

Report: ATUS Make 'The Trip' Again 2016 Messabout Report

by Rob Sampson

I arrived at Swantown Marina in Olympia on a rainy Thursday September 1, after a two day trip up from the Bay Area. Dan Phy had arrived the day before after a marathon 14 hour drive from Ft. Bragg to Kelso and a short trip the next day into Olympia. After launching and settling in we enjoyed an oyster dinner at of course...The Oyster House. Dick Gallant arrived soon after I did but too late to launch, so settled into boat camping in the parking lot.

Friday morning Dick launched and joined us at L dock. Soon thereafter, Jim Ferguson, Rick Ferguson, Tom Luque (with Tom Whittingham) and Dave Fetyko (with Charles Jeremias) arrived. Saturday morning after breakfast we all headed out. Jim Goose Gossman was on final approach to Olympia and arrived at the launch ramp in time to see us heading up Bud Inlet. We were in communication with Goose and agreed to meet him at our destination for the day, Longbranch Marina.

After motor-sailing up to the Longbranch Improvement Club Marina we settled in for the night. Goose arrived around dusk and Happy Hour ensued. We had dinner on the boats and Tom Luque projected movies on a sheet at the marina picnic area for the evening's entertainment.

The next morning we left fairly early to time the favorable current under the Tacoma Narrows Bridge to Gig Harbor. In Gig Harbor, most stayed at Arabella's Marina, and I stayed at Gig Harbor Marina (Arabella's had been full when I tried to reserve there). We had a nice dinner at a Mexican Restaurant in town and settled in for the night.

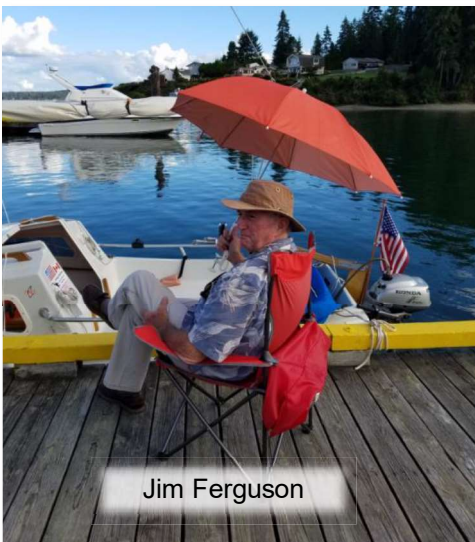
The next morning, Labor Day, we all headed up Puget Sound destined for Blake Island State Park at the North end of Vashon Island. Most went up the

channel on the west side of Vashon Island but a few took the long way around the east side of the Island. Blake Island is preserved as a park with a small marina on the east side Blake Island was used as a camping ground by the Suquamish Indian tribe. In about 1786, according to legend it was the birthplace of Chief Sealth, for whom the city of Seattle was named. After dinner on the boats, Jim Ferguson and Tom Luque were left to fend off rampaging raccoons, who were after chips and popcorn left in the cockpits of their boats.

The next day we continued north to Kingston and rendezvoused with the remainder of the Messabout



The author en-route



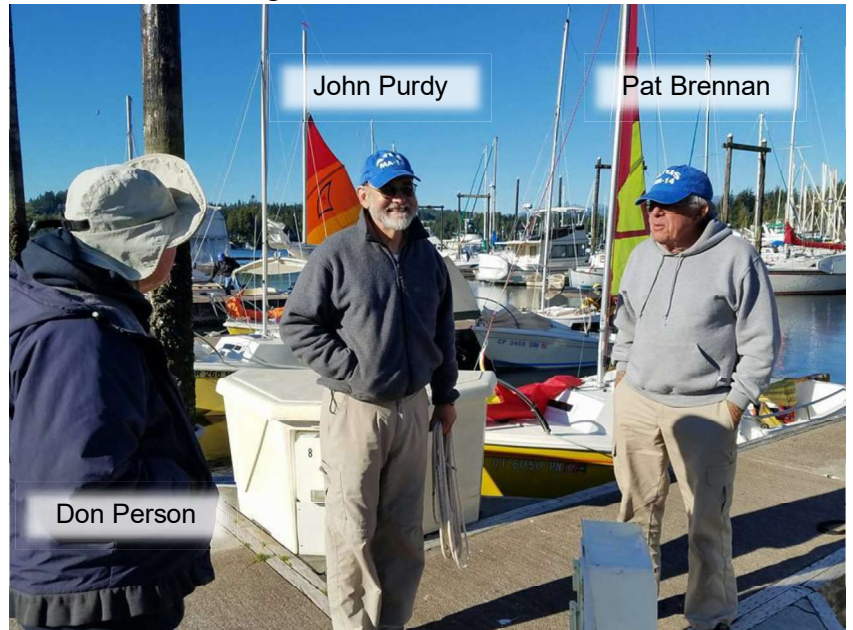
Jim Ferguson



Flotilla. This included Dick Herman, Don Person, Pat Brennan, Dave Bacon and John Chille. When Goose and I decided to get some lunch and go shopping we found that the Kingston Marina has 2 small electric trucks that they will let marina guests borrow to go into town. We borrowed one of the trucks and had a blast driving around town in it.

The next morning, in drizzling conditions, we were off heading north to Port Ludlow, our last stop before getting to Port Townsend, our northernmost destination. Port Ludlow has a nice marina with good facilities and a small store. Next door is a high end boutique hotel and seaplane dock. Since it was still rainy and cool, most of us made use of the restaurant at the hotel for dinner. There were fires in their fireplaces which made it quite cozy.

Bright and early the next day we were off heading north to the Port Townsend Boat Haven. Since the Boat Haven doesn't take reservations during the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival, and since the other marina in town The Point Hudson Marina, is the site of the Boat



Festival (and thus has sent all of its regular boats down to the Boat Haven) we were concerned about being able to find space in the marina. After arrival and some initial jockeying around, we were all able to find comfortable slip accommodations. We met John Purdy, a Messabout veteran, there in Port Townsend where he launched his Potter 15. After settling in, I walked across town to the site of the Wooden Boat Festival. Even though it wasn't officially open yet, I was able to walk around and watch boat arrivals and setup. The next 3 days we all hung out at the boat show attending seminars, hanging around with boat people, touring boats and riding on boats. It was a feast for the eyes for any boat aficionado. If you haven't been, I would recommend attending the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival at least once, and maybe more than



once. Sunday afternoon was the Grand Finale Parade of boats/ships at the end of the boat show. Some of us were able to book

space on *Adventress*, a 133 foot Gaff Topsail two-masted Schooner built in 1913. It was great fun being in the parade of ships on such a wonderful ship.

Monday morning we were all off, starting the return trip.

It was a good reaching and downwind sail back to Port Ludlow. Goose and John Chille chose to duck into a well-protected bay called Mats Mats just short of Port Ludlow. They anchored out, and rejoined the group the next day. After a nice night in Port Ludlow with dinner back at the hotel followed by



Tom Luque blowing bubbles

Tom Luque movies projected on the bow of a big yacht, we settled in for the night. The next morning we headed out back to Kingston. After an overnight in Kingston, some pulled out in preparation to return home while others continued the return trip to Olympia, this time via Bell Harbor Marina in downtown Seattle. I needed to get home to go back to work so I hitched a ride with Dick Herman back to Olympia to get my truck and trailer, and then drove back to Kingston to pull the boat out. The group quickly dispersed returning to home or visiting friends and relatives followed a few days later by those continuing to Olympia. All had a great time and most vowed to return to future Northwest Messabouts. —



Puget Sound

