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**PLEASE NOTE  
NEXT MEETING'S  
SPECIAL  
LOCATION**

### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 9, 2011  
at 7:00 PM

**Keen Footwear**  
926 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 210  
Portland, OR 97209

### RIVER TIP

Submitted by Tom Hanson

Staying at a motel en route to a river? You might consider buying a boat cover. There's a lot of good stuff to steal on a boat — but "out of sight", then "out of mind".



# Oregon WHITTEWATER ASSOCIATION

Volume 12 Number 4

March 2011



## POOL SESSION at Clackamas Aquatic Park

Submitted by Scott Ogren

What a turn-out we had for the February meeting at Clackamas Aquatic Park. The past several years, the February OWA meeting has been a pool session to practice flipping boats, tying knots, throwing ropes and various other rescue skills. This year was the best turn-out ever with 42 people showing up to practice their skills and learn new ones.

The people were divided into five groups and rotated among five different stations where critical rescue techniques were taught. We spent about 25 minutes at each station learning the basics of what was being the basics of know tying, boat flipping, pig rig and z-drag setup, rope throwing (and re-throwing), and rope care maintenance.

Bruce Ripley taught the knot tying station, introducing three basic knots that all boaters should know: the bowline, figure eight and water knot. Each participant was shown how to tie the knots and had plenty of time to practice and

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

*Oregon Whitewater Association is dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting Oregon's rivers for the safe enjoyment of both public and private non-motorized boating, now and in the future. We advocate fairness in accessibility to river resources and provide a voice for responding to river issues and management concerns.*



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<http://www.OregonWhitewater.org>

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# New Website Features: Site Navigation and River Levels

Submitted by Scott Ogren

In January, the Oregon Whitewater Association website was overhauled and a new site was introduced. Many have seen the new website and are excited about the changes and new features the site has to offer. Over the next few newsletters, new features of the site will be pointed out and explained. This site was designed so it can be your go-to website when planning your next river trip as it should have all of the information you need.

## Site Navigation

One of the biggest aspects of a website that causes users to decide if it's a good website or not is the site navigation – how easily can you get around. If you are able to easily move from page to page and easily understand where you are on the site and how to move to a different part of the site, many people will find what you have to say informative. If your site navigation is awkward and difficult to use, people will have a hard time finding the information on your site and will quickly lose interest in what you have to say.

With that in mind, a pull-down menu system was installed that helps you quickly and easily move from one part of the website to another. Each part of the navigation bar is clickable; for example, if you want to see the entire OWA calendar with all club events, you can click on 'CALENDAR' on the top navigation bar and it will take you to a calendar with all club trips and events. (See Figure A below.)

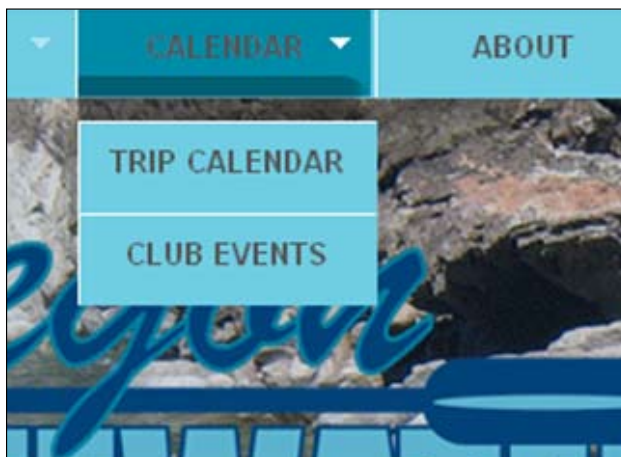


FIGURE A

If you wanted to see a list of just the club trips, you would click on 'TRIP CALENDAR', and if you wanted to see just the OWA club events, click on 'CLUB EVENTS'. As you can see, there are a lot of pages to get club information nearly any way you want to see it.

