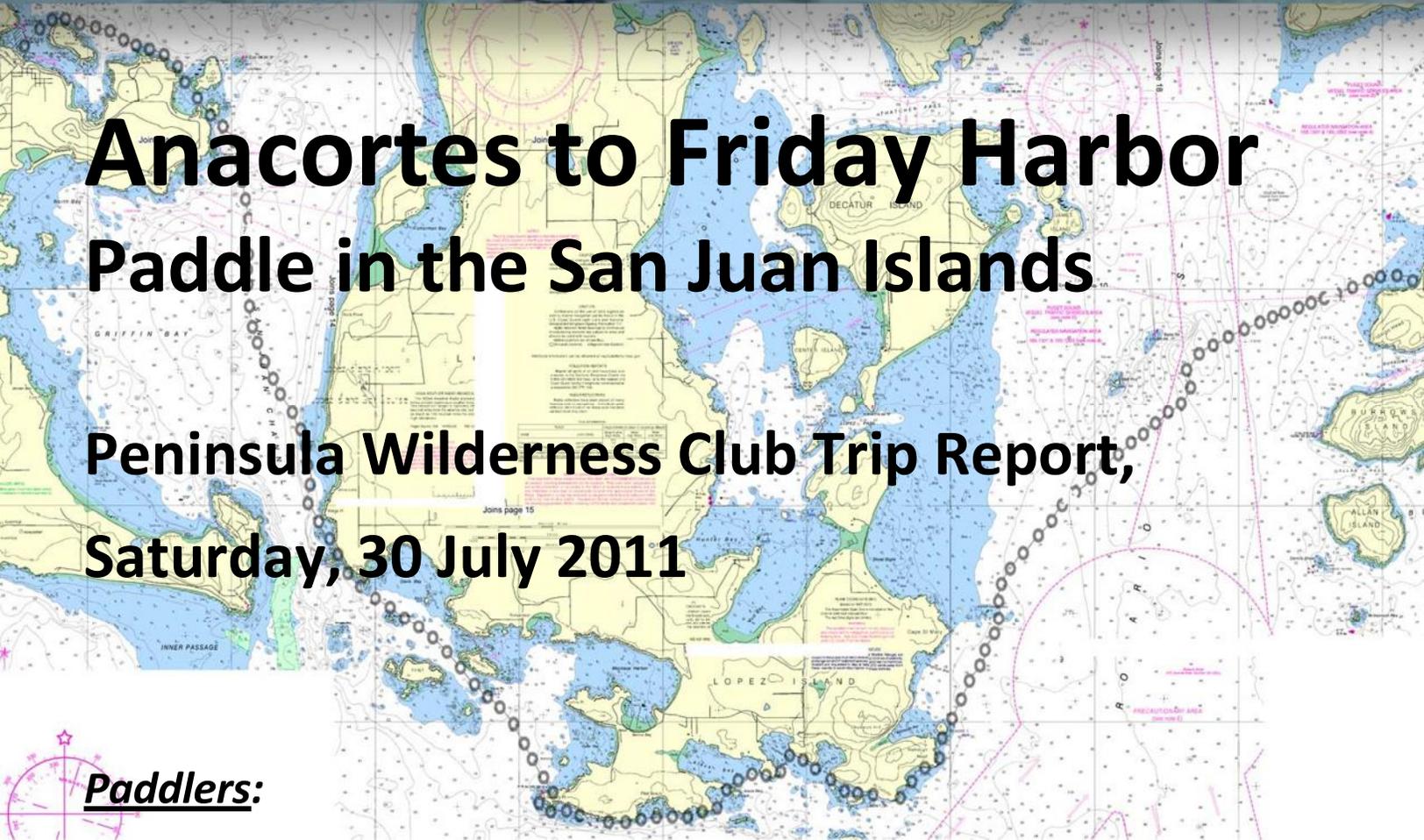




Anacortes to Friday Harbor Paddle in the San Juan Islands

Peninsula Wilderness Club Trip Report,
Saturday, 30 July 2011

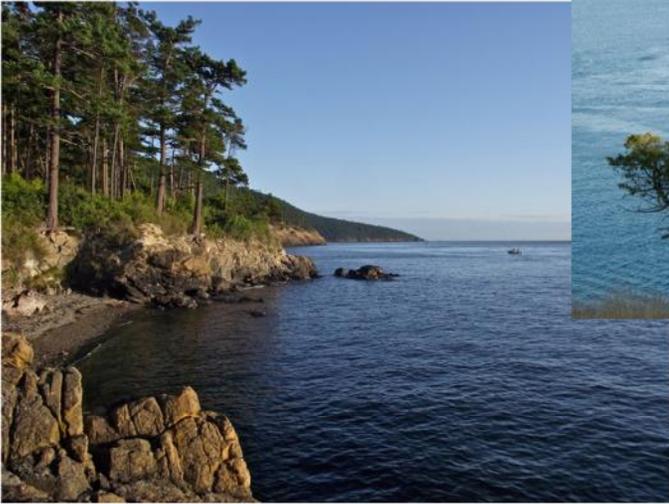


Paddlers:

