

GLM 2008 Recap

This year about 35 racers and spectators braved nearly cloudless skies, waters as smooth as glass and almost 70-degree day time highs to attend the 9th Annual George Liederhaus Memorial Race 'Round the Horn'. This was a great crew, especially considering that so many also attended the 95th Reunion. Both old and young were well represented during the weekend.

For the first time, the much discussed "Masters" division was put into action on race day. Erik Willers and Chris Brackley (Team SLOTH), Derrick Irwin and Sebastien Douville (SeaBass and the Bitter Bostonian), Shrub Gallagher and Will "Willie Whooshkin" Hopkins (Cooler on Board), and Adam Mollenberg and Dan Fabrizio (Team Firewater) all set out at 10:00am to leisurely go round the horn. They snapped photos, rooted on racers and sometimes made bald jokes as the other teams passed them by.

Now let's talk about the more dedicated and daft crews. For the first time each of the racing teams finished in less than two and a half hours. It was an amazing day with just enough cloud cover to keep it from being too warm. The water levels were very high. In fact, Sherriff's Pond was nearly unrecognizable. The normally mung-laden foot bridges at the landing were at least a foot under water and paddling Sherriff's pond was, well, like paddling an actual body of water. It was also a banner year because no one really got lost on the Found Lake portage. At least two teams were slightly diverted at one point, but no one really got lost.

Technically the "Masters" division boats still have not finished because they all stopped at the Rec Lodge to put away their boats. Therefore we will skip to the teams that started at 10:40am or later.

Aydin Perese and Finn McCance (Team Lost) came in seventh with a time of 2:28:38. These rookies apparently took some time in the days leading up to the race to scout the Found Lake portage. This once taboo act is now more accepted as many of the younger guys have never done the portage. While scouting Found may help some, it is tough to know what you are getting into before you actually do the race once. Aydin and Finn did a great job regardless of their experience.

Trip and I (Ti-Jean Boot Company) came in sixth with a time of 2:25:14. While we held our own on the water we really showed our age on the land. Trip and I were extremely proud of how fast we got over the Nature Trail, that was until Bissonette and Lamont came flying into the landing as we pushed off. Brian and Tim could not gain on us while on Smoke, but they zipped past us on Koochie Hill. In fact, I don't even think we were at the hill when they passed us.

Adam Kowalski and Kyle Warren (Team Boot and Rally) were one of three all-rookie teams this year. This pair combined Kyle's summer of paddling the far-north Rupert, and Kowalski's summer of building nuclear attack submarines to develop a very odd but effective strategy to come in at 2:23:44.

Steve Szymkowiak and Ben Bristow (I am not sure they had a team name) were the final all-rookie crew. Their 2:15:11 was very impressive, especially for an all-rookie team. If I am not mistaken, these two joined forces some time between dinner and the completion of the game of quarters that led most of the younger to head to bed relatively early on Friday night. Of course no one is really sure how early it really was because someone turned back the clock in the kitchen to thoroughly confuse those who still had the wherewithal to read a clock. To be fair, the old folks did not participate in the quarters game or we would have probably had to shut it down much, much earlier.

Grif Edwards and Riley Chapple (Team Redemption) put in a strong showing and posted a 2:12:53 despite slightly derailing themselves when they missed the beginning of the Found Lake portage trail. Riley was screaming, "I am so sorry...F\$%k...I am so sorry...F#&k..." to Grif so loudly that he could not hear Trip yelling to them to follow us. It may have turned out for the best as they finished third rather than second. Riley, who has already twice earned the honor of doing the dishes could have done so for a record third time had he and Grif not gone off course on Found.

Over the years Brian Bissonette has usually figured out with whom is going to race the day or two before the race. This year he had slightly more notice and picked up a pretty darn good partner in four-time GLM winner Tim Lamont. Tim and Brian (Team Insolvency) were fast enough to win most years. However, their 2:08:17 just did not cut it. Instead they got to do the dishes.

What can you say about Zach Arem and Max Brown (Team Broken Paddle) that can't be summed up by simply showing their resume from this year?

- Winners of the Cache Lake Guides Race
- Winners of the Joe Lightning Race
- Winners of the George Liederhaus Memorial Race `Round the Horn
- By the way, they finished in record-setting fashion by posting a 1:52:45.

Trip and I were passed by Zach and Max on the portage into Ouse. Had we been on the water, they may have swamped us with their wake. It was a very impressive sight. Congratulations to Zach and Max for winning so impressively. Their performance will be talked about for a while.

Saturday night had another great thanksgiving meal prepared by Corot Reason, Karen Arem, Wayne Chanler and a host of others. The Hurleys, Pigeons, Ruby and her girlfriend all added to the party.

After the awards ceremony the current and recent staff challenged the old Headmen from decades past to a game of flipcup. Almost all of the old folks (aka the Dream Team) had never played the game before. After about two minutes of practice and a quick review of the rules, the games began.

The Dream Team promptly trounced the Not-So-Dream-Team by winning the first two games and five of the seven. Much as with the fabled war canoe race at the 95th Reunion, the Dream Team used the wisdom and experience that comes with age to dismantle the current staff. The word "dynasty" gets thrown around a lot, but in this case there may be a good fit.

Oh, I guess you might want to hear about who won The Bone. This year Derrick Irwin had a nice message for everyone: "You can't escape Karma."

On Friday night, Trip dropped the GLM trophy and dented the lip of the dog bowl. This was a fairly boneworthy act on its own. Derrick, in all of his wisdom, also thought that I was never properly recognized so many years ago when I drove off from Canadian Tire without paying for gas while on my way home from the race. And so Trip and I got The Bone and the message was sent to all that you

cannot escape Karma or The Bone. Trip and I joined Brent Hurley and Adam Mollenberg as the only other guys to win the GLM and The Bone. In all fairness, Brent was the only one to do it in the same year.

Thanks, as always, to Sladds and Glen for letting us ransack the Island the weekend before it is closed. For that matter, a big thanks needs to go to the folks who dealt with the GLM aftermath as they closed up Camp. Also, thanks to everyone who has participated over the years for contributing to the history of this race and to the Algonquin Campership Fund.

While conditions may not always be conducive to taking a run at the record, unseating the record holders would be a sure way to stake a claim as the fastest canoe trippers at Pathfinder. Will a seasoned team will come back next year to challenge the Arem-Brown dynasty or will they get their competition from a crew of rookies? We will have to see what happens next year. Mark your calendars now to save the weekend of October 10th, 2009 for the 10th anniversary of the GLM.

*Noonway,
Jake*

Order of Finish for the 2008 GLM

- 1 Zach Arem and Max Brown- 1:52:45
- 2 Tim Lamont and Brian Bissonette- 2:08:17
- 3 Riley Chapple and Grif Edwards- 2:12:53
- 4 Ben Bristow and Steve Szymkowiak - 2:15:11
- 5 Kyle Warren and Adam Kowalski - 2:23:44
- 6 Trip Pierson and Jake Pierson- 2:25:14
- 7 Aydin Perese and Finn McCance - 2:28:38