If there is a page on the site that you have seen before but just can't find it again, or you are wondering if our website has some information you are looking for, there is a search feature and site navigation map. Just click on 'SEARCH' in the navigation bar on any page to be taken to the search page and site map.

## River Levels

What are two of the first questions you ask when planning a river trip? If you're like me, you ask how much water is in the river and what the weather will be like. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to answer both questions on one page? Now you can.

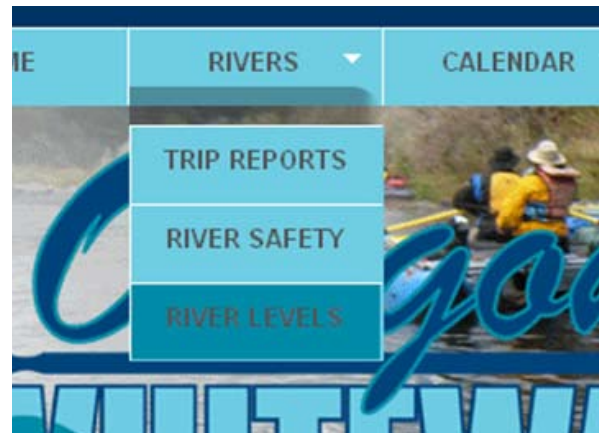


FIGURE B

On the OWA site, click on 'RIVERS' then 'RIVER LEVELS' or navigate to <http://oregonwhitewater.org/rivers/river-levels>. You can click on any of the rivers you want to know more information about. (See Figure B above.)

Clicking on any of the river names takes you to a page with three important pieces of information: a weather bar with weather information

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## Pool Session at Clackamas Aquatic Park

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had the aid of posters Bruce had made with pictures of each knot.

Brenda Bunce brought her cat boat and we practiced flipping it in the dive pool. If you have never had the chance to flip a boat, this was a perfect opportunity. The conditions were controlled and the water was warm.

Brent Davis set up a pig rig and explained the intricacies of that and the differences between a pig rig and a z-drag. It is always nice to see a mechanical advantage rope system set up in a controlled environment so when you need to set one up on the river, it's not the first time you see one set up.

Zach Collier taught us not only a good rope throwing technique, but a good re-throwing technique for those times when your first throw just isn't good enough. What a good skill to have that is. Dan Alsup was a good enough sport to float out in the pool and be a good target for us all to have



something to aim for.

Val Shaull hosted a station where he talked about rope care and maintenance. After all, you can have the best skills and think you have a good rope, but if you haven't taken care of it, the rope just might fail when you need it most.

All of these skills are extremely valuable for all boaters and provided a good

warm-up to the Swift Water Rescue Training class our club will sponsor this spring. The more we practice these skills, the better we will all be when we need to use them.

For those who didn't get a chance to participate in this year's pool session, mark it on your calendar for next February. This was such a huge success; we definitely will be doing it again.



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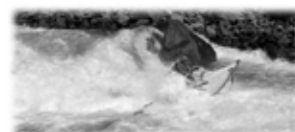
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## TRIP REPORT: Rogue River

Submitted by Patrick Steehler

Last Friday night I was just getting off work after 8 days straight at the job. What awaited me was definitely worth it. The semi-annual Rogue river trip was upon us. All that was standing between us and a great weekend was a four and a half hour drive to the Grave Creek put in. Once we arrived we set up a makeshift bed in the Paddler mobile to get a few hours sleep before Mary Lou's famous breakfast at Galice Resort. After stuffing ourselves with a bounty of great breakfast food, we embarked to Grave Creek to rig rafts and prepare for our three day weekend. After rigging the last raft, we staged an impromptu safety meeting and proceeded down river to start our adventure.

