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# Oregon WHITewater ASSOCIATION

Volume 12 Number 6

July/August 2011

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## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 14, 2011  
 7:00-9:00 PM

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

Dave and his boat from the middle of the "manky" unnamed Class V+ falls on NF Salmon

## Boating Lessons on the Cal-Salmon

May 6-7, 2011 • Submitted by Brent Davis

The following narrative recounts two days of boating in Northern California's Salmon River (Cal-Salmon) basin in the spring of 2011. The Cal-Salmon is a tributary to the Klamath River about 51 miles due west of Weed, CA, a very remote, but road accessible area. It's a Class IV/V pool drop run through some amazing geological features with lots of whitewater. Trip participants were myself, Doug Smith, Mike Evans, and Dave Hagmeier.

This was my second trip to this river. In the course of this trip I learned a thing or two about exploring my personal boating limits, skills I still need to build to be a reliable boating partner, and, in the process, expanded my Class V boating tool box, which includes the wisdom not to boat.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

## RIVER TIP

Submitted by Tom Hanson

I keep a list of GPS waypoints for a number of rivers. If you are doing a river you are not familiar with, I may be able to help you with waypoints. OWA is compiling a list of waypoints for major rivers – to be available for all members.



*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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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BRENDA BUNCE

OWA Club Members,

This summer has proven to be a great year for rafting – especially for those of us in the Northwest. Thanks to all who have shared your stories and river reports with our club. Please take notice on how they are shared on our website. Archiving these stories for you allows for a fun read and to learn about other members experiences and details of their trip, as you plan for your river trip.

<http://oregonwhitewater.org>.

Join us at our meeting September 14 at Stark Street Pizza. Our guest presenter will be Michael Cenedella. He has written a book on Tarpology and will talk to us about constructing tarps, different material, rope terminology, their care and storage. As always, we start promptly at 7:00 p.m. and the pizza is free.

**Don't forget to renew your dues NOW. Many people still have not renewed since the expiration July 1. For easy renewal, please go to our website at:**

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

August 20 is our annual club picnic at Eagle Fern Park in Clackamas County. Please stay tuned for the flyer and RSVP in August when I send it out again. Hope to see you all there.



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## TRIP REPORT: NWRA/OWA Horseshoe Bend Campout

June 3-5, 2011 • Submitted by Walt Bammann

The Ninth Annual Umpqua Chapter campout was held at the Deerflat Group area at the Horseshoe Bend Campground on the North Umpqua River. The weather forecasters had promised warm and sunny weather for the weekend – after weeks of rain and cool weather. Based on the optimistic forecast and a good river level, folks started rolling in early Friday to set up camp. For the second year the trip was co-sponsored by OWA. Many folks are members of both clubs. We were expecting a high turnout in spite of all the activities happening in early June and we were not disappointed. Jody tallied 60 people participating in some form or other over the weekend. We had people who came just for the camping, some just for the boating and some just for the potluck on Saturday night. This was our second highest attendance (63 is the highest).

Festivities began Friday night with an impromptu potluck. We ended up with appetizers, salads,

main dishes and desserts and socialized with everyone in camp. We awoke Saturday morning to cloudy skies and began organizing the shuttle. We had enough non-boaters to run the shuttle for us to save some time, so we loaded five trailers and headed to Boulder Flat launch. Upon arrival we found several additional boaters. The stretch from Boulder Flat to Gravel Bin is 14 miles and rates Class III-IV. Pinball at high flows can be challenging. There are some big holes in other rapids but generally they can be avoided if desired.

### Everyone had a blast even though the predicted sunshine never appeared

The river was running at 7.2 on the Copeland Gauge (about 2900 cfs). This was the second highest level encountered over nine years surpassed only by last year's 8.5' level (roughly 4600 cfs). Our flotilla of 18 boats was nowhere near the 27 we had several years

ago but then we had only one paddle raft compared to four this year. I suspect the number of floaters was about the same. The float went quite well for our group with only a couple swimmers and no flips except a couple of inflatable kayakers. Other groups weren't as fortunate as one paddle raft flipped at Happy Rock and then again at Pinball. All in all everyone had a blast even though the predicted sunshine never appeared. At least it didn't rain!

