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# Oregon WHITewater ASSOCIATION

Volume 12 Number 5

May/June 2011

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## TRIP REPORT

# Tax Relief Float

Submitted by Tom Hanson

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 11, 2011  
 7:00-9:00 PM

**Stark Street Pizza**  
 9234 SE Stark Street  
 Portland, OR 97216

## RIVER TIP

Submitted by Tom Hanson

If you use Carlisle oars and would like to have a little more power, consider buying a one-foot extension. This will increase the mechanical advantage, thereby providing more power.



**Brian and Melissa Albers in Boxcar Rapids. Melissa is on the oars**

Saturday, April 16 was the date for this year's Tax Relief Float on the middle Deschutes. We had 13 boats and 20-plus people. The day was partly cloudy with some wind above Oak Springs — and no rain! The flow of 8,000 cfs made for some interesting changes in this 11-mile run from Harpham Flats to Sandy Beach. Wapanitia was scooting right along with some of the big boulders buried. The large boulder at the bottom (the one my boat always heads toward) was only partially visible. The high current easily moved my boat to the right of this obstacle. Boxcar was also quite easy. I went through first, then stopped in the eddy on the right to take pictures of everyone else.

We stopped at Grey Eagle for lunch and a bit of relaxation in partial sun and about mid-fifties temperature. When we cast off again, a considerable wind picked up just before we got to Oak Springs. Of course it would be blowing hard when everyone was trying to get into position to run the rapids.

**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.*



# Contact Information

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**OWA web site address:**  
<http://www.OregonWhitewater.org>

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The advertisement features a collage of outdoor gear including a blue and yellow raft, a tan cowboy hat, a wooden tackle box, and a yellow and black life vest. Below the gear is a photograph of a river campsite with a white tarp shelter and a tent. The text "Cascade OUTFITTERS" is prominently displayed at the top, and the website and phone number are in the middle. A banner at the bottom states "Your Source for Top Quality Rafts, Kayaks, and River Equipment for Over 30 Years".

Fellow Club members,

Join us Wednesday, May 11 for our last club meeting before we break for the summer months. Our guest speaker works with American Whitewater and will provide an overview and update of their work on four issues in the Pacific Northwest: **1.** The latest information about the long-awaited removal of Condit Dam on the White Salmon River in Washington. **2.** The new hydropower license for the Clackamas River and the benefits for whitewater recreation. **3.** Current access and navigability issues on Oregon's rivers, including the latest proposals in the state legislature affecting the ability of the paddling community to enjoy the state's rivers. **4.** Decommissioning Forest Service roads.

During our summer months, we reduce the newsletters to a May/June edition and July/August edition. The board and newsletter editor is always looking for good articles, trip reports, photos and stories for our newsletter. While you're out having a great summer, consider sharing your stories with us. And don't forget to mark your calendars for the annual club picnic and gear swap on August 20 at Eagle Fern Park.

Everyone's annual club dues will expire on July 1. Take advantage of pay pal on our website and consider renewing for up to three years.

<http://oregonwhitewater.org/about/pay-dues>.

Join us for an OWA Board-sponsored weekend of rafting on the McKenzie River. July 15-17, OWA has paid for sites 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. We arrive Friday evening, and will raft Saturday and/or Sunday. Enjoy hot springs at Belknap and a group potluck for Saturday evening.

Want to lead or organize an impromptu river trip? Get the word out with using the H2OAddicts email list server that is nothing more than an email address. The only difference is this: if you send an email to it, your message is delivered to everyone in the club in their email inbox. Only club members are subscribed to the list, and you must be subscribed to the list to send an email to the list. Simply use [h2oaddicts@oregonwhitewater.org](mailto:h2oaddicts@oregonwhitewater.org)

Do you have your Invasive Species tag yet? If not, you can purchase Oregon and Idaho Invasive Species tags through the Oregon Whitewater Association. Bruce Ripley has worked a deal with Oregon and Idaho that allows OWA club members to purchase Invasive Species tags for both Oregon and Idaho through the club. You can purchase a 2-Year Oregon tag for \$12.

