

The Oregon Whitewater Association brings private boaters together for the enjoyment of whitewater boating. Our vision is to promote whitewater safety and training for all of our membership in an effort to provide safety awareness and confidence when executing river rescue skills. OWA is the community of choice where fun and river adventures thrive and where people and rivers connect.



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The perfect maiden voyage with OWA...

Submitted by Sara Johnston

Pre-Trip: The spring break trip started out a day early. I emailed asking if anyone wanted to carpool... I feel very lucky that Bruce Ripley volunteered. It's not every day you get to hang out with the previous club president and hear about all the stories and get individualized advice from such an experienced boater. On the drive over the mountain, I heard several new tips and tricks and figured out my game plan for my first trip with OWA which was also my first overnight trip with my new boat. The night before the launch several people camped out at Beaver Tail. As an introvert, meeting new people in smaller groups at camp made the whole trip a lot less daunting. While I don't have any hard data, the pre-trip camp set up for the first night really helped our group the put in. Because several of the boats were set up in advance, there were several knowledgeable people and available hands to help load boats, back up the trailers, and arrange gear.

Continued on page 4

May Club Meeting

Flying Pie Pizza
7804 SE Stark Street
Portland, OR 97215

Wednesday,
May 10, 2017
from 6:00-9:00 PM

Speaker: Thomas O'Keefe
(see page 16 for bio)

Contact Information



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Do you have something you would like to submit to the OWA Newsletter?

Contact Michele Gila at
VicePresidentNewsletter@oregonwhitewater.org

To show our appreciation and to encourage future contributions, the Oregon Whitewater Association will have an annual drawing for \$150 gift certificate to one of the OWA sponsors. Every member who submits written material that gets published in the newsletter will automatically be entered into the drawing.

Facebook Users Enjoy New Feature

As of April 25th, our club's members only facebook group will be featuring events more regularly. We hope this will help in reminding our members when our meetings are coming up, when we have group training opportunities, and of course when our club trips are open for joining.

You'll still be prompted to register for trips and classes through our website, so don't forget that step. If you haven't yet joined OWA on facebook, go to: www.facebook.com/groups/oregonwhitewater.

It's Been a Busy Spring!

by Scott Ogren

During the River Safety Training we recently had one of the instructors, Travis Reid of Oregon Rescue, give us a very good rule of thumb for how to consider dressing for the swim. If the sum of the air and water temperatures is below 100 degrees, you should wear a dry suit and thermal protection under. If the sum of air and water temperatures is above 120 degrees, thermal protection likely isn't an issue and dress as you wish. If the sum is between 100 and 120 degrees, that's the grey area where you can make a choice about wearing a dry suit or not. As the cooler temperatures linger well into the spring, we are going to be below that 120 degree combined temperature threshold for longer than usual this year. The water temperature in most local rivers is between 40 and 55 degrees for most of the year.

The River Safety Training class was a major success! We had 36 participants who learned about ropes, knots, throw bagging, Zdrags, how to swim rapids and so much more! I really enjoyed seeing all of the excitement and energy everyone brought to the class. If you have never taken the RST class, I highly recommend it to you. If it's been a few years since you have taken it, I recommend taking it every two to three years as a refresher – if you don't use the skills, you will lose them.

The Boater 101 weekend is May 6 and 7. Camping at the group site at Fisherman's Bend is provided by the club for Friday and Saturday nights. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills and brush up on areas where you need work. Send Matt an email if you plan to attend. His contact info is on the website.

Looking ahead, the Wilderness First Aid class will be September 29 to October 1 at Dodge Park this year. Look for the sign up to go on the website in mid to late August. This is another highly recommended class and you leave that class with WFA and CPR certifications upon completion. I have used the skills I learned in this training on more than one occasion. You just never know when something will happen and these are handy skills to have.

We are catching up with technology! OWA has an Instagram account called oregonwhitewaterassociation. Follow that account and tag it with pictures from your river trips! If you're not sure how to do that, ask the closest teenager to you...that's my plan.