The potluck Saturday night has grown over the years from the first one that featured salads, store-bought desserts and only a few Dutch oven dishes. It was later suggested we promote Dutch oven cooking by having a contest with inexpensive prizes. We have some amazing cooks and they show what is possible with a Dutch oven on a camping trip. There are too many dishes to remember over the years, but we've seen coconut catfish, lasagna, exotic breads, a seven-layer cake, fresh fruit pie, soups, chili,



Steve, Jodi, Breezy and Denny in Island Rapid

ribs, various chicken dishes, several Mexican dishes and more. Some folks come just for the potluck.

Garry Steffy (from Albany and long-time OWA/NWRA member) isn't able to boat anymore but he has a passion for Dutch oven cooking. For several years now he comes to our campouts with a "rolling Dutch oven kitchen". I think he used over a dozen Dutch ovens this year for a variety of dishes. The highlight has to be the frosted seven-layer cake with graduated sizes. Needless to say, Garry won the dessert category. He also won the side dish category with his beans entry. Unfortunately, we didn't keep a list of all the dishes entered but some of the main dish entrees were chiles rellenos (first place – Walt Bammann), meat loaf (second place – Ruby Kosola), tamale pie, turkey enchiladas, a meat and

potatoes dish, and even a chicken liver alfredo casserole. Side dish entrees were Garry's beans (first place), rolls (second place – Ruby Kosola), and yeast cheese rolls. The dessert category included Garry's cake (first place), German chocolate brownies (second place – Margaret Ann Anderson), and a fresh peach pie. We also enjoyed many kinds of appetizers, salads and other desserts. Thank you, everyone, for pitching in with all the great food!

On Sunday campers began stirring around 7:00 am to socialize, have breakfast and prepare for the day. Jake Szympruch (vice president, Umpqua Chapter) organized a float from Gravel Bin to Susan Creek. This section adds the water from Steamboat Creek to the flow at the Copeland gauge, meaning boaters would be on 4200 cfs. The

section can be pushy at that level; there are some really big holes in Island and Ledges Rapids. Jake was joined by 18 other folks in 11 boats for the 12-mile trip. Jake reports that the float went smoothly with no raft carnage and only a couple swimmers, mostly kayakers.

The rest of the campers hung out and enjoyed our coffee and socializing. Several summer raft adventures were reviewed and plans started. We also decided to add another potluck to the event by having one Sunday morning. This will be more informal, like the Friday night potluck, and not have a contest although Dutch oven dishes are welcome (cinnamon rolls, anyone?).

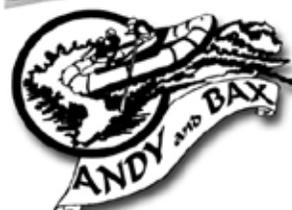
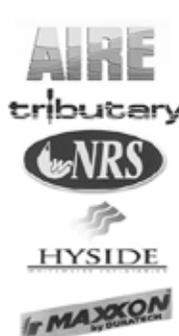
All in all it was a tremendous weekend. Many thanks to everyone helping out. I can't wait until next year!

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## TRIP REPORT: Women's Trip on the Lower Deschutes

JUNE 17-19, 2011 • SUBMITTED BY CAROL BEATTY

For the fourteenth year, the Women's Trip ran the Lower Deschutes River from Buck Hollow to the mouth at Heritage Park.

Boating this year: Carol Beatty, Linda Young, Megan Hooker, Paula Minear, Pat Barry, Gretchen Clark, Vickie Bordeaux, Ginny Santorufo, Joy Weaver, Bo Bonotto, Barbara Tyler, Suzi Richards and Heather, Suzi's niece.

With higher later level this year, the fishing was off, which meant fewer fishermen and fewer boats on the river. While not good for fishermen, it was good for us because we got the campgrounds we wanted: Lower Beavertail, nestled at the downriver end of the campground in the shade and Fall Canyon in the lotus trees and close to the road for upriver hikes to the abandoned ranch and Harris Tower.

The other advantage to higher water besides keeping boaters off the river is faster current that helps in the high wind. On the last day, the familiar upriver wind asserted itself with gusts up to 40-50 mph, my estimate, because it was strong enough to blow me into the bank on river left.

It was an eventful trip beginning with one of the boaters slipping on river rocks and landing hard on her left wrist at put-in. Another boater bounced her loaded boat off her trailer about 40 yards from the



Suzi Richards and her niece Heather

river. No problem, the woman with the injured wrist (which turned out to be broken) had her sister row who had never rafted before and we hooked the loaded boat to one of the rigs at the put in and dragged it to the water and pushed it in.

