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March/April 2004

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# AMERICAN WHITEWATER

**A VOLUNTEER PUBLICATION PROMOTING RIVER CONSERVATION, ACCESS AND SAFETY**

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American Whitewater Journal  
Volume XLV, No.3

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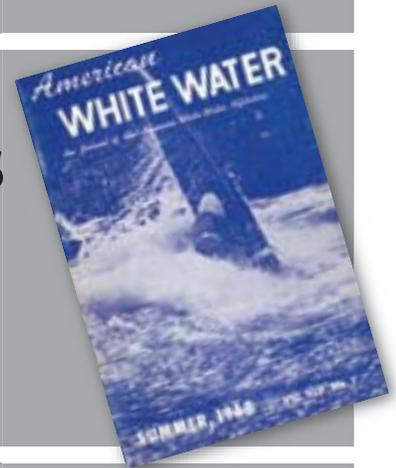
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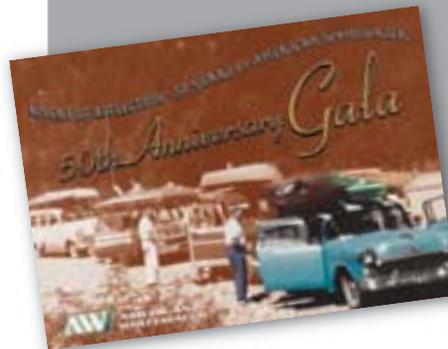
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Publication Title: American Whitewater  
Issue Date: May/June 2004  
Statement of Frequency: Published bimonthly  
Authorized Organization's Name and Address:  
American Whitewater  
1424 Fenwick Lane  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

# Purpose **American Whitewater**

Our mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

American Whitewater (AW) is a national organization with a membership consisting of thousands of individual whitewater boating enthusiasts and more than 100 local paddling club affiliates.

**CONSERVATION:** AW maintains a complete national inventory of whitewater rivers, monitors threats to those rivers, publishes information on river conservation, provides technical advice to local groups, works with government agencies and other river users, and-- when necessary-- takes legal action to prevent river abuse.

**RIVER ACCESS:** To assure public access to whitewater rivers pursuant to the guidelines

published in its official Access Policy, AW arranges for river access through private lands by negotiation or purchase, seeks to protect the right of public passage on all rivers and streams navigable by kayak or canoe, resists unjustified restrictions on government-managed whitewater rivers and works with government agencies and other river users to achieve these goals.

**EDUCATION:** Through publication of the bi-monthly magazine, and by other means, American Whitewater provides information and education about whitewater rivers, boating safety, technique and equipment.

**SAFETY:** AW promotes paddling safely, publishes reports on whitewater accidents, maintains a uniform national ranking system for whitewater rivers (the International Scale of Whitewater

Difficulty) and publishes and disseminates the internationally recognized AW Whitewater Safety Code.

**EVENTS:** AW organizes sporting events, contests and festivals to raise funds for river conservation, including the Gauley River Festival in West Virginia (the largest gathering of whitewater boaters in the nation), and the Deerfield Festival in Massachusetts.

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at 1424 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 589-9453. AW is tax exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



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 Spencer-Walker Press, Inc., Newark OH.  
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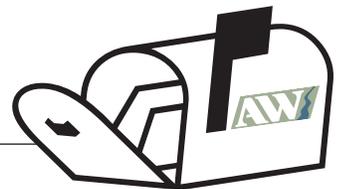


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# Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

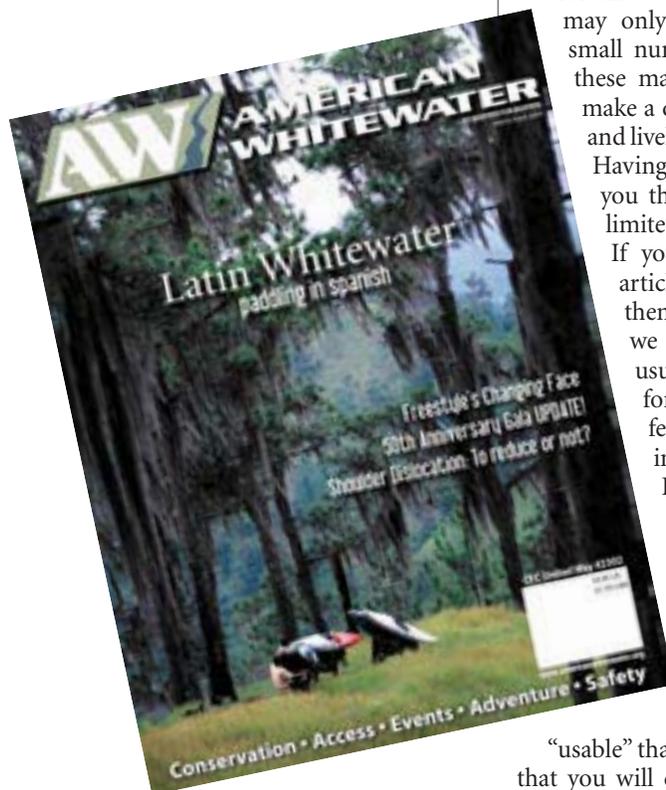
I have been a member of American Whitewater for several years now and have always enjoyed reading the zine everytime it has come in the mail, but that is starting to change. I have just gotten the March/April edition and I haven't even read it and by looking at the cover I most likely will not read most of it. Why is there an increase in stories about rivers that are in other countries. I am not a pro, and I have a family, which is probably most of AW's members. I will never go to another country to boat, nor would I want to. How about more articles about AMERICAN whitewater and less about Latin, Canadian, and Costa Rican whitewater.

Bryan Tudor  
Streamkeeper  
creekfreak@fuse.net

Dear Bryan,

Thanks for your letter and opinion, Bryan, as well as for your work as an AW Streamkeeper. As you correctly observed, one of the main functions of the Journal is to report on the conservation and access work of American Whitewater, as well as to provide information on the state of whitewater resources in the United States. However, other important goals of the Journal are to inspire, educate, and entertain. Our feature stories on international rivers have the potential to encourage boaters to travel, learn about other cultures, and understand the need for conservation and access in a whole different light. As a Streamkeeper, you serve an important role in documenting and defending the value of conservation and access to a (hopefully) free-flowing waterway. Other waterways in this world are not so fortunate. Our international features may only encourage and motivate a small number of paddlers. However, these may also be the paddlers who make a difference in the conservation and livelihood of those environments. Having said all that, I can also assure you that the AW Journal is largely limited to the material we receive. If you are seeing an increase in articles on international rivers, then you can safely assume that we have received a larger than usual number of those articles for publication. As for me, I will feel fortunate to one day paddle in an exotic land (as much as I can't wait to drive up to the Ottawa Valley every summer, I wouldn't necessarily think of the trip as an exotic destination). I am also without sponsorship, and my wife believes that our tax refund should be used on something more "usable" than a bent-shaft paddle. I hope that you will continue to read the Journal and will look forward to our July/August issue which will feature western whitewater.

Tim Nickles  
Editor - American Whitewater



# Corner Charc

by Risa Shimoda

This issue of American Whitewater takes a look at AW (first known as AWWA, subsequently AWA) halfway through our fiftieth year. As you peruse the historical perspectives you'll likely be reminded that our enjoyment of rivers is timeless, and that which creates a smile or shiver about the tales of challenge or frolic is universal. The thrill of discovery, the sense of accomplishment overcoming hurdles, and the delight in hearing about the adventures of others who loved rivers in 1955 differs little from the stories and accomplishment experienced today, and certainly tomorrow.

There are also events in AW's annals that have turned corners for the sport, creating a powerful new role for recreational river enthusiasts.

1955: The first publication of *The American Whitewater Journal* created a vehicle by which river runners could communicate, establishing a true national network for this new and burgeoning avocation.

1959: AWWA authored the Safety Code and International Scale of White Water Difficulty, establishing a common reference for describing the difficulty of river rapids and providing a guideline for on-water safety signals.

1988: Due to a violation incurred by a utility company during the construction of a hydroelectric power plant on the Black River and the astute observance by AW volunteer Steve Massaro, river runners have water turned on upon arrival – essentially upon demand.

2002: To find out the current and planned level of flow for the Mokelumne (CA), you only need to call the toll-free number to access the PG&E schedule. This capability represents but a glimpse of AW's "information technology" offering that includes the website's richness, offering members and the larger public insight and access to a wealth of useful information that can instruct, inform and entertain.

These are a few of many examples of accomplishments unique to AW: they set us apart from all other national river organizations and have created a legacy about which each of us should both



Risa Shimoda  
photo by Dan Gavere

be proud and whose perpetuation we are responsible.

Looking back can also enhance appreciation, and for some, inspiration and motivation for the work and outreach which lies ahead.

Who were these volunteers, and why the heck did they march us through our initial incorporation and produce and distribute journals each year? From one year to the next the challenges sounded like variations on a theme: They complain about the air of entitlement of the slalom racers in 1965, as well as the rodeo stars in 1995. In 1955 the editorial crew complained about not receiving articles from easterners. In 1995 we were an eastern 'club,' despite the fact that California boasted more members than any other state.

Why, oh why, have you and other volunteer stalwarts bothered to carry on? I believe it is because 1) you have felt a responsibility to those who had created the path and 2) a few who can think out of the box to be agents of change know they can outlast those who criticize and create drag. Enjoying rivers by being one with them is a common draw and the related majesty, adventure, camaraderie and humility is something special that only you know... along with a few others upon whom you could depend on in a pinch and who'd throw you a rope if you were floating by. AW is here today thanks to the volunteers who birthed it, nurtured it, and either modified the focus or tore down impediments that challenged its growth during the course of these fifty years. Likewise, AW can go forward only with the support of our members and volunteers. Thank you in advance for what you will do to contribute to our next fifty. 



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# Some Words From the Editor

Tim Nickles

With American Whitewater's 50th anniversary this year, we celebrate a half-century legacy of working for the preservation and enhancement of our sport.

Specifically, AW has fought for conservation and free-flowing rivers, safety standards, event and program development, political representation, and other important issues. Looking forward to the next fifty years, one wonders what challenges AW will face. Jason Robertson, AW's Director of Conservation, looks at the existing issues and where their trends are likely to take us in the future. I wonder if new challenges may take shape unforeseen by us today.

I spent this winter in France, skiing in the Alps and living in Chamonix; my first real season as a ski bum. One of the things that struck me about the French ski experience is that it is almost entirely free of rules. They basically cart you up into the heights and let you go. Sure, there are a few scattered signs and the occasional rope but skiers and climbers are responsible for their own actions and no entity exists to attach blame to when things go wrong. This experience is the essence of personal responsibility.

This tradition of freedom in the mountains exists in France and is an essential part of the history and appeal of the mountain environment there. One of the reasons this tradition is allowed to flourish is that the tort system within France and Europe differs from that in the United States. In the US, class action lawsuits and other legal frameworks exist that create a huge pressure on the ski industry to essentially limit the freedoms skiers are able to enjoy. These legal actions do not have counterparts in Europe and so serious challenges to the mountain tradition have not yet developed there.

As boaters we enjoy a real tradition of freedom on the rivers and creeks largely taken for granted because of the nature of the sport. Free-flowing rivers, away from roads and other signs of the rule-filled society in which we live, allow us an escape from the predictability and relative safety of American life and it is hard to imagine it any other way. We are responsible for our own decisions, support, and safety and these responsibilities translate into a wholly

different experience than boating under other terms. Traveling with an outfitter, for instance, introduces an element of protection that buffers the feeling of being in the wild under our own guidance.

The backcountry ski experience is obviously alive and well in the United States but the experience within the resort industry is entirely different. Liability exposure limits the opening of ski runs and lifts, access to areas outside ski-area boundaries, and forces the provision of large support systems such as ski-patrol and avalanche control. There are positive elements to these services and restrictions but the self-reliant nature of the backcountry experience is certainly compromised by them.

Is it possible that similar limitations can be introduced into the boating world? If power companies release water into otherwise dry waterways, can responsibility be somehow attached to them when things go awry? If a community alters a waterway to enhance recreational enjoyment, can blame be attached when a boater is injured or worse? Can industry be held accountable if a boat design creates an unforeseen problem leading to accidents? These questions may seem ridiculous today but parallels exist between the boating and skiing world.

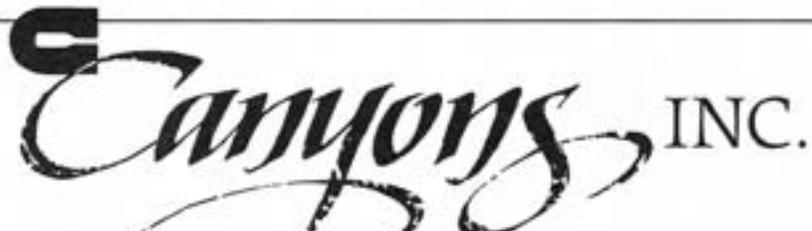


Tim Nickles  
Editor

photo by Matt Davanzo

Boating continues to become more popular and, as more and more people take up paddles, new pressures are being created. Economic pressure increases as more dollars flow into the industry and pressure to develop and enhance opportunities to paddle and experience whitewater increases with it. A larger boating community can more loudly demand access to waterways and their preservation but also more service-oriented or packaged whitewater experiences that reduce the element of personal responsibility. These pressures will present positive and negative opportunities to those interested in enhancing the freedoms boaters currently enjoy.

As you read this issue and contemplate American Whitewater's work and contribution over the last fifty years, think about what challenges lie in our path. Let us know what you come up with – send me an email at [editor@amwhitewater.org](mailto:editor@amwhitewater.org) or write to AW's staff. American Whitewater's membership represents the best pool of boaters for this type of clairvoyance and we're reliant on you for help anticipating the challenges ahead of us. 



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# Volunteer Salute

## Barry Grimes - Pope Barrow - Bob Glanville

Here are a few notes from those belonging to specific flock in AW's history, the course-changing eighties and nineties: Barry Grimes (KY), Pope Barrow (DC) and Bob Glanville (NY). They have spent thousands of hours on the phone, on a typewriter (kids, those were mechanical devices that we used to create documents for others to read...), or at a keyboard for amazingly selfless reasons: to create community, to share awesome news, to gather momentum for an advocacy effort, to restore this river, to protect your ability to use that one, or to know what to do to help save your buddy's life on yet a third. You owe them and their successors your thanks.

### Which years describe your time of greatest involvement as an AW volunteer?

POPE: My greatest involvement came when I brought the Gauley Festival to AWA as a fundraiser for fighting the utility company in order to get releases on the Black River. Prior to that time, I had been helping Pete Skinner with legal issues involving hydropower projects, mostly in NY State, but the Gauley Festival was the start of a much deeper involvement. I really cannot remember which Gauley Fest it was because it was one Hell of a long time ago and I was plastered the whole time anyway. Skinner and Ron Smith of Adirondack Outfitters, Chris Koll and myself, together with a few stray volunteers (and two stumbling bums we picked up on the side of the road who we bribed with free beer) pretty much ran the whole festival that year, including giving free chicken dinners to everyone. We made a lot of money. Koll and I were holding the money bag when we passed out in the mud. Upon arising the next morning, our hangovers were vastly enhanced by the discovery that we had lost ALL of the money earned at the festival. Someone came and got it from our drunken clutches whilst we slept in the mud. How we got it back and how my involvement with AWA became even more obsessive and weird over the next decade is a very long story, most of which I am trying hard to forget.

BARRY: AWA impressed me as the only full time, grass roots, non-profit organization that was working directly to save and



Bob Glanville



Barry Grimes



Pope Barrow

open up whitewater rivers. I first became aware of the organization through AWA's involvement and success with obtaining releases on the Gauley. I attended the very first Gauley Festival (and have volunteered and attended every Gauley Festival since) where I witnessed first hand the dedication and energy of its board members and incredible enthusiasm of its volunteers. At that event I became convinced that the AWA was an organization that merited my help and dedication. I felt compelled to become an AWA member and join with the "probe unit" of AWA volunteers - Pete Skinner, Chris Koll and Risa Shimoda - among others who helped inspire in me a feeling of duty that as a boater I needed to "give something back" as they were doing, in order to help the whitewater rivers we all loved.

To that end and before being invited to serve on AW's board I worked with other volunteers of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association to help establish the National Paddling Film Festival and the Russell Fork Rendezvous. I then pushed to have both of those events become fundraisers for AWA. To date both of these volunteer-driven events have generated heightened enthusiasm and publicity for AW as well as donated thousands of dollars to the pursuit of its mission.

### What did you see in the organization - what we were or were not doing well, new trends or changes - that stands out most distinctly?

BOB: Pope and Pete, above all others, recognized the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity afforded by relicensing and, to a large extent, AW grew in order to take advantage of that opportunity in recognition of the fact that we needed a full-time staff in order to remain effectively involved in that process. If AW hadn't

become involved in relicensing when it did, paddling opportunities that many boaters today take for granted would not exist. Chris Koll's Herculean effort to write and publish the journal essentially by himself for the better part of a decade enabled AW to maintain a membership of whitewater boaters who did not necessarily appreciate the service AW was providing to the boating community but who joined in order to get the Journal and thereby provided critical financial support for AW's efforts.

POPE: At the time I joined AW, I saw nothing much of any value in the organization at all. It was flat broke and had no members. The only person doing anything at all was Pete Skinner and it was pretty much working out of his garage. However, Pete was a sparkplug with lots of crazy energy and enthusiasm. This appealed to me in a perverse way because I was looking for a national river organization that I could work with and challenge the hydromania that was going on all around the nation. American Rivers and all the big well-known national groups had no clue how important this issue was and did not want to have anything to do with troublemakers like Pete Skinner and me. With AWA, no one cared about what we did. So we tried to take it over and build it into a force for the protection and preservation of whitewater rivers nationwide. Eventually, that was achieved, but a lot of other really whacked people (like "the General" Chris Koll) joined the fray before we got there.

### Which events, people or initiatives were the most influential in steering the events, programming or organizational development during that time?

BARRY: In 1997 AW's web site, once a cutting edge and innovative Internet communication tool, was in almost complete disrepair. I resolved that this state

of affairs must not last and committed most of my volunteer energy to improving the site. Six years later, and thanks to the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who answered the call to help, the AW web site has now regained its standing as the best and most visited whitewater information web address on Earth.

Three key people stand out in this effort: former AW Executive Director Rich Bowers, skilled programmer Scott Collins and volunteer Matt Muir. While the current AW web site is a collective effort and the product of hundreds of volunteers donating thousands of hours of time it is abundantly clear to me that were it not for the incredible contributions of these three talented individuals americanwhitewater.org would probably not exist today. Rich Bowers had the foresight to find the money to fund the web site effort and the determination to help convince the rest of the AW board members of the urgent need. Scott Collins had the technical skills and dedication to make the visions of virtual whitewater grandeur become reality. Matt Muir almost single-handedly created, recruited and molded the Stream Keepers into one of the most effective and innovative river information services anywhere. One of my fondest memories of AW is when these three guys each said, "Yes - I'll help" and by doing so actually made americanWhitewater.org happen.

### **What are one or two of your fondest AW memories?**

**BOB:** The great relief whenever we got through any Gauley Festival without torrential rains, hurricane force winds or a major power failure.

**BARRY:** I have consistently believed that AW's strength and ultimate effectiveness as an organization has always been through its volunteers. Boaters talking to and recruiting other boaters can affect a personal recognition that AW's mission of whitewater conservation, access and safety was best achieved through their

individual and collective efforts. This belief was reinforced when in 1999 I helped spearhead the purchase of close to five acres for a vitally needed take out point on the Elkhorn Creek (KY). Thanks to an incredible effort by local volunteers over \$30,000 was raised in less than five days from donors across five states in order to purchase the land - and donate it to AW. Thanks to the close cooperation of the organization (which provided the infrastructure to take in the donations and then assume title of the land) and dedicated volunteers we were able to effect the strongest, most assured method possible to obtain river access protection - direct property purchase.

**BOB:** The whitewater feasibility study on the Colton Section of the Racquette River because (i) we were doing what, for all practical purposes, was a first descent of a difficult river; (ii) it was a warm, sunny day; (iii) we were paddling with friends; (iv) nobody got hurt; (v) we were instrumental in opening a river reach that is even more visually impressive and challenging than the Bottom Moose; (vi) Niagara Mohawk Power Company provided a door-to-door shuttle; and (vii) it exemplifies AW at its best in expanding whitewater opportunities for paddlers everywhere.

**POPE:** I can say with absolute certainty that board meetings are NOT among my fondest AW memories.

My fondest memories are of the various times when the AW Access Staff Director, Rich (a.k.a. Rainey) Hoffman, tried to drown me. He once tried to drown me on the Fish Ladder at Great Falls on the Potomac by leading me directly into the hole at the bottom where my boat became pinned and then broken. He managed to rescue a few bits of my gear, but I had to climb out of the mess myself after a long sub-aqueous adventure. The second time was better; he tried to drown me in beer at the Upper Yough Race by pouring about five gallons of lager into my face as I was helpless, lying on the ground.

### **What should AW be concerned about today?**

**BARRY:** In addition to the web site I also endeavored to help improve internal staff and board communication by setting up an internet-based message center. I have always held the opinion that increased communications and the maintenance of an on-going dialogue among board members and staff would help ensure that the energy and ideas formed from these discussions would fuel a renaissance in activism for the sport and advance AW through effective consensus building. Unfortunately, and even in light of an edict by the President of the AW Board, the use of the internet message board (or even email itself) has never been popular with a majority of the AW Board or staff. This lack of will to engage in effective group communications has been one of my greatest disappointments during my time on the board of AW.

The movement in 2002 and 2003 of AW from a volunteer board into a professional staff has, in my opinion, been the most influential development for the organization. AW now seems more attuned to attracting a few deep-pocketed, large-money donors over nurturing grass roots events and assisting individual volunteers with their local access and conservation efforts. It is this new concept of AW as a "professional staff" organization that stands out in my mind as AW's most significant and current distinction.

Barry...we hear your concerns. They are important to know. Shame on us if we fail to take advantage of new organizational tools, or abandon leanness and our reputation for being the best possible bang for our members' buck. I hope that your disappointment someday evidences your being too far ahead of the curve for us to satisfy your eagerness. We'll always appreciate your tremendous past and continuing contribution to AW. 

## AW Welcomes Gerald Eldridge to the Asheville Outreach Office

Gerald Eldridge is the latest individual to join the American Whitewater staff. He will be working as the Project and Sales Coordinator based in Asheville, NC. This position is a redesign of the Corporate Relations Director position formerly held by AJ McIntyre. AW was sorry to see AJ move on, but applauds her dedication to the field of teaching. She will be returning to work as a teacher in the Maryland School Systems.

Gerald grew up paddling on the Obed/Emory watershed and the many rivers and creeks running off the escarpment of Walden's Ridge in Eastern Tennessee. In 1992, he received his Bachelor's degrees

in Advertising and Marketing from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. His passion for business development and particularly sales within the paddlesports' industry led him to Dagger Canoe and Kayak. While at Dagger he headed up customer service, then Canadian and Northeastern US sales, and eventually International Sales.

After Dagger, Gerald and his wife moved to Asheville and he worked as the mid-Atlantic regional sales manager for Nichol's, he gained an enormous amount of fresh and unique sales experience that enabled him to pioneer a sales territory and turn it into the largest revenue-producing region in the company.

We expect that Gerald will use his skills and experiences to further grow AW's Corporate Sponsorship Program, further

improve the AW Journal, and expand AW's fledging Product and Merchandise Program. When asked how it felt to join AW Gerald said, "It feels so good to be associated with AW's strong heritage and commitment to river conservation. Truly, there is no place I would rather be."

Besides paddling whitewater, Gerald has been fortunate to sea kayak extensively in southeastern Alaska and all along the eastern and western seaboard. He also loves running marathons and ultras, competitive cycling, fly-fishing, backpacking, skiing, and basically anything that will get him outside.

The AW Staff is thrilled to welcome Gerald to our staff. 



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# Partner Spotlight Dagger and Lotus Designs

## Dagger and AW Partners for the Rivers

Cut down some trees. Pollute some water. It's cool as long as it's all in the name of progress. Right? Well, no. As a company, we value the outdoors. The trees, the water – they're all connected. And as paddlers and humans, we're a part of that connection and that's why we support American Whitewater.

When you buy a Dagger boat, you're doing a lot more than putting food on our tables...



you're helping us protect our lifeblood - healthy rivers, lakes, streams and oceans. We partner with American Whitewater because both our organizations are dedicated to looking after Mother Earth and educating people to be good stewards of our most precious resource... Water. At Dagger, we believe that through good business practices, and with solid ecological partnerships, we can set a standard that will help lead the way to better protect the very waters that we are so drawn to.

So, how does Dagger support American Whitewater? Good question. Through financial donations, sponsorship dollars and program building opportunities. In 2004 AW and Dagger have rolled out a whole new way of doing business. Yes, AW still hosts the most memorable Whitewater Festivals in the country. And Yes, Dagger

will still be there. But there's more. There's increased conservation through education. Dagger has joined forces with American Whitewater to help educate paddlers to be local river advocates and watchdogs. The new American Whitewater, RSI program will help build a strong foundation for present and future water conservation/usage rights advocates. And that's something we can all feel good about.

But if you need it in a nut shell... here it is. "American Whitewater restores rivers dewatered by hydropower dams, eliminates water degradation, improves public land management and protects public access to rivers for responsible recreational use." For those very reasons, Dagger has been a long term, leading supporter of this organization.

## additional contributors



Kokatat remains one of AW's strongest allies by continuing support of AW events and outreach and is playing a major role with AW's River Stewardship Institute on the Klamath River this year.



Walden Kayaks is donating four recreational and light touring kayaks every year for the next five years, available for sale on the American Whitewater website through 2008. Today, friends of American Whitewater may purchase a Walden Experience, Adirondack, Odyssey, or Vista Expedition online to further support American Whitewater's efforts to conserve and restore America's rivers and streams.



In 2003, Clif Bar initiated The Flowing Rivers Campaign to help AW increase its Affiliate Clubs through six \$500 grants to support work on conservation, access or safety issues. Clif Bar has extended its support in 2004 and AW looks forward to continued success.



In 2004, Smith Optics continues its sponsorship of AW's River Festivals and is now offering AW major donors a special gift from Smith Optics.



Back by popular demand, AW will be releasing its revised Safety Flash Cards. Adventure Medical Kits produces these essential cards which will be available from retailers carrying the Adventure Medical Kits line of products.



Wavesport continues to support AW because whitewater rivers are not exactly a dime a dozen. In addition to a substantial monthly donation, Team Wavesport will be offering free clinics to AW members to help celebrate AW's Anniversary and thank AW members for doing their part. Check the AW and Wavesport websites for more information.



AW - Lotus Poster

Whitewater; the heart and soul of Lotus Designs, a company rooted in the rivers but now thriving in lakes and oceans as well. From the beginning we have gained inspiration from the challenging environments we are instinctively driven to seek out. Protecting these places from harm is just a natural consequence – and has been since day one.

American Whitewater – the voice of the sport. For 50 years they have worked tirelessly to protect free-flowing rivers from confinement, provide recreational releases on those sections already confined, and ensure access to waterways whether privately or publicly held.

First, we're offering an inspirational poster to new members of AW at select events.

Second, we're gonna let you 'fly the colors' of AW wherever the river takes you. SHOW your commitment in our classic Sherman or our newest nugget – the 3-panel, ultra-compact Lolita – while sharing the love for the people that make so many wet experiences possible.

Lotus Designs supports AW – has for years – because we share a common mission. For 2004 we invite you to celebrate AW's 50 years of dedicated service to the rivers and river-users of America.

To take advantage of this opportunity, or to learn more about AW and its celebration, surf your way to [Americanwhitewater.org](http://Americanwhitewater.org) or [Lotusdesigns.com](http://Lotusdesigns.com). 

NOC looks forward to continuing their successful Rapid Progressions Clinics and supporting AW by educating new paddlers about the rivers they enjoy while helping to increase AW's membership!



Patagonia awarded AW a \$5,000 grant to acknowledge our leadership role in restoring rivers through the hydro-relicensing process in the western U.S.



AW is honored to have Teva as one of its most important allies. For years AW and Teva have partnered in various forms to reach out to the paddling public. In 2004, Teva is presenting AW's 50th Anniversary Gala in Vail, CO at the Teva Mountain Games.



In 2004, IR continues to lead the industry in demonstrating corporate responsibility. IR has continued its support of AW with its AW branded product, and the industry's first Pro Donation Program. AW is grateful to have such a dedicated and sincere corporate partner.



