

Staff Report for August 17th 2016

Programs

Skimboard Painting Workshop	16	Class filled to capacity – all bundled with “Camp”
Underwater Robotics Camp	9	
Sailing Camp Session 2	8	Limited enrollment due to re-location of camp
Beat the Heat Waterworks	77-150	Plus parents on sidelines. My best estimate. Too many.
Concert in the Park: Danny Ward Quartet	150?	A good turnout, an older crowd.
3-on-3 Basketball Classic	N/A	Cancelled due to memorial service for Coach.
Sailing Camp Session 3	19	Limited due to water problems
Swim Lesson Session 3	68	Very full, long waitlists
Pro Baseball Camp	15	Camp filled to capacity
Private Baseball Lessons	7	Almost full
Model Rockets Session 2	7	Smaller than usual
Falcon Basketball	25	
Sail-Whatever-You-Gotta Regatta	N/A	Cancelled due to unsafe water conditions at Lone Lake
Whidbey Island Triathlon	220	Individuals + 40 Relay Team Members
Skyhawks Mini-Hawk Camp	18	Camp filled to capacity
Skyhawks Multi-Sport Camp	27	Camp filled to capacity
Concert in the Park: Moonlight Swing Orchestra	200+	A great show, a great turnout
Sign Language	0	Will no longer offer in summer.
Kayak Camp	8	Camp filled to capacity with a waitlist
British Soccer Camps	37	

LONE LAKE WATER

Semi-cancelled Sail-Whatever-You-Gotta Regatta due to prior unsafe water conditions, and lack of time to promote it once the water tested safe. They still showed up ready on the day of the event, and they still had a great turnout based on the sole advertising method being the Activity Guide. It's good to know that it's effective.

TRIATHLON

The race went well, lots of happy athletes. I'm so grateful for our awesome, hardworking volunteers! Some stats (rough numbers):

- 18% were in-district (Clinton, Langley, Freeland)
- 27% were on-island (Clinton, Langley, Freeland, Greenbank, Coupeville, O.H.)
- 28-30% this was their first triathlon ever
- We seem to have 3 groups:
 - 1) a smallish group of very competitive serious athletes, with occasional name-dropper elite athletes, often locals (past or present), who proudly call this “their home race”.
 - 2) a larger group, mostly locals, repeats, maybe looking for “personal best” race
 - 3) a quarter to a third, often a new year resolution or goal to get fit or overcome a health challenge. Goal is usually to finish.
- 18% didn't show up day of race.
- Registrations were significantly low this year, which BuDu Racing's timers say is a trend they've been seeing. The triathlon is an expensive event to put on, so the last 50 or so registrations are where we really make our net revenue.
- This year's give-away, a belt buckle:

Emails received after the race (Not the post-race survey yet)

- “What a great race! Gorgeous views, outstanding volunteers, and great organizing. Almost makes up for the HILLS! I'll be back next year and hope to bring some friends with me. Thanks!”
- “I volunteered at Goss Lake today. Great event.”

- “Hi, just wanted to say thanks for a great triathlon experience! It was my first one, my friends and I had a great time and all finished. :) I am in the event business myself and know what it takes to pull something like this off -- my compliments to you and your team of staff and volunteers. Also the great Whidbey neighbors who cheered on the bikers all along the way! Well done! Hope to be back again.”
- “Hi there! I participated in the Whidbey Triathlon this past weekend (and had such an amazing time!). First I wanted to say that my friend, Haley, and I had such a good time. The volunteers were kind, helpful, and encouraging, the race felt well organized and well communicated, and the community atmosphere was so fun and supportive! ...Again, thank you for such a wonderful event and experience. Haley and I both really enjoyed our first triathlon, and are looking forward to next year!”



Photo by Terri Schallock, Volunteer at T1 20th Annual Triathlon Belt Buckle

RECREATION INTERNSHIP

I'm exploring the idea of working with the Whidbey Island Kayak Co. to share a recreation intern for Summer, 2017. The intern would have the benefit of a recreational experience in both the public and private sector, and we'd have extra hands during both our busy seasons (triathlon!). Housing will be a key component of a successful internship offering, because as you're all aware, the Island is pretty full/expensive during the summer. Lots of details remain to be worked out including pay, liability, and if there's even space in the budget. We've had unpaid interns in the past. WWU, EWU, WSU and CWU offer degrees in recreation/leisure/tourism/sports and would provide likely candidates.

FALL ACTIVITY GUIDE

Right after the triathlon the Fall Activity Guide programs were due to the publisher. New (or resurrected) programs coming up this fall/winter: youth running clubs, Foraging for Edible Food, Discover Magic After School Club and Parents' Night Out.

