

"Raiders" row 89 miles in 7 days, don't want to stop!

Seven hardy youth from the Port Townsend Sea Scout ship (unit) SSS Falcon took up the challenge of the Shipyard School Raid, a 7-day sailing and rowing race for traditional small boats held Sept. 2-8.

The course of 89 nautical miles started at the Silva Bay Shipyard School on Gabriola Island, B.C., and ended at our own Wooden Boat Festival in Port Townsend.

Competing in *Bear*, an eight-oared, 26-foot longboat that is also rigged for sail, the Sea Scouts rowed nearly all the way. In one of the biggest and heaviest boats in the fleet of nine vessels, they came in third—having earned the respect of their peers and



Sea Scouts share "incredible" moments

Each participating Sea Scout was asked to describe their "most incredible experience" of the Raid. Here are their responses, in their own words:

Emmett Blank, 14: "When, on the last day, I climbed to the top of a cliff at Watmough Bight on Lopez Island, looked out, and saw Port Townsend. I felt a sense of accomplishment but also a sense of sorrow because I wanted it [the Raid] to go on for longer."

Robert Cannon, 16: "Seeing the way the crew worked together...just everything! I wanted to keep going...down the coast...to Hawaii!"

Anne Aldrich, 14: "All of it was very fun, but one of the parts that I remember most was that I was the first person to coxswain through the fog bank [crossing Haro Strait]. I wished Papa was there to teach me how to do it, but I found I could do it anyway."

Chris Stohlman, 15: "Sailing into Port Townsend for our homecoming. We were going 7.6 knots with the current. It felt like, OK, let's not stop. Let's just keep sailing!"

Laura Spinney, 18: "I had one morning where I woke up before everyone and I went to go see the sunrise. There was this kingfisher that flew *this* far [two feet] above my head! It was really cool."

Chris Spinney, 17: "Realizing that we'd *done* it. It really hit home when we actually tied up in Port Townsend. It felt really good, but I was also sad that it was ending."

Matt Younger, 17: "I think the most incredible part of the Raid was being coxswain and looking out over the bow and seeing nothing but horizon. And I was thinking, 'Just bring me that horizon!'"

had the adventure of a lifetime.

The first "raid" held in North America, the Shipyard School Raid was modeled after the Great Glen Raid in Scotland and its predecessors in Portugal and Sweden. Like them, this raid promoted adventure and sportsmanship.

The Sea Scouts took turns rowing and coxing, and sleeping either in tents ashore or in the open boat. And they rose to the challenge. Chris Stohlman recalled how on the second day of the race, they were fighting a current and dropped behind the fleet. Not wanting to stop, even for lunch, the crew rowed 18 miles straight. "That's nine hours without stopping," Stohlman said.

"It was a lot of teamwork," added shipmate Robert Cannon.

"I think they learned lot about themselves and each other on this trip," said parent/participant Kim Aldrich. "They had to reach down inside themselves and find out what they're made of."



Seven Port Townsend Sea Scouts and three adults (Kim Aldrich, Dave Griswold and Capt. George Hill) aboard the NWMC/WBF longboat *Bear* competed in the Shipyard School Raid Sept. 2-8 and placed third in the fleet of nine boats, with "a solid first in Team Spirit," according to organizers.

Photos courtesy of the Aldrich family

Raid contributors

The Sea Scouts raised over \$3,000 to cover the entrance and participant fees for the Raid and transportation to the starting line.

Thanks to these financial contributors:

Admiral Ship Supply
All who purchased knotwork
from the Sea Scouts
Anonymous
Robert and Holly d'Arcy
Ilona Dill
Galmukoff Marine
Hasse & Co. / Port Townsend Sails
Haven Boatworks
Jefferson Title Company
Phil Keys
Chris Kluck
Port Townsend Kiwanis Club
Port Townsend Rigging
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Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op
David Rymph
Sharon Spinney
Carlyn Stark
Townsend Bay Marine
Matt Younger

A very special thank you to Capt. George Hill for the in-kind donation of his time and skills as a licensed captain, a \$1,000 value!