We had a boat flip at the right lateral at Gordon Ridge which is a sneaky one at higher water. It was another problem easily solved because Pat Barry and Suzi Richards had recently taken Sam Drevo's Swift Water Rescue training class. While flipping

### We had a boat flip at the right lateral at Gordon Ridge

a boat isn't fun, it was fun watching Pat and Suzi move into action to organize the the group for turning the boat over, which they did quickly. No one was injured, no gear lost or damaged, just some rearranged egos.

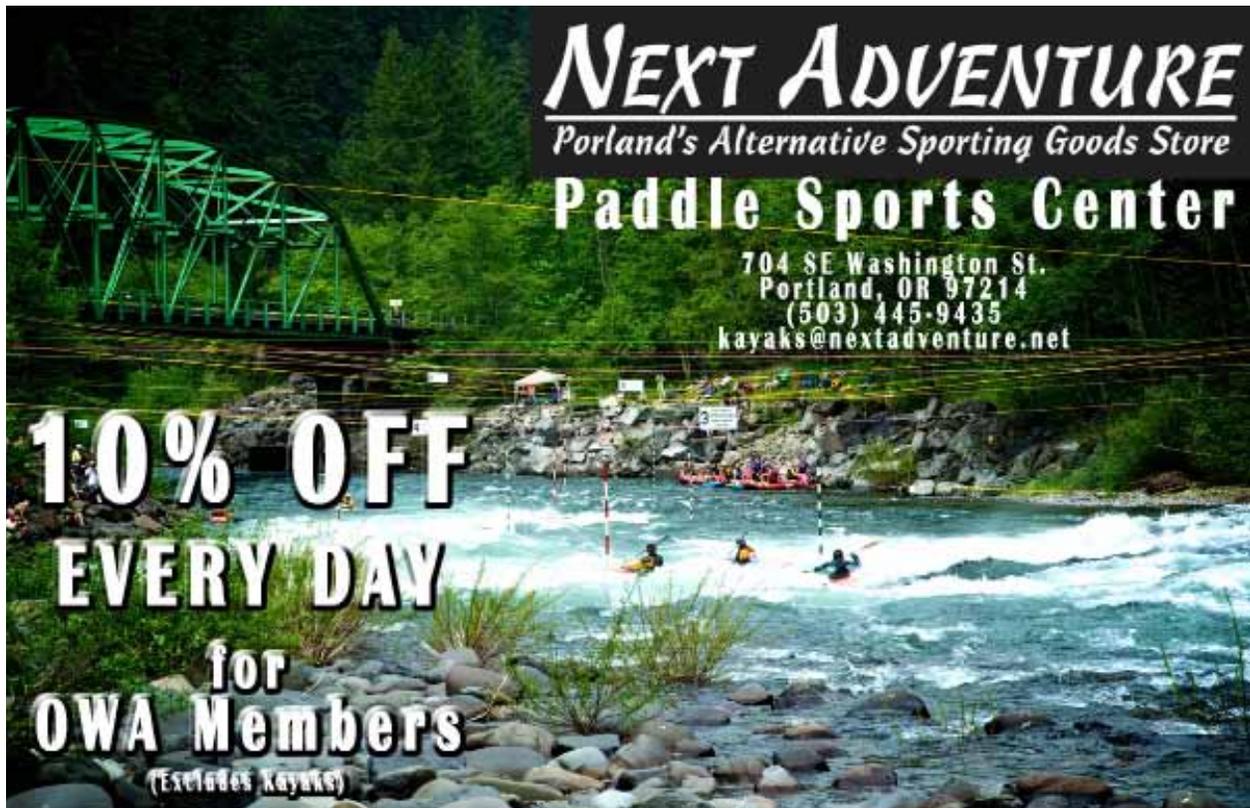
Along the way, we had to camp around bountiful poison

oak at river's edge at Beavertail campground, had rain Saturday morning and high winds Sunday afternoon.

One of the purposes of the trip, besides having fun, is to provide beginning boaters with the opportunity to develop their rowing skills with help from more experienced rowers. Two passengers, new to rowing, are trying to figure out how to get a small cat. Joy Weaver, club member from LaGrande, rowed her new 14-foot Sotar cataraft for the first time, her initiation voyage and a good one for her.

Megan Hooker, from American Whitewater and speaker at the May meeting on AW's current work in the Pacific Northwest, joined us on the trip.

