

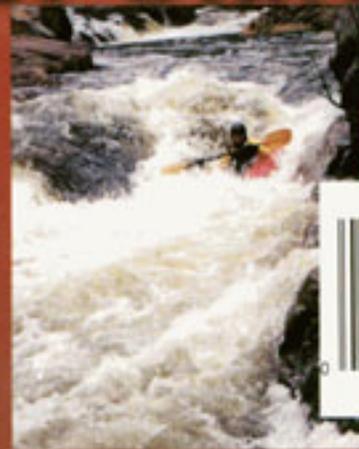
american whitewater

September/October 2000

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BANKSIDE IN A TENT, STAKING YOUR TURF IN A CROWDED RV THE BACK BED OF A LUXURIOUSLY DECKED-OUT PICK-UP. NO MATTER WHAT YOU KNOW THAT YOUR SOUL SLEEPS MORE PEACEFULLY ALONGSIDE THE RIVER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE UNIVERSE. WE KNOW OURSELVES TO IT. AND YOU CAN SEE IT IN OUR WHITEWATER BOAT DESIGNS. BOATS LIKE THE NEW AMP — A REVOLUTIONARY NEW DESIGN THAT CATCHES THE CURRENT OF THE RIVER. THIS SERIOUSLY ADVANCED WHITEWATER SCENARIO WILL PUSH KAYAKING TO A NEW EXTREME. SO YOUR SOUL GETS A GOOD NIGHT'S REST. BECAUSE, THANKS TO NEW BOATS LIKE THE AMP, ITS GONNA NEED IT **FOR A FREE CATALOG**

american whitewater

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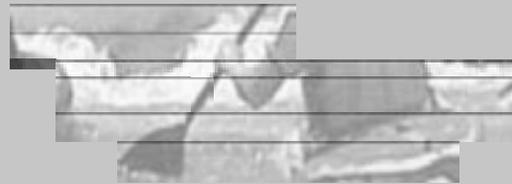
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Photography



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White Water Love Trouble

Editor's note: Over the years I have received many letters from desperate and forlorn whitewater boaters, bemoaning the difficulties they face in reconciling their love of whitewater with their need for romantic companionship. It has become increasingly apparent to me that many of the readers of this magazine, who may even be competent to tackle turbulent Class V t whitewater, are completely at a loss when it comes to negotiating the treacherous waters of romance. To put it bluntly, when it comes to love, a lot of you people need help!

I considered addressing these whitewater love conundrums myself, but decided against it. It is no secret that I am single and I quickly realized, on that basis alone, that many of you needy souls would scorn my advice, saying, "What does a single person know about love and romance?" I could argue that the very fact that I am single is the best evidence of my expertise in handling affairs of the heart. To my mind, asking a married man for romantic advice is like asking a man on death row how to rob a convenience store. But that is just my opinion, and what do I know?

So, in the end, I decided to look for a real expert to address these issues for you. The search for such an authority was difficult; there just aren't very many psychosexual psychologists with Class V boating skills in the world. (Admittedly, there are a lot of psychos with Class V boating skills, but we

all know how worthless they are!) I was about to give up when I chanced upon Professor Juste Kantgettenuff, Ph.D., Director of the Division of Interpersonal Relationships within the Department of Nuclear Waste Disposal at the University of Helsinki, Poland. Dr. Kantgettenuff comes to us with excellent credentials, which include a Noble Prize in Piecemaking. Dr. Kantgettenuff's notable conquests include the Class V t Scaresahelloutame and I donwannagothere Rivers in Finland, as well as a number of incredibly famous and fabulously endowed Swedish film starlets.

Starting with this very issue, Dr. Kantgettenuff's column will address specific whitewater love trouble questions submitted by readers. Our new Love Doctor will be available for ongoing consultation, assuming he survives the publication of this issue. So, if you are a whitewater boater having difficulties with affairs of the heart, please submit your questions to the good doctor through me, the editor of this magazine. (8245 Mentor Road, Elizabeth, Pa. 15037)

Be sure to include your name and address so that I will know where you live and how pathetic you are. I promise we won't print your real name and address in the Love Doctor's column. Really! Scout's honor!

Bob Gedekoh
Editor, American Whitewater

A LOT TO LEARN

Dear Dr. Kantgettenuff,

Last night I met this really great guy at a bar in the Village. He paid his way through Harvard by posing as a model for Esquire. Now he's a Porsche-driving venture capitalist with a penthouse in Manhattan and a beachfront cabin in the Hamptons. Best of all, he says he wants to learn to kayak! What do you think?

Goldie Digere
New York, New York

My Dearest Goldie,

The Love Doctor wishes he had a nickel for every time one of his starry-eyed paddling companions has exclaimed, "I met this great gal/guy in a bar the other night. And she/he wants to learn to kayak!"

Now, really! At the risk of stating the obvious, the Love Doctor must point out that individuals do NOT go to bars because they want to learn to kayak. Individuals who want to learn to kayak go to kayak schools! Individuals who go to bars want to... Well, if I have to tell you what people go to bars for,

you've been spending entirely too much time in your kayak, Miss Digere.

We all know that it is far easier to avoid entrapment on the river than it is to extricate oneself once it has occurred. The same is certainly true for affairs of the heart.

Granted, there might be a one-in-a-thousand chance that this is not a ruse and that the fellow in question really does have a genuine interest in whitewater. So, if you feel the imperative to pursue this fantasy of gossamer drifting in the wind, this is what the Love Doctor recommends. Next Saturday escort your Love Candidate to the nearest Class IV river, wedge his sorry ass into a kayak, and shove it into the current. You will find out soon enough how strong your potential paramour's commitment to whitewater is.

The Love Doctor acknowledges that there is the slight, but undeniable, risk that this young man will morph, within a matter of weeks, into a Class V+ boater, and demand that you accompany him on a dangerous hair boating spree. The end result could be death, or perhaps even worse, humiliation. It is hard to imagine anything more devastating to a relationship than teaching a novice to kayak, only to have his ability and daring surpass your own! But fear not, this is most unlikely.

The odds are overwhelming that this taste of whitewater will be more than enough for this New Yorksissy boy. Once you are rid of him you will be free to pursue more appropriate suitors. Like the smelly, loutish scum that frequent river festivals, like the one to be held on the Gauley this very month. Perhaps the good doctor will see you there.

THE TROUBLE WITH THE TRUTH

Dear Dr. Kantgettenuff,

The other night my wife of seventeen years and I were having a terrible argument. Suddenly she broke down into tears and said, "Sometimes I think you love that damned kayak more than you love me." How should I have responded? (I think I may have said the wrong thing.)

Herman Nomore
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Herman,

There are critical times in every marriage when it is absolutely imperative to tell the truth. Times when honesty is the best policy. Times to look your partner in the eye and bare your soul.

This was definitely not one of those times. Surely you were not foolish enough to admit to your wife that you cherish your boat more



than her! No one could be that stupid!

But you were that stupid... weren't you, Herman?

Well, then you have two choices.

One, get your boat out of the garage immediately and hide it at a friend's house, then find a very talented divorce attorney.

Or two, grovel. Get down on your worthless belly like the snake that you are and crawl back to your wife begging for mercy. Let her beat your sorry ass and get it over with.

And your sorry ass is worthless, isn't it, Herman? Otherwise, why would you be living in Nebraska? Thousands of miles from decent whitewater! Where do you paddle, in a cornfield irrigation ditch? I have no doubt that your wife is a fine woman, much too good for you. In fact, a good woman like that deserves to live in Idaho. Or West Virginia. Or Colorado. You should suggest that to her. Maybe it will get you back in her good graces.

But don't feel too badly. Almost all of the Love Doctor's paddling acquaintances have found significant others that are far, far better than they deserve. That these derelicts manage to attract and keep bright and attractive love partners never ceases to amaze the good doctor. In truth, if most of the Love Doctor's paddling companions got what they deserve, they would be paired with gross, stupid and ugly mates. Some of the Love Doctor's paddling friends wouldn't even merit that!

But we all know that in this life, people almost never get what they deserve. And you and I, Herman, should be thankful for that.

TO THINE OWN SELF

Dear Dr. Kantgettenuff,

My wife's cousin Hulga Joy is getting married in Akron on September 16th, the day of the Gauley Festival. Last night my wife told me that if I really wanted to go to the Gauley more than I wanted to go to Hulga Joy's wedding, I could. You know perfectly well what I really want to do. But, in spite of my wife's reassurances, I fear there may be repercussions if I go to the river. What do you think?

Thomas Titmouse
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Thomas,

How very clever of you to anticipate trouble. But you should not let fear stand in your way. A man has got to do what a man has got to do! You must go to the river and have a grand time. As the great Bard once said, "To thine own self be true." Of course, pulling this off may require a little tiny bit of subterfuge.

Here is my expert advice. First, you must convince your wife that you want to go to Hulga Joy's nuptials more than anything in the world. Express a great deal of interest in the event. Ask what type of dress Hulga will be wearing... What type of food they will be serving... Whether Uncle Bosco and Aunt Hildegard will be making the trip from Upper Sandusky.

Once your wife has fallen for this, it is time to put phase 2 into effect. Two or three nights before the event, "arrange" to receive a phone call from your paddling buddy,

"James." Talk to James in hushed tones for at least a half an hour. Then rejoin your wife in the living room with a deeply troubled look on your face.

When she asks what is wrong say, "Nothing, really... I'm just concerned about James. He's only been boating for five months and his roll isn't very solid. And he's never paddled anything harder than the Lower Yough. But he's absolutely determined to run the Upper Gauley this weekend, with or without me. Isure hope he doesn't get hurt."

Now, you must anticipate your wife's

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next question. "Why can't James wait till next weekend to try the Gauley for the first time?"

But you will be ready. "Because James is in the Navy and he is shipping out next Tuesday. Poor devil is going to be stuck on a nuclear sub for the next five years. Under the polar ice cap."

After a brief silence your wife will no doubt say, "Maybe you had better go to the river with him."

At this point in time you must maintain your composure, Thomas. This is a critical moment, so don't blow it! The correct response is not to leap through the air in ecstasy. No, now you must appear to be deeply perplexed. And you must say, with great reluctance, "And miss Hulga Joy's wedding???"

"That's better than losing a friend," your wife will no doubt say.

Now look pained, as if you are about to make an incredible sacrifice. Making sure that your voice quivers with regret say, "I suppose you are right. For James' sake I guess I'll have to go to the Gauley."

Now tell me, Thomas, is the Love Doctor not a genius?

One final word of advice, though. My old Grandmama, Konnie Kantgettenuff, always used to say, "A wise man does not put

all his eggs into a single basket." So when you return from the river, you should have an alternate plan ready, just in case you get an icy reception.

There is, after all, the slight chance that your wife might have caught on to your scheme. So, as a backup, I suggest feigning an injury when you come home. Break open two cheap ballpoint pens and smear black and blue ink all over your right knee. After it dries, wrap it in an ace bandage. Make sure to limp through the door.

If your wife seems a little testy, hobble to the freezer and pack your knee in ice. Grimace a lot and look pathetic. Even if your wife is furious at first, when she sees how much you are suffering, she will conclude that there is no need to kick your sorry ass. After all, a Higher Power has obviously already punished you for your miserable deception. Then your dear wife's rage will slowly give way to genuine concern, and, finally, melt like fine chocolate into sweet forgiveness.

Just don't ham it up too much, Thomas. I recommend a rapid recovery. After all, you wouldn't want your "injury" to keep you from returning to the Gauley for the next scheduled release.

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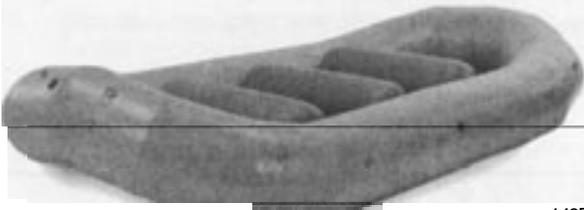
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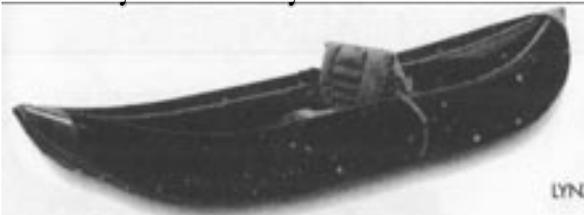


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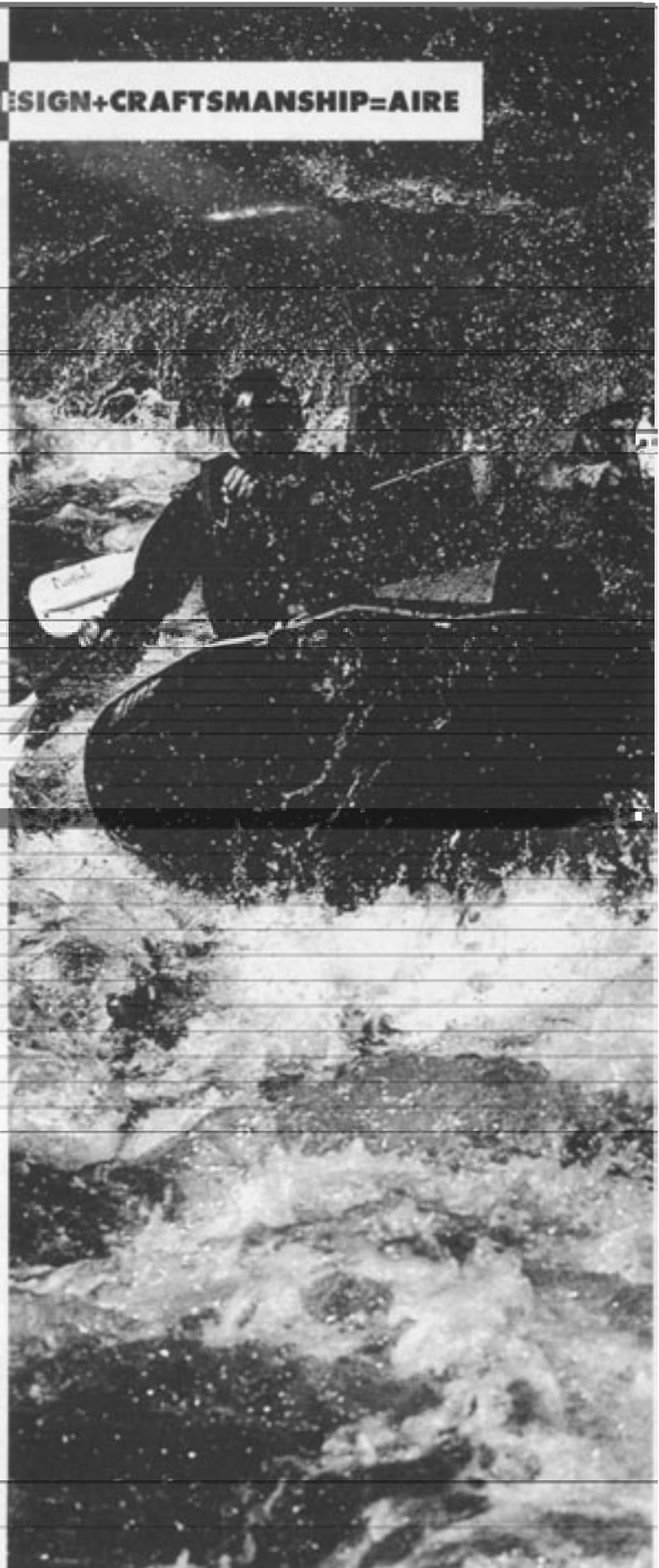
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Paddlesports is growing and unfortunately so is theft of paddling gear. To address this serious problem, Boulder Outdoor Center has launched a new online bulletin board of lost, stolen or found boating gear on their website at www.bocl23.com. This site is free and available to everyone who has Internet access.

In Boulder, Colorado the site has already helped reunite two stolen boats with their owners. Paddlers who have found gear, had items stolen or are suspicious about a boat someone wants to sell them can now check the listings or add to them. "I'm hoping people will use this as a resource before buying a used boat," said Eric Bader of BOC. "I want to put a damper on theft in paddlesports."

Spread the word. Hang the list of stolen items in paddling shops and post it in club newsletters. Let it be a deterrent to thieves as well as a service to their victims.

For further information, contact Eric Bader at Boulder Outdoor Center (303) 444-8420.



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Voter's Guide to the Republican and Democratic Candidates'

Views on Issues Related to Rivers

GEORGE W. BUSH (REPUBLICAN)

CONSERVATION

Much of the river conservation work done by American Whitewater is supported by provisions in federal environmental regulations.

As governor of Texas, Bush has overseen efforts to enact a major anti-regulatory agenda. He supports stronger state and local control of environmental regulations and has advocated voluntary private programs for protecting endangered species, wildlife habitat and wetlands.

In 1994, Bush's opposition to the Federal Endangered Species Act was both a central theme in his campaign for governor and a priority after he was elected. In a recent campaign appearance in Spokane, WA, Bush rejected the idea of breaching 4 dams on the lower Snake River to protect endangered salmon.

Bush supports cooperative landowner agreements to protect wetlands and species, rather than state-mandated restrictions on development. Because these are between the state and private parties, however, they are not available for public review.

According to the Texas Center for Policy Studies, overall water quality in Texas' classified reservoirs has declined since 1992, and "a third of the state's rivers and streams probably violate federal water quality standards, though no one is certain because the state declines to test them all."

ACCESS

Bush is a champion of private property, allowing individuals to sue state and local governments if their property is devalued 25% because of government action. Bush said this law "recognizes that private property is the basis of capitalism and it recognizes that government can overstep its bounds."

Texas ranks 49th among states in the amount of money it invests in state parks. In addition, a 1998 state auditor's report found a \$186 million funding backlog for maintenance of existing parks. The state parks department does not receive general funding from the legislature, but is funded by visitor fees and a state sales tax on sporting goods that is capped by law at \$32 million.

Bush has supported additional federal funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and an increase in LWCF spending on state programs.

ENDORSEMENTS

None by conservation or recreation groups.

ALBERT GORE, JR. (DEMOCRAT)

CONSERVATION

Gore is a strong proponent of the Endangered Species Act, supporting the broader use of public investment to protect habitat. He has not, however, come out against the administration's decision not to breach the four dams on the Snake River.

Gore recognizes that regulation alone is inadequate to protect habitat. On wetlands protection he says, "Regulation alone will never be enough to restore the losses...We must increase public investment and expand our partnerships with state and local governments, conservancies and land trusts, and conservation and sporting groups."

While in Congress, Gore supported legislation to preserve America's natural resources: in 1991, he helped stop a bill to allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and firmly maintains the need to keep this treasure sacrosanct. Gore has also reduced logging in National Forests by 80% since 1993.

In 1996 and again in 1999, Gore was a primary supporter of administration plans and efforts to restore the Everglades by eliminating levees and canals, construct wetlands and restore natural water flows. He also proposed the Lands Legacy Initiative, and has a stronger position on the Roadless Initiative than the Clinton Administration does.

He is an active proponent of environmental regulation, saying "Human health standards should not be lowered merely on the basis of the cost of compliance."

Gore has opposed "takings" legislation: under such bills, he says, "an individual has no responsibility to preserve and protect our shared resources, and society should pay an individual to do the right thing."

"In other words, [such a bill] would require taxpayers to pay polluters not to pollute."

ACCESS

Gore recently proposed spending \$2 billion over 10 years to protect land threatened by development and create new parks. According to Gore, the new measures would be completely offset by increasing the royalties that companies pay to mine on federal land. Under the 1872 Mining Law, companies currently extract minerals without paying royalties and can buy mining rights at land prices set in 1872.

He supports expanding the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

ENDORSEMENTS

Both the League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club have endorsed Gore.

T Q M

tao berman



shannon carroll



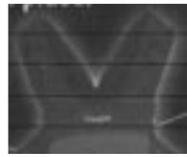
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Guidelines for Contributors

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)!!!

The editorial staff of American Whitewater carefully reviews all material submitted for publication. We are particularly interested in receiving full-length feature articles, conservation and club news, special event announcements, articles pertaining to whitewater safety and short, humorous pieces.

Articles should fit our established format; that is, they should be stylistically patterned to fit into our Features, AW Briefs, River Voices, Conservation Currents, Safety Lines, Humor or End Notes sections. Exceptional photographs and whitewater cartoons are also welcomed.

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. 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 self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission. Because we publish in black and white, photos with a lot of contrast work best.

American Whitewater feature articles should relate to some aspect of whitewaterboating. Please do not submit articles pertaining to sea kayaking or flat water. The best features have a definite slant... or theme. They are not merely chronological recountings of river trips.

Open the story with an eye-catching lead, perhaps by telling an interesting anecdote. Dialogue should be used to heighten the reader's interest. Don't just tell us about the river... tell us about the people on the river... develop them as characters. Feature articles should not be written in the style of a local club newsletter.

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 III and IV rivers as well. Feature stories do not have to be about a specific river. Articles about paddling tech-

niques, the river environment and river personalities are also accepted. Pieces that incorporate humor are especially welcome. Open boating and rafting stories are welcome.

Don't be afraid to let your personality shine through and don't be afraid to poke a little fun at yourself... and your paddling partners.

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, don't send it to us! Because of our deadlines you will not be able to review the editorial changes we make prior to publication.

American Whitewater is 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*.

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Purpose

American Whitewater

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

The 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, (AW) 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 Ocoee Whitewater Rodeo in Tennessee, the Gauley River Festival in West Virginia (the largest gathering of whitewater boaters in the nation), the Arkansas River Festival in Colorado, the Kennebec Festival in Maine and the Deerfield Festival in Massachusetts.

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at 1430 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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On occasion **American Whitewater** publishes official organizational policy statements drafted and approved by the Board of Directors. These policy statements will be clearly identified.

Director's Cut

by Rich Bowers

American Whitewater Executive Director

Ever wonder what made you start to paddle? I'm not talking about the thrill, or friends coercing you into a weekend on a river (important as these are!) — but the personal and sometimes hidden reason that kept you coming back? That made you decide that time on the water was more important than almost anything else?

The question hit me this past weekend as my wife and I were returning home, just having dropped off my daughter Danna at her first sleepover, and first paddling camp at the Riversport School in Pennsylvania. Danna was psyched to go (until the first night alone), but like many parents I was warring with myself over my motives for sending her: an ongoing fascination with water, a companion for future trips, or just an extension of my own self-interests? In the end, I figured that

whatever the reason, having Danna involved with rivers was good. The kind of legacy that I hoped to leave, if not for the world, then at least for her.

As I was headed into work this morning, National Public Radio was discussing the weighty issue of DNA studies and the recent efforts to unravel the mysteries of what makes a person distinct. A question was asked about music, but for me, the substitution of water for music was immediate, and provided one of the hidden answers for why I and many of my friends may have started paddling. The question? "Are there cells that only respond to water?"

For anyone who enjoys being fully immersed in water, I think the answer is definitely "Yes!"

Certainly boaters don't have a lock on these cells or on the enjoyment of water.

Water is an integral part of each and every person. Almost everyone has a river in his or her memory, especially strong when you remember a favorite swimming, fishing, or surfing hole. Fifty percent of our drinking water comes from rivers, and as Kevin Coyle, past president of American Rivers, reminded us constantly, "Two-thirds of our bodies consist of water." Lot's of water cells involved with life. Maybe just a bit more for paddlers?

Does a total dousing just wake you up? Do you find yourself leaning forward to catch that hard spray from the front wave? Then maybe you're simply replenishing your water cells?

Maybe, like sending my daughter to camp, the exact reason doesn't matter. The important issue is to keep immersed, keep the water cell count enormously high — and stay on, in, and around the water!

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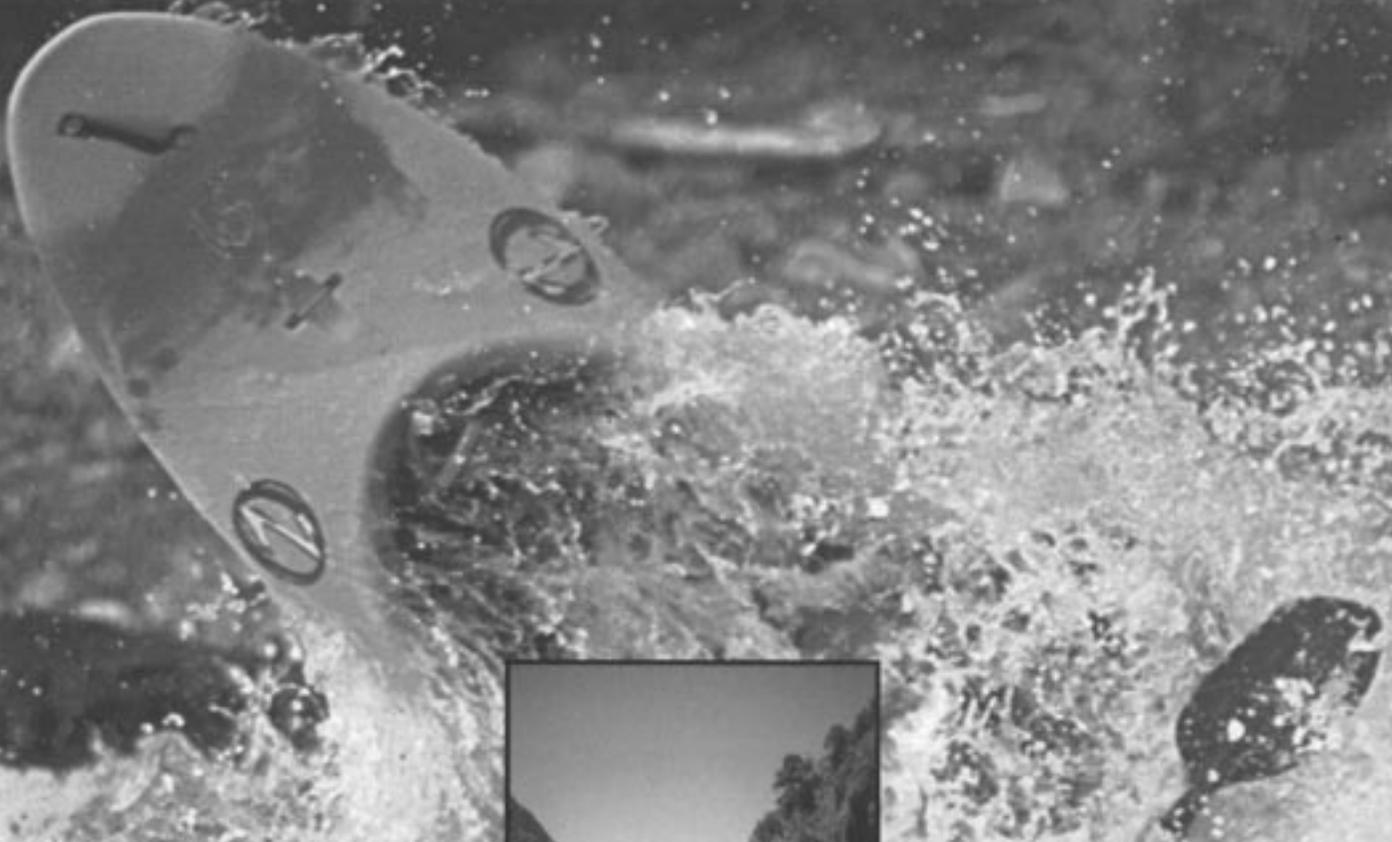
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American Whitewater Has Come A Long Way

By Matthew Bare, American Whitewater Amateur Historian

WASHINGTON D.C. During this summer, I spent my time as an American Whitewater intern chronicling the past 45 years of issues of American Whitewater, from 1955 to the present. This database, which will be available on the web site (www.awa.org), indexes every article from every issue of American Whitewater over the years.

The database includes the title, author, and date of every article, and the river and state if specified. The database also includes the topic of the article, like conservation, access, river trips, festivals, humor, or any subject that an article might cover. The database will be viewable on the web page or on paper, and will be useful to contributors, researchers, or anyone interested in the articles appearing in the American Whitewater journal over the years. The database is also quite useful for the American Whitewater staff, who deals with recurring access and conservation problems.

The past issues of American Whitewater would be interesting and amusing for anyone to read today, and they certainly were for me. There was a time when American Whitewater was a small, pocket-sized magazine, only 30 pages long. Hydro projects going up across the country like a "pin the dam on the river" game. There was a time before there was ever a Gauley Festival, cartwheel, or squirt boat, when every issue had a picture of someone popping an ender in a Dancer.

While witnessing 45 years of history roll by, I watched American Whitewater come a long way as an organization, and I watched kayaking come a long way as a sport. The organization has come



from the original AWWA to the AWA to AW (maybe they felt like kayakers were getting stupid, and they needed to keep shortening the name). The era of building dams are about over, and we have moved on to relicensing and sometimes even removing dams. Kayaking as a sport has also come a long way. Paddlers used to make first descents on the American, Gauley, and Yough in fiberglass monster boats, while today, paddlers often run these same rivers in rodeo boats as play runs.

Most of all however, I feel that kayaking has evolved side-by-side with the organization. Forty years ago, whitewater boaters were so rare that our biggest fight was keeping dams from destroying our favorite rivers, like the Grand Canyon. Today, whitewater boating is so popular that our biggest fight is to *manage* the rivers that we love so much that they are overcrowded, like the Grand Canyon.

American Whitewater has come a long way as an organization, but it still has a long way to go. While American Whitewater grows in strength, our opposition does too. There are still hundreds of river runs that are dewatered or lie beneath reservoirs. There are still hundreds of rivers that are swamped in legal and access problems. American Whitewater has accomplished a lot in 45 years, but there is still a lot of work to do.

Members Tell Off Congress On Fee Demo

In our last appeal letter, we included for your signature a letter to Representative Ralph Regula (R-OH), chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for the Department of Interior. The letter stated our concerns over the Recreational Fee Demonstration Project in our national parks and forests. Namely, that these fees are disproportionately levied at boating access points, and that the fees are used as an argument to reduce federally appropriated budgets for the parks and forests, rather than augmenting federal appropriations.

More than 600 of you responded to our request for help, signing and returning this letter promptly. So promptly, in fact, that we were able to respond with lightning speed to additional pushes coming from the Senate.

Senators Graham (D-FL) and Gorton (R-WA) cosponsored Senate Bill 2816, which would establish a permanent authority for recreational fees in our national parks. Then Senators Graham (D-FL), Akaka (D-HI), Chafee (R-RI) and McCain (R-AZ) joined in sponsoring

S.2817, a Park Service bill which included permanent authority for recreational fees.

On Friday, July 14th, we were able to present our letter and the 600 responses from our members to Representative Regula and his subcommittee, and additional letters and copies of your responses to all the senate sponsors of these two bills.

Your rapid response allowed American Whitewater to come in at just the right juncture with SIX HUNDRED LETTERS telling Congress why fee demo doesn't work, how it should be changed, and offering to work with them to make the necessary improvements.

This will have an impact. Thank you for making it work, and showing our elected representatives there are people in their districts taking note of their actions.