These tags are made of tyvek, are virtually indestructible and you can attach it to your boat. The tags currently being sold are for 2011-2012. If you already have your 2011 tag, we will offer 2012-2013 tags at the October meeting this fall. The one-year Idaho tag is \$8.50.

For more information, go to <http://oregonwhitewater.org/rivers/invasive-species> where you can purchase your invasive species tags today!

See you at Stark Street Pizza,  
Brenda Bunce

"Memory, hither come,  
And tune your merry notes:  
And, while upon the wind  
Your music floats,  
I'll pore upon the stream  
Where sighing lovers dream,  
And fish for fancies as they pass  
Within the watery glass."

~William Blake



Thank you to all who participated in the raffle to support our club's swiftwater rescue training course.

The skills we learned will be a benefit to all in water safety. Give us your ideas and interest in future trainings. The fact that this course sold out in less than two days shows there is a big need and interest for holding more classes in the future.

# Joint NWRA/OWA North Umpqua Float

Submitted by Vance Cordell



What has turned into an annual event was held April 8-10 as the NWRA and OWA clubs held a joint whitewater rally on the North Umpqua River. For the second year in a row, the two clubs floated a section of the lower river together. This year we stayed in the Whistler's Bend county campground and floated to a takeout east of the Winchester Dam. The event was topped off with a Dutch oven cook off Saturday night with everyone voting on the best main dish, best side dish, and the best dessert.

The kickoff started Friday night with Brad and Margaret Ann Carlson cooking steamed oysters over an open fire and serving them with garlic butter and cheese. The oysters were fresh out of Coos Bay, big, and absolutely delicious.

Saturday morning we woke up to overcast, but clearing skies.

At noon 12 rafts and one kayak pushed off from Whistler's Bend boat ramp and floated down to a takeout just east of the Winchester Dam. The average flow along this section is 1500 cfs, but due to rain earlier in the week, the water flow on Saturday morning was approximately 7,500 cfs. The water wasn't over the banks, but many of the islands were submerged under water with weeds and sage grass sticking up above. Walt Bamman from the NWRA Roseburg chapter led the way. The scenery was beautiful, and the weather was great. Everyone – especially the kids – had a great time.

The banks of the Umpqua in this section are heavily forested with short scattered cleared areas where very nice riverside homes are built. One of the advantages of April floats is the lack of traffic on the river. Other than a couple of fishing boats our group had the river to ourselves. The most

challenging water in this section is Dixon Falls which is a Class III turbulent drop that everyone negotiated easily. One dog took a short swim, but the people only got splashed. At approximately 3:30 pm the group started arriving at the takeout. Because of the fairly steep bank, it took nearly an hour to get all 13 craft out of the river and headed back to camp.

By 7:30 pm the Dutch ovens had worked their magic, and the big meal began. Gary Steffy had so many ovens cooking that he used two large bags of charcoal keeping them heated. To say that we had plenty of food would be an understatement – and all of it was delicious.

After all the votes were cast, Bruce Ripley's spare ribs took top honors in the main dish category. Margaret Ann Carlson's Yugoslavian cheese bread was voted best side dish, and her

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

## Tax Relief Float

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some people took the right chute, while others took the left maneuvering section. There was a huge wave on the left (it did not look this big from the road) and I wanted to slide around the right side of it – but the wind had different plans. It pushed me right into the wave. So I straightened out my boat and hit it head on. The oars were ripped from my hands and my boat floundered around for a few seconds in this nasty water. At no time was I in danger of flipping, but I just don't like losing control in the middle of a class IV. I regained the oars about 100

feet later. Oak Springs proved to be an exciting rapids for just about everyone.

We arrived at Sandy Beach around 2:00PM. Thanks to everyone for making this another great day trip.