Facilities and Grounds

- This month we have continued our top dressing over seeding program as time permits.
- We got through the triathlon and are finalizing cleanup on that event.
- We are nearing completion of our adult coed softball league.
- The last week we have encountered a few irrigation mainline problems and have had to replace multiple heads as our irrigation system is aging and requiring more repair work

Director's Items

Meetings

On July 26th, I met with Representative Norma Smith at Wi-Fire and was able through our discussion to secure a letter of support for the Campground project from her and Representative Dave Hayes. I had a phone meeting with Jim Brennan on the presentation and items to include in it. Matt and I both traveled to Olympia on August 9th and made the presentation to the RCO Review committee. More on that in our regular agenda. Working on consolidating the user group requests into a field schedule for fall.

Comprehensive Plan Programs

Continued work on the Campground project with the Presentation occurring on August 9th. I am working on scheduling the next Amphitheater committee meeting and hope to have that on calendar for the next couple of weeks. I have reached out to the county on re-zoning the district properties as “Parks Zone” and I am currently awaiting a response on how to do that. Once properties are rezoned, I can progress to a boundary line adjustment and look to remove any internal property lines between our adjoining parcels.

Upcoming Events

August 13 Rotary Club of Whidbey Westside-Whidbey Island Throwdown-6am-2pm
August 17 SWPRD Board Meeting-Conference Room-6pm
August 17 Concert in the Park-James Howard Band-Community Park-6:30pm
August 19/20 Adult Softball-End of Season Tournament
September 6 SWPAF Meeting-Conference Room-6pm
September 12 SWYSC Meeting-Conference Room-7pm
September 13 Port of South Whidbey Meeting-Recreation Room-7pm
September 15 SWYF Meeting-Conference Room-6:30pm
September 21 SWPRD Monthly Board Meeting-6pm

ARTICLES IN THE SOUTH WHIDBEY RECORD, AUGUST 3, 2016

40-plus crowd dominates Whidbey Triathlon



Trevelan Dakan starts the bike leg of the 20th annual Whidbey Triathlon on Saturday. Dakan finished second overall in the race, finishing the 28.3-mile course in 1:34:55. Dakan, 47, was among eight finishers in the top 10 over the age of 40.

— *Image Credit: Evan Thompson / The Record*

by [EVAN THOMPSON](#), South Whidbey Record Langley, Schools, Sports

Aug 3, 2016 at 6:00PM

The small cut near Lane Seeley's left eye was one small price to pay for winning the 20th annual Whidbey Triathlon on Saturday.

The 44-year-old Edmonds resident, who finished second in 2015, sustained the minor injury while swimming in the third wave of the half-mile swim around Goss Lake.

“It was totally an innocent thing,” Seeley said. “Right as we started the swim, we were packed in a little bit and somebody was taking their stroke and hit me right in the goggle.”

For a moment, Seeley thought his goggles had fallen off his head. When he discovered they were still on, he quickly fixed them back into position and continued his swim. It was the only speed bump in what was otherwise a successful day for Seeley.



He finished the annual swim-bike-run race in 1:30:21, which was four minutes faster than runner-up Trelvan Dakan. Seeley and Dakan were among eight others in the top 10 who were above the age of 40.

“We have high expectations for the over-40 [group],” Seeley said. “I love this race. It’s a great location, great community participation. It’s small, and smaller races can be a lot of fun.”

Marti Riemer, 47, was the first woman to cross the finish line Saturday at 1:40:10. Not far behind were 48-year-old Stacia McInnes and 23-year-old Marina Stoermer, who finished 11th and 12th overall, respectively.



Riemer, a Bellingham resident, won the women’s division in 2004.

“It felt great because I’m 13 years older than when I used to win it,” Riemer. “With this race, you never know who is going to show up.”

Riemer said she was happy with her performance despite battling through a torn hamstring a year ago, which slightly hampered her running ability.

To compensate, she focused on improving her swimming and biking.

“I just tried to put it all out there on the bike, then I had to work the run, too,” Riemer said. “I forgot that it’s a pretty rigorous course.”

Carrie Monforte, program director for South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District, said weather was ideal for competitors. The day was mostly sunny, though a breeze kicked up during the swim, she said. Due to roadwork on Brooks Hill Road, Bayview Road and Saratoga Road, participants peddled through loose gravel on the course. Monforte said organizers were prepared by sweeping the roads and placing volunteers in specific locations to ensure riders took corners slowly. She said she heard of at least three flat tires, but that two of them were able to finish the cycling portion of the race. Overall, the event was well received, Monforte said.

“The feedback that I got from participants was just really positive — a lot of really happy people,” Monforte said. “They said they enjoyed the course, enjoyed the volunteers and the organization.”

The top young competitor on the day was 21-year-old Tyler Helmick. Helmick, who competes on the All-Navy triathlon team alongside 2015 Whidbey Triathlon winner Kyle Hooker, was the second person to cross the finish line behind Seeley in 1:39:55, but placed seventh overall due to starting in the first wave.

Helmick had signed up four days before the event. Though stationed in Bremerton on the USS Nimitz, the aviation construction mechanic was in town for work and was looking for things to do with his free time on the weekend.

“You know, why not? I’m already here, so I might as well race it,” Helmick said.