Sherman



Lolita

# Book Review

## 50 Classics

by Tim Catalano



In writing a book like *Whitewater Classics*, Tyler Williams took a big risk. Too often books with ambitious-sounding titles are written from a generic perspective with little real information for whitewater boaters. You can probably envision the type of book I'm talking about – the one with river descriptions pilfered from the Department of Tourism and statements about the Gauley being the “number three river in the world.”

On the other hand, these are also the types of books that have the potential to contribute to the literature of their sport, providing not only an interesting and informative read, but also serving as a substantial contribution to the development of whitewater literature (i.e. Sue Taft's *The River Chasers*). Fortunately for paddlers, Tyler Williams' new book falls into this latter category.

*Whitewater Classics: Fifty North American Rivers Picked by the Continent's Leading Paddlers* (Funhog Press) certainly tips its hat to a body of climbing literature comprised by such authors as Kroese, Messner, Whittaker, and Roper. Its style is inspired by Mark Kroese's *Fifty Classic Climbs*, a seminal text in climbing literature that featured stories of top climbers and their favorite picks.

The book is arranged into regional sections (Northeast, Greater West Virginia, Southeast, Mexico, Rocky Mountain, West Coast, and North). Each regional section introduces readers to several paddlers and rivers that have helped to shape our sport.

There are a lot of things to like about this book. The paddler profiles are not simply reiterations of accomplishments, but are themselves intriguing stories that let us peak into the lives of boaters. The paddlers profiled represent diverse generations and genres of boating, and the stories bring the names to life. Not only do we learn about Dana Chladek's racing days, Charlie Munsey's Himalayan expeditions, and Walt Blackadar's first time in a kayak on the

swollen Salmon River, but we also learn about Shannon Carroll's decision to skip out on a volleyball scholarship to Liberty University, Roger Paris's development as a paddler (and a teenager) in Nazi-occupied France, and Jeff Snyder's self-rescue from a “glacier pin” on Deckers Creek.

The rivers these paddlers pick might surprise you, and Williams does a good job to avoid simple rapid-by-rapid descriptions. The section on the Middle Fork of the Feather recounts Lars Holbek's, Richard Montgomery's and Chuck Stanley's must-make ferry move above the lip of Atom Bomb Falls in the Bald Rock Canyon as they were searching for a portage route in the walled-in canyon. The section on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone recalls the first descent by Kay Swanson,

Ron Frye, Roger Hazelwood, and John Lightner. We're also with Chris Spelius and Ken Lagergren as they avoid police after their poached run of the Niagara Gorge. Similar first-time runs are recalled on the Green Narrows, Big Sandy Creek, and the Bottom Moose. Some of the other runs described in *Whitewater Classics* include Manns Creek, Vallecito, the Kennebec, the Susitna, and Rivoere du Nords.

The crowning jewel of the book is the color photography. There are many page-length full color photographs generously spliced throughout the book. Photographs of Crystal (Moose River), Big Splat (Big Sandy), the Niagara Gorge, the waterfalls of Agua Azul, Deckers Creek, Blackwater Falls, Manns Creek, Great Falls of the Potomac, Rock Island, Rio Zimatan, Embudo Canyon, the Grand Canyon of the Stikine, Gore Canyon, South Fork of the Salmon, the Lochsa, and the Tamul Falls section of the Santa Maria taunt and tease. Williams also includes a small map with each river description that highlights access points and nearby roads.

Don't be fooled – *Whitewater Classics* is an impressive book, an entertaining and informative read, and an important contribution to our sport. 



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*Clay Staley drops the big one on Oh-Be-Voyful. © Christian Robertson*



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# Field Notes

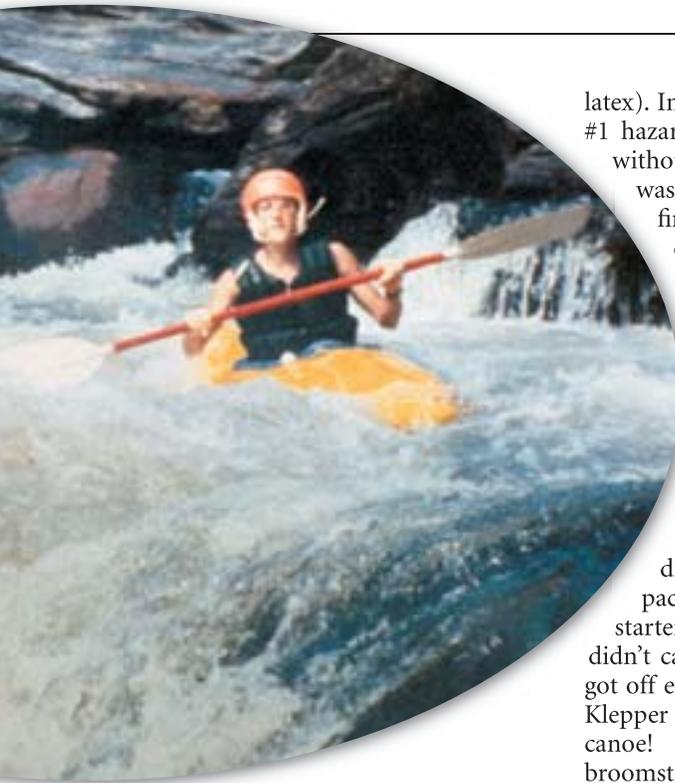
by Clay Wright



Young Clay Wright  
⚡ Slam Dunk, Upper Ocoee  
(pre-Olympic course)  
⚡ Little River Canyon, AL  
*photos by Dick Creswell*

# DESIGNS that shaped a sport in progress

# 50 Years of



Sure, I'm not the oldest guy in a skirt, but in my 30 years of kayaking the equipment has undergone more radical changes than any sport I know.

Now I'm not going to start with the Eskimos, and the Germans in the AKC haven't gotten back to me yet, so here's just enough so you'll get out on the river, even if you've blown a gasket.

My first whitewater experiences were not pleasant. Perhaps it was the wool socks, pants, and shirt I was wearing under my raincoat? I started somewhere between flannel shirts and kids' wetsuits, after the "hiking boots cause foot-entrapment" revelations but before the neo-everything period that dominated the sport 'PL' (pre-

latex). In those days, hypothermia was the #1 hazard on the river. We didn't go far without fire making materials, and it wasn't uncommon to stop and build a fire to re-warm a swimmer. We were canoers . . . even people in kayaks rolled only some of the time. "The mark of an expert kayaker is the Eskimo roll" – don't laugh, it really was. While there were many great paddlers in the 70s, there were also many great adventurers who paddled.

Our boats were huge, but they had to be to carry the army-navy drybag (designed for gas-masks) we packed lunch into, a thermos, fire-starter, and change of clothes. OK – I didn't carry all this stuff cause I was 7 (I got off easy). I also got an 11' (very short) Klepper Minor kids kayak instead of a 16' canoe! My boat had a 'v' shaped hull, a broomstick wedged in for a bulkhead and it only weighed around 30 lbs! The Royalex Blue Hole had just liberated the canoers from aluminum but the age of plastic was not quite at hand. Boats pinned often, and folded slightly less so. It wasn't uncommon to "lose a boat" then hike out and come back later to clean up the pieces. Modern boaters have it too easy . . .

### The Fiberglass Age

Boats were cheaper, repairable, and could be made as light as you wanted. All you had to do was track down a mold, order the materials (John Sweet's catalog), and learn the whole process! The craftsmen were valued members of any group because chances were good you would be patching boats every other weekend. Folded boats, cracked seams, or simple wear and tear required frequent maintenance. And while duct tape is a wonderful thing, it gets really heavy after you've wrapped a couple rolls in a couple of places. Paddling skills alone would only take you so far . . . you had to be a good craftsman to be a good paddler.

Soon commercial designs like the Seda Climax, CKS Needle Rig's, or Phoenix

Slipper made the Haughn and Mark 4 molds less valued. These well-made, lower volume designs were the hot-rods of the day. When the plastic RiverChaser arrived, some converted to the torpedo-shaped, flexible design while others snubbed the arrival, calling it "Tupperware." Perception's first entry, the Quest, did little to help the plastic cause. While the plastic walls kept flex to a minimum, this Mark IV-ish pencil was a step sideways in terms of boat design. The plastic vs. fiberglass rivalry was probably at its peak, when the low-maintenance boats just didn't have the design chops to match the progressive material. The launch of the Perception Mirage changed things. This well marketed no-maintenance craft used rocker to make the boat turn, surf, and surface like few others. The shorter Dancer that followed was another huge step forward. Soon radical Prijon and Pyranha designs began making the leap across the pond. Now free from fiberglass splinters and resin fumes, paddlers were also free to focus on paddling. They learned to use rocks to their advantage, running steeper and more technical terrain day after day to hone their skills and progress. This process continues to this day.

### Progress in Apparel

Velcro closures ushered in the first real paddle-jackets, with neoprene closures right behind. The horsecollar was replaced by Seda's sectional foam PFD – with a fold-up waist so the zipper only came to my chin when I rolled. Charlie Walbridge's High Float added much more foam to the jackets, and was offered without the folding flap. These "highfloats" made really big water, like the Ocoee, feel safer.

Due to my small size, I had to use a women's "S" wetsuit – and could pack lunch in the chest. I hated it, but it was warm, so what could I do? Looking for any options, I vividly remember the first polypropylene friend brought back from the NOC – the way the water ran right out of it . . . how it didn't itch like wool or smell of moth balls. I had to have it! The "Chuck Roast" and later

*continued on p.17 (2 column)*

# American Whitewater

## "Lifestyles of the Young and Hyperactive Paddler"

Hello, AW readers, it's me again! This time I'll be talking about playing god (in a sense) with foamies. Here's the best part about foamie boating: you get to make your own rapids and waterfalls and watch little "people" run them, but nobody gets hurt! Well, I guess if you slip and fall on the rocks while you are playing you could bust your butt, so be careful out there.

Whether you are into freestyle or extreme foamie boating experiences, you can learn a lot by making your own rapids. Creekbeds have lots of great rocks to toss or place to make complicated rapids, waterfalls or big gnarly death holes. If you are more of a playboater, you'll probably want a larger creek, anywhere from two to six feet wide with a good bit of gradient and many boulder gardens. If you are interested in setting up extreme creek settings, you want to look for a very steep creek, usually only between one to three feet wide, with many vertical drops and already complicated rapids. Depending on boat size, you'll only want about one to two cfs to prevent losing your foamie altogether. If the creek is complicated and continuous, the boat will easily get away from you. Trust me; I've lost a few. The best type of steep creek consists of drop/pool rapids where you can stand in the pool and place the boat upstream for the perfect launch. My favorite kind of steep creek spot has a two to three-foot vertical drop, so if your foamie is about four inches long, that is like an 8-foot creekboat going over a 72 foot waterfall! (yep, I'm still taking math classes, so I figured that one out!)

Okay, now on to the design factors. My best advice is to try things. If you have a waterfall, dig out a nice and deep base. Make sure that there are no bounces (rocks or sticks poking out of the waterfall) and clear out any debris or obstacles at the lip. Then, put two rocks at the lip to constrict

the flow and create a jet. If there is too much water flowing, or if the rocks are too close together, the current will build up on the rocks and create pillows that converge right at the edge (the lip) and make a "V-wave of death." If the foamie goes over such a wave, it will usually result in one painful outcome: over-rotation. When you over-rotate, you either do a really big belly-flop and eject out of your boat, or you do a head dive - human pile driver, like Tim Gross did. Ultimately, you want to get away from over-rotating. Over-rotating is bad, but things could be worse, like landing flat or sideways, or pitoning a rock (yuck). Make adjustments until the current smoothly rolls off the lip with nearly no chop or strange phenomenon. If you want a totally different lip design, place another slender rock in between the two forming the main roller to part the water (ah yes, you are Moses for a day) so both currents hit the rocks at the lip and reconnect after the initial plummet. This usually forces one current to fold over the top of the other, allowing for a variety of foamie lines.



photos by Leland Davis

To make a great playhole, it is basically the same thing, only with bigger rocks and more current. Place a large rock in the center and place smaller rocks to either side, adjusting the strength of the hole and the seam lines. You can really begin to understand the difference between the smiley holes, the keeper "death holes", and the great play spots. You can direct the foamie by nudging it with a stick or finger, as if the boater were trying to paddle his/her way out. Again, be sure you are in a spot where you can catch your foamie so it doesn't blast away downstream. It is pretty frustrating to spend time making the perfect miniature of your favorite boat and to watch it disappear out of sight.

Ideally, you want the foamie to drift into the rapid so it will stay with the waterfall all the way down and you can observe the perfect (or not so perfect) line. Playing with both the placement of the rocks and the foamie can help you learn a lot about water dynamics and its affect on kayaks. It really helps to visualize scenarios and what you can do to correct them. I can't tell you how many times playing with foamies has helped me discover a new technique. After all, I do have an advantage over a foamie: I can use my paddle and maneuver even moving upstream (foamies only move upstream in eddies).

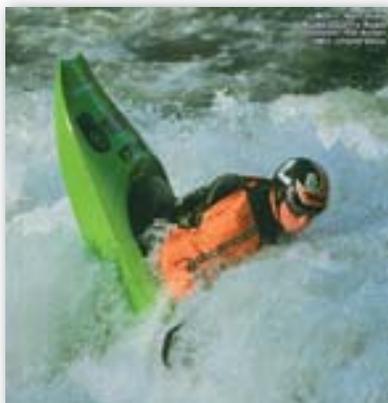
Which gets us back to the big question: why is it good to play with foamies? Because you can learn one heck of a lot about currents, lines and the effects of moving water on boaters. Foamies are an excellent tool for instruction, and have been used in varying forms by the ACA and other instruction programs for years. I remember seeing an entire clinic on the Silvermine Creek at the Nantahala Outdoor Center, with Chris

50 Years of

Spelius demonstrating river dynamics with a big old plastic Dagger model. You can make your own foamies to be more proportional to your boat size and shape, so you can imagine yourself down there in the water. Anytime I play with foamies, I imagine myself as the boater and note any changes or adjustments that I would have made.

Kayakers have an advantage over any athlete in the world, because water, no matter how big or small the flow, will always do the same thing. We just have to learn to tap into the flow and work with it to our advantage. Foamie play is a great way to become more familiar with water reading skills and understanding water dynamics.

There you have it: the final foamie installment. I have no idea what I'll be writing about in the next installment of "Lifestyles of the Young and Hyperactive Paddler." Any ideas? You can write me at [Patkeller@charter.net](mailto:Patkeller@charter.net). See you on the river, and good lines to all! 



*continued from p.15*

the thick "Blue Puma" pile was wonderful stuff. I used a Patagonia's version for 7 years! Sure it stank, but layered under a wetsuit and paddle jacket you could boat comfortably down into the 40's. CKS's "Bonnie Hot Pogies" covered our hands and winter boating became fun.

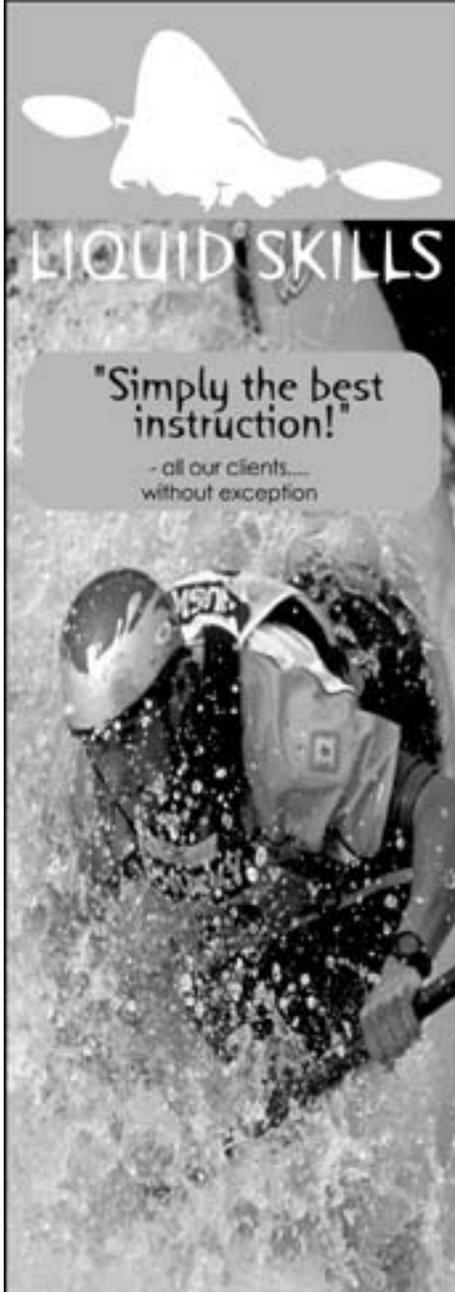
### The Latex Age

With the introduction of the first drytops – jackets with latex seals on the wrists and neck – the modern age of kayaking was born. What a revelation! Not only could you paddle in freezing weather, but you could also PLAY when others were racing to the take out. My first was the CKS drytop, and in one day on the Little River Canyon I was instantly a much better boater. Perhaps it is just that much easier to boat when you stay warm, even after a roll? I think a little of both. My progression as a paddler went hand in hand with the fast-paced progression happening in the world of gear and boat design. With every new boat and with every new gear innovation I felt more confident to take the next step on the water. What a great ride.

### Credit where it is Due

Too many kayakers today brag about how cool the new generation of boaters is, and how skilled they are doing tricks and running the gnarr. Too many old-timers knock the kids for running waterfalls and risking their necks in cold weather. Few things people do today are as risky as boating class 3 in the 70's, in winter, in an aluminum canoe, and in jeans and a wool sweater.

Modern technology transformed whitewater paddling, allowing us not only to be safer, but also more comfortable in increasingly demanding conditions. Let the kids not forget the suffering of our sport's forefathers as they paved the new ground in old materials. May the forefathers revel in the feats of each new crop as they continue the work of a great sport in progress. And may we all remember that the advances made in the sport of whitewater paddling owe much to the innovation in materials, boat design, and paddling apparel. To sport's biggest contributors – the designers both old and new – we salute you! 



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# American Whitewater

# NPFF update

by Zina Merkin

## The National Paddling Film Festival (NPFF) is 21 years old – I guess that makes us legal?

We celebrated on Friday with Presenters' Night, a Bourbon Tasting to which filmmakers, sponsors, NPFF volunteers, and special guests from the boating community were invited. This new special event introduced our visitors to one of Kentucky's finest industries, courtesy of Commonwealth Wine and Spirits, at the spectacular Boone Creek Anglers Club, owned by BWA member and NPFF volunteer Burgess Carey.

In the comfort of the lodge's rustic elegance, surrounded by plentiful food and drink, the community of river supporters mingled, swapped stories and showed video clips. A surprising and gratifying number of filmmakers traveled from distant places to join us. Presenters Eric Jackson and Corran Addison of course were centers of attention, but every corner was filled with excited conversation as both amateur and more experienced filmmakers discussed current and future projects. Tom O'Keefe (*Yangtze River: Final Descent*) came from Seattle, and Vince Shay, Fletcher Burton (*Air*) and Matt Fahey (*Heaven on Earth: Whitewater Paddling Around Humboldt*) traveled from California. Lance Jones (*Kayaktion and ArKAYAKansas*) from Arkansas, Will Van DeBerg (*Weasel Bait*) and Ben Hayes (*Local Hero*) from Georgia,

photo by Gary Ress



Michael Munroe (*Canoe Polo - Every Day at 5*) from Florida, and Alex Kinsey and Goudi Vandal (*White Noise*) from Vermont represented the East and Southeast along with Bryon Dorr, Jeremy Laucks, Ben Hayes, Tyler Cundiff, Michael Spanjer and Kimberly Dequitis.

While somewhat blurry for a few of the revelers, Saturday morning dawned bright on the scurrying activity of volunteers preparing the massive Silent Auction in the lobby of the Kentucky Theater. The generosity of our sponsors (and hard work of volunteers) was evident in the best stocked Silent Auction in recent memory. More than one hundred separate items included over a dozen helmets, numerous dry tops and splash jackets, an Esquif canoe, a trip donated by Expediciones Chile and a week of instruction from Madawaska. Necky donated a kayak, as did local outfitter Phillip Gall's. New sponsor Jackson Kayaks set up in the auction room and EJ stayed busy all day telling folks about the new designs. While he had never really paid attention to the NPFF before, EJ has finally seen the light and is looking forward to coming back next year. Please let our sponsors know you appreciate their support of the NPFF and the rivers.

Attendance this year was very strong, with folks coming from as far north as Vermont and Michigan, and as far south as Florida. Dozens of eager boaters already were lined up at 9:30 a.m. waiting for the admission desk to open. Local sponsor Barney Miller's provided technical support and extra screens for the lobby and auction room so no one had to miss a moment of fun. Previews of Scott Lindgren's (last year's guest host) Burning Time and Epicocity Project's Bigger Than Rodeo started the festival, along with a short clip introducing new NPFF Benefactor J3 Helmets. The action continued non-stop, as the 2004 NPFF had more competitors than any festival in at least a decade – 15 Amateur, 13 Accomplished and 2 Professional entries – and the overall quality was outstanding. Former Festival Director and longtime volunteer Barry Grimes said “the dominance of the amateur and accomplished entries this year absolutely thrilled me.”

The professional instructional films were specially edited for the NPFF to capture the essence of the projects in a shortened time frame more suitable for the competition experience. While both scored well, Playboating with Ken Whiting edged out Girls at Play, with judges citing good structure and sequencing of shots, a nice mix of environments and river settings, and clear narration and engaging content.

The Amateur contest was very close, with many excellent entries. Winner *White Noise*, by Alex Kinsey and Goudi Vandal from Vermont, was a fast-paced piece about New England creeking. Judges complimented them on their photography, especially camera angles and editing, calling it “the most professional ‘amateur’ film I have seen,” and “just the best amateur entry I can remember.” A couple judges encouraged these amateurs to take their work to the next level by developing stronger story lines. *Foamy Boater: Foaming at the Mouth* by Dylan Levy-Boyd and Arthur Bass was a close second, pleasing judges with its story line, humor and “hilarious” narration. Good camera angles made the most of the action. In a slightly different vein, second runner-up *Indescribable* by T.A. Loeffler and Kenna Fair from Newfoundland, was a brief (3 minute) montage of the wonders of the Grand Canyon.

The Accomplished Division had two categories this year, Documentary and General Boating. The G.B. winner, *Local Hero* by Benjamin Hayes of Tennessee, featured creeking and squirt boating, with the requisite big drop and carnage shots. Judges liked the variety of camera angles, settings and especially the music. Runners-up in the Accomplished Division were documentaries with unusual stories. Tom O'Keefe's *The Yangtze River: Final Descent* documented a touring kayak trip down a section of the Yangtze now being submerged forever beneath the backwaters of the enormous hydroelectric project of the Three Gorges Dam. *Canoe Polo: Every Thursday at 5:00* by Michael Munroe is a lighthearted look at a flatwater activity that builds agility and boat control, but the underlying message is about the camaraderie of boating and the importance of spending time with friends. Excellent

photography and a good storyline made up for the lower adrenaline quotient of this video.

Still Image winner was Dave Allnutt, with *The Box at Climax* on the Russell Fork River (paddler Clay Warren).

The big winner of the NPF this year was perennial favorite Rick Gusic. His documentary *Cheat River Canyon* won its category, division, Judges' Best of Festival and the audience voted Paddler's Choice Award. Combining historic and contemporary footage, serious moments and comedy, this video told a captivating story of the Cheat River. One judge called it "the most enjoyable video by far," and many mentioned its creativity and pacing. Once again, Rick has given us a great film.

A defining moment of this year's NPF was the program by Corran Addison. He made a Hollywood style entrance to the theater, abetted by Festival Director Dave Margavage. But in spite of his carefully crafted image as kayaking's bad boy, he blew his cover as a renegade. Corran's presentation was very thoughtful and intelligent, as he discussed the use of "B-Roll" footage (the background stuff

rather than the scripted scenes) to capture the spirit and atmosphere of a location, develop the characters, and build the story of a film. He told a hilarious tale of surreal hijinks with machine-gun toting guards at the Chechen border, which his companions were too terrified to tape. He spoke with great conviction about the need for boating films to have a plot, to tell a story, urging the audience to aim for Sundance or the Mountainfilm Festival and compete with other genres. The latter half of his talk turned more somber, as he noted that whitewater boating was quickly moving from being a very safe activity to one poised to make the list of top-ten dangerous sports. He noted that new boat designs make it easy for paddlers to gain skills faster than experience, and that many recent accidents can be attributed to inappropriate equipment (playboats in creeking situations), lack of safety equipment and training, and poor preparation for conditions. He said boating will always have risks, but there is no point to taking unnecessary chances. Look for a future AW article by Corran on this subject.

Later in the afternoon Corran and E J came out to double team the audience, asking for



Zac of Commonwealth Wine and Spirits explaining Bourbon to Corran Addison at the Boone Creek Aglers Club Friday Night.  
*photo by Don Spangler*

a show of hands of AW members. Sad to say, less than a third of the people raised their hands, and the pair set about changing that. While not quite a revival atmosphere, a number of people did feel the call, and joined on the spot. At the Awards Party that night, Risa Shimoda talked a little about the 50th Anniversary of AW, and treated us to a big cake as she marked the launching of the AW Anniversary Celebrations.

And speaking of celebrations, the Awards Party, with the music of Club Dub, was a lively affair. Local sponsor Kentucky Ale made sure no one went thirsty. Awards were presented by Milt Aitken, of Paddlesnake fame, Risa, EJ, Corran, and Festival Director Dave Margavage. Filmmakers, judges and audience members met and talked, people danced, old friends caught up with each other, and everyone enjoyed a fitting end to another successful National Paddling Film Festival.

Don't be left out next year – come join us! And in the meantime, check out our Road Shows to find out how you can view some of these unique videos in your own area, and have a great time contributing both to local causes and the NPF. Information about the Road Shows, our sponsors, and other aspects of the NPF can be found at: <http://www.surfbwa.org/npff>

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Corran Addison and young  
Dane Jackson at the NPF  
photo by Gary Ress



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AW Volunteer Larry Cable  
photo by Gary Ress



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# American Whitewater

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# History AW-The Sport's Cornerstone

by Sue Taft

## The formation of AW in 1954 became the cornerstone of the sport of whitewater in America.

Although AW's founders and early leadership may not have anticipated this, the decision to define the organization's purpose as they did provided for that role. By encouraging "exploration and enjoyment of wilderness waterways; to foster research, study and teaching of improved techniques and equipment designs for safely negotiating white water" and protecting "the wilderness character of our waterways for the growing number of those who are discovering the rewards awaiting the river tourist," they established the basic foundation on which the sport would grow. Much of what we take for granted today did not exist when AW was founded—river ratings and guide books, safety codes and procedures, and coordinated conservation and river protection efforts. In the ensuing five years after its founding, AW took on the missing pieces that they saw were vital to the development of the sport. Even in trying to fulfill its purpose statement, the founders saw the organization's role as "a channel for bringing together ideas, procedures, and experiences." In order to share and disseminate all of this information, the first issue of "Journal of American WHITE WATER" was published in May of 1955.

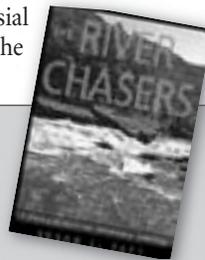
As part of the "exploration and enjoyment of wilderness waterways," one of the first committees established was the Guide Committee in the spring of 1955 [see Sept/October 2003 for "Conservation, River Ratings, Gauges, and Guidebooks: How are they connected?"]. Its purpose was multifold and included trying to reach a consensus for rating the difficulty of rivers and clarifying an understanding of running whitewater by seeking a common terminology. The committee's intention was to compile an accurate listing of river information and disseminate this information for the use of future authors. Their efforts were critical in establishing much of what we take

for granted today in common accepted terminology, river ratings, and river levels (gauges) for whitewater.

To support the fostering "research, study and teaching of improved techniques and equipment designs for safely negotiating white water," the Safety Committee began soliciting input for a safety code in 1956. This elicited strong opinions from paddlers across the country. The suggestion of being a good swimmer as a requirement was met with considerable criticism, many pointing out that swimming after an "upset" [rolling kayaks, let alone canoes, was virtually unknown at this time] was absurd. The suggestion that life jackets [the term PFD did not come into use until the 1970's] be worn at all times also elicited strong opinions. The use of riverside throw lines was also seriously questioned for their practicality due to the concern about loose ropes in the water. One of the few suggestions that elicited little criticism was the hazard associated with cold water. The use of spray skirts was also encouraged, but so, too, was the issue of making sure the skirt could be released. A year later, the first draft of the Safety Code was submitted for comments. By 1959, the final version—the first of many revisions over the ensuing years as the sport progressed—was released and became established as 'THE' recognized safety code for whitewater.

