

oregon WHITEWATER association

Volume 11 Number 7

July-August 2010



OWA Annual Summer Picnic August 7 • See page 9 for details

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Trip Report: John Day River

June 17-20, 2010 • Submitted by Scott Ogren

Because there are no dams on the John Day River, the flow can vary greatly. After weeks of looking like we were going to have a below average flow for our trip, all of the rain we had in early June raised the flow to just over 20,000 cfs at the Service Creek gauge about a week before we were set to launch. After that minor flood, the flow steadily fell to what turned out to be an ideal flow of about 4000 cfs at the time we launched.

In all, 10 adults and five kids made the trip that was a mixture of sun and rain from Service Creek to Clarno. The first two days were sunshine and clear skies. It was a great way to get a good start on my summer tan and get my sandal tan lines on my feet.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ABOVE: Bruce Ripley with his new cat, a mountain of people and gear

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.

RIVER TIP

Submitted by Tom Hanson

When you get home from an overnight trip, put your sleeping bag into the dryer at a low temperature. It needs to be bone dry before you put it away. If you have a goose down bag, store it on a hanger rather than in a stuff sack. Goose down will eventually lose its loft if it is kept in a stuff sack.

Contact Information

Your OWA officers and volunteers

Brenda Bunce, President
Brenda.Bunce@gmail.com
360.931.4224

Bruce Ripley, Vice President
vice-president@oregonwhitewater.org
503.647.0690

Paul Morin, Secretary
P.Morin@comcast.net
503.348.6310

Rick Carman, Treasurer
frederickcarman@comcast.net
503.642.9347

Scott Ogren, Membership Director
Scott@Scottogren.com
503.267.9785

Tom Hanson Tips Editor
TJHRafter@earthlink.net
503.201.4428

Josephine Denison, Trip Editor
josephinedenison@hotmail.com
503.851.9326

Cary Solberg, Advertising Editor
Cary.Solberg@aaaoregon.com
503.222.6718

Will Volpert, Scott Ogren, Web Masters
WillCarson@aol.com
Scott@Scottogren.com

Karen O'Neel, Newsletter Editor
owanewsletter@yahoo.com
503.789.3636

OWA list server address:
H2OAddicts@oregonwhitewater.org

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

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2010 TRIP CALENDAR

Submitted by Josephine Denison

7.3-7.5 Sat-Mon	Lower Salmon River	III/IV	Eric and Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509.525.6134
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					

Run from Hammer Creek to Heller Bar in 3 days slower flow; 73 river miles. A perennial favorite. High flows flush us down the river in 3 days. A nice mix of fun rapids, nice beach camping, and a little history. This trip cancels if the flow rate is predicted to be above 20,000 cfs on Slide Rapid day.

7.23-7.24 Sat-Sun	McKenzie River	II-III	Rick Carman	frederickcarman @comcast.net	503.642.9347
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					

Join us for an OWA Board-sponsored weekend of rafting on the McKenzie River. (OWA will pay for the camping Friday and Saturday nights) We're going to be camping at the Belknap Hot Springs Resort located at the McKenzie Bridge. We have group campsite reservations equipped with toilets and showers. Staying at Belknap will give us full use of the hot springs pool at the resort. The McKenzie River is a beautiful Class III river. We have a choice of separate runs rated II+ to III between Ollalie Campground and Ben and Kay Dorris State Park. Hot springs are located in the area as well as hiking trails. This is an excellent family float. We will arrive Friday evening, and we will raft Saturday and/or Sunday. A group potluck is planned for Saturday evening so bring your favorite river dish to share with everyone.

8/7 Sat	Annual OWA Picnic	NA	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360.931.4224
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					

Annual club picnic at Hagg Lake from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Bring your boats and throw bags for flip practice. More information to follow on the website and in the newsletter.

8.21-8.22 Sat-Sun	Yakima River	II	Vance Cordell	pyloris58@yahoo.com	360.253.3013
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					

We will run from the Ringer Loop Road Ramp to the Big Pines Campground on Highway 821. This is a family float with absolutely beautiful scenery. Vance will try to secure several camp sites at Big Pines for Friday and Saturday nights with a weenie roast scheduled for Saturday night. Try to get there Friday night so we can get started on our float at 10:00 AM Saturday since it is a 14-mile float.

