

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



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2013 Lower Salmon River Trip August 18-24, 2013

By Scott Ogren

River trips mean many different things to most of us, and even people on the same trip can take vastly different things away from the trip. If I had to sum up the trip in one word, it would be growth.

On August 18, 2013 a massive flotilla of us that consisted of 7 round boats, 7 cat boats, 3 inflatable kayaks, 1 hard-shell kayak and 30 people pushed away from the Hammer Creek boat ramp amongst the chaos of one other large private trip and two outfitters all fighting for space on the boat ramp. The first opportunity for growth for all of us was to keep calm as one of the outfitters inflated 6 rafts on the boat ramp and spread their gear everywhere as they tied the whole thing up for over an hour and a half causing everyone else to be delayed. Growth is the key word for the trip here.

Continued on page 4

September Club Meeting

Flying Pie Pizza

7804 SE Stark Street
Portland, OR 97215

**Wednesday,
September 11, 2013
from 6:00-8:30 PM**

Guest Speaker: Sue Baker,
Columbia River Gorge
National Scenic Area
Wild and Scenic
River Manager

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RIVER TIP

Parking Your Boat

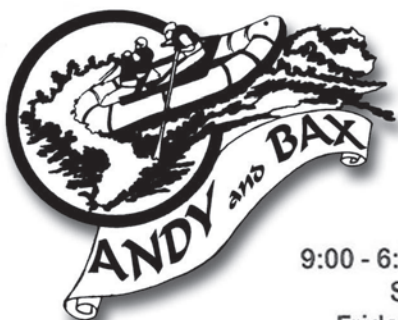
Submitted by Tom Hanson

Parking your raft on shore seems like one of those innocent things you do a 1000 times and never think about. If you cannot secure your raft from bobbing up and down all night, then try to pull it up on shore completely. Rubbing against a rock or tree root can cause damage to your boat and, possibly, create a flat tube by morning.

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Fires are gone, Rain is in the air, and Fall is on the way.

by Bruce Ripley

Hey Members,

Here's hoping that everyone had a fun and productive summer and that you are ready for the Fall boating season. Over the summer the club held several very successful outings including our club picnic which was a great success once again, with over 70 members attending.

With the recent fires being brought under control, temperatures cooling, and an early start to the fall rains it's hard not to turn your attention to the Fall and Winter boating. This fall we have several trips lined up including the Snake, North Santiam, and Rogue Rivers. If you would like to lead a trip the fall is a great time since it's less busy and the weather is still very nice. Please contact the trip editor (Pat) and let her know what new river you would like to help us explore.

We are really excited about the upcoming Wilderness First Aid Class in September. This is one of our two major training initiatives and we have just a couple spots left. If you've not been to a WFA course before it provides some very unique perspectives on how to treat injuries in the backcountry. I can tell you that Sierra Rescue, our instructors, are quite simply one of the best in this part of the country. The club puts a lot of energy into our safety program and if you've never taken a WFA course, or the SRT class we'd love to see you do that next year, you should give yourself a Christmas present and set aside enough time and money to take one or both of these great courses.

In addition to the WFA course we are also going to auction off some equipment that was donated to the club by our sponsors. We normally do this in the spring but we deferred the auction to the fall this year. Look for an announcement in your email and at the meeting.

Thinking Safely

I was talking with one of our members who is an ER doc recently and was asking about the possibility of doing a meeting or two, or a workshop on some focused training on treating some of our more common injuries. One thought was the treatment of blisters. He brought up a very important point, and one which is overlooked more often than not. Prevention! If you are prone to blisters, or feel a hot spot developing get on it right away! There is no better treatment for most injuries than prevention, if it doesn't happen it doesn't need treatment!

OWA September Meeting

Our next meeting is at Flying Pie pizza on Wednesday September 11th. Our speaker will be Sue Baker, Manager of the Columbia River Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Are you current on your dues? Pay online with PayPal!

www.oregonwhitewater.org/dues.html

Lower Salmon Trip



Lower Salmon Trip Continued from page 1

As the fourth annual trip progressed, I was watching the kids – most of which have been on three or four of these Lower Salmon trips. When we did the first trip, most of the kids were young enough they couldn't swim and needed to have us adults do all of the work. This trip, swimming as much as possible was the order of the day every day and most of the kids helped set up and break down camp. Two of the teenage kids even volunteered for groover duty and took care of the groovers for the entire trip – something I couldn't have been happier about myself.

