

## IN THIS ISSUE

TRIP REPORT:  
Rogue River Trip Report . . . . . 1  
River Tip . . . . . 1  
OWA Contact Information . . . . . 2  
President's Corner . . . . . 3  
Clackamas Pool Safety  
Training Event Report . . . . . 5  
Two Summaries of the Rescue  
on Blossom Bar . . . . . 11  
27<sup>th</sup> Annual Green River  
Cleanup . . . . . 12  
**NEW!** Knot of the Month . . . . . 13  
OWA Trip Calendar . . . . . 14  
Membership Application . . . . . 16

### **NEXT OWA MEETING**

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

#### **Flying Pie Pizza**

7804 S.E. Stark Street  
Portland, OR 97215

**6:00 pm**

Social hour begins

**6:30 pm**

Club business and announcements

**7:15-8:15 pm**

Featured presentation

### **RIVER TIP**

Submitted by Tom Hanson

#### **Easy fire-starter solution**

Take a bunch of cotton balls, completely rub them in Vaseline (they shrink) and put them in a zip-lock bag.

At camp, remove one Vaseline ball, spread the fibers apart and ignite it under dry or damp wood to start your campfire. Use this technique on days when you don't need an entire flare.

# Oregon WHITewater ASSOCIATION

Volume 13 Number 3

March 2012



**TRIP  
REPORT**

[Click here for more information on the Rogue River at the OWA website](#)

## Annual President's Day Rogue River Trip

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2012 • Submitted by Jessie King

**T**he annual Presidents Day Rouge River Trip was nothing short of epic! It had action, adventure, daring rescues, parties, stunning vistas, excellent food, and wonderful people to share it all with!

I'll admit, that going into the trip I was a little nervous about this being my first overnight trip with OWA. Merrie and I have been members for a while now, and we've been on multiple car camping trips, but no multi-day trips. We could not have picked a better trip as our first. There were forty eight people, seven rafts, twelve cats, one kayak, two layover groups and five Dave's. You could hardly say the name Dave without getting a response!

[>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 6](#)

**PICTURED ABOVE: In Mule Creek Canyon**

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



**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

**BY BRENDA BUNCE**

*Hello OWA members,*

Join us at Flying Pie Pizza on March 14 for a guaranteed fun night. Are you thinking about leading a big river trip this year? Come see how Scott Ogren does it. He will be giving us a presentation on "How To Organize and Plan a River Trip". As a very pro-active club member and board member, he has organized many multi-day trips and most of the OWA Rogue river trips over the last several years. He has mastered a format and style that is easy to use for helping the trip leader to keep track of all the various logistics.

In addition, he will give us an overview of our nifty website and how to access our NEW MEMBERSHIP ROSTER that is implanted right on the website. We will also talk about the upcoming Wilderness First Aid and Swift Water Rescue classes being offered to club members in the spring and fall. We will take a closer look at why it's so important to know your knots and to learn river rescue skills.

Our February Clackamas Pool Session was a huge success! We had over 60 people in attendance and who participated in this wonderful event. Having a great turnout of people showed just how important our being safe on the river is to everyone and how much we rely on having a hands-on experience to help us learn to use our equipment effectively and to keep our skills and methods fresh in a time of need. For many of us, we learned exactly where we need to improve on our own skills and performance. Under any condition, preparedness will pay off.

**SO PRACTICE YOUR RIVER KNOTS!**

***A big thank you to the following instructors for their time:***

*Dave Nissen, Zach Collier, Brent Davis, Scott Ogren, Val Shaul and Bruce Ripley.*

Every week we are updating our website with exciting new information and trip reports. Visit it often and review prior newsletters, read trip reports, check out upcoming events, order your invasive species tags and check the river levels on your favorite river.

Stay tuned for information on our upcoming auction to bid on valuable prizes and river shuttles. These generous donations will go to help fund our swift water rescue training classes. Also, our next board meeting will be held on March 21st from 6-8 p.m. if you would like to join the board and get involved in planning the future of our great club.

