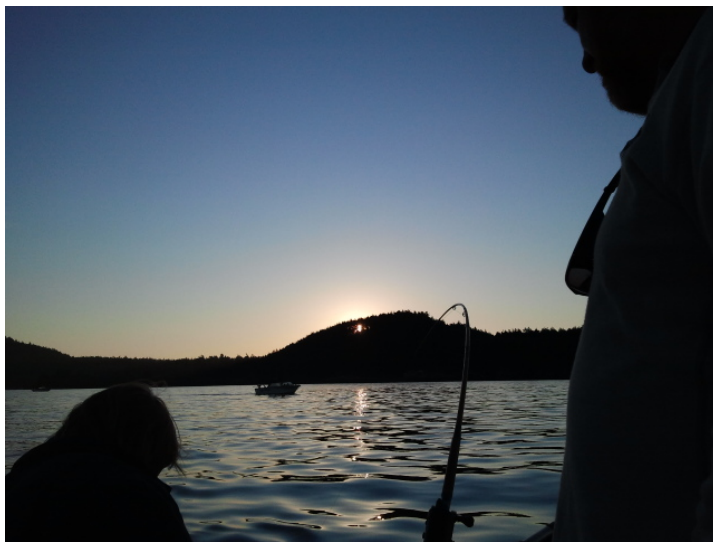


August 23, 2011

Thank you to ASTTBC for its sponsorship of this amazing derby, and for providing Camosun College students, faculty, and Co-op Education staff with tickets.

I called Kathy and asked her “Wanna flash some girl power at the 6th Annual Consultant’s Invitational Derby ?” She was hooked by the lure, and we joined forces to gather some male ballast for the boat.



As it turned out, Camosun team members - Kathy Tarnai-Lokhorst (Tech faculty), Neil Porter (Tech instructor/staff), Angus Shand (Alumni Environmental Tech Co-op student), and Jacquie Burden (Co-op Employment Facilitator/skipper) - did not attend the Friday pre-derby party, highly anticipating the 4:30 am start Saturday morning.

The conditions were spectacular at Beechy Head at the entrance to Beecher Bay, a popular hot spot for big spring on the south coast of South Vancouver

Island. Flat calm and warm enough for tees and sandals, it was a little too quiet. We observed a sea lion at 6:45, foreboding lockjaw of the fish. To our relief, our first fish was netted about five minutes later, a humpback, or pink salmon, weighing in at 6.7 lbs. Who hoo, Neil’s first of the day.

Our big spring caught by Angus, at 13.7 lbs, was the biggest fish this former Ontario lake guide had ever caught. Like many of the Chinook run caught in the area lately, it had white flesh, he later discovered.

With an additional pink in the tub, we headed for the weigh-in station at Jock’s Dock at noon, where a very organized line-up of sun-baked and celebratory fishers were photographed and documented for their efforts.



Angus Shand with a 13.7 lb Chinook at the weigh-in

The Sooke Salmon Enhancement Society members that prepped the fish were fast and efficient! I am not clear if they were saving the eggs for their projects. They provided a clean and ice service while the crowds regained their landlubber legs. Then it was off to the afternoon event just beyond.

The Prestige Resort Dinner Banquet was a picture perfect courtyard, with long rows of white linen tables. The dinner, highlighted with the chef turning salmon steaks on the outdoor BBQ, was top notch, the staff was very attentive, and the setting, metres from the water overlooking the sun-drenched Sooke Basin and the marina docks below, was hypnotic. The Backstreet Betty Band provided an energetic and fun backdrop to re-energize everyone. Then there were the sponsored prize tables, covered with choice offerings from Island businesses. Over the past 6 years, the derby has donated over \$50,000 to local hatcheries – impressive!

The sponsors went all out and the event organizers did a superb job. For the four of us, it was our first derby entry ever, and a great day to meet with local ASTTBC members. Many thanks to the ASTTBC for their support of the event☺



Written by Jacquie Burden with photos by Kathy Tarnai-Lokhorst