Fundraising Results

April is always our big month for fund raising to support the Safety Program, and this year was a huge success! The auction raised about \$4000! Thank you to the companies who donated goods and services and another thank you to those who participated! Some of our club members walked away with some great gear and good deals on shuttles for rivers they are going to run this year. Another huge thank you to ZiplineX.com and Bungee.com for the fund raising event we held in early April which brought in a little more than \$1600. All of this money goes directly towards the safety program is one of the big reasons we are able to offer safety training courses for a reduced cost from typical retail prices.

MAY MEETING

The next meeting will be at our normal meeting place, Flying Pie Pizza in Portland in May. Please plan to come out and join us for pizza, and a great speaker! Have a great summer!

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[www.oregonwhitewater.org/
dues.html](http://www.oregonwhitewater.org/dues.html)

Spring Break Deschutes River



Spring Break Trip: Continued from page 1

Day 1: Scott gave his famous safety talk before the trip. He introduced his son, Carson, who was the inspiration for this epic annual getaway. Before you know it, we were all on the water. I launched next to Carson and he is a speed daemon. He was rowing circles around my boat, helping me figure out how to get in the proper rowing rhythm. The river was high and fast and there were some awesome wave trains that were fun to ride. We were blessed with Oregon sunshine and a beautiful day. At camp, everyone set up quickly and gathered around for quesadillas, build your own burritos with Dorito salad, and cocktails / mock-tails depending on your age. The kids had a lot of fun with the piñata, even though it was difficult to find a stick that didn't break. After dark, the kids played glow in the dark bocce ball and hula hooped to their hearts content. Suddenly I looked up and everyone had retired to their tents. I could barely believe that the natural river bed time was 9:30 pm.

Day 2: Tonya and John were up before Scott to start breakfast burritos. After getting separated from the group briefly on the first day, I got some new boat buddies. Thank you to Jamie and Carrie who let me join their posse and follow their lines. In famous Oregon fashion, it began to rain as soon as everyone got their tents set up. Everyone was in envy of Diane's electric coat (it my next gear "have to have") and appreciated all the fire pans and propane heaters spaced throughout camp. The kids had a blast putting pennies on the railroad tracks and examining the dead raccoon that had been decapitated at an earlier date (ewww... but science?) Luckily the rain let up right after an amazing artichoke / hummus duo appetizer and pulled pork slider dinner. Several adults joined in round 2 of the bocce ball game / hula hoop session while several of us watched from the safety and warmth of the fire. Cary again brought out his famous drink stand (Thank you Cary!!!) and a fun time was had by all. The group made it to a much more respectable 11 pm before lights out.



Spring Break Trip: Continued from page 4

Day 3: Mmmm... I can still taste the amazing French toast. With coffee in hand, we watched in awe as big horn sheep daintily picked their way across the opposite mountainside. They regaled us all morning with indecision as they crossed back and forth to and from the same outcroppings over and over. This big water day and the people around helped me assess my boat to make sure it was appropriately rigged. Unlike the other days, the group stayed tightly in formation. The newbies were all in the center of the pack. Everyone was watching out for everyone else and pointing out both the conservative and more daring lines through the rapids. Colorado, the highest rated rapid on this section, was one big long wave train with a very conservative sneak route easily available. Everyone stayed in their boats (to my knowledge) and had an absolute blast. The tear down at the take out was smooth and efficient. Everyone helped everyone else. Overall, it was a beautiful maiden voyage with OWA, a great way to get to know new boaters, and the perfect opportunity to work on skill building.

Thank you all for such an amazing spring break vacation.