See you all at the Flying Pie,  
Brenda Bunce



“The mark of a successful man is one that has spent an entire day on the bank of a river without feeling guilty about it.”

*~Chinese Philosopher*



Mark your calendar for the August 11<sup>th</sup> annual OWA Picnic and Gear swap held at the Eagle Fern Park in Clackamas county. OWA will provide the main dish and soft drinks for the Bar-B-Que. Bring your potluck side dish and any gear you are wanting to get rid of. This event is a getting bigger every year and is a great way to meet new members.

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**OWA**'s annual rescue skills training at the Clackamas Pool on February 8 was wildly successful! We had over 60 members in attendance which goes to show how important you all know it is to get out there and practice your river rescue skills.

We extend our hearty appreciation to those instructors who facilitated the stations to help make learning fun. Thank you to Val Shaul, Dave Nissen, Zach Collier, Brent Davis, Scott Ogren and Bruce Ripley.

~ Brence Bunce



**Dave Nissen flipping his cataraft**

# Clackamas Pool Safety Training

FEBRUARY 8, 2012 • Submitted by Brenca Bunce



**Zach Collier teaching how to flip a raft**



**Aaron and Chip**



**Scott Ogren teaching knots**



**Brent Davis teaching throw rope techniques**



**TRIP  
REPORT**

[Click here for more information on the Rogue River at the OWA website](#)

## President's Day Rogue River Trip

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Our trip started Friday morning, stacking boats and heading south to the rendezvous at Galice Lodge. Many of the trip participants opted to float into the Horse Shoe Bend camp a day early to have a layover day. Some might say they were lucky to squeeze out an extra day. Some might say they missed out on the party at the lodge. There are rumors that the hot tub at the lodge was packed with a bunch of naked rafters, but those rumors can't be confirmed, nor should they be! What they for sure missed out on was the fabulous breakfast that Mary Lou and her crew prepared for us! I waddled out of there feeling very fat and happy.

After breakfast we made our way to the put in at Graves Creek. The launch was a flurry of activity as everyone prepared to head down river. Bee Tyree, the trip leader, gave a brief but insightful safety talk before we shoved off. After setting up safety at the Fish Ladder, we

made it through with minimal hang ups. A big thank you to all the helpers that were staged throughout the Fish Ladder!

At the put-in we talked about how long it would take to get to Horse Shoe Bend. I remember hearing "It should take two, maybe three hours." After a few "It should be just around the next bend" and "are we there yet's" and after about five hours of river time we made it to camp. I guess there really is such a thing as "Rafters Time."

**At camp we were greeted by not but a few happy and grinning faces, as well as some sunshine to set up our tents in.**

After we got settled in hors d'oeuvre were brought out and a wonderful meal was prepared. The taco soup was very good and there was lots of it! There were various other plates of food flying around that were just as scrumptious! Dessert was a delicious banana caramel cream

pie. Libations and merriment went late into the night.

The morning started a little slow. Oatmeal and hard boiled eggs for breakfast! A great way to start out such a big day! I was full of anticipation and anxiousness for Blossom Bar and a nice full belly of good warm food helped calm my nerves. Many thanks to the food crews and dish crews for putting together the meals and cleaning up!

After breakfast we broke camp, loaded boats, and pushed off for the next leg of our adventure. The sun came out to highlight the spectacular beauty of the wild and scenic wilderness. We stopped for a quick bite of lunch and to regroup before heading into Mule Creek Canyon and Blossom Bar. Mule Creek Canyon was like nothing I've ever experienced before. At times it felt like I couldn't take an oar stroke because the oars would hit on both sides. The boat got pulled from every which direction and I spent a lot of time on the sticks trying to keep it off the canyon walls. Everyone made it through unscathed.

**>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

Again we quickly regrouped just before Blossom Bar to talk about the line one last time and figure out the boat order and who would set up safety. Just as we lined up and were getting ready to start moving through we were waved off. Our worst fears, someone had pinned their boat! From our vantage point we couldn't see anything and communication back to us was shoddy at best.

