

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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2014 PRESIDENT'S DAY ROGUESCHUTES TRIP

Submitted by Rick Carman

The annual OWA Rogue Trip was getting ready to roll in early February with a launch date of February 15. The trip was supposedly capped at 45 but I hear 47 ultimately signed up. First time trip leader Steve Olsund did a fine job herding cats to get things organized. There was concern about the amount of water in, or not in, the Rogue due to the very dry weather. We watched the gauge bounce around the mid to high teens, low but enough. Many years ago I was on a summer trip at 970 cfs. It was bony. We all took the guide chute, but the falls is actually doable at very low flows.

Then, just a few days before our Friday departure the forecast changed dramatically. Several very wet storms were due to roll in and the forecast for Sunday shot up to around 30,000 feet! My daughter Jenifer had run the Rogue at 30k as her guide school graduation float so I gave her a call. Two words: DON'T GO!

Continued on page 4

March Club Meeting:

Flying Pie Pizza

7804 SE Stark Street
Portland, OR 97215

**Wednesday,
March 12, 2014
from 6:00-9:00 PM**

Guest Speaker

Ron Root:

Ron Root will speak to us about running Shearer's Falls in a round boat back in the day.

Contact Information



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River Tip: Heat Diffuser

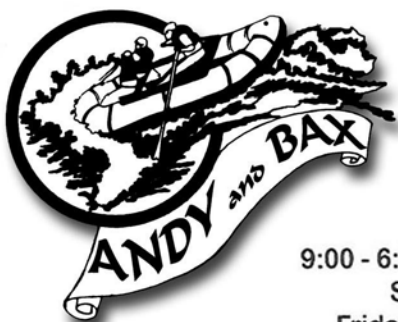
Submitted by Jim Collins

One of the favorite items in my kitchen box is a diffuser. I recommend adding this layer of protection between the flame and the bottom of your cookpot any time you want to ensure a slow steady burnfree cook time. To prevent burning or scorching this kitchen tool works to distribute the intensity of the heat directly hitting the bottom of the pan. I have a 3/8" piece of aluminum that is cut round to fit inside my stockpot that also carries my plates. It gets used a lot and I even have a way to do dutch oven cooking on the stove without using any charcoal.

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President's Day on the Rogueschutes!

by Bruce Ripley

Well let's see if I can get this straight...
Wet, then dry, then wet, then dry, then wet...
Ok I give up on the weather forecasting!

February always plays host to the annual Presidents day trip to the Rogue River. This year the initial planning centered on how to efficiently get the group through the two low-water bottlenecks at the fish ladder and Blossom. The week of the trip it started to look like there would be more water than expected so those points wouldn't be a problem, then as the forecast developed it pointed toward flows of 25k+. After careful consideration the decision was made to cancel the Rogue and move it to the Deschutes, which was a very good call, the Rogue peaked at 35k the morning of the launch!

I'll just point out one thing. Is the Rogue runnable at 35k? Well the fact is that it's been run many times at that level. Is it safe? That depends on your personal skills and at possibly a bit of luck. The fact is that we like to run club trips under more controlled conditions and 20k+ on the Rogue is not very controlled. The final straw was the fact that there's likely to be a lot of wood moving around on the river at that level due to the fires and as you know wood and water don't mix very well!

Due to good planning and some flexibility the trip was redirected to the Deschutes, or as it was affectionately called, the "Rogueschutes". You can read more in the trip report but I'll have to say that for rafting high water on the Deschutes in February it was an outstanding trip, thanks to all involved!

The river safety course is now just a month away and as we expected it filled up fast! If you missed getting into the course make sure you watch for some of the Boating 101 classes this spring, and certainly watch for the fall WFA course that will be held the first weekend of October.

Now that we have some water just remember to boat safe!

OWA Trip Season

We seemed to have weathered the slow part of our club trip season but we are fast approaching our busiest time of the year. There are nearly a dozen trip to choose from between now and June. If you've never rafted on the Umpqua, Deschutes or the Grande Ronde then there's never been a better time. Club trips are a great way to meet people, run some water that you may not have run before, and establish relationships that lead to other opportunities like permitted trips in the future.

Remember if you'd like to go on these trips they do have a max capacity that's set by the trip leader so it's best to sign up early!