It was a weekend full of good water, great camps, lots of jokes and storytelling – and plans to come on the 2012 Women's Trip June 15-17.



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## Boating Lessons on the Cal-Salmon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

These lessons aren't always apparent in the moment and are rarely learned without making mistakes. In this narrative I don't focus on the lessons, but instead attempt to recount my experience. The reader might get somewhat different stories from the other participants. I've also taken some liberties with the dialogue, trying to relay the substance of the conversations and not worrying too much about exact quotes.

### FRIDAY, MAY 6

#### 12:00 p.m., roadside, Salmon River Road near Somes Bar.

The staff gauge at Somes Bar reads mid 6's on a green background with about a half a foot to the 'white' zone. The Forest Service has provided interpretive signage here that includes a map of access points and the major rapids. Next to the usual bit about classification of rapids is a graphic of the gauge post, visible across the river, labeling the green zone with the words "have fun." Have fun? Really? We agree that something more like "you definitely better know what you're doing" would be more appropriate for today's level. We've driven 9 hours to get here and spent the last hour scouting the run, it is now decision time. After some hesitation and discussion that includes statements like "I promised my wife I wouldn't die on this trip," we decide it is a go.

**2:30 PM, eddy, river left above Bloomer.** Today I understand this rapid's name. The river takes a bend to the right. The channel narrows from 200' to about 50' and pours over an eight-foot drop confined by sheer rock walls. This rapid is formed from a

catastrophic landslide followed up with an indiscriminant application of TNT. At lower flows this is a straight forward Class IV drop, but at today's level it is one of the most impressive hydraulics I've ever contemplated running. As we approach, the horizon line is blind, except for mist and an inviting green tongue just right of center. We spent 10 minutes studying this beast from the bank a few hours before, so we know the tongue only leads to a huge four-foot high foamy, elliptical, "blooming," emerald boil (there really aren't enough adjectives to describe it) consuming about two-thirds of the drop and breaking into a nasty ledge hole. During our scout, we could only agree that the line,

**At today's level it is one of the most impressive hydraulics I've ever contemplated running**

such as it is, is somewhere on the left. Dave approaches the horizon line on the left, stands up to get a better look, and goes for the eddy. Mike makes the same approach, doesn't see the line, and moves to the eddy too. Doug and I follow. There's a small tongue about 10' off the left wall bordered by a barely exposed fin of rock on the left and a five-foot breaking lateral on the right. Below the entry waves are chaotic lateral waves breaking off the left wall converging with the boiling left edge of the bloomer, ugly.

Mike pulls out of the eddy and drifts toward the left side, still looking for the line. He finally sits down and pushes over the edge with his left tube just right of the rock fin and shoots straight

through the laterals and boiling water to the bottom, his right oar pops out and he spins to the right. From above, it looks like he's getting sucked, nose first, into the ledge hole below the bloomer, but as he gets his oar back in play, it's clear that he's made it.

Dave peels out next and appears to follow Mike's line, but at the last moment he turns to face the right lateral. His boat tail stands as it rotates toward the right. Dave falls out of his seat, back first, into the river and his boat goes airborne, rotating over on the rear tip of the right tube. Dave and his boat flush through the boily stuff into the pool as I pull out for my turn. I don't yet fully comprehend the subtle differences between Mike's clean run and Dave's spectacular flip, so I instinctively turn toward the right lateral as I enter. As I crest the break, my boat spins to the right and I wash cleanly through the rest of the line backwards, ready (unexpectedly) to pull away from the ledge hole. I watch Doug repeat my performance as Dave rejoins his boat and begins the self rescue process. As I pass by Dave, he asks, "What did I do wrong?" I don't have an answer until later that evening after some good beer and several mental replays through which I settle on the theory that as Dave squared up to the right lateral, the left lateral broke over the rear of his upstream tube, forcing it down while the front of the boat went up, then, at some point, the submerged portion of the tube caught a downstream current causing the whole boat to rotate upward and over in a spectacular aerial display. Unfortunately, my proof would later end up at the bottom of the



**Composite: Mike shows us the line at Cascade Falls (Class V)**

river somewhere below Freight Train (read on). Only eight more miles of Cal-Salmon whitewater to go and our group confidence index (GCI) just took a serious hit.

**3:05 PM left bank above Airplane Turn.** We've recovered from the excitement at Bloomer and passed through a series of Class III and IV rapids. The pools are flushing downstream and the currents are chaotic. Ferry lines require numerous hard pulls and the boats turn for no apparent reason.

