

Rotary



International
Fellowship of Rowing
Rotarians

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Kirchboot fahren in Speyer - ein Bericht

Speyer and the cathedral belong together. If a city is so closely linked to a church,



then it is not surprising that you can row in Speyer with church boats. And as the church has been restored, the church boats in Speyer have been modernized as well.

A bishop belongs to a cathedral.
Norbert Herbel belongs to a church boat.

Church boats are his hobby - or more: a calling after a professional life! On my pre-visit to Speyer I experienced his enthusiasm. And since we all had no experience with church boats and no local person was on board, Norbert agreed to be our coxswain. Or did he really fear we would

like rowing so much that he had to pick us up in Basel?

Sunday we had chosen according to the occupancy plan of the Speyer church boats, which is published on the Internet. But we had not considered that the Rotarian year is coming to an end this Sunday and many clubs have their Presidential Change Over, same in Speyer. Nevertheless, Hans-Jürgen Große, a member of the Rotary Club Speyer and the Rowing Club Speyer 1883, welcomed us on our arrival.



At 11:00 am eleven Rotarians from Darmstadt, Mainz, Worms, and Simmern were sitting in the boat, the coxswain gave the command, and off they went. Harald and

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Wolfgang were our stroke rowers. Two stroke rowers are unfamiliar. And it's also unusual to have a neighbor when rowing. However there is the advantage that you are able to talk with each other. And there was enough space for a passenger and to change position with another rower is no problem even on water.

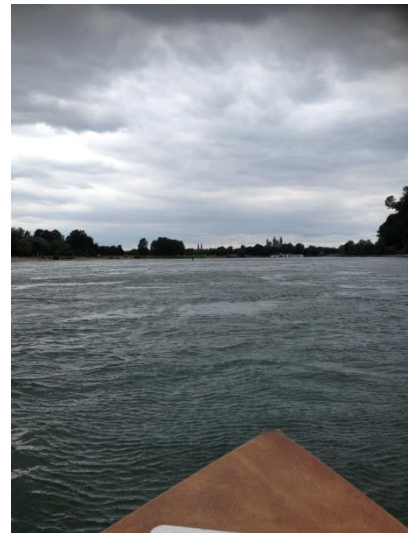


In the beginning we stayed on the river. We went up the Rhine with strong current and a lot of wind. All sights were approached and explained by Norbert.

A church boat is insensitive to counter waves. But current and wind are a greater obstacle than we were used to with our boats. After 8 km upstream we finally reached the

Berghäuser Altrheinarm. In calm waters the boat glides through the water. Now we

would have even embraced the way to Basel, but all Altrheinarms have an end as well as our schedule. A short break and then back at a brave pace. The cathedral appears and exactly at 2:00 pm we are ashore again.



Norbert will go without any loan for the boat. So we decide to make a donation to the Rowing Club Speyer as a subsidy to the planned youth tour to Berlin.

A lunch at Porto Vecchio with a view over the river Rhine and the Speyer cathedral terminates our meeting. We will meet again on the river Inn at Rosenheim in September. And maybe on a day trip in the next year with a church boat from Karlsruhe to Speyer.

Hartmut Jaeger