



# WCHM News

## Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



### Canoe & Wooden Boat Show May 25

On Saturday May 25, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, WCHM will be celebrating Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day. This free annual event will include museum tours and open house in the museum exhibit hall, ongoing activities and demonstrations in the canoe workshop, live music and food and beverage in the beer garden, a silent auction and canoe raffle, and of course the annual WCHM Canoe & Wooden Boat Show in the street in front of the museum.

The 11th annual boat show will be the highlight of the day. Over 25 exhibitors are expected to display wooden boats of all shapes, sizes, and designs, both classic and modern, as well as all kinds of classic and vintage water and paddling related items. Meanwhile, there will be live music in the beer garden with Brave Cowboy, a museum favorite returning from last year. They will be joined by Tom Draughon, a performer of traditional Appalachian music, and Les Fils du Voyageur performing songs of the voyageurs.

The WCHM canoe shop will host several on-going demonstrations throughout the day. The silent auction has been a growing feature of the show (see a list of some of the auction items elsewhere in this issue). Raffle tickets for the annual WCHM canoe raffle will also be available. Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day is a free event in Spooner produced by the WCHM each year on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information [www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org](http://www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org).

### Robert Morris Kayak Building Class

There were still a couple spots open at press time for the Greenland Kayak building class at WCHM scheduled to begin Sunday August 4th and continue daily through Thursday August 8th, 2019 (a week later than previously announced).

Robert Morris from the Brewery Creek Small Boat Shop in Vancouver BC, and author of the illustrated instructional book "Building Skin-on-Frame Boats", will be teaching the class. Participants, either alone or with a partner of their choosing, will be guided through the process of building a traditional Greenland style skin-on-frame kayak. Throughout the session, building practices and techniques will be linked to the instructor's research and experiences. By the end of the week students will each have a stunning boat, ready to paint, and the skills and knowledge to build a second skin-on-frame boat.

This class is limited to four students (and their partners). Tuition is \$1,250 if registered before June 15 and \$1,450 after that date, and covers the cost of all materials and instruction to build a kayak and take it home afterwards. Interested students can register by contacting WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke. Call 715-635-2479 or write [info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org](mailto:info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org).



## Calling All Klondike Canoes - Regional Assembly in Marquette Aug 16-18

The Upper Great Lakes Regional Assembly will again be hosted by the Upper Peninsula Chapter of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA) in Marquette, Michigan, on August 16th through 18th.

The featured canoe will be the Klondike, which was designed and built by the late Elmer Johnson in Lake Linden, Michigan in 1980s. Johnson family records indicate Elmer made about 30 wood canvas canoes and most were likely sold in the upper Midwest. The Regional Assembly hopes to gather as many Klondike Canoes as possible on the grounds at Tourist Park in Marquette on Saturday, August 17th. In tribute to his father's legacy, a Klondike is being built on the original forms by his son, Robert Johnson, and members of the UP WCHA Chapter. This 14 foot wood/canvas canoe will be available at the assembly for the silent auction on Saturday.



Another special feature of the 2019 Regional Assembly will be free tours of the historic Marquette Lighthouse on Friday evening. In cooperation with the Marquette Maritime Museum, assembly participants will have the opportunity to display their boats at Lighthouse Park on Friday afternoon, tour the Museum and then be treated to a very special evening lighthouse tour.

Saturday the picnic grounds at Tourist Park, on the shores of the Dead River, will again be filled with wooden boats of all types and years. Boat building and paddling demonstrators, vendors and crafts persons will be on site throughout the day. Returning assembly participants will be happy to learn all dry-land activities will be held under the shelter of a huge tent.

On Sunday participants can choose from three guided canoe outings including a near-by rustic lake; a gentle flowing river or; if weather permits, a paddle along the Lake Superior shoreline around the iconic Presque Isle.