Tory and Kristie Brooks

## Judi Baumgartner Memorial Float

Sunday, August 7



Harpham Flats to Sandy Beach

SEE TRIP CALENDAR  
FOR DETAILS



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## 2011 Upper Clackamas Whitewater Festival

Submitted by Zach Collier

The Upper Clackamas White Water Festival (known to insiders as “Clack-Fest”) is a two-day gathering of the Pacific Northwest’s whitewater community. Each May, when the spring rains and snow melt have swelled the river to its juiciest levels, you’ll find one of the biggest and longest-running rafting and kayak competitions in the world. Around 1,000 people a day arrive in Mount Hood National Forest, to race down the raging Clackamas River, cheer on their favorites, or participate in one of the many whitewater clinics.

A big part of the festival is to promote safety and whitewater education among recreational boaters, so clinics are offered covering first aid, swiftwater rescue, fishing and everyone’s favorite: Dutch Oven cooking. Experts are brought from around the state to share their knowledge and expertise. Equipment vendors show off the latest and greatest



in whitewater technology.

However, this is not your average convention-style boat-show. The whitewater races start every 30 minutes and always steal the show. Slalom gates are set up in the middle of the biggest Class IV rapid on the river, Carter Falls, with gate 3 placed in the most challenging part of the rapid. There are events for every watercraft imaginable: paddle rafts, cataracts, inflatable kayaks, hardshell kayaks, riverboards, and drift boats. Beyond the boat types are the race categories: slaloms, sprints, downriver, Boater X, and the amazing Big Air Competition. The latter showcases kayaks sliding down a

25-foot ramp, which are propelled into the air. Whoever does the best tricks before hitting the river wins. There is an event for everyone with both team and individual competitions, but most of the time, it’s the spectators that win the biggest prize by watching all the mayhem.

2011 will be the 28th annual Clack-Fest and will host the USRA (United States Rafting Association) Nationals presented by AIRE. 6-man paddle boat teams from across the country will compete in 4 disciplines, Sprint, Head-to-Head, Slalom, and Downriver, with the winner representing the US at the World Championships in Costa Rica later this year. Clack-Fest is a wonderful event for the local whitewater community and the Oregon Rafting Team, which is excited to host this year’s Nationals Competition.

*Zach Collier is the owner of Northwest Rafting Company and an active participant in Upper Clackamas Whitewater Festival. This year he’s training hard to prepare for Nationals.*



