

Burrows & Allan Islands with Ron Obrest

On April 7th ten happy paddlers set out to circumnavigate Burrows and Allan Islands, performing a circle eight, twice crossing the channel between the two islands. Participants included **Keith and Joan Magee, Rem Smith, Alan Paxman, Marianne Majerus, Tom Hemm, Judy Bekker, Don Webster,** and **Linda Sanford.** Don walked in with his boat on two wheels, Joan and Keith paddled over from their home on Burrows Bay, and all were ready for the 1000 launch time from Tugboat Park, Skyline in Anacortes. Trip originator **Ron Oberst** made good on his standing promise of good paddling weather.

Setting course 236° we crossed Burrows Pass, avoiding the occasional power and sail boat, and then proceeded along the scenic shoreline catching the ebbing current which carried us across calm waters on an almost effortless paddle to the Burrows Island lighthouse on the most westerly point of the island. On the way the observant ones noted the bald eagle majestically enthroned on its usual perch with full views of its Rosario Strait hunting ground. It was lunch, exploration and story time at the lighthouse, with Rem finding the geo cache and providing the obligatory dessert for the trip originator.



We departed on a 2.7 knot current going our way into an almost endless fetch all the way to Port Angeles. Those two factors make this trip more than SKII, but the fetch produced no wind waves, plus the current was in our favor and soon diminished as we made our first cross of Allan Pass to circle that island clockwise. More eagles and Audubon-expert bird lady, **Joan Magee**, in her *BRAND NEW paddling jacket!*, clarified the rock turners and oyster catcher. Other sightings included harlequin ducks, a loon, and the resident peregrine falcon.

We reached the west side of Allan and finally had to face the current. We hardly noticed it, since the hidden geography of these islands produce counter currents which defy common sense predictions of the direction and force produced by prevailing tides. We proceeded along the rugged shore and across Allan Pass back to Burrows, past Peartree Bay and Young Island to our next rest stop in Alice Bight, with its sandy beach and Washington Water Trails campsite. With no laggards and helpful currents, we were 15 minutes ahead of schedule. After a brief comfort stop we headed 030° for a very soft landing back at Tugboat Park. Good company, good weather and fair seas. After completing this eight mile meander through these mildly challenging, picturesque islands, **Tom Hemm** summed it up when he said "You have it all right here."

We will probably do this trip again in a few months. Watch the calendar and plan to join us.