As I sat there trying to subdue butterflies in my stomach I gathered that the boat was pinned on the Picket Fence, some people had got there with ropes to help from the bank, and it was not a good idea to go the normal line. After much deliberation and scouting it was decided that we would go down the right side. In all my reading up about Blossom

and You-Tube video watching, I didn't even know a boat could get down the right side!

**Needless to say, my heart rate was up a little bit!**

When the raft in front of me got hung up on a rock just as I entered the chute, the adrenaline kicked into overdrive. I made it around him and through the rest of the rapid unscathed. The raft that was in front of me came off shortly thereafter with lots of oaring, jumping up and down in the boat, and just a few cuss words!

We eddied out as quickly as we could and made our way back to the site of the pinned boat to put our SRT skills to the test. Just as we got there, well just as my group got there, the boat was pulled off. I was

moving a little slow and still trying to loosen my hands from the death grip I had on the oars. The boat crew seemed pretty shook up, but no gear was lost and everybody made it out safely.

We made it down to Tacoma Bar for camp without further incident. We set up camp just as the sun was going down and we were treated to a picturesque golden sun set. With camp made we headed to the kitchen to see what was for dinner. Chili and cornbread! One of my favorites! There appeared to be a lot of tired and subdued boaters around the camp fire that night, and as Merrie and I were very tired, we called it a night early.

Some of the group got their second wind, and others proved

>> **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



**Rescue operation of boat on the Picket Fence**

## President's Day Rogue River Trip

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

to be champions! Libations and merriment again went late into the night. Breakfast was good old bacon and eggs! Green onions were mixed into the scrambled eggs giving it a delightful kick! And on the side, English muffins with cream cheese. I hope all the rowing I did balance out with how well I ate! Again, another big thanks to the kitchen crews for meal preparation and clean up!

Much of the success and camaraderie of a trip happens in the kitchen. If you have not volunteered to be a meal captain, helped prepare the meal, or helped with the dishes I strongly encourage you too!

It's a lot more fun than it sounds, and the kitchen is the social epicenter of the camp so everyone comes to talk to you!

We broke camp and packed boats one more time. As we floated out of camp the second group of layovers bid us farewell. The second group consisted of many that were part of the first group. Man, how do they get all that time off? I need to win the lottery or find some rich dead uncle!

As we made our way to the take out, we found ourselves rowing through a lot of flat water. It was as if the river didn't want us to leave as much as we didn't want the trip to be

over. At the take out at Foster Bar, as we unloaded boats and packed up cars, I was wrought with mixed emotions about the trip being over, the long drive back, and how good my bed was going to feel.

All in all it was a great trip, and one I will remember for years to come. If you're a newbie and you have any reservations about going on an overnight trip with OWA, brush them aside and get out there! If you lack the gear, just ask somebody. You'll be able to borrow it, or it will already be there with somebody else. It will be an enjoyable time and you'll want to go again and again!

A special thanks to Rick Carmen for schlepping Merrie down the river and providing

>> [CONTINUED ON PAGE 9](#)



excellent tutelage to my blossoming river queen. Rick tried to show her how to go around the rocks, and Merrie tried to show him how she could hit every rock! I think they were both successful and the only thing that would have made it better is if I could have watched with a bag of popcorn! Thanks again everyone and I look forward to the next trip!