AMERICAN WHITEWATER SUES OVER GRAND CANYON

On June 30th, American Whitewater joined a lawsuit against the Park Service to force the question of boater access to the Grand Canyon, and push for Wilderness designation on this river. Costly litigation is always our last alternative — but we have exhausted every other avenue. Just for this opening gambit, our share of the costs is \$3,000.

Several members have already stepped up to the plate and contributed money to help defray the cost of this lawsuit. We are most grateful for this timely and important support. Any others who would like to help can designate a gift to the Legal Defense Fund. Please contact Nancy Galloway at 301-589-9453 or nancu@amwhitewater.org.

TAKING THE LONG VIEW OF AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Those of us who love being on the river —and who doesn't?— understand the importance of the work done by American Whitewater. As the sport grows in popularity, however, the rivers we love are under increasing threat from development of all kinds: new housing developments, private clubs, industries, mining, intensive logging, or farming.

We have been pleased to find that several members are taking the long view and have called us to discuss planned gifts. These can take many forms: remembering American Whitewater in your will is the simplest. But you can give us a gift of life insurance or retirement

plan, or create a trust or an endowment fund.

Our development director, Nancy Galloway, will work with you and our tax advisor Ken Ransford to help design the best option for you, and to help ensure the long-term growth and stability of American Whitewater.

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Contact Nancy Galloway at 301-589-9453 or nancu@amwhitewater.org for more information.

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By Charlie Walbridge

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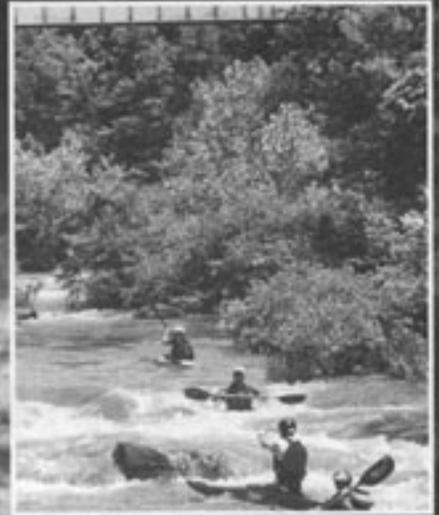
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This is the sixth collection of whitewater accident reports published since 1974. Most canoe, kayak, and raft enthusiasts will never encounter a fatal accident during their careers, but all can benefit from the experiences of thousands of river runners contained in these reports.

Readers will become increasingly aware of how accidents occur, and will be better able to recognize and avoid dangerous situations. The reports show what works, and what doesn't.

The sport of whitewater paddling has grown tremendously. Although better equipment and training makes river running safer than ever, more paddlers mean more accidents. The reports in this book involve a variety of boat types, skill levels, and river difficulties. Many accounts are written by the people who were actually there; all feature a detailed analysis by river experts. The reports are gripping, disturbing, and always enlightening.

Help support AW! For a \$25 donation your book include a personal note signed by the author!



FLOW STUDIES ON CHELAN AND CHEOAH

John Gangem, Director, oversaw two flow studies at opposite ends of the country during the week of July 9-16. Both were undertaken as part of hydropower relicensings. The first was on the Chelan Gorge in Washington state and the second on North Carolina's Cheoah River. Both studies were successful although distinctly different in character. No casualties outside egos. Both rivers offer significant whitewater opportunities unrivaled in their respective regions.

The Chelan Gorge offered fantastic Class IV-V drops on low volume in warm water. The aquamarine water coupled with the 90 degree air temperatures and 72 degree water equated to a Caribbean experience unmatched in Washington state. All the boaters in the study commented that they've never had the opportunity to run Class V in Washington in a short...

After watching the paddlers on the first day, the Chelan Public Utility District literally did a 180 degree turnaround in attitude. The boaters in the study were truly outstanding ambassadors for our sport. Interest was so high that the local radio station invited the paddlers in for a guest show, and much of the town was aware of the descent and curious enough to ask us questions on the street. The boaters felt like celebrities. The whole flow study had a celebratory atmosphere. Britt Gentry pointed out, "If this is anything like heaven I'm ready to go."

The Cheoah Flow study in North Carolina involved nearly 45 boaters over a three day period. The Cheoah proved to be more continuous than most folks anticipated. The difficulty was Class IV. Many c...

... (cfs). A few of the participants elected not to boat the higher flow although once it was completed, all those who boated the higher flow agreed that it was the easiest of the 5 flows because it was less technical.

The Cheoah at 1130 cfs is an advanced run—Class IV in difficulty—not for intermediate-level boaters unless they are making that jump to the advanced class. The Cheoah is a step up from the Ocoee in difficulty, offering lots of play and some thrilling rapids. Some described it as a mini-upper Gauley with the drops condensed.

American Whitewater will work closely with the respective utilities on the Chelan Gorge and the Cheoah River to develop an annual schedule of whitewater releases. For more information contact American Whitewater Conservation Director John Gangemi, 406-837-3155; e-mail: <jgangemi@digisys.net>. American Whitewater will publish an in-depth article complete with photos in the November/December.



Top 40 River Issues for 2000

By Jason Robertson

American Whitewater is changing. We're growing up.

Like any child, we've gone through some painful transformations. We've had our share of temper tantrums. We've made and lost friends, and we've had wins and losses. Sometimes everything seemed like a game, and we cheered ourselves when we won. Other times it seemed like we were too small to ever possibly sway an institution as large as Congress or the Presidency.

However, we've clearly matured in the past couple of years. Years of hard work by our volunteers, board, and staff are paying off! In the past year the Forest Service has invited Conservation Director John Gangemi to speak to its staff as an expert on hydropower relicensing. Access Director Jason Robertson was invited to speak as an expert on the pros and cons of Fee Demo to a conference of all the Fee Managers around the country. Congress asked Robertson to testify on our concerns regarding the possible effects of the Outfitter Policy Act. Forest Service Chief Dombeck met with Executive Director Rich Bowers and Robertson to discuss our support of the national roadless policy. Vice President Gore wrote a letter supporting American Whitewater's work on the southeastern forestry and chip mill issues that we highlighted at the 2000 Ocoee Festival.

Some folks might believe that our hair's still a little too long, or that we're still a little raw around the edges. But, the fact is that we're still growing, we're more passionate, we're more effective, and we have an ever-increasing base of support. We're filling out, and the best is yet to come.

Even now, our board is planning for future growth, and helping us to hone in on our core mission objectives. We'll be hiring more staff over the next couple of years to work on the issues that are important to our members and the broader boating community. We'll be looking for new ways to assist and promote our volunteers' efforts to fulfill our mission. Yet, at the core of everything we do, and behind the outward appearance of growth, we remain dedicated to *conserving and restoring America's whitewater resources and enhancing opportunities to enjoy them safely.*

You'll notice that this year's Top 40 list is different from previous years'. As in previous years, we've taken the list and outlined each issue; however, we've also added a description of our objectives to resolve the issue. These proactive descriptions of our goals will guide us over the coming year. This Top 40 list is no longer simply a list of broken rivers, but a map of the future leading to the achievement of our mission statement.

We've come to realize that as American Whitewater has grown our staff and volunteers' responsibilities have also grown. We can no longer simply shout to the world that a thing is bad. Instead, we must identify the problem and take responsibility for correcting it.

Many of the issues that were nominated, such as improved access to the Grand Canyon, are old, ongoing conflicts. These issues will not be solved overnight or even in a single year. However, by including them in our Top 40 list you can be sure that we are committed to helping you and our other volunteers resolve them. Together, we will whittle away at this list, conserve America's whitewater rivers, and protect whitewater boaters' access rights and privileges.

American Whitewater first released an issue list in 1989; this list described problems on 21 rivers. The following year we drafted our first Top 40 list. Looking back on the evolution of the list over the 1990s we have essentially recorded a dynamic history of successes

and troubling ongoing conflicts.

Over the past 11 years, the American (CA), Arkansas (CO), Gauley (WV), and Mokelumne (CA) rivers have found their way onto the list ten times. Three of those rivers are appearing for an unfortunate eleventh time in 2000. Yet, we are happy to report that the access issues on the Arkansas are plodding along on the right track and the river didn't make it on this year's list. We're not exactly holding our breath, however it appears that the long-term access issues on the Gauley and Mokelumne might be resolved this year and these rivers could also drop off the list by 2001!

You'll notice several other rivers on this year's list with long-running access and conservation problems. In fact, the number one issue in 2000, forcing the Park Service to restart the public river planning process in the Grand Canyon, has been on our list for a staggering nine years over the last decade.

Fee Demo, which appeared as the number one issue in 1998 and 1999 has dropped a little in the Top 40. When we first highlighted the Fee Demo program as a serious river access and enjoyment issue, most other recreation and conservation groups challenged us. However, by including it in the Top 40, those other groups started noticing the issue and they also started to experience the problems we'd identified with implementation, discrimination, fairness, and appropriateness. Now, virtually every recreation and conservation group in the nation from the Sierra Club to the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America (ORCA) has modified their position on this controversial program and opposes permanent extension of Fee Demo.

This year's list also reflects our growing interest and expertise in working on congressional and legislative issues in Washington. For instance, the second issue on this year's list, increased funding for the USGS streamgaging program, reflects our success this year in getting the budget doubled to \$10 million, but explains why we'll continue working to raise the budget to \$25 million over the next 5 years.

Don't worry, we're in no danger of getting absorbed by the black hole of Washington politics. Instead, we'll continue working on core issues of predominately local and regional importance such as acquiring a put-in on the Class III Kaweah River (CA) and Upper Yough (MD), restoring flows on the Feather (CA) and Cheoah (NC) rivers, and protecting navigability rights and privileges in Oregon and Montana.

American Whitewater is growing, and with growth we can laser in on issues better than ever. We can't be everything to everyone, but we think you'll be very pleased with our performance on conservation, access, and safety issues over the next year. We look forward to working with our members and volunteers and ticking items off the Top 40 list in 2001!

Top 40 Priorities for 2000

1. Colorado River in Grand Canyon, AZ.
2. North Fork Feather River, California
3. USGS, Federal Funding.
4. Electricity Restructuring and Hydropower Legislation
5. Upper Yough, MD.
6. Bear River, ID
7. Yellowstone, WY.
8. Hydropower Relicensing
9. Gauley River, Upper & Lower, WV.
10. Fee Demo, LWCF, and CARA.
11. Chattooga River, Sections III and IV, GAISC.
12. Cheoah River, NC
13. Chattooga River, Headwater Sections 00, 0, & 1, GAISC.
14. Southeast Forest Protection
15. Boundary Creek, ID
16. Watauga River, NC.
17. Mid-Atlantic, Summer Whitewater in MD, PA, WV, and VA.
18. Lower Yough, PA.
19. Housatonic River, Connecticut
20. Kern River, California
21. New River Dries, WV.
22. Chelan River, WA
23. Blackwater River, WV.
24. Swan River, MT
25. John's Creek, VA.
26. Sandy and Little Sandy Rivers, OR
27. Caney Fork and Daddy's Creek in the Obed Emory, TN.
28. Animas La Plata Project, CO
29. Kaweah River, CA.
30. Headwater tributaries, West Branch Penobscot, ME
31. Taylor River, CO.
32. USFS Roadless Initiative
33. Navigability: OR and MT.
34. Wolf River, WI
35. North Carolina.
36. Ocoee River, TN.
37. South Fork American, CA.
38. Green and Yampa Rivers in Dinosaur National Monument, CO.
39. Mokelumne, CA.
40. Saluda, SC

1. Colorado River in Grand Canyon, AZ.

ISSUE: On July 6th, American Whitewater joined suit with the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association (GCPBA), and National Parks and Conservation Association against Grand Canyon National Park. The purpose of the suit is to force the Park Service to reopen the Colorado River Management and Wilderness Planning processes, and address inequities in permit allocation. The suit also accuses the park of failing to adhere to its management directives by allowing

nonconforming uses such as helicopter transfers and motorboat access in the proposed wilderness section. Please check out the larger article in this issue of the Journal on the suit for more information and to find out how you can help!

GOAL: Force the Park Service to reopen the River and Wilderness Management planning process, and thereby obtain improved public river access while protecting the Park's unique backcountry wilderness areas.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

2. North Fork Feather River, CA

ISSUE: Hydropower Relicensing

GOAL: Improve river access, restore whitewater opportunities

Current Status: The North Fork Feather River potentially has six separate Class III, IV and V whitewater runs encompassing 50 river miles. Surely a paddling mecca worth placing on any destination paddling vacation (See American Whitewater March/April 1997 issue). Unfortunately these runs rarely contain sufficient water for paddling due to Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) hydropower projects on the North Fork Feather River totaling 6 dams and 7 powerhouses. Years ago, PG&E engineered a series of reservoirs, pipes, and powerhouses diverting water from virtually every mile of this 50 mile long river canyon. Whitewater is available only during extremely wet storms, when flows exceed the capacity of PG&E's 12 foot diameter pipes and reservoir storage. As one infamous California boater stated in reference to the North Fork Feather, "PG&E giveth and PG&E taketh away." American Whitewater is working hard to get PG&E to "giveth an annual schedule of whitewater releases" in the new licenses for these projects.

American Whitewater is actively engaged in settlement negotiations with PG&E for the middle hydroproject, Rock Creek-Cresta. The Rock Creek-Cresta project consists of two dams that dewater a 9 mile Class IV-V run and a 5 mile Class IV reach respectively. The license for the third project, Rock Creek-Cresta, expired in 1979 but has dragged out the typical 5 year relicense process for 19 years. In June 1999, American Whitewater volunteers conducted a controlled flow study to identify optimum whitewater flows for two river reaches dewatered by the Rock Creek-Cresta hydropower project. American Whitewater is close to signing a settlement with PG&E that includes an annual schedule of optimum whitewater flows in both reaches.

The Poe and Upper North Fork Feather hydropower projects have recently started the relicensing process. These two projects contain 4 reservoirs, 4 dewatered river channels, and 4 powerhouses collectively. In May 2000, American Whitewater volunteers participated in a controlled flow study to identify optimum whitewater flows for the 8 mile Poe reach which contains a 4.5 mile Class IV-V section and a 3.5 mile Class III section. A controlled flow study is tentatively scheduled for October 2000 for the three reaches dewatered by the Upper North Fork hydropower project. American Whitewater hopes to develop a watershed-based annual whitewater flow schedule in which PG&E will provide one release every weekend from June through October. This release will alternate between reaches with preference given to those reaches that demonstrate the greatest demand from the paddling community.

Precedent: Restoring summer whitewater flows to the six dewatered reaches of the North Fork Feather will elevate this reach of the Feather to one of California's premier paddling destinations.

Contact Person: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director

3. USGS, Federal Funding.

ISSUE: Every boater owes a huge thanks to the USGS for mitigate

providing free streamgaging data over the Internet. Arguably, the timely availability of free streamgaging information has done more to facilitate whitewater recreation in the past decade than any other technological achievement besides the development of plastic boats. Despite the importance of the streamgaging network for recreation, flood and drought predictions, and public safety, the system is dangerously underfunded.

The USGS has recorded data from more than 18,000 gauges over the last century. Of these sites only 6,600 were still in operation in 1996.

Timely access to river flow information has opened up America's rivers and streams for safe, responsible recreation. American Whitewater, ACA and several other organizations successfully joined to get the Clinton administration to propose an extra \$5 million for

maintaining the streamgaging network in FY2001. If approved, this will double the overall USGS streamgaging budget to \$10 million. However, even a doubling of the budget is only a tiny step in the right direction. At present, the USGS pays about 6% of the national cost of maintaining the network; the remaining 94% is paid for under a melange of state and federal programs. A single gage, providing real-time data via satellite, costs between \$8,000 and \$20,000 to maintain each year. Due to their placement in a dynamic flood-prone environment, the gages require regular maintenance.

The USGS recently reported to Congress (<http://water.usgs.gov/streamgaging/>) that "We have increasing demands for information and yet the infrastructure to supply the information is declining... Real resources available to operate the streamgaging network have remained static and the USGS share of this funding has been declining [since the 1970s]... The needs for information continue to grow but *current funding levels and arrangements will not provide the means for the USGS to enhance or even maintain* [existing programs]."

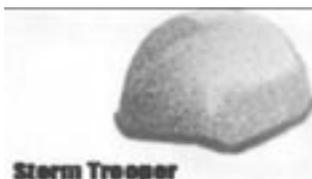
GOAL: To raise the annual streamgaging budget by \$25 million over five years.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

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4. Electric Utility Deregulation and Hydropower Reform Legislation

ISSUE: Restoring rivers degraded by hydropower operations

GOAL: Preserve language in Federal Power Act. Provide guidance for individual state restructuring plans.

Current Status: In 1992, Congress passed the Energy Policy Act which permitted restructuring of the electric utility industry. Up until passage of the act, electric utilities had a regulated monopoly on a designated territory of electric consumers. Public utility commissions within individual states set electric rates for these monopolies to protect consumers and provide a guaranteed rate of return for the utility. Passage of the act allowed each state to individually restructure utility regulation in a competitive marketplace. The electric utility industry's public relations campaign claims deregulation will lower consumer electric rates. In reality, there has been such a tremendous increase in electric utility rates that Congress has recently delegated a task force to investigate for potential price fixing. Analysts predict that over the next five years the utility industry stands to make their largest profits in history.

Electricity costs aside, deregulation marks an uncertain future for America's rivers and consequently whitewater boating opportunities. Because utilities are no longer guaranteed a rate of return, the profit generated from a 30 year hydropower license is uncertain. As a result, hydro operators are reluctant to commit funds to



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project impacts on the river resource. This attitude ultimately manifests itself in decreased flows for river restoration and whitewater.

The hydropower industry has aggressively pushed a legislative agenda designed to "reform" the licensing process for hydropower projects. In reality the legislative reform strips much of the regulatory authority from the resource agencies charged with protecting the river environment. The utility industry claims the reforms are necessary to reduce costs associated with licensing projects. In contrast, the Hydropower Reform Coalition of which American Whitewater is a founding member, sees agency and public involvement as a critical component of the environmental review process. The costs associated with relicensing are minor relative to the profits from hydro generation on the public's rivers. American Whitewater and the HRC are working hard to prevent the hydro industry from weakening the Federal Power Act.

Precedent: The hydropower industry has been spearheading electric restructuring. This new market place must not change the industry's obligation to mitigate impacts caused by project operations. Legislative changes to the licensing process are not necessary. Increased funding for regulatory agencies and enhanced communication will do far more to expedite the relicensing process.

Contact Person: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director

5. Upper Yough, MD.

ISSUE: Like it or not, tourism is coming to Friendsville and boaters are riding on the front of the wave into town. Friendsville will soon have mountain bikers, hikers, and fishermen as well as boaters crowding the downtown area as new riverside hiking and biking trails are completed. The increased use will impact the town unless the

community takes action now to plan responsibly for visitor parking, etiquette, dining, and housing.

GOAL: Improve private boater parking and community relations. Obtain a new parking area for boaters that is off Main Street and upstream of town. Preserve existing opportunities to access the river. Encourage the town of Friendsville to take a frank look at the rapidly increasing development pressures in the town and develop a strategic plan that welcomes visitors while also protecting the local community's social fabric.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

6. Bear River, Southeast ID

ISSUE: Hydropower Relicensing

GOAL: Restoration of Bear River and whitewater opportunities

Current Status: The Bear River has been on American Whitewater's Annual Top 40 Endangered Rivers List for three years running. The reason, the Bear River is undergoing a 5 year hydropower relicensing process. PacifiCorp, the utility that owns and operates the three hydropower projects on the Bear has been uncooperative with all stakeholders in the proceeding. PacifiCorp is in effect attempting to get a new license with the same environmental protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures as the previous license granted over 30 years ago. Those previous license conditions are out of compliance with many state and federal environmental protection laws passed since issuance of the previous license. As a result, the new license will require significant changes in operations to mitigate for social and environmental impacts.

The relicensing entered a new phase in 2000. PacifiCorp submit-

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ted their desired future license terms and conditions to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This federal agency oversees all private hydropower projects in the U.S. The FERC initiated their environmental review process of the hydropower projects. This gives the public an opportunity to identify issues and operational alternatives to mitigate impacts. The three projects include the Soda project, Grace/Cove project, and Oneida project. Both the Grace and Oneida hydropower projects effect flows on downstream whitewater runs. The Grace project diverts up to 900 cfs of water from the 6.2 mile Black Canyon section. This Class IV(V) run is only 2 hours from Salt Lake City. In most years, little or no water flows into the natural river channel. In May of 1997 American Whitewater participated in a controlled flow study to determine the optimum flows for whitewater (see July/August 1997 issue). American Whitewater is fighting hard to get these optimum flows regularly scheduled on an annual basis.

The Oneida project is a peaking hydropower facility. Flows below Oneida Dam can fluctuate between 250 cfs to 3000 cfs several times in a single day. The Oneida reach is an important Class II training ground a short drive from Logan, Utah. The Utah State University (USU) canoe club uses the reach regularly. American Whitewater, Idaho Rivers United and the USU canoe club have requested a schedule of stable weekend flows of specific magnitude and duration.

Precedent: These relicensings offer a tremendous opportunity to add significant whitewater stretches in an arid area of the country.

Contact Person: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director

7. Yellowstone, WY.

ISSUE: In November 1998, American Whitewater submitted a groundbreaking proposal to Yellowstone National Park asking for reconsideration of the 1964 ban on boating, while simultaneously

asking for boating use to be studied and carefully managed based on the primary goal of conserving the resource. American Whitewater suggested that limited opportunities for boating could be allowed under a cooperative conservation paradigm in which the welfare of the environment came first and opportunities for recreation came second.

In our proposal, American Whitewater recommended opening 45 miles of whitewater on the Yellowstone, Gardner, Lamar, and Lewis rivers, including a notorious 23-mile stretch of the Black Canyon. The proposal recommends implementing seasonal restrictions during sensitive wildlife breeding seasons, and suggests that all visitors and users in the backcountry areas of the park should be held to the same high standards that American Whitewater has proposed for boaters.

Yellowstone should protect opportunities for people to visit, touch, experience, and enjoy the very qualities that makes the park unique and special. This requires balancing access for all visitors with the goal of protecting the natural resources and visitor enjoyment. In order to achieve its mission, Yellowstone should manage all visitor uses based on impacts to the environment. Activities with documented negative environmental and social impacts, such as snowmobile or jet ski use, should be tightly controlled. Less intrusive activities such as hiking, canoeing, and kayaking should be permitted.

At present, Park planners are still reviewing American Whitewater's proposal. A decision on whether to formally reexamine the ban on boating is expected this Fall. In the meantime, boating is still banned in Yellowstone under the largest river closure in North America.

GOAL: Obtain limited access to the Black Canyon and 4 other river segments in Yellowstone.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

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8. Hydropower Relicensing: CA and the Southeastern United States

ISSUE: Hydropower Relicensing

GOAL: River restoration, whitewater opportunities and river access

Current Status: In California over the next 15 years, 50 hydropower projects encompassing 167 dams are due for relicensing under the Federal Power Act (FPA). In the southeastern U.S., 32 hydropower projects are up for relicensing. All private hydropower dams are licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for periods of 30 to 50 years. Licensees must reapply to FERC for a new license at the time of expiration, a process referred to as relicensing. FERC decides, via input from state and federal agencies and the public, the terms and conditions for a new license. Because most of these projects receive operating licenses for 30 to 50 years the current relicensing cycle presents a singular opportunity to enhance and restore many California and southeastern rivers. Most of the current projects up for relicensing are out of compliance with existing state and federal environmental protection laws. American Whitewater is actively engaged in hydropower relicensings impacting whitewater rivers. Our goals are river restoration, protection of whitewater opportunities, and access.

Precedent: Both California and the southeast are renowned the world over for whitewater. Many more miles of Class II, III, IV and V whitewater can be added to these regions through the relicensing process.

Contact Person: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director or Keith Aitken, American Whitewater, SE Conservation Coordinator

9. Gauley River, Upper & Lower, WV.

ISSUE: Access to the Lower Gauley is threatened as a result of the limited availability of parking at the put-in and take-out. Parked vehicles on the put-in road often inadvertently block other vehicle access, including safety vehicles and commercial buses. Landowners along the road, including some commercial outfitters, have threatened to deny access across their property unless this problem is resolved. Please make a concentrated effort to leave as many cars at the take-out as possible, and to avoid blocking traffic on the put-in road even if it requires walking a little bit further.

The Upper Gauley take-out at Mason Branch (erroneously called "Panther Creek") crosses property owned by Class VI and USA Raft. On the six Gauley Season weekends, West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WVRC) and American Whitewater jointly rent a parking field up on Panther Mountain Road for paddlers. On the first five of these weekends, Turner Sharp and his cadre of volunteers operates a boat shuttle from the river at Mason Branch to the parking area; this shuttle benefits the WVRC.

In the early 1990s, Congress passed a requirement for the National Park Service (NPS) to purchase another piece of property owned by Class VI and USA Raft at Woods Ferry on river right, about 2 river miles downstream from Mason Branch. By law, the Woods Ferry site would only be used by private boaters. Outfitters would continue using their privately owned access points at Mason Branch and other locations along the river.

While Congress required NPS to buy the Woods Ferry site, the price was left up to the official NPS property assessors. The property owners have disputed the low NPS assessment for this site and rightly claim that the property is a valuable access point. However, the assessors have refused to assess it as an access site unless the owners

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built a new access road to the property. The road has been completed and extends to a broad, wooded, flat area on the riverbank just downstream from the old site of the ferry on river right. They have not yet cleared a parking area in this flat area, but the bench could accommodate about 100 cars, while preserving a wooded buffer zone between cars and the river.

American Whitewater has asked the raft companies' owners to leave the Mason Branch take-out open into the foreseeable future, even after Woods Ferry is acquired by NPS. If most paddlers gravitate to and begin to prefer Woods Ferry, (as there are 3 additional rapids and easier river level parking), then that's fine. However, cutting off access at Mason Branch prematurely would likely cause a lot of bad feelings. We all consider the current situation to be a win-win for paddlers and outfitters alike at Mason Branch — the paddlers get an improved take-out, the WVRC can continue the shuttle, we keep cars off the road and out of the way of rescue vehicles and buses, and the owners get to sell their land.

As a private boater, you can help by thanking Class VI and USA Raft for letting you use their property at Mason Branch (AKA Panther Creek).

GOAL (Long-term): Work with the Park Service to secure permanent access to a take-out for the Upper Gauley, an improved put-in for the Lower Gauley, and a publicly-owned take-out for the Lower Gauley.

GOAL (Short-term): Work with commercial rafters to improve vehicle access and private boater parking at the Lower Gauley put-in.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

10. Fee Demo, LWCF, and CARA.

ISSUE: For the third year in a row, American Whitewater has identified Fee Demo and funding for our public lands as a Top 10 issue. More than 600 hundred of American Whitewater members responded to our summer letter-writing appeal urging Congress not to approve a rider extending Fee Demo without an honest and open opportunity for citizen dialogue. In late June, Senator Gorton (R-WA) and Graham (D-FI) made the unbelievable decision to propose a rider to the Interior Appropriations Bill permanently authorizing Fee Demo for the Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and Fish and Wildlife Service. These gentlemen failed to hold public hearings or acknowledge opposition for permanent extension of Fee Demo from virtually every national recreation and conservation group in the country. For boaters, Fee Demo is particularly threatening and discriminatory since a quarter of all fee collection sites are on rivers despite the fact that river use represents less than one tenth of one percent of visitation.

GOAL: Oppose permanent extension of Fee Demo for the NPS, USFS, BLM, FWS, and Army Corps. Require Congress to (1) authorize an unbiased public review of this fee demonstration "study" before taking any action to extend the program, and (2) to hold public hearings on this program before any action is taken to extend the program. Obtain increased federal funding for America's land management agencies, via approval for increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA).

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

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11. Chattooga River, Sections III and IV, GA/SC.

ISSUE: The Forest Service is revising the Sumter Forest Management Plan on the Chattooga. This plan will direct river managers' actions over the next decade and will address development and crowding issues on this most famous Wild & Scenic river. The specter of restrictive permits has been raised, even as fees have been increased. American Whitewater is working with the Forest Planners to ensure continued access to the river, while also addressing concerns for water quality on Stekoa Creek, and concerns for social and environmental impacts related to crowding.

GOAL: American Whitewater will continue working with the Forest Planning team and our volunteers to preserve nonrestrictive opportunities for access on the Chattooga, and to protect the river corridor from crowding and development.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

12. Cheoah River, North Carolina

ISSUE: Hydropower Relicensing

GOAL: Restore Cheoah River and whitewater opportunities

Current Issue: Tapoco, Inc., a subsidiary of Reynolds Aluminum, is currently relicensing a series of hydropower dams on the Little Tennessee River and Cheoah River. Santeetlah Reservoir on the Cheoah River pipes water around the 8.5 mile Class IV run to a powerhouse on the Little Tennessee. As a result, the Cheoah is rarely paddled. In July 2000, American Whitewater volunteers participated in a recreational flow study designed to identify optimum and

minimum acceptable flows for whitewater. Responses from the whitewater participants will be used to develop an annual schedule of whitewater releases. The study also examined angling opportunities at various flows and monitored potential biological effects of the releases on the aquatic biota. The results of these studies will be incorporated into the new 30 year license. American Whitewater will be actively engaged in the development of an annual schedule of whitewater releases.

Precedent: This relicensing is the first in a series of relicensings in the southeast. Familiarizing ourselves with the relicensing process, identifying the key agency personnel, and advocating appropriate study protocols to identify river restoration needs will greatly enhance outcomes on the Cheoah River and other rivers due for hydropower relicensing.

Contact Person: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director and Rod Baird <RodBaird@compuserve.com>

13. Chattooga River, Headwater Sections 00, 0, & 1, GA/SC.

ISSUE: In November 1999, American Whitewater submitted a proposal to the Forest Service requesting limited opportunities for whitewater boating on the beautiful Class IV-VI headwaters of the Chattooga. About 450 American Whitewater members wrote letters supporting our proposal, which should be enough to ensure that the issue is addressed under the ongoing Forest Management Plan revisions. A tiny handful of fishermen protested our suggestion, arguing that this is the only section of river in GA, SC, and NC that they can visit without seeing boaters. However, as we have only requested access at periods of high water and during the depths of winter when fishing is poorest, the protests seem bootless.

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GOAL (Short-term): Ensure that an unmodified version of our proposal is included as an option for public comment under the Forest Management Plan revisions

GOAL (Long-term): Obtain limited opportunities for access to the headwaters after winter rains and during boatable high water flows.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

14. South Eastern Forest Protection

ISSUE: Effects of increased industrial forestry on water quality, forest diversity, and recreation

GOAL: Moratorium on new chip mills until environmental and economic impacts are better understood

Current Status: Over 150 high-capacity chip mills are currently operating throughout the Southeastern United States consuming over 1.2 million acres of trees per year. Twenty-one mills of this type are located in the Southern Appalachian region, annually consuming approximately 170,000 acres of trees (about 1/3 the area of the entire Great Smoky Mountain National Park) from our forests. These trees are harvested, generally, by use of clear cuts, and the forest land which is being clear cut (hardwood, softwood and mixed forest) is converted into 'monoculture' pine plantations. The problems that stem from these industrial forestry methods are many. The quality of our Southern Appalachian rivers is threatened due to both the increased runoff of silt and sediment from clear cuts, and pesticides and herbicides from the pine plantations.