This trip is filled with days on end of mostly easy rapids, beautiful canyons and large soft sand beaches with warm water that is always refreshing to swim in. For our entire trip, the most difficult rapid is called Snow Hole that gets more technical as the water level gets lower at more rocks show themselves. The only rapid that is rated higher than Snow Hole is called Slide, and that rapid closes the river at flows above about 25,000 cfs. At low flows, Slide is quite literally nothing at all. This year, several of the kayakers went through backwards so they can now say they paddled a class VI rapid backwards. This was another opportunity for growth and more bragging rights for the kids.

Over the years the kids have grown from timidly floating in the calm waters in front of camp to swimming across the river several times on our layover days. Several have grown from being passengers in their parent's boats to paddling their own IK's down the river. One teenager, Cian Saucy, rowed his own raft carrying gear while his dad paddled a hard-shell kayak. Watching Cian have the confidence to handle the raft for a week-long trip was great to see.

Probably the biggest area of growth I saw was in the self-confidence of many of the kids. This extremely family friendly trip allows for kids to reach just outside of their comfort zone and be successful. This river trip might be the coolest thing these kids did all summer.



Lower Rogue Trip Report



Rogue Report: “As Usual” On the Lower Rogue July 24-29, 2013 By Kevin Buck

Our July 24 launch on the Lower Rogue began *As Usual*... a great group of soon-to-be friends gathered at Alemda Camp in anticipation of another rendition of “...on the Rogue again!” (Willie Nelson). Our group consisted of permit holder Doug Jacobs and his wife Marlene from Jennings Lodge Portland; Brett Fisher, a former BLM River Ranger back from Malaysia; Dan Ott, an PhD candidate at OSU in Forest Entomology, Pablo Romero, a foreign exchange student from Spain working on his Master’s degree, and Alexa Ortiz, an OSU graduate, headed to Veterinary school at Tufts University in Boston. As for me, I live and work in Klamath Falls, and I’ve been floating the Rogue once or twice a year since 1983.

As Usual for July Rogue floats, the weather was perfect; warm and dry, blue skies, light breeze. The river level was about 1700CFS; great for a slow and savory 5-day float. We floated down to Rainey Falls, camping at Upper Rainey, letting the memory of travel and prep work slip away while shifting into “river time.” During dinner, a large rattlesnake casually slithered through our camp to the grass and brush. *Unusual*.

The next morning while the sane opted for the Middle Chute, Doug and Pablo ran the main falls. Doug ran a great line, but was bucked off his cat while Pablo, with the boat vertical on its side, hung on as it slapped back down on the churn. Doug had a good swim but was fine.

We paused at Howard Creek for a wonderful swim and lunch, then stopped early at Windy Creek, after deciding the Class IV take out to camp was worth it. Last year, the creek was filled with gravel and the pool not ideal for swimming, but fortunately the winter storms had cleared the pool and it was *As Usual*; crystal clear water and beautiful rock.



As with the previous night, rattlesnakes or not, Brett and I threw our sleeping bags out in the open so as to stare at the stars and black canyon. I woke to a low rumbling and I thought I was on the Lower Deschutes hearing a train. I laid back wondering what the sound had been; we had seen a bear earlier, but that wasn't a bear. *Unusual.*

I was startled when a single big raindrop hit my face, then another, then a long, low rumble; thunder! It was eerily wonderful, echoing up the canyon. A flash to the west and I counted off the seconds. Then another and I could see Brett had sat up. The big drops kept coming and he threw his rain fly over to me, while he covered his sleeping bag with the loose material of his tent.