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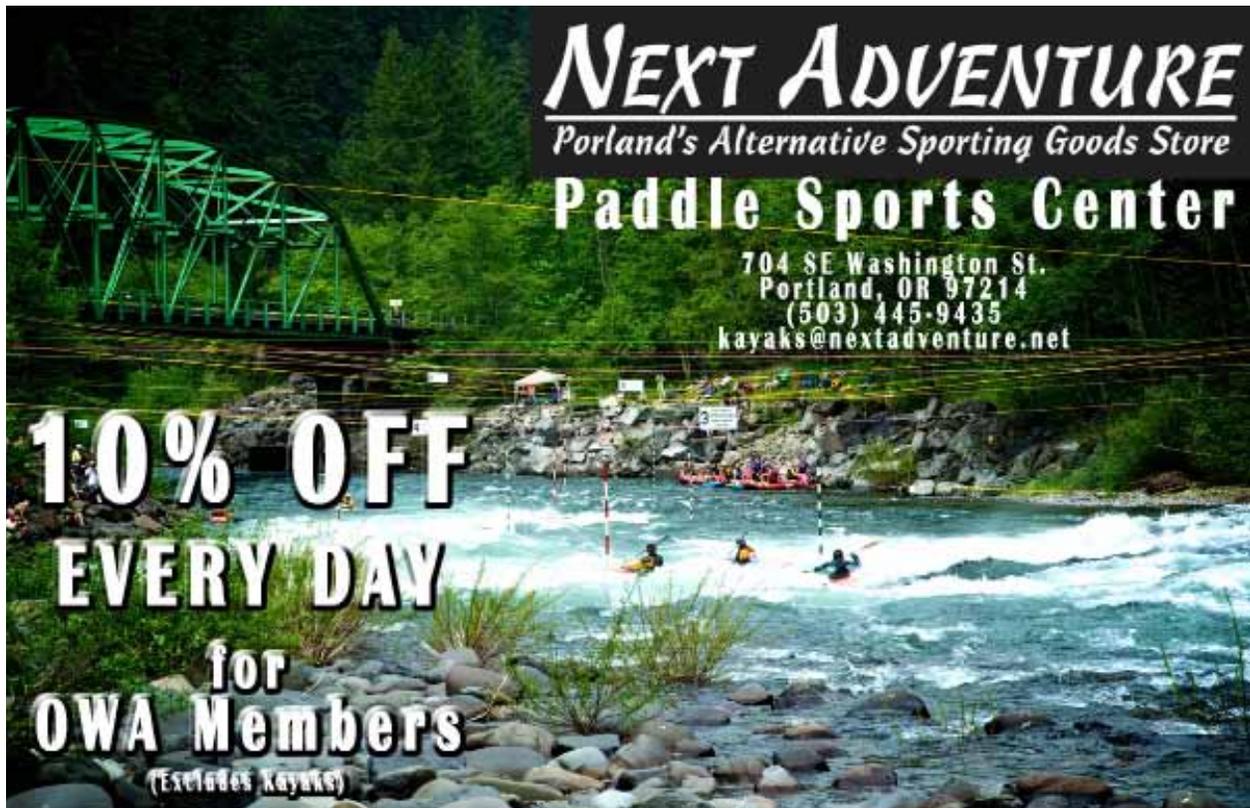
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## OWA's New Website Features

~ Add Information to the Site ~

Submitted by Scott Ogren

In January 2011, the Oregon Whitewater Association website was overhauled and a new site was introduced. The new website was built on the backbone of a content management system, rather than using static HTML pages. Among the many advantages to using a content management system to build a website, one of the biggest is the ability for the site to grow and for users to add information.

You may have already noticed the proliferation of new web pages related to the Swift Water Rescue class, the raffle that was recently held, and the rescue gear that was being offered for sale through the club. These pages were very easy to create and the navigation was automatically created for them once the pages were added. This means if we need to add pages in the future to communicate information, it's easy to do so.

### Adding Information to the Site

Because it is so easy to add information to the site, we are constantly adding new pages. We add trip reports, calendar events and other pages all the time to the web site. Did you know that the OWA website has over 120 pages now? That's a lot of information! And you can

help us add even more.

If you are leading a trip, hosting an event that you want on the OWA calendar, want to see another river gauge in the "River Level" section, or are submitting a trip report, that can all be done through the website. When you submit the forms on the various pages, that send an email to the appropriate people with the information you just submitted and we will get it on the website as soon as we can. To add any information, go to the following pages:

- **Add River Trip or Club Event:**

<http://oregonwhitewater.org/calendar>

- **Add New River Gauge:**

<http://oregonwhitewater.org/rivers/river-levels>

- **Submit Trip Report:**

<http://oregonwhitewater.org/rivers/trip-reports>

As we get busy over the summer, please write trip reports and submit them on the website. They will get published on the website and in the newsletter.

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.