Appalachian forests are also becoming less biologically diverse as natural habitat is lost to pine plantations. Despite growing concerns coming from religious groups, recreation companies, federal agencies (U.S. Forest Service Chief Dombeck recently spoke out on the

subject) and a few state agencies, chip mills, and the industrial forestry that feeds them, continues to expand throughout the Southern Appalachian region with little or no regulation.

Precedent: The forests of the Southeastern United States provide exceptional recreational opportunities. The proliferation of chip mills in the Southeastern United States may adversely impact recreational benefits provided by a healthy forest ecosystem. A moratorium on all new chip mill construction and expansion is needed until a comprehensive Southeastern regional study of the environmental, socioeconomic, and recreational impacts is undertaken and a unified federal policy on industrial forestry is developed, based on scientific evidence.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director or Trevor Fitzgibbon, Southeast Forest Protection sefu@hotmail.com

15. Boundary Creek, ID

ISSUE: New hydropower project

GOAL: Repeal Preliminary Permit for hydroproject

Current Status: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved Continental Lands preliminary permit for a hydro-power project on Boundary Creek in northern Idaho. The preliminary permit is the first step toward getting a license to construct the project. American Whitewater filed for a rehearing requesting the FERC reconsider their decision in light of the unavoidable environmental and recreational impacts as well as the fact that Boundary Creek has been designated as a protected watershed by the Northwest Power Planning Commission.

The preliminary permit grants the hydro developer exclusive rights to file an application for a hydropower license on Boundary

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Creek. The FERC issues preliminary permits for a period of three years. During the preliminary permit phase, the permit holder conducts studies to determine the economic and engineering feasibility of constructing a hydropower facility on Boundary Creek. The permit does not allow them to begin construction of the hydropower facility. The permit holder is required to submit reports every six months to the FERC describing progress on the engineering, environmental, and economic studies.

The Boundary Creek hydro project would require diverting water from a significant length of the kayak run. This loss of water would greatly impact bull trout, west slope cutthroat trout, and harlequin ducks. Project construction and operation would disturb caribou, grizzly bears, and wolves. The kayak season would be shortened significantly if not completely eliminated. Boundary Creek is situated, as the name implies, on the border between Idaho and Canada. This is the quintessential creek run: Aten-mile paddle with gradients fluctuating between 250 to 375 feet per mile. It's described as a single rapid ten miles long.

Precedent: Based on the natural resources at risk the FERC must reverse their decision to grant a preliminary permit to Continental Lands. Boundary Creek hydro is unwarranted because there is currently a surplus of electricity in the Pacific Northwest. Boundary Creek, its associated species and recreational opportunities, on the other hand, is an irreplaceable resource. The damages resulting from hydro projects are long lasting.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director

16. Watauga River, NC.

ISSUE: Access to the put-in is still threatened by new bridge construction, which could result in closure of the parking area by the

creek. Access to the American Whitewater take-out is also threatened by the irresponsible actions of a few boaters that have been less than neighborly when visiting our site. Loud music early on a Sunday morning, unleashed dogs, camping, and fast driving by a few people could be enough to unite the neighborhood against us. Folks, it's up to us be good neighbors. Don't blow this for us! If you see someone using American Whitewater's take-out and being irresponsible or rude, speak up and let them know what's at risk.

GOAL: Preserve access at the put-in, improve relations with neighbors at the take-out, and improve boater etiquette among our visitors. Potentially move AW property into USFS ownership.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

17. Mid-Atlantic, Summer Whitewater in MD, PA, WV, and VA.

ISSUE: The 1999 drought increased awareness of crowding on a handful of rivers on the East Coast, including the Upper and Lower Yough, and Ocoee. While some eastern boaters traveled to distant states in order to find water, many concentrated use on a tiny handful of popular rivers with regular dam releases. As the popularity of the sport continues to grow, and as whitewater revenues become an increasingly important part of local economies, this is clearly a great time to work on obtaining and publicizing additional whitewater releases on regional rivers. These releases will serve as pressure release valves on the high use rivers.

GOAL: Obtain additional summer releases on busy summer weekends to take crowding pressure off the Ocoee and Yough. Targeted rivers will include the Savage (MD), Stony (PA), Randolph-Jennings (MD), Gauley (WV), etc.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director



18. Lower Yough, PA.

ISSUE: On September 29, 2000, American Whitewater will be holding legal, park-approved races down Ohiopyle Falls for the second year in a row. This is only the second opportunity since 1964 that boaters have had to legally run the falls. More than 200 boaters ran the falls on American Whitewater's race day in 1999, and we logged more than 1,300 safe descents in a matter of 10 hours. However, it remains illegal to run the falls during the remainder of the year.

GOAL: Obtain regular access to the Ohiopyle Falls, during low visitation periods of the day such as between 5 pm and dusk, or dawn and 9 am.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

19. Housatonic River, CT

ISSUE: Hydropower Relicensing

GOAL: Protect and restore whitewater boating opportunities

Current Status: Connecticut Light and Power recently submitted new license applications for two hydropower projects on the Housatonic River in Connecticut, Falls Village, and Bulls Bridge. Flows from both projects effect whitewater boating opportunities in downstream reaches. The Falls Village project diverts water around the Class IV rattlesnake rapid and regulates flows in the Class II Falls Village section. The Bulls Bridge facility diverts water around a Class IV section. The recently submitted license application does not contain an annual schedule of whitewater releases for the Rattlesnake rapid and an insufficient number of releases for the Bulls Bridge reach. Furthermore, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued a draft water quality certification that severely limits summer boating opportunities on the Falls Village section. The DEP's water quality standards identify whitewater boating as a beneficial use of the Housatonic in the Falls Village section. Because the water quality certification precludes whitewater use of Falls Village, the DEP is in violation of the state anti-degradation standards. American Whitewater, along with local paddling clubs and conservation organizations, will likely appeal this water quality certification under the anti-degradation clause. The groups will encourage the DEP to issue a revised water quality certification that strives for balanced use of the river resource.

Precedent: Relicensing must be used as an opportunity to balance resource uses equitably. The CT DEP must protect all beneficial uses in their 401 water quality certification. Whitewater recreation is a beneficial use on the Housatonic. Furthermore, relicensing is an opportunity to truly restore the biological integrity of the river. This relicensing objective must be first and foremost and not used as a ploy to further a single self-interest as is the case on the Housatonic.

Contact Person: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director

20. Kern River, California

ISSUE: Hydropower licensing and permits

GOAL: In relicense proceeding, advocate for whitewater opportunities and river restoration. Implement annual schedule of whitewater flows. Amend existing permit system so that it more accurately reflects current use patterns.

Current Status: The Kern River offers 85 miles of Class II-V whitewater in the southern Sierra. In total, there are 5 FERC licensed hydropower projects plus an additional multipurpose reservoir regulating flows in the Kern watershed. American Whitewater is actively engaged in each of the relicensings. Two hydropower projects received licenses on the Kern River: Kern River No. 1 on the lower river

and Kern River No. 3 on the upper river. American Whitewater appealed the final flow recommendations on KR3 because the flows failed to meet the needs for current whitewater use let alone future growth in the sport over the next 30 years. The appeal remains unresolved. American Whitewater is engaged for the recently started relicensing of the Borel hydropower project below Lake Isabella.

A local group of boaters formed the River Advisory Committee in the fall of 1999. The group meets regularly with the Forest Service to discuss river-related issues. The group has successfully convinced the local Forest Service ranger district to temporarily discontinue the mandatory boater registration system on the Kern River from Johnsondale Bridge downstream. River use will be monitored instead through the river rangers. The River Advisory Committee is now working closely with the Forest Service to amend the permit system on the Class V wilderness run known as the Forks of the Kern. The amendment would increase the number of private permits for day use.

Precedent: The future management picture is improving on the Kern due largely to the persistence of local American Whitewater members directing SNF staff toward a positive model for river management. The SNF recently dropped a river user fee plan, increased access points on the lower Kern, and implemented a citizen river advisory board. We hope this new river management outlook will carry over into the SNF's third attempt to write a flow schedule for the Kern River No. 3 hydropower license. The flow schedule must support present whitewater use and be adaptable to future growth in river sports over the next 30 years.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director

21. New River Dries, WV.

ISSUE: The New River Dries is an awesome but infrequently run piece of whitewater in West Virginia. It has huge western style waves and holes on eastern style bedrock. American Whitewater volunteers have already arranged for parking and gotten a bridge gauge installed, now they're just waiting for regular dam releases—or better reporting of releases.

GOAL: Obtain scheduled releases, and obtain timely flow information.

CONTACT: Tim Daly, 304-757-8571 or Jason Robertson, Access Director

22. Chelan River, Washington

ISSUE: Relicensing Lake Chelan hydropower project

GOAL: Implement annual schedule of Whitewater releases

Current Status: American Whitewater volunteers participated in a Whitewater controlled Flow Study in July 2000 on the Chelan Gorge. The study was designed to identify optimum and minimum acceptable flows for whitewater boating. The results of the study will be used to develop an annual schedule of whitewater releases. Chelan Public Utility District is currently relicensing the Chelan Lake Hydropower Project. The current license expires in 2004.

The Chelan River drops 400 feet between Chelan Lake and the Columbia River four miles downstream. The bulk of this gradient occurs in the 1.5 mile Chelan Gorge. A 40 foot high dam constructed at the end of Chelan Lake diverts lake outflows into a 2.2 mile penstock around the Chelan Gorge to the powerhouse. The flow study revealed 5 Class V rapids, 1 Class VI and an abundance of Class IV in this 500 foot deep gorge. The Chelan Gorge is truly a whitewater cathedral.

Precedent: Whitewater releases into the Chelan Gorge have been shrouded in controversy over liability and perceived risk. American Whitewater worked through the liability issues associated with the study phase. Boaters participating in the flow study convinced

Chelan PUD that the Chelan Gorge was not only navigable but a remarkable whitewater resource as well. Chelan PUD remains concerned that paddlers lacking the appropriate skills will attempt the run. American Whitewater is working to convince the Chelan PUD that boaters will regulate themselves based on skill level. Most states have recreational use statutes that protect private landowners from liability suits except in cases where the landowner creates a hazard through negligence. Hydropower operations are protected by these recreational use statutes. Hydropower operators must not be allowed to leverage liability issues in an attempt to forego whitewater releases.

Contact Person: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director

23. Blackwater River, WV.

ISSUE: Though logging on the Blackwater has stopped temporarily, the lack of constructive communication between the logging company that owns most of the valley and does as it pleases, the Forest Service that manages regional forests, the State Park that borders the property, the Governor that has agreed to purchase some of the property at exorbitant prices, the conservationists that have escalated the issue, and the recreationists and boaters that simply want to enjoy the river environment has resulted in a lot of frayed nerves and frustrations, as well as done temporary damage to access and the ecosystem.

GOAL: Facilitate constructive communication between the different parties and ensure that access and the ecosystem in this beautiful river and valley are protected.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

24. Swan River, MT

ISSUE: Loss of river access due to sale of hydropower lands

GOAL: Secure permanent protection for project and non-project lands

Current Status: Access to the site of the annual Bigfork Whitewater Festival on the Swan River's Wild Mile is threatened by the sale of the local hydropower project. PacifiCorp, the project owner, is attempting to sell the hydropower facilities and adjacent lands. PacifiCorp intends to sell the lands separate from the powerhouse and dam. PacifiCorp could sell these lands at highest market value—developable waterfront lots. Development of these lands will dramatically alter the wild character now present along the Swan River and impede access to the river. Retaining the lands with the hydropower project guarantees future access since the Federal Power Act requires project operators to provide unhindered public access to the waterway. American Whitewater would like the project lands to be retained with the hydropower facilities. Alternatively, American Whitewater is working with local organizations attempting to raise funds to purchase all the river corridor lands for public use.

Precedent: Utility-owned lands adjacent to the reservoir and impacted river corridor must be included in the hydropower project boundary as mitigation. These lands must not be eligible for sale or development outside that prescribed in the FERC license. The public must be allowed free access to project lands.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director

25. John's Creek, VA.

ISSUE: John's Creek lies in the midst of an incredibly tangled web of navigability, ownership, history, great whitewater, egos, and heritage. We still don't recommend running this creek unless you relish getting a trespassing ticket. However, American Whitewater

continues working closely with our attorneys, volunteers, and researchers to resolve ownership and navigability issues.

GOAL: Restore access and navigability rights to river runners via legal action in time for the 2001 boating season.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

26. Little Sandy River, OR

ISSUE: Dam Removal and Access Restrictions for water quality protection

GOAL: Establish Human Powered Recreation as compatible with water quality protection goals

Current status: In the process of relicensing their hydropower project on the Sandy and Bull Run Rivers in Oregon, Portland General Electric voluntarily elected to surrender the 22 megawatt project. Removal of two dams, one on the Sandy River and a second on the Little Sandy, are under consideration in this surrender application. The dam on the Little Sandy has diverted nearly all the water from the Little Sandy into a canal destined for a powerhouse on the Bull Run River.

American Whitewater and Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe Shop in Portland have been working closely with PGE and the relicensing stakeholders in the development of dam removal alternatives. Removal of the Little Sandy dam would restore natural flows to the currently impaired river channel. The Little Sandy has tremendous potential as a creek run close to Portland. Removal of Marmot dam on the main Sandy River will accomplish two goals. Instream flows that are now diverted will be restored to the Sandy River Gorge, a Class IV run, extending the season into the early summer. Removal will also eventually restore nearly a mile of river channel currently filled with gravel and silts.

Because of fish management policies - hatchery fish below the dam and wild fish above - Marmot dam currently serves as a sorting facility for migrating salmon. Additional uncertainty about sediment migration upon removal of the dam is causing concern among fish agencies about dam removal. Removal originally scheduled for 2001 appears to be delayed as fishermen argue to maintain the hatchery fishery by sorting and fish agencies wring their hands over possible short term losses to wild fish runs.

Making matters more complex, the city of Portland recently gained legislative support to annex the Little Sandy watershed into the municipal water supply district. The headwaters of the adjacent Bull Run watershed is the current source for Portland's water. Human access into the Bull Run watershed is strictly prohibited as a means to protect water quality. Portland now wants to extend this same access restriction to the adjacent Little Sandy watershed. This would eliminate whitewater boating. Closure of the Little Sandy watershed unfairly precludes human powered recreation opportunities. Water quality protection is compatible with human powered recreation as demonstrated in the numerous wilderness areas throughout the country. Furthermore, water from the Little Sandy enters the Bull Run River below Portland's water diversion structures so there is no chance for human contamination of Portland's water supply.

Precedent: Many groups have worked hard on the dam removal alternative as a viable option to restore the Sandy and Little Sandy Rivers. The city of Portland's efforts to preclude use of the Little Sandy watershed to human powered recreation will succeed in alienating the very groups and individuals that worked to restore this river. Whitewater recreation and other human powered recreation activities are compatible with clean water goals.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director or Keith Jensen, Alder Creek Canoe and Kayak (503)285-0464, e-mail: <aldercreek@uswest.net>.

27. Caney Fork and Daddy's Creek in the Obed Emory, TN.

ISSUE: Why can't paddlers have access to this beautiful stream without a 2-hour shuttle and a 1000-foot climb in elevation? American Whitewater is working with our volunteers to obtain vehicle access to the take-out at Obed Junction. This won't solve the distance issue (it's still 43 miles one-way to the put-in), but it does take care of the access. It would also provide access to the Obed from Obed Junction to Nemo, the best non-hair run on the plateau. The river is a National Recreation Area, but the Park Service owns very little of the watershed property. The Devil's Breakfast Table is inside the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, which is administered by Tennessee Fish and Game. The access roads from Nemo, Potter's Ford, and Antioch are blocked for several months at a time to allow controlled access for hunts. This doesn't normally cause a problem during the autumn because there's rarely any water. But they also close the area from the end of January to the end of March, then during April for turkey hunts on the weekends. This causes problems because there is water during the turkey season. In April, several boaters were issued \$142 trespassing tickets for taking out.

GOAL: Improve access to Obed Junction, and improve communication with river and forest management authorities.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

28. Animas River, Colorado

ISSUE: Proposed Pump-Storage Project resulting in out of basin water transfer

GOAL: Defeat legislation appropriating funds for project

Current Status: Like the Energizer bunny, the Animas La Plata Project (ALP) just won't die. This water storage project has been proposed in one form or another since the 1950s. The Bureau of Reclamation issued a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the most recent version in the Spring of 2000. This pumped storage project would provide water to agricultural lands and municipalities in the Four Corners region as well as the Ute Indian nation. In 1988, Congress agreed to provide water to the Utes in exchange for native claims to water currently in use by farmers and cities in the Four Corners area. Opponents to the project say the proposal primarily benefits Anglo farmers and municipalities with little if any water benefiting the Ute nation. The proposal inefficiently subsidizes farming and promotes additional growth in the arid Four Corners region. Conservation groups have proposed a less expensive Indian-only alternative that delivers water to the tribes or allows the tribes to sell water stored in Lake Powell.

Comments on the DSEIS by the paddling community are being unfairly labeled as opposition to Indian water rights. This is an unfair characterization of recreational river users. Recreational river users often find themselves in a position to be guardians of the environment. It is through our recreation that we discover impacts on rivers. We fight to uphold laws that are designed to protect the environment. In reality, the ALP is a western pork barrel water project wrapped in an Indian blanket to ramrod it through Congress.

Precedent: Many view this as the last remnant of western water projects. Defeating ALP in its present form will send a firm message to the Bureau of Reclamation that the era of fiscally and environmentally irresponsible water projects is laid to rest.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director or Kent Ford, e-mail: kentford@frontier.net.

29. Kaweah River, CA.

ISSUE: The Kaweah is one of very few Class III rivers in central California. This river is ideal for intermediate boaters. Unfortunately, there is essentially no access to the 5-mile, roadside Class III section. Private landowners have fenced off the river or posted it with

"no trespassing" signs, and the DOT has closed most of the highway pullouts. Ironically, there is a huge state-owned river access and parking site at the take-out, however the state has done little to help with establishing a put-in. To make matters worse, a small, vocal group of private landowners sporadically asks the County Board to issue a statement that the river is not navigable. However, the County Board has consistently deferred to the State Constitution, and has supported navigability whenever the issue comes up for discussion.

GOAL: Obtain improved public river access and parking on the Kaweah River. Potentially work to acquire access easements at the Pumpkin, Dinely, and North Fork Bridges.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

30. Headwater tributaries, West Branch Penobscot, ME

ISSUE: Unauthorized sale and surrender of hydropower storage reservoirs

GOAL: Require appropriate protection and mitigation with surrender application

Current Status: In 1998, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ruled that six storage reservoirs on tributaries to the West Branch of the Penobscot did not require licensing. American Whitewater along with numerous other river conservation organizations appealed this decision. In July 1999, the FERC reversed their decision after review of American Whitewater et al's arguments for licensing the projects. In April 2000, Great Northern, owner and operator of the projects, lost their appeal of the FERC's jurisdictional ruling. The FERC ordered Great Northern to begin the licensing process either in association with four existing storage projects or license the six in a separate license. In response to the FERC's order, Great Northern has independently ceased operation of five dams and sold Nesowadnehunk reservoir for \$1. Great Northern now claims the projects do not require licensing. This is a bold attempt by a utility to dodge the environmental review necessary with licensing a project. The FERC ordered Great Northern to license the projects. Great Northern unilaterally made the decision to cease dam operations. This independent action undermines the FERC's authority. The six storage projects continue to have impacts on the riverine environment. These impacts include in part; changes in water temperature, barrier to upstream/downstream fish passage, barrier to sediment movement, navigational obstruction, and regulation of instream flows. Procedurally, Great Northern is required to file for a surrender application with the FERC. During the surrender process the resource agencies and the public are able to provide comments regarding the appropriate protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures necessary for the respective streams.

Precedent: The FERC should require Great Northern to undergo a surrender proceeding. Failure to do so challenges the FERC's authority to oversee private hydropower projects throughout the country. Numerous utilities operate water storage projects across the country. These storage reservoirs are critical for downstream power generation. Storage of water impacts downstream riverine ecological processes and recreational opportunities. As such, all hydropower storage projects should be required to undergo a licensing process that sets necessary conditions to protect aquatic biota and recreation. Great Northern's unilateral action challenges the public's right to set necessary conditions on public waterways. In fact, in Maine alone, numerous storage projects have been ruled jurisdictional. These projects are licensed or are in the process of being licensed with the necessary conditions to protect recreational use and aquatic biota. Permitting Great Northern to decommission their storage reservoirs without approval jeopardizes whitewater releases and instream flows at other storage projects.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director

31. Taylor River, CO.

ISSUE: In June, a landowner threatened boaters with a rifle; however the boaters acted quickly, turned the tables, and had the landowner arrested for third degree assault. American Whitewater also received unverified reports in March that someone had deliberately felled trees in the river to block navigation and force boaters to trespass while portaging around the obstruction. Another landowner was rumored to have posted a "no floating and no trespassing" notice in 1999. Additionally, there are stories of conflicts between commercial rafters and ranchers. The arrest of the gun-toting landowner is true; however the truth of these other stories is unverified. Regardless, the fact that there have been so many of these stories in the past 2 years indicates that issues are quickly coming to a boil.

GOAL: Research who is causing the problems that boaters are reporting. Proactively work to resolve the issues and bring reports to the attention of the local district attorney. Work with the local law enforcement to ensure that they are aware of the problems with the landowners and are aware of boater's rights to float the Taylor.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

32. U.S. Forest Service Roadless Initiative

ISSUE: Future management of roadless areas

GOAL: Establish roadless policy as cornerstone for national river protection initiative

Current Status: In 2000, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) initiated public comment for the future of 40 million acres of forest lands that remain wild and roadless. American Whitewater views the roadless policy as an opportunity to safeguard wilderness rivers, establish a Federal paddling policy, and protect many headwater areas of the rivers we paddle which remain wild and roadless, but unprotected. The Forest Service is a critical player in river protection and river recreation. The USFS is charged with managing some 96 designated components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (some 4,316 miles).

This is an opportunity for the Forest Service to protect the headwaters of scores of whitewater treasures. Rivers such as Sections 0 through IV of the Chattooga (SC/GA/NC), the Selway and Middle Fork Salmon (premier multi-day wilderness runs in ID), the Salt (AZ), the headwater rivers and creeks in the Cheat watershed (WV), and many, many more that lie in America's National Forests. The Roadless Areas Policy is an incredible opening to positively influence the way the Forest Service manages some of our country's most renowned rivers!

Precedent: The USFS proposal has the potential to be more than just a roadless area policy. With the assistance of the Forest Service and the support of the current Administration, this policy can easily form the basis for a **national river protection initiative**. Protecting roadless areas will have the effect of shielding many of America's rivers, headwater creeks, and watersheds as well as the land and forest resources that are vulnerable to development pressures. Those roadless areas that include remote or wilderness rivers will be especially critical as river resources provide additional benefits for all outdoor recreation users including those who fish, hike, climb, kayak, canoe, or raft.

Contacts: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director and Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

33. Navigability: OR and MT

ISSUE: Private threats to public recreation and navigability rights in Oregon and Montana are coming largely from two areas: landowners fearing development of prescriptive easements, and landowners fearing liability. Both fears are unfounded; nevertheless

strict lands' rights activists are stirring the pot and dredging up a small, well-funded, and vocal constituency.

During the 1999 legislative session, Oregon's senate reviewed the Oregon River Access Bill (SB 832) that clarifies public recreation rights on the state's waters. Jason Robertson helped draft much of the language in this bill and made sure that it formalizes boaters' rights to 1) float down any tributary capable of supporting a boat and 2) allows recreational uses incident to boating (i.e., swimming, wading, picnicking, fishing).

In June 2000, the Mountain States Legal Fund filed a lawsuit in federal court in Helena, Montana seeking to have Montana's Stream Access statute declared unconstitutional. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of out-of-state landowners on the Stillwater River, the Ruby River, and another small creek. The lawsuit will be defended by the Attorney General's office. Montana's Stream Access Law is the most favorable in the nation and has become a model for legislative efforts in other states. Paddlers everywhere have a stake in making sure that this piece of legislation survives constitutional attack.

GOAL: Defend the state of navigability law in Montana and Oregon. In Montana, American Whitewater will file an amicus curiae brief in support of the State. In Oregon, American Whitewater will continue to support the River Recreation Rights Coalition.

CONTACT: Jody White [jwhite@peak.org], Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club Conservation Chair; or Keith R. Jensen [acks@teleport.com], AWA Regional Coordinator or Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

34. Wolf River, WI

ISSUE: Surface Mining impacting water quality

GOAL: Defend against attempts to bypass the Mining Moratorium legislation

Current Status: A proposed copper and zinc mine in the headwaters of the Wolf River threatens water quality in the Wolf River. The Wolf serves as a municipal water supply for a number of Wisconsin towns. The Wolf is also Wisconsin's premier whitewater river with 30 miles of Class II-III water runnable nearly year round. Mining pollution would jeopardize municipal water supplies, paddler's health, and a significant trout fishery.

The proposed Crandon Mine would extract sulfide ore from an 1,800-foot shaft, then separate the copper and zinc as well as other precious metals in a chemical process, leaving the remaining ore as a waste product. The process requires highly toxic chemicals. The proposal also requires pumping three to four million gallons of water daily from the mineshaft into the Wolf River. This water would be highly acidic, degrading water quality in the Wolf River to the point where it is uninhabitable for aquatic species. Leaks from the settling ponds would further degrade water quality.

In 1998, the Wisconsin legislature passed legislation labeled the Mining Moratorium Bill. The legislation prohibits issuing sulfide mine permits in Wisconsin until the mining industry can identify a similar sulfide mine that has operated and been reclaimed for at least ten years without causing contamination of nearby water supplies. Environmental groups are confident that such a mine reclamation does not exist. The mining industry, on the other hand, is confident that it can identify a sulfide mine operation meeting these requirements. This exposes the weaknesses of the Mining Moratorium legislation: data collection and interpretation. State water quality programs are inadequately funded. Data collection and analysis will likely be derived from the industry.

Precedent: Wisconsin's tough mining laws are already serving as a template for other western states. Attempts to circumvent this legislation or misrepresent data from a reclaimed mine site must be challenged.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director

35. North Carolina.

ISSUE: Most states can use state and federal funds to develop river access sites and parking; however North Carolina is not one of those states. American Whitewater has been working with volunteers and the State Senate to pass a simple rider-free bill authorizing the use of federal funds to develop river access sites. However, a couple of powerful senators have repeatedly derailed the proposed legislation. Instead of authorizing the use of essentially "free" federal funds, these same senators have instead proposed a boater registration "tax" to fund the development of river access sites. How this tax benefits state residents is unclear, nevertheless the American Whitewater supported bill is in limbo while our volunteers work to sway the senate to support a clean, unmodified bill.

GOAL: Obtain legislative authority for NC-DOT to use highway funds to build river access sites. Block attempts to require boat registration for revenue purposes.

CONTACT: Cleo Smith, 919-755-1290, [clesmith@hotmail.com], Bob Brueckner [rjbrueckner@mindspring.com], or Jason Robertson, American Whitewater. Access Director

36. Ocoee River, TN.

Issue: River Flows and Proposed Parking Fee

Last year we wrote about the Upper Ocoee and the new scheduled releases thanks to the commercial outfitters purchase of water from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). This year the commercial outfitters again purchased water, and kayakers are benefiting. However, word from the outfitters is that interest and demand from customers to raft the Upper has not been enough to cover the water costs leaving them to consider purchasing less days in 2001. Frustration is mounting for the outfitters as they continually negotiate with TVA for water and pay fees. Should the outfitters decide to pull out of paying for water, releases will no longer take place on the Upper. In addition, event water (upto 10 days a year provided by TVA "free of charge") is being squeezed due to the increasing demands on the use of the site for events such as the Ocoee Rodeo, Slalom Team Trials and Slalom World Championships, all scheduled to take place on the Upper in 2001. American Whitewater continues to work with agencies, outfitters, private boaters, and TVA to leverage additional boating days on this outstanding whitewater resource.

New this year is a threat of a different kind - cited as a pilot program, an entrance fee is scheduled to be implemented this fall at the parking areas on the Ocoee and Hiwassee Rivers, providing a highly public example of the fee demo program infiltrating another popular river destination. The amount of the fees has not been determined, but under discussion is \$2 to \$4 a car - or \$2 per person. Annual passes could cost \$20 or more. Tennessee lawmakers approved establishing fees this year, with the money dedicated to parks rather than going into the state's general fund. The Ocoee area Park Service assures American Whitewater that the fees will be used to improve the access areas by increasing parking, cleaning up the restrooms, and helping to pay for staff.

Contact Jayne Abbot 828-645-5299

37. South Fork American, CA.

ISSUE: The South Fork American River has made it on our Top 40 list every year. We had hoped that this year would break the trend. Unfortunately, it has returned and will continue to return until El Dorado County releases an effective and responsible River Management Plan. The plan must acknowledge the public's navigation rights, and the plan must account for the growth in popularity of whitewater sports and growth on this river in particular.

GOAL: Preserve public opportunities for non-outfitted use and enjoyment.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

38. Green and Yampa Rivers in Dinosaur National Monument, CO.

ISSUE: The Superintendent announced his intentions in early 2000 to raise river access and permit fees on the Green and Yampa Rivers in Dinosaur National Monument. Fees are being raised under cost recovery legislation under which boating is inconsistently and arbitrarily considered a "special use" by the Park Service. Access is already substantially limited, and the fees will be used to benefit other park visitors by paying for facilities and personnel outside of the river corridor.

GOAL: Reduce fees, improve access, and improve accountability of park staff to visitors.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

39. Mokelumne, CA.

ISSUE: The Mokelumne is another California River that has made it to our Top 40 list since the beginning in 1989. However, it looks like access problems on the Moke are about to be permanently resolved! This winter, district attorneys in Amador and Calaveras counties declined to prosecute paddlers who were cited for trespassing in December and March. DAs in both counties strongly affirmed the public's right to use the river, including the East Bay Municipal Utility (EBMUD)-controlled Middle Bar section between Highway 49 and Pardee Reservoir. In fact, DA Smith noted that his office's resources "should be spent prosecuting more serious offenses than people who kayak down the Mokelumne River."

While the DAs' actions have effectively opened the river for now, a permanent arrangement is needed. Fortunately, the California State Lands Commission, represented by Deputy Attorney General Lisa Trankley, began to push EBMUD to accommodate river access early this year. Trankley provided key information and advice to the local DAs when the kayakers' action came to light. Local governments also joined the effort this spring. The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors and city councils in Amador County's five incorporated cities all expressed support for Middle Bar access.

GOAL: Ensure that negotiations for permanent access and facilities occur this year and that EBMUD provides public access to its lands and waters on the Mokelumne River.