I remember this rapid, from previous runs, as a fairly simple enter right and get further right drop to avoid a large surprise hole immediately below the entry. As we approach, the horizon line is blind and we're drifting left hoping for a boat scout. No luck, so here we are grabbing micro eddies and brush on the left bank. Mike pulls out and tries to ferry back to the right. He gets about two-thirds of the way before the current pulls

him to the edge. He's not where he wants to be, but there're no choices left, so he forces a full body push on the oars and grabs frame (both hands, bad juju) and vanishes from view. He emerges in the pool below, oars in hand, looks back at the drop, and points far left. The rest of us run a nice airplane turn chute on the far left, all smiles. Thanks Mike!

**3:30 pm, Cascade Falls.** Scouting again, we already spent 20 minutes here on our road scout. The far right is a 10' drop, nearly vertical. A lateral breaks off the left from the top. Two successive laterals below the drop surf into a rock wall. This is the obvious round boat line, but it doesn't look so friendly to cat boats. The left side requires crashing through a deep lateral hole followed by a fast run tight against a rock wall (too tight to work the left oar) into an unavoidable terminal hole. Both holes are flushing, but the swim

does not look like much fun.

Mike is on the right looking closely at the big drop. He's committed to the right or something in the middle. The rest of us are on the left. We're discussing the middle, but it's a line with several "ifs" with bad results for the "if not's". Middle right there is a large flat topped boulder with a 10' vertical drop into super bubbly froth. Water is barely breaking over the rock but the wash around the left is a white boil breaking at a left to right angle into the froth behind the rock. Upstream of the rock are a series of small standing waves. The wave just above the rock extends into the hydraulics pouring around the left side.

The trick is to get to the left side of the rock and ride the top of the boil down the seam between an exposed rock in the middle of the tail out and the left edge of the terminal hole on the left side.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 14**

## OWA Swiftwater Rescue Weekend

Submitted by Pat Steeler

Our swiftwater rescue class weekend (taught by Sam Drevo of eNRG Kayaking) began at the Grange Hall in Oregon City. Sam has been very active with the Oregon Whitewater Association for several years and generously agreed to provide this class to OWA members for only \$50.00. Not only do you get the class, but a half-pin kit was provided with an option to buy another for only \$25.00 plus an option to buy other rescue gear for very affordable prices. For those of you who have purchased rescue gear, you know how expensive this can get.

We arrived at the Grange Hall at 8:00 am. Sam was there to greet participants with the OWA organizers. We were given all the class materials in a Power Point presentation on an SD memory card and paper materials. We started with introductions and a class outline, then discussed scene assessment, basic hydrology, basic knots as well as several lectures by guest speakers from local law enforcement and rescue organizations. After the morning class, we ate lunch and proceeded to the river for our afternoon session.

We arrived at our afternoon location and broke off into teams. Our team started in the water with raft and kayak flipping drills. This proved to be a challenge for me as I was wearing a rescue vest and the spot where my back-up throw bag is stored kept catching on the tubes as I was trying to crawl into the raft. Jeffery finally was able to help we in and we finished the drill successfully. We also tried our hand at the same exercise in an inflatable

kayak and were successful. After we took turns a few more times we switched stations and went off to the foot entrapment station. In this drill we were introduced to a system I had never heard of before.



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If a team member falls into the water, gets pinned or entrapped, or is swept downstream, he or she detaches their Reach Throwbag and releases it (in swift water), or throws it overhand like a football (in open water). This feeds out the

rope and provides a long tag line to the victim. Other team members become instant rescuers, throwing their own Reach Device anywhere across the victim's line. When a rescuer cross-clips the victim's tag line, they can immediately pull the victim out of danger, bringing them back to the boat or over to shore.

The Reach can be used to clip any line with an object at the end, including a buoy, throwbag, another boat, a fixed line overhead, or even bushes near the shoreline. The Reach is intuitive to use, but as with any new tool, training and practice are required.

While I was very impressed with this system, it does have a major drawback – it is more effective if everyone has the system in the team.

After spending a bit of time learning foot entrapment rescue techniques, it was time to head to the next station. The throw rope station was the one I was looking forward to the most. If anyone has ever seen me deploy a throw rope, you would have really been sad for me and whoever I was trying to rescue. I have had bags go in all kinds of directions with a small amount actually making their mark. In this exercise I learned a few techniques that smoothed out my throws and soon I was making accurate tosses. After a few more throws it was off to the river for swimming drills.