River Safety Training

Submitted by Johnny Besancon

Anyone from Oregon will agree that April is the perfect time of year for a cool, refreshing dip in Mt. Hood's glacial run-off, or perhaps not! On the other hand, with the summer boating season around the corner it was the perfect time of year to brush up on our swiftwater rescue skills. At this year's River Safety Training on the Sandy River, a group of 35 members met at Dodge Park to learn and practice those skills as taught by instructors with real world experience in whitewater safety and rescue techniques. Even though most of us do everything in our power to avoid swimming on a boating trip, it's nice to know what you're doing when someone does end up in the drink.

Day One began by splitting into three instruction groups led by San Drevo from eNRG Kayaking, Travis Reid from Riverstone Adventures, and Trent Volz from Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue. The first portion of the day consisted of knot tying, the basics of mechanical advantage, and the right organizational structure for a successful rescue effort. After lunch the groups moved through hands-on enactments of various scenarios like freeing a foot entrapped swimmer, paddling a flipped raft while rescuing your crew, cataraft flipping practice, and throw bag deployment. Teamwork drills were conducted to illustrate shallow water crossing techniques and the proper way to haul your boat upstream when eddies are out of service. The teams were eager to band together using the organizational techniques we just learned because every successful rescue operation needs unity of command. That means if no one steps up to lead your operation, you're it!

Continued on page 7



River Safety Training: Continued from page 6

Day Two expanded on our new knowledge and quickly put it into action. The first challenge was setting up and breaking down Z-drag pulley systems. Important real-world specifics were highlighted including the correct way to rig the system to your boat using a self-equalizing anchor. The take home message: If you prefer boating with air in your tubes, tie off to more than one D-ring. After intense practicing, a team Z-drag powered kayak race was organized culminating in victory for the Rescue Rangers team by way of a questionable interpretation of the contest rules (the results are still under review). Shortly thereafter, river crossing fun broke out using zip-lines tensioned with expertly constructed Z-drags. The entire operation looked flawlessly superb. After all, the most important safety rule during a river rescue is to always look good! The secondary priorities are as follows in order of importance:

1. Your own safety
2. Your group's safety
3. The safety of bystanders
4. The safety of the victim(s)
5. Gear

With a great turn out and fun curriculum, River Safety Training weekend was a huge success again this year. Always remember to stay safe and keep looking good.

Clack Fest is Back! 34th Annual Upper Clackamas Whitewater Festival – May 20th & 21st

As Oregon's largest whitewater festival, we offer something for everyone. From the recreational boater enjoying the river with family and friends to professional paddlers, this year's festival is sure to be fun for the whole family. The festival competitions invite all whitewater enthusiasts at any skill level. A few fun events on tap include Inflatable and Hard Shell Kayak races, Oar Boat slalom, Cat Boat Volleyball, the Inner Tube slalom, Drift Boat and Cataract slaloms. Plus Stand Up Paddle board slalom and downriver races.

Whether you're getting wet competing in an event or a spectator on the riverbank, the festival is a great place to learn about river and boating safety as well as protecting our rivers and watersheds. Vendor Village is the perfect place to pick-up some new gear and check out the best of whitewater products made by Northwest manufacturers. This is the only place you can see all of the best whitewater boats and take them for a spin on the river (you must bring your personal rafting gear). You can pre-register for the demo boat of your dreams by contacting Vic LeGall at Good Water Boatworks goodwaterboatworks.com. Join us on Saturday afternoon for a BBQ and great live music.

We've got a few new things this year. We're running the first ever Beer Garden in conjunction with the BBQ and Music! This year's band is Greenneck Daredevils, Texas bluegrass from the northwest <http://www.greenneckdaredevils.com>. This year we got permission from the Forest Service to run an OLCC permitted beer garden as part of our event. The BBQ and Music will be extended into the evening to enhance the social part of the event. We need your help making this a successful part of our event. All proceeds from the beer garden will help cover the expenses of the beer garden and any extra money raised will be donated to American Whitewater to help preserve access to Northwest Rivers. The Garden will be run for us by Estacada's Clackamas River Growlers and we're getting donations of beer from Bent Shovel Brewing, mead from Nectar Creek Mead and cider from Portland Cider Company.