CONTACT: Foothills Conservancy, fhc@outdoingit.com or Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

40. Saluda River, South Carolina

Issue: Navigational hazards created with proposed greenway park

Goal: Eliminate low-water bridges from park plan

Current Status: The Saluda is a beautiful State Scenic river that boasts wildlife and scenic beauty. In the 'rebel flagless' capital of Columbia there's 1/8 of a mile of incredible whitewater that is considered a whitewater gymnasium. Park at the Zoo and work it!

The beauty and attraction of the Saluda River has not gone unnoticed by this capitol city. The city has plans for development of a greenway park paralleling the Saluda and Congaree Rivers. The design calls for a set of low-water bridges across the Broad River at its confluence with the Saluda and Congaree Rivers. These bridges pose a serious safety risk for boaters that might oecome swept under them.

Precedent: Development of a greenway park will raise awareness and thus ensure protection of the Saluda, Congaree, and Broad Rivers in South Carolina's state capitol. This may carry over to other rivers in the state and southeast region. At the same time, greenway parks along rivers must be compatible with existing use and illuminate the existing natural environment rather than detracting from it.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director or Charlene Thompson, e-mail: cheetahtrk@yahoo.com.



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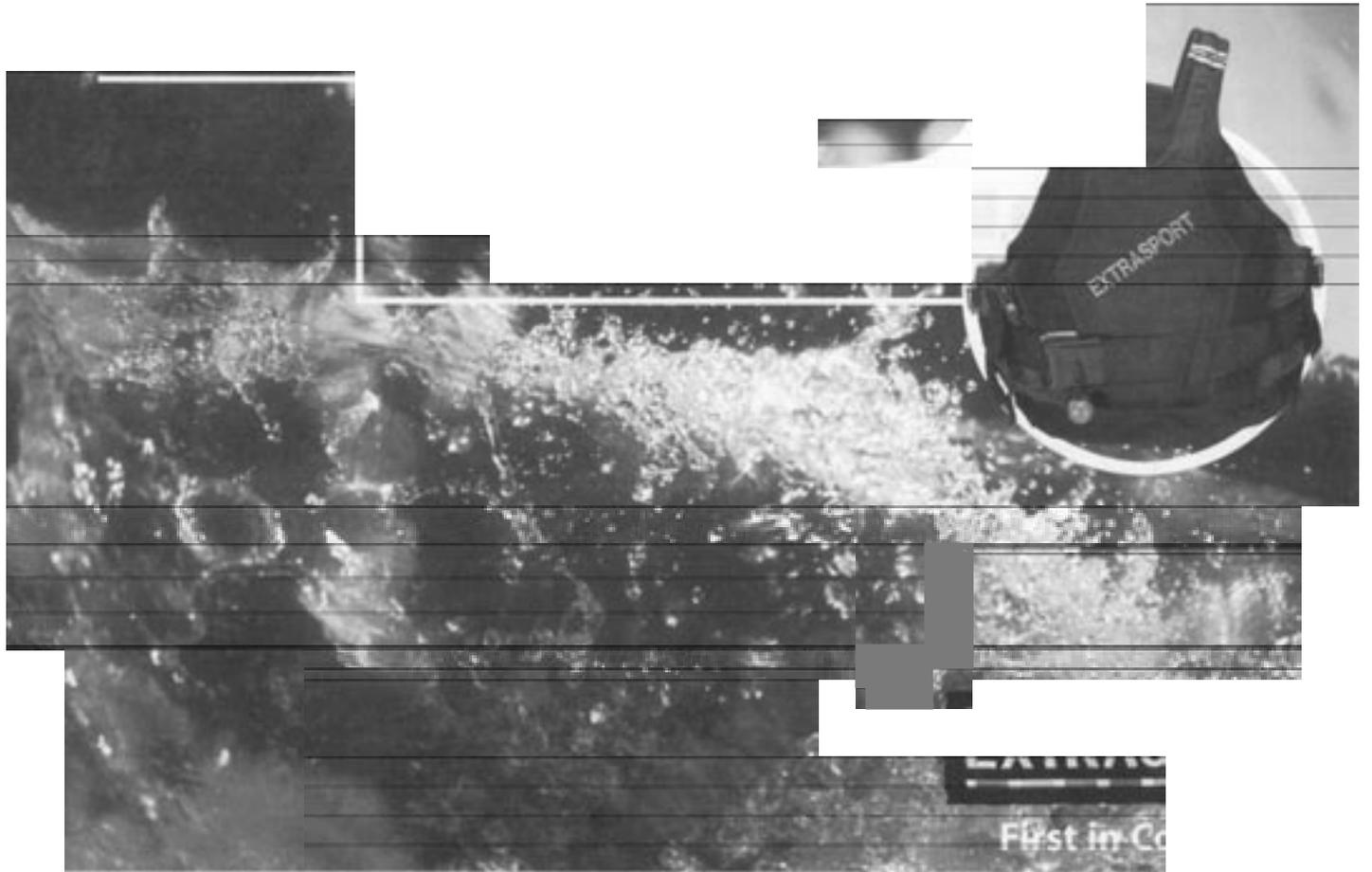
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"Park Service Blows Eddy, Floats into Lava, and Bails: Why American Whitewater Sued the Grand Canyon"

By Jason Robertson

At least 6,500 people, the Waiting List for Grand Canyon permits is at least 24 very long years. "The List" spans generations. I've heard friends talking about bringing their grandkids down twenty years in the future. Others have even tried registering unborn children on "The List" in order to give them a trip for their college graduation or as a wedding present. I have other friends who want to lead their own trips, but have been forced by the Park's unreasonable system to purchase commercial trips in order to experience the river while they're still young, powerful, and paddling at their best and with their closest friends.

The List keeps growing, but the Park Service has decided to do nothing to control it or address the problem. Meanwhile, Park policies let the commercial outfitters offer wealthy clients very expensive trips mere weeks in advance.

American Whitewater has been working with planning teams in the Grand Canyon National Park for over two decades in order to resolve the long-developing conflicts over the Private Boater Waiting List, Colorado River Management Plan, and Wilderness.

Our staff and volunteers have played a special role in representing America's private boating community on the Colorado - because we know that the highly influential decisions made by the Grand Canyon's management team will have ripple effects across other river management agencies and wilderness rivers around the country.

We've seen that both good and bad management decisions in the Canyon have a tremendous effect on river runners and on management decisions nationwide.

As early as March 1978, American Whitewater Board Member Pete Skinner pointedly predicted that the Park's management plan would "provide a guaranteed ride on the Colorado River to rich people and force the not-so-rich boaters with their own equipment to wait years and perhaps decades to "run" the Grand. The fact that this prediction was so accurate has surpassed even Pete's expectations.

The unjustifiable failure of the Superintendent to address park-created problems in the Grand Canyon via a new management plan will likely exacerbate management problems on other especially-treasured rivers, such as the Green and Yampa in Dinosaur National Park.

Hundreds of river runners invested years of their personal time and energy working on the public planning process on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. These groups and individuals sought to protect a unique 18-day wilderness river running experience that is unequalled and unavailable anywhere else in the world.

Unfortunately, the Superintendent's abrupt decision to curtail the planning process robbed the public of its voice in preserving this primitive river experience.

With the CRMP derailed, America is in danger of losing a small but

important piece of its national experience—an experience that harkens back to the earliest days of Western wilderness exploration—and, an experience that preserves for our American heritage the unique opportunity of visiting the backcountry in the Grand Canyon on nature's terms rather than a machine's.

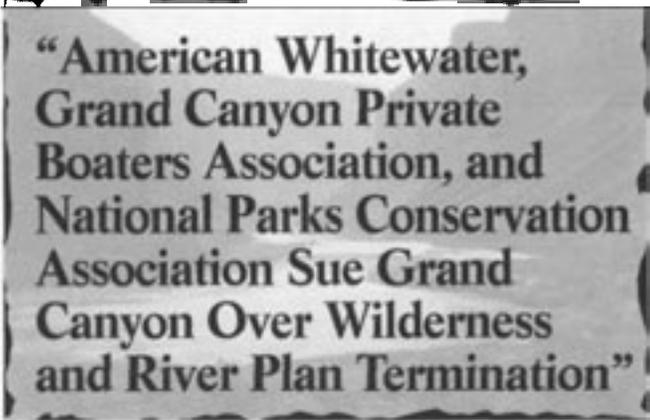
With the Superintendent's decision, Park management has backed the public into a corner with no option but to sue.

Our suit is intended to serve as a wake-up call to the Park Service, and a reminder to the Superintendent not to fail the public in the Grand Canyon.

In November 1997, then Access Director Rich Hoffman, wrote that "Management of the Colorado River must provide for the long-term preservation of the river resources and assure that this outstanding wilderness area will not be further deteriorated. In short, all decisions must be fully accountable to the generations of future Americans. Management decisions must be developed with input and approval from an informed public."

Little has changed in the intervening years; the park still needs to logically and comprehensively address the management issues and conflicts that we've raised in our suit, and the only means of doing that is by reviving the public planning process via the Colorado River Management Plan.

This suit will be expensive, and it will likely take at least 2 years to resolve. You can help by making a donation to our Whitewater Legal Defense Fund. Make a tax-deductible contribution to: Grand Canyon Lawsuit, American Whitewater, Access Director, 1430 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 90210.



**"American Whitewater,
Grand Canyon Private
Boaters Association, and
National Parks Conservation
Association Sue Grand
Canyon Over Wilderness
and River Plan Termination"**

Flagstaff, AZ July 6, 2000 — The Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association, American Whitewater, and National Parks Conservation Association, along with individual plaintiffs including Elizabeth Boussard and Kim Crumbo, filed suit today in federal court against Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt, National Park Service Director Robert Stanton, and Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Rob Arnberger.

The suit challenges Superintendent Arnberger's February 23 decision to halt work on a wilderness plan and revised Colorado River management plan. The suit

also alleges that the Park Service has failed to protect the wilderness qualities of the Colorado River and failed to provide fair access for all Americans who want to visit the Park via the river.

"We were very disappointed when Superintendent Arnberger ended public participation in the first serious river plan revision in almost 20 years," said Willie Odem, President of Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association (GCPBA).

"This suit is basically about democracy," said Randall Rasmussen,

Policy Analyst for National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). "The NPS has short-circuited a process and our objective is simply to get it back on track so that all parties can continue to participate equally."

"The decision to rob the public of its voice in the Grand Canyon is alarming," said Jason Robertson, Access Director for American Whitewater. "The NPS cannot avoid its responsibilities and simply bury its head in the sand whenever a controversial issue arises. The Superintendent's decision to halt the planning process was incredibly shortsighted, and - unchallenged - will have negative repercussions on other rivers throughout America."

The lawsuit, filed in the federal district court in Phoenix, seeks a resumption of the wilderness and Colorado River planning process at Grand Canyon National Park. Plaintiffs allege that the park's termination of those planning processes and previous management actions have violated the National Park Service Organic Act, Wilderness Act, National Park System Concessions Policy Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Administrative Procedures Act, and National Park Service Management Policies and Plans. Plaintiffs outlined a list of issues the wilderness and river planning process was designed to address, such as motorized uses and river access management.

"The National Park Service has failed to take any action whatsoever to adjust or modify allocation between the American public and the park's river concessionaires in a fair and equitable manner for the last 21 years," said Odem. "The removal of fair market competition between river concessions has resulted in a lack of affordable prices for concessions river trips while Americans wait 20 years to access the Canyon if they want to float the river on their own. Helicopters regularly land at the river's edge to remove concessions passengers from motorized tour boats in the Park's potential wilderness. The Superintendent's removal of the public from voicing concerns and participating in operational planning development of the Colorado

River prompted this legal action."

The Colorado River Management Plan has not been substantially revised and opened to public comment since 1989. The 1989 CRMP was intended to be in operation for only five to ten years. The 1995 General Management Plan for Grand Canyon National Park also requires a revision of the Colorado River Management Plan.

Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association (GCPBA) is a 600-member organization with members from across the United States. Its goal is fair and equitable access for all members of the public to our national lands and parks, and to provide a means for private citizens to participate in management planning, protection, and support of these lands, especially at Grand Canyon National Park.

National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is America's only private, nonprofit citizen organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System. NPCA was founded in 1919 and today has nearly 450,000 members. "NPCA — Protecting Parks for Future Generations."

American Whitewater is the only national, nonprofit conservation organization dedicated solely to protecting America's whitewater rivers. Founded in 1957, American Whitewater is a membership organization with 8,600 members and 160 canoe and paddling club affiliates nationwide. Its mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

Three Arizona residents and one resident of Oregon are also plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

The full text of the complaint can be found at www.gcpba.org.

For more information contact:

Byron Hayes, Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association, 1-888-443-0540 (pager)

Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, 1-301-589-9453

Randall Rasmussen, National Parks Conservation Association, 1-505-247-1221

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"Don't Park on My Property!" What should you do when you hear these words?

By Jason Robertson, Access Director

The Scenario: You've been using the same roadside parking area and put-in for years. Today, as you're driving up, you see a man putting notes on the cars parked on the side of the road. As you pull off the road and park, he approaches your car and starts yelling that you're trespassing on his property. What do you do?

Be Polite: Always remember to be polite. Just because he's yelling at you, doesn't mean that he'll become more cooperative if you yell back at him. Courtesy will open more doors than a single thoughtless comeback on your part. Try to defuse the situation by remaining calm. Whatever you do don't escalate the situation, and don't get in his face. You don't want him to call the police and have you arrested (see Plot Twist IV below). In the absence of hard physical evidence of an easement, the police are likely to side with the landowner before coming around to your way of thinking.

Get Information: Try to find out why the guy is mad, who he is, who he's mad at, and what you can do to ease the situation. Appear cooperative regardless of how cooperative you're really feeling. In a best case situation, the guy is just looking for a sympathetic ear and will back off after he's had a chance to vent. If he backs off, go ahead and report the event to American Whitewater so we'll have a record of it if it comes up again, or so we can address the issue proactively before it turns into a real conflict.

Back Off and Regroup: The guy may let you run the river today, just this "one last time." If so, have a great trip. If not, back off, and look for an alternative access point or even consider running another river.

Do Some Sleuthing: Later, when you get off the river, and you're still in the area do some sleuthing. Head over to the county courthouse or records office and ask for copies of the property map for the area and a copy of the landowner's deed. Copies of these documents will cost about \$5. Then, find out how wide the easement is on

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the side of road by asking for a map showing the public right-of-way or highway easement for the road. If this information is not available, call the county DOT office or Sheriff's office and they should be able to help you, or direct you to someone that knows the answer, and can provide documentation of the width of the easement. If you normally park on the side of road and hike down to the river by a bridge, ask for a map or description of the property and easement boundaries around the bridge and trail area too.

Contact American Whitewater: With the deed, property map, easement information, and name and address of the landowner in hand, make a copy and send, fax, or e-mail the documents with a description of the incident and copies of any tickets or previous correspondence to American Whitewater's Access Director at Access@amwhitewater.org, or 1430 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 90210, fax 301-589-6121.

Contact the Troublemaker: After notifying American Whitewater about the problem, we will work with you to develop a strategy for resolving the problem. Normally our first course of action is contacting the landowner via mail and seeing how he responds. Depending on whether there is an easement, we may simply lay down the law, or propose alternative solutions to address the landowner's concerns. For instance we might describe the state Recreational Use Statutes if he's concerned about liability, provide documentation of the state's easement if he's concerned about property rights, or we might offer to patrol the area for trash. If he backs down and stops hassling you that's ideal. However, we normally have to follow up with at least a phone call, personal visit, or

a second letter. Regardless, it's important to document all of these interactions and keep your cool.

Getting the Law on Your Side: If the landowner keeps raising a stink even after being contacted by yourself or American Whitewater, then it's probably time to contact the sheriff. Generally the first contact with the sheriff is by a personal phone call. Briefly explain your experience, where and when it happened, and what has transpired since your first encounter. If you've done your research, you should let the sheriff know what you found—especially if the landowner is blocking access to a public easement. Again, it is important to keep a record of whom you've spoken to as well as the content of your discussion.

"I want to Sue!": Legal action is almost always the last option. In the event that legal action is necessary, you should be prepared to show the documentation from your initial research, and your earnest attempts to resolve the situation via letters and other correspondence. American Whitewater may help you find pro bono attorney or provide other advice at this stage. Be aware that legal action is often expensive and that American Whitewater has a limited budget. Sometimes the state or local District Attorney will intervene and offer to represent you for free.

Plot Twist: "The Freak Had a Gun!": There are exceptions to every rule. What do you do when the landowner has a gun? If the landowner is waving a gun around and pointing it at you, stay calm, get out of the way, and call the sheriff. It is never OK for someone to threaten you with a gun, and this type of threat generally

Trouble on the Waters

ACCESS PROBLEMS

If you had trouble getting to the river, let us know. Use this form to report access problems so that AW can convince legislators and government authorities where and when river access is a problem. If you have met an irate landowner, noticed signs forbidding access, or were stopped by a landowner, barbed wire fence or a locked gate, tell us about it on this form. If several boaters are arrested or involved, only 1 form should be filled out per incident naming a boater available for future contact.

River _____ State _____

Date of incident _____

Access code categories: List below or circle the categories, multiple categories are ok.

Brief description of incident:

Boater contact _____
 Address _____
 City etc. _____
 Phone _____
 e-mail _____

Landowner/Agency/Sheriff contact (if known)
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City etc. _____
 Phone _____
 e-mail _____

1. Trespass. Ticket, warning or arrest for:
 - 1.1.0 Trespass on private property
 - 1.2.0 Trespass on public property
 - 1.3.0 Criminal trespass arrest
 - 1.4.0 Civil trespass lawsuit
2. Public Access Closure
 - 2.1.0 Denied by federal law
 - 2.1.1 Denied by BLM
 - 2.1.2 Denied by Forest Service
 - 2.1.3 Denied by Nat'l Park Service
 - 2.2.0 Denied by state
 - 2.3.0 Denied by local authority
3. Injury from man-made obstacles
 - 3.1.0 Barbed wire or fence
 - 3.2.0 Low head dam
4. Obstacles running river, scouting or portaging
 - 4.1.0 Fence or chain on land blocking access
 - 4.2.0 Fence, wire, or tree on river blocking access
 - 4.3.0 Warning of no trespassing or posted sign
 - 4.4.0 Vehicle towed, ticketed, or vandalized
 - 4.5.0 Threats or acts of violence

5. Closures: Rivers closed that were once open
 - 5.1.0 Closed by private landowner
 - 5.2.0 Closed by government agency
 - 5.2.1 Federal
 - 5.2.2 State
 - 5.2.3 Local
 - 5.3.0 High water closure
6. New access fees
 - 6.1.0 Charged by private landowner
 - 6.2.0 Charged by government agency
 - 6.2.1 Federal
 - 6.2.2 State
 - 6.2.3 Local
7. Dam controlled rivers
 - 7.1.0 Water turned off
 - 7.2.0 Inconsistent flow: too much or too little
 - 7.3.0 No notice of releases
8. Lawsuits and legislation
 - 8.1.1 New legislation to block river access.
 - 8.1.2 Lawsuits to block access.
 - 8.2.1 New legislation to enable river access.
 - 8.2.2 Lawsuits to enable access.

Send to Ken Ransford, 475 Sierra Vista, Carbondale, CO 81623, 970-963-6800, FAX 970-963-6700. ransford@csn.net

Access is a constant struggle. The AW Access Committee needs your help.

constitutes 3rd degree assault. If you are threatened by a gun-toting local, it is especially important to make sure the incident gets reported to the police. This record can help protect you and every other boater if there is future legal action. Also, if there are other witnesses, try to get the guy ticketed and press charges. The exception in this case is that, if the guy has a gun sitting in the back of his pickup, or has a pistol holstered, that is generally within his right unless he starts threatening you. Again, treat threats seriously and report them to the police.

Plot Twist II: "Wow, the Dude Was Right. I was Trespassing":

During your research you discover that the guy actually owns the property, that there isn't a public right-of-way along the highway where you parked, or that there's no easement by the bridge where you normally hike down to the river. What do you do? Unfortunately there's no easy answer to this question. First, contact American Whitewater. Second, we'll work with you to try and figure out whether there's anything that you can do to ease the landowner's concerns. Extend an open hand and offer to pick up trash in exchange for permission to park there, or describe the state Recreational Use Statutes if he's concerned about liability.

Plot Twist III: "The Guy Wants to Sell the Property":

If the guy is just causing trouble in order to sell the property, find out what you can about purchasing the site. Then work with your local clubs and American Whitewater to either purchase the property or find a cooperative purchaser. Sometimes local land trusts are willing to purchase these access sites, and at other times state, county, or federal agencies can help. We can work with you to find potential purchasers.

Plot Twist IV: "Oh My God. He Had Me Arrested and My Car Was Towed!":

So you slipped up and didn't back off in time and were arrested, or your car was towed or ticketed while you were off running the river. What do you do? First, get your car back if its been towed. Second, do your sleuthing. Third, contact American Whitewater and we'll work with you to find legal assistance. Depending on the regional or national importance of the issue, we may intervene directly, or we may help to fund an attorney. Our participation will depend on the circumstances, funding, and your cooperation.

Plot Twist V: "The Freak Said He Owns the River":

You've solved the parking issue, but now the guy claims he owns the river. What do you do? Tune in next issue (Nov/Dec 2000) for the answer.

The Whitewater Legal Defense Fund:

We can help more people on more rivers through adequate funding of American Whitewater's Whitewater Defense Fund. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to our Whitewater Legal Defense Fund (send donations to Legal Defense Fund, Access Director, American Whitewater, 1430 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 90210). We tap into this fund whenever it's apparent that our legal assistance will help to resolve issues of regional or national significance. In 2000 we have already provided successful legal assistance and advice to boaters on the

Taylor (CO), Platte (CO), American (CA), Grand Canyon (AZ), John's Creek (VA), and Mokelumne (CA) among others.

The Last Word: Remember, even if a stream is navigable, *you cannot access the stream via private property without the consent of the owner or a legal access easement.* The research that we listed above is designed to help determine whether there is a public easement, or alternate means of legally accessing the river.

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EventsCentral

By Jayne H. Abbot, Events Manager

NOWR Event News and Results

The top 3 results for the latest NOWR events are provided here. Due to space constraints, some class results are not listed for all events. For full results, go to www.nowr.org.

Montana Whitewater Championships

Men's K-1 Pro

1. Brad Ludden
2. Taylor Robertson
3. Dan Gavere

Women's K-1 Pro

1. Tanya Shuman
2. Gabriella Campbell
3. Simone French

Wenatchee River Festival

Men K-1 Pro/Expert Consolidated

1. Kelly Gillespie
2. Ron Turner
3. James Mole

Women K-1 Consolidated

1. Simone French
2. Saskia VM
3. Rachel

Bigfork Whitewater Festival

A weekend of fun whitewater competition in slalom, downriver, freestyle, and free riding, as well as a triathlon, a community gear sale, and whitewater clinics. All events were followed by evening activities in Bigfork that included barbecues, dances, raffles, silent auctions, films, great fun, and a Disco party Saturday night.

Men's K-1 Pro

1. Macy Burnham
2. Brad Ludden
3. Dan Gavere

Women's K-1 Pro

1. Annie Chamberlain

2. Simone French
3. Lisa Beckstead

Men's K-1 Expert

1. Chris Frederickson
2. Dan Menten
3. Jason Wing

Women's K-1 Expert

1. Kira Suniswing
2. Tracy Bowerman
3. Debbie Martin

Men's K-1 Junior

1. Eddie Hake
2. Tyler Maxwell
3. James Byrd

Coosa River Whitewater Festival

Paddlers and spectators gathered for a weekend of whitewater fun on the Coosa River in Alabama. Many events were designed with the novice boater in mind: down river canoe races, sit-on-top free-riding competition and a catchall event for anyone wanting to participate called the "Fun Float". A party Saturday evening and auction to raised funds for river conservation and access rounded out the weekend.

Men's K-1 Pro

1. Eric Jackson
2. Steve Fisher
3. Clay Wright

Men's C-1 Pro

1. Chris Manderson
2. Allen Braswell
3. Luke Hopkins

Men's OC-1 Pro

1. Larry Mauzey
2. Denny Kortze
3. Bo Wallace

Women's K-1 Pro

1. Erica Mitchell
2. Brooke Winger
3. Tanya Shuman

Women's K-1 Expert

1. Melinda Hendershott
2. K. Herzog
3. Tiya McNabb

Men's K-1 Expert

1. Ted Devoe
2. David Kahn
3. Jesse Shimrock

Men's Jr. Expert

1. Jeff Owen
2. TR Yon
3. Johnathan Sanders

Wyoming Whitewater Championships

Lots of fun for everyone! Whitewater freestyle and downriver races for all ages and abilities.

Men K-1 Pro

1. Squirrel Jardine
2. Macy Burnham
3. Taylor Robertson

Women K-1 Pro

1. Kira Wing
2. Simone French
3. Brooke Winger

Men K-1 Expert

1. Jacob Selander
2. Brooks Holmes
3. Chris Frederiksen

Women K-1 Expert

1. Amy Jimmerson
2. Noel Whitney
3. Kate Downey

Men K-1 Junior

1. Jesse Murphy
2. Eddie Hake
3. Bradey Johnson

Women K-1 Junior

1. Hayley Hamiilton
2. Hannah Scherfig
3. Dawn Hamilton

Potomac Whitewater Festival

The Potomac Whitewater Festival, a 2-day whitewater EX-TRAVAGANZA designed to support American Whitewater's river conservation, access, and safety efforts was a great success. The event included a cash purse for the Pro classes and Ford Explorer Trucks as the top billed sponsor. The Great Falls Race was, as always, spectacu-

lar with lots of action and spectator cheers.

Men's K1 Pro

1. Eric Jackson
2. Luke Hopkins
3. Brad Sutton

Women's K-1 Pro

1. Julie Dion
2. Erica Mitchell
3. Deb Ruehle

Men's C-1 Pro

1. Allen Braswell
2. Luke Hopkins
3. Eli Helbert

Men's OC-1 Pro

1. Eli Helbert
2. Frankie Hubbard
3. Denny Kortze

Men's K-1 Expert

1. Jesse Shimrock
2. Bobby Miller
3. Greg Gnecco

Union Chutes Freestyle Festival

Freestyle event for all levels held at a remarkable site right in Denver, CO. Unfortunately water levels were not spectacular but the feature used proved to be dynamic and the rides were exciting to watch as many moves could be performed in the hole.

Men's K-1 Pro

1. Andy Bedingfield
2. Eric Jackson
3. Clay Wright

Women's K-1 Pro

1. Brooke Winger
2. Gabriella Campbell
3. Jesse Stone

Men's C-1 Pro

1. Brian Miller
2. Barry Kennon
3. Allen Braswell

Men's K-1 Expert

1. Brook Aitken
2. (Tie) Porter Fogleman, Jake Spies
3. Fred Coriell

Women's K-1 Expert

1. Katie Hertzog
2. Stacey Johnson
3. Jessica Marson

Men's Junior K-1 Expert

1. Calef Letorney
2. Max Mancini
3. T. R. Yon

Headwaters Championship/FiBark

FiBARK is a community event that in addition to on river competitions included parades, carnival, and art and food vendors and is attended by 3,000 to 5,000 people. New for 2000, the town of Salida made improvements and cleaned up the riverbank as well as constructing a **new hole** for this year's event. Word from the athletes is a big thumbs up for the improved hole!

Men's K-1 Pro

1. Clay Wright
2. Eric Jackson
3. Jason Bates

Women's K-1 Pro

1. Aleta Miller
2. Simone French
3. Nicki Kelly

Men's C-1 Pro

1. Luke Hopkins
2. Barry Kennon
3. Eric Jackson

Men's OC-1 Pro

1. Eric Jackson
2. Joel McCune
3. Mark Poindexter

Men's K-1 Expert

1. Scott Alexander
2. Pat Methany
3. Ted DeVoe

Women's K-1 Expert

1. Nancy Hiestra
2. Elenor Perry
3. Sarah Hudson

Men's K-1 Jr. Expert

1. Jesse Murphy
2. Andre Spino-Smith
3. Kyle Scarborough

Animas River Days

Colorado's premier whitewater festival is an action packed weekend fun for families and entry level paddlers as well as the top rodeo and slalom paddlers in the world. The event

included a whitewater auction, dinner, and product demos. This year's event saw the driest conditions in many years forcing organizers to revamp the competition from strictly hole riding to a Freestyle Through a Rapid format. Due to the change in format, no NOWR Point Series Championship points were earned by competitors.

Men's K-1 Pro

1. Eric Jackson
2. BJ Johnson
3. Rusty Sage

Women's K-1 Expert

1. Traycee Bowerman
2. F. Dawn Powell
3. Bradley Richmond

Men's K-1 Expert

1. Jamie Bach
2. PT Wood
3. Aaron Stearns

Women's K-1 Jr. Expert

1. Hailey Hamilton
2. Dawn Hamilton
3. Hannah Scherfig

Men's K-1 Jr. Expert

1. Max Mancini
2. Calef Letorney
3. Mike Rodriques

SkyFest

K-1 Men's Expert

1. Kelly Gillespie
2. Ron Turner
3. ack Kennedy

K-1 Women's

1. Astrid Ensign
2. Cherish Carroll
3. Erin Miller

Men's K-1 Jr.

1. Nathan Jackson
2. Dan McKay
3. Pat Secor

Black River Festival Rodeo

A festival for the whole community, the Black event included booths, clinics and a fund raising auction. The Black is destined to be a great event for future rodeo competition. Plans are already in the works for an observation deck and quite possibly a micro-brewery adjacent and above the venue that includes a great feature, Hole Brothers. Watch for

this one on the circuit in the coming years.

Men's K-1 Expert

1. Sean Brabent
2. Matt Hamilton
3. Ted Devoe

Men's Jr. Novice

1. John Kennedy
2. Jacob Robert
3. Al Drucker

Men's Novice

1. Jeff Boos
2. Mike Keenan
3. Paul Osborne

Downriver

1. Steve Kauffman
2. Andy Jillings
3. Dan Murn

Pre Worlds in Sort, Spain

Really showing our stuff, the USA team took an amazing 70% of the medals at the Pre-World's in Spain held June 28 - July 2. The 2001 Worlds is sure to be an incredible event for the U.S.! Here are the top 3 placements in each class.

Men's K-1

1. Eric Jackson USA
2. Jimmy Blakeney USA
3. Nico Chassing FRANCE

Women's K-1

1. Julie Dion CAN
2. Aleta Miller USA
3. Deb Rhuele USA

Men's OC-1

1. Brian Miller USA
2. Eli Helbert USA
3. Jamie Burbeck UK

Men's C-1

1. Brian Miller USA
2. Ellis Smith USA
3. Chris Manderson USA

Women's Squirt

1. Brooke Winger USA
2. Louise Wigmoore UK
3. Hazel Wilson UK

Men's Squirt

1. Clay Wright USA
2. Tom McKee USA
3. Andy Beddingfield USA

Men's K-1 Jr.