For protecting "the wilderness character of our waterways," the Conservation Committee was formed in 1956. However, even before the formation of the committee, conservation already was an integral part of AW. The first issue of *American WHITE WATER* included an article titled "Echo Park Dam: Is it Needed Now" about the controversial Echo Park Dam on the

Sue Taft is the author of *The River Chasers*, *The History of American Whitewater Paddling*. If you have a topic or question you would like answered, email it to [staft@theriverchasers.com](mailto:staft@theriverchasers.com) and look for its answer in an upcoming issue of the *American Whitewater Journal*.



Colorado River and the need to preserve versus satisfy future water needs for economic growth of the region. Consensus was difficult to obtain on many conservation issues and the leadership of the committee struggled with where the organization should stand on different issues. However, it nevertheless led to a growing awareness to a role that the organization would play over the ensuing years of collecting and disseminating information about issues that affected their sport.

To support being "a channel for bringing together ideas, procedures, and experiences," AW disseminated information that was critical to the development of the sport. Although many different ideas, procedures, and experiences were shared, some of the more important information concerned skills on technique and river running, and on fiberglass construction of canoes and kayaks. Paddling technique was debated in article after article in *American WHITE WATER*. In addition to providing a more uniform evolution of technique and skills, the exchange of information also illustrated the differences between East and West paddling technique and styles, which at the time was fairly large. As one writer noted, "New Englanders are conservative; Coloradans are more dashing."

Without the benefit of commercially available fiberglass canoes and kayaks specifically for whitewater use, the "how to" of fiberglass construction played a critical role in the development of the sport. The first article involving how to build a one-off fiberglass canoe was published in November 1955. In the ensuing years, many articles were published not only as manuals for how to build your own kayak, canoe, or paddle, but also how to design your own kayak or canoe. This contributed to the birth of the whitewater industry that has since replaced individual home-built kayaks and canoes with commercially available production plastic kayaks and canoes.

In a nutshell, in fulfilling those roles – in filling in the blanks for what did not exist – AW established its place in the history and growth of whitewater in America. Without AW, we would not be where we are today. 

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# Contest for Kids Benefits AW by Jackson Kayaks



American Whitewater is pleased to announce that Jackson Kayaks and AW will conduct the 2004 AW Membership Drive for Kids—a program for enthusiastic young paddlers. Jackson Kayaks believes that it is critical that younger paddlers understand the importance of supporting American Whitewater with membership. To support their commitment, Jackson Kayaks will award a new Jackson Kayak to the paddler who collects the most AW memberships during the contest period. Additional prizes from IR, Lotus Designs, and AW will be awarded for runners up.

The AW Membership Drive will start on June 1st and end on July 31st. Only paddlers who are under the age of eighteen (not yet past their eighteenth birthday by July 31st) may participate. Paddlers must submit complete and accurate forms to be eligible to win. The winner will be

announced at the AW Deerfield River Festival in Charlemont, MA on July 31st. Winners need not be present to collect their rewards. Special AW Membership Forms can be downloaded from both the AW website ([www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org)) and Jackson Kayak's website ([www.jacksonkayak.com](http://www.jacksonkayak.com)).

Recruiters must collect at least (5) memberships to be eligible to win the kayak. In order for each eligible recruited membership to be counted, each corresponding membership form submitted must include the name and AW membership number of the recruiting member. Running tallies for each recruiter will be available on both the AW and Jackson Kayak websites. Tallies will be updated every two weeks beginning on June 12th and ending on July 24th. 

*For more information, please visit [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org).*



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# Interview Oz Hawksley

by Risa Shimoda

Oz Hawksley was active in AWA from its first year – about the time that the first issue of the journal was put out in 1955.

A sort of executive committee was formed and one member of it was the Secretary (later called the Executive Secretary). The group was just made up of representative boaters from various parts of the country. Lawrence Grinnell (author of *Canoeable Waterways of New York*), who Oz knew at Cornell, convinced him to become involved. The first Secretary was Bruce Grant and then Bob McNair in '56.

In January, at the age of 83, Oz ran a section of the upper Guadalupe in the Texas Hill Country. He still has a Yugo II C-2 in his basement.

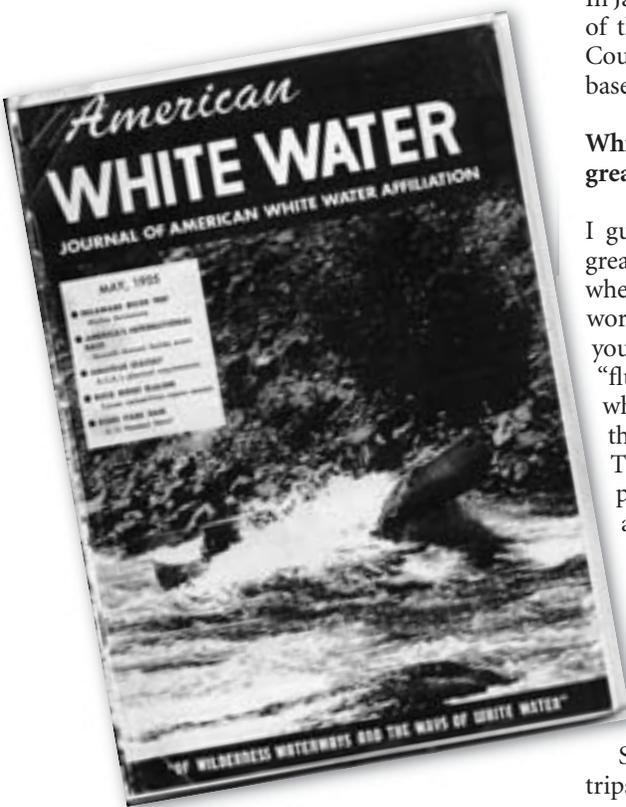
**Which years describe your time of greatest involvement as an AW volunteer?**

I guess I'd have to say that my years of greatest involvement began with 1958, when I became Secretary. That year we worked on a Constitution and By-laws, if you can imagine doing that with a carbon "flurry"! In '59 I set up our first group whitewater trip in conjunction with the Sierra Club River Trip Committee. This meant doing all the scouting, food planning and commissary, shuttle arrangement, and financial planning. However, since the Sierra Club furnished the rafts, it allowed many of our boaters to take their non-boating family members along. We ran sections of the lower Selway and Lochsa and the North Fork of the Clearwater. In '60 four of us ran the Selway to see if it was suitable for group trips and made a 16mm film which was used to help get the Selway included in the

initial Scenic Rivers Act. There were 2 more group trips on the N. Fork of Clearwater that summer but Jack Reynolds and I had bought and equipped surplus rafts so that we were no longer involved with the Sierra Club. In '60 I also became involved as Chair of the Advisory Committee, wrote articles, planned more western trips, continued guiding part of the summers for Hatch River Expeditions and met my wife on one of their Sierra Club trips. In '61, the AW trips continued with runs on the Selway, Middle Fork and Main Salmon. We had to give up running AWA river trips in Idaho in '62 (though I did manage to run some in later years) because the Idaho guides conspired (thru licensing and fees) to run "do-it-yourselfers" off the rivers. 1958 thru '61 were my years of most intense involvement with AW.

**What did you see in the organization - what we were or were not doing well, new trends or changes - that stands out most distinctly?**

I won't make a judgment on "right or wrong," but one problem that upset the development of AWA was the conflict between racing and non-racing. There was a period when the Journal seemed to be overboard on racing news and results. This sort of came to a head when Peter Whitney couldn't seem to get the magazine out on a reasonable schedule (he and everyone else were volunteers, however), so a group got together and got Jim McAlister to volunteer to put out the journal. He switched to the larger size that many outdoor type magazines used, and since he was very river conservation minded, he included more material on conservation and little or nothing on racing, which was perhaps too extreme. That got the racers upset and some other people griped about changing the size of the magazine so Jim got disgusted and quit and wanted nothing further to do with AWA. Luckily, he still lived in Kansas City at that time and I knew him well and was able to go rescue the files. I think the magazine has a reasonably good balance today. I see it as being a little heavy on waterfalls sometimes and I wish it could include more articles on canoeing, even wilderness canoeing with less than spectacular whitewater but editors have to



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take what they can get (editor's note: this magazine is by paddlers and for paddlers--- if you'd like to see more stories on a certain boating genre, please send them in).

**Which events, people, or initiatives were the most influential in steering the events, programming or organizational development during that time?**

Obviously, some of the people on the original Executive Committee were very important in shaping the organizational development. I never met Eliot DuBois or Bruce Grant but they were very active in shaping the directions of the organization. I knew many of the Colorado group, including some that were not on the Executive Committee. People like Dave Stacey, Roy Kerswill, Clyde Jones and other people in that area edited, produced and mailed the journal, which was the basis of everything else that developed. Bob

McNair brought the experience of his work with the very successful Buck Ridge Club (Pennsylvania) to us which was very helpful with various kinds of development.

**What are one or two of your fondest AW memories?**

Some of my fondest memories related to AW date back to our scouting/mapping trip on the Selway. Four of us made the trip: Jack Reynolds, a former graduate student of mine and river running partner for several years, son John, who was 13 at the time, Art Midouhas of the Buck Ridge group and me. We took an army surplus raft with a home-made oar frame and a decked 15-foot Grumman. Jack and I alternated running the canoe with Art and running the raft. We had detailed Corps of Engineers topos of the river which we annotated as we described rapids, campsites, wildlife and other features. Later Les Jones used the information to create

one of his famous river "scroll" maps. We saw no other humans on the river nor any evidence of them except at one inholding and at Moose Creek where the Forest Service maintains an airfield. With his fly rod, John could catch all the cut-throats we could use for an evening meal in 15 minutes; we saw and filmed nesting Ospreys, beaver, a bear cooling his butt in the river, and found cougar tracks on beaches; campsites were on sandy beaches where we could dive into crystal clear water for a skinny dip and we drank river water off our tipped up paddles. We ran everything in the canoe except Wolf Creek (then known as Jim's Creek) where we ran only the unloaded raft through. At that time, the only way a kayaker would run it was with a planned roll after the second big hole. It has changed due to blasting for the horse trail on the river right cliff and today is an easier run. 

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# AME WHIT

## Conservation AW Leading the Way by Jerry Meral

Today's American Whitewater members know about the great work our volunteers and staff do to protect rivers, restore flows, and remove dams. We are among the most effective groups in US river conservation efforts, and some of our volunteers are also active in international river conservation efforts.

Those members with longer tenure are well aware that our efforts to require relicensing of federally regulated dams to include mandatory whitewater flows have been strong for years, coinciding with the hiring of AW professional staff back in the 1980s. But not everyone is aware of the tremendous river preservation battles of the 1960s and 1970s, in the days when AW was largely a volunteer organization.

Many of our battles came out of the explosion in the economy, and in the role of government in building dams that followed World War II. The rapidly growing economy demanded ever more water supply, electricity and flood control. Federal agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation took the lead in building these dams.

Other organizations were already involved in fighting dams when the American Whitewater Affiliation was founded in 1955. The Sierra Club had fought the damming of the Tuolumne in Hetch Hetchy Valley in 1910. They also led the fight in the 1950s against the Dinosaur National Monument Dams and the dams in the Grand Canyon. Other groups such as the Izaak Walton League, National Wildlife Federation, and National Audubon Society also were involved in a variety of dam fights.

A number of American Whitewater Board Members and our affiliate clubs involved the new organization in the effort to preserve whitewater rivers throughout the US. Everyone mentioned in this article served as AW Director during the 1960s and 1970s.

Oz Hawksley, author of a renowned guide to the Ozark waterways, fought to preserve the wonderful streams of his region. Just last August, people in St. Louis celebrated the 25th anniversary of the defeat of the Army Corps of Engineers' attempt to dam the Meramac in Missouri. It was the first (and probably only time) that a Corps dam project was deauthorized after the land had been acquired. It was important because it was defeated by a referendum of the people in the affected area and it also stopped the building of 20 some other dams that were planned in the region, as the Meramec dam was the key to the system. AW members and the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club were much involved. The land was offered back to the landowners but what could not be sold back was given to the DNR and is now restored to a natural condition.

In California, Roland Davis served as Conservation Chair of the Bay Chapter River Touring Section, an AW affiliate, and was involved in numerous river protection efforts. Carl Trost prepared one of the first guides to California's scenic rivers, greatly assisting the effort to pass the state's Wild and Scenic River bill in 1972.

Peter Whitney brought a lawsuit seeking access to the California coast that became perhaps the most famous case in the US on public access (Marks vs. Whitney). The case had direct beneficial effects on river access in California.

Charlie Smith and George Larsen always sought to involve boaters in California river conservation efforts in California.

Iris and Jim Sindelar made sure that early editions of *American Whitewater*



# AMERICAN WHITewater

covered conservation issues, and that the organization was always allied with river conservation efforts nationwide.

Pete Skinner was one of the earliest leaders of the effort to gain whitewater releases when hydroelectric dams needed to be relicensed.

Mary Kaye Hession and her husband Jack were and are leaders in the effort to preserve the rivers of Alaska, both through AW and the Sierra Club.

AW was intimately involved in the creation of two of the nation's leading river conservation organizations. The fight to preserve the Stanislaus River from New Melones Dam resulted in creation of Friends of the River. This occurred during my term on the AW Board, when I was working at the Environmental Defense Fund.

The fight to save the Stanislaus River was one of the first to be led by kayakers and rafters, mainly from AW, the Sierra Club, and the commercial raft companies. It galvanized many boaters to become river activists, and many gathered signatures for the initiative petition, attended demonstrations, and took part in boat ins, including one from the headwaters of the Stanislaus to San Francisco Bay. Tim Palmer, a boater himself, tells the story in *Stanislaus: Struggle for a River*.

Although the Stanislaus was lost, many of the boaters who were involved in that effort continued their work on the Tuolumne, which was saved from dams as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System

Early in the 1970s a number of AW activists and others recognized the need for a national organization which would devote itself to river conservation. I wrote an article in the *AW Journal* calling for such an organization, and similar points were made by other organizations.

Finally a meeting was called in Denver to discuss setting up such a group. It was attended by river conservationists from throughout the country, and resulted in the formation of the American River Conservation Council (ARCC), now American Rivers.

No one who was active fighting dams and saving rivers during the 1960s and 1970s could forget the tremendous efforts of Brent Blackwelder. Then at the Environmental Policy Center (he now leads Friends of the Earth), Brent was the guru of everyone who had to fight dams proposed by the Corps or Bureau. He organized the annual dam fighters conference, and helped organize river groups around the country.

The end of the 1970s saw a gradual decline in the river destroying efforts of the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. No new mainstream river dam in California was proposed after 1979, and the budgets of the dam building agencies declined steeply. River preservation efforts turned to the increasing number of hydro dams coming up for relicensing, and the need to restore rivers which had been damaged by the Corps and other agencies.

For those of us who lived through the dam building era, it is most heartening to see the new effort to tear down river destroying dams, and let the rivers live again. 

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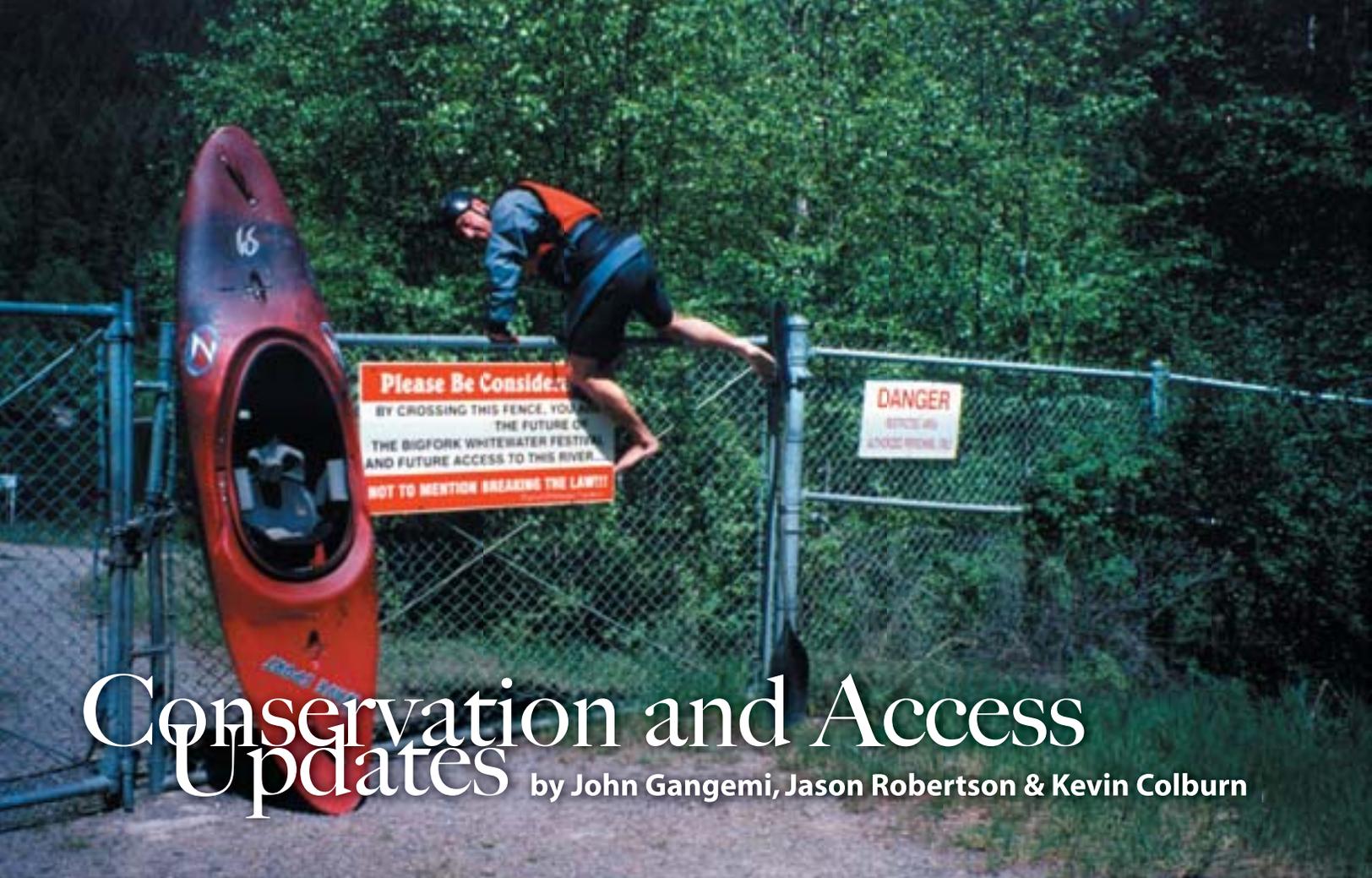
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American Whitewater  
50th Anniversary Issue - May/June 2004



# Conservation and Access Updates

by John Gangemi, Jason Robertson & Kevin Colburn

## Region: East

### Flashflood:

1/14/04: Western Carolina Paddlers' Rod Baird attended a critical negotiations meeting regarding the Cheoah River with AW staff (NC). 1/16/04: Tennessee Valley Canoe Club presents AW with a check for \$1,500 for our Conservation and Access work (TN).1/18/04: AW intern extraordinaire Dan Mullins hosted an evening symposium supporting dam removal on the Willimantic River which included a talk by AW board member Tom Christopher (CT).1/19/04: AW staff member Kevin Colburn attended a meeting in Plattsburgh New York to advocate for Saranac River conservation and access (NY).1/25/04: USFS decision to ban paddling on the Chattooga arrives in AW office, shortly thereafter AW pro bono attorney Nathan Galbreath, with the law firm Patton Boggs, steps up to represent AW in appealing the decision (NC, SC, GA).1/29/04: AW volunteer Andrew Lazenby attended a Catawba River relicensing meeting (SC). 2/8/04: The Georgia Canoeing Association decided to offer AW financial support of our Chattooga River Appeal (GA).2/10/04:

AW's Kevin Colburn advocates for the removal of Dillsboro Dam at a public meeting (NC). 3/3/04: Paul Cline offers to represent American Whitewater in his excellent work on protecting and restoring the Indian Creek Watershed (PA). 3/10/04: Greg Lawrence signed up to be an AW Regional Coordinator for central and northern Alabama.

## Cheoah River Negotiations (NC) Rekindle and Falter Once More

In January and February Tapoco Incorporated, the owner of the dam on the Cheoah River, once again entered into settlement negotiations with American Whitewater. Tapoco offered to include recreational releases in the settlement (in addition to ecological restoration spring releases already in the settlement) associated with the relicensing of their dam: but for a price. Tapoco offered to provide as many releases as the public was willing to pay them for. In essence, Tapoco was asking the public to give the Cheoah River to them through relicensing, and then buy the

water back from them. Obviously American Whitewater could not support such a proposal and will be requesting ecologically responsible recreational releases directly from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. American Whitewater, Western Carolina Paddlers and Carolina Canoe Club were successful in negotiating a solid environmental settlement on the Cheoah and Little Tennessee Rivers, but Tapoco was ultimately unwilling to provide recreational mitigation. We are very proud of our role in protecting these awesome rivers and look forward to a balanced resolution to our concerns, possibly as early as July 2004. See you on the River in 2005?

# 50 Years of

## Willimantic River (CT) Gets a Helping Hand

February 18th was a big day for the Willimantic River. As dawn broke, AW's Eastern Conservation and Access Director Kevin Colburn was walking the banks of the river with the President of the newly formed Willimantic Whitewater Partnership, Dan Mullins. The two river advocates then walked into a local radio station where they were interviewed on live radio for significant portions of a 2-hour radio show. The topic was dam removal. As the Willimantic River runs through the town of Willimantic its flow is backed up by four old mill dams, two of which are working hydroelectric dams. Dan has a vision that will ultimately see the removal of all four dams, along with the construction of whitewater features and a city park.

In the evening, the University of Connecticut's Evening Law Student Association helped Dan host a symposium that brought together a dam removal expert from American Rivers, a river advocacy expert from American Whitewater, an expert on migratory fish from the State of Connecticut, and the whitewater park designer who designed the Ocoee Olympic Course. These speakers laid the groundwork for what we're sure will be a very exciting and successful dam removal project. The speakers expressed their belief that this project on the Willimantic has a great chance of restoring a significant amount of habitat for fish that is currently blocked, of restoring/creating a high quality whitewater resource, and of helping to revitalize the town of Willimantic. Dan's enthusiasm and selfless dedication to this project are contagious, and people from all walks of life are lining up to help on this project. American Whitewater is proud to be among Dan's many supporters.

## REGION: WEST

Flashflood:

In the northern Rockies American Whitewater met with PacifiCorp staff to develop the post-license whitewater study at the Bigfork Hydropower Project on the Swan River (MT). In addition, American Whitewater, along with other stakeholders, provided comments on the implementation of recreational improvements in the new license. American Whitewater and local boaters continued meetings with PPL Montana for the Mystic Lake Hydro Project on West Rosebud Creek (MT). In an effort to develop an accurate assessment of the range of boatable flows, American Whitewater submitted whitewater boating dates and whitewater quality ratings gathered from local boaters over the past few years. The actual flow will be matched to those boating dates to develop an idea of the desirable boating range. American Whitewater reviewed and commented on the Montana River Recreation Advisory Council draft recommendations for managing river recreation in Montana. The most recent versions of this guidance document include recommendations on instituting and allocating permits.

In early January, American Whitewater staff became aware of a proposal for an Idaho Non-motorized Boat Registration fee requiring non-motorized boats greater than seven feet in length to acquire a \$13 registration decal. American Whitewater reviewed the registration proposal language using five criteria: 1) What services are promised in return for the registration fee; 2) Are the services needed by the whitewater community; 3) What is the cost of administering these services versus revenue generated from the registration fee; 4) Are collected fees held in a dedicated account or accumulated in a general treasury account; and 5) Is the registration and fee required among all recreational user groups receiving the same services? The Idaho registration fee proposal failed to identify services, account for estimates of registration revenues and administration costs, or identify dedicated accounts managing the

funds collected and requirements for all user groups to be included in registration fee proposal. In the registration proposal Idaho did not promise any new services for the whitewater community nor did the state demonstrate a need to fund past programs benefiting whitewater boaters. In American Whitewater's opinion, the Idaho Boat Registration proposal as written was not warranted. In light of American Whitewater's website post reviewing the boat registration, the parties advocating this legislation dropped their proposal.

The Idaho Water Resources Board is circulating for public comment a revised draft of the South Fork Clearwater water quality plan. American Whitewater filed comments on this plan in 2003.

In Washington American Whitewater staff and local volunteers continue work to improve access and flows on a number of rivers. Access to the Snoqualmie adjacent to PSE's powerhouse has recently been jeopardized (see more detailed article on following pages). Local paddlers Chris Wittenfeld, Pat Sumption and Tom O'Keefe met with Washington State Parks to discuss the Franklin Bridge take out on the Green River. This site meeting was coordinated by the Middle Green River Coalition which is working to protect the Green River Gorge for its incredible natural resource values and recreational opportunities. In achieving this objective, members of the coalition are working to preserve and enhance all the recreational opportunities that are enjoyed in the gorge. No short-term projects were discussed but it was an opportunity to document the important role of this site in any long-term vision for recreation in the Green River Gorge. The Forest Service began scoping for extensive road and bridge repairs resulting from major flooding in October 2003 that impacted access to the Sauk, Suiattle, Whitechuck, Bacon Creek, and the Upper Sultan. American Whitewater will be working with other conservation organizations and the tribes to develop

# Conservation and Access Updates continued

sensible solutions that protect natural resource values while providing access to these important resources.

Access continues to be limited on the upper and lower Sultan (WA). These access points have been altered by Snohomish PUD in the aftermath of 9/11. American Whitewater staff and local volunteers continue to work with Snohomish PUD on solutions that satisfy security needs yet permit the public to access and recreate on this public waterway. These issues will come under review in the relicense process that gets underway next year for the Sultan Hydropower Project.

In other WA whitewater news, Tom O'Keefe continues to make progress on access improvements on the Middle Fork Snowqualmie (see article on following pages from Tom). Tom is well organized and looking for volunteers to assist with this and other access issues in Washington.

In Oregon, American Whitewater staff along with local volunteer Jason Hartz have attended meetings and filed comments on recreation study plans for the Carmen Smith Hydropower Project located on the Mackenzie River. Comments were filed on the whitewater use report for the Clackamas River and were analyzed as part of the relicense process for Portland General Electric's hydropower projects. American Whitewater, along with local boaters in southern Oregon, filed comments on the FERC scoping document for the Prospect Hydropower Project located on the Rogue River (OR).

In California, American Whitewater filed comments on PG&E's study plan for a post-license Controlled Flow Whitewater Study for the Pit 1 Hydropower Project. The purpose of the study is to identify the suitable release volume for whitewater recreation as well as monitor potential effects of releases on cultural and biological resources. American Whitewater's comments emphasized the need for an objective study conducted in a timely manner. In addition, American Whitewater worked with PG&E staff to make stream flow information accessible via the internet and a flow phone for the river reach routinely dewatered by the Pit 1 Hydropower Project. Further downstream on the Pit, American Whitewater staff provided input on biological and cultural monitoring plans centering around whitewater releases during collaborative meetings for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Hydropower Project.

American Whitewater is very busy on the North Fork Feather River (CA) working on three hydropower projects, The Upper North Fork Hydropower Project, in the final stages of settlement, requires considerable time commitments in negotiation meetings. On the Rock Creek-Cresta Hydropower Project American Whitewater staff are reviewing biological monitoring reports from the 2003 whitewater season and working with resource agencies for the 2004 season. PG&E has just kicked off a new collaborative process for the Poe Hydroelectric Project just downstream.

On the American River, local boaters and American Whitewater are encouraging California State Parks to include a whitewater park as an alternative in the updated Resource

Management Plan for Folsom Lake SRA. A site visit took place February 26, 2004. Upstream on the Upper South Fork American, relicensing study review and approval continues to plod along in monthly meetings.

