

Dragons prepare to roar on the lake

Dragon Boat Races are set Aug. 26-27

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Second Annual Seven Wonders Cup Dragon Boat races are Aug. 26-27 at the Wallowa Lake Marina at South End of Wallowa Lake. This is a free event and the Dragons in the Wallowas hope to see their fans there.

Teams consist of 22 individuals: 20 paddlers, a caller and a steersperson (tiller). So far, seven visiting teams have registered to compete: Wasabi Masters, Fire Breathing Blowfish, Castaways, Golden Dragons, Wasabi Tide Runners, Misfit Dragons and Sirens Paddling Team.

The race will offer three divisions: the Women's Division, Mixed (gender) Division and Masters Division. Masters teams are mixed teams ages 55 and older. Wallowa Lake Tramway and Wallowa Lake Tourist Association host the event.

The Wallowa County group intends to field both a Women's Division team and a Mixed Division Team. Since there are only about 26 members total on the race team, most paddlers will be running on two teams and "orphans" (visiting paddlers who have volunteered to fill the boat) will be welcomed.

The Wallowa County event also features a 250-meter sla-



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Dragons in the Wallowas make a practice race in preparation for the second annual Seven Wonders Cup Dragon Boat Race, which is set for Aug. 26 and 27 on Wallowa Lake. Left to right front: Jia Oh and Panky Hauxwell, stroke (leaders); Left to right second row: Chantelle Johnson and Gina Barstad; Left to right third row: Julia Zeise and Betty Settergren; Tiller is Denny Kolb.

lom race, which tests the communication between tiller and caller and the quick reactions of the team.

The event begins Saturday morning at approximately 8 a.m. with qualifying 250-meter races. Every boat will be individually timed, and times will determine division winners. So, for the 250-meter races, the divisions will be mixed — meaning experienced teams will race alongside new teams and mixed teams with "engine rooms" full of male paddlers will challenge women's teams. Although the "winner" of the heat may not be the winner of the division, the mixed division heats make for exciting races as the "race kick" of

competition spurs some teams to unexpected speeds.

That's what happened to the local paddlers last year when they shaved a full minute off their best 500-meter practice time in a show of sheer competitive spirit.

"We kick our own butts!" became the battle cry of the team and they went on to beat one of Portland's best teams in a 500-meter race with a time of 2:35.

The Dragons didn't have the condition to keep up that blazing speed through multiple qualifying and finals races in 2016, finishing fourth overall.

This year, however, they have been putting in impressive times in practice. Last

Thursday's practice saw them match that winning 500-meter race time with less than a full team on the boat and come within four seconds of their 250-meter record of 1:35 the following Saturday despite being short four paddlers.

"We're hot, we're fast, we're tight," said team caller Amy Gulzow. "I anticipate we'll get medals this year."

The improvement is noteworthy because the Wallowa County team has not had a coach this year since head coach Nichole Bellows of Wallowa and co-coach Meg Bowen of Enterprise both stepped down due to other responsibilities. Instead, club and event creator Mike Lock-

WALLOWA'S OWN CREW

The Wallowa County race team includes Amy Gulzow, Chantelle Johnson, Denny Kolb, Gina and Bob Barstad, Heather Tyreman, Holly Akenson, Jea Oh and Mike Lockhart, Julia Zeise, Kathleen Ellyn, Kathy Ward, Kelly Jensen, Max Linn, Panky Hauxwell, Randi Jandt, Randi Movich, Betty and Sonny Settergren, Trudy Turner, Jon Larson, Rebecca Wyland, Adrienne Gass, Michelle McMillan, Trish Zennie and visiting "orphans" Patti Green and Ruth Fox.

hart has been working closely with Gulzow to craft a practice plan.

In their first year, the Dragons worked primarily on technique and conditioning. This year they came back up to condition so quickly that they upped the ante and began running multiple 500- and 250-meter races every practice (three times a week) beginning in late July.

Their conditioning is noticeably improved. Paddlers report they are ending practice races without fear of heart attack and often feel they have "something left in the tank."

Experience also indicates that "race day kick" is a factor for the team.

"When we get our adrenalin we're going to blow them out of the water," Gulzow said. "I definitely think we'll do really, really, really good."