This year we offer two new clinics put on by Tim Brink of Oregon Rafting Team fame. The ultimate competitor in the Northwest Whitewater scene this year, Tim is putting on a Paddle Team clinic and a Rowing clinic. Please support these clinics. There will be a 5 person minimum to run them and you can register online. See the website for further details.

Race registration starts at 9:00am on Saturday and events continue throughout the afternoon on both days. The festival is free to watch but participants must pay \$10 per person, per race for mandatory insurance. Plan your weekend now to include the best whitewater event in the Northwest! We'll see you at the festival!

Dates: May 20th & 21st

Time: 9am-4pm

Location: Carter Bridge (Clackamas River), Estacada Oregon

More info at: www.upperclackamasfestival.org

Email: rmmosier@msn.com

Phone: Bob 503.235.9940



MAY 20TH - 21ST / 2017

UPPER CLACKAMAS WHITEWATER FESTIVAL

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Carter Bridge, Clackamas River, Oregon.



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Tax Relief Float

Submitted by Tony Martinez

5:30 am came early for us retired folk, after all it was still dark outside. Nonetheless, Suzi and I pulled ourselves together, finished loading the truck, and headed out just as the sun was coming up. According to google maps, traveling thru The Dalles from Vancouver would be 4 minutes shorter than the route over Mt. Hood Via Hwy 26.

We also thought it would be more scenic. We were not disappointed. Fishermen were out on the Columbia trying to catch a spring run Salmon before the season closed that evening. Spectacular waterfalls full from the tiresome rain made us forget the funk we were in the days before. Past The Dalles, the fruit trees in full bloom reminded us that spring was finally here. Our meeting time was set for 9:00 am we arrived at Harpham Flats at 8:30. Bill Goss was rigging his boat in parking area. Looking down the ramp Don Jacklin and Carol Beatty already had their new Sotar in the water. Barney, their purple raft, had seen better days and hence retired. Together we waited for the rest of the group from OWA to arrive. At 9:00 with the biggest smile you ever saw, came the Great Pat Berry with Rudy the Dog. That was it - just the 6 of us, A hardy, small group of rafters ready to take on the 8600 cfs Deschutes river.



Water had been released from the dam to support irrigation downstream, and coupled with rain run-off, the river was running high and fast. Carol indicated she had not run it at this level before and it should be exciting. With less than .05 inches of rain predicted for that morning we headed out. Rivers are never the same, and high water at Wapanitia proved that. The rapid normally is a soft wave train runout. Not this day! It was a bit like going over the confused seas of the Columbia river bar just after an ebb tide. The Hyside was thrown from side to side, the oars would not dig in, as the confusion made the water aerate. Looking down river Don had control of the river like the skilled oarsman he is. I reminded myself that he is over 80 and I should be able to handle this. Boxcar had a large lateral coming from the right that shifted the boat hard to the left. The wave train coming out was high, fast, and fun.

Lunch took place just after Maupin Park, with discussions running the way old friends do; warm, inviting, full of joy, and taking longer than anticipated. We loaded on to the rafts just as the rain began to fall.

Prior to scouting, Don, Bill & I discussed taking Oak Springs to the right of the middle rock island with a slight ferry angle pulling backwards to hold us high, avoiding the hole. This time of year no one wants to go for a swim. During the scout, plans changed to just staying high, and run the V line tight to the middle rock bringing the left oar in just after entering. All the lava rocks leading up to Oak Spring had a full layer of river water leaving nothing exposed. Despite how fast the current was, we all were able to find eddies and hold back, allowing separation for whose turn it was to enter the rapid. The run up to the pour over was fast not allowing much room to get to the V line, but just at the top, with enough for half a raft, was a soft eddie which was comforting as the raft slipped next to the middle rock island before the river grabbed the front end pulling the raft straight down the V line. At the bottom, the lateral came from the right off the huge hole higher than expected, pushing hard towards the left. Normally the worry would be getting off line to get through the exposed lava rocks during the runout. Not this time, as there wasn't any exposed rock, just a fast moving river taking the raft to the end of the covered rock formation where a newly developed ledge hole was a big surprise. After this, Elevator was anticipated with great expectation, as the rollers are fun. This day Elevator was a disappointment, flatten by the volume of water. We reach the take out in record time with a lot of daylight remaining for the drive back thru the Gorge.