Day one on the Rogue is a very short day with Rainie Falls as the major drop of the day. Normally the kayakers lead first and set safety on the fish ladder to help guide the rafts down and help free any stuck rafts. This was very successful as we only had a couple of issues and proceeded down river again. The rest of day one was a couple more class III rapids and lots of beautiful

scenery. Just after river mile 11, we arrived at Horseshoe Bend. Most of the camp was covered in snow and the weather was not warm. Jeffery and I proceeded up the hill towards the main camp to stake out our campsite as we were the second party to arrive that day. A few more parties were already there waiting for us with shelter and appetizers. One thing about these trips, the OWA knows how to camp. All the dinners are four course meals and everyone pitches in to help. Even the kayakers have their meal. We opted to have the

Sunday morning breakfast duty. After choosing our campsite right next to the kitchen, we settled into pitching the tent and getting organized for the evening. We got our chairs out and staked our claim in the fire circle. Dinner that night was a southwestern extravaganza with a succulent avocado dip with corn, fresh cilantro and tomatoes to start things out. Everything was absolutely delicious. We remained by the fire to listen to everyone tell stories about their whitewater adventures. One man in particular seems to always draw my interest.



Sitting around the campfire at snow covered Horseshoe Bend.

His name is Tom Riggs. Even the way he dresses tells me this man is all about adventure. He wears a hat similar to the one the character Robert Muldoon wore in the movie Jurassic Park. One brim on the side is pinned up with a pin from Australia. He wears classic outdoor garb that looks like every article of clothing could tell a story. He is a very jovial man who makes every story interesting and can back those stories up with his rafting and fire jumping skills. (More on the fire jumping skills later.) I think we made through about a half hour of stories before most of us decided to retire at the very late hour of 7:00 p.m. I made it to 8:00 p.m. myself.

Day two began at 6:00 a.m. with the roar of the blaster signaling the start of the morning coffee. Usually this happens like clockwork at the same time every morning. Dick Sisson was up to get ready for breakfast and I made the trek across camp to wake up Ann Stephenson to complete our culinary team. Our mission was to cook enough pancakes and sausage to feed the entire camp to fuel us for the meat of the Wild and Scenic section. This section includes the treacherous Mule Creek Canyon and Blossom Bar which have claimed several lives. As we finished breakfast and broke camp we proceeded to haul our gear down and help rig rafts. After the rigging was complete we headed down river once again. After about 6 1/2 miles we came across Zane Grey's cabin. This cute little cabin is nestled just up the hill from the river. When we were there it was in the process of being restored. Several of the original timbers were replaced, but some of the antiques still remain inside. Just as we approached the cabin we saw a



**Sitting around the campfire at snow covered Horseshoe Bend.**

wild turkey disappear in the woods across the landing strip. After taking a few pictures we continued down river to the Rogue River Ranch to collect before we entered Mule Creek Canyon.

Mule Creek Canyon is one of the most beautiful sections I have ever paddled. The problem with that is that when you are in a kayak, you are being pushed a pulled through the water by powerful eddy lines and boils, you rarely have time to enjoy the beauty. After exiting Mule Creek Canyon, we pulled out to scout Blossom Bar. Blossom bar is a class IV rapid that dramatically changes with the river level. At the level we were at the normal route just above the picket fence seemed the safe way to go. Some of the rafters decided to take the right line which looked very clear as well. After getting back in our boats we proceeded through Blossom Bar. After cutting in behind the half moon rock, I proceeded to go left of Volkswagon and run the seam line to avoid the hole. After narrowly missing the massive hole we collected at the bottom and proceeded to finish the remaining six miles of the day.

We arrived at Camp Tacoma later that afternoon. We were almost the last group to arrive as we had spent the remaining time leisurely paddling and visiting with other rafters. After setting up camp in a far warmer atmosphere, we proceeded to enjoy the delicious fruit and cheese platter that started our delicious dinner. There were so many flavors of marinated chicken, I could barely remember them all. As I recall the lime one was to die for. After finishing dinner we continued to tell stories and stoke the fire pans. Sometime later, Tom Riggs decided to give us his famous fire jumping demonstration. The first pan was narrowly missed and the second was just caught by the toe of his boot. The fire pan came crashing down and all the burning embers and coals were strewn across the fire site. After some quick gathering, the fire was as good as new and we were back to swapping whitewater tales. This night most of us made it past 9:00 p.m. I am one to stay up after most have retired. There is nothing more peaceful than sitting in front of the campfire staring at the tree line through the moonlight. After meditating for a bit I decided to

## Trip Leader: Easier Than You Think

Submitted by Paul Morin

I urge you to consider making trip leadership a way for you to make your contribution to the OWA. It is easier than you think. Let me recount my experience to you.