9.11-9.13 Sat-Mon	Hell's Canyon	II/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509.529.8603
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9.17- 9.19 Fri-Sun	Tieton River	III	Brent Davis	bdavis599@yahoo.com	503.239.0948
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10.16 Sat	North Santiam River	II/III	Josie Denison	josephinedenison @hotmail.com	503.851.9326
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ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Run from Packsaddle Park to Fisherman's Bend Park.

11.6-11.7 Sat-Sun	Great Wolf Lodge Family Trip	NA	Angie Evans	rvrunners@gmail.com	503.851.9326
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11.13-11.15 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503.267.9785
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ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Graves Creek to Foster Bar. Staying at Galice Lodge on Friday, November 12.

Please send trip submissions to
josephinedenison@hotmail.com

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Deschutes River Women's Trip

June 18-20, 2010 • Submitted by Pat Barry

The boat ramp at Buck Hollow was abuzz with activity bright and early on the morning of June 18, 2010. Twelve women were assembling their gear into eight boats for the three-day, 42-mile float to Heritage Landing. Most of them had stayed the previous night at Carol Beatty's house in Maupin and were now primed for a good time. The weather forecast was for overcast skies, possible rain and some wind. The river was flowing at 5600 cfs.

We launched the five rafts and three catboats before 11:00. Carol Beatty and Linda Young led the way in the Barney boat. Brenda Bunce and Tracey Madsen were in a sassy new Sotar raft (borrowed from a friend) that handled like a dream. Gretchen Clark was using a boat and gear with sentimental value. The rest of us, Paula Minear, Pat Barry, Suzi Richards, Kathi Duckworth, Risa Davis, Ginny Santarufo and Beth Salloway were distributed amongst our usual boats.

We had some good, splashy fun going through Trestle Hole and Wreck Rapids and then settled in for the long, mellow float to Mack's Canyon, logging 19 river miles for Day One. It had been much windier than normal. Once in camp the skies looked threatening, so we set up a shelter over the kitchen. The wind wreaked havoc with the shelter so we took it down. My tent was nearly blown into the river before it was rescued by Beth. It rained throughout the night, a very different experience than the usual squall.

The weather looked promising as we launched on Day Two. We



had the river almost to ourselves, seeing only a few other groups and fewer than the usual number of fishermen. We snagged the very desirable Fall Canyon camp after a short 13-mile day on the river. We hiked upriver to the old homestead

We had some good, splashy fun going through Trestle Hole and Wreck Rapids

and water tower. On the way back our mellow hike was interrupted by a shriek from Tracey. A medium sized rattlesnake was scooting off the road, prompting numerous snake stories. Back in camp Risa set up a table to do Tarot card readings. It was prophesied that Carol Beatty's husband would start waiting on her hand and foot.

Day Three. There was an air of excitement for the last 10 miles which contain the most fun rapids. Everyone negotiated them

with ease. At Washout, Colorado and Rattlesnake some ladies went down the middle for the big waves and some went left for the easier ride. Good to remember if you are teaching someone to row or keeping your passenger dry that you can go left on those three biggest ones. Gordon Ridge and Moody are the other rapids of note. Everything is read and run. The wind was fierce as we approached the Columbia, but we managed it fine.

This is an excellent section of the river for a family float and for teaching someone to row. The rapids are fun Class II-III without dire consequences. For someone with a little rowing skill who wants to row solo for the first time, this is an excellent choice. (But follow someone who knows the river!)

A million thanks go to Carol Beatty for bringing back the annual ladies trip. As usual, this was a great bunch of women doing what we do best – HAVING FUN!

Middle Owyhee: Three Forks to Rome Widowmaker Run

May 1-3, 2010 • Submitted by Eric Ball

The guide books recommend flows of 1,000 to 5,000 cfs for running the Middle Owyhee River. Our dates were locked in six months in advance, so we felt lucky to have enough water to make the trip happen. At low flows, the river has plenty of rocks to dodge, and makes the big three rapids on this run very technical.

It's a long drive to Jordan Valley (10 hours from Portland), then another hour and a half on the 35-mile dirt road to Three Forks put-in. If the road is wet, your 4WD tires will be throwing a lot of mud; if dry, a decent 2WD vehicle with reasonable clearance will handle it fine. Jordan Valley has one motel, two restaurants, and one gas station. An even smaller alternative is Rome, with a gas station plus "restaurant", and a couple cabins.