1. Jeff Owen USA
2. Tobias Bersch GER
3. Marlow Long USA

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2000

Held as a fundraiser for American Whitewater and the Ohio Pyle Fire and Rescue Department, the Ohio Pyle Falls Race also gives paddlers an opportunity to run the otherwise illegal drop. The raze begins at 9 a.m. on September 30 and various classes will campetc. Pre-registration and information are available at www.awa.org Race information can also he Found at emich.edu/paddle.s

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- Class 2-3 Middle Moose for novices
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- Class 4-5 Bottom Moose for experts
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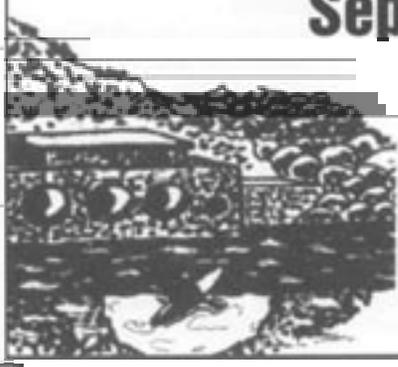


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September 25th

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"Don't Call This a Festival River Rendezvous"	September 2-4	Belfort, NY/Beaver River	Chris Koll	315-652-8397 ckol11234@aol.com
Gauley Festival	September 16	Summersville, WV	Phyllis Horowitz	914-586-2355 whiteh2o@catskill.net
Ohiopyle Falls Race	Sept 30 - Oct 1	Ohiopyle, PA	American Whitewater	301-589-9453
Russell Pork Rendezvous	October 2-9	Haysi, VA	Brent Austin	606-278-2011 surfin@kymtnnet.org
Moose River Festival	October 14	Old Forge, NY	Chris Koll	315-652-8397 ckol11234@aol.com

American Whitewater Cascade Series

A series of American Whitewater premier level races from mild(er) to wilder held across the country.

Animal Upper Gauley Race	September 18	Summersville, WV	Donnie Hudspeth	804-658-5016 dhud@goweb.net
Russell Fork Race	October 7	Haysi, VA	Brent Austin	606-278-2011 surfin@kymtnnet.org
Moose River Race	October 15	Old Forge, NY	Chris Koll	315-652-8397 ckol11234@aol.com

RiversLiv 2000 Series- Presented by American Whitewater

Ottawa River Rodeo	September 2-4	Bryson, QR	Paul Sevcik	416-222-2223 paul@equinoxadventures.com
Kootenay Rodeo gharnlon@bcgas.com	September 2-4	Castlegar, BC	Gerry Harmon	250-362-2128
"Get Your Boat Salty" Surf Contest	October 21-22	Oakland, CA	Elaine Baden	510-893-7833 CilKavak@aol.com

Other Events

Export A - A Whitewater Rodeo Challenge	October 7-8	Bryson, QB	Paul Sevcik	416-222-2223 paul@equinoxadventures.com
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East Coast Rodeo Surf Circuit

Outer Banks Surf Kayak Koaero	September 9-10	Nags Head, NC	Pam Malec	252-441-0000 pam@knsports.com
Folly Beach Surf Kayak Rodeo	October 21-22	Folly Beach, SC	Carol Townsend	843-762-8106 prch2o@bellsouth.net
North Myrtle Beach Surf Kayak Rodeo	October 28	No. Myrtle Beach, SC	Rick Gardner	843-272-4420

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MON 9-18: Rolling Rodeo:
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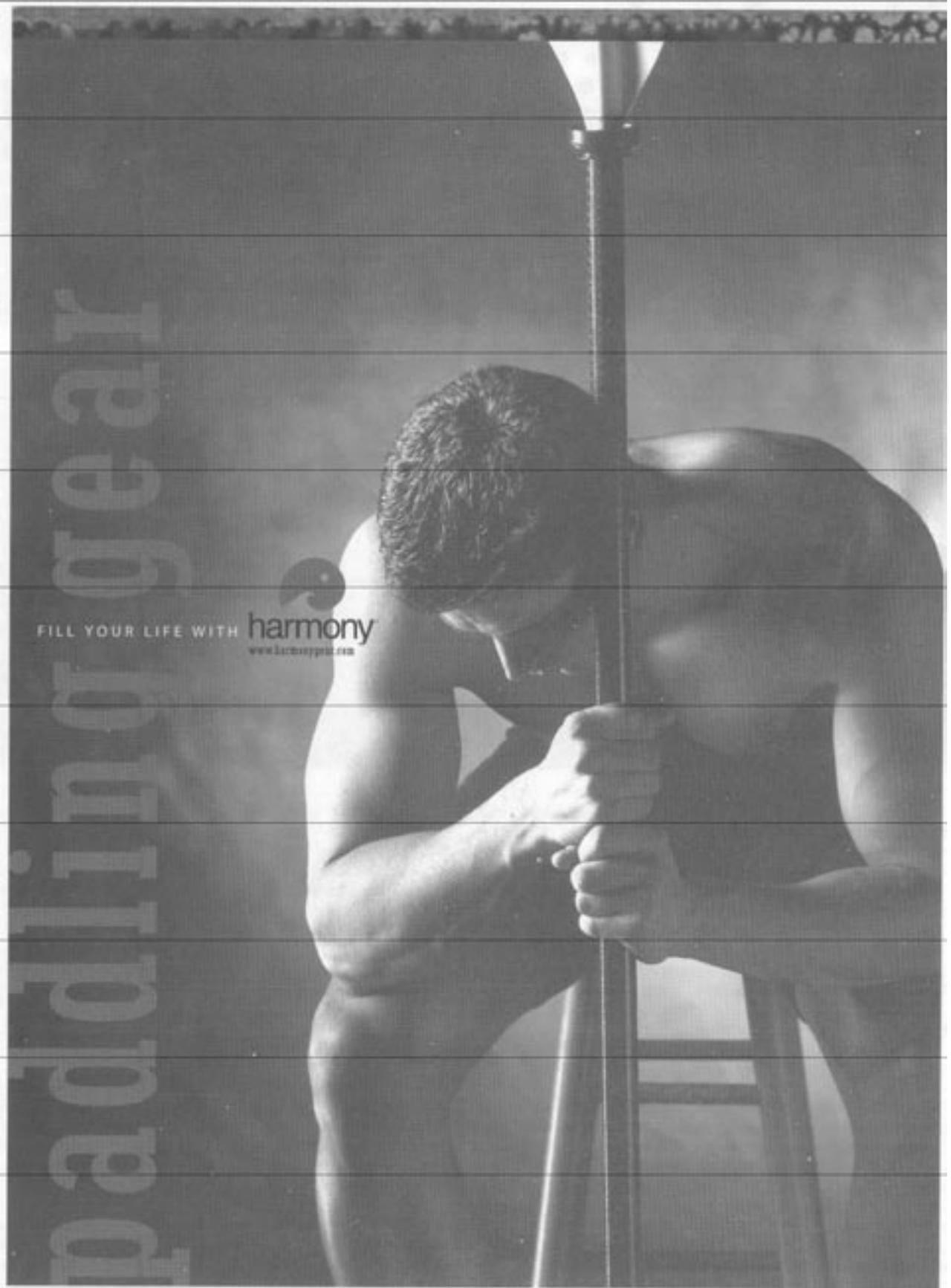
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New York... The Whitewater state!

James Swedberg
Photography



"General Chris Koil in action... but where is his boat?"

Photo by Ed Huber, Sp itrock Video Production

I'm willing to admit that somewhere in this great land of ours—there may be an area that boasts a greater concentration of whitewater runs than the Adirondacks. I just don't know where it is...

Now, it's not that I don't get out much — that my opinion is based upon ignorance. During the past 20 years, I've prowled the backroads of the Appalachians from Maine down to Georgia. I've swatted blackflies in the shadow of Mt. Katahdin at the take-out of the Penobscot; dropped a muffler while running shuttle for West Virginia's Big Sandy; and searched in vain for a place to buy beer after a run on the Ocoee.

And I've been out west, as well. I often reminisce about soaking in a hot spring after a brutal day on the Payette in Idaho; of providing a sideshow for passengers of the Silverton-Durango tourist train while tumbling in a hydraulic during a high-water run of the Animas; and of dining on a can of cold refried beans while stranded overnight in the depths of a California canyon.

Yep, I've experienced whitewater in just about every part of the county — and it's all been good. Just not as good as in the Adirondacks.

It's only fair that someone finally claimed the appellation of "the whitewater state" for New York. Or more to the point — the 100 mile by 100 mile section of upstate New York known as the Adirondacks. Boaters from West Virginia, North Carolina, California, Idaho, Colorado and Washington have long bickered over possession of that distinction with the fierce loyalty of a family feud. Who would have thought they would all be wrong?

Of course, the debate is all subjective. The rivers of each region boast their own unique characteristics that defy comparison. How can anyone objectively proclaim one part of the country superior to another?

OK. I'll rise to the challenge.

Pull out a map of the northeast corner of New York State and poke

your finger down in the center of the Adirondacks — any where around Blue Mountain, Tupper Lake, or Old Forge. From that location, you are now no more than a 90 minute drive from:

- Six Class IV-V runs with guaranteed summer and fall water releases
- Thirty more Class IV-V runs with dependable spring flows
- Five Class II-III runs with guaranteed summer and fall water releases
- Ten more Class II-III runs with dependable spring flows
- Dozens of steep creeks runnable after a hard rain or snow melt

Can any other region of the country claim a similar combination of challenging rivers with summer water releases coupled with such a number and variety of natural-flow runs — all in such a concentrated area? I rest my case.

It's not surprising that Adirondack whitewater continues to be a well-kept secret to the boating community. Despite its proximity to the major metropolitan centers of the Northeast — the Adirondacks have remained a protected enclave of primordial forest, rugged peaks, and thousands of pristine lakes and ponds connected by meandering flows of still, tannic water.

The Adirondacks attract thousands of tourists every summer — but the visitors seldom venture far from the picturesque tourist towns, resorts and campgrounds scattered along the few roads that cross the region. Only the most ardent outdoors person penetrate deep into the wilderness. The Adirondacks remain a mystery to almost everyone.

It seems like a contradiction to associate New York — one of the most populous states in the country — with the concept of wilderness.

But in reality, the northeast corner of the state known as the Adirondacks is actually an extension of the Canadian shield—a vast formation of obdurate bedrock extending south from Quebec. The formation rises over 2,000 feet from the surrounding lowlands and remnants of an ancient mountain range survive where the elevated plateau is punctuated by peaks rising to over 5,000 feet.

But the distinguishing characteristic of the Adirondacks is water. The peaks and low mountains that rise from the plateau seem like islands—surrounded by thousands of lakes and ponds. Typically, the drainage from one lake will empty into a deep, narrow flow that quietly meanders for miles before feeding into another lake...and then another lake. The process continues until the flow—now swelled to a sizable river, reaches the edge of the plateau where it abruptly descends in a series of cascades to the surrounding valleys.

Bodies of water in the Adirondacks are so interconnected that with a few, short portages, intrepid canoeists can virtually circumnavigate the entire region by boat. Indeed, most of the published New York paddling guides emphasize traditional "canoe routes" that offer multi-day flatwater paddling excursions through the backcountry.

It's not surprising that the Adirondacks feature a surfeit of water. Snow accumulations in the region average over 200 inches each winter. Lake effect storms rising from the Great Lakes and Nor'easters sweeping in from the Atlantic often dump more than three feet of snow in a single day. And the precipitation continues in the spring and fall as moisture is wrung out of the air as it rises over the elevated plateau.

The perception that the Adirondacks are the reservoir of the state's water supply ultimately preserved the region in its undeveloped condition. During the mid-1800s, logging and clear-cutting for charcoal production had begun to impact the vast forests of the eastern Adirondacks. Scientific and public opinion of the day speculated that further reduction of Adirondack woodlands might significantly diminish the region's capacity to store water.

And since the economy of New York depended upon a steady flow of Adirondack water to fill its extensive canal system and to fuel water-powered industry—the possibility of a dry and denuded Adirondacks was troubling, indeed. Not to mention the fact that even back in the middle of the 19th century, there were a few conservationists who yearned to see the Adirondacks remain in their original, magnificent state.

In 1885, 681,00 acres of land were set aside as a Forest Preserve. Then in 1892, the Preserve was expanded into a 2.8 million acre park. But the state was still leasing park land and selling park timber—concerns regarding the integrity of the Adirondacks remained.

The issue reached its climax at New York's Constitutional Convention in 1894. At that time, many preservation-

ists believed the only effective way to protect the Adirondacks was to establish an impassable barrier written into the state's new constitution. They proposed what has come to be called the "Forever Wild" amendment, which mandated that state-owned land in the Adirondacks should forever be kept as wild forest lands, never to be leased, sold or exchanged.

This new Adirondack park was larger in size than the entire state of Vermont and within its boundaries included a significant chunk of private property, along with public lands. Private property owners maintained possession of their land—but under strict guidelines regulating development and use. The Adirondack Park Agency was established to administer the guidelines to protect the forests and lakes in perpetuity.

A century has passed since the Park became a permanent entity. From time to time, the locals complain about heavy-handed edicts handed down from the APA—but for the most part, the "Forever Wild" amendment has accomplished its purpose.

The mountains remain undeveloped...the timber uncut...and the waters flow in strength until reaching the precipice of the plateau where they erupt into the Adirondack's most precious treasure: the best concentration of whitewater in the country.

Admittedly—there are a few serpents in this paddling paradise. The weather, for instance. No one will ever confuse the climate of the Adirondacks with that of a tropical paddling destination—like West Virginia, California or Washington state.

Adirondack boaters pray for ice to be out of the rivers by late March and then hope that snows hold off until the first of December. But even in a good year boaters wade through knee-deep drifts to reach the edge of the water well into April. And some of the shuttle roads deep in the mountains are inaccessible except by snowmobile or dogsled. Adirondack locals even have a name for this time of the year—it's called "Mud Season," although the term "Slush Season" would be equally accurate.

Consequently, spring boating can be, well—a bit nippy. The temperature of fresh snow melt usually tops out in the low forties. Drysuits or drytops are a necessity until June—even on a warm and sunny spring day.

And then there's the matter of blackflies—a tiny insect the size of a midge. Flies usually appear during the first week of May and have emerged in full force by the middle of the month.— Even when the flies aren't biting, the insects can be annoying—hovering in swarms around your face.

Fortunately, cool or breezy days seem to discourage blackflies—as does smoke from a cheap cigar. And the flies refrain from following boaters out over the water. Once on the river, paddlers are safe from their onslaught, as long as they don't linger overlong in an eddy close to shore.



Willie Kern during first descent of High Falls Gorge on Ausable.



Working down the exquisitely technical Johns Brook.

Of course, even these drawbacks have positive implications for paddlers. The quixotic spring weather and threat of blackflies discourages almost all other tourist traffic during prime paddling seasons in the spring and fall. And since the Adirondack region is geared to handle a massive influx of summer visitors—there is a surplus of restaurants, bars, hotels and campgrounds anxious to attract off-season business from boaters.

And as anyone who has boated the Hudson in spring or the Bottom Moose in the fall can attest—the amenities of picturesque Adirondack resort towns like Old Forge and North Creek can be as daunting as the rivers themselves. A simple after-the-river meal often degenerates into an early-morning celebration as boaters circulate around the bar greeting old friends or meeting new arrivals.

I must confess—despite the fact that I have now lived and boated in upstate New York for 18 years—I am just a recent convert to the primacy of Adirondack whitewater.

Oh—I always appreciated the number and variety of runs with dependable flows to be found in New York. How can you complain when there's Class IV water to be found every weekend from April through October all within a short drive? I mean—I could be stuck in some hideous location like Ohio or New Jersey.

But it is only recently that I began to understand the magnitude of Adirondack whitewater runs.

Before that time—I found myself falling into a comfortable annual routine, secure in the knowledge that dependable water levels or scheduled dam releases would allow me to: open the season in April on the Lower Moose...shift downstream to the Bottom Moose for May into June...head over to the Black for the rest of the summer...gear up for fall on the Beaver in September...then finish the year with a flourish back on the Bottom Moose.

Once in a while I'd break out of the rut to paddle the Cedar, Hudson, Boreas or Fish Creek in the spring and a couple of times when I felt particularly adventurous—I crashed down Mill Creek, Sprite Creek, and the East Branch Oswegatchie River. But, in general, I stuck to the old standards. I guess I was turning into an old dog too stubborn to learn new tricks.

And I guess I'd have been content to continue boating my annual circuit of rivers if it wasn't for all these damned young boaters that have started to pop up in small Adirondack communities like Lake Placid, Tupper Lake, Potsdam and North Creek. Most of them started as stinking raft guides before realizing the error of their ways and picking up a double-bladed paddle. I met many of them when they were young pups—offering good-natured abuse after witnessing their spankings on the Black and Moose.

Fortunately, they persevered and returned to their home towns with the boundless enthusiasm of true believers. Every river was a target of opportunity. Soon I began to hear rumors of descents on spectacular new sections of whitewater. And every report seemed to open with the same phrase: "There's this new run you've just got to try..."

So, after almost after 20 years—I started to add a little flexibility to my paddling schedule. And what I discovered was that I'll probably need another 20 years to boat all the different Class IV-V runs in the Adirondacks.

Here's a brief primer of what I've learned about Adirondack whitewater:

Upstate New York can be divided into three broad drainage areas: rivers emptying into either Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, or the Hudson River.

Rivers flowing into Lake Ontario generally originate from either the Tug Hill Plateau or the Moose River Plains of the western Adirondacks. The headwaters collect vast amounts of lake effect snow—sometimes up to 400 inches per year—which converts to dependable spring flows during the April melt-down. West flowing rivers are also more convenient for paddlers to monitor with on-line USGS gauges for the Moose at McKeever, the Independence at Donnatsburg, and the Black at Watertown.

Streams emptying into the St. Lawrence include many of the most challenging runs of the region—but flows are sometimes difficult to predict or monitor. Many of the rivers originate in chains of lakes and flows deep in the heart of the Adirondacks. Consequently, levels can be slow to respond to rain or melt, but also tend to hold water. However, some of the lakes are controlled by small dams at their outlets, and flows can be effected when lake levels are being manipulated.

North-flowing rivers that drain the High Peaks region in the eastern portion of the region demonstrate different flow characteristics tending to be smaller in volume and flashy in their flows.

For practical purposes—four gauges can be used to estimate flows on north-flow rivers: the West Branch of the Oswegatchie at Harrisville, the West Branch St. Regis at Piercefield, the East Branch Ausable at Ausable Forks, and the Mettawee at Glanville.

South-flowing rivers are dominated by the Hudson and the gauge at North Creek is used to estimate flows on most of the runs in the drainage. However—the

Hudson's long season is based on extended snow melt from the High Peaks and from releases from Indian Lake. Streams draining the southern flanks of the Adirondacks are generally smaller with shorter seasons.



B.J. Johnson during first descent of High Falls Gorge on Ausable.



High Falls Gorge on the Ausable

LAKE ONTARIO DRAINAGE

- **MIDDLE MOOSE (II-III)** - Featuring a variety of put-ins and take-outs, the Middle Moose is a perfect novice run with a season that runs from April-June and again in October. Can be run as low as 2.5' on McKeever gauge.
- **LOWER MOOSE (III-IV)** - Popular 11-mile long commercial raft run in April. Season often extends into May and again in October. River can be negotiated by intermediates at low flows but difficulty approaches Class V when levels exceed 7' on McKeever gauge.
- **BOTTOM MOOSE (IV-V)** - One of East's classic expert runs featuring spectacular vertical drops combined with a long and dependable season stretching April through early June and again in October. Eight Class IV-V drops concentrated in five mile run.
- **SOUTH BRANCH MOOSE (II-III)** - Access problems currently being resolved. Sections of fast riffles with a few rapids. Long run and longer shuttle. Best at high flows on McKeever gauge.
- **INDEPENDENCE (IV-V)** - Short three mile run with breathtaking final mile of big drops and slides located just minutes from the Bottom Moose. Narrow window of navigability with minimum of 4.5' required at Donnatsburg. Levels approaching 6' might be too beefy at big final drops.
- **OTTER CREEK (III-IV)** - Low-volume run sandwiched between



Chris Koll negotiates third drop of Eagle Falls on the Beaver.

Moose and Independence. Narrow and technical—watch for wood! No gauge...Moose and Independence must be high for Otter to have enough water.

■ **BEAVER, Taylorville (IV)** - Steep, low-volume river with scheduled September dam releases. Perfect introduction to steep-creeking. Only 1.5 miles long but with six Class IV drops. Easy shuttle encourages multiple runs.

■ **BEAVER, Eagle (V)** - Screaming mile-long run with gradient of 475 fpm. Crux of run features four continuous waterfalls and slides. Scheduled water releases in September.

■ **BEAVER, Moshier (V)** - Run starts with two waterfalls—two miles of Class III—and finishes with a quarter mile Class IV-V rapid featuring four distinct drops. One scheduled water release per year—usually Labor Day weekend.

■ **BLACK RIVER GORGE (III-IV)** - New York's summer river with dependable flows from May-September. Difficult Class IV(V) at high flows and tremendous play opportunities at lower levels. Two primo park-and-play locations. Run includes 15-foot waterfall and Class V route through one drop.

■ **BLACK RIVER, Hawkinsville (II-III)** - Short run on upper river near Boonville features big waves/holes at high water. Novice run at lower flows navigable well into summer.

■ **LITTLE WOODHULL CREEK (IV)** - Ledy creek run emptying into upper Black. Flows only after heavy rains or at peak run-off.

■ **ROARING BROOK (IV-V)** - Steep-creek tributary of Black flowing off Tug Hill south of Lowville. Flows only after heavy rains.

■ **MILL CREEK (V)** - Low-volume/extreme gradient tributary of the



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New York...

Black at Lowville. Four-mile run featuring wild, steep slides and waterfalls. Runs only after heavy rains.

NEGRO BROOK (IV-V) - Small, steep tributary of the Black.

DEER RIVER (III) - Small river falling off Tug Hill above Copenhagen. No gauge—runs at peak of run-off or after heavy rains. Extreme Class IV-V section below Copenhagen is usually dewatered by hydro project.

MAD RIVER (III-IV) - Small, secretive river deep in wilds of Tug Hill. Inaccessible and tough to catch with water. Requires heavy rain. Snow limits access in early spring.

E. BRANCH FISH CREEK (III-IV) - Possibly the best play run in the northeast. Flowing south off the Tug Hill—the Fish provides through a narrow 11- gorge mile with 100-foot walls rising from both sides. At levels over 3'—the Fish is a continuous series of glassy 4'-5' waves and foaming hydraulics. There are literally hundreds of prime play features. No other NY river even comes close to matching the Fish for playboating. There is no on-line gauge for the Fish. However—levels can be obtained by calling Northern Outfitters at (315) 768-1568. The con-



Ed Huber at Split Rock Falls on Boquet River.

tinuous nature of Fish make it challenging at levels over 5'.

S. SANDY CREEK, *Above 1-81* (II-III) - Inaccessible, 10-mile run with easy ledges and long, rocky shoals near Adams, NY. Generally runnable when Fish Creek is high.

S. SANDY CREEK, *Below 1-81* (IV-V) - Similar to Fish Creek...but with drops. Long, challenging slides. Generally runnable when Fish Creek is high.

SALMON RIVER (II-III) - Classic 10-mile novice/intermediate run with several put-ins and take-outs. Dependable water levels through spring melt-down and on five summer weekends when water is released from upstream dam. Several good play spots near end of run in Pulaski. Usually one of first rivers to open in the spring.

ST. LAWRENCE DRAINAGE

W. BRANCH OSWEGATCHIE (III-V) - Remote, 11-mile run with numerous falls and slides before ending in flat water at Jerdan Falls Rd. Low volume river. Needs 4' on Harrisville gauge.

M. BRANCH OSWEGATCHIE, *Bryants*

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New York...

Bridge (IV-V)- Difficult run with many challenging slides and ledges and rapids where rivers course through isolate gorges. Very remote. Two probable portages around 20-foot falls and spectacular and un-run 30-foot Rainbow Falls. Needs 4' on Harrisville gauge— better with little more water. Beware levels over 5.5'.

- M. BRANCH OSWEGATCHIE, *Sluice Falls (V-VI)* - Below Bryant's Bridge, river alternates between long flat sections and hideous waterfalls, slides and chasms. Needs 3.5' at Harrisville to negotiate shallows at beginning of run but more water complicates the huge drops. Flat water at conclusion but drops could star in any video.
- E. BRANCH OSWEGATCHIE, *Browns Bridge (V)*- Short 1.5 mile run with five steep waterfalls and slides. Runs only during spills from dam at very high water.
- E. BRANCH OSWEGATCHIE, *Fine (V)* - Seven demanding ledges/slides/waterfalls with long stretches of flat water and portage around dam. Few



Ed Huber at Split Rock Falls on Boquet River.

paddlers run every drop. Generally runs when Harrisville gauge is around 5'.

■ S. BRANCH GRASSE, *Twin Falls (IV-V)*- Two spectacular, runnable drops: 20-foot Rainbow Falls and 40-foot Twin Falls. Also—a dozen other challenging ledges and rapids in tight, choked gorges. Long, demanding run— especially at high water. No gauge, but Harrisville should read around 3.5'.

S. BRANCH GRASSE, *Lampson Falls (IV-V)* - More big drops over sharp ledges. Run can be navigated when upstream Twin Falls section is too high.

■ RACQUETTE, *Colton (V)* - Starts with dramatic, runnable 50-foot falls as river drops into gorge and intensity never lets up as river continues to drop over ledges for two miles. Very difficult run. Water spills regularly from upstream dam throughout spring. Series of summer water releases for paddling will be initiated in 2001.

■ ST. REGIS, *Silver Staircase (III-IV)* - Excellent run for strong intermediates. Many small ledges and hydraulics. Good flows through most of spring. Needs levels around 3' on Parishville gauge.

SARANAC, *Permanent Rapids (2)*- Easy training run near Saranac Lake. Usually has water.

■ SARANAC, *High Falls (V)* - Mile-long section runnable only at low water. Flume followed by a series of severe falls.

■ SARANAC, *Moody Falls (IV)* - Series of small falls separated by flat water. Usually runs into early summer.

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SALMON, Chasm Falls (V-VI)- Runs when dam spills in spring and sometimes fall. Continuous 1.5 mile run of slides and falls.

CHATEUGAY (V)- Inaccessible, steep-walled gorge hides very challenging and hard-to-portage drops including large waterfall. Small watershed and requires a lot of rain.

W. BRANCH GREAT CHAZY, Aqueduct Alley (IV-V) Seven-mile long run featuring one big drop and several significant slides. The rest of the run is composed of continuous, long rapids. Flows during spring run-off and after fall rains.

■ **GREAT CHAZY, Below Chazy Lake (III)** - Intermediate run.

DEER RIVER (IV)- Creeky seven-mile run with many small ledges and two 8'-10' drops. Flows during spring run-off and after fall rains.

W. BRANCH AUSABLE, Hulls Falls (IV-V)- Two mile section runnable only at low water. Huge holes other levels. Features 18-foot Champaign Falls.

E. BRANCH AUSABLE, The Notch (III-IV) - Six mile run with small ledges and pour-over holes. Flows during spring run-off and after fall rains.

E. BRANCH AUSABLE, High Falls (V-VI) - Seven falls ranging from 18'-



Ed Huber at Split Rock Falls on Boquet River.

20'. Potholes. Complete run only been accomplished once. Low water run only.

S. BRANCH BOQUET (IV-V) - Hike-in required. Three-mile creeky run with a couple of slides. Boogie boating. Needs lot of water in spring.

N. BRANCH BOQUET, Split Rock Falls (IV-V) - Five mile run starts and finishes with huge drops. In between is continuous creeky water. Needs a lot of water in spring.

JOHNS BROOK (V) - Long hike required to experience one of country's best creek runs. No individual drop is much more difficult than Class IV—but the rapids line up non-stop for five miles. A technical maze through slots and around huge boulders. New York's answer to the Blackwater. Runs after rain in spring. High water increases difficulty.

BOG RIVER, Round Lake Outlet (IV-V) - Flatwater access across Round Lake. Seven mile run with steep drops and slides. Hudson should be 6' or higher to find water.

CLIFFORD BROOK (IV-V) - Four mile creek run. Narrow slots. One huge 30' drop. Tends to collect a lot of lumber. Needs a lot of water.

■ **STILES BROOK (V-VI)** - Small stream with many huge drops. Watch for lumber. Needs a lot of water.

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■ LAKE OZONA OUTLET (IV)

METTAWEE (IV-V) - Small volume river flowing into northeast corner of Lake Champlain. Features six distinct Class IV-V drops. Run needs 4.5' level on Granville gauge.

HUDSON DRAINAGE

■ HUDSON, *Gorge* (III-IV) - Classic advanced/intermediate run. Seventeen-mile run starts on continuous Class III Indian before merging with Hudson. Big-water fun at levels over 6' with huge waves and holes. Interesting Class III at lower flows. Stunning scenery. Runnable all spring, summer and fall with releases from Lake Abanakee.

HUDSON, *North River* (II-III) - Novice/intermediate run along Route 28 at Gorge take-out. Best at flows over 4'. Site of annual Hudson River Derby.

HUDSON, *The Glen* (II-III) - Novice/intermediate run at Riparius. Navigable well into summer.

CEDAR (IV-V) - Five-mile run starting at Wakely Dam. Two big drops—two big slides—and a bunch of interesting rapids. Burly at high water, creekly at low flows. Spectacular scenery. Usually runs when McKeever is 5' or higher.

■ BOREAS (IV) - Steep tributary of Hudson. Starts with flat water then sluices downhill. No big drops but very continuous and difficult at high flows. Few eddies. Disappointing at low water. Hudson should be 6' or higher.

■ 13th LAKE BROOK (IV-V) - Tiny, incredibly steep creek with constant gradient. No eddies and the constant possibility of wood makes run particularly hazardous. Runnable at peak of run-off or after heavy rain. Enters Hudson at North River.

■ THE BRANCH (IV-V) - Difficult six-mile run with huge, technical drops followed by burly run-out rapids. Pushy at high water. No gauge but North Creek should be at least 6' or higher for good water.

SCHROON (II-III) - Novice run. Fast moving water with waves and small pour-overs. Flows during spring run-off.

E. BRANCH SACANDAGA, *Griffin Gorge* (III-V) - Class III for first three miles up to Griffin Gorge. Two Class V ledges in Gorge. Spring flows during run-off.

M. BRANCH SACANDAGA, *Auger Falls* (IV-V) - Five mile run with four waterfalls. Run ends with horrible, unrunnable falls. Spring flows during run-off.

■ W. BRANCH SACANDAGA (IV) - Five mile run with four big falls. One unrunnable drop. Spring flows during run-off.

■ SACANDAGA (II-III) - Dam releases every day all summer long make the Sacandaga a premier run for novice boaters. Three-

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mile long run with play rapids at start and finish and fast water in between. Guaranteed water for playboating throughout summer.

EAST CANADA CREEK (III-IV) - Creeky five mile run. Fairly continuous rapids. Water in spring during peak of run-off.

WEST CANADA (II-III) - Easy novice water. Flows all summer.

