



# Paddlers celebrate park centennial

By Kyle Spurr • The Daily Astorian  
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More than 50 paddlers make their way down the Lewis and Clark River to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service on Thursday in Astoria.



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More than 50 paddlers took to the waterways around Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Thursday evening to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Experienced paddlers maneuvered the open water of Youngs Bay to reach the park, while others rode their kayaks and canoes down Lewis and Clark River from the park's Netul Landing.

The two groups, each led by park rangers, eventually met on the river at Otter Point, near the park's northern boundary. The gathering of canoes and kayaks was the most seen on the river for a park-sponsored event.

"All parks are doing a celebration. This is our part of it." Chris Clatterbuck, chief of resources at the park, said.

At Otter Point, everyone sang “Happy Birthday” to the National Park Service. Rangers on land fired black powder guns in celebration, as paddlers yelled, “hip hip huzzah!”

The fleet of paddlers — which one ranger jokingly called an armada — returned to Netul Landing for birthday cake.

## **Paddlers**

The paddlers included locals who brought their own watercrafts, a dozen deaf or hard-of-hearing students from the Northwest Youth Corps American Sign Language crew, and popular paddler “Willow Bill” Goulardt, of Wheeler, who rides in his dugout canoe, the Flying Eagle.

Clatterbuck said it was a rare opportunity to have the American Sign Language crew at the park this summer. The youth worked for two weeks, mostly at the park’s Yeon Property.

After finishing their capstone project at the Yeon Property, Clatterbuck said, the crew was invited to join in the centennial celebration.

Northwest Youth Corps provides youth with opportunities to work in the outdoors and learn about environmental stewardship. The crew spent the summer working around the Northwest, including on trails in Whidbey Island in Washington state.

For “Willow Bill,” he has attended a few previous festivities at the park, including the Fort Clatsop’s bicentennial.

“It’s an honor to be coming in and being a part of their 100th birthday,” he said.

## **Nod to water**

Jill Harding, visitor services chief at the park, said paddling for the centennial ties in nicely with the history of the Lewis and Clark and the local Chinook and Clatsop tribes.

The Lewis and Clark expedition spent a majority of their travel on the water. When they established Fort Clatsop, they regularly traversed the nearby waterways.

Many park visitors ask Harding why Fort Clatsop was built so far away from the water. When you look at the campsite from the Lewis and Clark River, she said, the campsite is actually not that far. It sits on a knoll, just 30 feet above high tide.

While each national park honored the 100th anniversary in a different way, Harding said, it was fitting for Lewis and Clark National Historical Park to spend the centennial on the water.

“It’s a nod to the water and water as transportation,” Harding said.

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A promotional banner for the "Instant Gratification Run" event. The banner features a black and white checkered pattern at the bottom. On the right side, there is a cartoon sloth wearing a blue and white athletic singlet with the number "0.0" on it. A green starburst graphic next to the sloth says "PRIZES FOR THE BEST COSTUME". The main text in the center reads "SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 @2pm" in large blue letters. Above this, it says "Astoria Parks Recreation and Community Foundation" in red. To the right of the date, the words "INSTANT GRATIFICATION" are written in large, bold, red letters with a motion blur effect, and "RUN" is written below it in a similar style. Below the date, it says "Starting at the Astoria River Walk (by the Barbey Maritime Center) 1792 Marine Drive" in black. At the bottom left, it says "register @ www.astoriaparks.com" in white. In the center bottom, there are icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, followed by the hashtag "#astoriaparks" in white. There are also small logos for "Parks & Recreation" and "Astoria Parks" on the left and right sides of the banner.

**Astoria Parks Recreation and Community Foundation** **INSTANT GRATIFICATION RUN**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 @2pm**

Starting at the **Astoria River Walk** (by the Barbey Maritime Center)  
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