

**Skagit Bay
May 20-22, 2011**

Designed as an “intermediate” camping paddle to help members develop beyond a basic level by offering predictably calm seas, minimum winds, multiple camp grounds, the trip to Ala Spit, Hope Island and Skagit Island in Skagit Bay worked out. The weather was not as sunny as the participants’ spirits: it either rained or misted or showered all weekend.

But folks did develop as paddlers, both on the water and off it. Don Bottles demonstrated that nobody has to worry about his ability to “keep up” with a group. Dennis Stahl showed good prudence regarding the passing of power boats. Joan Magee shared knowledge of the coastline. Off the water, Don explored all the trails and learned the most about the islands; he generously (perhaps even charitably) estimated the Ala Spit camping space at 400 square feet. Dennis showed his eye for a view by having the best sited tent 2 out of 2 times. Joan, in addition to being the Master of the Mustard, helped all hands regarding nutrition while camping.

The group rode the flood current going in and the ebb current coming back, with due practice at crossing into and out of strong currents. We also kept pretty close together while on the water. Back at Cornet Bay we practiced some rescues, but the back eddy at ebb discouraged that.

Ron Frederick