time.

Stuart Fall brought an antique axe that attracted a lot of attention throughout the building, it was a big hit at the birthday party being held in another part of the facility.

Greg O'Brien brought along the Chestnut canoe seats from his Cruiser that we used as patterns for our Prospector project and explained how they were made and what we had done to duplicate them

George Marsh brought along an old Robertson canoe that he recently purchased. An early sixteen-footer, it has had some unfortunate repairs made to it. We all spent some time admiring its fiberglass coating, the cut down gunwales and the replacement stems made from ¾ inch plywood, something never seen before. At least the ribs and the planking are in pretty fair condition. Not an impossible canoe to restore, but, this one is going to be a challenge

Once again **Ted Harrigan** made the Brown Irish Stew and brought it to the gathering in two large pots that he put on the stove and served hot. Thanks, Ted, for taking on this task.

Always popular, our tradition of small door prizes at the annual meeting continues. This year the first winner was **Chuck Cossaboom**, he won a new, BPE free Nalgene water bottle, complete with an American flag decal. **Bob Benedict** was the lucky winner of a flint and steel fire starter for the next time he needs to get a fire started and there are no matches to be found. The top prize this year was a polished brass compass and it was taken home by **Doug Deyoe**.



Photo: Steve Lapey

Everyone was paying attention as Dave Dumas explained the features of the Kelly Kettle.

Norumbega Chapter Dues

Everyone at the meeting paid their \$10.00 dues for 2018 and a number of others have sent checks for the dues.

Please, send a check now for the dues, checks payable to **Norumbega**, and mail to **Norumbega Chapter, 9 Doris Street, Groveland, MA 01834** and that will be the easiest and best way to do it.

On or about April 15th we will send out Pay Pal invoices to those who have not sent checks and you will have the option to pay the dues by credit or debit card. You do not need a Pay Pal account, you only have to enter the card number and send the remittance to pay the dues this way.

Please keep in mind that because Pay Pal charges us a 5.9% fee on these transactions we would prefer the old-fashioned checks.

Upcoming Chapter Events

May Wilderness Trip: Lobster Lake to Chesuncook Village

Planning is just getting underway for this wilderness expedition which will be in late May. Those interested in doing this trip should contact **Dave Dumas** at 207 657 6864 or dave.dumas@sappi.com or **John Fitzgerald** at 978 371 2438 or jmbfitz@hotmail.com

Sunday, June 17, 2018 – Father’s Day on the Sudbury and Concord Rivers. This has become our big paddle event of the year. As before we can meet at Sherman’s Bridge on the Lincoln/Sudbury line before 8:30 am and after a car shuttle we should be moving by 9:00 am. It is about an 8 mile run from the put in to the Old North Bridge in Concord. Bring a lunch and we will spend some time at National Park in Concord. For those who may want to join in without doing the paddling portion, we usually arrive at the Old North Bridge a little past noon. Feel free to bring a lunch and meet us there. For additional information, contact **John Fitzgerald** at 978 371 2438 or jmbfitz@hotmail.com

Tuesday, July 17, 2018 through, Sunday, Jul 22, 2018: The WCHA Assembly in Peterborough, Ontario. Start planning now for the trip to Peterborough, you are going to need a passport and that may take a while to process. The Assembly this year will be featuring Bill Mason and Chestnut canoes. That is why we are building a replica of Bill Mason’s Chestnut Prospector for the Auction. Besides the Assembly, Peterborough is the home of the Canadian Canoe Museum, probably the largest collection of wooden canoes on the planet. A visit to this museum is worth the trip. In addition, the Trent-Severn waterway passes right past the Trent University campus and it is just a short paddle to the Peterborough Hydraulic Lift Lock which we will plan on traversing down and back up during the Assembly. Look for all the Assembly details in the April issue of *Wooden Canoe*.

Saturday August 4 and Sunday August 5, 2018: The Salem Maritime Festival. Once again, we plan to be a part of the Salem Maritime Festival on Derby Wharf in historic Salem, Massachusetts. This will require a few volunteers to man our booth, talk to folks about wooden canoes and possibly sign up a couple of new members for the WCHA. If anyone has a project canoe to bring along to display or even do something like a canvassing demo please plan on being a part of this fun festival. Contact **Steve Lapey** at 978 374 1104 or stevenscanoe@gmail.com with suggestions or for more information.

Saturday, August 25, 2018: The Charles River: Possibly in the area of the old Norumbega Park in Auburndale. Watch for details in the June newsletter

Saturday, September 15, 2018, The Nashua River from Still River Depot to the Ayre Dam and return. This is the smooth, deep water portion of the upper Nashua, avoiding the

fast and shallow area below the dam. The current here is very slow so there will be no problem on the upstream return after we have lunch at the Dam. Plan on meeting at Still River in time for a 9:00 am start, there will be no need for a car shuttle. To get to the put in, follow Route 110 south from Harvard center for about two miles to Still River Depot Road. Follow the road to the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge. Across the tracks there is a parking area near the boat ramp. This will be about 10 miles of paddling and should take a total of 4 hours to complete. For additional information, contact **Steve Lapey** at 978 374 1104 or stevenscanoe@gmail.com