We walked to High Rocks on the Clackamas River and set up groups again to practice shallow water crossings and real “live bait” exercises. We learned a few crossing techniques and got to practice them all. After floating down the

river, we gathered for a debrief and confirmed out location for the next day. After we broke for the day we had a great drive home talking about the day's activities. Jeffery was so excited about what he learned, he could not wait to get home and practice. After arriving home, we spoke to Tim Harding who happened to be staying at our house over the weekend to attend a Search and Rescue conference in Longview over the weekend. He gave us a professional's perspective and demonstrated several anchor techniques.

Day two started much like day one with an hour drive to Dodge Park on the Sandy River. We arrived at 8:00 am sharp to a gray day. Everyone was excited to get started so we walked over to the new amphitheater at the park and enjoyed a lecture on preplanning, scene setup, anchor review and mechanical advantage systems. After the lecture was complete, we walked back to the river to gather for lunch. While we enjoyed lunch, we discussed our afternoon rescue scenarios and broke off into teams.

Our team was to do a foot entrapment and a pinned boat



exercise. After the boat was unable to pin and floated downstream we pre-planned for the foot entrapment. After a slow rescue we determined that we were successful, but we could have planned and communicated better, but all in all it was a successful operation. After practicing shallow water crossings, we proceeded to the next rescue scenario station.

The next scenario consisted of strainer swims and diagonal crossings. After having a planning session, I was nominated to man the inflatable to ferry our team across with the gear and people. We were in charge of the diagonal crossing and set up two anchors and the other side set up

*Many thanks to Bruce Ripley, Sam Drevo, Val Shaul, Keith Gillespie, Jeff Prichard, Brent Davis and Taneka Burwell-Means for being so patient and making this all possible. My apologies in advance if I missed anyone.*

the mechanical advantage. After tensioning the line, the crew started the crossing with a prusik, carabiner and pulley to "zip line" across. After doing that exercise it was time to learn a couple of swimming techniques for safely negotiating strainers. After a few more turns at the exercises we agreed to round up the equipment and shut the station down for our final debrief.

The debrief was exciting and sad at the same time. We all knew we had learned a wealth of information, but at the same time we all realized that we had to practice to really be able to come together in a time of crisis to save a life or free gear.



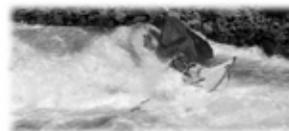
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## Pelican Parade: Lower Section of the Owyhee

Submitted by Cheryl Ford

There is an urge to tell everyone the Owyhee is too far, too unpredictable and not worth the effort, because if word gets out what a phenomenal wilderness experience is found in the canyon, the remote canyons of the Owyhee will get as hammered as the Middle Fork. True, the eight-hour drive from Portland and the volatile river levels are an impediment.

Fifty-five miles from Rome put-in to Birch Creek takeout or 67 miles to the Leslie Gulch take out, the river wends through open Deschutes country, sheer walled Grand Canyon country, and volcanic terrain that ranges from a riot of painted castles to black and red gates of Mordor. The landscape is jeweled with ribbons of white pelicans, evening



LLOYD KNAPP

grosbeaks, harriers, canyon wrens, owls, golden eagles, red winged blackbirds, magpies and the glitter of colorful song birds. Pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep are hidden in plain sight.

Our group of 11 put in around 5600 cfs, after heavy rains and snow for 24 hours on May 15. The ranger arrived at the boat ramp with cautionary words of possible flash floods, with indications and precautions to follow. The guidebooks say 1000-5000 cfs recommended. Having seen what the river was like at mid 5,000's, it seems that most of the rapids are

### LESSONS LEARNED

1. Gas up in Burns, because gas supply in Rome is chancy. Top off in Rome if they have it.
2. Prepare for the unpredictable. Our first morning was in snow; our second day was in the low 70s.
3. It rained and blew hard almost everyday at 3:00 pm. Upriver winds are very common in the afternoon. Get to camp early and get well tested tarp and tents set up early.
4. Do not attempt Leslie Gulch take out without a motor.
5. Pack in the majority of your firewood. Minimal gleaning.
6. Water level is volatile and more connected to snowmelt than to rainfall. There are typically one or two very high spikes in early spring which need to be avoided. Stay in contact with the Vale BLM rangers. Many years by mid-May, water levels are 800 cfs.

easier than at low levels except for maybe Montgomery rapid. This is on a blind, left turn, making scouting difficult.