While a member of the OWA board we discussed how to expand the number of members who could and would lead our trips. It had frequently fallen to the same stalwart volunteers year after year and that did not seem fair or good for the long term health of the club. It was with that in mind that Rick Carman, also a board member, and I volunteered to co-lead the 2011 President's Day Rogue River Trip. Ernie Eichhorn, the leader for several years, agreed to mentor us so we observed his leadership of the 2010 trip. Ernie made it seem all too easy so I was relieved to think that it would not be too much of a task. On top of that, Scott Ogren, also a board member, began developing the Google Docs spreadsheets for his 2010 Veterans Day trip. This would turn out to make the job infinitely easier.

Ernie helpfully reminded me in October to make sure that we had reserved the Lodge for our 2011 trip. I quickly confirmed via email with Mary Lou that the reservation I had made while on the 2010 trip was still on her books. My work done for now I need only sit back and wait for the calendar.

In the meantime, Scott was working on his Veterans Day trip. I carefully observed what he did and noted his results. When the new club calendar was being put together I emailed the calendar editor and had the trip details entered. Soon it was January and I began to think of what my role would be. I met with Rick and Scott after the January meeting and in about five minutes we developed our plan. Scott would help us clone his trip and I would copy and paste his emails. It seemed all too easy. And, it was. With Scott's invaluable technical assistance and relying on his and Ernie's advice for a few specific situations I sailed through all of the preparations. Suffice it to say that my trepidation was unwarranted. In fact, it was so easy that there wasn't enough work for two so Rick was forced to the sidelines by my controlling personality. Genuinely, he shouldered his responsibilities by agreeing to provide the groovers for our second night on the river.

Now, the purpose of this rambling missive is not so much to glorify my feeble organizational skills but rather to encourage all of you, even those new members who want to be

more active to not fear the role of trip leader. The established trips come with a history of success that provides a template for your trip. Even new trips, with Scott's and other member's assistance, become a matter of a few emails and no more than several hours of administrative effort. The Google Docs work in real time and populate themselves. Scott was more than willing to assist with the small glitches that developed. Past leaders and experienced members provided their expertise as well. Coupled with the joy of a great trip on a remarkable river and the gratitude of the participants it was an incredibly easy and rewarding experience.

Don't be afraid: it is easier than you think.

**I urge you to step up and offer to co-lead a trip with the purpose of leading it in the future.**

I am certain that most trip leaders will be only too grateful to mentor you through their experience and provide guidance and opinions when you step forward. Or, plan a trip yourself. Pick your favorite stretch of river or expand to a river you have always wanted to try. Day trip or multi-day, it isn't important. What is important that we all participate as members of a strong whitewater community.



## Website Features

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

provided by AccuWeather.com, the USGS hydrograph and the NOAA hydrograph. Each of those is clickable to their source information. If I wanted to see more detailed information about the USGS hydrograph, clicking on it would open a new tab and take me to the USGS page that shows the same hydrograph and all of the information that the USGS publishes about that gauge. Clicking on the NOAA hydrograph takes me to the NOAA page about that hydrograph.

While you are on any of the river level pages, a list of all other rivers our site has gauge information on is in the right sidebar. You can click on any of those links and go directly to those pages, then when you are ready to move to a different part of the site you can use the navigation bar to easily move around.

As you can see, this website contains a lot of good information and it is easy to get around. More is planned in the future, and if there is any information you would like to see on the site, please send an email to [scott@scottogren.com](mailto:scott@scottogren.com) and let me know.

## Rogue River Trip

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

retire for the night.