**PICTURED AT RIGHT: Brent Davis at Horse Shoe Bend**



*Remodeled*

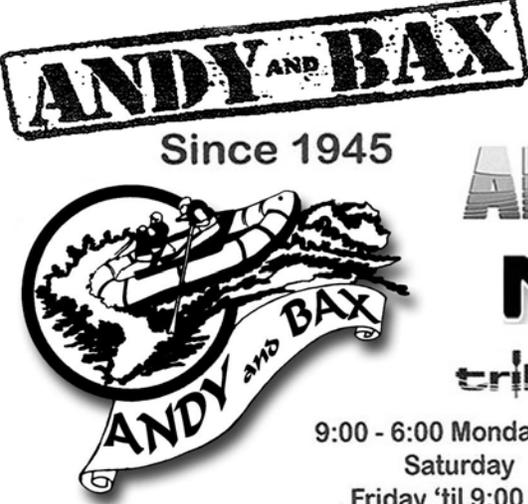
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## Two Summaries of Feb. 19 Pin at Blossom Bar

### Two Perspectives on the Importance of Rescue Preparedness

# 1

**Written by:** Scott Ogren, Lead Rescuer

**Incident Date:** Sunday, February 19, 2012

**People Involved:**

- People on the boat: Steve Kasper, Linda Baker
- Rescue personnel (listed in the order they arrived on scene): Ann Stephenson (first on scene), Scott Ogren (lead rescuer), Braden Nicholson, KC (Braden's brother in law), Tom Riggs, Joe Vondrak, and Dave Nissen.

### The Incident – From the Lead Rescuer Perspective

I had left Rogue River Ranch in a pod of six boats that were to travel through Mule Creek Canyon and Blossom Bar rapid together. Entering Mule Creek Canyon, I was the second boat behind Steve Kasper who I had run this river with before and I know has plenty of experience with these two sections of the river. Other than the typical getting pushed one way or another in Mule Creek Canyon, all six boats seemed to get through without incident.

Steve pulled in one of the eddies just above Blossom Bar on river right and let me and a few other boats pass. I didn't ask him why he pulled in, I just assumed he didn't want to go through Blossom Bar first, and I'm not exactly sure where he got back in line because just after passing him I needed to pay attention to where I was and get set up to make the move to get behind the horn rock and miss the picket fence.

I successfully negotiated the rapid and as anyone who has run Blossom Bar knows, there are a lot of rocks to maneuver around so I never looked back until after I passed Volkswagen Rock, which more or less marks the end of the rapid. As I passed Volkswagen Rock on the left I turned my boat to face river right to look upstream and saw several boats at various places in the rapid and at that point nothing looked unusual. I then pulled backwards into the eddy that is on river left just below Volkswagen Rock, but was having trouble staying in that eddy, so I decided to float down to the next one which is much bigger and easier to stay in.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

# 2

*This is a narrative of the events from the boat team/Steve Kasper's perspective. It is meant solely to describe my point of view/thoughts during the event. No part of the narrative is meant to be critical of anyone; rather, it's just my interpretation from the perspective of the boat team.*

**Shore Team members:** Ann Stephenson, Scott Ogren, Braden Nicholson & his brother-in-law, Dave Nissen.

**Shore Team support:** Rick Carmen, Tom Riggs, maybe a few others, and one guy on river right with a throw bag. These guys stood by and were great to have for moral support.

**Boat Team Members:** Steve Kasper, Linda Baker

### KEY LEARNING'S:

#### For the Shore Team

- Get a throw bag to the boat team quickly; it helps them psychologically.
- Once you have a line to the team on the boat leave it there. You never know what you might need it for in the future.
- When you send over the haul line, attach a second throw bag line to the end that you are sending over. That way you can pull the first throw bag line back to you and you can use it to ferry other things back and forth between the raft and the shore. This avoids the necessity of throwing a line either from shore to raft or raft to shore again in the future.
- Have one or two people dedicated to maintain contact with the boat team. Acknowledge the boat team and any ideas/suggestions they might try to communicate.

#### For the boat team

- If accessible and safe, get your throw bag and any gear (carabineers etc.) you might have available and handy for use.
- In this case, I could have had a haul line ready for the shore team to haul back. I had plenty of time to set it up while I waited for the shore team to make their way back up river to me. Though I didn't know from where the shore team would be pulling from; I wanted to work with their plan.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Green River Cleanup

**MAY**  
**5**

9:00 am - 5:00 pm



The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Green River Cleanup. Registration begins at 9:00 am. Kanaskat-Palmer State park near Enumclaw, WA. Reservations are already made for the group camp area. We are invited to join WRRR on this joint club event.