The river has been called *O-windy* (because of frequent upstream breezes), but at this flow we called it *Oar-nybee*, due to all the rowing.

At Mile 1.5 is Ledge Rapid, a technical affair with a pour-over (3-4 foot drop), followed by a nice extended rock garden run out. It's easier to scout this on the left.

At Mile 10 is Half-Mile rapid (long rock garden to maneuver through—scouted right), quickly followed by Raft Flip, which was fairly

straight forward drop which we read and ran.

Bombshelter Cave at mile 15 is a great camp spot: nice landing, nice shelter, and out of the wind. Since the Middle Owyhee doesn't get

Flow: 1,300 cfs at Put-In;
 1,000 at Take Out

Distance: 37 miles

Boats: 3 cats and a 13-foot raft

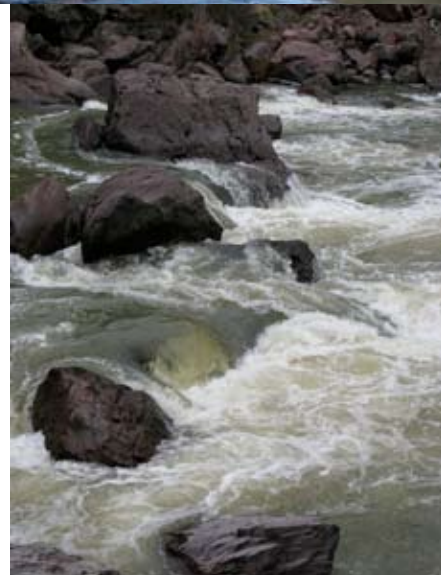
Shuttle: Eva Matteri
 (Phone 541-586-2352)



a lot of traffic, campsites are well defined or plentiful .

On Day Two, we had some fun Class III's leading up to Widowmaker, a Class V rapid with quite a reputation. We were able scout the top section (left), run it, then scout the bottom section. The top half was a short drop through a slot between two rock features, then maneuvering to the eddy (also on the left; there is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Trip Report: The Siletz River

January 30-31, 2010 • Submitted by Rick Carman

Tom Riggs led a trip down the Siletz River – it was my first trip on this river, located north of Newport. The minimum flow for the upper section we were to run is considered to be five feet on the gauge and the river was at 4.97 or so. The Portland area participants loaded into Tom’s motor home late Friday afternoon and we drove to Corvallis to pick up Brian Riggs and three of his fraternity brothers. Then it was west on Highway 20 toward Newport. Dick Riggs fired up the stove in the back and began heating up the elk stew for dinner as we rolled down the highway.

At Toledo (six miles short of Newport) we turned north on State Route 229 for 10 miles to Siletz. Twelve miles up the river is Moonshine County Park. I think Moonshine refers to lunar reflection of sunlight rather than homemade booze. We never saw any moonlight – it rained the entire 36 hours we were there. There is nothing like setting up a tent in the dark in the rain, especially after having had a few cold ones! Tom brought plenty of firewood so we sat around the roaring campfire with our rain gear on. It was not cold and there was no wind.

The next morning was breakfast, with Paul Morin heating up delicious sandwiches of sausage and egg on French toast. Then we drove 10 miles of a private gravel road to the put in. Dick drove the motor home back so no shuttle was needed. On his way, he stopped at the difficult parts of the run to shoot video and hopefully catch one of the two paddled boats do

something stupid or exciting or whatever. He picked the right spots as our motley crew seemed to have a tough time figuring out how to maneuver a paddle boat through the maze of boulders that started about two miles down, called Salachi.

Caught on camera, my boat squeezed between two large boulders and tipped up on one just below them, dumping three of the five occupants (not me) into the drink. We managed to get off the rock and pull the three back in very quickly but lost a paddle. So four paddlers and one crew member crashed and smashed through the next half mile of roaring river and large boulders. Salachi is rated a Class IV. It would be not be runnable at lower flows. At higher flows it would be wild with less rock

we were good and stuck. It took several minutes of bouncing and pulling and people in the water pushing to get us off while the paddle kept going. The rest of the six-mile run was lots of Class IIs and Class II+. We never really got the hang of maneuvering the paddle boat and got hung about five more times. The other paddle boat under the command of Paul Morin did much better but they also got stuck. And they found our missing paddle.