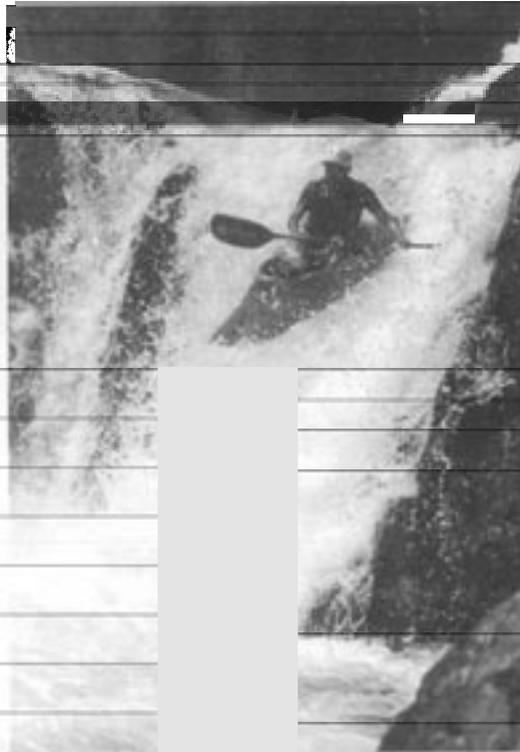
SPRITE CREEK (III-IV) - Seven mile run featuring continuous Class II-III riffles and four Class III-IV drops. Runs in spring and for 2-3 weeks every November during drawdown of upstream lake.

CINCINATTI CREEK (IV-V) - Steep low-volume creek that parallels Rt. 12 from Remson to Barneveldt. Sheer drops into shallow pools. Narrow, obstructed channels. Runs only after heavy rains.

ADDENDUM

This short summary of the remarkable bounty of Adirondack whitewater is not meant to be an inclusive guide to the region. It only deals with runs that my buddies and I have paddled.

There are some guidebooks to the region including the Adirondack Mountain Club's Guide to Canoeable Water. It's published in two volumes: the Northern Flow by Paul Jamison and Donald Morris; and South-



Split Rock Falls on Boquet River.

ern Flow by Alec Proskine. These books contain an amazing amount of information—my only complaint is that they are too comprehensive. They tend to trace rivers from source to mouth instead of focussing on whitewater. You've got to do some figuring for yourself where the whitewater runs start and finish.

In addition—there are other sources of information you can tap. Brad Froman of Northern Outdoors in New Hartford usually keeps track of water conditions as does Bone at Whitewater Challengers in Old Forge.

Finally, Ed Huber of Split Rock Video (splitrockvideo.com) hosts a web site that includes info and video clips of many northern Adirondack runs.

Almost the Perfect Spring

Like many Adirondack boaters—I start to panic when spring arrives too

early.

That might sound illogical to those of you familiar with the

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severity of an upstate New York winter. Winter means snow drifts piled to the underside of the eaves; a foot-deep layer of ice covering rivers and lakes; and temperatures that struggle to reach zero in the height of the day.

Conditions hardly conducive to white-water boating.

But let me explain: to an Adirondack boater—snow is like money in the bank. During a persistent winter, the snowpack will contain the equivalent of 10 inches of rain. A cool account of frozen water waiting to be withdrawn in the form of run-off during April and May.

Now, like most boaters—I have a savings account down at the bank. I'm always making deposits until I have enough squirreled away to treat myself to an important, much-anticipated item—like a new boat or vacation in Costa Rica. And nothing irritates me more than to see my nest egg nibbled away by constant, incidental expenses, like buying a new dye or roof repair.

It's the same with the snowpack. A false spring means a week or two in February of tantalizingly warm weather followed by days where the temperature plunges back to single digits. The snowpack is eaten away in little bites and the subsequent run-off is too small to flush the rivers free of ice or maintain flows at optimal levels. By the time the real spring arrives in full—the



Bob Dudash at Split Rock Falls on Boquet River.

snowpack has vanished and all boaters can do is pray for rain.

In the spring of 2000—we were praying for rain.

By Adirondack standards—we had experienced a light snow year...only about 140 inches. And an uncharacteristically warm February had reduced to snowpack to a 12-inch crust of rock solid ice. We would have rivers to boat—there is always adequate water in the Moose, Hudson and Black—but the variety of whitewater runs available during a spring of generous run-off appeared to be in jeopardy.

Fortunately—our prayers were answered. Six inches of rain in April and another four in May fell over the Adirondacks. The melting snow—while failing to provide much of a run-off—had still managed to saturate the ground before the rain arrived. Subsequently—the spring 2000 paddling season proved memorable by any standard.

From April until the middle of June, my wife Caron and I were able to boat 10 different Class IV or better runs—all within the radius of a 90-minute drive from our weekend base in Old Forge, NY. Many of the rivers we visited more than once—catching the Independence, Bottom Moose

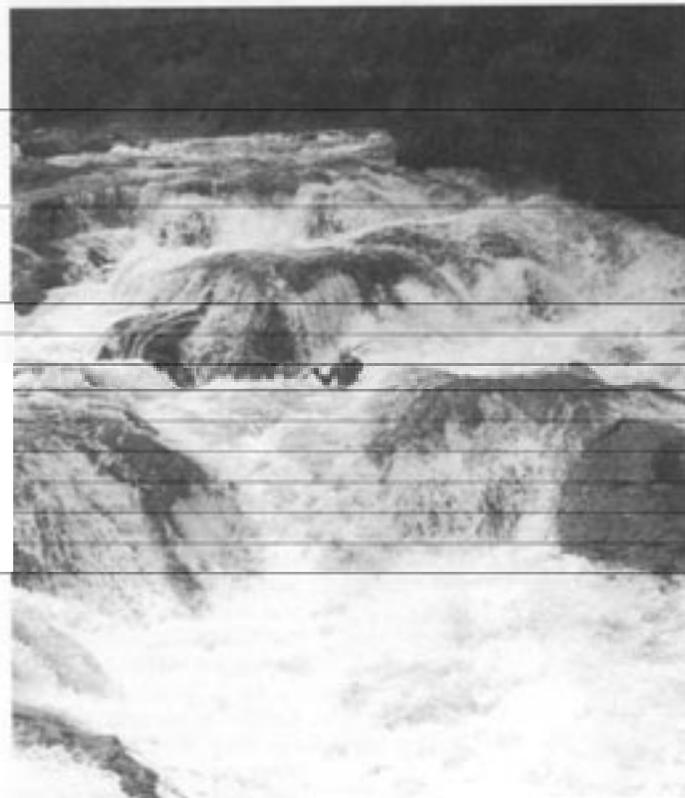
Lower Moose, Middle Branch Oswegatchie, Black and Cedar three times along with single days on the Branch, Grasse, East Branch Oswegatchie and Hudson.

Before the season ended, I even managed to Topo-duo the Middle Moose three times with my six-year old daughter Carly.

Just another spring in the Adirondacks. But it could have been better...

Caron was disappointed because we never got over to John's Brook or the Bog. And I wanted to check out the upper Sacandaga runs and also see if all the buzz about the Boquet is for real. And we both wanted to take our play boats over to the Fish, and I'm curious about the South Sandy...

You get the picture. The Adirondacks arguably boast the best concentration of whitewater runs in the county—even when spring comes too early.



Boater eddied out before the final drop at Crystal on Bottom Moose.

How Do You Like Adirondack Whitewater, Now? (Main Branch Oswegatchie)

It was a surreal moment reminiscent of a dramatic image from the movie *Titanic*. You know the scene...where Leonardo DiCaprio releases his grip from floating debris and—to the relief of every male in the audience—finally slides beneath the icy Atlantic.

The camera focuses through the water on Dicaprio's face—hovering for a long, poignant moment just below the surface—before sinking into the endless depths.

Now, Lars Peterson would never be mistaken for Dicaprio—even if he had better hair. After earning a degree in physics from Mansfield State, Lars joined his family's masonry business in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, laying stone and brick during the week and paddling most weekends on the Upper Yough or Cheat watersheds. He is a big, strapping Swede with a quiet demeanor but a ready smile.

However—Lars was not smiling while recirculating in a hideous hole on the Middle Branch of the Owegatchie. We could see his face from our vantage point on the sheer rock ledges that flanked either side of the hydraulic. He hovered under the boil line for 10 seconds—Dicaprio like—just inches from the surface, his eyes as wide as a trout. Then—thwip—he vanished. Sucked deep into the maw of the hole.

Fortunately—that's where the resemblance to the Titanic story line ended. Sputtering and gagging, Lars popped to the surface a full 20 feet below the boil line. Amidst laughs and catcalls, we joyfully retrieved his equipment and towed his sorry butt to shore.

And for the umpteenth time of the day, I had to ask Lars:

"How do you like Adirondack whitewater, now?"

That's a question often repeated in the spring of 2000 during our three runs on the M. Branch Oswegatchie.

And to be perfectly honest—there were plenty of times when our opinion was ambivalent. That's because a descent of the 12 miles of the Middle Branch, above and below Bryants Bridge featured a little bit of everything that Class IV-V boaters both love and despise on a wilderness whitewater run.

There were long technical rapids bordered by sheer granite cliffs...a bizarre narrow gorge where the cascading river bends in a hairpin, steep ledges, and waterfalls...tumultuous slides...clear water with just a hint of tannic stain and a vast expanse of untouched Adirondack wilderness. But on the downside—we faced brutal portages around treacherous 25' and 50' waterfalls...tangled undergrowth and blowdowns that inhibited scouting and must-make maneuvers necessary to avoid horrible holes or pin spots.

Of course—we fully expected to find challenging, spectacular drops even before reaching the river.

From Bryants Bridge, the rutted, dirt shuttle road leads steadily uphill. After four miles of constant climbing—weaving around ruts and plunging through ponds of water flowing over the road—I turned to Mike Duggan and commented:

"Jeez...I hope we have to *godown-hill* a while before we hit the river."

Just then we turned the corner, ascended a final grade, and discovered the put-in bridge.

And in a classic example of overstating the obvious I commented—"This river has some *gradient*."

Unfortunately, on our initial trip, the river had a lot of water as well as gradient. We had heard that a reading of 3.7 on the Harrisville gauge was minimal—so we figured that a level of 5.8' would provide more than an ample flow.

Again—another classic overstatement.

We discovered the river was uncomfortably high in the opening half mile. The first drop featured a narrow sluice-like lead before the river tumbled over an 8' ledge and into a horrible hole before racing downstream in a long, continuous rapid.

After bushwacking through a jungle of undergrowth, we put back in below the hole and ferried over to the right. Dennis jumped out while we waited in our boats.

"It's nothing," Dennis announced. "Just a long lead-in and a ledge, but it looks like you can run it

anywhere...maybe better on the left."

Run it anywhere—that phrase should have been warning enough. I was fourth in line—following Dennis, Mike, and Lars, with Gillian just behind me. I drove through the pushy approach and then looked down over a 10-ledge into the mother of all hydraulics. Despite my feeble attempt to boof, my boat backended into the hole.

It was my first swim in a long time. And yes—misery certainly loves company. I was not unhappy to see Lars and Gillian dog-paddling over to join me in the eddy.

As it turned out, Lars' Ledge—as we came to name the drop after his DiCaprio swim on our second trip—was just a warm-up for the rest of the day. But despite the numerous drops and slides, everything on the river was anticlimactic to Rainbow Falls—a runnable 50' drop/



Caron Koll runs right side of Shurform on Bottom Moose.



Caron Koll at top of Fowlersville Falls on Bottom Moose.

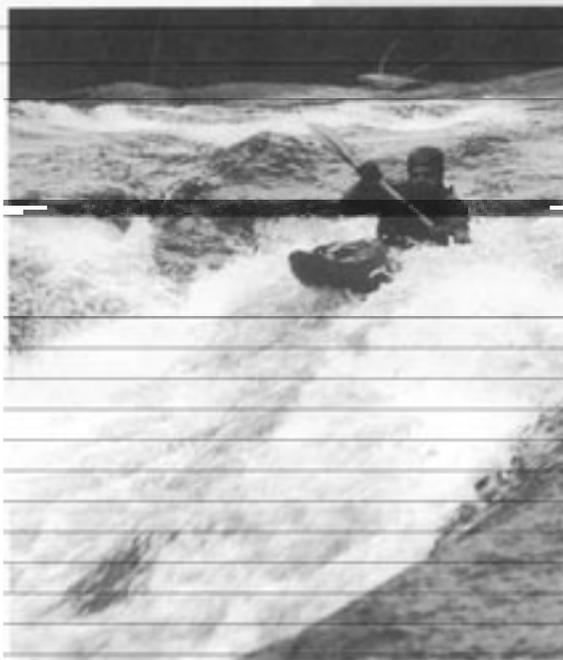
slide combination followed by 50 yards of fast water and then a sheer 50' waterfall.

By the time we reached Bryants Bridge—we had no inclination to explore the rest of the challenging drops that lay downstream—along with a significant amount of flat water. There was no hesitation in saving the second section for another day and lower water levels.

As it turned out—that day came the following week. With the river at a more reasonable 4.6—we made quick work of the upper section and proclaimed the level a perfect flow. Encouraged by our success, we breezed by Bryants Bridge and onto the lower section.

But the water level that seemed optimal for the upper river provided difficult conditions on the Middle Branch below Bryants Bridge. The river became less continuous—but the flatwater pools often terminated with horribly steep drops. We walked more than we paddled.

So how do we like Adirondack whitewater, now? Well—a lot...especially now that I'm off the river.



Chris Koll runs left line of the Slide on the Independence.

If I only had my Mirage (E. Branch Oswegatchie)

As we paddled into the wind while crossing the mile-long impoundment behind the South Edwards Dam—it wasn't the first time during the day I wished I was back in a 13-foot long Perception Mirage.

That was the kayak I paddled the last time I descended the E. Branch Oswegatchie—way back in 1985. As I remember, the Mirage virtually flew across the flatwater. Now, in a sluggish Prijon Rockit, I struggled to keep up with Al Baker, Tim Kelley, and my wife Caron.

The Mirage was a perfect boat for the East Branch—its length and lack of rocker promised speed through the



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long, flat sections. And if the design tended to dive while going off steep drops—so what? That it was difficult to maneuver quickly—who cares? Or that the small cockpit was difficult to escape—what's the big deal?

Those characteristics just provided a more acceptable excuse to portage the hideous Class V cascades that frequently punctuated the flatwater of the East Branch. In 1985 I dismissed at least half of the run's eight significant drops as either horribly dangerous or totally unrunnable.

"You just can't run these drops in this boat without pinning," I pronounced before grabbing the loop of the Mirage and plunging into the puckerbrush in search of the easiest portage route.

Unfortunately, my old Mirage fell victim to UV poisoning more than a decade ago. And the Rockit I now paddle—as well as the current generation of creek boats paddled by Al, Tim, and Caron—were perfectly suited to running the steep ledges and slides that comprise the major rapids of the East Branch.

So now the wisdom of portaging might not be as readily apparent.

The crux of any East Branch descent is located midway through the run, where a series of three spectacular cascades are separated only by brief pools.

The opening drop plunged 30 feet over a jagged reef in three continuous pitches complicated by ominous hydraulics that obscured any obvious route. After a pool of 30 yards, the river narrowed and abruptly plummeted over an 8-foot ledge creating a wicked hole stretching from bank to bank. And then, after an even shorter respite, the river accelerated over a nearly-vertical slide—sluicing 30 feet down in a green tongue that emptied into the pool below in a foamy cauldron.

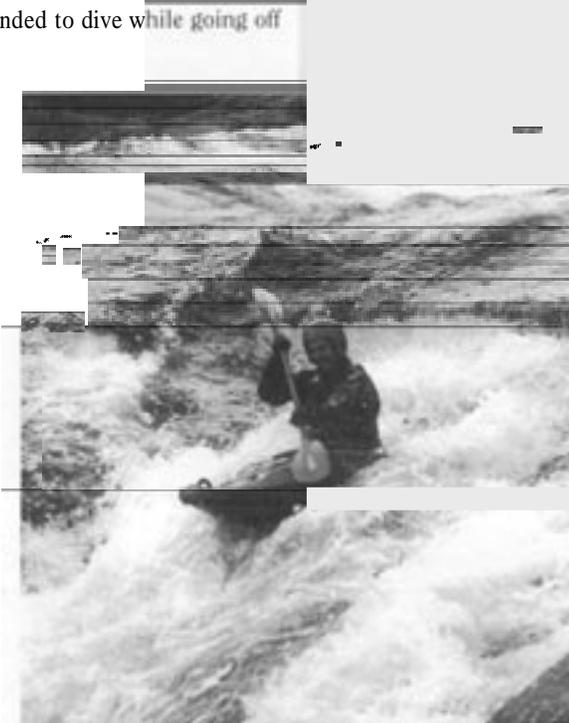
Back in 1985—I carried the first two ledges and sniveled down a side channel sneak at the final drop. And so when we arrived at the first ledge, I hopped from my boat and immediately started to drag it over the portage—that is—until I noticed Tim and Al studying the reef and pointing out potential lines. I quickly dropped the grab-handle and pretended that I had entered the brush to take a leak.

Fortunately, Al opted to run the opening ledge down a side channel that wound around to the left. I gratefully followed his lead and was already at the bottom when Tim charged over the ledge from right to left—threading between two holes—to cleanly boof over the final 10-foot precipice.

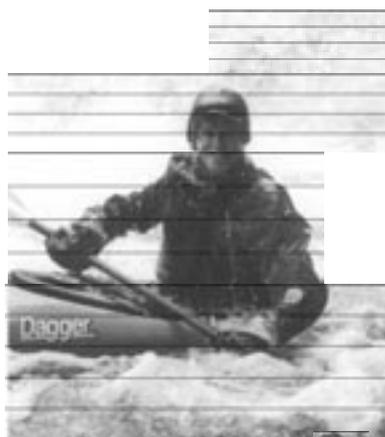
Turning downstream, we quickly cleared the second drop, boofing over the substantial boil on the right. And on the final slide, we rode the tongue straight into the cauldron and disappeared beneath the water, only to surface 10 feet downstream.

Looking back from the eddy below, I could see all three ledges, rising 70 feet in a white, foamy staircase and I realized how far boat design and paddling skills have evolved in the past decade. And I resolved not to wait so long before revisiting the East Branch Oswegatchie.

Just so long as I can pick up a used Mirage somewhere.



Al Baker in the middle of the Independence



Below Blue Ridge Falls on The Branch

The Right River (The Branch)

Gillian Wright jumped from her boat, surveyed the foaming cataract, and declared with a measure of exasperation: "I don't think we're on the right river."

What???

Al Baker, Ed Kiesa, my wife Caron, and I had hooked up with Gillian and her three Canadian friends at the take-out of the Branch and, to avoid crossing private land, we had opted to put-in three miles upstream of the usual put-in, located where the road crossed the river.

Gillian's doubts regarding our location commenced after the first mile of flatwater.

"This doesn't look right. I don't remember this flatwater. And the

on any river but The Branch. Our topo map indicated it was The Branch. The narrow valley it descended eliminated any possibility of a parallel stream or of a tributary that somehow looped away from the main stem.

But Gillian remained unconvinced.

Now—it could have been a gender thing. Granted, Gillian can paddle as well as practically any male of my acquaintance—but she still is a female. And you know how women are about directions.

Or it could have been that she's Canadian. I know there's a myth about the Canadian ability to find their way in the outdoors—a tradition harking back to the days of the Voyageurs. But I ask you—if Canadians were so great at finding their way through the wilderness—why did they end up living in Quebec or Ontario instead of immediately blazing a trail to North Carolina or Tennessee or anyplace else that features more than two months of summer?

But I have to admit—I started to believe that Gillian might be on to something when we finally arrived at the first big drop...

I had learned of The Branch from the Lake Placid boys—Mike Duggan and Ed Huber—who spoke highly of the run. They described the river as similar to the Upper Yough...with a bit bigger drops. And what I expected to find was a pleasantly technical, low-volume run. Nothing real pushy. Just a cool cruise—eddy hopping down the water.

But what I was staring at was a big, honking drop. Lots of water spilling over impressive ledges. Terminal hydraulics were scattered like sand traps along the line. And immediately below the drop, the entire river funneled into a narrow, eddyless gorge with big, burly waves and more threatening holes.

Jeez—maybe we *were* on the wrong river.

But around the corner, we were confronted with the Branch's signature drop—Blue Ridge Falls. A quick scout confirmed we were indeed on the *right* river...but the question remained: were *we* right to be on this river?

Blue Ridge opened with a six-foot ledge feeding into a beefy hole, just above a technical 10-foot slide that ended in a short pool above a 12-foot ledge. At that level the only route over the ledge was on the far right, but the line was guarded by a sticky hydraulic.

And to compound matters—the run-out at the base of the falls funneled into a gorge and out of sight in a pushy torrent of waves and holes.

We ran the falls with varying degrees of success and continued downstream through more long slides, big burly rapids and intimidating hydraulics. And by the time we reached the take-out where the river empties into a pond near the village of North Hudson—one fact was perfectly clear:

The Branch is indeed the right river.

Lemmings On Parade (South Branch Grasse)

Gillian Wright fretted while we waited for the rest of the boaters to meet us at the take-out of the Twin Falls section of the S. Branch Grasse.

"I don't know...it looks about twice as high as I've ever run it," Gillian observed.

Of course, the nice thing about the Grasse is—if Twin Falls is too high, a boater can always move downstream to the Lampson Falls section or over to the Oswegatchie. And I was still considering that option when the remainder of our party of 17 arrived.

Suddenly—boats started to be shifted to shuttle vehicles...gear was assembled in preparation for paddling...and trucks headed out toward the put-in. Clearly, group mentality had superceded any individual concerns. I tucked away any misgivings and joined the throng, trying

to ignore the similarities between our large group and a pack of lemmings heading inexorably toward the water.

Finding 17 boaters on a challenging Adirondack river is an uncommon experience. Paddlers gather in those numbers in the fall on the Bottom Moose and Beaver when nothing else is running—but outside of those scheduled releases—our group was as large an assemblage of Class IV-V boaters as ever found on an Adirondack river.

And although most of the group had previously logged runs on the Grasse—no one could recall seeing the river with quite so much water.

But, no matter. One after the other, we slid into the water and headed downstream in a colorful line of boats that stretched out for an eighth of a mile.

The first major drop of the Grasse is perhaps the most challenging. Rainbow Falls is a viscous 20-foot fall dropping into a narrow gorge. The drop is commonly portaged, even at normal flows and at the higher level—the subsequent hole appeared terminal. By the time I had arrived at the falls—the first members of our group had already started to drag their boats through the brush. Most of us didn't even bother to scout, we just followed at their heels.

Below Rainbow, the Grasse alternated between short stretches of fast-flowing water and wild cataracts where the river flowed into quarter-mile gorges. At normal flows the gorges are easily navigable—boat scouting as you skipped from eddy to eddy. But of course, at high water, the eddies had vanished and descending the rapids was an adventure.

We careened through the gorges, plunging over ledges and avoiding hydraulics, all the while struggling desperately to keep in sight of the boater/probe in front.

I was certain that our game of follow-the-leader had come to an end when we reached Twin Falls—a three stage drop of nearly 50 feet with a blind approach. I was wrong...

At normal levels Twin Falls is spectacular. At high water...it is bizarre. Picture a 10-foot ramp immediately leading to a 15-foot ledge. When the water funnels off the ledge it explodes into a huge pillow of foam leaping ten feet above the surface of the water and obscuring the final 20-foot falls.



Tom Vickery boofs a drop on The Branch.



Tom Vickery crashes through beefy hydraulic on The Branch.

I elbowed my way through the crowd inspecting the drop—but after 10 minutes of careful scrutiny—I still couldn't see an obvious line through the maelstrom. Then Johnny McClain pushed off into the pool above the falls—lined up his approach, plunged over the ramp and ledge, and completely disappeared into the pillow of foam. There was no sign of boat or paddler until Johnny emerged from the mist at the bottom of the final 20-footer.

Now, Johnny has never been known for possessing an abundance of common sense. After all—how else could you explain his enthusiasm for throwing his 120-pound frame into the boxing matches following the Gauley Fest? I figured his run was a consequence of absorbing too many punches to the head. Surely—noone else would be so brash as to attempt to duplicate the feat.

Then Gillian shot down the approach and disappeared into the foam pile. She was followed by Ed Huber...and Mike Duggan...and Al Baker...and, finally, by the rest of the lemmings.

Hudson Memories (Hudson River Gorge)

It was one of those early June days in the Adirondacks when spring seemed finally ready to slip into summer. The morning air was cool and dry but the bright sun in the clear, blue sky held promise of a warm afternoon.

Of course, we would have preferred to see a cool, wet weekend with rain swelling the region's creeks and rivers. But it was not to be, so we pulled our short boats out of the basement and headed over to the Hudson, where a level of 4.5' offered a day of play.

Ten years ago, Caron and I spent a good portion of our spring on the Hudson Gorge—as did most New York boaters. But that was before we discovered the Moose, Cedar, Independence and the other



Tom Vickery blasts out of hole on The Branch.



Bernie Wooten at slide above Rainbow Falls on M. Branch Oswegatchie.

steep options available during spring in the Adirondacks. We had not visited the Hudson in nearly seven years.

Three hours later, after bopping down through the Narrows, Caron turned to me and commented:

"I remember the Hudson as being harder."

Well...so did I. But what I mostly remembered were days of safety boating for a raft company with the river up over 10'. At those levels, the Hudson can be challenging indeed: featuring long, burly rapids filled with 10-foot waves and enormous hydraulics. For a competent boater, big-water on the Hudson means a day of cheap thrills—whooping over huge rollers and skirting the dangerous holes—reminiscent of a run on the New at levels over six feet.

But for a safety boater—big water on the Hudson practically guarantees a long day of carnage. I can recall negotiating two miles of big Class IV with three frantic raft customers clinging to my boat. Yes...I remember the Hudson being harder.

And to compound the river's difficulties, a day on the water was always followed by an evening of toasting at taverns dominated during the spring by boaters and raft guides. Many of the bars featured video of the day's action. Replays of the most spectacular wipe-outs elicited a chorus of hoots and guffaws and encouraged another round of libations.

Now that I think of it—it's remarkable I remember anything of the old days on the Hudson.

But to be honest—our day in June of Class III cruising and playing on the Hudson was particularly pleasant. The scenery was fabulous...the water clear and warm...and the river was virtually empty of other rafts and boaters. Even the three miles of flat water at the conclusion of the run was tolerable.

Which is good news—because thanks to releases from Lake Abanakee—similar conditions exist on the Hudson all summer long.

Does that mean Caron and I will abandon our normal Class IV summer runs like the Black or Beaver to become Hudson regulars?

Well...no. But we'll be back in June for a day to celebrate an Adirondack spring passing to summer in the glorious setting of the Hudson Gorge. Now that's a memory worth recalling.

The Sheltered Jewel (Cedar River)

One of these days I'll run the Cedar when a gray Adirondack sky isn't spitting snow.

It would be great to be on the Cedar on a warm day in early May, before the blackflies emerge. Temperature in the sixties. A clean blue sky. The first hint of green softening the outline of the hardwoods.

God—the Cedar would be wonderful under those conditions.

But the Cedar is still pretty damned good when the mercury hovers around forty with a howling wind and the sky is dropping precipitation that can't decide whether it wants to fall as drizzle or sleet.

It's easy to understand why the Cedar is the Adirondack destination of choice during inclement conditions. The west flank of the river is sheltered by Sugarloaf Mountain—a massif of bare granite towering 500 feet above the valley. And the river flows through a series of spectacular, narrow gorges with sheer rock walls rising 20 feet on both sides of the water. Even the most determined wind fails to penetrate the intimate recesses of the Cedar.

In addition—the Cedar features a broad

range of navigable flows. The river is creekly and technical at low levels, but remains navigable because of its constricted passages. And although the Cedar develops an attitude at high water, with big, burly drops and beely hydraulics—the river seldom is too high to run.

Consequently, the Cedar stands as the consummate fall-back river. You don't want to brave the Moose at 10 feet? Windchill for the day is pegged at 25 degrees? Time to head over to the Cedar.

Given the unpredictability of an Adirondack spring—it was no surprise that we boated the Cedar three times during the 2000 season. The first time was a Sunday in early April with a foot of snow still on the ground. We returned in two weeks when the temperature dipped back into the thirties. And we made a final run in May after a cold front triggered two inches of rain, simultaneously dropping the temperature 20 degrees while raising levels in practically every river to dangerous levels.

Each trip was unique



Mike Duggon on M. Branch Oswegatchie

as the character of the river changed dramatically with different water levels. Only the cold weather remained constant.

Of course, considering the amount of action found on the Cedar—boaters probably wouldn't have difficulty staying warm, even if the river wasn't so sheltered. The run features seven major drops separated by easy rapids and fast-flowing current. Several of the drops are particularly challenging and are often portaged.

Like the drop called The Bodysnatcher, where the river narrows to eight feet, compressed between sheer rock walls before sluicing down a jagged 10-foot cascade. The difficulty of the line is intensified by a rock just under the surface in the middle of the drop and by the presence of a horrible river-wide hole at the bottom.

For the next 100 yards following the drop, the current flows strongly through a narrow chasm with high vertical walls. Immediately below the hydraulic, the channel makes a 90-degree turn to the right. The outside elbow of the wall is severely undercut.

One of the oft-told horror stories of the Cedar involves an accomplished local boater who was flipped in the nasty hydraulic and flushed into the undercut. His kayak supposedly disappeared beneath the ledge, leaving only the boater's upper body exposed. Fortunately the boater was also a skilled rock climber and so was able to pull himself up the sheer rock face finger hold by finger hold.

It's testimony to the natural beauty of the Cedar that despite the challenging drops and

the hideous weather conditions that usually accompany a trip on the river, that sometime during the day can't help but notice they are paddling on what might be the most scenic river in the

Adirondacks.

Who knows? If I ever get the chance to paddle the Cedar on a bright, sunny day—it might even rank as one of the prettiest rivers in the East. After all—the Cedar is just too good a run to save for a rainy, cold day.



Karl Gesslein boots middle line of slide above Rainbow Falls on M. Branch Oswegatchie.

A Steep-Creek Dessert (Independence River)

How many times have paddlers dragged their boats up the rocky bank at the Lower Moose take-out after a day on the river at medium or better flows, looked wistfully downstream at the horizon line that marks the beginning of the famed Bottom Moose and commented:

"I can't wait until the river drops so we can do some steep drops on the Bottom..."

The answer to the question is—too many times. Too many *unnecessary* times.

Because only 10 minutes to the north lies the Independence River—a short Class IV-V run that usually has water when the Moose features medium or better flows. And after battling the pushy rapids and powerful hydraulics on the Lower Moose, steep-creek fans can sate their appetite for low-volume big drops by taking a bite out of the Independence.

We jumped on the Independence three times during the spring of 2000—usually in combination with a trip down the Lower Moose. On the first run, it took Al Baker, my wife Caron, and me nearly two hours to complete the four-mile run. Subsequent runs were knocked off in less than an hour.

Typically, prime levels for the Independence range between 4.5'-5.5' on the Donattsburg gauge. But the character of the river varies dramatically within that narrow window.