Day three started with a light breakfast and my morning coffee after which we proceeded to break camp. The last day of camp is less critical since we don't have to worry about setting up camp again and I have to drag it out again when I get home to clean it and air it out. After stuffing our dry bags, we dropped them off at our respective rafts and proceeded to help carry down the rest of the gear. After finishing up, we started to head down river for the remaining 7 miles to Foster Bar. The day was shaping up to be the best of the three. The sun was burning off the fog and was getting brighter by the minute. By the time we reached Foster Bar, the weather seemed like late spring. We waited for the remaining rafts to collect our gear and found out that the road to Powell was closed and we would have to drive to Gold Beach and up the coast to go

home. Although this added 2 or 3 hours to the trip, the blue sky and sunny day made the drive worth it. We cut through Drain, reached Interstate 5 and continued home to Longview, Washington. We arrived at 7:15 after seven hours of driving to a warm house, a beautiful wife and mother and all our wonderful animals.

Special thanks to the Oregon Whitewater Association, the American Canoe Association and the Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club to which my family and I are members. Without these fine organizations, trips like these would not be possible for some people. The folks at the Oregon Whitewater Association are some of the most fun, dedicated and just plain nicest people I have ever met. They treated my son and I like members of their own family. This was my son's first and my third trip with this group. This will definitely not be our last. (My wife has expressed extreme interest in the next trip.)

*Photos by Ann Stephenson*



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## 2011 TRIP CALENDAR

Submitted by Josephine Denison

4.8-10 Fri-Sun	Lower North Umpqua	III/IV	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360.931.4224
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
We'll stay at Whistler's Bend County Park. We have reserved Section B, which is the bigger area that can be reserved and holds up to 70 people, 15-20 RVs and plenty of tents. Potluck Saturday night. This is a joint trip with the NWRA Roseburg chapter.					
4.16 Sat	Deschutes River	III/IV	Tom Hanson	TJHRafter@earthlink.net	503.201.4428
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
This is a day float on the middle Deschutes. The river is free of other boaters at this time. We will shuttle the vehicles down to Sandy Beach starting at 10:00am sharp for a 11:00 am launch Harpham Flats. Bring your lunch.					
5.13-5.15 Fri-Sun	Grande Ronde River	III	Eric and Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509.525.6134
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
Minam to Heller's Bar on the Snake, 90 miles in three days! Expect to do a lot of rowing, but in return you get great scenery, good camping and green canyon walls in this early season perennial favorite trip.					
5.28-5.29 Sat-Sun	Lochsa River	IV-V	Steve Herring	stevenh@tektronix.com	503.348.0648
6.3-6.5 Fri-Sun	North Umpqua River	III/IV	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360.931.4224
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
We'll stay at the Deerflat Group area at Horseshoe Bend. The main trip is Saturday from Boulder Flat to Gravel Bin but you can boat any of the three days. Potluck Saturday night. This is a joint trip with the NWRA Roseburg chapter.					
6.13-6.17 Mon-Fri	Main Salmon River	IV	Eric and Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509.525.6134
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
Corn Creek to Spring Bar, approximately 90 miles. This is a high flow, early season, pre-lottery run down the River of No Return. Wilderness Class IV water boating skills and appropriate equipment are required. In return, expect to beat the crowds and enjoy the experience with a great group of boaters. <b>NOTE:</b> This trip will cancel if the trip leader gets a Yampa River permit.					
6.17-6.19 Fri-Sun	Lower Deschutes River	III	Carol Beatty	doncarol1@verizon.net	503.816.6172
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
The annual OWA Women's trip! Put in at Buck Hollow and run to Heritage Landing; 42 river miles. The trip is open to all skill levels from beginner to seasoned boater. For women wanting to learn more about boating, it's a great opportunity to learn from experienced boaters.					
6.18-6.21 Sat-Tues	John Day River	II	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503.267.9785
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
This is a great river for kids and families. The river is mellow and the camping is great! Join us on this beautiful river for a four-day and three-night float from Service Creek to Clarno.					
7.2-7.4 Sat-Mon	Lower Salmon River	III/IV	Eric and Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509.525.6134
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
Hammer Creek to Heller's Bar on the Snake, 73 miles in 3 days! This is a favorite trip, with great scenery, fabulous beach camping, history and fun whitewater. High flow at this time of year flushes down the river with ease. Expect hot weather. <b>NOTE:</b> This trip cancels if flow is over 20,000 on Slide Rapid day.					