In southern California FERC staff scheduled a meeting with stakeholders, including American Whitewater volunteers, to review field study results including a whitewater flow study for the Santa Felicia Hydropower Project on Piru Creek. American Whitewater reviewed and approved resource measures for a new license for PG&E's Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydropower Project and Tri-Dam's Beardsley Donnell's Hydropower Project located on the South Fork and Middle Forks of the Stanislaus River. Mitigation measures include real-time flow information for six river reaches dewatered by project operations and improved access and whitewater releases in consecutive non-spill years. American Whitewater filed comments to FERC on Southern California Edison's Borel Hydropower Project on the Kern River (CA).



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## Whitewater Releases Slated for the Kern River (CA)

In December, 2002, American Whitewater, Friends of the River, and Southern California Edison (SCE) signed a Settlement Agreement for whitewater releases from Fairview Dam on the upper Kern River above the community of Kernville, California. Whitewater releases for the Kern River No. 3 (KR3) Hydropower project, licensed by the FERC in 1997, have been locked up in a five-year legal battle. The signing theoretically brings to an end this legal challenge with the potential for implementation of a new whitewater release schedule in April 2003. The Agreement increases the number of days for whitewater releases to 39 days annually as well as matches release volumes to kayak and rafting preferences.

The KR3 hydropower project will provide the following schedule of whitewater releases below Fairview Dam beginning no later than 10 a.m. and ending no earlier than 5 p.m.:

1. April 1st to the weekend before Memorial Day weekend SCE will provide Friday, Saturday and Sunday releases:

- a. If between 1,000 cfs and 1,300 cfs is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 700 cfs below Fairview Dam.
- b. If 1,700 cfs or greater is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 1,400 cfs below Fairview Dam.

2. Daily between the weekend before the Memorial Day weekend and July 4th:

- a. If between 1,000 cfs and 1,300 cfs is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 700 cfs below Fairview Dam.
- b. If 1,700 cfs or greater is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 1,400 cfs below Fairview Dam.

3. Weekends after July 4th and up to July 31st:

- a. If between 1,000 cfs and 1,300 cfs is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 700 cfs below Fairview Dam.
- b. If 1,700 cfs or greater is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 1,400 cfs below Fairview Dam.

## Brief History of Kern River Lawsuit

American Whitewater and Friends of the River filed two successful lawsuits challenging the U.S. Forest Service's recommendations for whitewater releases from Fairview Dam in the new hydropower operating license. American Whitewater and Friends of the River discovered that the Forest Service's recommendations did not comply with the local Forest Plan and failed to satisfactorily mitigate the impacts to whitewater resources resulting from hydropower project construction and operation. Because of the successful lawsuit the FERC issued a new license to SCE for the KR3 hydropower project in 1997 without a whitewater release schedule. The whitewater release schedule was to be included in the license once the lawsuit was resolved. SCE, American Whitewater and Friends of the River elected to enter into settlement negotiations to craft a mutually agreeable whitewater flow schedule rather than let the court prescribe one.

### Resources impacted by the KR3 Hydropower Project

The KR3 hydropower project diverts 600 cfs in a canal around seventeen-miles of the Kern River. Flows in excess of 600 cfs typically occur during the spring and early summer coinciding with Sierra snowmelt. When inflows to Fairview Dam exceed 600

cfs the dam spills water into this seventeen-mile reach. The hydropower project has no water storage capacity. Whitewater opportunities in this seventeen-mile reach range from Class II to V depending on where you launch and take out.

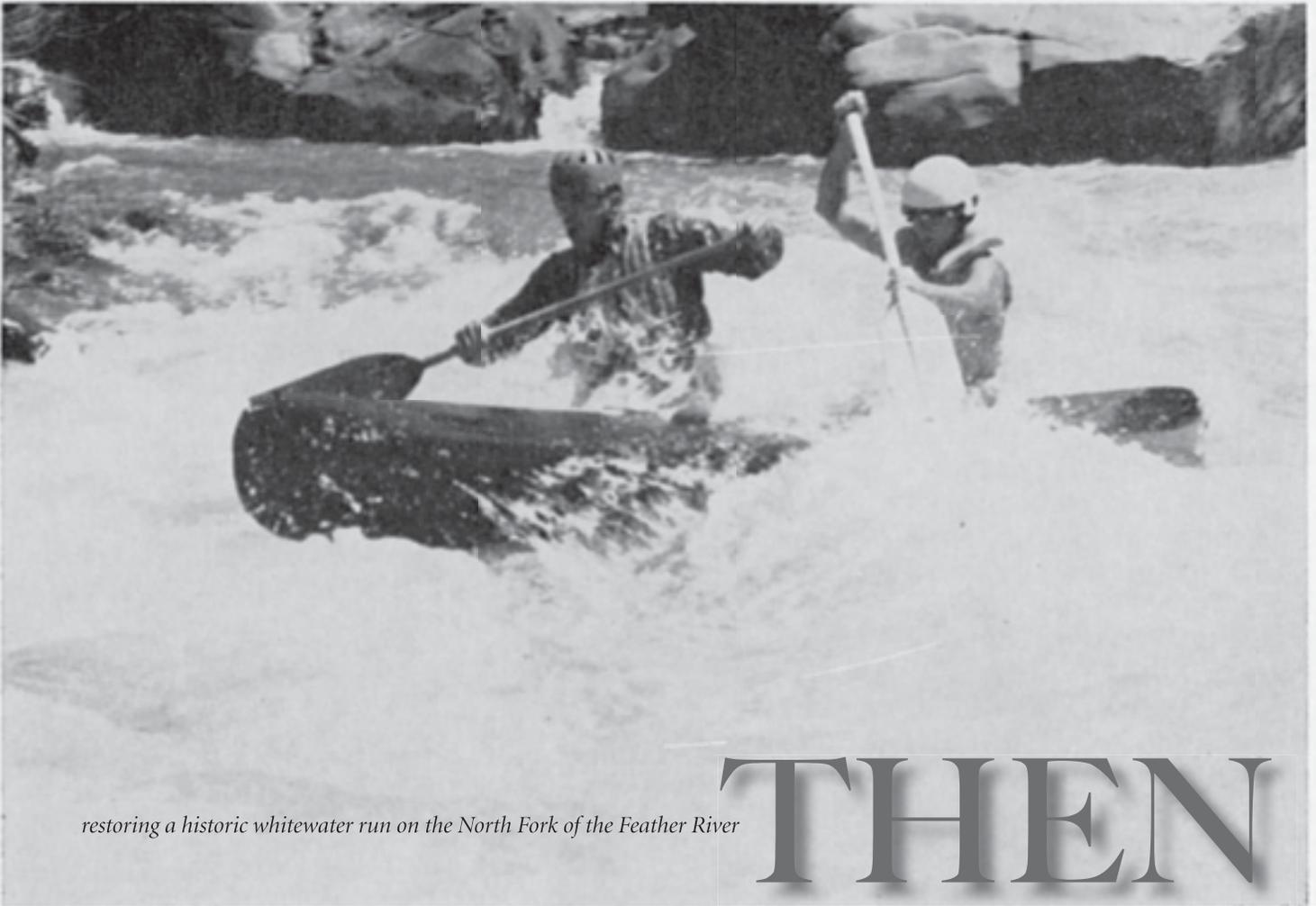
### Next Steps

The Settlement Agreement was submitted to the U.S. Forest Service and Ninth Circuit Court in January. As of this writing it is uncertain if the U.S. Forest Service plans to release the proposed schedule in an environmental assessment format for public review. Once approved by the U.S. Forest Service, SCE will adopt the whitewater schedule in the Settlement Agreement. American Whitewater encourages boaters to file comments in support of the Settlement Agreement. 

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Boaters enjoying the reach on the Kern River historically dewatered by hydropower operations.  
*photo by John Gangemi*





restoring a historic whitewater run on the North Fork of the Feather River

# THEN

In American Whitewater's 50 year history we have witnessed significant losses of whitewater rivers inundated by reservoirs or dewatered by dams diverting water for out of channel consumption.

The death of these river reaches weighs heavily on the whitewater community. Few conservation organizations let alone river conservation organizations have the longevity to witness the loss and rebirth of a river in their history. In the spring of 2004, American Whitewater celebrates the rebirth of the Belden Reach on the

North Fork Feather River, California. This river was once lost in the 1970s for power generation purposes but in March 2004 American Whitewater secured an agreement with PG&E for an annual schedule of whitewater releases in the new hydropower license.

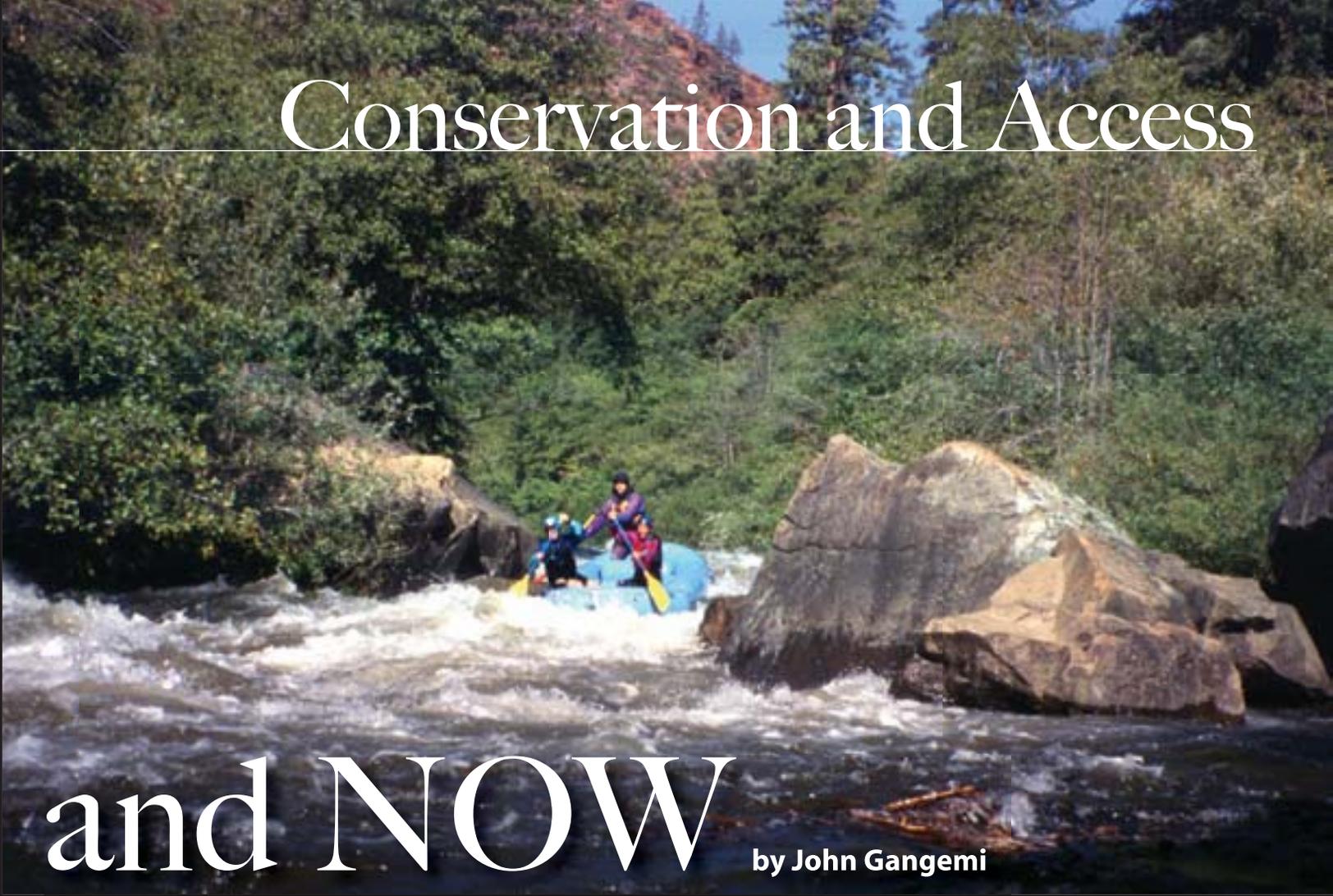
Announcing the re-birth of the eight mile Class III Belden Reach on the North Fork Feather River is not only timely in our 50th year but also richly rewarding given the historic importance of this reach in the development of whitewater sport in the 1960s. The Belden Reach annually hosted regional slalom races in the 1960s and the national slalom championships in 1962. In fact a 1970 photo of slalom racing on the Belden Reach was featured in the spring 1971 Journal of American Whitewater (see above photo).

Scheduling slalom races and planning trips to the Belden Reach abruptly came to an end in the 1970s when PG&E's Belden Powerhouse went online, thereby piping the entire river overland leaving the eight-

Joe Sedivic (bow) and Ben Parks (stern) in downriver C-2, Feather River Wildwater Race, California 1970.  
*photo by Jerry Switzer*

mile reach essentially dry. This was the last of a series of hydropower dams constructed by PG&E in the North Fork Feather River Canyon. Over the years PG&E engineered a series of reservoirs, pipes, and powerhouses diverting water from virtually every mile of the 50-mile long North Fork Feather River. Prior to these hydropower projects, the North Fork Feather River would normally have carried 700 cfs during its lowest flow period of the year. This base flow was sufficient for year-round whitewater boating. As a consequence of PG&E's engineering feats, most state and regional paddling guidebooks devote few if any descriptions to whitewater runs on the North Fork Feather. Why should they when there is no reliable water source to attract paddlers? Charles Martin's 1974 guidebook *A Paddlers Guide to the Rivers of California's Sierra Nevada* poignantly summarizes the North Fork Feather River canyon:

# Conservation and Access



## and NOW

by John Gangemi

Boaters participating in the Controlled Flow Whitewater Study on the N.F. Feather River in September 2000 conducted by American Whitewater. Note the vegetation encroachment on the channel since the 1970 photo.  
*photo by John Gangemi*

“Pacific Gas and Electric long ago destroyed the spectacular Feather River Canyon. They have built powerhouses every five miles and allow only enough water flow to keep the rocks wet. There was one stretch left open, Caribou Afterbay to the East Branch junction, that was ideal for whitewater boating. Its 80 feet per mile drop produced big waves in the narrow river bed. Pumpkinseed Rapid was a thrill for the most avid big-water boater. For years the most challenging slalom races in the country were held near one of the Forest Service campgrounds. The river was also a favorite spot for fishermen.

However, to see water flowing down the river was anathema to the engineers: since 1969 the water has bypassed the river to the new Belden powerhouse. PG&E guarantees

that no water beyond a small fish release will ever again flow down the Caribou Run unless \$4000 for water is paid for a race weekend. The Fish and Game people are narrowing the river bed with the hope that a few fish will be able to stay alive in the trickle of water if the flow is concentrated in a small strip. In the words of Carl Trost: “The PG&E giveth and the PG&E taketh away.”

American Whitewater staff and volunteers have been working to change that image of the North Fork Feather River. Since 1999, we have been working hard to restore whitewater flows to the Belden Reach, former site of the National Slalom Races. In September and October 2000, American Whitewater staff and volunteers participated in a Controlled Flow Whitewater Study for the Belden and Seneca Reaches of the North Fork Feather. Since that study we have been participating in negotiations with PG&E and resource agencies in meetings aimed at developing new license conditions. In March 2004 American Whitewater successfully

reached agreement for a schedule of eight whitewater releases annually on the Belden Reach. This restoration success adds to previous success downstream on the North Fork’s Rock Creek-Crests Hydropower Project where American Whitewater secured an annual schedule for ten whitewater releases annually with a cap of thirty-eight annually if whitewater use increases. We are not stopping here. Already, American Whitewater is at work negotiating for an annual schedule of whitewater on the nine-mile Poe Reach dewatered by the Poe hydropower project. The Poe reach contains a 4.5 mile Class IV-V reach and a 4.5 mile Class III reach.

With American Whitewater’s track record on the North Fork Feather, future whitewater guidebooks will need to devote entire chapters to accommodate all the restored whitewater runs in this canyon. 

# Conservation and Access Troubled Borders

by Jennifer Chewning

## Our High School Encountered Problems at the Argentina Border

Typically, our traveling high school takes a couple of hours to pack clothes, kayaks, food, and clean our domicile. Today, we accomplished these tasks in less than an hour, mostly, because we packed at the end of our Thanksgiving Day for our trip from Pucon, Chile to Bariloche, Argentina.

*photos by David Hughes  
and Grayson Schaffer*

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After hopping out of bed at our Rio Liecura base, we tied our kayaks with incredible speed and efficiency. Then we ate eggs, fruits, and cereal. We ate all of our fruits, as we would not be allowed to cross the border with them. The day had a great beginning, and it was clear and sunny as we left the volcano region of Pucon. I thought, "Maybe we can paddle in the afternoon in the Patagonia Mountain's Rio Manso." The day had a different plan in store for us.

The day first began going astray as we departed Pucon and passed the lakeshore town of Villarricca. We expected an hour and a half drive to Osorno to catch a bus across the Argentine border. I was listening to music when a student shouted; "I left my passport in the truck." David Hughes, our trip leader, and our Chilean driver Andres were traveling two hours behind us with a pack truck. They had to wait in Pucon for proper trailer documents to arrive at the bus station at 10:30am. We called David, and Andres was sent with the passport to Villarricca to meet us while David waited on the trailer papers in Pucon.

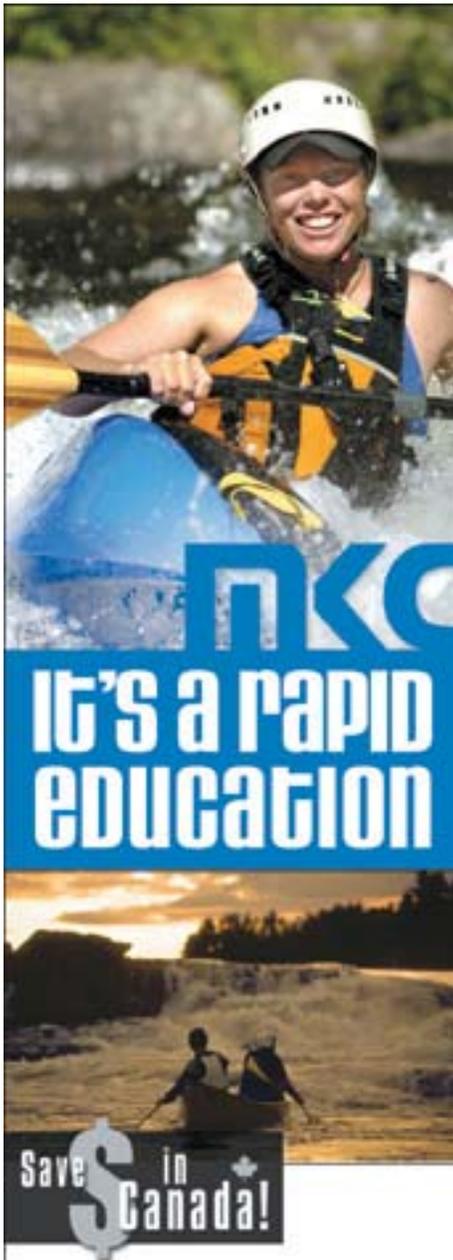
An hour and a half later and we were back on the road again. Now, Andres and David would not be far behind us. We arrived at the bus station at 1:30 pm, and missed our bus by ten minutes due to our previous delay. We would wait for the 4:45 bus. We passed time by roaming town and playing cards.

Finally, we got on the bus. Eight passengers had to stand during the bus ride. Thus, we were happy to have seats. The bus was large, nice and comfortable. After crossing the Chilean border we had to drive through a no zone area for forty kilometers. Then we arrived at the Argentine border.

It was this no zone area that caused us to have to ride the public transit bus. David tried to hire private vehicles to meet us at the border, but neither our vehicles nor the Argentine private vans could cross into the no zone area without insurance from the other country. This sounds confusing, because it is and was. The bottom line is that after two weeks of research the only legal way for our school to go surf the Rio Manso waves was to utilize the public transportation system.

As soon as you cross into the Argentine no zone area the road turns from pavement to dirt. And there you are in the heart Patagonia. The mountains were blue and beautiful and the road was strangely covered

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in giant squashed spiders. We drove down the gigantic Patagonia Mountains and came upon the Argentine border. Andres and David were mysteriously waiting with the pack truck and sixteen of our kayaks prior to the actual border. I could tell by their expressions there was trouble. The Argentine aduanas, customs, would not allow them to cross as the boats appeared to be illegal imports or for commercial purposes. They had no luck explaining that Huge Experiences is a high school, and were almost kicked out due to their efforts.

David walked into the border control behind our bus. The aduanas began speaking with David and Vero, our Argentine Spanish teacher. As they spoke students plopped off of the bus and encircled them. We were shooting photos and videos, and the aduanas asked us to get in the customs' line; they did not look happy. David later told us our encircling flock was a good thing as the officials were able to clearly see there was only one kayak for each person – thus, validating their previous explanations.

In the end Vero signed her car as collateral in order for the kayaks to cross and return, and David signed papers stating he would pay \$500 per kayak if they did not make the return to the border. The aduanas stamped our passports, and we returned to the bus for Bariloche. Andres and David stayed as the aduanas searched everything on the pack truck and trailer. They stated they would catch up to us.

We arrived in Bariloche and had pizza for dinner. Vic Simenc waited for Andres and David at the bus station. After chowing down on eight pizzas Vic rushed into the establishment. Andres had arrived without David. The equipment trailer had lost a wheel outside of Bariloche. This did not surprise us

*continued on p. 44*



# Conservation and Access

## Troubled Borders continued



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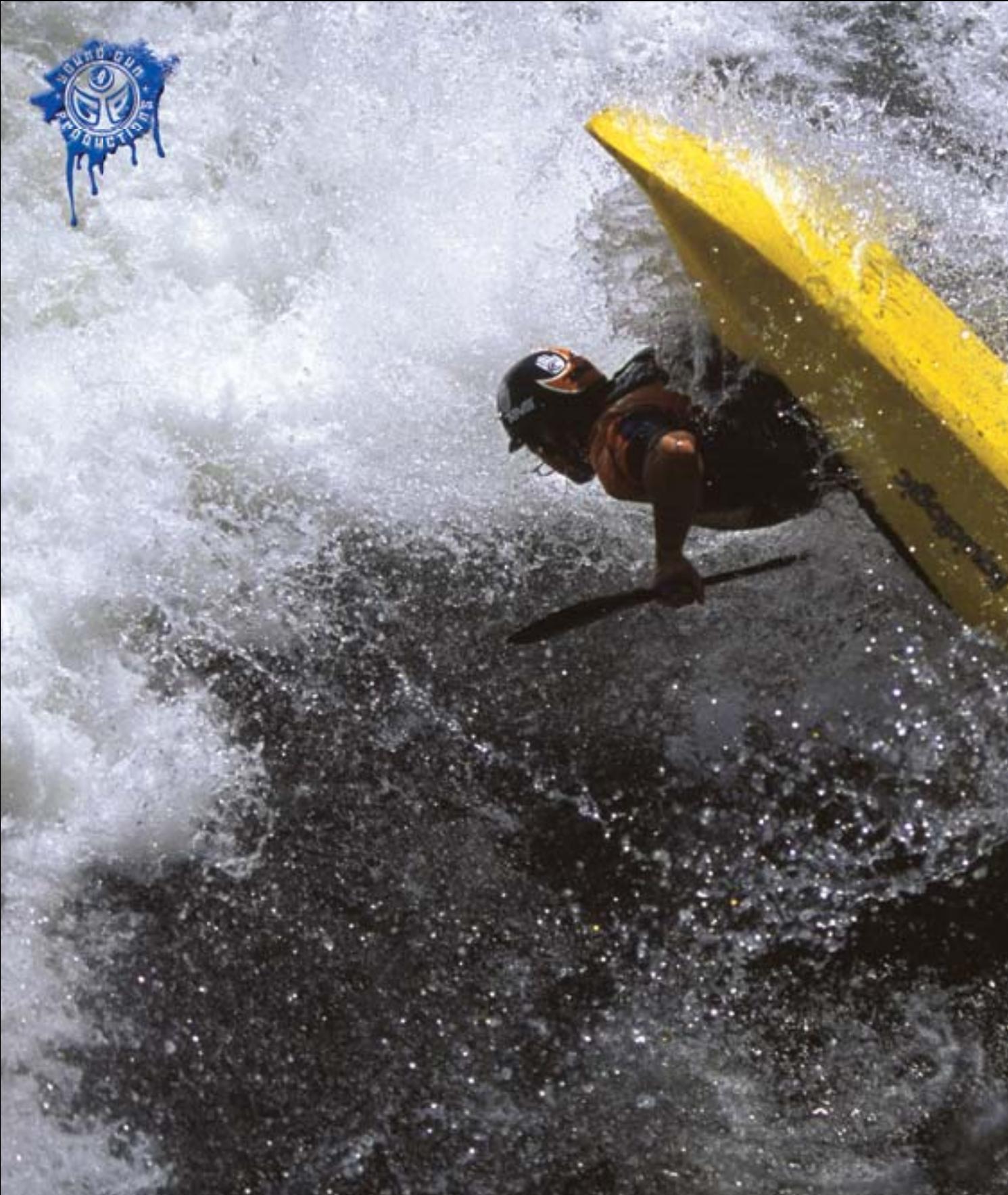


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# Conservation and Access Troubled Borders

continued

*continued on p. 36*

as the trailer was packed full of kayaks and camping gear for twenty people. Plus, while the roads of Patagonia are majestically gorgeous they are not exactly I-40.

David stayed with the trailer on the border to Bariloche road, guarding over our precious gear now worth \$500/item to the aduanas. It was chilly in this Patagonia region and David resided with his tent and sleeping bag for warmth in the case he needed to spend the night.

Vic took our private bus we previously hired to take us to the Rio Manso that afternoon. It was obvious to us hours earlier that we would not be going to the Rio Manso. The private bus with a trailer took Vic back to the broken down trailer and our cold leader. David had already hired a tow truck. After all of our gear was reloaded onto a new trailer the well used trailer was towed into a Bariloche shop. We had to hire a garage to store our gear and trailer due to the possibility of gear theft. We finished our dinner and the restaurant closed. Then we walked the tourist town streets with Christian and Veronica, our English and science teachers. Bariloche is an amazing mountain ski town on a lake. Of course, it has multitudes of shops, restaurants, and internet cafes.

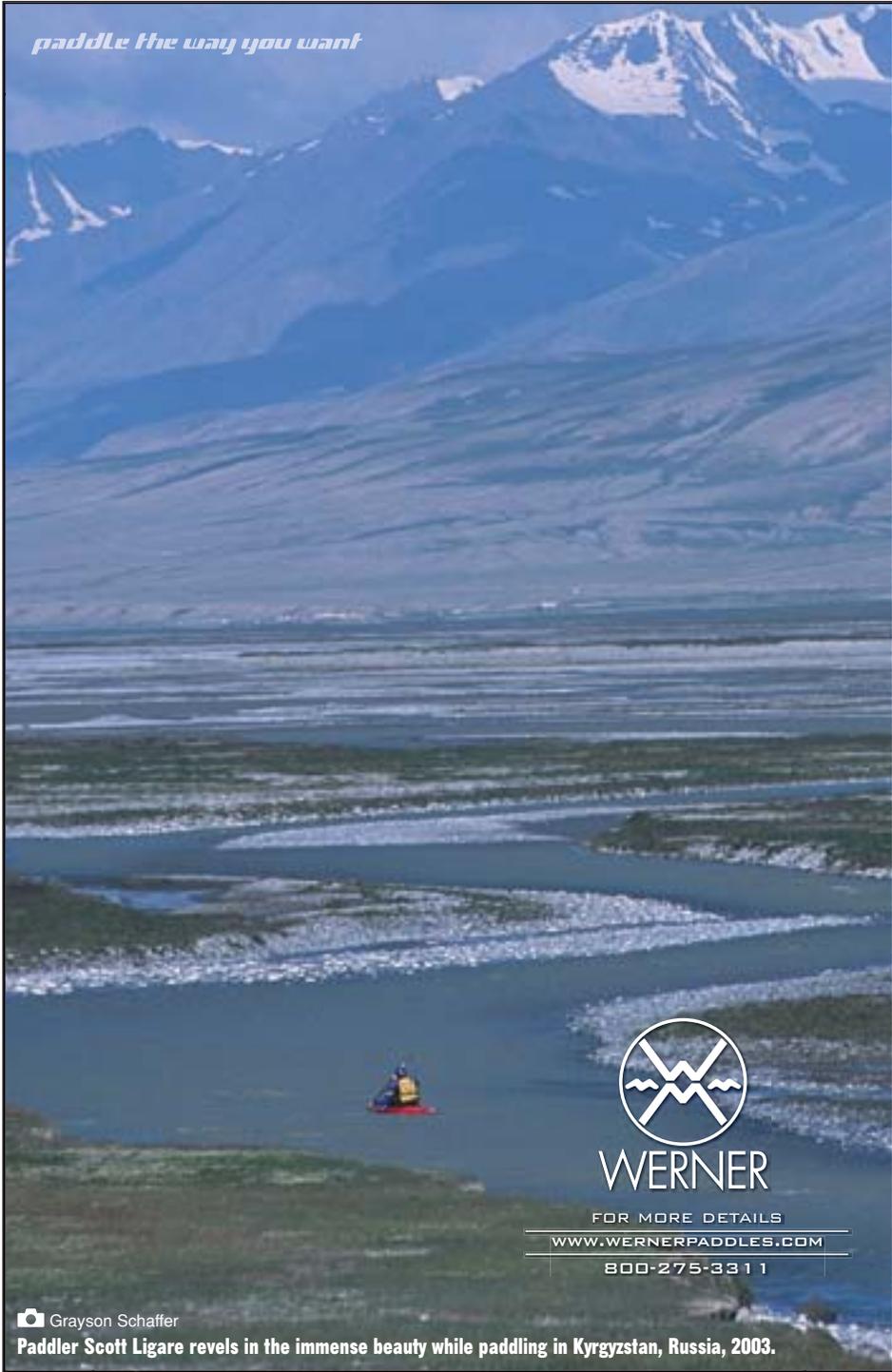
Vic, David, and Andres returned-tired, dirty, and exhausted much like the rest of us. We drove to our hostel. As soon as our heads hit the pillows, we were out cold. The day went from record breaking packing to “can anything else go wrong?” It will be a day we will all remember, and a great example of “positive improv.”