The opening three miles of the Independence feature continuous easy rapids and one ledgy drop. At lower levels, the first three miles can be irritatingly shallow with boats boinking off rocks lurking just beneath the surface. But when the level surpasses 5 feet, the first section of the Independence develops into a joyful passage of playful boogie boating.

But of course, on the Independence—the opening three miles are simply window dressing. It's the last mile that attracts steep creek devotees—where the river drops off the face of the Adirondack plateau in a series of spectacular slides and rapids.

The action commences at The Slide, where the river narrows and sluices down a 4' drop into a nasty hole before spilling over another 6' ledge. The flow then immediately splits into three twisty channels that spill and slide an additional 50' around rocky islands over the span of 100 yards.

After a short pool, the river plummets over another 6' ledge onto an undercut rock. It pauses only briefly before cascading down a final long, steep rapid that starts as a narrow sluice and concludes in a jumbled ledge.

Run as a complement to a day on the Moose, the Independence serves as a tasty dessert to an afternoon of whitewater boating. But since the short shuttle encourages multiple descents—a paddler could elect to make a main meal out of the Independence and spend all day at a steep-creek feast.



Chris Koll on M. Branch Oswegatchie



Entering Second Gorge on The Cedar.

Old School Meets New School (Lower Moose)

We're a little bit out of the loop up here in the Adirondacks. You see, northern New York isn't exactly the epicenter of whitewater style and we just aren't dialed into the latest trends.

So...it's tough to understand the current distinction made between young, freestyle boaters and grizzled, old cruisers—the whole "New School" vs. "Old School" controversy.

The truth is there simply aren't enough local boaters in the Adirondacks to categorize paddlers by age or paddling style. If there's any school we belong to—it would be one of those one-room county affairs with all the grades packed in together.

At least that's how it seems in early April on the Lower Moose. Young and old boaters alike converge on the Moose in April to work for the rafting outfitters or just take advantage of dependable spring flows to boat a challenging Class IV river.

They paddle together on the river, drink together late into the evening in Old Forge, and in April everyone is buried under layers of pile and encased in drysuits—so they all look pretty much the same.

Of course—there is a difference in boat selection.

Most of the younger boaters gravitate toward recent designs with planing hulls like the Amp, Foreplay or Inazone, while older paddlers of my generation prefer longer traditional play boats like a Hurricane or Diablo.

But oddly enough, whatever the boat of choice—we all seem to favor the same lines through most of the big rapids of the Moose. The paddlers in



Tom Vickery enters top of second droo of Eaale Falls on the Beaver.

the short boats need to take more strokes, of course, but we all run the Moose pretty much the same way...

Except for two places:

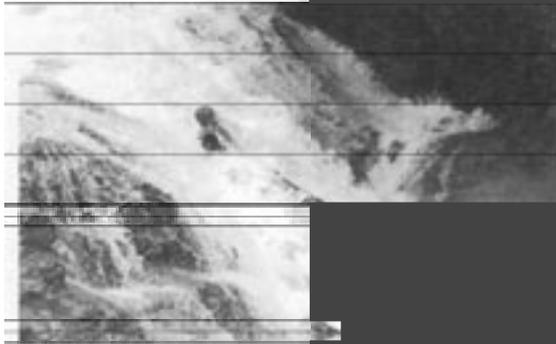
The signature rapid of the Lower Moose is a heavy-duty Class IV sluice called Mixmaster. The entire river narrows to 20 feet and accelerates from left to right in a tongue down an 8-foot slide. At the bottom of the tongue the river erupts into a breaking 4-foot wave, which immediately precedes a voracious hole that often flips or surfs huge commercial rafts.

For skilled boaters — running Mixmaster is no big deal. Charge left to right and stay on the tongue until you drive into the eddy that flanks the right of the hydraulic. But that's where the fun starts.

For long-time Lower Moose paddlers, surfing Mixmaster has always been a rite of passage. It's considered bad form to blow your move and unintentionally land in the hole. But to be initiated as a Lower Moose regular—there comes a time when you need to take several deep breaths, tighten your PFD, remove your sunglasses, and deliberately paddle out of the eddy and into the maw of Mixmaster.

I guess that Mixmaster could be considered a "safe" hole. It's simply too violent to hold you forever. But the 30-60 seconds it takes for the hole to decide to spit out your boat can be, well, gut-wrenching.

I've tried to stay under control while side-surfing in the hydraulic. But in-



Final drop of Crystal on Bottom Moose

Caron Koll finishes perfect run of Funnel on Bottom Moose.



evitably I catch an edge and the boat window-shades a couple of times. Or the stern kicks out, the nose plunges in, and the boat performs a series of cartwheels. All you can do is hang on and hope the E-ticket you've just purchased concludes with you still in the boat.

During the last few years, we've developed a variation of the initiation procedure. By paddling up the eddy line on the left side of the hole—we've been successful in driving onto the face of the opening breaking wave and surfing it back to the security of the eddy on the right.

Of course—blow off the wave and you're immediately plunged into the depths of the hydraulic. But, hey—that's the price you pay for glory on the Lower Moose.

So, naturally, when joined in the eddy one day this spring by Mike Duggan and Ed Huber—I encouraged them to jump into the hole.

Both Mike and Ed are fantastic boaters and might be labeled as "New Schoolers" if they lived in a different part of the country. They're sponsored by a bunch of gear manufacturers and display a mosaic of decals on their boats and vehicles. They both insist on paddling their tiny rodeo boats on all but the most heinous runs. And they've been known to speak in tongues — spouting gibberish like "let's huck a wheel" or "throw down a blunt."

Duggan even sports one of those silly billy-goat tufts of a beard under his lower lip while the shade of Huber's blonde hair can't completely be attributable to the sun.

But like I said—in the Adirondacks, it's tough to think of anyone as "New School." After all, in a couple of years, Duggan will be eligible to compete in the masters class for over-40 boaters in whitewater rodeos. Can you really be classified as "New School" when you have attended your 20th year class reunion? I don't think so.

Now, Huber is young enough to qualify as a "New Schooler"—but since he's started his own video company (check out his film clips of choice Adirondack runs at Splitrockvideo.com)—he's transformed into more of an entrepreneur than a boater punk. Business plans and web sites. He seems to be turning into a poster boy for Junior Achievement.

So I figured they wouldn't hesitate in observing this time-honored Lower Moose tradition and immediately jump into the hole.

Ed just stared at me. "I'm not getting beat up in that hole," he said.

Well—I must admit, I was a tad disappointed as we drifted down toward the end of the run. But the incident gave me cause to re-evaluate some of my attitudes.

After all, how did we ever get to consider jumping into Mixmaster as a rational act? Where is the logic in getting your brains scrambled while being shaken like dice in a cup? Maybe the youngsters were on to something. Maybe every graduate of the "New School" weren't all victims of grade inflation and adjusted SAT scores.

I was still pondering these esoteric issues when we arrived at the rapid just above the Fowlersville take-out. The rapid is just a series of river-wide three-foot ledges that can create moderately sticky hydraulics. But I must confess—I've never paid much attention to the little drop. In April, I'm normally more concerned about getting out of my boat and into warm clothes and a cold beer as quickly as possible.



Tim Keeley battles through big holes at Humpy Falls on E. Branch Oswegatchie.



Gillian Wright hits boof line at Knife Edge on Bottom Moose.



Catching air at boof rock at Fowlersville Falls on Bottom Moose.

But as I was scrambling onto the shore, I noticed that Mike and Ed were still out on the water—playing in the hole below the ledge. Ed would surf up on the top of the foam and load up his nose—lifting it with a forward stroke—then slice it downward with a quick backstroke that popped his kayak into a nose stand. Then, still in the hole, Ed looked over his shoulder while smashing the stern back into the foam pile. The kayak reversed its position—now standing straight up on its tail.

The process continued at a dizzying rate as Huber hit end after end before washing from the hydraulic. Then Duggan took his turn, and then Ed again, and as I finished tying down my boat—the two were still at it, cartwheeling in the cold water as afternoon drew to a close.

By the time I drove off—the two had shifted slightly downstream to a hole that forms directly under the bridge. I watched them through the steel grate decking—performing their endless rotations like fishes with whirling disease. They looked cold, tired and thoroughly beat.

And I realized.. if there is any distinction between "Old School" and "New School" boaters—it's just that we're stupid in different ways.



Al Baker drops into third falls of the E. Branch Oswegatchie.



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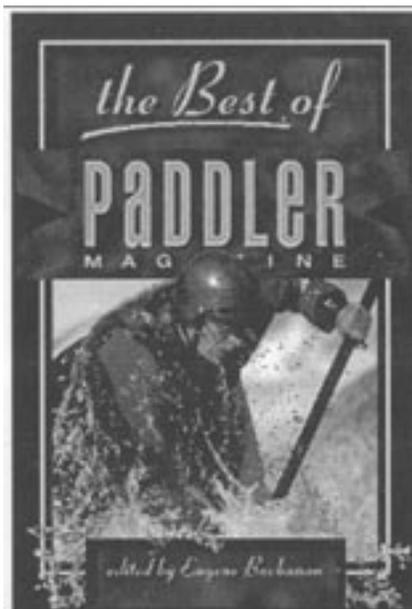
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CHALLENGING THE ALSEK

By Dean Fairburn

The plane is bouncing in the turbulent fog-choked air. Barry and Kitty Tuscano are squinting into the thick fog, anticipating the sudden appearance of Chilkat Inlet's mountain walls. Their son, Ambrose, tightens his belt and prepares for the abrupt end of their Alsek adventure. The fog closes in.

The pilot has just told the passengers in the Cherokee Six, "Tighten up your belts, we're going to ditch the plane on that small gravel bar." Since it is her birthday, Kathy McComb is sitting in the coveted copilot's seat, trying to keep her hysteria hidden. Scott, her husband, is eyeing the fuel gauges from the back seat. They are running out of time.

Myself and the rest of the party are back at Dry Bay. Here it is sunny and warm. We gather and pack our gear. We don't suspect that our companions are in crisis. We finish arranging the gear for our own flight and await the next plane's arrival, reflecting on our Alsek odyssey.



Ten days earlier, at the put-in, we planed for an early start, around three in the morning, when the winds would likely be fierce but not impossible. A Canadian commercial group was marooned nearby, unable to attack the winds of the Dezadeash River, which flows into the Kashkawulsh to form the Alsek. One of their guides jogged by. He had just run to and from the Alaska Highway, a distance of about six miles, to retrieve heart medicine for one of their clients. He concurred; we were wise to depart early.

The terrible headwinds did not come as a great surprise to me. On a 1994 Alsek trip beginning further upstream, it took our group three days to cover the twenty miles to the Alsek due to 50 mph gusts. I was not about to make the same mistake twice. This time we drove down the Dezadeash several miles, fording swollen creeks and scraping large rocks on a rough road. I also had a stronger crew and lighter gear than we did on the last trip. I was determined to make the Alsek in half a day.

Before departure I briefed the party on what to expect. Some in the group were very experienced with whitewater and expeditions,

especially the Tuscano family. However, none of them had negotiated water complicated by braided channels, floating icebergs, and marauding grizzly bears.

I told them that there would be critical times when we would need to be together. Braided rivers can make this difficult. There were some great campsites on braided sections where we would want to camp. The take-out was also confusing. More importantly, we didn't want anyone drifting into Turnback Canyon.

On my first trip, in 1993, Jack Hession warned me about the take-out. I missed the take-out and floated toward the Pacific with a German contingent behind. They followed, thinking I knew where I was going. I continued down river reassured that another group was following. I assumed that they were heading to the take-out. Well past the take-out, nearly into the Pacific, I asked them how much farther to the airfield. This was when the German and English swearing began. A local salmon fisherman fortunately saved us by tugging our rafts back up the braided river to the landing strip. Jack also missed the take-out.

Back alongside I told my crew would pose a real danger. Icebergs on the Alsek are as big as apartment buildings. They would seem placid but when they hid underneath and became they would crash unsuspecting boats. If the ice the waves generated would. They raft.

Glaciers could be eating the same part of the group of an who was swept 20 woods while war River's Child's Glacier was on the opposite river, on a viewing

a twenty-foot cut

As far as bears everyone just to e

As long as we kept a

there would be no problems. Some in the group had brought mace. Susan Mobley produced out a pair of bells to ward off bears. I told my sister, Debbie Hahn, that the best way to identify grizzly poop is by whether it has bells in it. Susan didn't seem amused; neither did my sister.

When three o'clock arrived the oar rig and two paddle rafts had just been fitted with the last of their bags. Twelve groggy

A GREAT ALASKAN ADVENTURE



bodies were added, then we pushed off, leaving the Canadian group snoozing on shore. I oared for awhile and then switched to a paddle raft. We stayed nest to the alders on the bank for the minimal windbreak they provided. Being close to thick bush I yelled out a few times to ward off any bears. Debbie and Andy Remaly, my nephew, turned around and gave me concerned looks. My wife just smirked, thinking I was playing mind games, which I was. As it turned out, the other rafts spotted a grizzly at just about the place where I yelled out. It ran up hill away from us.

We made the confluence and the river current picked up enough to negate the fierce headwind. After six hours of hard paddling we stopped for a lunch break. As we continued, downstream progress became easier, but positioning the rafts became more difficult. The river braided and one had to continually paddle away from sweepers and cutbanks. We made camp at Lava Creek.

Here the geology began to change. Ancient lava flows had created unusual rock formations. The expanse of the river valley was immense. Distances were deceiving and it seemed that Profile Mountain lay right before us all day. As we looked closely we could see the remnants of a lake, with driftwood and water formed benches high on the mountains across from us. It was the result of the surging Lowell Glacier, which lay another day down river. The glacier once blocked and dammed the Alsek, impounding

one trillion cubic feet of water flooding beyond Haines Junction.

The next morning the weather was poor. We saw fresh snow on the mountains across from us. It was drizzling when we departed camp. I was in the oar rig with John Hedden, a co-worker at my previous teaching job in Alaska, and Martin Elder, a friend from Knoxville. We were the party barge, already planning our liquid lunch. Kitty and Barry were enthralled by the scenery. I mentioned that it only got better.

The Alsek is tremendously stimulating. The sense of isolation, ruggedness, and visual beauty is absorbing from the start. Around every bend there is always another surprise. It does keep getting better just when you think it impossible. The senses are always on the edge of overload.

After some good stretches with big waves, we approached Goatherd Mountain where we would lay over for a day. Nearing its base we rounded a bend. WHACK! There was Lowell Lake. It was stunning. Lowell Glacier descended for miles to the edge of the water. Huge blue and white icebergs anchored themselves on a shallow area halfway across the lake. Smaller bergs floated throughout. We heard thunder of the glacier calving and bergs flipping. Waves gener-

ated by the activity rocked the anchored bergs into a crunching spectacle.

We stopped opposite Lowell Glacier and set camp. Behind us loomed Goatherd Mountain. At its base ran the only means of travel for the local residents, the "Bear Highway." After supper we lounged under a tarp. The thunderous, crashing, and grinding continued without reprieve. Waves lapped the shore and occasionally a large one swept the beach. We double-checked the rafts to make sure they were secure.

Barry and Kitty took a stroll while Martin, John, and I continued our liquid diet. We caught my nephew stealing a beer and reprimanded him with toilet duty. We were required to pack "everything" out. Jenny, Debbie, Scott, Kathy, and Susan hit the bags early. Later, at two in the morning, there was a sunburst, shooting rays over the mountains to the Northwest.

On day three we began our trek to summit Goatherd Mountain. Passing through the Bear Highway, Martin and Susan noticed yet another set of grizzly tracks, except this one was huge. We scanned the landscape for bears as we strolled. John, a marathoner, cross-country cyclist, and sea-kayaker, took the lead up the slope and was out of

sight in no time. He planned a swift ascent for a good workout. We followed his route up.

Scott, Susan, and Kathy are experienced climbers. They toiled ahead. The Tuscanos were gone as well. That left my family and Martin. Martin is a builder, used to heights. Jenny had no problem but Debbie, Andy, and I are all quite fearful at five feet off the ground. Martin consoled us and pushed my sister up the rock face an inch at a time. After the wall we reached a slanted grassy slope. The wind whipped by and Debbie didn't climb much more.

Martin and I reached an outcropping high up the mountain. We decided to break and eat a lunch. Suddenly we heard something charging us. It was John, already summited and on his way down. He hobbled up to us due to a previous ankle injury, complicated by his therapeutic race up and down the mountain. "There are hundreds of goats up there." John panted. "I nearly ran one over going around a rock. They don't seem to fear people so I just hung out with them for a while. It was cool."

We took a few photos and headed down. The Canadian group arrived and camped just upstream from us. We had hoped to spend the trip in isolation from other groups. We didn't understand why they decided to camp next to us since the beach area was so large. I talked to the Canadian guide that we had seen days earlier running from the Alaska Highway. He said, "The guy had his heart medicine with him the whole time. but just mis-



placed it. I ran for nothing. The guy didn't even say thanks." To justify camping next to us he explained, "We ripped our raft entering Lowell Lake and needed to pull in." I hoped he'd seen better trips.

Back at camp Jenny pointed out Barry, Kitty, and Ambrose on top of the mountain, far down range. They were specks silhouetted above the rim. There were several goats near them. John took Myers for his injured ankle and Andy stole another beer. The rest of us ate supper and lounged under the tarp.

Paddling out of Lowell Lake was exhilarating. We passed close to some large bergs and spotted an ice spire four stories tall. We stopped at a rock outcrop to take a closer look. We were close to Lowell Glacier. As we beached the glacier calved close by with a deafening crash. I yelled for everyone to grab the ropes of their boats, climb high, and hang on. A swell surged towards us and yanked the rafts as it passed. We kept our boats.

Upon leaving Lowell Lake the Alsek took on a different character. There were a few minor rapids with some rather large waves and occasional holes. Susan and Kathy had limited whitewater experience and probably no big water experience. They continually pointed out holes which, in their minds, were death traps. Overall, the waves and rapids were pleasant in this stretch, that is until Lava North.

At Lava North we scouted. There was a steady supply of waves approaching a menacing hole. Beyond were more large waves that could potentially flip a raft. Debbie stayed in the raft upstream, the only one not scouting. After a strategy session, we decided to run the oar rig first and then the two paddle rafts. Susan, Kathy, and Jenny decided they would walk around the rapid. Just as we headed back to the boats two grizzlies were spotted on the opposite shore.

Back at the top Debbie asks, "What's the plan?" I said, "We're going to cheat it on the left, trying to stay well away from the



hole." Debbie is a trooper. She's been on the New and Upper Gauley with me in my little fourteen-foot raft. She endured the run with a confident expression, not knowing as I did, that a mistroke could send us careening back into the main current, toward the hole.

"Piece of cake," Debbie said out as we hit the eddy on river left below the drop. But this was before she was forced to leap out of the oar rig and cling to a rope, slowing the raft's descent from the eddy with her body until help

could arrive from upstream.

Barry, Ambrose, John, and Andy went next. They approached from the middle and paddled through some big waves, missing the hole. Andy started to fall out and, alertly, John yanked him back in. The water temperature was just above freezing and any swim could have had severe consequences.

Back above the drop the second paddle raft readied itself for the descent. Barry insisted that it could be approached more from the right, allowing the raft to

gain right-to-left momentum to cross in front of the hole. He was used to the speed of a kayak but the idea sounded crazy to me. I didn't want any part of the hole so I passed.

This time it would be Scott, Martin, Ambrose, and Barry in the other paddle raft. They ferried out to the right, too far right, and began the sluggish task of turning the boat back to the left. By the time the maneuver was complete, each of the paddlers was aware of their dangerous position and began stroking in an adrenaline-enhanced frenzy. Unbelievably, they just made the move before the hole and crashed into the eddy. The raft was full of water and hit the eddy line with unusual force. Ambrose was thrown from the boat and squealed as he hit the water. Fortunately, helping hands quickly grabbed him from the frigid river.

Downstream, a continuous wave train led all the way to Turnback Canyon. Barry and Ambrose noted how great the

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surfing would have been if they had their kayaks. Unfortunately for them, the planes that we chartered from the take-out had no room for kayaks.

Our next camp was at Fisher Glacier. Again, the scenery intensified as the mountains changed in character and geology. I particularly enjoyed this stretch of river. It gave me the overwhelming feeling of remoteness.

Approaching Turnback is always an interesting experience. Even though a handful of experienced whitewater boaters have followed Walt Blackadar's famous first descent of the monstrous rapids in the canyon, the imagination always makes Turnback more legendary than it ever could have been. On my first trip down the Alsek, we camped so far upstream from the canyon that the helicopter pilot almost didn't spot us. This time, though anxious about missing that last eddy, we managed to pull out just upstream of the canyon entrance on river left. The rest of the group marveled at the abrupt beginning of the canyon just downstream from our camp site.

We set up camp once again, only this time we disassembled our rigs and packed all of our boating gear into separate piles. After supper, Barry and I decided to climb a wall to the East. The rock was loose and steep and I felt out of my element. Attaining a fairly high vantage point, we took in the spectacular view. I got goosebumps.

Turnback Canyon pinches the Alsek between Tweedsmuir Glacier and a mountain on the other side. It is named Mt. Blackadar in honor of the famous whitewater kayaker who first braved the canyon — alone. It is humbling to see this stretch of water and realize that some kayakers have run it successfully. We would get to see the canyon's rapids, but not in a boat. We portaged Turnback by helicopter.

Doug was the helicopter pilot who took us past Turnback. We prepared our gear and waited for him to show. It wasn't long before the gear was flying through the air in a sling dangling from the helicopter. He hauled our gear first then returned for us. We didn't go around the canyon but through it. We got the ride of our lives. Even from above the river at 100 mph, the rapids looked terrifying and awe-inspiring. Using the helicopter headset, I asked Doug if he could name some of the rapids for us. He replied, "You watch the river, I'll watch the rocks." Not wishing to see the rotors lighting sparks on

the rock walls, I clamed up. It was an incredible ride through an incredible canyon.

I paid for the flight with a credit card and mentioned to Doug that the Canadian group had punctured one of their rafts. He thanked me for the information and promised to check on

them on his way out. Not long after regrouping and heading down river, we had our own mishap. Ambrose, not used to rowing an oar rig, backed into the left bank and hit a tree branch. Pop! Hissss! Time for raft surgery.

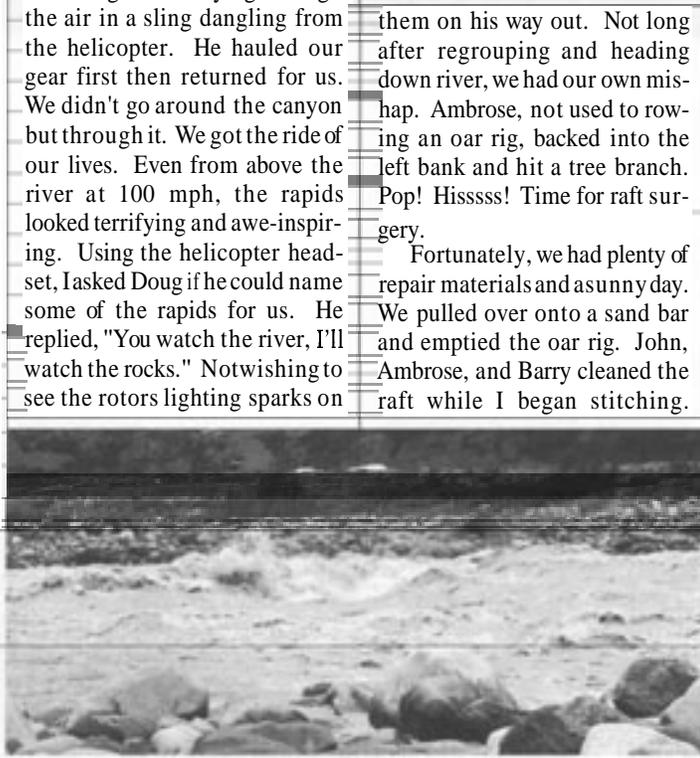
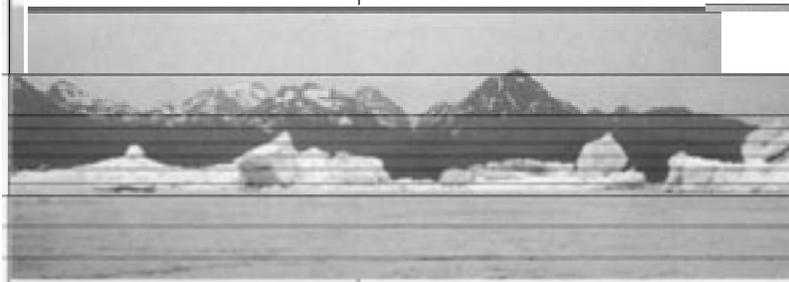
Fortunately, we had plenty of repair materials and a sunny day. We pulled over onto a sand bar and emptied the oar rig. John, Ambrose, and Barry cleaned the raft while I began stitching.

Barry and Susan finished off the sewing while the others took turns filtering drinking water from the river. A bear cub came out on the shore while we continued repairing the raft. It sauntered off eventually and we completed the task as it began to rain.

We paddled late into the evening, and camped at a mud flat. I was told that there was a great campsite at the confluence of the Tatshenshini, but we were obviously not there. It was a dismal camp and the weather was foul.

After the confluence with the Tatshenshini, the river gained a tremendous amount of volume. The stretch that we were approaching, although braided, was nearly three miles wide. We sporadically pumped the damaged raft with air and continued onward. Then WHAK! Walker Glacier.

We set up camp near the ter-



restrial moraine of Walker Glacier then hiked up onto the glacier itself. The glacier was flat and smooth, sloping upwards for about a half mile. Abruptly the glacier became disjointed and terraced, in a spectacular blue castle appearance, going up and out of sight. While walking up, we stepped over crevasses that dropped into oblivion. Water rushed along the surface in small rivulets only to spill into holes that would swallow an unwary hiker forever.

The next day it was on to Alsek Lake. Double WHAK! The lake is huge, with glaciers feeding into it along nearly half its circumference. The most impressive of all was the Alsek Glacier, coming down from far above, and cawing around a nunatak at the base. Again we heard the thunder of calving and icebergs flipping. We stopped at the spit that



borders the entrance to the lake and made camp. What a magical place. The clouds parted and we got a look at Mt. Fairweather. At over 15,000 feet it was an impressive sight.

The next morning we set out to camp at Gateway Knob, on the other side of Alsek Lake. The entrance to the lake was a jam of icebergs, the biggest we had seen yet. Some looked to be the size of city buildings. Discussing the fact that only a third of the berg was visible above water, we heard a roar of thunder as one violently flipped over and undulated until balanced again. We were forced to paddle through them in order to enter the lake.

There are stories of rafts getting caught between bergs, their passengers having to be lifted out by helicopter. We were careful not to commit to the current that would take us into a trap. Martin, John, and Jenny were in the raft with me. We entered a channel that the others opted not to follow. Luckily we were able to weave our way through the bergs without misfortune. Alsek Lake could now be enjoyed in a more relaxed style. We continued to pump up the party barge with air as we headed for camp at Gateway Knob.

We made time to take in the place. The panorama must be one of the best in the world. Barry, John, Martin, and I decided to paddle across the lake to get closer to Alsek Glacier. The next morning it was off to our elusive take-out in Dry Bay. There

were two decent rapids in the stretch that gave us good rides.

We were approaching the coastal flatlands, but the mountains and glaciers were still visible. I was confident of finding the route to the take-out this time. Just as we pulled into the proper channel, Andy yelled out, "Bears!" We looked in time to see a sow and two large cubs trot along the bank in front of us. They headed off into the brush and we pushed on to the take-out. According to another rafting party, these bears later foraged just outside our tent that very night. We slept through it all.

The next morning, gear was packed and one plane arrived early. It was heading back from Yakutat on the way to Haines and stopped to pick up one load. The

Then my savior appears. It is the same fisherman who hauled me back up river on my first float in 1993. He begins to hand out beer for free and offers us more fish. We have food to get by, but we can't pass up his offer. Later he shows up in a four-wheeler, with a trailer attached, and offers us a tour of Dry Bay's beach. Might as well.

At about the same time that our friends on the first flight are about to ditch their plane on a sand bar, we crash. The fisherman hits a tree head-on and cartwheels into the air. He ends up face down in the dirt. Everyone on the trailer is okay, so we focus on the driver. "My cigar!" he repeats over and over. Susan finds his cigar and stuffs it into his mouth. Thus revived, he picks himself up off the ground and

Nobody. No buildings. Bear and wolf prints everywhere. We spot Humpback whales and seals just off shore. We hike the beach and take it all in, everyone totally at peace with the delay and our circumstance. I make a mental note to spend an extra day or two on this beach when I return.

The next day our planes will arrive and carry us from Dry Bay. The flight will be yet another highlight of the trip. When we land we will learn that for some reason the first flight didn't make it in to Haines.

A story will unfold, which will be far less disturbing in its entirety than it would have been at the time of the four-wheeler crash.

After diverting from Haines to Juneau, the first plane is going down. There is nothing but white outside the window. Suddenly, out of nowhere, Ambrose spots another plane. It is a floatplane just visible through the fog. The pilot has just been talking to this floatplane on the radio. The passengers watch in relief as they turn to follow the little plane through the dense cloud. They were lucky to be found.

"You see that plane?" the pilot asked. "It just saved our asses. Everyone keep an eye on her or we're in it deep." Kathy, in her birthday seat, and the others gladly and anxiously obliged. Maybe fifteen minutes before the fuel tanks empty, they make it to Juneau, shaken but alive.

When the rest of us hear this story we will be a bit amused and very relieved. I will be perhaps the most amused of all—I am the only one who will not have another plane to catch.



Tuscanos and McCombs needed to get back to the lower 48 in a hurry, so they were the lucky ones—or so they thought. Kathy's birthday present was the plane's front seat, where the view and the ride would be more intense.

* *

Later, as the rest of the group waited for the second plane the park ranger walks up and says, "There won't be any flights for you today. Haines is socked in." John Hedden, Jenny, and I all know how it is in Alaska. The weather will always dictate your schedule. Debbie despairs. She is an entrepreneur who is extremely dedicated—a workaholic. We have little food reserves but it turned out not to be a problem. A local fisherman brings us a fresh salmon, which is mighty tasty.

throws his broken cowling into the trailer. We're off once again to see the shore.

I have been at the Dry Bay take-out twice before and had no desire to hike down to the beach. What a mistake! It is one of the highlights of the trip. The beach is bare for miles upon miles.