### 2011 TRIP CALENDAR CONTINUED

7.15-17 Fri-Sun	McKenzie River	III	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360.931.4224
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
Join us for an OWA Board-sponsored weekend of rafting on the McKenzie River. OWA has paid for+campsite reservations at Paradise campground. This is a beautiful Class III river. We have a choice of separate runs rated II+ to III between Ollalie Campground and+McKenzie Bridge. This is an excellent family float. Our plan is to arrive Friday evening, and we will raft Saturday and/or Sunday. Enjoy hot springs at Belknap and a group potluck Saturday evening.					
8.20 Sat	Eagle Fern Park	NA	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360.931.4224
<b>EVENT INFORMATION</b>					
OWA annual picnic and gear swap at Eagle Fern Park from 1 to 3pm; Area One is reserved. The club will provide food for meat lovers and vegetarians alike. This is a potluck so please bring a side dish or a dessert. This is a dog-friendly event, bring your own beverages. Alcohol is permitted. There is a \$5 car entry fee. This is a covered area so come rain or shine.					
9.10 Sat	Yakima River	II	Vance Cordell	pyloris58@yahoo.com	360.253.3013
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
We will run 14 miles from the Ringer Loop boat ramp near Ellensburg to the Big Pines BLM campground on Highway 821. This is a family float with absolutely beautiful scenery along the river. The trip leader will go early and try to hold several camp sites at Big Pines for the evening before the float. We will start the shuttle at 10:00 am and be ready to put in at 11:00 am. For those who want to stay Saturday night, there will be a barbecue that evening.					
9.17-9.19 Sat- Mon	Hell's Canyon	II/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509.240.4220
11.12-11.14 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503.267.9785
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
The trip is from Graves Creek to Foster Bar. A group of us will be spending Friday night, November 11 at the Galice Lodge before the launch on Saturday morning.					



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Winter Store and Showroom Hours

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## Oregon Whitewater Association Membership Application Form

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Check for a hard copy newsletter via US mail.

A household membership is \$24.00 for one year, from July 1 to June 30.

Dues after January 1 are prorated at \$12.00, otherwise annual dues are \$24.00.

I hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by Oregon Whitewater Association (OWA) a non-profit corporation. I recognize that any outdoor or aquatic activity may involve certain dangers including, but not limited to, the hazards of traveling by boat on rivers or other bodies of water, accidents, or illnesses in remote places or occurring during portages, forces of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons. I further understand and agree that without some program providing protection of its assets and its leaders, officers, and members, OWA would not be able to offer its courses and activities.

In consideration of and as part of my payment for the right to participate in the activities offered by OWA, I hereby release OWA and its leaders, officers, and members from any and all liability, claims and causes of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in any activities offered by OWA. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities, and further agree to indemnify OWA and its leaders, officers, and members from all liability, claims, and causes of action which I may have arising from my participation in activities including, but not limited to those involving death, drowning, personal injury, and property damage. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, and for all members of my family including any minors. [Parent or legal guardian must sign for all persons under eighteen (18) years of age.] This agreement is effective as of the date signed, and has no termination date. I have fully informed myself of the contents of this release and indemnity agreement by reading it before I have signed it.

**All participating adult members of the household (age 18+) must sign. Guardians must sign for minors.**

Participant	Printed name	Signature
Member #1		
Member #2		
Member #3		
Member #4		

Participant	Email address	Preferred phone(s)
Member #1		
Member #2		
Member #3		
Member #4		

Make your check payable to the Oregon Whitewater Association and mail to:

**Oregon Whitewater Association**  
P. O. Box 2137  
Beaverton, Oregon 97075-2137

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