“Positive Improv” is the Huge Experiences philosophy of being able to take a negative moment, adversity, or challenge and turn it into a positive experience. The positive improv of this day was to have a great story, and memories of my friends and I trying to make it to Argentina.

Now, I am writing this letter from the Rio Manso. We take daily hikes from our camp base to the forty-five foot waterfall and slide downstream. If we have a period off and we are caught up with school we have the option to paddle at the play waves outside of our

camp. And each afternoon we play on the waves as we prepare for a rodeo at the end of the week. Looking back, the trip to Patagonia was unquestioned. 

*Jennifer Chewning is a student of the Academy of Huge Experiences, a high school for kayakers.*



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 Grayson Schaffer  
Paddler Scott Ligare revels in the immense beauty while paddling in Kyrgyzstan, Russia, 2003.



photos by David Hughes and Grayson Schaffer



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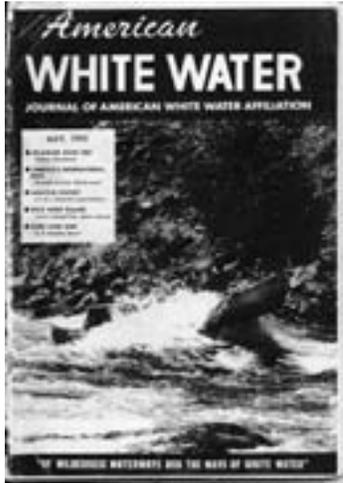
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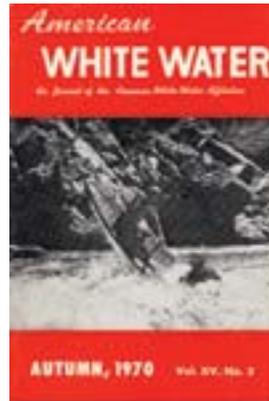
# American Whitewater

## Timeline of Journal Covers



MAY  
1955

Georgie White celebrates 10 Grand Canyon Trips: two swimming, eight by raft!

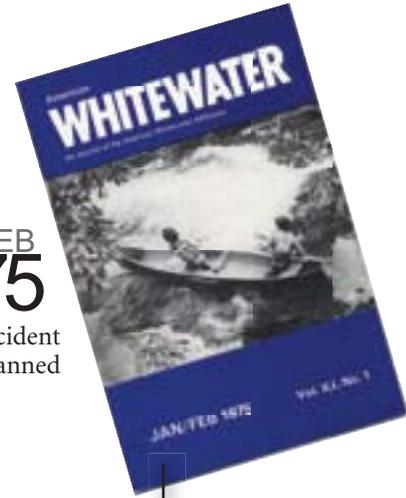


AUTUMN  
1970

Fall River (CA) judged navigable, making it legal to fish and boat this 20 mile California treasure!

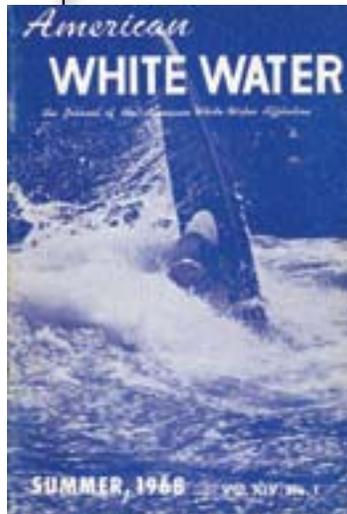
JAN/FEB  
1975

First-ever Accident Report Planned



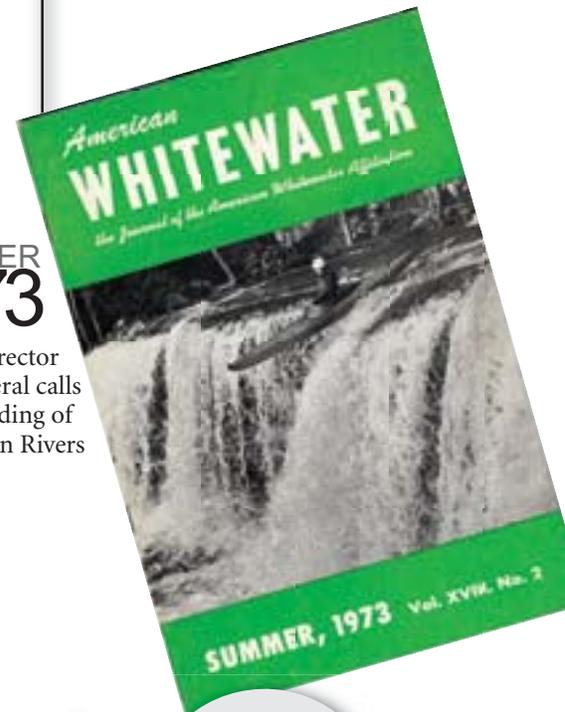
SUMMER  
1968

Scenic Bill approved by House: protects Middle Forks of Salmon and Clearwater, Rio Grande, Rogue, others.

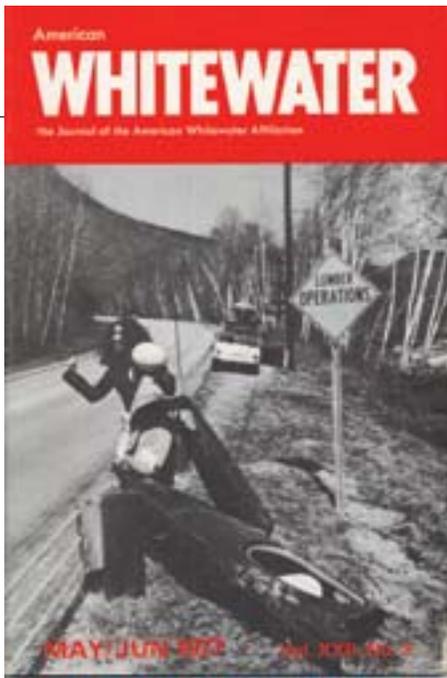


SUMMER  
1973

AWA Director Jerry Meral calls for founding of American Rivers

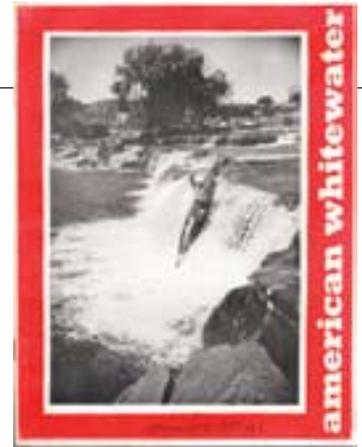


50 Years of



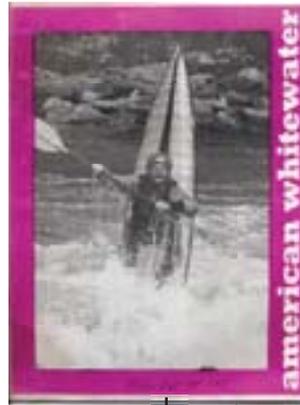
MAY/JUNE  
1977

NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
takes charge of conservation releases:  
A rebirth for the Cannonsville, Pepacton,  
Neversink and Schoharie



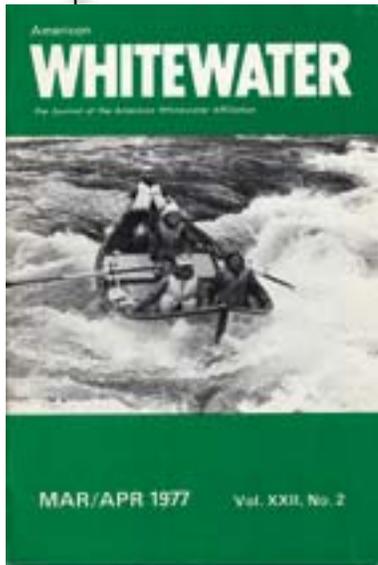
JAN/FEB  
1987

Legislation Protects  
West Virginia  
Rivers!



JULY/AUG  
1985

Report on Running  
the Niagara Gorge



MARCH/APRIL  
1977

Denver's Man-Made Slalom  
Course Scheduled for  
Completion!



NOV/DEC  
1976

Drs. Blackadar, Krissoff  
and others debate shoulder  
dislocation prevention



JAN/FEB  
1986

River Rendezvous  
Pays Tribute to Walt  
Blackadar

# American Whitewater

# American Whitewater Fifty Years of Advertising

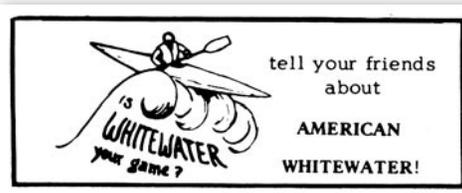
‘Better,’ ‘New,’ or ‘Improved:’  
It’s a relative thing.  
Madison Avenue must  
have been proud  
“I believe! Where can  
I buy one?”

## YOU WON'T GET YOUR JOURNAL

... if you move and don't send us a change of address. Third class mail is NOT forwarded and we can't afford to send it any other way.

American Whitewater  
P.O. Box 321  
Concord, N.H. 03301

▲ Journal change of address note  
March/April 1975



◀ Tell Your Friends!  
September/October 1978

▼ Current Ad for Shred Ready 2004

**SHREDREADY.COM**

**BECAUSE SOME BONES HEAL QUICKER THAN OTHERS**

**HELMETS THAT PROTECT THE BONES THAT MATTER MOST**

*New and Larger*  
**FOLBOT**  
*Funpacked.*  
FOLBOT Way.

*The SPORTY SINGLE*

ULTRA MODERN DESIGN

Swivel Back Comfort

GUARANTEED widest waterline stability  
NONSINKABLE with invisible struts.

*only \$79-*

*The Steady "Sturdious" and "Super"*

TO: FOLBOT CORPORATION  
Mail Industrial Park - 1st Charleston, S. C.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL COUPON TODAY

Life jacket for glasses ad  
November 1959

**LIFE JACKET FOR GLASSES**

Optic-Glass Float Co.,  
P.O. Box 5427, Tulsa,  
Oklahoma, is making  
Spec-A-Floats, hollow  
plastic tubes to attach  
to the temples of your  
glasses to keep them  
afloat if dropped in  
the water. Available  
in a variety of colors.

Old kayak ad  
May 1955

**Grumman**  
WHITE WATER is the NATURAL  
HABITAT of GRUMMAN CANOES

GRUMMAN Aluminum Canoes take to white water with the swiftness and agility of a salmon. They are built to take it—designed for fun and engineered for safety.

GRUMMAN Canoes are easily portaged and can be transported on car top, flat bottom design for shallow draft, slides over shallows and riffs with ease and safety. All 12 GRUMMAN Canoe Models have simple Synofrom flotation compartments built in.

**Special Reinforced White Water Models Now Available.**

Tough aluminum hulls with heavier ribs, keel and gunwale reinforcement supply the additional strength needed for white water. Write for information.

Versatile GRUMMAN Canoes can be equipped for paddling, rowing, sailing, or for crossing with outboard motors. GRUMMAN Canoes are tough and durable—eliminating expensive maintenance and repair costs. GRUMMAN Canoes are the choice of white water experts—responding easily and safely to the challenge of rough water.

Increase your White Water fun to the maximum! This year, Go GRUMMAN... A GRUMMAN Canoe is always ready for service.

**BOATS, INC.**  
1st, Marathon, N. Y.

Grumman 15 Footer: Lightweight—53 lbs. Standard—64 lbs.  
Grumman 17 Footer: Lightweight—62 lbs. Standard—76 lbs.  
Grumman 18 Footer: Lightweight—77 lbs. Standard—84 lbs.

Old kayak ad  
Winter 1957

Grumman Canoe ad  
Winter 1957

**THE INCOMPARABLE**

**HART SIOUX FOLDING KAYAK**

- Aerodynamic Design: Speed and maneuverability. Safety and stability.
- Quality Skin: 3 layers of natural rubber laminated on 2 fabric cores.
- Rugged Ash-Bench Frame: White wood only. No plywood to cause irregular swelling.
- Easiest Kayak to Assemble: We don't "peel" it, we guarantee assembly in less than 15 minutes!

The Wanderer - Cruising-Sailing

Cottonwood Rapids-Ark. R. The Adventurer - White-water-Sailing

Wanderer \$225.00 complete with paddles, bags, safety bulkheads (includes \$50.00 extra).

Adventurer - \$205.00 complete with paddles, bags, safety bulkheads (includes \$50.00 extra).

Attention whitewater expert! Spare parts for Hart-Sioux Kayaks always available. 24-hour service. Write for our new catalog.

**FOLDCRAFT KAYAK COMPANY - Phoenixville, Pa. (Dept. WW)**  
Exclusive U.S. Distributors of French Hart-Sioux Kayaks

Somewhere east of the Cheat, there's a river-running, rapids-riding girl who knows what I'm talking about...

The Blue Hole Canoe was built for her...

Built for the lass whose face is brown with the sun...

There's a savor of laughter and lil' and light—a hint of old times—the paddle and throw rope—

With the spirit of the lass who floats lean and lassy into the misty horizon of a mountain twilight.

WHITE WATER ASSOCIATION for the 1953 Anniversary of Noah Jordan

**BLUE HOLE canoes**  
Dept. AG  
SUNBRIGHT, TENNESSEE 37872

If you are ready for the Wild river experience; you, too, may be ready for a Blue Hole Canoe. We Blue Hole people are canoeists. We thermoform our own Royalex ABS hulls—reinforced where Wild rivers demand it—outfitted with gunwales and thwarts of durable aluminum. We build 17-ft. and 16-ft. models—reliable, responsive, rugged, all-tough...yet lightweight.

Our new catalog also features Blue Hole paddles, life jacket, knee pads, belt buckle, t-shirt. Write for your FREE copy today.

Blue Hole Canoes ad  
July/August 1977

Old gear ad  
Summer 1971

**Waterproof Nylon Shirt & Helmet**

Proven at Dartmouth

**SHIRT**  
Navy blue abrasion resistant polyurethane coated nylon. Elastic waist, wrists, and neck. Waterproof. Raglan action sleeves. Sizes S, M, L, XL \$8.95 postpaid.

**HELMET**  
Nylon adjustable size white water helmet with secure chin strap. Webb inner suspension. Will not soak up or hold roll water. \$6.50 postpaid.

**"FLOTHERCHOC" LIFE VEST**  
(Not shown)  
Popular French KI-CI-+2 racing vest. Many permanently inflated tubular vinyl air cells sewn into nylon. Nylon zipper. S, M, L, XL \$27.50 postpaid.

Check or money order. No C. O. D.'s

**THE DARTMOUTH CO-OP, Main St., Hanover, N. H. 03755**

# American Whitewater

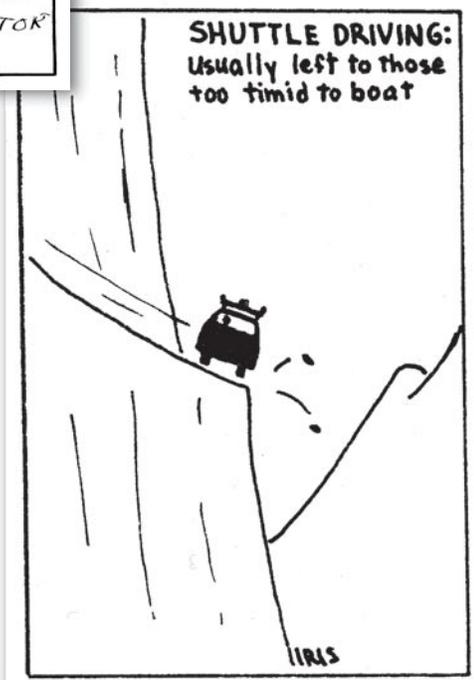
## Fifty Years of Cartoons

Some laughs are timeless  
 Timeless smiles  
 Smiles know no age.

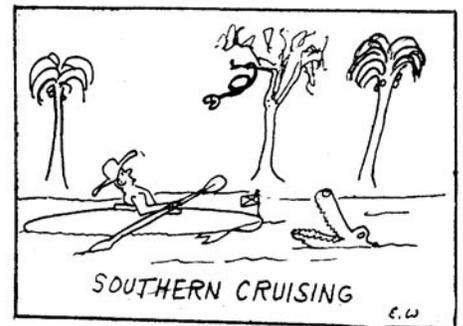
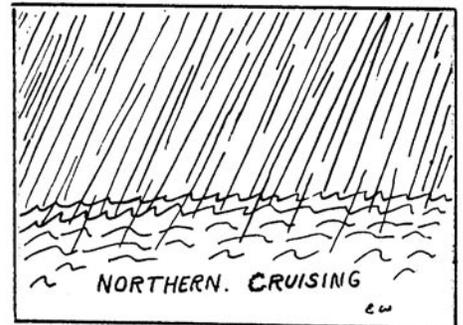
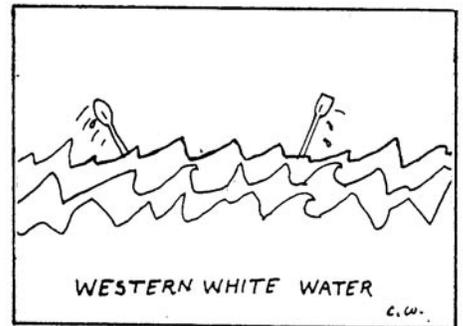


◀ Dam issues  
 September/October 1974

East vs. West ▶  
 November 1959



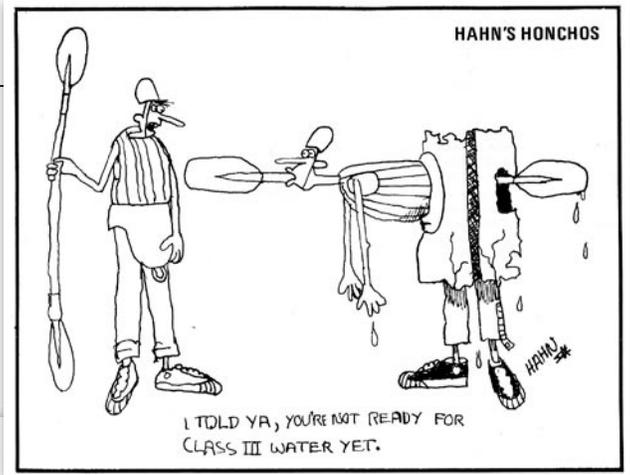
Shuttle ▶  
 November/December 1974





"Pierre, I hope you spent your share of the far money on food, blankets and ammunition. I spent mine on the necessities."

◀ Funny then, not P.C. now  
Nov/Dec 1974



I TOLD YA, YOU'RE NOT READY FOR CLASS III WATER YET.

▲ November/December 1976

Can't do anymore ▶  
July/August 1976



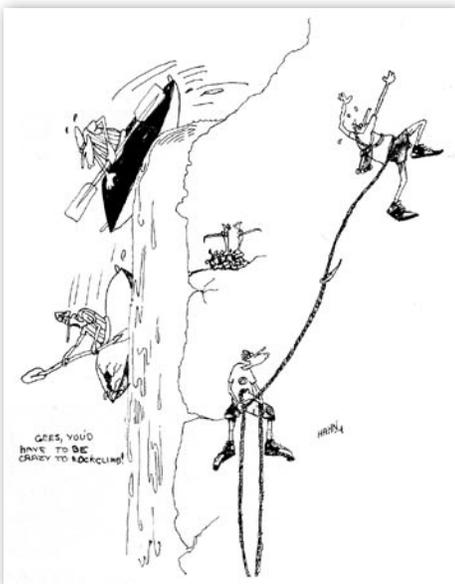
MOVIES SURE ARE FAKE THESE DAYS. IN TRUE LIFE YA NEVER SEE QUEER WILDLIFES OR MONSTERS IN THE WILDERNES.

▼ May/June 1978

Hydro issues ▶  
September/October 1988



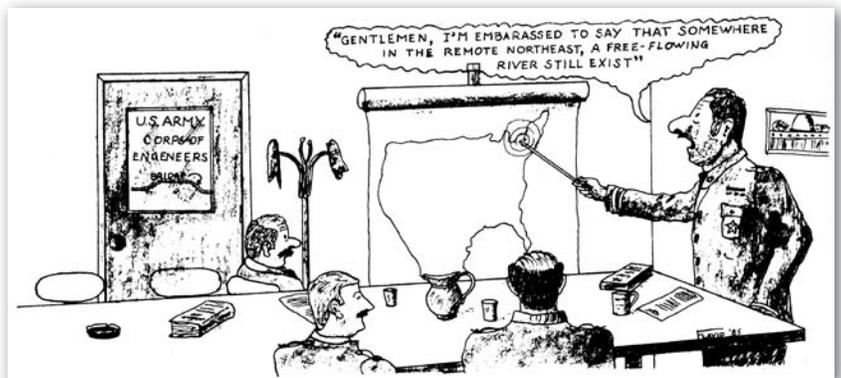
"I can't pull you loose, Pierre! The current is too strong! But fortunately your stomach is keeping the bottom of our new canoe from getting scratched on the rock!"



GEEZ, YOU'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO ROCKCLIMB!

▲ Kayaking and Rock Climbing  
September/October 1978

Hydro issues ▶  
July/August 1985



"GENTLEMEN, I'M EMBARRASSED TO SAY THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE REMOTE NORTHEAST, A FREE-FLOWING RIVER STILL EXISTS!"

# American Whitewater

## Fifty Years of Conservation & Access

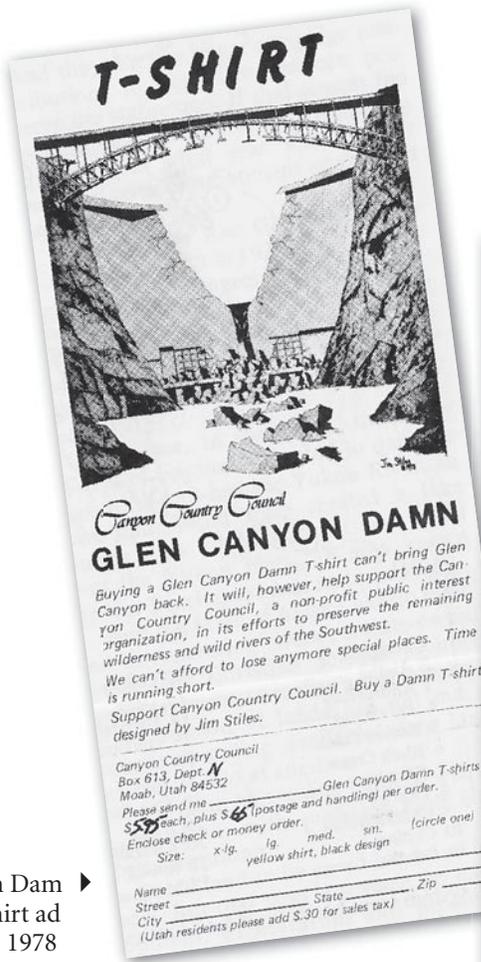
Trying to Restore Rivers and Access Ain't New  
Water Wars started when Mel Gibson  
was but a twinkle...

Water Wars are older than AW  
The stories haven't changes:  
the old names are now revered.

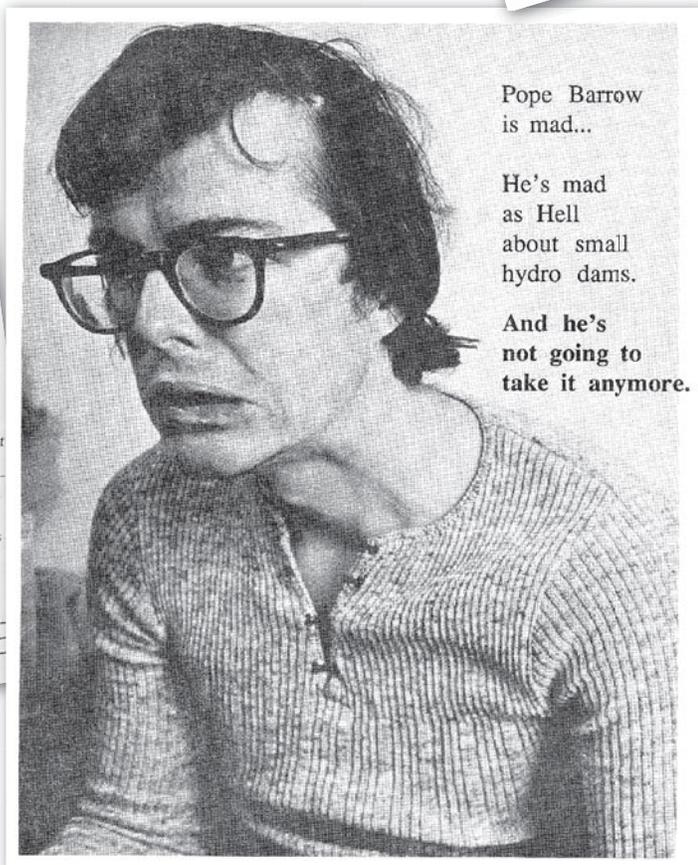
**GLEN CANYON NEWS**  
We have a letter from Dr. William R. Halliday (287-7th Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah), who has been looking into the closing of the canyon to all boating. To summarize: The Bureau of Reclamation has a rather dubious legal basis for its authority, and quoted to him several acts that didn't apply. Only minor work has been done—and the river is definitely not blocked. Congress has not yet appropriated the money for the dam—and may not do so in this year of economy. More than 80 people have already made the trip this spring.  
He suggests that you write your Congressman to put an end to this billion-dollar, pork-barrel, silt trap.

Spring 1957 ▶

▼ Mad Pope!  
July/August 1987



Glen Canyon Dam  
t-shirt ad  
Jan/Feb 1978



Pope Barrow  
is mad...

He's mad  
as Hell  
about small  
hydro dams.

And he's  
not going to  
take it anymore.

# BIG BEND: THE NORTH FORK OF THE FEATHER RIVER

Photos by Joe Bauer; text by Joe Bauer and Carl Trout

An old German tale tells of a young man who was hiking through the crest of a hill and found a small village nestled in a pretty valley. When he entered the village, he found it was in the midst of some special celebration. He also met a beautiful maiden with whom he roamed the festivities. Of course, they fell in love, but just before midnight she hurried him from the town and made him promise to wait on the hill until morning. When he awoke the next morning, the village had vanished! When he told his story to the next town, he learned of Germanhausen, a community which had been relocated to a hill, permitting the village to return for one day in each 100 years.

This fall, kayakers found their own Germanhausen, a run on the North Fork of the Feather River in Oregon. The Dept. of Water Resources has classified it because the waters of Lake Oroville. These special conditions are required to make the run reappear. Lake Oroville must be exceedingly low, and in this second year of drought, there must be enough water in the mountains for runoff to put water into the reservoir. The runoff must last long enough to flush the silt out of the stream.