Paul Dutky
Connie Greenidge
Charlie Michel
Les Moore
Isaac Sun

*Photos by Paul Dutky,
Isaac Sun and
Les Moore*



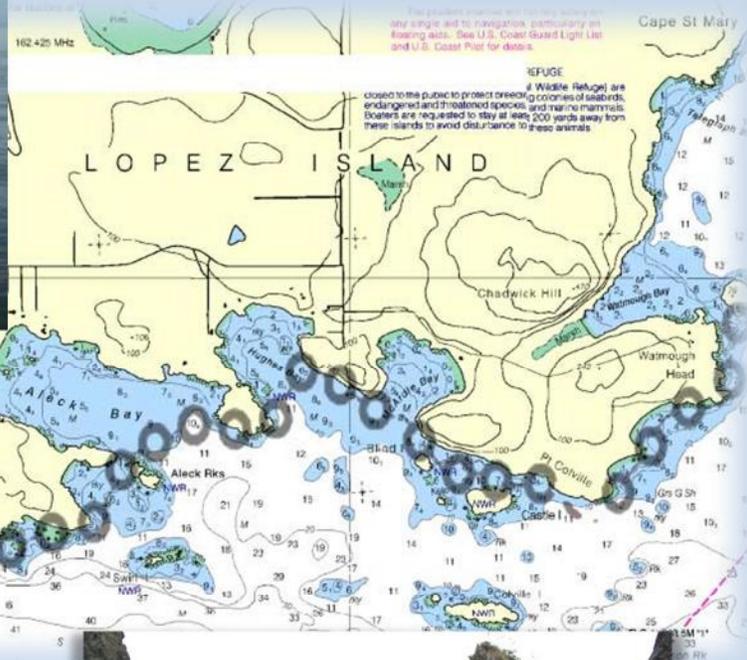


Five PWC paddlers took part in the classic one-way current assist paddle from Anacortes to Friday Harbor in the beautiful San Juan Islands. We spent the night before the trip at Washington Park near Anacortes so we could get an early start on Saturday morning. After eating a big breakfast, packing our boats and parking our cars, we wheeled our boats to the Wash Park put-in. We were on the water at 8:00 AM sharp, eager for a long and adventurous day of paddling.



We started by crossing Rosario Strait, taking advantage of maximum ebb current assist. A moody fog accompanied us for the entire crossing of the strait, requiring diligent use of our compasses. Eddies and swirly currents mixed with standing waves as we neared Bird Rocks

in the middle of the Strait, where we got to practice surfing, bracing and exercised our rescue skills after a wet exit.



After a quick stop on Boulder Island, we rounding the SE tip of Lopez Island. The wild, exposed and island-studded Southern shore of Lopez revealed seals, eagles and abundant marine life as the fog gave way to sun and blue skies. After paddling through pleasant clapotis along the rocky shores, we enjoyed a lunch break on a scenic pocket beach on Iceberg Point.



Following lunch, we paddled the SE side of Lopez with a welcomed assisting current. Passing Hall and Long Islands with their large colonies of sea birds, we soon approached the turbulent waters of Cattle Pass. At the pass we were met by a playful mix of standing waves, converging rips and sharp eddy lines as the building ebb



current funneled into the narrow throat of the Pass.

Racing through the narrow channel alongside Deadman Island, we surprised a group of hikers watching from the sea cliffs lining the Pass.

Between sunny skies and swirling currents, we paddled the San Juan Channel North toward our destination of Friday Harbor, intent on making the 3:45 ferry.

With the help of a generous current assist, we arrived at beautiful Friday Harbor just in time to wheel our kayaks to the ferry terminal and grab some ice cream before heading back to Anacortes.

From Anacortes it was back to our vehicles and the start of the ride home – after a little coffee, of course. It was a very memorable paddle in varied conditions with a great group of people to share it all with.