We got back to camp at 2:00 and sat around the fire in the light rain. Yours Truly was designated the driver of the motor home on the way back from town after dinner so I had to behave myself. You have to figure it is a rough crowd when the author is the most sober! We hit downtown Siletz around 7:00,



problems but huge waves and holes.

As we muddled our way along we spotted the missing paddle ahead of us on river right and the chase began. After a couple of misses we finally closed in on the paddle, ignoring the large pile of rocks immediately below us. Tom missed the paddle by less than an inch and the boat promptly ran hard up onto the rock pile where

had some mediocre pizza at the only restaurant in town, watched OSU get whipped by UCLA and went back to Moonshine to sit around the fire in the rain to finish what we started. It rained all night. It stopped shortly after we shoved off for Corvallis on Sunday morning. Next time Tom gets a Siletz trip going, consider going. It is worthwhile run.

John Day River Trip Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Most of us got a little sunburned; and we had no clue that the wispy clouds slowly building in the sky as we pulled into the second night's camp was the end of that. For the second year in a row, Bruce Ripley cooked dinner in a torrential downpour.

It didn't just rain on us, it outright poured. We were in the middle of a thunderstorm and were treated to a lightening show like you only see in the mid-west. Luckily, we had a tarp to keep us dry. After the rain during dinner time, it rained all night and didn't stop until sometime during the early morning hours.

All of the rain that night brought the river up about six inches and turned the water brown. That was the end of the fishing for our trip. It was also the end of the fishing for the multitudes of guided fisherman in fish cats that we ran into the third night. There were so many people that finding camp was challenging as the rain started up again. We found what turned out to be a decent place and took shelter under the tarp again as it rained off and on all evening long.

The last day of our trip was Fathers Day. I can't think of a better way to spend with it than with my family on a river. This is a mellow

enough river that young kids can go, and the campsites are very kid-friendly as well. We have introduced both of our kids to multi-day rafting on this river; this was our daughter's first trip at age four.

This is the highest flow I have floated this river at, and definitely the easiest. The rapids in the John Day River (if you can call them that), are mostly large rocks in the middle of the river, and if there is enough water to submerge them then the river becomes very easy. In the section we floated, there are four Class II rapids; you don't go there for the whitewater. You make the trip for an easy trip to take kids on and some great camping. This river is best run at as high of a flow as possible; there are a few sections where the river is wide and deep, and you need as much water as possible to push through them and wash out the rapids.

All in all, this was another great trip with a group of great people. This is a great river to run in the spring or early summer. Because there are no dams on this river, the flow is very dependant on snow melt and rain water. If you can plan your trip to this river with the flow being at least 1500 cfs and be ready for whatever the weather dishes out, then you will have a good trip.



Lee and Kristen at a large cliff



Scott and Jenny Ogren



Lee playing guitar for the kids

Trip Report: Grand Ronde River

May 7-9, 2010 • Submitted by Eric Ball

Back for the umpteenth time is our early-season, supposed-to-be-high-flow 90-mile run from Minam to Heller's Bar. Despite lower than usual flow, no one's arms fell off, nor did we run out of daylight doing a 32-mile first day followed by a 47-mile second day. Perhaps the burger and milkshake lunch stop at Boggan's Oasis on Day Two had something to do with it.

As usual, the upper canyon is nicely forested, punctuated by flowering trees and wildflowers. We saw half a dozen bald eagles (including a nesting pair at Camp Two – the third year in a row for them), osprey and deer. Plus, for the first time we saw a bear who ran off immediately after spotting us.



Hamburger and milkshake lunch on Day Two at Boggin's Oasis

The lower canyon (below Troy) is always just as spectacular, with high basalt cliffs covered with green grass, at times giving it the look of velvet. Throw in some rain

clouds illuminated by sun breaks, and we were sorry they took our Kodachrome away.

Whitewater is not the draw on this trip (although some folks thought the Narrows Rapid was bigger than last year, when we ran it at 11,000). The entertainment came from three boats getting hung up on rocks or shallow water on at least five separate occasions. And the camp stories.

We'll be back next year.