This has been a lousy year for white-water in California. After two years of drought, almost every river in the state has dried up. The notable exception is the great Klamath River in the extreme northern part of the state.

So I was surprised when an expeditioner Tommie Bay Kayak Club mem-

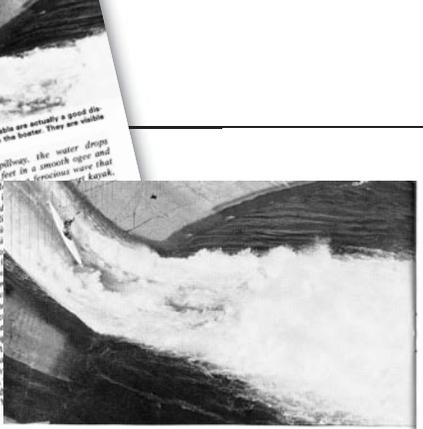
ber, Tim Varish, called and asked me to join a trip to a run I had never heard of, the North Fork of the Feather River. This was a surprise because I didn't think there were any runs left on this river.

The North Fork of the Feather River is one of California's most spectacular and beautiful canyons. It is also one of the most developed. Small diversion dams and power plants stair-step the entire river from its headwaters, down to the backwater of Lake Oroville, the 310-million-acre-foot reservoir backed up by 770-foot Oroville Dam. This kind of development leaves a hopelessly polluted stream of sludge and trash behind the dam, alternating with dry river-beds where the river is run through a small dam, alternating with a high 70 feet above the next power station. And this is all plainly seen from Highway 70 which follows the river most of its length. Except, that is, at Big Bend, where the river sweeps in a tight curve to the right, away from the road in a beautiful ten-mile oxbow.

Board, where the river sweeps in a tight curve to the right, away from the road in a beautiful ten-mile oxbow. The only real park in this section has been developed like a normal under Lake Oroville. This is also why I had never heard of the run.

The conditions that brought us to Big Bend were a 42% of normal runoff on the Feather River in 1976 following about three miles of river in October followed by a 20% of normal year in 1977. . . .

With the lake down 235 feet below its maximum level, the river run consists of six miles of Class 4 rapids (Inter-national scale of 1-6) below the last powerhouse on the North Fork (Pocahontas) and a short paddle powerhouse. American WHITWATER



ABOVE: Kayaker in free fall. BELOW: John Bauer "shoots the chute" of the 26-foot dam from above and in front of the drop and sees it no danger to the boater. They are upside down upstream and probably meant to be warning.

At the spillway, the water drops twenty-four feet in a smooth surge and then drops another ten feet in a series of drops. The water drops appear to be a smooth surge and then drops another ten feet in a series of drops. The water drops appear to be a smooth surge and then drops another ten feet in a series of drops.

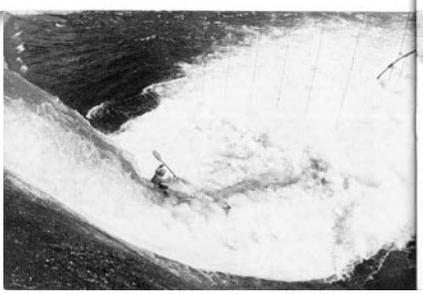
It's an incredible thrill, but I feel that I should emphasize that IT IS THE VERY SPECIAL SHAPE OF THIS PARTICULAR DAM THAT MAKES IT RUNNABLE. Most dam spillways are EXTREMELY DANGEROUS because of the reversal at the base. The hapless victim is recycled back into the falling water over and over until exhausted, and drowns. A good general rule is ALWAYS to portage a dam unless it has been proven safe. And I don't think there are many safe ones. Remember, it doesn't have to be a big drop to form a dangerous "keeper." The shape of the drop has more bearing than the height.

The run from here on down is a romp, stomping Class 4 - lots of steep drops are hard to see from the boat and should be scouted. But with the 1500 cfs that we had on our trip, most of the drops were clean.

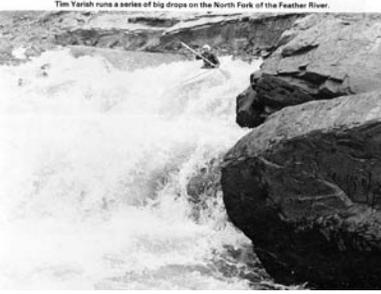
At the bottom of the whitewater run is the biggest rapid. Large drops in close succession and incredibly turbulent water make this a challenge for the bravest boaters. Reports of broken boats and injuries from the rocks just below the surface reinforce my original feeling that this one should be portaged. Shortly below here you reach Lake Oroville and the long flatwater paddle to Dark Canyon, the takeout.

One of the diversions in the flatwater paddle is the chance to boat through an old railroad tunnel, if the lake level is just right. The tunnel is 0.2 mile long, and a 90-degree bend leaves the center section in darkness. Boating in pitch black and hanging into the tunnel walls is an eerie experience.

Yes, the drought has made this the worst year for kayaking that I have



ABOVE: Kayaker in free fall. BELOW: John Bauer "shoots the chute" of the 26-foot dam from above and in front of the drop and sees it no danger to the boater. They are upside down upstream and probably meant to be warning.



Tim Varish runs a series of big drops on the North Fork of the Feather River.

## COUNT ME IN

as a member of the American Whitewater Affiliation. As a member I will receive American WHITE WATER magazine issued in June, September, December and March. Here is my \$2.50.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Boat: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee I'd like to volunteer for: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested articles: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Amer. Whitewater Affil., 1925 Hopkins Street, Berkeley, Calif., 94707



Member solicitation  
Autumn 1964

Article on the N.F. of the Feather River  
January/February 1978

## "Golly, That's Falling Water"

By Charlie Wainbridge, Penllyn, PA 19422

In the heart of the Appalachian Mountains of south-central West Virginia in country whose ruggedness defied progress for generations lies the Canyon of the Gauley River. From the Summersville Dam to the tiny railroad town of Swiss the river drops and twists between house sized boulders with power and complexity not usually found on Eastern streams. Down in the canyon the scenery is wild and remote; high cliffs alternate with steep, forested slopes; huge boulders vie with tangled vegetation along the shore, and the river, moving relentlessly through deep, green pools to drop furiously between giant boulders, sets the scene with its roaring presence. Wildwater West Virginia describes the river as "the absolute arguing, pounding, crashing end . . . the East's qualifying cruise for the title of expert boater . . . complex and challenging beyond description . . . dangerous . . . intoxicating!"

Despite these superlatives, the Gauley is a fairly recent discovery. Before the Summersville Dam was built the canyon stretched unbroken for over fifty miles in country where roads were poor and access limited. The earliest explorers, looking for a way West past the New River Gorge, came up against this smaller, but equally rugged, defile. The river is supposedly named for the French traders who first explored the area; however, wildwater boaters have another theory. The Indians called the river Takobellah, which translates freely as "Golly, that's falling water!" They called it Gauley for short.

Much of the river's isolation is due to the ruggedness of the place. The Gauley begins as four separate trout streams which drain the western slope of the Monongahela National Forest, an area noted for having the highest annual rainfall in the Central Appalachians. The Cherry, Cranberry, Williams, and Upper Gauley all contain good whitewater, but each has been visited by the strip miner and the log-

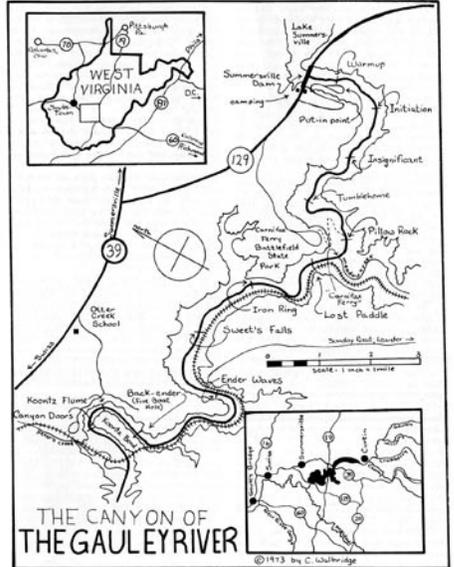
ger. Their combined volume, however, creates a different river, one with the power to cut "deeply" into the endless Appalachian strata. Soon the canyon walls are hundreds of feet high, and the river seems isolated from the effects of man.

But despite this protection, progress is slowly entering the gorge. Portions of its lower watershed have been mined, and several of its tributaries run red with acid. Although only portions of the canyon have been logged, it is a major industry upstream and during the early 1900's log drives were run through the canyon to the mill at Kanawha Falls. The area is honeycombed with jeep trails, abandoned autos are found throughout the woods, and one garbage dump extends over the edge of the canyon into the river one thousand feet below. The railroad, which was pushed through a portion of the canyon at great expense in the 1920's, put an end to the log drives and the massive jams which occurred at Iron Ring Falls. The tracks are not used much nowadays, and offer good access to the inner canyon.

And then there is the dam.

Before the dam was built, few people entertained thoughts of running the river. It had been described by Burmeister, but the length of the canyon and widely fluctuating water levels made any trip into the gorge an expedition, not a "spur of the moment" cruise. In 1961 Sayre Rodman, who pioneered several of the state's most difficult runs in a four man raft, ran the entire canyon from Curtin to Swiss. While his first run had to be aborted because of an unusually high water level (10,000 cfs), the second try made it to Swiss. The party took of high ledges, long, turbulent rapids, and an undercut rock which almost swallowed their rafts. At the time, no decked boaters were ready for that challenge.

In 1963 John Sweet led a group of the country's most expert paddlers into



the Gorge. By this time the Summersville Dam provided access, but they were still faced with a 21-mile run. They spent the day racing the sun on a river which surpassed all expectations. The word began to spread. Jim Stuart, one of the members of the original trip, began leading members of the Canoe Cruiser's Association down the canyon, and Dave Hartung began telling anyone who would listen that the river offered real possibilities for



**SHORT BOATS**

by Joe Bauer, Box 394,  
Inverness, CA 94937

As most kayakers know, it's virtually impossible to buy a boat under 400 cm. (about 13 ft. 2 in.) long, except for some surfing boats and a few models designed for children. This is because the International Canoe Federation has set 400 cm. as the minimum length for slalom racing boats. And up to now, the best boats for whitewater have been slalom boats. But in the past few years, in an attempt to make boats that will turn faster and are capable of ducking under slalom poles, the slalom boats seem to be well on the way to becoming as specialized as downriver racing boats, which are useless to the average recreational paddler.



The "Gofer" is said to be a good play boat. Photo by Joe Bauer.

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In a recent issue of *American Whitewater* I suggested that the minimum dimension rule be dropped. Although I still think that it is a good idea, I don't feel that it's likely to happen anytime soon, and it appears that the development of shorter boats will have to happen outside the racing community.

As a matter of fact I have seen two different short boats lately. Both are altered slalom kayaks, but that's where the similarity ends.

The first boat belongs to The Confluence, which is a group that runs commercial whitewater trips on the Stanislaus River. The kayak, called the "Gofer," is a crudely altered Hollowform River Chaser. Much more was cut off the stern than the bow, and the ends are now mostly duct tape. But the people at The Confluence speak fondly of it, and the word is that it's great for playing in holes.

More interesting to me is my brother John's kayak, which was a slalom boat of modern design, with quite pointed bow and stern. It has seen a lot of use in the last year, including being broken in half on the North Eel. But with expert patching, it has remained a worthy boat.

Now it's a super boat because John cut a foot off each end! It took some courage to actually take the saw to his beloved kayak, but what was there to lose? As John said, "Both ends leaked anyway." He then added 6" re-shaped bow and stern pieces for a pretty slick 12-foot-2-inch fun boat.

There is very little total volume lost because the ends were so sharp on the original. The new boat looks more natural and seems to handle better. The difference in handling isn't as big as you might expect because most of the removed sections weren't in the water much of the time anyway. It does turn faster and easier and, of course, it's

American WHITewater



Short boats seem to be better in marginal hydraulic like this small hole on the Eel River. Photo by Joe Bauer.

a joy to get into and out of small eddies. I've paddled this boat some, and for me it's the most exciting thing to happen to kayaking since the Eskimo roll.

But somehow I can't bring myself to cut the ends off my Loisach. I'm going to wait for the commercially available short boats. And I might not have long to wait. Right now I know of an excellent kayak builder here in California who is designing an 11-foot boat which should be available soon. I already have my order in. I'm ready for the Short Boat.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**  
Ballots must be received by  
May 15, 1976

VOL. XX/2

**POLE?**

"with the new lightweight-special-alloy-aluminum poles, poling is the fastest way to ascend or descend most streams by human power." Also poling is canoeing's way to the wilderness and the method of exploring thousands of the shallow, small streams and the hidden upper stretches. A stamped-self-addressed envelope brings you **FREE INFO** "CANOE POLING" by Al & Syl Beletz National Poling Chairmen ACA - OVER 150 PHOTOS 30 ILLUSTRATIONS \$4.95

**Styvester Pole**  
**A.C. Mackenzie River Co**  
P.O. BOX 9361-W  
RICHMOND HEIGHTS, MO. 63117

57

Article on short boats ▶  
March/April 1976

**NEW ENGLAND'S SOURCE FOR  
WHITewater INSTRUCTION & GEAR!**  
Novice, Intermediate & Advanced Clinics

**ZOAR**  
OUTDOOR

Friendly certified instructors  
State-of-the-art boats and gear  
Guaranteed whitewater on the Deerfield River

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Outfitters Shop!

**800 532-7483**  
[www.zoaroutdoor.com](http://www.zoaroutdoor.com)

**The Outfitters Shop** On the Deerfield River  
Charlton, Massachusetts

What good are these stupid LVM clip art ads?

These ads suck.

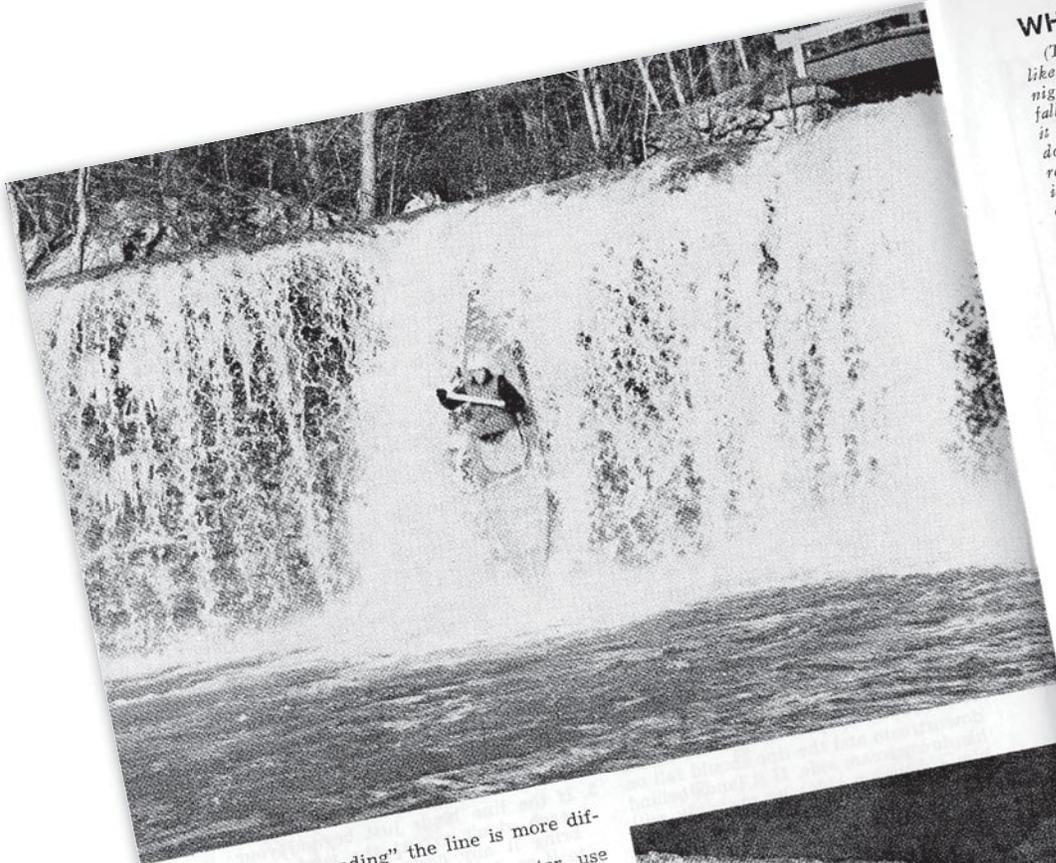
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ANDY

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### WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

(The photos on the cover and at left look like the culmination of the classic boater's nightmare—missing that last eddy above "the falls." You saw it in "Deliverance" and here it is in real life! Actually, Martin Begun is doing it for the fun of it, but the excited reader definitely should NOT run out and try it on the local waterfall because the structure of the falls pictured is a unique combination of features, as Martin explains below.—Ed.)

The vertical drop from the lip of Potter's Falls (on Crooked Fork Creek in East Tennessee) is 15 feet, and as far as we know this is quite a bit higher than anyone runs regularly. Members of our club (East Tenn. Whitewater Club of Oak Ridge, Tenn.) have been eyeing this falls for several years and thinking it was impossible. However, in January, 1973 one of our more intrepid members tried it. Much to our surprise there was nothing to it, and now everybody is doing it. It's even a lot of fun backwards! The falls is undercut (you can paddle a boat behind the face), so at normal levels there is no problem with a hydraulic. The pool below is at least 15 feet deep. The foam acts as a cushion to absorb the shock of impact, and so far we have landed in just about every position (upside down, sideways, etc.) with no injury to boats or boaters. The photos were taken Feb. 17 by my brother Wayne, using a twin lens reflex camera and Plus-X Pan 120 film except for the lower photo at left, where Tri-X Pan 120 was used. The weather was rather cold, as can be seen from the icicles under the falls in the cover photo. The paddler (me) is wearing a wet suit. The guardrail in two of the photos is part of a small bridge above the falls. The mess of gray tape on the back of the boat is holding on a grunch pad (a piece of fiberglass taped to the boat under which is a sheet of neoprene to protect the stern from rocks).

Martin Begun  
106 Colby Rd.  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

VOL. XVIII / 2

FLOTATION	
K-1 Set	3 1/2
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C-2 Set	7 1/2
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# 50 Years of American Whitewater

way to a relaxing but productive day at John's house rigging for shots of the UPW. We rig a Tyrolean over the river and arrange a seat so the cameraman can be centered over the wave just inches from the water. The boaters do endos, hand surf and dance for the camera. The river is in full flood and the wave/hole is easily 4-5 feet high. It's incredible to watch the local boys cavor in it.

Off to the North Fork for "hair boating" — Hound's Tooth, Cruncher and Juicer — all classics drops in a river where the rapids seem to form one long rolling — boiling run. I drive while Leo does some "dolly shots" from the top of the truck and we follow the boaters along the river.

Later that evening Tom and I return from boating on the South Fork to come back to a solemn group. The impossible has happened; 8000 feet of film was sent to Los Angeles for processing, and a fork lift truck ran over some of it on the way to the lab. The mood was, to say the least, not as it had been. More like a funeral now.

I had only been in the film industry a week but I knew a cue when I saw it. Exit Tom and Jerry. "What do you think of the Lochsa, Tom?"

"Right youth, we're gone."

**POSTSCRIPT**  
The film wasn't totally damaged and only a few shots had to be redone. The film was shown as part of a thirteen-episode series on adventure sports for the BBC. Rob saw the show in Britain this spring — American television will probably never air it. I got myself a 8mm camera and a director's hat. Maybe I'll call my first film "Spuds on the Rocks."

Contact Rob Lesser about where to get the video. P.O. Box 1162, Boise, ID 83701. (208) 343-2167, or Gravity Sports (801) 485-3702.

**THE SPRAY**  
**KAYAK SAFETY QUIZ**

by Chuck Kutscher

- 1) You're swimming a rapid with your boat, and you see an unavoidable strainer (a tree emerging from the water) directly ahead. You should
  - a) swim downward as deeply as possible to flush through underneath
  - b) lift one leg and both arms and climb as high as possible onto the tree
  - c) grasp around the center of your boat with both arms and use it for buoyancy.

Vol. XXX, No. 3

2) You've been enjoying the scenery on an easy Class II stretch when you suddenly see a four foot dam only 50 feet ahead. The current is too swift to allow you to get to shore in time, and there are no eddies. You should

- a) paddle as close as possible to the nearest end of the dam, then paddle hard forward
- b) take the drop sideways and reach your paddle downstream to catch the flush-through current
- c) exit your boat immediately to increase your chances of washing through.

3) You're leaning on a downstream scull as you sit sideways in a hole and decide that it's time to move on. You try reaching the downstream current and then try to use a combination of a scull and a forward (or backward) stroke to exit out the side, but the hole has other ideas. How do you get out?

- a) Use a sweep stroke to face upstream, then peel out as you would in an eddy
- b) Exit your boat and use the proper technique for swimming out of a hole
- c) Turn upside down and hold your paddle vertically downward to catch the flush-through current.

4) You're out of your boat and recirculating in a nasty hole. You should

- a) dive deeply just when the current has moved you to the maximum upstream position and swim out downstream along the bottom
- b) swim upstream and climb onto the rock which is creating the hole
- c) same as a) but first remove your life jacket to allow you to dive deeper.

5) A person is unconscious and stranded on a rock. You decide to swim after the victim with a safety rope attached. The rope should be looped around your

- a) wrist
- b) waist
- c) chest under your armpits.

6) You toss out your throw bag to a swimmer. You should attempt to

- a) land it upstream of the swimmer
- b) land it downstream of the swimmer
- c) hit the swimmer in the head with it.

Vc. XXX, No. 3

7) A swimmer has been submerged for a considerable time in ice-cold water. You consider giving artificial resuscitation. The longest anyone has ever been under cold water and successfully revived without brain damage is

- a) eight minutes
- b) twenty minutes
- c) forty minutes

**ANSWERS TO KAYAK SAFETY QUIZ**

The following are the answers to the quiz. (We realize, however, that issues like these are always subject to debate.)

1) b. A strainer is dangerous because it can hold a swimmer under water. You should therefore face the strainer and climb as high as possible onto it. The Ohio State River Rescue Manual (yes, they do have white water in Ohio) recommends lifting one leg and both arms.

2) a. If you absolutely cannot avoid going over a dam, you should try to paddle hard forward to punch through the reversal. Being close to either shore has two advantages. First, the reversal may be broken near the shore. Second, it makes it easier for others to rescue you if you become trapped.

3) c. In a strong hole it will be impossible to turn your boat around with a sweep stroke, and you should exit your boat only as a last resort. If you cannot exit the hole sideways, you should hang upside down and hold your paddle down deep to catch the downstream current. Ron Walters, author of *The White-water River Book*, observes that boaters using this technique often don't hang down long enough.

4) a. The key here is to work with the current and not fight against it. Your goal should be to get into the deep downstream current and swim with it to escape. If this doesn't work, try to look for a throw bag thrown from shore. Removal of your life jacket was once advocated by some, but the latest thinking is that it probably

wouldn't help much in a powerful hole, and by the time you got out you might really need it to keep you afloat.

5) c. Some authorities recommend never trying a rope to a rescuer. If used, it should be attached in a fashion that allows the rescuer to escape from it if necessary. When looped around the chest under the armpits, the force on the rope will act to keep the rescuer's head above the water. It's a good idea whenever working with a rescue rope to carry a sharp, securely sheathed knife so that the rope can be cut free if it should become a danger.

6) c. In using a throw bag, your objectives should be to get it as close as possible to the swimmer so that he doesn't have to work to get to it and also to make him aware that it's there. Noted river safety expert, Charlie Walbridge, recommends trying to hit the swimmer in the head with the throw bag. This achieves both objectives. (To actually hit the swimmer, you have to lead him a bit, since he'll be floating downstream while the bag is in the air.) Being hit in the head with a soft throw bag will be the least of the swimmer's discomforts, particularly since he'll have a helmet on.

7) Due to the lowered metabolism rate, victims have been known to survive after being submerged under ice-cold water for as long as 40 minutes! Such cold water conditions are not unusual in kayaking. Everyone realizes that spring runoff comes from freshly melted snow, but even in the summer the water these days is typically released from the bottoms of very deep reservoirs. So artificial resuscitation can work on river victims who have been under a long time. And as long as we're on the subject of cold water, don't forget the wet suit to safeguard against one of the biggest dangers of kayaking — hypothermia.

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# Conservation and Access Updates

by Jason Robertson

## Senate Vote Limits Fee Demo

The Senate Energy Committee passed S. 1107 on the morning of February 12th to limit Fee Demo to the National Parks. The legislation included NO amendments for other agencies such as the Forest Service or the BLM. This is an enormous victory for America's taxpayers!

Some Senators on the Committee received hundreds - even upwards of a thousand - calls and faxes over the four days leading up to the vote from across the nation. One office received only FOUR pro-fee faxes saying "recreation fees are maybe OK". It was clear to our Senators that fees for the Forest Service, BLM and US Fish & Wildlife Service have almost no public support. This enabled them to resist strong pressure from the Department of Interior

and Forest Service, which continued even yesterday afternoon to add other agencies to S.1107.

It was also clear that Congress needs to support the agencies through direct funding and appropriations in order to meet maintenance needs.

Our thanks to YOU - and please pass those thanks along to others who you asked to call or fax Congress - for making this happen!

American Whitewater supported passage of S. 1107 and opposed including the other agencies in the Senate Bill due to numerous problems with implementation and management of the program in the Forest Service and BLM. We continue working with all of the agencies to make sure that they exercise their fee authority

in a fair and reasonable manner to defray maintenance costs - as the original authorizing language intended. The next legislative step is to make sure that similar language is approved in the House to limit Fee Demo to the National Parks.

More information is available at <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/1098/>.



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## AW Conservation and Access Program Meets Millennium Challenge

Thanks to the hard work of the staff and board of American Whitewater, we have reorganized your conservation and access programs to meet the 2000 Strategic Plan.

So what's changed?

First, my title has changed to National Policy Director for Conservation and Access. This formalizes a role that I've developed over the past 6 years and will officially be representing you in the Halls of Congress and with federal agencies such as the Forest Service and Park Service. I will also continue to represent AW's members on access issues in Colorado and Maryland where I have strong historic ties.

Second, John Gangemi's title has changed from Conservation Director to Western Director for Conservation and Access. John will essentially represent boaters in the Rockies and the Sierras extending into the Pacific Northwest.

Third, Kevin Colburn's title has changed to Eastern Director for Conservation and Access. Kevin will work on issues in the Appalachians.

This reorganization was designed to meet many objectives. The most important of which were clarifying who on staff reports to whom, easing the administrative burden on Executive Director Risa Shimoda so she has more time to secure the long term health of the organization, and to make it clear to you who to contact when reaching out to AW to discuss the issues in your backyard.

John, Kevin, and I are here to serve you and your interests. We look forward to hearing from and working with you.

## Rappahannock Blown Free (VA)

Monday, February 23 a pair of blasts rocked the city of Frederick, VA just 60 miles South of Washington, DC. This blast was not the act of any terrorist; instead the Army Corps of Engineers was demolishing the dangerous low head Embry Dam on the Rappahannock for fish passage and, possibly, recreation.

The two blasts were the first step in removing the dam, which is expected to take two years. The deconstruction process will result in a 184 mile free-flowing Rappahannock River for the first time in 150 years.

Following the explosion, the waters dropped, bedrock and mudflats were revealed, and the possibility of a whitewater experience on this section of river was also exposed.

Now boaters will simply play a waiting game for the sediment on the old lake bed to wash downriver to see what features come to light. The river has the gradient for whitewater, but does it have the bones?



paddler: Clay Wright photo by Jed Weingarten

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# Conservation and Access Updates

by Jason Robertson

## Middle Fork Salmon Gauge Threatened (ID)

The USGS warns that the most popular streamgauge in Idaho may be cut. This streamgauge is on the Middle Fork of the Salmon. While the station is officially identified as USGS 13309220 MF SALMON RIVER AT MF LODGE NR YELLOW PINE ID, boaters simply know it as the Middle Fork Gauge at Middle Fork Lodge.

Even though the streamgauge is referenced by thousands of boaters and visitors to Idaho every year, the gauge may be terminated. The USGS has posted an alert on its website at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/uv?13309220> with the terse explanation that "FUNDING MAY BE LOST AND THIS GAGING STATION OPERATION DISCONTINUED Oct. 1, 2004".

This streamgauge is of vital importance for purposes of safety, tourism, and recreational fishing and boating; and there is no more important gauge for whitewater in all of Idaho. Loss of access to real-time streamgaging information on the Middle Fork Salmon would negatively impact tourism, visitation, safety and recreation opportunities.