OWA March Meeting

The next meeting is back at our normal location at Flying Pie on Stark Street. The speaker will be Ron Root talking about running Shearer's Falls back when you could still do that. Plan on joining us for Pizza and a good time.

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www.oregonwhitewater.org/dues.html

Rogueschutes Trip



Rogueschutes: Continued from page 1

She said the rapids were washed out and replaced by huge whirlpools, the water was dangerously fast and camp spots were all under water. They had one person in their sweep boat whose job was to sit on the back of the boat looking upstream for logs bearing down on them so they would have time to get out of the way before they got run over. I passed this info on to Steve and I am sure many other folks chimed in. Steve wisely decided to fight another day. Steve made the right call and shifted the trip to the Deschutes. The Deschutes in February: what could possibly go wrong?

A shorter drive to Warm Springs made for a more leisurely departure on Valentine's Day. There is something a little odd about getting passed by snowboarders and skiers when you are towing your raft. We also noticed that when we came out of the mountains there was still a fair amount of snow in the desert. The next surprise was when we reached the rim, there was snow all the way down to the river. Our destination was the campground at Mecca Flat just a couple of miles north of highway 26 along the river. Mecca Flat is flat with picnic tables. Covering the ground was at least an inch of soggy wet snow. The few places without snow were mud. Yech! Most of our intrepid bunch, which now numbered about 20 after the switch toughed it out in their tents and it poured all night. Yours truly slept in my truck.

I am getting ahead of myself. There was the matter of Friday night dinner and the plan had been to unhook the trailer and go to Madras. Someone in the group was sharp enough to remember that the new Warm Springs casino was only three miles away back out on 26 so off we went for the buffet. Nineteen bucks for not many choices but we were hungry. And the place was pretty much packed with people. The casino appears to be the place to be in Warm Springs on Friday night.

We spent a considerable amount of time people watching before heading back to our cold dark wet campsite. The good news is that all the overnight rain melted most of the snow and better yet, is stopped raining shortly after we got up.

Continued on page 5



The launch was surprisingly short of chaos. The river was the highest I had ever seen, with estimates between 8000 and 10,000. Whatever it was, it was a lot for the Deschutes and the water was really moving. We made short work of the run down to Whiskey Dick, just above Whitehorse. Skip brought his huge tarp to ward off the showers that were still around. At some point in the middle of the night (I was sleeping outside with cot and bivy sack) I heard a low roar that slowly grew in volume until the camp was blasted by a huge gust of wind. Just as quickly, the wind died down. When we got up the next morning, Skip's tarp had been ripped virtually in half. He said he would take it to a local sail maker to have it sewn up and heavily reinforced.

Next morning was the highlight of the trip-Whitehorse. No one knew what to expect but it was awesome. All but the very biggest rocks were completely buried and the wave train at the top was huge and an absolute blast. The other trip highlight, in my book was Buckskin Mary at the end of the boating day. It was at least triple its normal size with a long and big wave train. Fun fun fun. We camped that night just below Buckskin where Steve made dinner. I thought there was a rule that trip leaders don't do meals. There should be. But thanks Steve. And bacon and eggs and hash browns for breakfast and I forgot who cooked but it was great.

On day three we had a strong downstream wind to go with the fast water. At one point I guessed we were doing 10 mph. Bruce Ripley later said he had pegged it at 11. Not sure how it calculated that but I believe it. Boxcar was also huge and people got soaked. Most of us decided to end the trip at Maupin City Park but about 7 brave souls continued on. Someone called a local guide to haul the drivers down to Sandy beach to retrieve our vehicles. On the way back to Maupin we saw the last two boats come down the left side of Oak Springs. There was a huge pour over at the bottom and the carnage was one flip and one swimmer. The hole on the right was pretty much buried and looked a lot easier than normal. From there it was lunch in Maupin and a long slow drive home across snowy Government Camp.





Pool Session Trip Report

Submitted by Mark Lewis

The evening was broken into three sections so that everyone got the opportunity to learn about and practice knot tying or mechanical leverage, raft flipping and throw bag mechanics. We divided into three groups and off we went.