Colleen and Rick McLaughlin, both coaches of the Golden Dragons of Portland, will visit a week before the race to give the Dragons the benefit of their experienced coaching for at least two practices.

"I've seen the team improve impressively, and I've improved myself when I can just sit and watch an experienced coach," Gulzow said.

The bubbly Gulzow impressed her team as double-duty coach/caller after she took in rapid-fire advice from multiple coaches between races at the Portland Dragon Boat races in June.

Gulzow has retained the bubbly personality her team loves while maturing into a coach able to put the pedal to the metal and get her team to roar.

"I'm finding my inner dragon," Gulzow said. "The team has given me confidence in myself and in my voice."

Social activities on race days are scheduled one hour after the end of each day's racing schedule. All are welcome to attend.

These will be held at the beer garden located at the base of Wallowa Lake Tramway (a short walk from the venue). There will be live music by "Good Question" and adult beverages and food available for purchase.

Patriotic League being formed in Wallowa County

OUT OF THE PAST

Compiled by Cheryl Jenkins

100 YEARS AGO Aug. 23, 1917

Before a crowd that filled the grandstand at the fairgrounds Sunday afternoon, the motorcycle and automobile races were run. The time was as fast as the track would permit, the record being 34 seconds for the half-mile on a motorcycle. For an automobile the best time was 40.5 seconds.

A meeting will be held at the courthouse on Monday for the purpose of organizing a county Patriotic League, to cooperate with and serve as an auxiliary to the State Council of Defense. The county board will assist the state and the nation in meeting the many problems brought by the war: Protection of property from destruction by spies and agitators; encourage and direct the growing of adequate farm crops; and other objects that may develop.

Wallowa County will have some grain this year after all. Reports of threshing in several parts of the county indicate that favored fields here and there have turned out handsomely. The best yield reported to date is that of Fred Hearing, who harvested 42 bushels to the



This undated and unlabeled photo was discovered in a file marked "families" in the Wallowa County Chieftain archives. Do you know the identity of this family and approximately what year the photo was taken? Send information to editor@wallowa.com.

acre on 60 acres in Leap, using a combine.

70 YEARS AGO Aug. 21, 1947

Safecrackers, operating with the skill of professionals, made their second raid in the county Sunday night, breaking into Tippet's Tavern at Wallowa where they smashed open the safe and escaped with approximately \$1,000. No trace of the criminals has been found.

Wallowa and Union counties are scheduled to have four air-marking signs, as the state board of control announced a \$10,080 contract for painting

84 of the markers. The signs will be painted on the roofs of the Joseph Lumber Company, Wallowa school gymnasium, North Powder M & M Company and the Perkins Motor Company in La Grande. The Oregon board of aeronautics is financing the markers, which will be painted to aid air navigation in this state.

The names of 30 members of the beginners swimming class and eight members of the

intermediate swimming class at the Enterprise pool this summer have been sent in to the San Francisco headquarters of the Red Cross, which will issue swimming certificates to the successful students.

50 YEARS AGO Aug. 24, 1967

Winner of probably the most coveted award at the county fair last week was Elwayne Henderson of Wal-

lowa, the champion senior livestock showman.

A bolt of lightning, which struck about 300 yards north of the Lookout Mountain forest lookout tower, started a fire which consumed the lookout tower and a cabin.

Susan Grandy and Rhonda Kiser, both members of the Nez Perce 4-H horse club at Joseph, led by Donna Butterfield, received the Dad Potter senior horsemanship award, the highest state award that a 4-H horse member can receive.

25 YEARS AGO Aug. 20, 1992

Joan Lathrop, a ranch wife from the Leap country north of Enterprise, was named winner of the 1992 "Homemaker

of the Fair" award last week after she won 106 ribbons at the Wallowa County Fair.

Receiving awards for outstanding service for their Granges and the community during the Wallowa County Fair were Ben Boswell, Liberty Grange; Maxine Kooch, Hurricane Creek Grange; Carol Garnett, Imnaha Grange; and Harry Kruckman, South Fork Grange.

Artist Cory Siebe, 8, Enterprise, showed off the first t-shirt printed of his multi-colored scratch board dog design by the silk screen process last week by Chuck Garrett of Moonlight Graphics. The shirt is the third in a series based on art entered in the Wallowa County Youth Arts Festival.

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