OWA Summer Picnic at Hagg Lake

Saturday, August 7 • 11:00-3:00 p.m. • Area C

DETAILS:

- There is a large covered shelter, with picnic tables (so come rain or shine)
- Easy access to the lake from picnic area (bring swimsuits and IKs, water toys and rafts to practice flipping)
- Throw rope competition (bring a throw rope)
- Some games will be provided – feel free to bring your own
- Alcohol is allowed in the park, so bring your own

GEAR SWAP AND SALE: This year we will have a gear swap and sale area where you can swap used or unused gear with other boaters, or sell it. Consider this to be a gear garage sale. All gear is welcome, from boats to bags.

PROVIDED: Meat (hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, turkey burgers, veggie burgers) beverages

YOU BRING: A pot luck side dish or dessert, lawn chair, the whole family

FEE: \$5.00 vehicle pass at the entrance gate

RSVP: Brenda.bunce@gmail.com by August 1

DIRECTIONS: The address of the park is 50250 SW Scoggins Valley Road, Gaston, OR 97119. For information on the park call 503-846-8715.



Middle Owyhee Trip Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

a scouting trail in the right for the whole rapid, which most people use since there is no trail on the left).

We ran the bottom part in two pulses of two boats each. The first two ran a twisting slot drop that ended with a water pillow on a rock at the bottom, which would either send you left or right (left preferred), depending on how you hit it. Given the narrowness of the slot, you had to have your oars shipped, so you had no control after entering the top. The first two boats ran this uneventfully, although one boat took an unintentional entry route.

The second two boats, led by me, followed after setting up for video. I misjudged the entry current pulling me to the right, so ended up in a slot which had no real escape – I got perched on a boulder, with



one pontoon on either side of it. Probably a difference of one or two feet laterally in the approach would have avoided this. The second boat followed my lead, but got to an eddy before hitting the slot. A two-hour rescue ensued, first pulling me off the rock and into an eddy, then rigging a line to the other side of the river to pull us across the river to an eddy from where we could re-enter the

rapid via the intended route. This time, the run was uneventful, and we collected ourselves on a beach below before enjoying the rest of the scenery downstream. Camp Two was around Mile 31.

Stretches of the Middle Owyhee have vertical rhyolite walls rising right out of the water. In other places, the canyon is more open. After Mile 25, the wall's turn to basalt, leading to the open prairie of the last three miles before the BLM Rome take out. The Widowmaker Run is for people in maneuverable boats with advanced skills and confidence. Someone on the trip must be expert at reading the water, picking routes, and rescuing those who get into trouble. Many people line or portage Widowmaker (even outfitters). This rapid is an order of magnitude harder than the other rapids on this stretch.

There are limited camp spots marked on the map, and some of these aren't appealing. At low flows, three days is probably about right. At higher water, with a good start and no incidents, two days is probably okay.

Thanks to my good friends who pulled me off the rock (Mike and Dwight), and Trevor for catching the whole incident on video.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BRENDA BUNCE

Hello Fellow Boaters,

Happy summer days! Thank you to all those who have shared your river trip reports and photos with the club via our newsletter. Now coming soon to your email inbox are the instructions for how you can share your river photos and latest river information on our website photo gallery and website river-wiki. Our board members, Scott Ogren and Bruce Ripley have been working hard to develop an outstanding website to help us all stay connected via the latest technology in sharing our vast river information and memories.

Also, I wish to thank all of you brave souls who submitted your entry for the club slogan and logo competition. We had some great entries and have sent you the ballot for your final vote.

Join us for an OWA Board-sponsored weekend of rafting on the McKenzie River on July 23 and 24. (OWA will pay for the camping and much of the potluck main dishes) We're going to be camping at the Belknap Hot Springs Resort located at the McKenzie Bridge. We have group campsite reservations, which is equipped with toilets and showers. Staying at Belknap will give us full use of the hot springs pool at the resort. The McKenzie River is a beautiful Class III river. We have a choice of separate runs rated 2+ to 3 between Ollalie Campground and Ben and Kay Dorris State Park. There are hot springs located in the area as well as hiking trails. This is an excellent family float. Our plan is to arrive Friday evening, and we will raft Saturday and/or Sunday. A group potluck will be planned for Saturday evening.

August 7 is our Second Annual OWA Club Picnic and first club GEAR SWAP at Hagg Lake. Hope to see you all out there!

Happy and safe boating,
Brenda

“Paint me a picture
of the landscape.
Dance me the dance
of the waves.
Sing me of the legends
of the river.
Tell me the story of
the sky.”

~Author Unknown



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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 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
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