For those in attendance the knot tying portion of the evening not only guided you through how the knot can be used but we actually practiced tying the darn things. It seems that my mom was right after all, practice makes perfect. I just wish I had learned these secrets when my kids were younger, it could have solved a number of problems with them running off in the shopping mall. For those not there, I am sad to report that you missed out on a very interesting drinking game. If you messed up on a knot you had to take a drink. The drink was made up of one part humility, one part disbelief served on the rocks, which is where your raft may end up if you pick the wrong knot or tie the right knot the wrong way.

The next part of the evening was spent in the water practicing flipping some cat rafts. It is sure a lot more fun to work on this skill in warm water with an empty cat. It was also a wonderful time to try a couple different techniques for flipping. On the river you always seem to go back to what you did last time and this was a great opportunity to try something new and see how it worked. One of the great points that was made for the newbies, like myself, was the advantage of tying the flip line to the D ring rather than the frame. You don't need the bloody thing until the raft has flipped and with it secured to the D ring it is much more accessible than if tied to the frame. I am sorry if you were not there because you missed some glorious flips made possible by a couple real hams.



It was sad to leave the deep water, but alas it was time to head for the throw bag area. It was fun to just see all the different types of throw bags on display and how they worked. If you were thinking about getting a new one it was a great way to make a better informed decision than just sitting on the couch watching YouTube. For me the most interesting part of the experience was discovering how far and how accurately you can throw a coiled rope. Retrieving the rope in good clean coils, splitting the coils in half and letting fly with the non-bag end of the rope was very efficient. If I screw up the first toss I know what I am doing for the second attempt. Would have never crossed my mind had I not seen it demonstrated and had a chance to practice the technique. If you were not there then you lost out on the opportunity to win some great prizes in the rope throw contest. The winners each took home a trophy that is going to make their life just a little bit more fulfilled.

I got an early birthday present in the form of a helmet because you had to have one on in order to get in the pool. No problem justifying this purchase to my wife, club requirement and safety. I am hoping that at a future meeting you are required to bring a new tent. With everyone wearing a helmet and quality PFD the lifeguard looked a bit bored, but all the rest of us had a great time.

As a new member and first time attendee I want to extend my appreciation to everyone that made me feel so welcome. What a wonderful group of fun loving yet professional people.

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2014 : UPPER WIND FESTIVAL VII

SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH

<http://upperwindfestival.blogspot.com/>



- Classes include: kayak (all lengths), cataraft, and R4 and R2 paddle rafts.
- Paddlers must possess a class IV+ or higher skill set in regard to whitewater navigation.
- \$25 per paddler. Includes insurance, food, t-shirt, photo/videos, and stuff.
- 3 miles. Mass start by class at Stabler Bridge to approximately 1 mile below Climax. Take out will be river right above High Bridge.
- Official finishing order/winners will be announced 2 hours or less after the race.
- Awards ceremony will be at the top or bottom of the take out road depending on conditions. Please keep the turn around area to the take out clear at all times.
- Beach spectators will only be able to view the event from the Ram's Horn or finish line areas. Private boaters may view the race from a safe distance outside of the main navigable channel and are encouraged to stand by with throw bags.
- Food and stuff provided with a \$5-\$10 donation if not racing, you choose which.
- No porta pottys at the put in or take out this year due to the one day format.
- This event is part of the 2014 Next Adventure WWCS. <http://www.wwchampionship.org/>

REGISTRATION BEGINS at 7:30 am

Morning Registration is from 7:30 – 8:30 am.

Afternoon Registration is from 7:30 – 11:30 am.

MORNING RACE:

Mass start women's and men's Play Boat 9:00 am!

Mass start R4 women's men's raft race at 9:15 am!

NOON RACE:

Safety boaters depart at 11:40.

Mass start long boat kayak at high noon 12:00 pm!

-Longboat class has no length restriction

Mass start kayak 5 minutes after that.

-Boat length restriction is 8'11" ft. This length restriction allows all current creek boat designs

Mass start R2 raft 5 minutes after that.

-Any length

2 or more Catarafts will be designated as sweep boats. All safety boaters will sweep the course with this final group.

Recipe of the Month

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup chopped cilantro
- 3 large carrots, sliced into long thin strips
- 3 green onions, thinly chopped
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 2 Tbs tamari or soy sauce
- 2 tsp grainy mustard
- 1 tsp grated ginger
- 1 whole avocado, sliced

Optional: 2 cups shelled edamame, raw salad greens, other protein.