The hydraulics really worked the oarsmen however, and after 15 miles a day, everybody was very ready to get off the river. It is important to note that some of the rapids, though not Class V had potentially serious consequences, not well suited for a novice. The second day we had a couple of rapids that if not attentive could potentially flip boats. Most of the bigger rapids were on day 3 in the Green Dragon Canyon section of the river. Whistling Bird is wise to scout, even if you are familiar with the river; it has a hazardous undercut on river right, and is known to collect logs. There is an easy eddy on river left.

We had 4 nights and 5 days and left feeling like our next trip should be longer.... So many splendid day hikes await. Do not miss Chalk Basin: an Easter egg, treasure hunt for grown ups in the land of eye candy. Rustlers' cabin with stone corral, hot springs, petroglyphs, agates and undimmed heavens.

Innumerable side canyons remain to be explored.

The Birch Creek take out gives you more time on the main river, but is a long, poor quality dirt road. Four-wheel drive vehicles are required if it's wet. Leslie Gulch requires a tow or carrying a motor, but the reservoir with its rafts of pelicans, the splendid 10-person, neck-deep, hot springs at river mile 64 and the spectacular geology of Leslie Gulch were well worth it. The dirt road from Leslie Gulch was only one hour and in good shape.



## TRIP REPORT: OWA Float on the Grand Ronde

May 13-15, 2001 • Submitted by Eric Ball

The annual OWA Grand Ronde float launched on Friday the 13th under threat of deteriorating weather, but with excellent flows. Due to our extensive public relations gambit, we had one of our largest groups ever, including returning customers and new ones willing to brave the 50 mile second day of this trip. Unfortunately, word also got out to other boaters, and we saw a large number of parties on the upper section (but no one below Troy). No worries; there are plenty of great camps in the upper section, and we arrived at ours around 2:00 p.m. Spud shared a beautifully presented smoked salmon fillet, personally caught and smoked just the week prior. A brief thunderstorm around midnight is all the bad weather we saw on Day One.

The excellent flows pushed us thru the upper forested canyon, and into the lower canyon (high

**WHAT:**  
Minam to Heller's Bar on the Snake, 90 miles

**WHO:**  
9 boats, 14 people, 2 dogs, 7 shuttled vehicles

**FLOW:**  
At put-in, 8,200 cfs. At takeout, approximately 13,000 cfs.



basalt flow bluffs, green grass side hills), arriving at our second camp around 3:00 p.m on Day Two. Some folks enjoyed a burger, shake and fries at Bogan's Oasis at lunch time, and arrived an hour later. Plenty of time to set up camp before a thunderstorm hit, with winds strong enough to break tent poles on two tents, but clearing out quickly enough that good humor was maintained.

On Day Three, we ran the Narrows Rapid at around 12-13,000 cfs, with an easy cheater run on the left (at lower flow, the cheater run is right). We made it to the takeout in time to enjoy an hour-long downpour (hey, we were still in our river gear) as we de-rigged. The water at Hellers Bar was up to the pavement, higher than I've ever seen it. Tom Hanson calculated the flow on the Snake to be around 150,000 cfs.

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## Boating Lessons on the Cal-Salmon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Simple. The real problem we're having is seeing the route to get us to the left side of the rock, and the consequences of missing the line, flipping over the boil break into the recirculating froth, or getting worked in the ugliness left of the boil and then getting an express ticket to the terminal hole on the left.

Mike finally moves to his boat and pushes away from the bank. At first he looks like he's lining up for the far right drop. Really Mike? Anticipation mounts, but he pulls to the top of the eddy. Can he make the ferry to the middle line from there? We're less than doubtful on that question. He pulls into the current with easy confident strokes. What the hell? Before our confusion can clear and transition to grave concern, Mike catches the small lateral above the pour-over rock and pulls a gentle surf. He slowly surfs left across the lateral and drops perfectly into the line, then rides the top of the boil and shoots between the center rock and the terminal hole, easy as pie. We're stunned and suddenly excited to try this test of our skills. The rest of us follow without any trouble. The GCI is back to normal and we're ready to press on.

