

# Outdoor Rec / Sports

## A Basque boat named 'Charlotte' Swim meet results



**THE OUTDOOR COLUMN**  
By Todd Arriola

I've personally located a Thomas J. Hill-designed, 11'6" canoe, called the "Charlotte," a boat that can weigh under 30 pounds.

The fact that the canoe could be easily carried and placed on top of a vehicle, or maybe in the

bed of one, is part of the attraction. Additionally, "...she's very fast and she tracks like a freight train," according to Hill. Plus, she's beautiful, if I can add my humble opinion to the mix.

It should be noted that, in the interest of full disclosure, every time I fished around about any significant body of water, I kept thinking that if I could just get out on it with a boat built from scratch, I might have more fun.

That, and my inner Basque voices were too stubborn to avoid harassing me with visions of fishing and boatbuilding in my lineage.

I joked to a friend about a possible business name, "The Basque Boat Builder of Baker." Maybe it doesn't exactly pop.

Boatbuilding is a "romantic" idea to many, but, while I do want to sound encouraging, the reality is, it's a bit more complicated

than just throwing some straight planks on a frame, and hoping one doesn't sink to the bottom of the lake when it's completed. Speaking of the planks, they probably won't be straight anyway.

Think of it this way: if you cut what appears to be a straight rectangle on an orange peel, and pull off that piece, when you lay it out flat, it won't look the same.

In reverse, that's what planking would be like on a boat, because it involves bevels and curves.

*Charlotte* would, of course, be my personal vessel of endless joy, but on a less selfish note, I believe a boatbuilding program implemented locally, involving school-age students, does have its appeal, and much could be taught regarding the use of tools (traditional and modern), mathematics, geometry, seamanship, challenging carpentry projects, and working as a team to accomplish a goal.

While searching for a boat plan associated with this idea, I came across the Bevin Skiff, the plans for which are offered for free from the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, "...as long as you build it with kids," I discovered, on woodenboat.com. Students' elastic minds and restless bodies are practically begging to be occupied with focus on a project such as this one. Again, that's my humble opinion.

An obvious thought that comes to mind when thinking about the summer, is that I'd rather be using the boat and playing, than building one, which is an activity usually reserved for winter, for obvious reasons.

But, we have to go with the timing life gives us, as they say (well, somebody says that, I would like to assume).

The aforementioned *Charlotte* (plans available at thomasjhillboatdesigns.com) and other various boats usually require a frame, made of wooden molds, upon which the boat is constructed upside down.

Depending on the construction method and the type of boat, this certainly isn't always the case, but something to keep in mind.

As I've yet to order my plans, I haven't constructed the molds, or even decided that *Charlotte* will definitely be this year's first boat for me.

I like to "keep it local" when possible, and different materials are suitable for boatbuilding, but we'll see how that goes with what's required for construction.

I'd like to think that in the space between my ears, there's plenty of elasticity left in my own mind for more learning, and maybe, just maybe, I can help to generate some inspiration this year.

Good luck with your adventures!

Both the Baker and LaGrande Swim Clubs attended the Pendleton Open swim meet on July 10-12. There were 13 teams from Oregon, Washington and Idaho with 341 athletes entered. Three of the 33 swimmers that La Grande sent were from Baker City, Jacob Miller, Jared Miller, and Riana Scott. The following are their results:

**Jacob Miller(11) - Boys 11-12 age group**

- 200 IM 7th
- 50 Back 8th
- 100 Free 15th
- 100 Breast 9th
- 50 Fly 12th
- 50 Free 15th
- 100 Back 7th
- 50 Breast 7th
- 200 Free 9th

**Jared Miller (16) - Boys 15 & over age group**

- 200 IM 3rd
- 100 Back 1st
- 100 Free 5th
- 100 Fly 5th
- 1500 Free 2nd
- 50 Free 11th
- 200 Back 1st
- 200 Free 3rd
- 200 Fly 3rd

**Riana Scott (13) - Girls 13-14 age group**

- 200 IM 2nd
- 100 Free 3rd
- 200 Breast 2nd
- 100 Fly 5th
- 1500 Free 4th
- 50 Free 7th
- 200 Back 5th
- 100 Breast 2nd
- 200 Free 7th

Jared Miller and Riana Scott both were on relay teams that placed 1st.

## Ladies bridge and golf scores

Results of the July 8 Quail Ridge Ladies Bridge and Golf Club are:

Golf Winners, Tee to Green, 1st Lavelle Woodcock, 2nd Margo Kenworthy; and 3rd Nancy Buehler.

Bridge Winners: 1st Lavelle Woodcock; 2nd Della Steele, and 3rd Shannon Sullivan.

## Softshell clam advisory

The Oregon Health Authority is issuing a health advisory for the length of the Oregon Coast for softshell clams because they contain high levels of naturally occurring arsenic. Removing skin from clam's siphon dramatically reduces arsenic levels, public health officials say. Arsenic levels varied along the Oregon coast: Clams on the north coast had the most arsenic; clams on the south coast had the least arsenic; clams on the central coast were in between.

## ODFW finds salmon die-off in the John Day River

JOHN DAY, Ore. - An estimated 109 wild spring Chinook salmon in the upper section of the Middle Fork John Day River died last week, apparently due to low river flows and warm temperatures.

According to Brent Smith, ODFW fish biologist in John Day, water temperatures in the mid-70s combined with

low stream flows likely led to the deaths of these fish. Like many rivers across Oregon, stream flows in the Middle Fork John Day have been extremely low this summer.

The spring Chinook die-off was first discovered by ODFW staff on July 7 near Windlass Creek. The following two days more dead fish were observed

during a survey conducted over a 17-mile reach downstream of Hwy. 7.

Similar salmon die-offs occurred in 2007 and 2013 with high temperatures being the main cause. The Middle Fork's lack of riparian vegetation combined with a wide and shallow channel exposes much of the river to direct sunlight which can lead to

cause quick rises in water temperature.

Smith said he expects to see additional salmon mortalities for the rest of the summer until spawning occurs in early September. He said the John Day basin as a whole is seeing a strong salmon return this year and recent summer rains have brought some relief.

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