From left to right: Carol Beatty, Don Jacklin, Scott Ogren, Tom Hanson, Bruce Ripley, Cary Solberg.

The Tribe Elders, a brief history

Membership has grown, the new President of the club is installed, and we maintain a solid core of long time members. This spring's Deschutes River trip reminded me that maybe it's time to tell a few short stories. This one is a brief history of how it started. Or at least, how OWA began. Of course, the best story telling happens by the fire, riverside. But I hope this one sticks with you, so you remember to shake the hands of the fine folks who got together, took a chance, and started this most excellent whitewater rafting club.

In November of 1999 there was still an annual river trip being run on the Rogue over Thanksgiving weekend. That weekend Don Jacklin and Tom Hanson happened to catch up in front of the Motel 6 in Grants Pass and shared some thoughts about how they might be able to create a new type of rafting club in the northwest. Over the course of the next several days on the river, talk turned to what a new club might look like and how it might be organized. Many people were not only interested in doing it but offered the time to help make it a reality.

The core group began with Tom Hanson, Don Jacklin & Carol Beatty, Angie Evans, and Dave & Kendra Summers. After we got back from the Rogue (Nov 1999) we had a meeting at Sunshine Pizza. Angie ran the meeting and by the end she had \$400 and the okay to start a new club. And in 2000, Oregon Whitewater Association was officially formed.

If not for Tom and Don its likely OWA wouldn't exist, and if it did, it would certainly not be in its current form. And through time, many many excellent people have stepped up, giving the club the extra time it takes, to bring folks together and to develop new ideas. It takes a village. Or in this case, a tribe. And one fine day, on the banks of the Deschutes River, some of the club's originals were caught on film, supporting the people who have more recently played a role in continuing the spirit of a very fine whitewater rafting club.