A bright flash and a sharp boom maybe 2 seconds later; the storm was moving in fast. The rain was sporadic but no wind. More lightning, resounding booms, close now. Suddenly, the canyon filled with light with a near instantaneous explosion of sound. The reverberation in the canyon was stunning. Then just as fast the cell had approached, we could tell it was moving away. The rain stopped, the thunder ceased, the canyon was once again silent. We went back to sleep.

I awoke abruptly in the pale light of morning sky, hearing the helicopters before I could see them. They swooped low and out of sight below the Black Bar rapids, then passed high over us carrying buckets of water to what we could only assume was a lightning caused fire up the mountain; *very Unusual.*

We broke camp and drifted down through Upper and Lower Black Bar rapids in between the helicopters getting water. Once we were down near Kelsey Creek, we could see the smoke column high above the Windy Creek area. All during lunch, helicopters with water buckets flew almost directly over us, and I was thinking there were probably several fires in the canyon.

Continued on page 13

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Float and fill the boat! We Love Clean Rivers and the Clackamas River Basin Council present the 11th Annual Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas on Sunday, September 8th.

All participants must pre-register online at www.welovecleanrivers.org/clackamas.
 Registration closes on Sept 6, 8pm.

This is an on-river, volunteer clean up. All non-motorized watercrafts are invited! Attracting over 400 people, and typically removing 3-4 tons of trash from the river that provides more than 300,000 residents with fresh drinking water, We Love Clean Rivers and Clackamas River Basin Council hopes you will join them in making this 11th Anniversary a splashing success!

After volunteers float and fill their boats, all are invited back to Barton County Park from 3-6PM for a family friendly celebration with a free BBQ, live music by Tubs of Love, Hopworks beer, booths, games, prizes and a great silent auction.

Questions? View website www.welovecleanrivers.org/clackamas or email coordinator@welovecleanrivers.org.

Motoring Down The Lower Snake

By Tom Hanson

Floating the Lower Salmon River is a great way to spend a week in August, but it ends with a 20-mile float down the Snake River between the Salmon River confluence and Heller Bar. The first few miles are just fine with plenty of fast water — but the final 18 miles are a different story. The Snake becomes a wide, slow river where rowing is the only way to get to Heller Bar. I've done this row a number of times over the last 30 years so when Brian Albers brought an outboard motor, there were no complaints.

I've motored down this stretch of river before, along with motoring other stretches such as the Owyhee reservoir to Leslie Gulch. Propelling a group of boats, all strapped together, has a few nuances that people should become familiar with. I'm listing a few with this article so people can learn from my experiences and mistakes.

Our motoring down the Snake last August was a great learning experience on what works and what doesn't. I'm sure we will learn more each time we do it.

- Once strapped together, the flotilla can be gingerly propelled with oars. Rowers in boats on the far left and far right can move the flotilla as long as someone, such as the trip leader, calls out which side to row and which direction. Such as, "Left forward, right back", to turn clockwise.
- I've tried both pushing and pulling with a motor. Pushing is the best because it avoids the enormous strain put on a tow line and provides greater control for steering.
- The boat with the pushing motor needs to have boats strapped to either side to effect steering. If the motor boat were alone, then steering the flotilla would be akin to backing up a trailer where everything is backwards.
- Fitting cats to round boats seems to work good - minus the learning experience Scott Ogren and I had with my cat. My stern got pulled up when we strapped together so the bow was lower than the stern. Then my ballast weight made things worse by pushing the bow down even more. I was in the front row of the flotilla so when Brian started his motor, my cat dug in with 6 inches of water coming over the front frame bar. With people cheering our motor, my cat was heading to the bottom of the river. The correction was easy, so we shouldn't make that mistake again.
- On a previous motoring experience, the side boats on the far right and far left were held on with only a side strap. When we got to a rapids, one of the side boats hit a Class III wave and came very close to flipping upside down on the adjacent boat. If that had happened, there would have been serious injuries. This experience made me strenuously urge that we break apart before going through any rapids. My concerns were not shared, so we motored on.

As it turned out, my fear of a side boat pancaking onto the adjacent boat was allayed by the way we strapped our flotilla together. Melissa Albers was on the outside, and when she hit a class III wave she avoided being flipped onto the adjacent boat because her boat was strapped to the boat behind her. That connection stopped the flip. So side boats, right and left, need to be strapped by the bow, stern or both to another side boat. Just don't be out on the side alone with only a side strap!

