



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Chieftain

The Dragons in the Wallowas dragon boat club benefited from another killer workshop thanks to Rick and Colleen McLaughlin of the 200-member Golden Dragons race club in Portland. The team showed such improvement in a short time that the McLaughlins have committed to a third workshop before the Aug. 27 races. In this photo, Colleen is in the front of the boat and Rick is tiller.

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

Local dragon boat squad ups its conditioning as out-of-towners plan August visit

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Dragons in the Wallowas dragon boat club continues to grow and is looking for even more members as they prepare for the Aug. 27-28 race event on Wallowa Lake.

According to race coordinator Michael Lockhart, 11 teams from around the Northwest have submitted entry forms.

"I expect more," Lockhart said. "But we're a going concern at this point."

The gathering will feature four separate events, two each on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's races will be a traditional four-lane, 500-meter race and a similar 250-meter race. On Sunday there will be a second

four-lane, 500-meter race and two identical 250-meter serpentine one-lane courses.

The serpentine course is an original Wallowa County invention that Lockhart, a former organizer of ski races, conceived of as a "water slalom."

"The dragon boat community is really excited about that," Lockhart said.

Most of the competing teams arriving from Portland, Vancouver and other cities will have years of experience, so the brand-new Dragons in the Wallowas have their work cut out for them. Fortunately, Wallowa County team members have exhibited better-than-usual fitness levels for beginners, according to workshop coach Colleen McLaughlin, head coach of "The Golden Dragons" of Portland. Nevertheless, the

practice sessions for the local Wallowa club must show rapid improvement in technique and condition if they hope to be competitive by late August.

"It's a very ambitious goal," McLaughlin said.

For that reason the club has decided that regular Tuesday and Thursday evening practices can no longer accept "try it, you'll like it" new paddlers unless their fitness level is already very high.

Two new paddlers of high fitness levels came out for their first time recently and did well, so if you're in good shape, don't hesitate to come on a Tuesday or Thursday, said head coach Nicole Bellows.

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Pay to play proposed for portion of Snake

Wallowa County Chieftain

Forest managers would like to charge a special recreation permit fee of \$5 to \$10 per passenger for people who travel on the Wild and Scenic portion of the Snake River.

The proposed fee would be per-person, per-trip and would be collected from all boaters and passengers. The fee also would include individuals using outfitter/guide services on the Wild and Scenic portion of the Snake River. The area subject to the proposed fee is the Snake River beginning at Hells Canyon Dam to Cache Creek Ranch (approximately 70 miles).

Employees of outfitters and guides would not be subject to the fee during working hours, nor would travel by private, noncommercial boat to any private land including; or any person who has right of access for hunting or fishing privileges under specific provisions of treaty or law.

The \$5 to \$10 fee would be used to improve maintenance of developed facilities and historic sites used for recreation, expand interpretation, address health and safety concerns and provide extra river patrols. In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act which allows the Forest Service to keep 95 percent of fees collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate and maintain and improve these sites.

Deputy District Ranger of the Wallowa Mountains Office Jake Lubera said the service was having trouble keeping up with normal operations and hoped the fee would help provide a stable funding source.

"With this proposed investment from those who use the river, we will be able to maintain the sites to the level and quality that people expect and invest in other needs such as education and safety," Lubera said.

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Little Buckaroos ride again at CJD rodeo

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Chief Joseph Days Rodeo will host the Little Buckaroo Rodeo for special needs individuals for the second year on Wednesday, July 27 in the Harley Tucker Arena. This year there will be no age limit on competitors. There is no admission fee, either.

"They just need to be disabled in some way to be part of this," said organizer Debbie Scudder of Enterprise. "I think this is going to be quite an outreach to people with disabilities in our community."

Scudder is prepared for up to

25 competitors in the event.

"The first 25 that show up will participate," she said. "This year Sports Corral supplied belt buckle awards for all competitors."

Sports Corral also supplied stick horses, hats and more for the event and are sponsoring the event along with the Chief Joseph Days board of directors.

A volunteer cowboy or cowgirl accompanies every competitor, and the CJD royalty again will help out. Volunteers are usually very happy to step forward because the "job" is so much fun, Scudder said.

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Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

2015 CJD Queen Addie Kilgore shows the Hall twins of Pilot Rock how to run the barrels on stick horses during last year's Little Buckaroo event.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Katie Hall of Pilot Rock gives bull riding a try.

Two-day invitational a success despite weather

In regards to the weather, golfers who signed up to play in the 2nd annual two-day invitational tournament last weekend at Alpine Meadows lucked out Saturday with ominous clouds but only a spatter of rain and a barrel of sunshine. On Sunday the same fellows weren't so lucky ... the black sky opened with barrels of rain and not a spatter of sunshine.

Although the 32 golfers who played the two-man best ball format Saturday were disappointed with weather conditions that caused the Sunday game cancellation, they departed for home earlier than planned

tee time

Rochelle Danielson

in an understanding, happy mood with prize payouts awarded to six of eight teams in each flight, and double amounts in skins.

Saturday Team Winners:

First Flight Gross: 1. Logston/Allen, 68; 2. Boggs/Neyer, 68; 3. Corn/Griggs, 68. (Determined by handi-

cap and pops)

First Flight Net: 1. L Homan/G Oveson, 70; 2. D Johnson/B Ables, 73; 3. Jolma/Rosbarsky, 74.

Second Flight Gross: 1. J Harmon/J Stoffel, 74; 2. D Duquette/M Gibbs, 75; 3. H Talbott/F Cornett, 77.

Second Flight Net: 1. D Anderson/J Cornett, 81; 2. J Kissinger/P Kissinger, 85; 3. Lynn/Beck, 87.

Greg Corn won KP (closest to pin in one shot) on No. 1/10, 5' 7"; Patrick Lynn, KP No. 4/13, 10' 7"; Gordy Jolma, longest putt No. 8/17, 24' 3".

Only two-person teams were rewarded, but there were excellent single scores recorded. For instance, M. Griggs had low gross for the first flight and field with a 73. And Howard Talbott had low gross for the second flight of 79.

Saturday was a day of good golf. Entry handicaps ranged from low "one" handicap to high in the low 20s. Birdies were numerous, and our hometown boys scored well. Lance Homan birdied Nos. 5, 11, 16 and 18. Marvin Gibbs, Nos. 6 and 8. Bill Ables, Nos. 6, 14 and 15. Dean Duquette, No. 14. Jeff Stoffel, Nos.

8 and 18. Dick Anderson, No. 7. Terry Decker No. 14. Paul Kissingner, formerly of Enterprise, Nos. 1 and 12.

"The course is in excellent shape," said one player from the Montoga/Martinez team of Wallowa. "It is beautiful out there, and we have had a good round and a good time."

Chef Sherri Currie served a barbecue ribs dinner at the clubhouse Saturday evening.

Rochelle Danielson is an Alpine Meadows member who resides in Enterprise.

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