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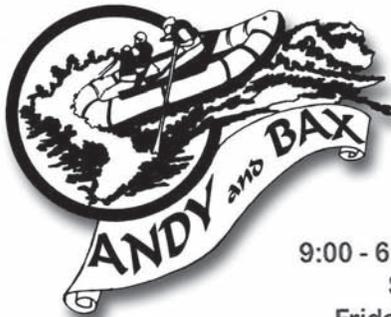
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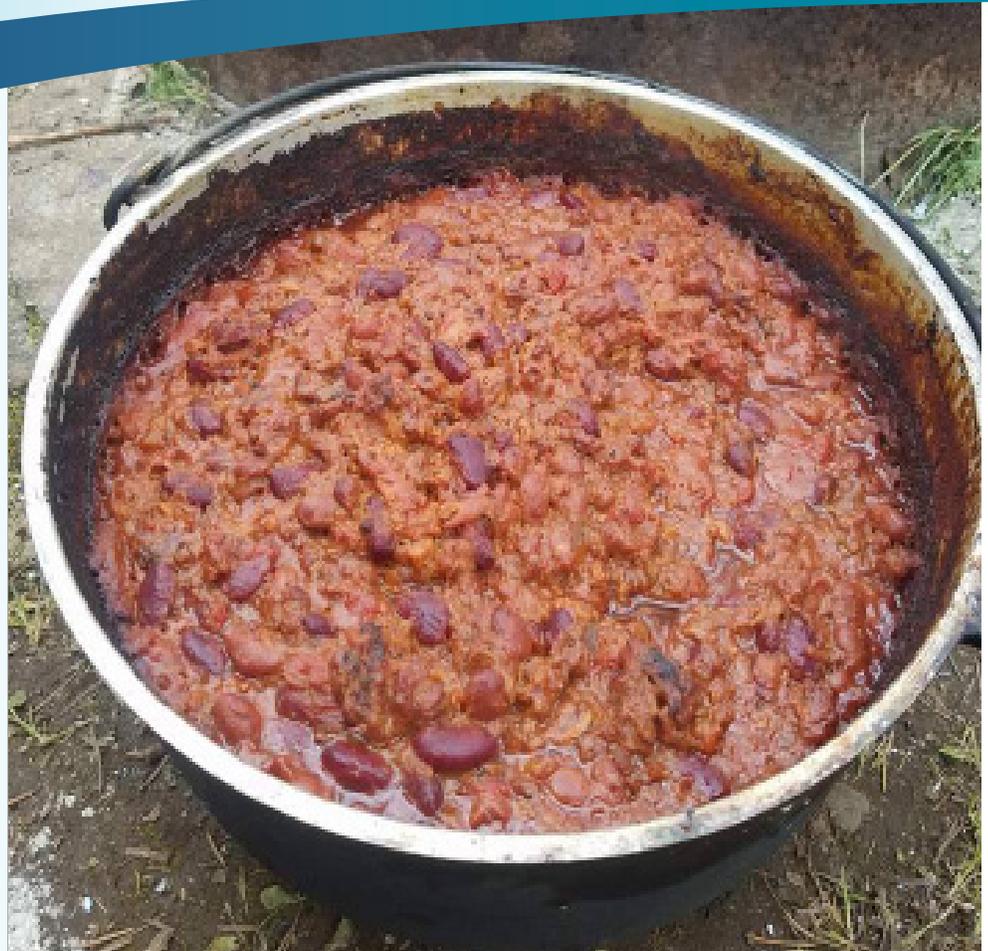
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INGREDIENTS

- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 habanero pepper, minced
- 5 cloves peeled garlic, minced
- 1 Tbs olive oil
- 1 lb ground turkey
- 1 lb hot Italian sausage
- 1 chili seasoning pack
- 2 14 oz cans kidney beans
- 2 14 oz cans chili beans
- 1 8 oz can sliced mushrooms,
drained & rinsed
- 3 8 oz cans tomato sauce
- 1 6 oz can tomato paste
- 3 14 oz cans diced tomatoes
- 1 8 oz can diced green chilies
- 1/4 cup of whiskey
- 1 Tbs garlic salt
- 1 Tbs pepper
- 1 Tbs oregano



Camp Chili

Submitted by Chris Massey

DIRECTIONS

Saute onions, habanero & garlic for about 3 minutes. Set aside. Brown the turkey and the sausage. Combine all in a 12" dutch oven and bake at 375 for 1-3 hours.

Check occasionally and give it a stir. And when done in the oven at home, you can set the timer and forget about it, without stirring. I have personally put this in the oven at 9pm and woke up at midnight and taken it out. Serves 6 with ease.

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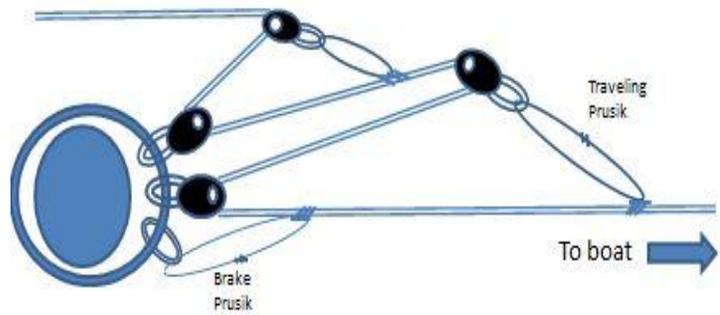
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Thomas O'Keefe

Tom first got his start paddling and playing in the water during early childhood canoe trips to the Adirondacks in upstate New York. After a brief diversion as a competitive swimmer and water polo player through high school and college, Tom came back to paddling and began his first serious whitewater while on a trip to Japan in 1992 and shortly thereafter became a full-fledged fanatic with the University of Wisconsin Hoopers. Tom has traveled across the country and around the globe in search of great rivers; in 2003 he completed a final descent of the Yangtze River through the Three Gorges, before the gates were closed on the world's largest dam.