What is the problem? Tom Brenan, Surface Water Unit Chief at the USGS in Idaho, explained to me that the USFS provides \$11,340 each year, the Idaho Department of Water Resources \$3,970, and USGS provides a matching amount \$3,970 under their cooperative program for the Middle Fork gauge. The problem is that the Forest Service is terminating its share of the payment, which has traditionally come from their Boise Adjudication Team. This team works on water rights litigation issues on the Salmon River. The team's Bob Kenworthy explained to me that the Adjudication Team no longer needs the data for their work and has no more funds available for supporting the site.

However, the river is managed by the Forest Service's Middle Fork Ranger District, thus the agency continues to have an active interest in access to gauging data. The District's River Ranger, Sherri Hughes,

described how she simply does not have the funds available in her budget for FY '05, and that her program was also making contingency plans for the termination of Fee Demo funding and loss of some additional discretionary funding in '05.

Ready access to real-time gauging information in the deadly whitewater spring of 2003 revealed the importance of this gauge to rafters, boaters, fishermen, and other visitors when the Middle Fork Salmon rose first to 6.6 feet on May 25th and to 8 feet on May 30th with an incredible flow of 13000 cubic feet per second (CFS). The sudden increase in stream flow resulted in catastrophe when two men in two different groups drowned upon hitting a submerged log on the Middle Fork Salmon near Marsh Creek. The fact that more people did not run into trouble was due largely to awareness of the sudden increase in water level and widespread

access to real-time streamgaging data. Further, the access to this information allowed hundreds of visitors to reschedule their vacations to Idaho and to plan on visiting other regional rivers.

Since the station is operated by the USGS in cooperation with U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Water Resources, it is natural to look to these agencies for help in protecting the streamgauge. If you are concerned about the possible loss of this gauge, then you must send an email or call the following individuals. A sample letter is provided below and at [www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/1112](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/1112).

### SAMPLE LETTER

(please take a few moments to adapt this letter to reflect your experiences and interests).

Office of the Governor  
700 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0034  
Email: <http://www2.state.id.us/gov/ourgov/contact.htm>

Dear Governor Kempthorne,  
I am writing to you on behalf of American Whitewater and the nation's paddling community.

The USGS has recently announced that it will be terminating the real-time streamgauge on Idaho's Middle Fork Salmon River. This station is officially identified by the USGS as "USGS 13309220 MF SALMON RIVER AT MF LODGE NR YELLOW PINE ID"; boaters simply refer to it as the Middle Fork Gauge at Middle Fork Lodge.

The agency has explained that the gauge is being cut due to a lack of funding from the United States Forest Service. Though the Forest Service provided funding over the past several years through the Boise Adjudication Team, the team's project is concluding and they no longer need access to the data. In 2004, the USFS provided \$11,340, the Idaho Department of Water Resources \$3,970, and USGS provided a matching amount \$3,970 under their cooperative program.

Continued funding and maintenance of this streamgauge is of vital importance for purposes of safety, tourism, and recreational fishing and boating. There is simply no more important gauge for whitewater recreation in all of Idaho. Loss of access to real-time streamgaging information on the Middle Fork Salmon will negatively impact tourism, visitation, commercial outfitting, public safety, and recreational whitewater and fishing opportunities.

All is not lost; please work with the partner agencies, Idaho's Department of Tourism, and Idaho's Department of Water Resources to look for creative sources of funding to ensure that the gauge is protected in '05 and into the future.

Please contact me at American Whitewater, 1424 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910, [Jason@awa.org](mailto:Jason@awa.org), or 301-589-9453 if you have any questions or if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,  
{Signed}  
Jason D. Robertson  
National Policy Director, American Whitewater

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# Conservation and Access Updates

by Charlie Vincent

## PacifiCorp Receives Hydro License for their Bear River Projects (ID)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued a new 30 year license for the Bear River Projects in southeast Idaho. PacifiCorp has requested clarification of several inconsistencies in the license, but the balance of the license provisions has already taken effect. As a result of additional FERC license conditions, recreational whitewater releases in the Class IV (V) Black Canyon section near Grace, ID will be delayed one year. "Scheduled" whitewater releases are now expected to begin in year 5 of the license (2008), with the possibility of "opportunistic" (based on water availability) whitewater releases in years 2-4 of the new license (2005-2007). The one year delay is a result of additional requirements by the FERC for PacifiCorp to develop a large number of "operating plans," including a flow release plan from Grace Dam and a biological impact monitoring plan during whitewater releases. All of the required operating plans will require FERC approval before their implementation may proceed. The new license will require PacifiCorp to provide more reliable flows in the Class II Oneida Narrows section north of Preston, ID: plus river flow and scheduled release information for both reaches via a flow phone and internet.

### Relicensing Background

On September 27, 1999, PacifiCorp filed new license applications for the continued operation and maintenance of

three projects located on the Bear River in Caribou and Franklin Counties, Idaho. These projects currently occupy more than 500 acres of federal lands managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM). PacifiCorp operates these projects to meet irrigation demands, provide flood control, and generate power.

Faced with the virtual certainty of lawsuits from the license application PacifiCorp initially submitted to the FERC, in late 2001 PacifiCorp began settlement negotiations with agencies and NGOs, including American Whitewater. On September 26, 2002, PacifiCorp filed a comprehensive Settlement Agreement (SA) resolving all issues regarding relicensing of the Bear River Projects. The SA was signed by all federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over the Project and a host of environmental groups and public interest organizations (NGOs) who assert interests affected by the Project. After receiving the SA, the Commission issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed Project and all reasonable alternatives to the proposed Project. After seeking and receiving public comment, the Commission issued a Final EIS on April 11, 2003 recommending approval of the SA. After evaluating the EIS, the Commission signed a Licensing Order on December 22, 2003, approving the SA with certain modifications. PacifiCorp had 30 days to accept, reject, or accept the license while requesting a rehearing to clarify specific points. They chose the latter option, thus accepting the FERC license and the bulk of its conditions. The license is now in effect

and PacifiCorp expects the FERC to rule on the license clarifications during the next 3-5 months.

In the SA, PacifiCorp attempted to limit their potential liability for mitigation on the projects. In issuing the license, the FERC prohibited PacifiCorp from limiting their liability to the dollars agreed to in the SA. Additionally, the FERC imposed requirements for PacifiCorp to prepare some 20+ "plans" that are subject to the FERC approval prior to implementation. These plans and the need for the FERC to approve future changes to the plans will delay implementation of the license by one year, thus also delaying "scheduled" whitewater releases by one whitewater season.

PacifiCorp and an Environmental Coordination Committee (ECC) are responsible for the adaptive management approach to implementation of the license provisions. The ECC is composed of representatives from the organizations who were signatories to the Settlement Agreement, including American Whitewater. AW's representative on the Bear ECC is Charlie Vincent, AW regional representative from Salt Lake City, Utah. 

Questions on this project may be directed to Charlie: [charliev@xmission.com](mailto:charliev@xmission.com), or John Gangemi: [jtgangemi@centurytel.net](mailto:jtgangemi@centurytel.net)



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# Conservation and Access Updates

by Tom O'Keefe

## Cascade River, WA Bridge Drop Debris Removal

Designated a Wild and Scenic River in 1978, the Cascade River in Western Washington is one of the region's most scenic and challenging Class V runs. While the river is an incredible whitewater resource known to paddlers from across the country, there have been at least three fatalities and several close calls in the rapid known as Bridge Drop. This rapid comes early in the run and just downstream from the first major drop known as "Starts with a Bang." At moderate to high water these rapids come in quick succession and for all practical purposes represent one long and demanding section of Class V whitewater.

For many boaters, one of the scariest features of this section was the debris from an old bridge—the Lookout Creek bridge that washed into the river during a flood and debris slide in 1980. This was actually the second failure for the steel in this bridge because it had been salvaged from the remains of the Tacoma Narrows bridge—"Galloping Gertie"—that failed during a windstorm in 1940. The remains of this bridge were firmly lodged among the boulders, creating a massive and permanent strainer that gave Bridge Drop its name. While we may not know for sure whether this bridge debris was directly responsible for the fatalities, it certainly complicated things and added another dimension to the rapid. Furthermore, leaving the debris in the river directly conflicted with the non-degradation and enhancement policy of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

In 2000, Chris Joosse and Nick Newhall with the Washington Kayak Club worked to educate paddlers and resource agencies on the hazards at Bridge Drop. They produced a comprehensive catalog of images to document this remote site and the associated hazards for the paddling community and educated resource agency staff who have a responsibility for river management. This convinced Jim Chu, Wild and Scenic River manager with the Mount Baker – Snoqualmie National Forest, that removing many tons of bridge debris from the river would clearly be consistent with the language and spirit of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. And if it could be safely accomplished, it was their obligation to do so. The action would enhance aesthetic and scenic attributes of the river and potentially improve safety for members of the public who use and enjoy this river for recreation. Jim has been a great friend of rivers and once again demonstrated an ability to make things happen.

Although the river corridor is managed by the National Forest, the County was responsible for the bridge and Jim contacted Whatcom County, where engineers Janice Marlega and Barb Hathaway tackled the challenges of developing a plan to remove the bridge debris. After several different plans were considered, the County contacted local loggers to see if they could set up a skyline logging operation to hoist the steel beams out after cutting them into smaller sections at river level. Public agencies stepped up to the plate and permits were promptly approved. As water levels dropped to record low levels during the summer of 2003 the stage was

set to begin removal. But when a high risk of forest fires resulted in a moratorium on construction activities in the National Forest and difficulties in obtaining a helicopter, which was required to set the cable across the river, it seemed like the removal might be scrapped for the year. However, everything finally came together by mid September and over a couple days the debris was hauled several hundred feet up and out of a river to a landing alongside the road. The next week County crews hauled the steel away to a salvage yard. The County engineers pointed out that while the large steel pieces were removed some smaller debris remains in the river.

## A few notes on safety

While the bridge debris has been removed this sequence of rapids remains a challenging Class V section of whitewater that should not be taken lightly. If you do not know the rapid it is essential that you scout the long sequence before committing and be sure to set overlapping safety. Given the removal of the debris at Bridge Drop and record flooding in the Skagit that occurred in October 2003, we can and should expect major changes in this rapid. Proceed with caution as you would on any Class V exploratory. "Starts with a Bang" is a very appropriate name for the first major drop on this run. Make sure you are warmed up and ready for it. Flush drowning remains a real hazard in this section as trouble at the start can mean a swim of up to a quarter mile in length. This is an incredibly beautiful place and an awe-inspiring section of whitewater—be safe and treat it with respect.

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## Snoqualmie River, WA Potential Changes in Access at the Powerhouse

In February, members of the Washington Kayak Club reported trouble at the popular Powerhouse run on the Snoqualmie River. This extremely popular training site is only half an hour from downtown Seattle and at the base of the spectacular Snoqualmie Falls (270')—the second most visited natural attraction in Washington State (Mt. Rainier being first). With approximately half a mile of class II rapids with a particularly high diversity of features, the site is the perfect training venue and the place where most of the region's boaters first learned to paddle. Two dozen paddlers are typical on spring evenings.

The shoreline, however, is owned by Puget Sound Energy which has been operating a hydroproject that diverts a portion of the flow around the falls under an expired license since 1991. While the utility has a long history of providing public access to this important whitewater resource, new safety and security requirements could mean major changes for how we use the



photo by - Cline Library  
Special Collections and Archives Department  
Northern Arizona University

river. One scenario being discussed is to close the current trail directly behind the Powerhouse that leads to the upper training pool. Tourists would still be able to access the boardwalk from a newly configured trail leading from the overlook above the falls, but boaters who park in the lower parking lot closer to the river would no longer be able to access this and

would instead be required to launch at a new site downstream of the Powerhouse. While PSE has assured us that the new access will be significantly improved over the current scramble down the rocks, the details of where we will access the river remain unclear.

# Ken Whiting's — 2004 Liquid Skills Freeboat Tour

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ZOAR Outdoor	Deerfield River, MA	June 5/6	<a href="http://www.zoaroutdoor.com">www.zoaroutdoor.com</a>
Northeast PA Kayak School	Lehigh River, PA	June 8/9	<a href="http://www.kayakschool.com">www.kayakschool.com</a>
Potomac Paddle Sports	Potomac River, MD	June 12/13	<a href="http://www.potomacpaddlesports.com">www.potomacpaddlesports.com</a>
Nantahala Outdoor Center	Nantahala River, NC	June 17-20	<a href="http://www.noc.com">www.noc.com</a>
Liquid Skills	Ottawa River, ON	June 26/27	<a href="http://www.liquidskills.com">www.liquidskills.com</a>

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# Conservation and Access Updates

by Tom O'Keefe

## Middle Fork Snoqualmie Planning and Implementation of River Access Well Underway

In November of 2003, the National Park Service Rivers and Trails program officially agreed to support American Whitewater's project to protect and improve access on the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. This river is significant because it provides over 40 miles of whitewater serving the greater Seattle area, with easy logistics that make the runs highly accessible for locals and those traveling from around the country. The Rivers and Trails Program works across the country with community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. While the Park Service does not provide direct funding, they provide staff and access to other resources including grant opportunities and design specialists.

Through a series of site visits involving representatives from local affiliate clubs including Washington Kayak Club, The Mountaineers, University Kayak Club, PaddleTrails Canoe Club, and Washington Recreational River Runners, key needs were addressed at a series of sites including Taylor Confluence, River Bend, Pratt River, Concrete Bridge, Island Drop, Tanner Road, Tanner Landing, Blue Hole, and the Three Forks Natural Area. A vision for these sites was needed due to ongoing efforts by agencies and other conservation organizations to close off dozens of sensitive riparian areas and a new road project initiated by Federal Highways to potentially pave the road and designate specific areas for approved parking. By working with these other groups and agencies we will be

able to protect existing key access points, institute important resource protection measures, and still preserve and even enhance opportunities for recreation such as kayaking that are clearly consistent with the long-term protection of riparian corridors. Our efforts will also assist local communities in achieving their goals of developing a recreation-based economy given the transition from resource extraction to the ever increasing recreation on public lands in the Snoqualmie Valley.



### Major Accomplishments

#### Completion of an improved put in at Concrete Bridge

With the closure of spur roads along the river, access has become increasingly challenging for those with larger boats such as rafts and heavy canoes. King County has slowly been acquiring private parcels around the Concrete Bridge to create the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Area. Soon after King County purchased the private parcel downstream of the Concrete Bridge, road crews came in and constructed massive tank traps and berms. These barriers provided much needed protection of aquatic and riparian resources that were being trashed by off-road vehicles, but effectively blocked

those who wished to get their boats to the river. Local volunteer Martha Parker raised the issue with King County, noting that she had used this old trail over the past three decades only to watch it become increasingly difficult to get to the river. In response, river access was formally included in the County's site management plan, and funds were eventually appropriated to restore river access. With funding in hand and through the volunteer efforts of Washington Recreational River Runners – American Whitewater's newest affiliate

club – the old Concrete Bridge access trail was reopened in February for use as a boat launch suitable for all whitewater craft. Eric Myren helped organize a dozen volunteers to assist with site prep which included salvaging all native vegetation that had grown up on the old road bed. These plants will be used in restoration efforts throughout Seattle's public parks. A few weeks after the initial work was completed, an EarthCorps trail crew finished off the site. Where paddlers once had to scramble

over rip rap at the bridge, we now have a restored trail and beach providing access to the water.

#### Site Concept Designs for Mine Creek and Tanner Landing

Through existing relationships with design professionals and landscape architecture departments, one thing the National Park Service can bring to the table are professional planners who can assist us in translating the abstract ideas of a few boaters to visual concepts that can then be shared with local communities and agency staff. We were able to do just this when

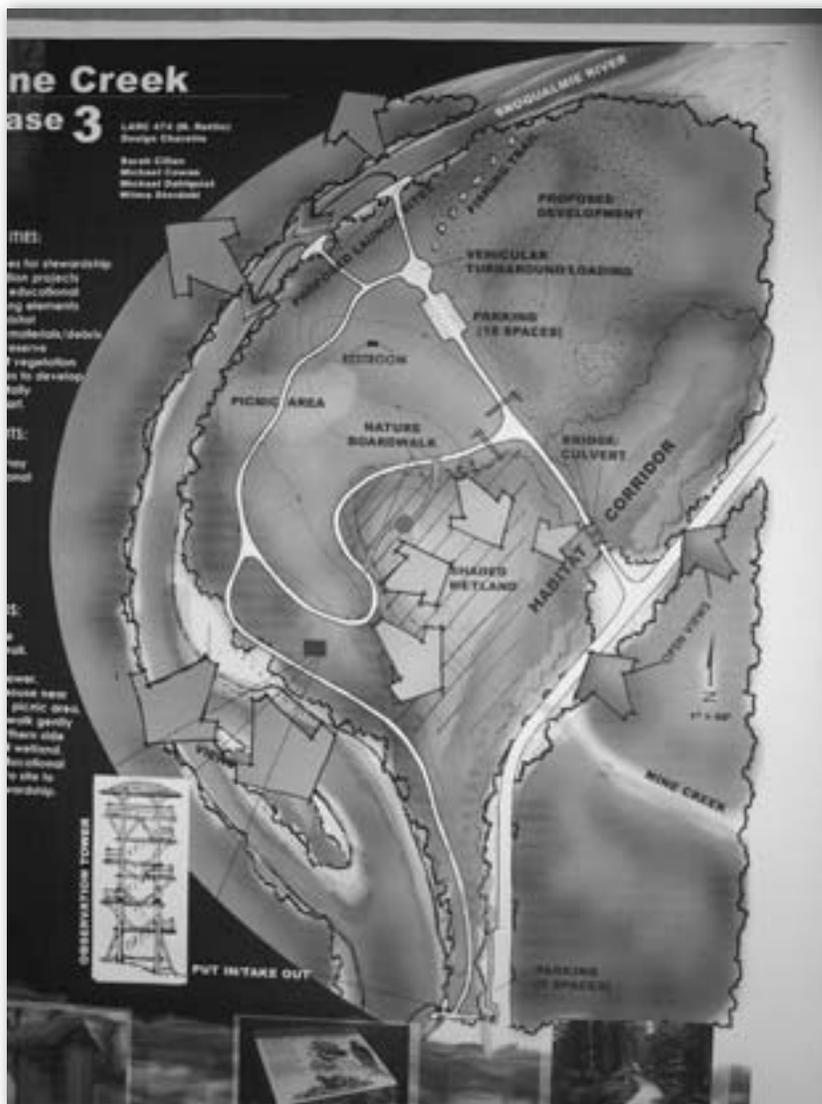
the Rivers and Trails program assisted us by lining up a design studio course at the University of Washington.

Instructor Nancy Rottle and her class of a dozen students were given three tasks—creation of a concept plan for a phased development of the old DNR Mine Creek Campground that would transition the site to a day-use area, development of concept plans for the implementation of a new county park and river access within a recently acquired 50 acre parcel just downstream of the current access off Tanner Road, and recommendations for interpretive themes that could be used throughout the Snoqualmie River and incorporated into ongoing efforts by Mountains to Sound Greenway and others to enhance all visitor experiences.

While American Whitewater was the “client” for these design exercises, the students worked closely with agency staff and members of the community to develop concepts that built on existing work to provide community spaces that would serve not only boaters but also families on an afternoon outing, bicyclists, hikers, fishermen, and others.

For the Mine Creek site (aka Island Drop), we are looking to preserve and improve the existing informal trail from the roadside pullout that leads down to the pool below Island Drop. This will be a challenge given the potential constraints of the new highway project—if you would like to see this access maintained please file comments with Federal Highways (see StreamKeeper page for more details). A second phase of site development may include a picnic area and boater access in the old campground at the upstream edge of Island Drop. The parking would likely be created out by the road due to maintenance and security issues.

The new county property currently referred to as Tanner Landing, after the local timber mill, presents some unique challenges. Although the 50 acre parcel has some excellent beach access, the county currently has very limited access to the property. Whitewater boaters would be best served by an access point at the upstream edge of the property as opposed to the downstream edge down at the Mt. Si Bridge. We will continue working with the county to explore creative solutions and may recommend another key acquisition that could be necessary to realize the full potential of this beautiful site that also runs along the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. The students have prepared several different



design alternatives that have served as an incredible visual aide in communicating the issues and potential solutions to community leaders and agency staff. Working together with the community we feel we can help the community of North Bend realize its goal of becoming the key gateway to the recreational opportunities of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie.

Funding: We have applied for a \$5000 grant from Tom’s of Maine. So far we have been recommended for funding by the review committee but the board still has to make the final decisions. This funding will allow us to address habitat issues and fund on-the-ground efforts, and a \$5000 grant from King County was obtained to assist in planning efforts for the new County Park currently known as Tanner Landing. A \$15,000 appropriation from King County allowed us to restore the Concrete Bridge access. In addition to these monetary contributions to river access, in-

kind support has been provided through significant agency staff involvement from National Park Service, King County Parks, Washington DNR, and US Forest Service, along with the efforts of a dozen very dedicated students from the Landscape Design Course at University of Washington and several passionate members of the community.

More Information: Approximately two dozen members of the local paddling community have been actively involved in the development of various plans and a long-term vision for river access along the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. If you have an interest in becoming more involved please contact Tom O’Keefe [okeefe@riversandcreeks.com](mailto:okeefe@riversandcreeks.com) 

*Additional information and background documents can be found on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie StreamKeeper page <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2220>*

# Conservation and Access

## The Next 50 Years

by Jason Robertson

I fell in love with rivers while riding my school bus. We would cross the Haw River Bridge between Chapel Hill and Pittsboro, NC in the morning and evening, at high water and low, in summer, spring, winter, and fall. The river changed daily, and at the time I thought it was the biggest, most wonderful river in the world.

The Haw had two features that made it stand out in my imagination. The first was a river wide dam, just upstream of the bridge, over which water poured in muddy brown sheets. This waterfall was beautiful and indomitable and was made by man. The second feature was a sign. This sign was made of plywood with white and blue paint. The words cautioned of more than 20 drownings and against canoeing. Why? What happened? My imagination ran wild every time I saw the sign. What was downriver? I dreamed of running the river and prayed for traffic that would stop the bus in the middle of the bridge span so I could watch the river pound the bedrock under the falls and trace the bubbles through the maze of rocks downstream.

As AW celebrates our 50th anniversary I am struck by my memories of the Haw. When I tell this story and then show the river to my friends, few see the river's magic. The river is dirty, it runs an orange so red and thick that it makes the Colorado, or "Red River", look drinkable. Bottles, tires, plastic bags, and fishing line are everywhere and are an integral part of the visual landscape. Yet, I felt that it was my river.

Once, after I had turned 16 and started driving, I found a cartoon map of the Haw by William Neally describing play spots on the river. I built the river up so big in my mind that once I actually ran the rapids for the first time, they seemed almost easy. Yet, there was a problem, one of these features that Neally described had disappeared before I ever set out with a paddle; this play spot was drowned by the construction of Jordan Lake which flooded the best ender spot in the East. The loss resonated of a rapid I had never seen, and I learned something about conservation.

A few years later, I spent day after day kayaking on the Haw while I attended the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I gathered stories of flood and dodging debris, I was threatened by a man with a gun, I saw my favorite parking spaces turn into dirt ruts and party stops, and eventually saw these sites fenced and closed with "no trespassing" signs by landowners.

By the time I moved from Chapel Hill, the Haw had made a transition and turned around; it was recovering. There was less debris, fewer tires, improved parking and even public access provided as mitigation for lost recreation opportunities around Jordan Lake. I began to hope that there was a better way.

I share this story with you though it is incomplete; it tells only part of the picture.

Yes, we've made changes as a society, and dams are actually being removed by the men who made them. The rivers are cleaner than at any point in over 100 years, with less sewage and fewer industrial chemicals in the water.

However, the present is not entirely rosy and the future is uncertain.

Plastic bottles have become ubiquitous and populate river banks and ocean shores, there are increasing concerns about endocrine disrupting fertilizers in the water, drinking water supplies are taking precedence over ecological and recreational uses. Further, the construction of second homes and increased development is posing new pressures on riparian ecosystems and causing erosion.

What will happen in the next 50 years, and what will be the major challenges for American Whitewater? Gazing in my crystal ball, I foresee new challenges related to water quality, water quantity, development, public access, and public health.

### Water Quality

While there have been vast improvements in water quality over the past 100 years, and particularly in the last 35 years, there is a movement afoot to weaken the regulations and environmental laws that have been so effective for conserving America's surface and ground water. I know the threat firsthand from my years at the Environmental Protection Agency where I registered new chemicals and pesticides. Chemicals and pesticides are tools that our society uses to drive our economic engine and improve our standard of living, yet these chemicals are not harmless. There is increasing awareness of the health risks from a class of chemicals called endocrine disruptors. These chemicals are relatively long-lived in the environment and are widespread in drinking water around the nation. Sewage treatment and water purification are relatively ineffective in removing these chemicals. The result is that these chemicals move downriver from one town to the next in ever-increasing quantities. The problem is that these chemicals have been linked in the scientific literature at the EPA and elsewhere to hermaphroditis, reproductive development problems, and cancer. The chemicals are introduced to the environment from plastics, fuels, pesticides, and even some types of birth control.

### Water Quantity and Availability

Study after study questions where the nation will draw its water from in the future. The problem is that many of the great aquifers under the nation are being depleted and take thousands of years to be replenished; also surface water is relatively scarce. However the main reason for the problem is that our nation's water needs are outpacing the hydrologic cycle. Some communities in California are making plans to process sewage and redistribute the

50 Years of

[www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org)

cleaned water for non-consumptive purposes, and cities around the country already use water that has been passed downstream from one population center to the next. However, other communities are debating whether to even share water with the environment. In one recent example, the *Washington Post* reported in March that Portland is debating whether it is worth leaving water in the Columbia and Snake Rivers for salmon. The problem is couched in absolute terms, "As penance for their late beloved salmon, residents of the Pacific Northwest have taken about \$1 billion out of their pockets in the past decade and flushed it down the Columbia and Snake rivers." The basic assumption is that by leaving water in the rivers Oregon's residents are losing money and that it comes down to a decision of whether to make power and provide drinking water or preserve a floundering species. According to the Post's report, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), "has declared that the spill is 'excessively costly compared to the biological benefit'". The challenge facing us in the next 50 years will be effectively making the argument for protecting flows for recreation and ecological health in the face of dwindling water supplies and cheap power production.

## Development

I am building a second home with my wife. I am part of the problem that boaters will face with development pressures over the next 50 years. Housing construction continues to grow to meet the needs of the growing population, and families like my own who have the desire to live near the places they love and also maintain homes near their jobs. Part of the problem is that humans live near water, and like living near water. Property prices reflect the value that we place on living near water. Simply, prices are higher for waterfront or coastal property than for inland sites or even lofty mountain retreats. Development in riparian zones leads to problems related to siltation, erosion, loss of forest cover, and also loss of access opportunities to rivers for fishing, wading, and boating.

## Public Access

Future problems with public access to America's rivers are related largely to the development pressures described above. In the past 6 years while working for American Whitewater, I have observed an increase

in the number of access problems linked to the development of second homes near rivers. The problem is worst in California, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Virginia, and Washington; however it is expanding to touch other states. The first part of the trend is that landowners are fencing off more and more land, are posting "No Trespassing" signs, and prosecuting trespassers. The second part is that landowners purchase property throughout the year, and often make their purchases in late summer or fall when water levels are low and river recreation is at a minimum. When these landowners visit their second homes in the spring and early summer, they are surprised to see kayakers, canoers, fishermen, or even rafters float by their property or parking at bridge crossing near their lands and accessing a river that the landowner mistakenly views as a private reserve.

## Public Health

Americans on average are getting fat. Youth on average are not spending as much time recreating outdoors and have no motivation to do so. These two facts paint an unhappy picture for the future of outdoor recreation. While it might make you happy to imagine that your favorite play spot will not be crowded with grommets in another couple decades, I see this being a real problem for numerous reasons. The most important is that the probable decrease in participation will mean that there are fewer advocates for rivers in the population. As my experience attests, exposure to rivers at an early age creates the environment to love them. Similarly, with fewer advocates, there will be less societal motivation to protect rivers and it will be easier for our existing environmental laws and regulations to be eroded.