Canoe enthusiasts are encouraged to attend the Regional Assembly all three days. Camping is available at Tourist Park and reservations should be made as soon as possible. Call 906-228-0460 or book a site on-line at [mqcty.maxgalaxy.net/campground.aspx](http://mqcty.maxgalaxy.net/campground.aspx). Tent sites at the campground can be arranged by contacting Judy and Craig Kitchen at [jkitchenmq@gmail.com](mailto:jkitchenmq@gmail.com). Upper Great Lakes Regional Assembly registration forms for canoe exhibitors will soon be available by mail or by contacting Alice and Keith Johnson at 906-249-3262 or [kaj68@att.net](mailto:kaj68@att.net) (include the word "canoe" in the subject line). Please spread the word, if you bring a Klondike Canoe, your registration fee is waived!

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### *Thank You To Our 2018 & 2019 Business Supporters*

#### **Rice Lake Weighing Systems, Rice Lake WI Crystal Creek Natural, Spooner WI**

Shell Lake State Bank, Spooner WI  
Hitch Exclusives, Manitowish Waters WI  
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Spooner Outlet, Spooner WI  
Stewart River Boatworks, Knife River MN  
Tim Reedy State Farm Insurance, Spooner WI  
Little Lakes Canoe Restoration, Boulder Junction WI

Special Thanks To **Theater in the Woods** in Shell Lake WI, find them at [www.titw.org](http://www.titw.org)

# News Briefs & Upcoming Events



## Look For WCHM Booth At Sports Convergence

The WCHM traveling promotional booth will be attending the Driftless Sports Convergence in LaCrosse WI on May 17-18, 2019. Visitors to the show can expect 50,000 square feet of kayaks, canoes, bikes, camping, fishing, archery, hiking, equipment, and information brought by top experts. In 2018, the public had a chance to check out the birds of prey, demo an electric bike, try archery tag, take a mountain bike class, learn to fly fish, and more. Attendees of the 2019 event will also enjoy food trucks and 90+ outdoor organizations and vendors. More information at <https://driftless.explorelacrosse.com>.

## Boat Show Silent Auction Growing in 2019

The silent auction has been a popular and growing feature of Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day, and this year it will grow again with several boats on the block. A partial list of items includes a CLC Jimmy Skiff with a sail rigging kit included, a 1942 Old Town Guide restoration project, an aluminum Grumman canoe complete with original sailing rig, an antique wood frame canvas duck boat, a 16 foot Trailblazer Explorer Canoe built in the 1960's from a plan published in Boy's Life Magazine, and a 14 foot cedar canvas solo canoe (pictured) built in the WCHM canoe 2015 on a Jerry Karbon form.

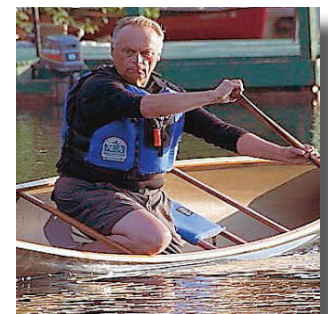


## Ojibwe Birch Bark Loaned to Prairie du Chien

An Ojibwe birch bark ceremonial canoe was delivered by the WCHM to the Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce on March 11 for display at their Travel Wisconsin Welcome Center. The canoe is being loaned to the Chamber, and upon arrival city workmen immediately installed it. Prairie du Chien is located just above the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, and is the oldest European settlement on the Upper Mississippi River. The Welcome Center is located on Main Street just south of the downtown area, and provides the busy tourist trade with information on what to see and do in the area.

## Wis Canoe Symposium June 14-16 in Westfield WI

The Wisconsin Canoe Symposium (WCS) will be on June 14-16, 2019, at Pine Lake Camp in Westfield, Wisconsin. The WCS offers excellent instruction in a quiet water venue for people wishing to improve their skills in paddling and precise control of their canoes. Classes are taught by ACA certified instructors, with such topics listed as Touring Technique (Sit & Switch), Moving Around in Your Canoe, Forward Stroke Clinic, and Nail the Rail. Plus fun activities such as the "Giant Schlalom Fun Race," an Interpretive FreeStyle Recital, and a Candlelight Paddle. Register at [freestylecanoeing.com/wisconsin-canoe-symposium](http://freestylecanoeing.com/wisconsin-canoe-symposium).