Kanaskat Palmer state park to Flaming Geyser Park is a boulder choked, demanding class III, with 2 class IV rapids - The Mercury and the Nozzle. This is a 4 hr run and will take longer with the clean up time. The Green River Gorge is one of the most beautiful river canyons in Washington State and is located 30 miles southeast of Seattle.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Email WRRR member: Lyles Larkin [ik4fun@comcast.net](mailto:ik4fun@comcast.net)  
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## Summary 1 (continued from page 11)

As I was floating past the rock cliff outcropping that is the demarcation between the two eddies I looked back upstream and saw a red boat that seemed to not be moving and wondered out loud, "Is he stuck?" I then saw what looked like another boat pass the red boat and I knew for sure he was stuck. I then pulled into the lower eddy and looked at the cliff I just floated past and thought, now what?

About that time, Sandi Alcantara pulled into the eddy with me and explained that there indeed was a boat stuck on the picket fence and the passengers seemed to be uninjured, but they are standing on a rock in the middle of the river. She also told me the only way to get to them was to get back in that upper eddy I had just left and hike up to them.

If you have never paid attention, I can tell you there is a swift piece of current that extends out from the rock cliff outcropping that divides the two eddies. I looked at that and knew that was

>> [CONTINUED ON OWA WEBSITE](#)

## Summary 2 (continued from page 11)

### General good advice:

- Know your rescue gear.
- Know how to use it and practice using it.
- Know how to tie all the knots: Water, Prusik, Double Fisherman's, Figure-8, Bowline etc.
- Have your Prusik loops tied in advance; make sure you have the right size cordage to make Prusik loops for the haul line you will use.

**How it happened:** I came in to Blossom via the normal route; I've run it 15-20 times since 2006 and never had an issue. This time I was a bit tight on the right and bumped the rear of the raft on one of the first rocks at the top. This pushed me out to river left and I wasn't able to get back into the eddy on the right. I tried to get back right but couldn't and the boat was shoved left. We had a rough ride over the first rocks in the picket fence before pinning against one of the final rocks on the far river left side of the fence. It all happened really fast.

>> [CONTINUED ON OWA WEBSITE](#)

## Knot of the Month

By Steve Kasper

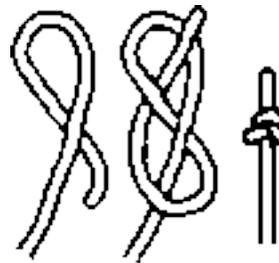
*Each month we will showcase essential knots you should know for river situations*

### OVERVIEW

- The Figure 8 is an end knot or stopper knot.
- Its basic use is to prevent a line from pulling through a pulley, etc...
- It is the basis for two important knots, the Figure 8 on a Bight and the Follow-Through Figure 8. Which will be showcased over the next 2 months.
- Knowing how to tie the basic
- Figure 8 will prepare you to learn the variations.



Figure Eight Knot



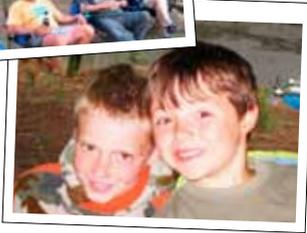
# Trip Calendar

Submitted by Pat Barry

Please go to the OWA website for additional details on each trip.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Or go to <http://oregonwhitewater.org/calendar/trip-calendar>