Lemony Carrot & Avocado

Submitted by Michele Gila

DIRECTIONS

In a small jar, combine lemon juice, olive oil, tamari, mustard and ginger. Shake well. Set aside.

In a large bowl combine the cilantro, carrots & green onion. Toss with dressing. Add sliced avocado.

Great on its own or serve over raw salad greens (romaine and spinach both travel pretty well on a river trip). Depending on your crew's diets, option to serve with sides of edamame, grilled tempeh or meat of your choice. It's easy to make the dressing at home and pack into your cooler and dress when ready to serve. Leftovers make a great filling for lunch tortilla wraps.

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A Way of Thinking and Keeping an Eye on Each Other

Submitted by Julie Munger

There you are! You have run the rapid successfully, and are sitting in an eddy at the bottom, feeling relieved and happy to have had a clean run! You see that the two boaters who ran the rapid before you, are safely in an eddy on the other side of the river. You look upstream in anticipation of your fourth, and final boater coming through the last drop. You think she was right behind you when you entered the rapid, but now it is becoming an uncomfortable amount of time in which you are not seeing her. You start to fidget, and think, "now what?"

There are many, many variables that can affect your exact actions at this point, but there are thoughts that a conscientious and safe paddler will start to have in this situation. Having a couple acronyms at this point to trigger your brain into action can be helpful. Here is one! **STOP!**

STOP: *Stabilize, Think, Observe and Plan.*

Stabilize:

Do whatever you need to do to keep yourself and others safe; and keep the situation from getting worse.

Think:

Are there other boaters on the river?, What are the individual talents of folks in your group? What is the terrain like on the sides of the banks of the rapids? How can you check upstream without missing the boater coming by? Just some of the questions you may ask.

Observe:

Look at your surroundings. What can you access with the best viewing points, etc.

Plan:

You must communicate with the other boaters across the river; either with hand signals, or by paddling over to them. One person needs to stay in an eddy to be sure your missing friend does not come paddling or floating by. You may need to send one person up each bank to see if you can locate where she is?

Just as you have come up with a good plan, and are starting to communicate, the missing paddler comes paddling down and into the eddy next to you! Seems she found a surf wave in the middle of the drop, and stopped to play a bit. You take a deep sigh of relief; happy all is well, and knowing that the mental drill you just went through makes you a safer boater, and is good practice for assessing potential incidents on the river.

Stay tuned for next month, and the useful acronym; **LAST!** Happy Paddling!



Knot of the Month

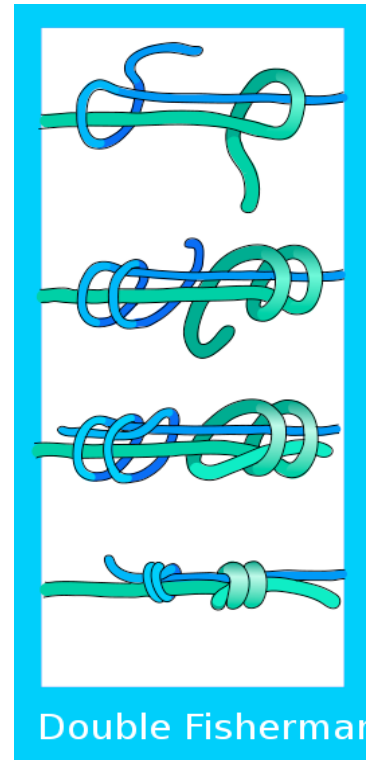
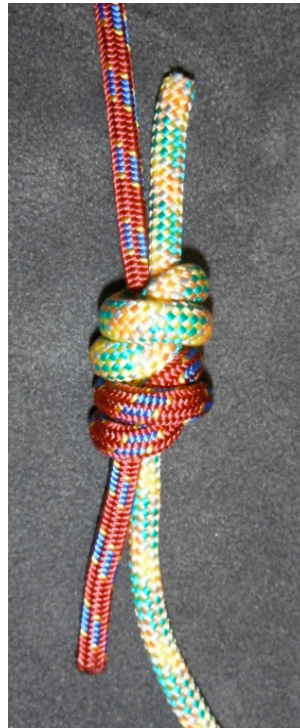
Knot of the Month - Double Fishermans

Overview

- Used to form high strength loops from cords
- Tied correctly you will see a double XX on one side and a smooth barrel on the other

Hints

- Tie the first half on your left side, then flip the knot over and tied the second half exactly the same way. In this way you can easily tie the knot correctly always complete the wraps in the same direction. The tails will come out on opposite sides.