## 2019 WCHA Assembly - July 16-21 at Paul Smith's College NY

The 2019 Annual Assembly of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA) will be held at Paul Smith's College in Paul Smiths, New York on July 16-21, 2019. It's an annual event that brings together WCHA members from around the world, and this 40th annual Assembly will feature centenarian canoes. They expect to have over 300 new, vintage, and historic canoes on display, plus workshops, programs, on-water events, and sales of canoes, paddles, accessories, and building supplies. For more information visit [www.WCHA.org](http://www.WCHA.org) or call 603-323-8992.

## Ken Jonas Appointed To Fill Vacant WCHM Board Seat

The WCHM Board of Directors recently approved the appointment of Ken Jonas from Danbury, Wisconsin, to fill a vacant seat on the WCHM Board. Ken will serve out the remaining two months of a seat previously held by Dick Butler. He plans to be on the ballot in the coming election on May 24 and if elected serve in the position for another three year term.

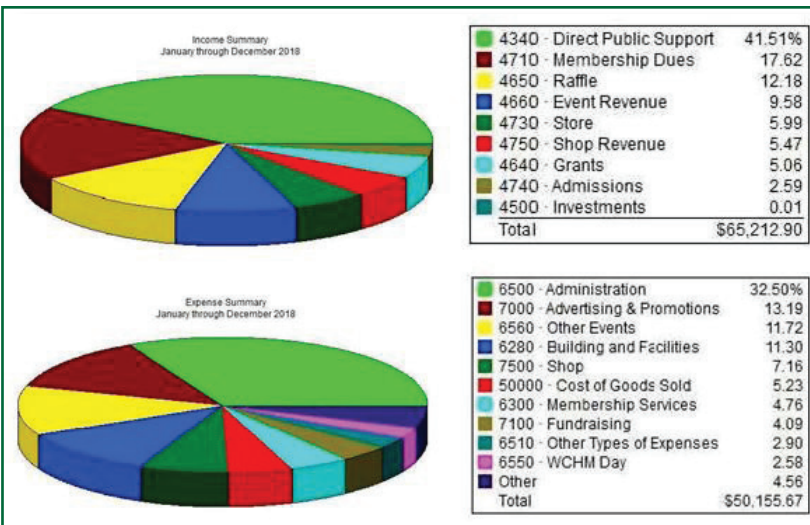
Ken described his previous service to the WCHM, “I have been volunteering with the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum from the very beginning when we were dismantling the old feed mill, to this day helping out on Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day and other unique events as well as manning the desk at our WCHM museum regularly during summer months. My interest in serving on the WCHM Board is to play a larger role in the mission of celebrating the history of canoes in our culture through the ages and providing a source for public education regarding canoes as well as supporting the evolution and craft of canoe building.” Welcome aboard Ken!



## WCHM 2018 Financial Results Are In

The WCHM Board Audit Committee recently completed their audit of the 2018 financial results for the museum. Revenues for the year ending December 31st were shown to be \$65,213, up about 8% over the previous year. Expenses totaled \$50,156, a less than 2% increase over 2017. A surplus for the year of \$15,057 was realized, a 35% increase over the previous year.

The positive results attained were primarily the result of a successful campaign to raise funds to open an endowment fund, somewhat higher sales of raffle tickets throughout the year, and a successful effort to keep expenses at their current levels. But while the 2018 results have bolstered the total equity of the organization, showing an increase to \$47,560 from \$34,358, some of the year’s activities have left it cash poor. The successful creation of the endowment fund locked up over \$31,000 in permanently restricted funds, and the purchase of a trailer for transporting canoes locked up more cash in fixed assets. Cash positions were relieved a small amount by reducing gift store and shop supply inventories, but the organization still finished the year with only \$2,859 in unrestricted assets (compared to almost \$12,000 at the start).



“We’ll be working to improve our cash position in 2019 to insure the future of the museum through the next few years,” says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, “We are already on the way with a successful completion of our new member campaign in the first quarter.” The WCHM is a publicly held non-profit. Anyone can request a copy of the full 2018 financial results and audit report by request. Write to [info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org](mailto:info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org) or call the Executive Director at 715-635-2479.

*Thank You to These Supporting Members*

*Jim Hart*

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*Kurt & Susan Sroka  
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Stephen Young  
Gloria Roder*

*James & Nancy Baker  
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## Contact WCHM

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