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## 2011 TRIP CALENDAR

Submitted by Josephine Denison

4.16 Sat	Deschutes River	III/IV	Tom Hanson	<a href="mailto:TJHRafter@earthlink.net">TJHRafter@earthlink.net</a>	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	<a href="mailto:balle@pocketinet.com">balle@pocketinet.com</a>	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	<a href="mailto:stevenh@tektronix.com">stevenh@tektronix.com</a>	503.348.0648
6.3-6.5 Fri-Sun	North Umpqua River	III/IV	Brenda Bunce	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a>	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	<a href="mailto:balle@pocketinet.com">balle@pocketinet.com</a>	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	<a href="mailto:caroldon1@comcast.net">caroldon1@comcast.net</a>	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.					
6.17-6.20 Sat-Tues	John Day River	II	Scott Ogren	<a href="mailto:scott@scottogren.com">scott@scottogren.com</a>	503.267.9785
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
This is similar to what used to be the OWA Kid's trip. We will launch from Trout Creek on Friday and have a layover day at Whiskey Dick on Saturday. This is going to be a very kid friendly and dog friendly trip where the days on the river are short and playing is encouraged. We will take out at Harpham Flat on Monday and should be there by noon. The group laying over at Whiskey Dick allows those who don't want to launch on Friday to launch on Saturday and catch up. This trip was originally listed as a John Day River trip and has been changed to an Upper Deschutes River trip.					
7.2-7.4 Sat-Mon	Lower Salmon River	III/IV	Eric and Candace Ball	<a href="mailto:balle@pocketinet.com">balle@pocketinet.com</a>	509.525.6134
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
Hammer Creek to Heller's Bar on the Snake, 73 miles in 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	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a>	360.931.4224
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### ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

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.

7.16-17 Fri-Sun	Upper Deschutes	III	Tom Riggs or Joan Aldrich	<a href="mailto:ttriggs@ashland.com">ttriggs@ashland.com</a> or <a href="mailto:jonialdrich@gmail.com">jonaldrich@gmail.com</a>	Tom 503.417.4271 Joan 503.830.4864
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### ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Grab your dance partner and join us for a raft trip on the Upper Deschutes. We will set up a temporary dance floor at camp and get down under the stars with a Mardi Gras Theme. This class III trip will be from Trout Creek to Maupin and will feature a potluck Saturday night before we start the music. We will try to get two campsites so the limit on this trip is 32 people. Send your favorite tunes by Nirvana, Brooks and Dunn, The Archies, or whoever to Tom Riggs so we can get them on the playlist. We will feature a Mardi Gras punch, lights and cut loose fun.

8.7 Sun	Deschutes River	III-IV	Becky Storey	<a href="mailto:4raftin@gmail.com">4raftin@gmail.com</a>	503.771.7371
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### EVENT INFORMATION

This is a memorial float for OWA's beloved Judi Baumgartner, who passed away March 26 after a long battle with cancer. Her sister Becky is running this trip and providing lunch at Imperial Lodge at 1:30pm, so RSVP is required. Put in at Harpham Flats at noon and take out at Sandy Beach at 4:00pm.

8.20 Sat	Eagle Fern Park	NA	Brenda Bunce	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a>	360.931.4224
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### EVENT INFORMATION

OWA annual picnic and gear swap at Eagle Fern Park from 1:00 to 3:00 pm; 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	<a href="mailto:pyloris58@yahoo.com">pyloris58@yahoo.com</a>	360.253.3013
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### ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

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	<a href="mailto:mtymo_@hotmail.com">mtymo_@hotmail.com</a>	509.240.4220
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11.12-11.14 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Scott Ogren	<a href="mailto:scott@scottogren.com">scott@scottogren.com</a>	503.267.9785
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### ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

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.

## Umpqua Float

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

berry cobbler won the best dessert category. First and second place entries all received prizes for their efforts.

Sunday morning brought

increasing clouds and the threat of rain. There were discussions of taking the rafts upstream and floating down to the campground, but the tent campers opted to break camp while they still had dry tents, so a second float trip didn't materialize.

Overall everyone had a great time. There was much talk about our joint trip back to the North Umpqua in June when the clubs are scheduled to float the section between Bolder Flat and Gravel Bin.

## NEW! Sign up online with PayPal

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NEW MEMBERS: <http://oregonwhitewater.org/about/join/sign-up>

### Oregon Whitewater Association Membership Application Form

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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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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