Double Fisherman

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Meeting Speaker

March OWA

Meeting Speaker: *Ron Root*

Topic

Ron Root will speak to us about running Shearer's Falls in a round boat back in the day.

Bio

I'm retired after a career in data processing that started in 1966 and ended with a 20+ year stint with Intel in Hillsboro. I was a systems analyst there, but managed most of my earlier career.

I live in Aloha now where I write fiction and am attempting to get my first novel published. It's fantasy, ala Lord of the Rings.

I turned 70 last Spring but stay in shape and still row. Keating and I went to grade school and high school together and have done several rivers together. He was there assisting when I ran Sherars.

I started rafting in 1972 and still do an annual Deschutes trip with my sons and any other permit or invite I hit upon. I taught all my sons (including two stepsons) to row. They range from 37 to 47 years old. I apply for Rogue and Middle Fork permits every year, but don't seem to get lucky much like I used to (too much competition now).

I started out paddle-rafting a rubber ducky (I did Rainie in it because I didn't know any better). I upgraded to a Campways Hopi and then their Miwok III, which I ran for 20-years. I now row a custom boat. I bought an Andy and Bax floor model at a \$100 discount, but before it was delivered they called me to inform me that a private outfitter in Switzerland had requested five custom red versions of that model to be built. They ordered too much red hypalon, so made a sixth out of it and asked if I wanted it. A no brainer!



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Upcoming Trips

Submitted by Pat Barry,
Trip Editor



Please go to the OWA website for additional details on each trip, [CLICK HERE](#)
Or go to <http://oregonwhitewater.org/calendar/trip-calendar>

3.22-24 Sat-Mon	Lower Deschutes Spring Break Float	II/III	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503-267-9785
4.12 Sat	Deschutes River Tax Relief Float	III/IV	Bill Goss	zanng@msn.com	503-757-4659
4.25-27 Fri-Sun	Lower N. Umpqua	II/III	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360-931-4224
5.9-11 Fri-Sun	Grande Ronde	III	Eric & Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509-529-6134
5.10-11 Sat-Sun	Lower Cispus	II/III	Tina and Eric Myren	TNEMYREN@gmail.com	
5.16-19 Fri-Mon	Rogue River Lodge	III/IV	Van McKay	vanm1@aol.com	360-737-3148
5.22-26 Thu-Mon	Grande Ronde	III/IV	Dave Graf	dmgraf55@centurytel.net	
5.30-6.1 Fri-Sun	Upper N. Umpqua	III/IV	Walt Bamaan	wbamaan@wmni.net	
6.7 Sat	Klickitat River	II/III+	Doug Smith	Doug@davidsmithmapping.com	503-232-5285
6.13-15 Fri-Sun	Lower Deschutes Women's Trip	II/III	Carol Beatty	caroldon1@comcast.net	503-816-6172
6.26-29 Fri-Sun	McKenzie River	III	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360-931-4224
9.13-14 Sat-Sun	Tieton River	II/III+	David Elliott	dce@dcell.com	
9.13-15 Sat-Mon	Hell's Canyon	III/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509-240-4220
9.20 Sat	Santiam Fall Colors Float	II/III	Matt Saucy	sawdusty9@yahoo.com	971-241-5396
11.9-11 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503-267-9785

PAST OWA RAFTING TRIPS

3.8 Sat	Merrie's Deschutes Bday Float	III/IV	Merrie King		503-490-1743
2.15-17 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Steve Oslund	stevilone@gmail.com	503-709-7661

PAST OWA RAFTING TRIPS CONTINUED

7.4-6 Thu-Sun	Lower Salmon River	III/IV	Eric and	balle@pocketinet.com	509-525-6134
9.13-15 Thu-Sun	Tieton River	III+	Brenda Bunce	Brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360-931-4224
9.14-16 Fri-Sun	Hell's Canyon (Snake River)	III/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509-240-4220
9.28 Sat	N. Santiam	III	Matt Saucy	sawdusty9@yahoo.com	971-241-5396
11.9-11 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503-267-9785
1.1 Wed	Sandy River	II/III	Val Shaul	val.shaul@frontier.com	503-805-8991



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