## A Silver Lining

The silver lining to the challenges I've painted above is that the youth kayak market continues to increase, there are laws on the books that are doing a good job of protecting the nation's waters and it is easier to protect an existing law than passing a new one, the people who are building second homes near the nation's rivers love those waters for scenic and recreational reasons, state and local governments are putting more money into buying and developing river access points, and American Whitewater is working to be around to help you and your grandchildren protect the rivers you love. 

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American Whitewater  
50th Anniversary Issue - May/June 2004

# Safety As We See It

by Charlie Walbridge

## Making Whitewater Paddlers Safer for 50 Years

**“Skill is by far the most important factor for safety on fast water”**

*American Whitewater Safety Bulletin 1959*

Safety has been a major focus for American Whitewater throughout its fifty-year history. In the 1950s paddling knowledge was rare and widely dispersed. A handful of serious whitewater clubs were organizing in the East, Midwest, and West. Several of these geographically-dispersed leaders created the “AWWA” to help groups share their river running knowledge and experience. The American Whitewater Safety Code was developed in those early years to help paddlers stay safe. First printed in 1959, it also contained the first description of the six “classes” of river difficulty. The American Whitewater Safety Code also helped increase awareness of the fluctuations in river levels and how this changes and challenges a paddler’s skills.

**“Nobody talks about whitewater paddlers except when they drown or get into trouble.”**

*John Bombay, AWA Safety Chairman 1965*

During the “pioneering decade” of the 1960s, paddlers discovered many of the “classic” whitewater rivers for the first time. Paddling was done in army surplus rafts, aluminum canoes, and for the cutting edge paddler, fiberglass racing kayaks from Europe. Space in the *AWA Journal* that wasn’t telling readers about finding new rivers or making better gear was laying a foundation of on-water risk management that is still with us today. Safety Chairs Red Fancher and John Bombay wrote a regular column titled “Safety as We See It.” Their short articles discussed the important

basics: wearing a life jacket, preparing for cold water, installing extra boat flotation, stowing loose lines, paddling as a part of a self-reliant group, using a throw line, and saving people first, gear last. Thanks to their careful approach no member of their “whitewater community” died running rivers during this time. Many of us believed that the sport was “safe,” that is, that a trained, well-equipped boater could never be killed.

**“I want to have the freedom to decide what risk I am willing to undertake.”**

*OK Goodwin, AW Safety Chairman 1973*

I think of the decade of the 1970s as the “pre-school decade” because those of us who started then are too old to be old school. Slalom racers set the pace, and by the end of the decade US paddlers dominated international competition. Their improved gear, techniques, and skills were quickly passed along to the average whitewater paddler in the pages of the *AWA Journal*. As our numbers grew, the first manufacturers arrived. The first rotomolded kayak, the River Chaser, was built in 1974, followed by Perception’s Quest and Mirage. Royalex canoes appeared at about the same time, and manufacturers like Blue Hole and Mad River created specialized designs that made aluminum canoes obsolete. Wetsuits came into common use, extending the paddling season while improving safety in cold water. Paddlers started to paddle harder runs and even run small waterfalls. The sport was beginning to grow.

But with growth came accidents, especially among untrained people. The movie *Deliverance* inspired a number of reckless thrill seekers who got in way over their heads. The Coast Guard, empowered by the Boating Safety Act of 1971, created the “Approved Type III PFD” and began to show interest in our activities. Our response was “Education, Not Regulation,” a philosophy first discussed in an O.K. Goodwin article in the *AWA Journal* in 1973. The community of experienced paddlers also saw the first

fatalities during this time. From 1975 on there was an average of one such death per year. Each accident, reported and studied in American Whitewater, taught us a hard, cold lesson. We learned about the dangers of foot entrapment, flush-drowning, and being caught inside a pinned kayak. We now knew to our great sorrow that even good paddlers could die if they weren’t careful.

**“Each whitewater paddler must take personal responsibility for their own safety when on the water”**

*Charlie Walbridge, Safety Chairman 1987*

The 1980s was the decade of the old school and an era of fast growth for whitewater sport. The Perception Dancer, designed in 1982, dominated the decade. Drysuits, drytops and hard-sole booties came on the market for the first time. Open canoe outfitting changed from makeshift to slick, and river rafts designed especially for whitewater became widely available. Specialized creek boats appeared for the first time. Rafting outfitter and kayak instruction schools multiplied. River rescue training was offered for the first at the Nantahala Outdoor Center under the guidance of Les Bechdel and Slim Ray, and the Ohio DNR developed the first program designed for firefighters. Pete Skinner revitalized American Whitewater and led it to some remarkable successes in river conservation and access protection.

As the number of whitewater paddlers increased, so did the fatalities. An average of 3-4 experienced hardboaters died each year. A significant number of deaths in the mid-80s involved squirt boaters, the innovative precursor of modern playboaters. Charlie Walbridge, who had been Safety Chair for the American Canoe Association, took on this job for AWA. As whitewater accidents increased, we tracked them. Pinning and entrapment scenarios were dissected, and what we learned influenced boat design, instruction procedures, and rescue tactics.

**“As paddling exploded in the 1990s, AW became a pioneer in safety education on the then new-fangled world wide web.”**

*Lee Belknap, Safety Chair 1995*

The “new school” of paddling started slowly in the western whitewater rodeo scene of the late ‘80s. Soon freestyle competition was driving the sport the same way that slalom racing did in the 70s. As the number of kayak manufacturers grew, these events became a battleground. In 1994, when short boats with planing hulls were first introduced, kayak design had become so innovative that some companies introduced new models several times a year. Whitewater kayaking became the fastest growing outdoor sport in the nation. Thousands of young boaters from the “skateboard-snowboard-surfboat crowd” tried kayaking and got really good really fast! With commercial success came a focus on fashion exposure in the mainstream media. The leaders were the “pro paddlers” they sponsored. Hundreds of whitewater

videos appeared. The Web came of age, so finding paddlers and communicating with them became easier than ever. This brought challenge and opportunity to American Whitewater, which responded with one of the first paddling web sites.

Short boats and safer, more effective outfitting pushed back the limits of the sport. It was inevitable that the new generation of paddlers would probe the edges of the envelope, surfing bigger holes and running steeper creeks than anyone ever thought possible. But with more “extreme” and just plain tough rivers being paddled by more people, the number of accidents increased. In the mid-90s, five of the nation’s best known kayakers were killed. But thanks to the Internet, more accidents than ever were being reported to AW. Lee Belknap became AW Safety Chair and his spreadsheets sought out patterns in our data. This laid the groundwork for further studies by Jennifer Plyler and Laura Whitman which compared whitewater paddling to other active outdoor sports for the first time. The results: while not without risk, our sport compares quite favorably to activities like bicycling, rock climbing, and scuba diving.

**“We seek to maximize the enjoyment and safety of whitewater paddlers by promoting the skills, attitudes, and precautions they need”**

*Tim Kelly, Safety Chair 2002*

Tim Kelly took over the AW Safety Chair in 2002. He mixes leadership and expertise in risk management from his career as an army officer with solid Class V boating skills. He’s already improved AW’s safety procedures for running freestyle contests, extreme races, and flow studies. We can’t tell what the future holds for whitewater sport and what challenges await us in the safety area. But we do know that AW will be out there, taking the lessons learned from the field to our members, government officials, and the general paddling public. 



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# Safety As We See It continued

## Three Decades of Whitewater Accidents

Reported to American Whitewater 1971-2003

Year	Kayak & C-1	Open Canoe	Rafts			Other	Total
1971							0
1972							0
1973			Com - Priv - I-K 1				1
1974							0
1975	1						1
1976							1
1977	1						1
1978	2						2
1979	1						1
1980	1						1
1981		1					1
1982	8	1					9
1983	2		2				4
1984	1	1					2
1985	3		1				4
1986	9		4				13
1987	3	2	2				7
1988	4	3	2				9
1989	6	3	3			1	13
1990	11	6	1				18
1991	4	1	2				7
1992	5	1	1				7
1993	4	2	1				7
1994	4	1	6	5	2		26
1995	10	5	10	16	1	1	38
1996	13	2	4	15		3	37
1997	20	5	2	4		1	32
1998	21	7	10	16	1	3	51
1999	15	5	3	11		4	38
2000	18	11	15	12	2	1	48
2001	20	9	1	13	2	2	37
2002	12	8	2	6	1	1	30
2003	20	15	2	6	1	8	58
2004	1						

As of February 16, 2004

NB: American Whitewater has never been able to track all moving water accidents, but we do hear about most experienced kayakers who die. We think that the "kayak" numbers are pretty accurate. The total number of whitewater paddlers has probably doubled three times since the early 1980s, accounting for much of the increase in accidents. According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics, paddlesport deaths have not increased much since the mid-70s. The increase in other types of accidents reported to AW since 1994 is due to Internet-based reporting.

## Whitewater Pioneer Dr. Andrew Embick

by Jerry Meral

I never met Andrew Embick, although I did talk to him on the phone once. He had suggested we run Alaska's Alsek River, and wanted to come along if he could run Turnback Canyon while we did the helicopter shuttle! We made the run, but it turned out he did not make it down the river with us.

Andrew was the author of *Fast and Cold, A Guide to Alaska Whitewater*. In his book notes, he confesses to not running Class VI whitewater much any more. But his book makes it clear that he had no problems with Class VI, or any other whitewater in Alaska. His guide is indispensable for anyone seeking anything from a mild to wild river trip in Alaska. It is impeccably documented, including not only access information (vital for Alaska), but also cultural and natural history, lots of great boating stories, and terrific photos.

Jack Hession, one of Alaska's premiere conservationists for many years, has

stated, "Andy made a major contribution to Alaska river conservation with his guidebook, which documents the history, values, and public use of free-flowing rivers. When conservationists ask Congress to add more Alaska rivers to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and the State to expand its Recreational Rivers System, his accounts will serve as the foundation for many of our proposals."

First runs? Andrew and his companions (or quite often, just Andrew!) made dozens, often under the most adverse of conditions. Andrew also boated in the Himalayas, was a major ice climber, and developed cross country ski trails near his home in Valdez.

My latest trip based on Andrew's book was last summer on the Charley and Yukon Rivers in the Yukon-Charley National Preserve. Sadly, I learned that Andrew had passed away while we were on the trip.

He will be remembered as a true whitewater pioneer, generous enough to share his experience and knowledge with those who seek to run the cold and beautiful rivers of the 49th State.

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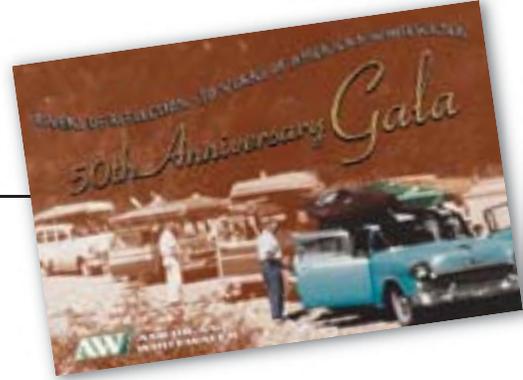


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# Gala update

by Ben VanCamp



The 50th Anniversary Gala Event, hosted by Teva, is only a few short weeks away. Have you purchased your tickets yet?

Well if not you better hurry up and get one of the few remaining tickets for the Gala Weekend.

The Gala will be a celebration not only of the work that American Whitewater has accomplished in the last 50 years but also of the sport itself. AW board members, supporters, volunteers, and staff will gather to commemorate 50 years of protecting and restoring America's Rivers.

Joining American Whitewater as a guest speaker will be Wade Davis. A professional speaker for nearly twenty years, Wade Davis has lectured at over 70 universities, numerous corporate groups, and professional associations. Wade Davis is an Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society. Named by Geographic as one of the "Explorers for the Millennium", Wade Davis is an anthropologist and plant explorer who received his Ph.D. in ethnobotany from Harvard University. He has worked as a river guide, park ranger, and forestry engineer.

Described by ABC 20/20 as a real life Indiana Jones, Davis spent three years in the Amazon and Andes searching for new medicinal drugs before heading to Haiti to investigate folk poisons used to create zombies. Davis will be speaking on his work documenting and preserving the world's ecosystems and the effect river restoration has on that process. He is author of five other books, including *One River* (1996), *Shadows in the Sun* (1998) and *Light at the Edge of the World* (2001) For additional information on Wade Davis please check his personal webpage ([www.wade-davis.com](http://www.wade-davis.com)) and the National Geographic Website ([www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)).

**American Whitewater would like to thank the generous contributions of the Gala Event Sponsors:**

Teva  
Volkswagen  
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Otter Bar Lodge  
Canoe and Kayak Magazine

In addition to the competitions, expositions, and entertainment provided by the Teva Mountain Games, springtime in the Colorado Rocky Mountains provides the perfect opportunity for a variety of mountain sports, including rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking, and whitewater activities. As if you needed more reasons to attend this great event here they are:

### Whitewater Opportunities

**Gore Creek** - If this town doesn't scream whitewater I don't know what does, Gore Creek (Class III-IV) runs right through the heart of Vail. The run is 9 miles long.

**Eagle River** - The Eagle provides a little something for everyone with a 17 mile Class II - III run and 15 mile Class III - IV section (Dowd's Chute) and a nine mile IV-V section though Gilman Gorge.

**Arkansas River** - The Arkansas also provides rafting and boating pleasure for all groups with a variety of sections ranging from Class II to Class V.

*For more information about any of these runs or other rivers in the Vail area check out the nation's largest online resource for paddling beta [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org)!*

### Mountain Biking

It only makes sense that where there is a region full of mountains there will be some awesome mountain biking. The Vail area is full of great rides including a few of these classics:

Benchmark Trail 10 Mi.  
Advanced / Fire Roads

Buffer Creek Trail 6-8 Mi.  
Advanced / Single Track

Son of Middle Creek 2.8 Mi.  
Intermediate / Fire Road and Single Track

Meadow Mountain Loop 12 Mi.  
Intermediate / Fire Road and Single Track

### Hiking

If you want to keep your two feet planted firmly on the ground then sample some of Vail's hiking trails. The hiking trails range from casual walks to strenuous climbs. Here are a few you might want to try.

**Eagle's Loop (easy)**  
1 mile (1.6 km) 15-20 min.  
Short ridge top loop with great views of Mount of the Holy Cross and the Gore Range.

**Lower Fireweed (easy)**  
2.2 miles (3.5 km) 1-1.5 hours  
This is a beautiful wooded hiking route between Eagle's Nest and Mid-Vail facilities.

**Upper Fireweed (easy)**  
1.2 miles (1.9 km) 30-40 min.  
A beautiful beginner hiking trail from Eagle's Nest to Mid Vail.

**Berrypicker (moderate)**  
4.6 miles (7.4 km) 2-3 hours  
The intermediate trail starts off Lower Fireweed. Wildlife and wildflowers are plentiful on this shaded hiking trail from mid-mountain to the bottom.

*continued on p.76*



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World Premiere 08.14.04 SLC UT  
Encore 09.25.04 AW Gauley River Fest

Art by Rob Berong [www.lunchmag.tv](http://www.lunchmag.tv)





TM



The watery women of Lotus Designs will be hosting these gatherings of the ladies as a gift to the good folks at American Whitewater. Any woman who is comfortable rolling in class 3+ whitewater is encouraged to sign up for tips, tricks, and take-out talk.

Registration is free to **Members of American Whitewater!**

Donations to American Whitewater are greatly appreciated to help keep up their work of protecting and restoring whitewater rivers across the country.

Sweethearts on the Truckee / Reno NV - May 16, 2004  
Sirens in Salida / Salida, CO - June 19, 2004

For more information call the AW Outreach Office at:  
828-252-0728 OR visit [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org)



Ticket to Ride.

# Affiliate Clubs

# AW's Original Purpose

by Michael Phelan

The Affiliate Club Program lies at the very heart of AW's existence. AW's original purpose since 1957 has been to distribute information among its Affiliate Clubs. AW's relationships with local clubs have provided the backbone for the river conservation and access work it accomplishes. Over eighty-five clubs are now AW Club Affiliates and they are all doing great work on your behalf. If you don't belong to a club consider joining one.

For 2004, AW is excited to announce several programs for AW Affiliate Clubs.

River Stewardship Institute: A week-long conservation and access training program designed to prepare river activists with the tools necessary to successfully save their rivers.

2nd Flowing Rivers Grant Program, sponsored by Clif Bar

BRAND NEW Affiliate Club section of the AW Journal dedicated to promoting your club and its events with the whitewater community at large. If your Affiliate Club would like to be one of the first to begin listing your club's major events in the Journal, please email [ben@amwhitewater.org](mailto:ben@amwhitewater.org) for more details.

The AW Journal Club Affiliates by State:

## Alaska

Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks

## Alabama

Coosa Paddling Club, Montgomery  
Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

## Arizona

Desert Paddlers Club, Tempe  
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Assoc, Flagstaff

## Arkansas

Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

## California

Gold Country Paddlers, Lotus  
River Skills Center, Mt. Shasta  
Sequoia Paddling Club, Windsor  
Shasta Paddlers, Redding  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, San Jose  
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Granada Hills

## Colorado

Arkansas Headwaters Recreations Area, Salida  
Pueblo Paddlers, Pueblo West  
Colorado White Water Association, Englewood  
Gunnison Valley Paddle Club, Almont  
WATER, Grant Junction

## Georgia

Atlanta Whitewater Club, Atlanta  
Georgia Canoeing Association, Atlanta  
Georgia Tech Outdoor Recreation, Atlanta

## Idaho

Idaho Rivers Sports, Boise  
Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise

## Illinois

Chicago Whitewater Association, Cary

## Iowa

Iowa Whitewater Coalition, Des Moines

## Indiana

Hoosier Canoe Club, Indianapolis

## Kentucky

Viking Canoe Club, Louisville  
Bluegrass Whitewater Association, Lexington

## Maine

AMC Maine Chapter, Hallowell

## Massachusetts

AMC Boston Chapter, Boston

## Maryland

Greater Baltimore Canoe Club, Kingsville  
Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers, Boonsboro  
Calleva Paddling, Germantown

## Minnesota

Boat Busters Anonymous, Stillwater

## Missouri

Kansas City Whitewater Club, Raymore  
Missouri Whitewater Association, St. Louis  
Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Springfield  
Ozark Wilderness Waterways, Kansas City  
Streamtech, St. Louis

## Montana

Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings

## Nevada

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

## New Hampshire

Ledyard Canoe Club, Hanover  
Merrimack Valley Paddlers, Merrimack  
Mt. Washington Valley Paddlers, Franconia  
Waterline, Manchester

## New Jersey

Garden State Canoe Club, Millington  
Hunterdon Canoe Club, Flemington  
The Paddling Bares, Milltown

## New Mexico

Adobe Whitewater Club, Albuquerque

## New York

FLOW Paddlers Club, Rochester  
Housatonic Canoe & Kayak Squad, Ossining  
KCCNY, S. Hackensack  
Town Tinker Tube Rentals, Phoenicia  
Whitewater Challengers, Old Forge  
Zoar Valley Paddling Club, Dunkirk

## N. Carolina

Camp Carolina, Brevard  
Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh  
Triad River Runners, Winston-Salem  
Western Carolina Paddlers, Asheville

## Ohio

Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, Columbus  
Keel Haulers Canoe Club, Westlake  
Outdoor Adventure Club, Dayton  
Toledo River Gang, Waterville

## Oregon

Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club, Corvallis

## Pennsylvania

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Sugarloaf  
Benscreek Canoe Club, Johnstown  
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, Mechanicsburg  
Holtwood Hooligans, Lititz  
Philadelphia Canoe Club, Philadelphia  
Three Rivers Paddling Club, Pittsburgh  
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Lehigh Valley

## S. Carolina

Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville  
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

## Tennessee

America Outdoors, Knoxville  
Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts, Elizabethton  
Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville  
E. Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge  
Eastman Hiking and Canoeing, Kingsport  
McCallie School Outdoor Program, Chattanooga

Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Chattanooga  
University of Tennessee Outing Club, Knoxville  
Tennessee Scenic River Association, Grimsley

## Texas

Bayou Whitewater Club, Houston

## Utah

University of Utah, Salt Lake City  
USU Kayak Club, Logan

## Virginia

Blue Ridge River Runners, Lynch Station  
Blue Ridge Voyageurs, McLean  
Canoe Cruisers Association, Arlington  
Coastal Canoeists, Richmond  
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Roanoke  
Richmond Whitewater Club, Mechanicsville

## Vermont

Vermont Paddlers Club, Jericho

## Washington

W.W.U. Associated Students, Bellingham  
The Mountaineers, Seattle  
Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle  
Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club, Spokane  
Washington Kayak Club, Seattle

## West Virginia

West Virginia Wildwater Association, Charleston

## Wisconsin

Hoofers Outing Club, Madison  
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter, La Crosse  
Northern Paddle and Trail, Rhinelander

## Wyoming

Jackson Hole Kayak Club, Jackson

## Canada, British Columbia

Vancouver Kayak Club, Vancouver

### AW Affiliate Club Events

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club  
Reno River Festival / Reno, Nevada  
May 14-16<sup>th</sup>  
[www.renoriverfestival.com](http://www.renoriverfestival.com)

Truckee River Slalom and Wildwater Races  
Reno, Nevada  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>  
775-324-5102 or 775-825-2855

## Join American Whitewater as a Club Affiliate!

### "10" Reasons to Join AW as an Affiliate Club

1. Receive the *American Whitewater Journal*, the oldest continually published whitewater magazine.
2. Join the list of Affiliate Clubs noted in each bi-monthly *AW Journal*.
3. List club events in the *AW Journal*.
4. Your Club's members can become AW members for \$25. A \$10 savings!
5. Have technical expertise for your Club conservation and access committees 'on tap.'
6. Have access to technical and onsite assistance for your Club's event planning.
7. Enjoy VIP benefits for "Joint Members" at AW events.
8. Participate in exclusive AW Affiliate Club promotions.
9. Post Club information on the AW Website to help paddlers find you.
10. Eligible to apply for a spot in the AW 2004 River Stewardship Institute.

### Our newest clubs...

- Idaho Watershed Association, Boise, ID
- Tennessee Scenic Watershed Association, Grimsley, TN
- Western Association To Enjoy Rivers, Grand Junction, CO
- Vancouver Kayak Club, Vancouver, BC (Canada)
- Northern Paddle and Trail, Rhinelander, WI

For more information, contact Michael Phelan at [michael@amwhitewater.org](mailto:michael@amwhitewater.org)  
AW Outreach Office at 828-252-0728  
or sign-up on-line at:  
[www.americanwhitewater.org/membership](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/membership)

## Membership Notes

One of our top goals is to take better care of our existing members, which means making it easier for you to renew, find out what projects we're working on, and better yet - get involved. As part of this effort, we'll be using the journal more often to communicate with you. Below is a list of frequently asked questions regarding membership. Please take a look at the list and if you have anything further, check out our website or e-mail us! Correct contact information can be found below.

**Question: I am moving, how do I notify American Whitewater of my new address?**

Answer: You can submit your address change three ways: 1) On our website (look under the 'membership' section), 2) By sending us an e-mail to [membership@amwhitewater.org](mailto:membership@amwhitewater.org) with the words 'address change' in the subject field or by 3) calling our office and letting us know of the change.

**Question: I did notify American Whitewater of my address change, but haven't received my journal, why?**

Answer: Address changes must be made at least two weeks before the issue is delivered. For example, for the September/August journal, we need your address change by August 20th.

**Question: I've noticed a code on the label of my journal that reads '20030105' next to my name - what does it mean?**

Answer: That code is actually your expiration date. The '2003' is the year you expire. The following '05' is the journal issue you expire on and the final '01' is the year you first became a member. We run 6 issues every year, so the number 05 correlates with the Sept/Oct issue (06 would be Nov/Dec and so on).

**Question: I renewed my membership, but received another renewal notice in the mail!**

Answer: I think this is the most frequently asked question. The main reason is your renewal wasn't processed before the next round of renewals was sent. We go to great lengths to minimize this problem as much as possible, as it's a waste of paper, time and money. Unfortunately, our printer needs time to prepare the renewal forms and we have to send them the names several weeks in advance. One way to solve this problem is to sign-up for e-renewals. Call or e-mail our office, or go to our website for more details on the program. If you have a suggestion, comment or question not covered here, please send it to:

Nick Lipkowski  
Office Manager / American Whitewater  
301-589-9453  
[nick@amwhitewater.org](mailto:nick@amwhitewater.org)

# Guidelines for Contributors



Please read this carefully before sending us your articles and photos! This is a volunteer publication, please cooperate and help us out. Do not send us your material without a release—signed by all authors and photographers (attached).

If possible, articles should be submitted on a 3-1/2-inch computer disk. (Microsoft Word if possible – others accepted.) Please do not alter the margins or spacing parameters; use the standard default settings. Send a printed copy of the article as well.

Those without access to a word processor may submit their articles typed. Please double space.

Photos may be submitted as slides, black or white prints, or color prints or electronic, digital photos, 300 dpi tiffs or high res jpegs minimum 3”x5.” Keep your originals and send us duplicates if possible; we cannot guarantee the safe return of your pictures. If you want us to return your pictures, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission.

The better the photos the better the reproduction.

American Whitewater feature articles should relate to some aspect of whitewater boating. Please do not submit articles pertaining to sea kayaking or flat water.

If you are writing about a commonly paddled river, your story should be told from a unique perspective. Articles about difficult, infrequently paddled, or exotic rivers are given special consideration. But we are also interested in well written, unusual articles pertaining to Class II, III & IV rivers as well. Feature stories do not have to be about a specific river. Articles about paddling techniques, the river environment and river personalities are also accepted. Pieces that incorporate humor are especially welcome. Open boating and rafting stories are welcome.

Profanity should be used only when it is absolutely necessary to effectively tell a story; it is not our intent to offend our more sensitive members and readers.

Please check all facts carefully, particularly those

regarding individuals, government agencies, and corporations involved in river access and environmental matters. You are legally responsible for the accuracy of such material. Make sure names are spelled correctly and river gradients and distances are correctly calculated.

Articles will be edited at the discretion of the editors to fit our format, length, and style. Expect to see changes in your article. If you don't want us to edit your article, please don't send it in! Because of our deadlines you will not be able to review the editorial changes made prior to publication.

American Whitewater is a nonprofit; the editors and contributors to American Whitewater are not reimbursed. On rare occasions, by prearrangement, professional writers receive a small honorarium when they submit stories at our request. Generally, our contributors do not expect payment, since most are members of AW, which is a volunteer conservation and safety organization.

## Release For Publication

- I hereby release my work (literary, graphic or photographic) for publication in American Whitewater magazine.
- I understand that my work may be edited or cropped at the editors' discretion.
- I understand that I will not be paid for my work.
- I accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information included in my submission. I have not libeled or slandered any individual, corporation or agency in this work.
- I understand that all or some of my work may be reprinted at some future date in an American Whitewater publication.
- I promise that this material has not been and will not soon be published by another magazine or publication and the rights to this material are clear and unrestricted.
- I understand that once this material is printed in American Whitewater it may be reprinted or reproduced in other publications if I wish, providing I notify them that it has already appeared in American Whitewater.

- I understand that the contents of American Whitewater Magazine, including my contribution, will be archived on the American Whitewater web site.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This release must be signed by all the contributing author(s), photographer(s) and graphic artist(s).

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Send your material to:  
Journal Editor, 1434 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910

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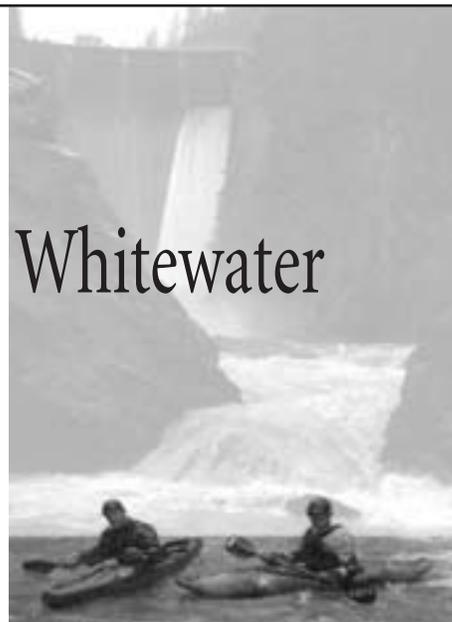
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CHECK OUT [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org) or  
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Deerfield River Festival July 30th - August 1st  
Field West of Zoar Outdoor Rt. 2 Charlemont, MA

Gauley River Festival September 24th - 26th  
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# The 'D' is for Dominance



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Photo by Jed Selby, Paddler: Dee. Visit Dagger and Team D online at [www.Dagger.com](http://www.Dagger.com)



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