1.1 Sun	<a href="#">Sandy River</a>	II/III	Val Shaul	<a href="mailto:val.shaul@frontier.com">val.shaul@frontier.com</a>	503-805-8991
1.28 Sat	<a href="#">Siletz River</a>	III/IV	Tom Riggs	<a href="mailto:triggs@ashland.com">triggs@ashland.com</a>	503-647-0690
2.18-20 Sat-Mon	<a href="#">Rogue River</a>	III/IV	Bee Tyree	<a href="mailto:dillflet@comcast.net">dillflet@comcast.net</a>	503-753-4081
3.16-18 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Rogue River</a>	III/IV	Rick Carman	<a href="mailto:frederickcarman@comcast.net">frederickcarman@comcast.net</a>	503-642-9347
3.24-26 Sat-Mon	<a href="#">Lower Deschutes</a>	III	Scott Ogren	<a href="mailto:scott@scottogren.com">scott@scottogren.com</a>	503-267-9785
3.26-30 Mon-Fri	<a href="#">Owyhee River</a>	III/IV	Dan Alsup	<a href="mailto:rivermandan2698@yahoo.com">rivermandan2698@yahoo.com</a>	503-888-0569
4.14 Sat	<a href="#">Deschutes River</a>	III/IV	Tom Hanson	<a href="mailto:TJHRafter@earthlink.net">TJHRafter@earthlink.net</a>	503-201-4428
4.20-22 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Lower North Umpqua</a>	II/III	Brenda Bunce	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a>	360-931-4224
5.5 Sat	<a href="#">Green River Cleanup</a>	III	Lyles Larkin	<a href="mailto:ik4fun@comcast.net">ik4fun@comcast.net</a>	
5.11-13 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Grand Ronde</a>	III	Eric/Candace Ball	<a href="mailto:balle@pocketinet.com">balle@pocketinet.com</a>	509-201-4428
5.18-21 Fri-Mon	<a href="#">Rogue River</a>	III/IV	Van McKay	<a href="mailto:vanm1@aol.com">vanm1@aol.com</a>	360-737-3148
5.26-27 Sat-Sun	<a href="#">Lochsa River</a>	IV/V	Steve Herring	<a href="mailto:stevenh@tektronix.com">stevenh@tektronix.com</a>	503-646-6100
6.1-3 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Upper North Umpqua River</a>	III/IV	Suzie Richards	<a href="mailto:suzir47@gmail.com">suzir47@gmail.com</a>	360-601-0898
6.9 Sat	<a href="#">Klickitat River</a>	III/III+	Doug Smith	<a href="mailto:Doug Smith">Doug Smith</a>	503-232-5285
6.15-17 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Lower Deschutes</a>	III	Carol Beatty	<a href="mailto:caroldon1@comcast.net">caroldon1@comcast.net</a>	503-816-6172
7.13-15 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Lower Salmon</a>	III/IV	Eric/Candace Ball	<a href="mailto:balle@pocketinet.com">balle@pocketinet.com</a>	509-201-4428
7.19-22 Thu-Sun	<a href="#">McKenzie River</a>	III	Brenda Bunce	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a>	360-931-4224



9.15-17 Sat-Mon	<a href="#">Hell's Canyon</a>	III-IV	Mike Moses	<a href="mailto:mtymo@hotmail.com">mtymo@hotmail.com</a>	509-240-4220
9.22 Sat	<a href="#">North Santiam River</a>	III	Rick Hendon	<a href="mailto:gonetothedogsinc@msn.com">gonetothedogsinc@msn.com</a>	503-887-4305
9.29 Sat	<a href="#">Yakima River</a>	II	Vance Cordell	<a href="mailto:pyloris58@yahoo.com">pyloris58@yahoo.com</a>	360-253-3013
11.10-12 Sat-Mon	<a href="#">Rogue River</a>	III/IV	Scott Ogren	<a href="mailto:scott@scottogren.com">scott@scottogren.com</a>	503-267-9785

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# NEW! Sign up online with PayPal

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

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## Oregon Whitewater Association Membership Application Form

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**A household membership is \$28.00 for one year, from January 1 to December 31.**  
You may go to our website at [Oregonwhitewater.org](http://Oregonwhitewater.org) to sign up and pay your dues online.

### Membership

1 Year – \$28

2 Years – \$56

3 Years – \$84

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 courses 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