So our motoring the lower Snake was a good learning experience. I'm sure there are other important safety points that other people can share.

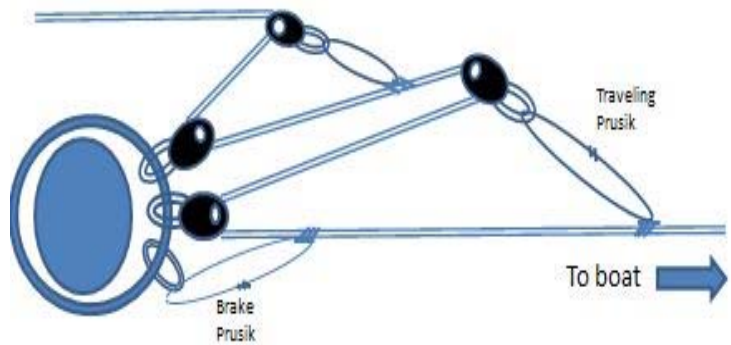
After about 3+ hours of motoring, we arrived at Heller Bar around 12:30PM. Many thanks to Scott Ogren for leading this great summer trip. And many thanks to Brian Albers for bringing his motor.

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- Double Z Drag
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Minimal Requirements

- 1 10' of 1" tubular webbing
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Knots Needed: Prusik, Double Fisherman's, Figure 8 on the boat

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Knot of the Month - Prusik

Overview

- Bi-directional Friction Hitch
- Will grip when tensioned and slide when eased. (in either direction)
- Used to grip a rope in a haul system
- Used as a brake knot to prevent a haul line from slipping out and giving up your progress
- You should use 3-4 wraps (can use more)



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Lower Rogue Trip Report Continued from page 6

We camped at Lower Missouri Creek and had a fairly clear view of the growing smoke plume, along with helicopters and airplanes carrying fire retardant. By Saturday, the aerial assault had stopped as the smoke had laid down, filling the canyon and preventing the pilots from seeing the fires.

We camped at Lower Tate Creek Saturday night and floated out on Sunday. We kept ahead of the smoke and enjoyed clear skies and warm air. A Forest Service patrol was checking permits in the Clay Hill Stillwater. They said Bear Camp road was closed, and the Powers road might soon be, so they advised going out via the coast.

We had a great 5-day trip, but it sure wasn't *As Usual*. As I worked on fire crews while working for the Forest Service seasonally in the early 1980's, I've seen many forest fires. Because the Big Windy fire started naturally in a natural area, hopefully its affects will be natural and when it's said and done, will be a good thing for the Rogue River Canyon.



Upcoming Trips

Submitted by Pat Barry,
Trip Editor



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

9.13-15 Thu-Sun	Tieton River	III+	Brenda Bunce	Brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360-931-4224
9.14-16 Fri-Sun	Hell's Canyon (Snake River)	III/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509-240-4220
9.28 Sat	N. Santiam	III	Matt Saucy	sawdusty9@yahoo.com	971-241-5396
11.9-11 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503-267-9785

PAST OWA RAFTING TRIPS

5.18-19 Sat-Sun	Lower Cispus River	II/III	David Elliot	dce@dcell.com	425-985-0640
5.25-26 Sat-Sun	Lochsa River	IV/V	Steve Herring	steve@raftalot.com	
5.31-6.1 Fri-Mon	Upper North Umpqua	III/IV	Bill Goss	zanng@msn.com	503-757-465
6.8 Sat	Klickitat River	III/III+	Doug Smith	Doug@davidsmithmapping.com	503-232-5285
6.14-16 Fri-Sun	Lower Deschutes Annual Women's Trip	II/III	Carol Beatty	caroldon1@comcast.net	503-816-6172
6.27-30 Thu-Sun	McKenzie River	III	Brenda Bunce	Brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360-931-4224
7.4-6 Thu-Sun	Lower Salmon River	III/IV	Eric and	balle@pocketinet.com	509-525-6134

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