Helmick said he found the hills during the bike and run portions challenging.

“I’m out here racing and having fun, so that’s the point of it,” Helmick. “It was a tough course, but I expected it and think I did well.”

It was the first triathlon for Victoria, British Columbia resident Claire Clark. She finished 25th overall and first among females in the 25-29 age group after running the 28.3-mile course in 1:52:21. Though the 29-year-old originally intended to participate just for fun, Clark said that changed when the race began.

“My competitive spirit kicked in and I was like, ‘I just want to do as well as I can,’” Clark said. “So then I would set little goals along the way of like, ‘Oh, I want to catch this person.’”

Clark stayed true to her word when she sprinted to catch up to Leslie Eisen at the finish line. She did so, and the pair finished at the same time, according to results compiled by BuDu Racing.

Though Clark was slightly embarrassed after the race for letting her inner competitor shine through — she felt the event was meant to be lighthearted — Eisen gave her a high-five to express that no harm was done.

“[Eisen] was like, ‘It is a race after all,’” Clark said.

Clark said she’d like to make the triathlon an annual event to participate in.

“I was thinking, ‘This is such an amazing event,’” Clark said. “It promotes community and sport, and overcoming adversity. I was thinking that I wouldn’t be at a certain level, but then you just realize that it’s about bringing out the best you have.”

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Veterans, siblings to compete in Whidbey Triathlon



Stacia McInnes sprints toward her fifth Whidbey Triathlon title in 2011.

— *Image Credit: Record File*

by [EVAN THOMPSON](#), South Whidbey Record Langley, Schools, Sports
Jul 27, 2016 at 4:00PM

When the Whidbey Triathlon celebrates its 20th anniversary on Saturday, Langley resident Peter Oakley can happily say he’s been around since the first event in 1997.

Oakley said the quality of the event, including everything from the organizers to the volunteers, has kept him coming back to the triathlon annually.

“It’s a very friendly event,” Oakley said. “I want to give a shoutout to all the volunteers. I enjoy saying hi to the volunteers and thanking them.”

The 54-year-old said while his heyday, which included four overall individual wins as well as a dozen top-three finishes, is behind him, he’s looking forward to joining the 275 participants in trying his best to succeed and continue tradition.

“It’s the hometown race,” Oakley said. “The course passes within a block and a half of my house. It’s just a long standing tradition.”

The starter-friendly course will begin at Goss Lake, travel through paved roads around the outskirts and interior of Langley and finish at Community Park. It will be familiar territory for Kenmore resident Stacia McInnes as well, another longtime veteran who has won the women’s division nine times. When she jumps in the sometimes-cold waters of Goss Lake at 10 a.m., it will be her 18th time doing so. Had it not been for time off while pregnant, McInnes may have matched Oakley in the times he’s competed. She too noticed how smoothly the event runs.

“I love it. It’s a great course,” McInnes said. “Parks and Recreation does an amazing job putting it on. There’s not many races that are organized like that.”

McInnes, 48, considers the event to be her “home race” despite living in Kenmore. Her family has ties to Whidbey Island that dates back to the late 1940s when her grandfather built a cabin in Clinton.

Her current training regimen includes swimming, biking and running three days a week, which she says is a toned down version of what her younger self could accommodate. Competing in cross country and track and field at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, Calif., McInnes was a hall of fame inductee and four-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-American. During her 35 years of participating in endurance sports, which includes 12 Ironman competitions, McInnes said she’s developed a strong understanding of what hard work and dedication can accomplish.

“I consider it my life’s work,” McInnes said.



Competing alongside the two veterans will be siblings Rik Keller, Diane Ripper and Valerie Heggnes. It will be the first time the brother and sisters compete in the Whidbey Triathlon at the same time. Heggnes, a Langley resident, competed in the first six triathlons and then again in 2015, while Keller competed in 2014. It’s been a decade and a half for Ripper, the youngest.

Keller, who lives in Davis, Calif., finished sixth overall in 2014. He’s been the most active in brewing the sibling rivalry by sending texts to his younger sisters.

“We’re all blaming the middle child, Val; it was her idea to do this,” Keller said in a phone interview Friday afternoon.

Keller was appreciative of the fact that despite the trio being parents in their 40s, they could find an activity like a triathlon in which they could all compete.



“I’m just glad we’re all able to do that and be active right now and it’s fun for our kids,” Keller said. “I can’t wait to see them finish. It’s always sort of this endorphin rush. It’s a great feeling. Usually, there are several points in the races where I wonder why I’m doing it. Then afterwards you figure it out.”

For Heggenes, it’s the perfect summer activity. She took a break from the triathlon as an individual when she had kids, though she continued to compete as the running leg for relay teams. Heggenes said her most challenging portion of the event will be the swimming leg. Overall, she felt the course has manageable distances for any level of competitor.

Heggenes is eagerly anticipating Ripper coming back from her hiatus with a vengeance.

“I know she’s gunning for me,” Heggenes said.

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