**4:10 PM, right bank above Last Chance.** This rapid is immediately upstream of Freight Train. It has a reputation for having a hungry, hard to avoid, flipping hole that will send unlucky boaters swimming the Class V rapid below. We're scouting and we see a line center right. We're good to go. We all hit the line as planned, but come out in various stages of upright discombobulation.

We eddy out on the right above Freight Train. This is a difficult

scout and we've studied it from Grant's Bluff, 600' above. We know left is bad and middle is big. I was sweep through Last Chance so I enter the small eddy as the fourth boat and clog the exit. "I guess you're up," I hear. I look at the entry, "No problem getting to the middle," I say, "See you at the bottom." As I line up to ferry through the boulder garden between me and the middle tongue, I hear someone say, "I've always heard that at higher flows you need to get right." Here I go, I get on the tongue that looked smooth from the bluff. Instead, I'm riding over huge rollers. I look left, no way. I look middle, huge, twice as big as Lochsa Falls (in the moment anyway). I opt to break over the right lateral, but as I push into and over the break, I get turned to a downstream, right to left ferry angle. Backwards and mostly sideways in 7' chop, I madly attempt to turn back to face down stream. I get around about 30° and suddenly I'm airborne flying upstream to the right of my boat in a sitting position. As I enter the water, backwards, butt first, I see my boat tilted, left front rising, at about 30°. I think to myself, "it won't flip" and I mentally prepare for self rescue. I come up and as my eyes and brain clear, I see my boat upside down 10' in front of me. Two swim strokes and a tag line is in my hand. I pull myself to my frame and start to climb up. I realize I'm at the back of my frame and I'm 3' from any structure I can safely climb and ride on. I look downstream and see I'm entering 'The Nozzle' where the tail out from Freight Train makes a sharp bend to the left and shoots through a narrow slot. I decide to ride it out bellied up on the rear

yoke of my frame. After clearing The Nozzle, I climb to the bottom side of my scout deck and stand. I see Dave enter The Nozzle and give the OK signal.

I have some gear issues to resolve and I'm in a stable position, so I take my time getting sorted out. I see Dave eddy out to wait for Mike and Doug as I hunker down to float through a minor rapid. I later learned that Dave crashed the middle, after seeing my folly, and got completely swallowed by the break, but flushed through, and, seeing that I was OK, stopped to set safety for the others.

I get re-flipped and eddy out about 500 yards downstream. I lose my helmet cam with all the great footage from the run as the tube came down on my helmet (I was trying to come up from the re-flip between the tubes and didn't quite make it). I see Dave in the right eddy below The Nozzle, but where are Mike and Doug? After a few minutes I see a black and yellow speck (Mike) and a blue and yellow speck (Doug) on the river right ledge looking straight through The Nozzle.

"They're scouting," I say, to no one.

After a few minutes the colored specks disappear upstream. Soon I see a boat enter my field of view at about 30 mph, stop abruptly, turn toward me, and emerge through The Nozzle. A second boat follows and we're clear of the last Class V of the day.

**Look for Part II in the Sept. issue. Here is an excerpt:**

**It takes me 3 seconds to react to what I see, "I'm NOT running that!"**

## 2011 TRIP CALENDAR

Submitted by Josephine Denison

8.20 Sat	Eagle Fern Park	NA	Brenda Bunce	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a>	360.931.4224
<b>EVENT INFORMATION</b>					
OWA annual picnic and gear swap at Eagle Fern Park from 1:00-3:00 pm; Area One is reserved. The club will provide food for meat lovers and vegetarians alike. This is a potluck; please bring a side dish or a dessert and your own beverages. Alcohol is permitted. Dog-friendly event. \$5 car entry fee. Covered area – 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
<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.					
9.16-18 Fri-Sun	Tieton River	III+	Brent Davis	<a href="mailto:bdavis599@yahoo.com">bdavis599@yahoo.com</a>	360.253.3013
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
Annual OWA & WRRR Tieton float. Free camping on Forest Service land just out of Rimrock, WA off of Tieton Road. Port-o-potties and hand wash stations will be provided. Come enjoy the river, campfire, music and meet new friends. Joint potluck Saturday night.					
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
10.1 Sat	North Santiam River	III	Rick Hendon	<a href="mailto:gonetothedogsinc@msn.com">gonetothedogsinc@msn.com</a>	360.253.3013
<b>ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION</b>					
The annual North Santiam float is back. The float will be from Packsaddle to North Santiam State Park.					
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
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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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
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Member #2		
Member #3		
Member #4		

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

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