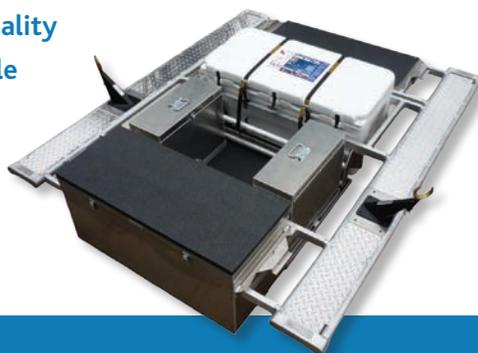
Tom began work with American Whitewater in a volunteer capacity in 1995 and served as a Regional Coordinator in the Pacific Northwest before joining the staff in 2005. Tom received his undergraduate degree at Cornell University before completing his graduate work in aquatic ecology at the University of Wisconsin where he received his PhD in Zoology. Tom worked at the University of Washington where he coordinated research projects focused on the dynamics of nutrients returning salmon bring to river ecosystems and the structural development of riparian forests along large floodplain rivers. Through his work as a river ecologist, Tom gained experience working with resource agencies including the National Park Service and Forest Service as many of his research projects were conducted on public land. Tom has also taught courses in aquatic ecology, including watershed ecology and management, both at the university level and for youth programs. Bringing a wealth of experience to the organization, Tom contributes skills in river and fisheries ecology, teaching and outreach, grant writing, multimedia, web development, and inspiring local volunteers to help build American Whitewater's stewardship program. He is based in Seattle, WA and works closely with volunteers throughout the Pacific Northwest region on projects in Coastal WA/OR, the Columbia River watershed, Puget Sound, Fraser River watershed, coastal BC, and Alaska. In addition Tom covers project work in the Upper Midwest. And when the water's up, Tom still finds time to play on the water with family and friends.



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Upcoming Trips

Submitted by Cheryl Ford,
Trip Editor



UPCOMING OWA TRIPS

TRIP	DATES	TRIP LEADER	CONTACT INFO
2017 Grande Ronde River, Class II/III	May 5-7, 2017	Eric & Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com , 509-525-6134
Boating 101 Skills Building, North Santiam	May 5-7, 2017	Matt Saucy	sawdusty9@yahoo.com , 971-241-5396
2017 Rogue River Lodge Trip, Class III/IV	May 19-22, 2017	Van McKay	vanm1@yahoo.com , 360-737-3148
Annual Upper Clackamas Whitewater Festival	May 20-21, 2017		www.upperclackamasfestival.org
2017 Upper N Umpqua	June 2, 2017	Bill Goss	zann@msn.com , 503-757-4659
2017 Women's Trip on the Lower Deschutes, Class II/III	June 16-18, 2017	Carol Beatty	Stacey Strausberg, scs@scs1024.com
2017 McKenzie River, Class II/III	June 22-25, 2017	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com ,
2017 Fall Colors, North Santiam, Class II/III	October 8, 2017	Matt Saucy	sawdusty9@yahoo.com , 971-241-5396
2017 -Tieton River, Class II/III	September 16-17, 2017	David Elliott	dce@dcell.com
2017 Veteran's Day, Rogue, Class III/IV	November 10-12, 2017	Kevin Buck	buckriverman@gmail.com , 360-890-6776

For additional details on upcoming trips or to view past OWA trips go to <http://oregonwhitewater.org/calendar/trip-calendar>



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Tom J Hanson, Rainie Falls, July 4

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