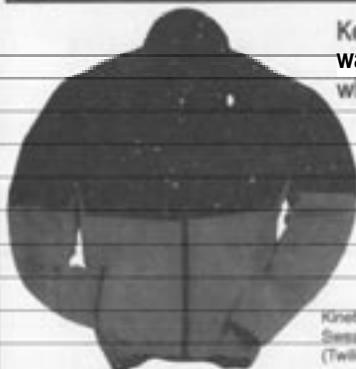


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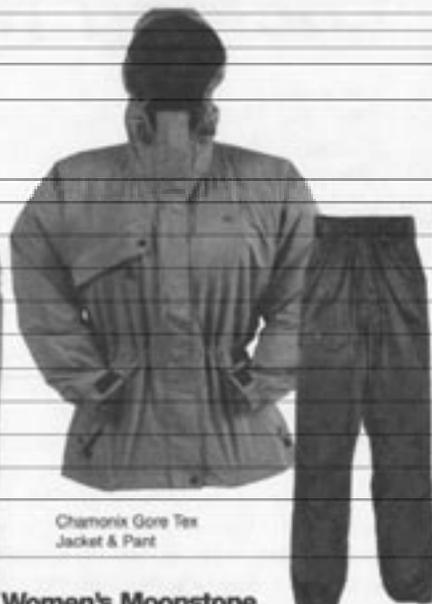
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Hydropower at Summersville: Looking Toward the **Future**

By: C.J. Hamilton
Resource Manager
Summersville Lake
US Army Corp of Engineers

"Hydropower at Summersville??? I thought that died a happy death back in the 80s."

The truth is... it did. When the Army Corps of Engineers proposed raising the summer lake level and installing a long diversion into a hydro project back in the early 1980s, there were vigorous protests from environmentalists and whitewater boaters, who argued that the proposal would dewater a significant section of the Gauley River. Consequently that plan was shelved. But, against sometimes-large odds, in 1992 the City of Summersville managed to land a FERC license to build a different project, an 80 megawatt plant at the base of Summersville Dam.

Summersville was able to land the license because the Federal Power Act and the Public Utilities Policies Act of 1978 gives municipalities an advantage when competing for power rights at federal projects. Summersville Dam. In 1995 the municipality of Summersville formed a partnership with Catamount Energy of Kutland, Vermont. Summersville had the license; Catamount would provide the funding and technical expertise to launch the project.

Full-scale construction is now underway. Cranes, dozers, and construction workers are jammed onto a site not much more than five acres. The construction contractor, Black & Veatch of Kansas City, is building the \$55-million plant for Catamount. Black and Veatch estimate the project will be completed by late 2000 or early 2001.

Catamount Energy will operate and maintain the plant for the first 30 years of the 50-year license. Then, it'll be Summersville's turn for the remaining 20 years. The city also plans to collect royalties from the flows during the time of Catamount's operation.

Power from the plant will be routed through Mount Nebo and Mount Lookout, then cross the Meadow River gorge upstream of the US 19 bridge. From there it will flow through a substation and be routed on to wherever it's needed on the electric grid.

The project has been no stranger to controversy. HWH and the Mt. Nebo Property Protection Association took the developer to court over the proposed route of the transmission line. But the Federal Appeals Court in Richmond, VA ruled in favor of the license holder in May of 1998, clearing the way for the project.

Possibly of even greater concern to boaters and sightseers was the loss of the old put-in off the rock shelf at the base of the outflow. This put-in has now been replaced with a concrete ramp just downstream, below the lip of the pool. Black and Veatch will prepare the south end of their construction site to facilitate boater access during the 2000 Gauley season, just as they did last year, when things went well. They

will bus their workers to the site to reduce congestion and suspend certain work practices during Gauley season, as required by their FERC license. The National Park Service and WVPRO, notably Len Hanger of Songer, have been attending the monthly hydro update meetings at the dam. Len has voiced the concerns of boaters and worked hard to assure boaters access to the river during the fall releases.

Countless questions and rumors about the project have floated into my office since construction began. This is no surprise considering what is at stake, Summersville Dam is the second largest dam east of the Mississippi. It creates the largest lake in WV and releases 44 billion gallons of water each fall. Some 65,000 hard boaters and rafters boat upon this water. They contribute millions of dollars into local and state coffers.

► Some of my favorite rumors and questions include:

"Where is the second dam?"

"How long will the lake be drained?"

"Won't the water be too hot for fish to live?"

"Is it true the river won't have any rapids anymore?"

My personal favorite came from a resident who resides 30 miles downstream: "Since you built that hydro plant, my house's water pressure is too high."

Most people's questions center on how the plant will operate. The answer to many of their questions can be found by looking at the FERC license for the project. Article 402 requires the city of Summersville to "operate the project as directed by the Corps, using flows provided by the Corps and maintaining the current minimum flow regime...the operation of the project will not have any effect on the volume or timing of the flows in the Gauley River below the Summersville Dam."

The important thing to keep in mind is that the decision making for flow releases hasn't been "awarded" to the hydro company or the city. The Corp will have control of the flow: the hydro plant is licensed as "Run of the River." If flows are of sufficient volume on a given day for turning the turbines, then water will be routed through to the hydro plant. This water will flow to the plant through a 17' penstock (water pipe) that connects to the Corps' existing valve

house. The water will then circulate through the plant's generating units and bubble out from a tailrace area in the old launching pool.

The release scheme is a little bit complicated since the plant can't handle the full range of flows from Summersville Dam, When less than 799 cfs is being released, the water will not be routed into the hydro





plant. And when releases of more than 4,000 cfs are underway, only 4,000 cfs will flow through the plant, the rest will pass through the old Corp of Engineers valves.

In other words, although the final details of how the plant will interact with the Corps valves are being worked out, it appears that flows will be released in the following fashion:

<u>CFS (approx.)</u>	<u>Method of Release</u>
0-799	COE valves
800-4,000	Hydropower plant
4,001-18,000	Hydroplant (4,000 cfs) and COE (up to additional 14,000 cfs)

An important thing to remember is that all the 22 normal days of release will continue to occur as scheduled and that none of the rapids have been impacted. No part of the river will be dewatered. Come September and October Pillow Rock and Lost Paddle will still cause your arms to burn. And Insignificant and Sweets Falls will still take your breath away.

But what about other times of the year? How does the Corp decide how much water to release on any given day? Around April 1 we usually reduce the flows to 200 cfs and let the lake fill naturally. This year we started the process a couple of weeks early, anticipating a third straight year of drought. But there was no shortage of water this spring; in fact the lake was full by April 13. Once the lake reached summer pool on April 13, we simply passed through all of the water that came into the lake. If 800 cfs came into the lake from the headwaters, which includes the Cranberry, Williams, Cherry and Gauley rivers, we released 800 cfs from the dam, thereby maintaining the lake level.

We received 9.65 inches of rain in June, twice the norm. As a result we released a lot of boatable water this spring. We released more than 500 cfs (getting close to the low end for hard boaters) on all but nine days between April 13 and July 11. Even more noteworthy: we released between 1,850 and 3,000 cfs (good rafting flows) 22 days between mid April and mid July. This amounts to an "extra" Gauley season in 2000! A big storm on June 22 had us releasing 13,900 cfs!

We are optimistic for the future because, after two years of drought, groundwater has been partially recharged. That keeps base river flows higher. Of course weather trends are always difficult to predict. Currently the lake is full, so we should be in fine shape for the fall 2000 Gauley season.

Those who want to know more are welcome to our Open House to be held Sunday, September 17, and tours of the outlet works on Gauley Festival weekend. Check the ad in this publication for details.

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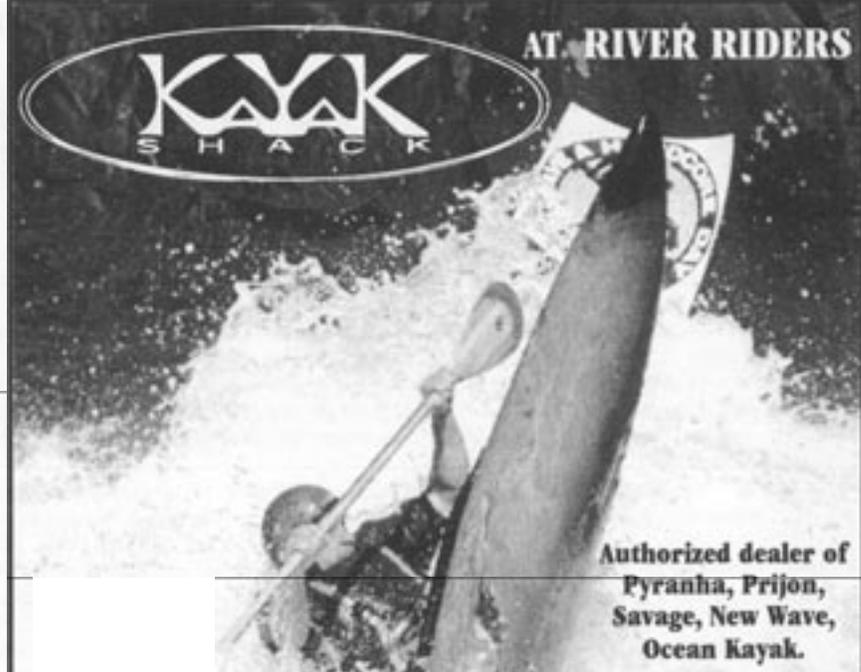


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Smackdown on Laurel Creek



By Bobby "ZoneDogg" Miller

It was a nice, rainy Memorial day weekend in West Virginia. I met my buddy Joe Stumpfel at Little Sandy's restaurant in Bruceton Mills. Joe informed me an inch of rain had fallen in Fayetteville, with more on the way. It was the obvious place to be, so I said, "Sure, let's go!"

On the way we decided to stop at Babcock State Park to see if Manns was running. When we arrived at the Grist Mill Bridge, we could see exploding waves coming down a swollen creek bed. Never in a million years would I have expected that kind of water! There were several blunters (blunting waves) out there but, once you flushed off, you would be headed over the Grist Mill Falls, at which point your blunting days would probably be over. Soon, one of the park rangers informed us that we were not allowed to be in the park after dark so we decided to camp for the night.

The next morning we decided to run Laurel Creek. I had wanted to paddle Laurel Creek for a long time, having seen "Falling Down" about a hundred times. It was a big day for this creek. Laurel Creek had waited patiently and now it had its big chance to go ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE GREAT ONE! There are two famous drops on Laurel Creek, Captain Crunch and Roadside, both of which I planned on laying the smackdown on 1-2. And the ZoneDogg MEANS 1-2! And there were two things that Laurel Creek could do about it: "nothing" and "like it." I had heard a lot of talk about Laurel Creek being a very difficult creek. Well, the Dogg says, "Enough talk, just bring it!" My prediction was that I would show up at Laurel Creek, layeth the smacketh down, and write a SIK trip report for the millions...and millions of the ZoneDogg's fans.

We put-in about 200 yards above a 10 foot dam, just where the gradient begins. At this point, I would normally say, "Put the women and children to bed, this creek is going to get SIK!" However, the women and children never got the chance to get out of bed on this creek! Joe and I walked around the dam because it clapped ("landed on rocks" in layman's terms) and who knows what else. I didn't think that my new Micro 230 would appreciate a nice piece of rebar through it (I know it wouldn't do P-turkey for me).

Soon, we came upon another dam of about 8 feet onto rocks or concrete, followed by a slide into a 15 foot falls onto rocks. It would be two SIK boofs into great clappers but, again, not wanting to destroy my new boat, I walked with Joe right behind me. The creek was running high and muddy so it was difficult to see what the water was landing on. While I was out portaging, we walked around a 20+ foot waterfall that landed in a shallow landing pool. This put us right at the top of Roadside Attraction, a very SIK drop, one of the famous ones.

Roadside drops about 30 feet with a bouncy cascade on the right and a sheer falls into a shallow pool on the

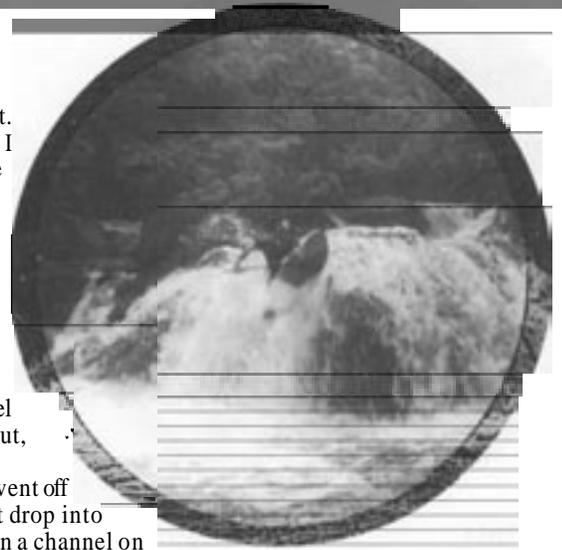
left. The water then slams into an undercut not far below the drop-just to keep you honest. It could get very interesting if you made a mistake and flipped. After a quick scout, I decided that it was time to check this drop into the Smackdown Hotel. I slid down the sloping ledge at the top, hit the curler that sent me onto the slide, ran off a 5 foot drop where I clapped onto a shelf, launched a SIK boof off the final 8 footer and into the eddy above the undercut (Oh Yesh! It was SCHWEEET!). Joe decided that it was an offside move for him in his C-1 and walked.

Sometimes I wonder a little about C-1ers. They have seen the double blade. They know of its existence. And yet still. Just kidding, Joe is a spectacular C-1er. He is definitely one of the best in the world. You have to be a damn good C-1er to run the SIK creeks he has paddled.

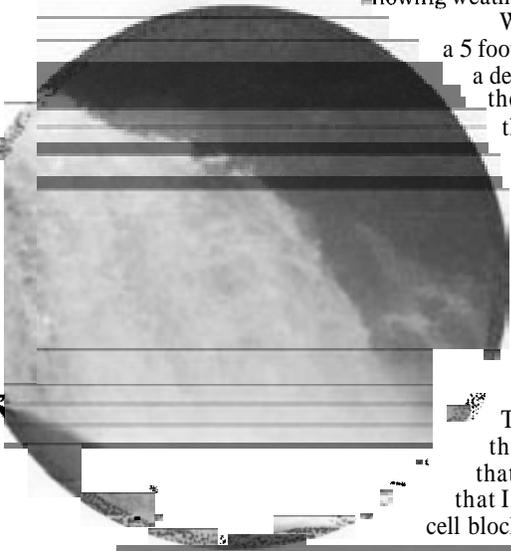
We continued down the creek over some smaller drops, dodging some logs. Laurel Creek had a decent amount of wood in it. A good flash flood could wash away the trees but, knowing weather, it probably won't.

We were soon scouting a steep boulder pile that went off a 5 foot boof drop with a log in it, followed by a 6 foot drop into a deep hole. We decided to sneak the top drop down a channel on the right, then boof the bottom drop on the right, as well. Joe went through just fine but I pitoned into a rock that created a 2 foot pourover and was swept sideways into it. The side of the boat caught and I flipped over the pourover. I rolled quickly and launched off the bottom 6 footer. As I paddled into the eddy, I said, "Alright, show's over. Nothing to see here. Show o-Oh My God!" I looked down and discovered several holes in my skirt. It was not so bad that I could not go on, but what a bummer. It is a cold and cruel world, but not cold enough if you're a snowman. Look for the video footage of me running this rapid on the upcoming FOX special, "When Good Lines Go Bad."

Next we came upon a SIK drop over a pile of rocks. There was a serious undercut on the right, but this appeared to be the only clean place to run the drop. It was very ugly and we decided that we didn't want any parts of a pin there. The rapid was so ugly that I probably couldn't have traded it for a pack of cigarettes down in cell block D-0-Double G!



Left page: Myself (Bobby Miller) laying the smackdown on Roadside Attraction; Left, checking Captain Crunch Falls. Laurel Creek, into the Smackdown Hotel. Above: Joe Stumpf launching a Schweet Boof on Manns Creek (Real Manns).





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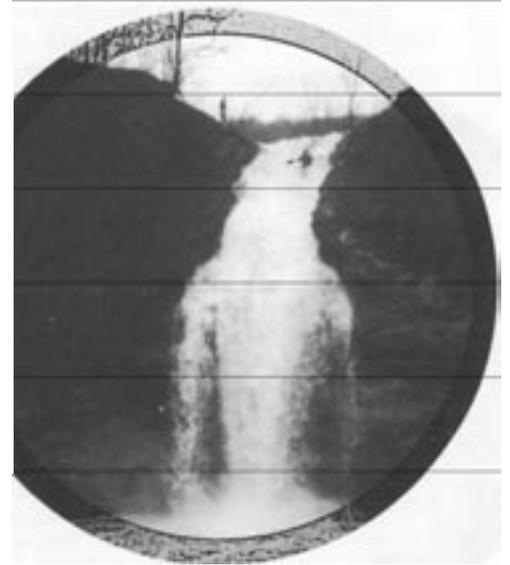
Soon, we were scouting yet another horizon line. The creek went down a slide, ending in a 15 foot falls into a large boil. The falls looked schweet but the water coming out from the boil was going swiftly into the next rapid, which was blocked by a nasty tree. We decided that if you happened to get deep off the falls (a district possibility due to a lack of a good launch ramp), you would not be able to make the eddy to avoid being swept into the next rapid and tree. So we conducted a laborious portage over some big sized rocks.

The next rapid had a 6 foot drop that clapped onto a slide ending in a 3 foot drop. Joe and I bot schweeeet clappers off the drop. The runoff rapid poured over a long series of 3 foot ledges. Joe pitoned real hard on one of these drops. Luckily, he was in a C-1, so it hurt him a lot less than if he had been in a kayak. Soon, we were out scouting the SIKest drop on the creek, Captain Crunch Falls.

Captain Crunch starts with a slide that heads left and twists to the right before plummeting off a 30 plus foot waterfall. The falls land on rocks and next to a huge rock on the left and is probably not real deep anywhere. In this world there are 3 types of drops: wee, not so wee, and FREAKIN HUGE! Captain Crunch falls in the FREAKIN HUGE category. Joe decided that he wanted no parts of the Captain so he portaged around and set up to take my picture below. I am an equal opportunity ass kicker and it was Captain Crunch's turn. It's a DoggyDogg World and Captain Crunch was wearing milk-bone underwear.

I headed up to my boat, downed a can on instant gonads, and climbed in with a mission: to layeth the smacketh down. I headed down the slide and up to the lip. At the lip what else was the most electrifying man in sports entertainment today to do but stick a wicked boof stroke which gave me the SIKest launch I have ever nailed, landing flat on the boil below (Oh Yesh! It was SCHWEEET! It was sooooo Niche!).

Left: Myself (Bobby Miller) hugin a wheel off of Pummel (Great Falls, Potomac River). Below: Me making the second descent of Hinkston Falls, Hinkston Run. Right: Myself launching a schweet boof on Manns Creek (Real Manns).



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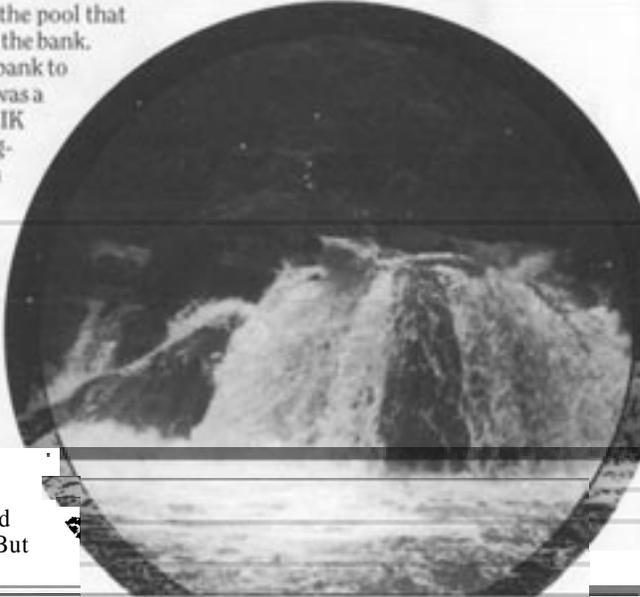
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As I launched, I thought, "Holy crap this is a huge drop! I hope this doesn't hurt my back!" However, I landed super softly on the boil. Captain Crunch is close to the road so it is any easy for spectators to view the drop. A few hot chicks decided to take advantage of this and watch the Dogg run this crazy drop. There they stood on the bank, gawking at the ZoneDogg, wanting to offer the ZoneDogg some sweet lovin. Well, the ZoneDogg is a big fan of sweet lovin, but there was still some more creek to check into the Smackdown Hotel.

After Captain Crunch we ran a cool series of slides and cascades that were as much fun as I have ever had. Near the end, there was a 200 yard long slide that was super awesome! Joe and I reached tremendous speeds going down this screamer (we were clocked at 267 miles per hour, using actual VASCAR measurements). After one more wide and shallow slide we were deposited into the New River Dries, which

was pretty dry, except for the pool that we paddled across to reach the bank.

We climbed the steep bank to Joe's truck. Laurel Creek was a super fun run with many SIK drops. It was very challenging at a high level and I'm sure that it is very tough at lower levels too. It definitely kept up the Fayetteville area's reputation of having the craziest creeks in West Virginia. We had an awesome run and a great time! However, this was not the time to sit around and relax. It was still early and the sun was shining, so we headed over and ran Real Manns. But that is another story.



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Cunning Stunts, Scream 4, Tomorrow Never Comes) throws himself over water falls, waves and women, and Dan Campbell (Beauty and the Best, Searching for the 'Geek' spot) looks for his lost love (not paddling); his inner soul.

What do these three hero's have in common? Nothing, but we had to work it into the sales pitch for the film, so give us a break will-ya?

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Whitewater Fatalities Drop Slightly in First Half of 2000

By Charlie Walbridge

The first half of the year 2000 paddling season turned out to be somewhat safer than expected. Fatal U.S. accidents reported to American Whitewater include 6 kayak, 7 canoe, and 10 rafting fatalities. While this is a bit less than we've seen the past few years, it's still not a trivial number. We hope this is the beginning of a long-term trend. Many of the canoeing and rafting fatalities involved inexperienced people; the most common cause of these deaths was the failure to wear life jackets. By contrast, the kayakers who died were usually experienced whitewater paddlers. Pins and entrapments were responsible for most of these fatalities. Most of these accident summaries are based on postings made to rec.boats.paddle, boatertalk.com, and other Internet forums. I'd like to thank Kevin Sulewski, Kathy Streletzky, Aida Parkinson, Slim Ray, and the board and staff of American Whitewater for scanning the net and forwarding this material. I'd also like to thank those who took the time to write and post these accounts so that other paddlers could learn from them.

International Accidents

The early part of the year brought bad news from overseas. Robin Dodd, an American doctor, was paddling in New Zealand with a very strong group of international paddlers. He drowned during the attempted second descent of the **Upper-Upper Hokitika River** on the South Island. Chris Emerick reported via e-mail that the group used a helicopter to reach the put-in of this remote river on January 8th. The water level was low, exposing many dangerous rock sieves. About halfway into the first day of a planned two-day descent the group stopped to scout a steep, obstructed drop. It was easier than most of the other major rapids, and two boaters ran it without incident. Dodd, paddling third, was thrown off his line by a small hole. He dropped over

a 4' ledge into a pillow created by a large rock. Here he pinned and disappeared beneath the surface.

Robin's paddle floated free at once. The group at first thought he had bailed out, but when he did not resurface they responded quickly. Several made "a bold jump" into a tiny eddy above the point when Robin was last seen. A man was lowered on a rescue vest, but the current was too strong for him to make contact. After attempting for several hours to release the boat with snags and z-drags, the group paddled downstream to a hut where they had planned to spend the night. Here they found a radio and used it to contact the helicopter pilot. The next day a rescue team arrived to help recover the body. A day later, when this report was sent to the U.S., they had not been successful.

Emerick noted in passing that there was a similar drowning on the **Nevis River**, also in New Zealand, two days earlier. Guenter Schuppan, a strong German paddler, dropped backwards into a hidden sieve in a seemingly straightforward rapid. His companions reached the site quickly and pulled his boat free, but by this time Schuppan had slipped into the sieve. It took rescuers several days to recover his body.

On January 22nd two American tourists drowned in a commercial rafting accident on Costa Rica's **Lower Pacuare River**, a popular Class III-IV run. According to the "Tico Times Online," (published in San Jose, Costa Rica) the water level was very high due to heavy rains. Most companies had cancelled their trips, but one company launched early. Their trip consisted of one 14' 6" raft, carrying 8 people, accompanied by two safety kayakers. AW Journal editor Bob Gedekoh, who had paddled the river last fall in flood, described it at high water as "scary, with lots of potential for flush drowning." Local outfitters told reporters the boat may have been overloaded.

The raft flipped in Las Huacas Arriba, a Class IV drop. The high water would make it difficult for the company's two rescue kayakers to recover all the swimmers. Guests told reporters that the company's gear was in poor repair. The guide was wearing a very old PFD. When he swam, the floatation was pushed out of tears in the fabric, rendering it useless. He had to be rescued by one of the safety kayakers. Joseph Hunter and Monique Sadler, both 53, were washed downstream to their deaths. The others in the boat escaped with minor injuries. Raft company management stated that the water level was reason-

able when they put-in, and that the water rose behind them. This fact was disputed by other local outfitters interviewed for the article.

On March 23rd a flash flood on South Africa's **Storm River** killed a number of people who were traveling through a narrow gorge on inner tubes. This was widely reported in the international press. A man, posting to rec.boats.paddle, described the river as seen from a highway bridge as running through a very narrow gorge through layers of schists and slates standing on edge, with lots of sharp corners. The water was flat, with a few Class I drops. All those who died were guests of a local outfitter. They wore wetsuits (which provide some flotation) but no life vests. The gorge is quite steep, and in a flash flood there would be no escape. Those who died were badly battered.

Kayak Accidents

Canyon Creek is a steep Class V run in Southwest Washington State. On March 7th a three-boat party of experienced kayakers made a clean first run and decided to make a second descent. Jacob Selander, a member of the group, wrote an excellent report that was posted on line. The water level was low, 7' below the bridge piling. The group ran the big drops in the canyon without problems. The final drop, a six-foot ledge, requires good boat control for a clean run down a center-left slot into a rock-infested landing zone. The lead boater ran without incident, but the second man, Toby Scarpella, pinned in the rocks at the base. The third boater, running close behind, saw a paddle sticking above the surface as he came over the ledge.

In the eddy below, the surviving pair quickly realized that their friend was probably pinned at the base of the drop. They first attempted to reach him from downstream. When they could not get close enough, they ferried to shore, hiked the boats above the drop, and approached from above. From here they could see water hitting what they believed to be Scarpella and his boat. One man climbed down the ledge to a spot just ten feet from the suspected pin. Clipping into a throw line for support, he attempted to swim out to the entrapped kayak. He caught sight of his friend's drytop, so he repeated the maneuver. He reached the boat several times, and tried to pull his buddy free it. When the swimmer tired, the two men traded places. The second man was able to attach the boat to the throw line using a carabiner. The two men set up a

Z-drag and pulled hard, without success.

By now well over an hour had passed since their friend had disappeared. They were both getting dangerously cold, so they stopped pulling and prepared to paddle out. Suddenly the pinned boat, with Scarpalla still inside, popped free. They left the boat attached to the line until one paddler could get into position downstream, then they cut it loose. The pair struggled for three hundred yards to bring him to shore.

Toby Scarpalla's short, high volume creek boat had been pinned upside down under the ledge, with his bow facing upstream. The deck on his right side just above the thigh hook had collapsed, making escape impossible. His friends could not pull him out of the boat, so they removed his helmet and PFD and began CPR. After ten minutes one man decided to remain with Scarpalla while the other went for help. In the gathering dusk he sprinted two miles across Lake Merwin to the take-out. Here he flagged down a man in a pickup truck who went for help. Rescue squads responded quickly, and used a powerboat to travel up the lake to the accident site. There the three men from the rescue squad could not pull Scarpalla out of his boat either. They placed both him and his kayak in the powerboat and transported him to the launch area. Here four men using tools were able to lift the deck and pull him free.

These two paddlers should be commended for their courageous and innovative response to their friend's predicament. They did everything that they could. I have two suggestions, which might have improved their margin of safety during the rescue. First, attaching yourself directly into a line before entering swift current is very dangerous. While it worked here, I can't recommend it for general use. Paddlers running streams of this difficulty should consider buying a rescue life vest and learning how to use it. Second, when performing CPR in a wilderness setting, the safety of the rescuers must be weighed carefully. Scarpalla, unfortunately, was almost certainly beyond help long before his boat was released. The second boater continued CPR for about an hour before paddling out in the dark. He arrived at the take-out as the rescue squad was launching their boat, and was immediately taken to an ambulance to warm up. Wilderness protocols permit CPR to be discontinued in remote settings after 45 minutes, or when the rescuer's life is at risk. The guidelines were exceeded during the rescue.

On March 21st Michael Dobek, an outstanding athlete described by friends as "fearless," drowned during a solo kayak run on the **Piscataquog River** near Goffstown, New Hampshire. It was his first run in a brand-new kayak. Local paddlers describe the stretch as a popular beginner run. Dobek flipped, and then became caught against a strainer. A local resident saw the kayak lodged there and

contacted authorities. They retrieved the boat, and found his body still inside. Because there were no witnesses, it is unclear if running the river with other paddlers could have made a difference. But it is unfortunate that Dobek did not contact a local kayak club or outfitter for training before getting on the water.

The **Nolichucky River** crosses the Smokey Mountains from Poplar, NC to Erwin, TN. Normally an easygoing Class III-IV run, it can get nasty at high flows. April 8th was quite cold, with rain, sleet, strong winds, and an air temperature in the mid-30s. The river was running at 2,150 cfs., a high, but not unreasonable, flow. A party of two rafts and 7 kayakers that met at the put-in that day included Chris Juliano, 25. Although not known to some members of the group, he had been down the river a few dozen times while working for an outfitter. He seemed confident and he brushed off several offers of help after an early swim. The group included a number of very experienced paddlers.

In a report submitted to AW, Brian Sineath, Tim Swicegood, and Spencer Lincoln described the events that followed: Juliano flipped early in the run and swam. This raised concerns within the group, but then he easily handled the next Class IV drop.

Juliano then punched the hole at "Hungry Jack Ledge" without trouble and he paddled out ahead of the group. His companions spotted his kayak floating about 50 yards below Murphy's Ledge. This drop creates a very nasty hole, which at this level is capable of recirculating boats and swimmers. As they approached, they saw a flash of his helmet in the backwash of the hole.

Juliano probably recirculated in the hole for around 4 minutes before flushing out. Each cycle held him under for about 20 seconds, brought him to the surface briefly, then pulled him under again. Paddlers scrambled ashore and deployed throw ropes. Juliano was hit several times, both in the hole and out, but he did not respond. When he washed free a kayaker paddled over, bailed out, grabbed him, and swam him ashore. Lines were thrown to assist the rescue swimmer, and a second kayaker wet exited near shore to help lift Juliano onto a small beach on the River Right bank. At around 12:00 noon they checked for a pulse, cleared his airway, and began CPR.

Runners were sent upstream to get help. A half-hour later a river guide with a radio appeared. He said a rescue vehicle would meet them at the put-in. One of the group's



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rafts was carried up the tracks on river left, then brought across the river. A number of river runners stopped and assisted with CPR. Another person went upstream and returned with a backboard. Chris was strapped to the backboard, loaded on the raft, and ferried across the river. CPR was continued during the crossing. A large crowd had gathered here, and he was carried up a steep gravel bed to the railroad tracks. CPR was discontinued for a few minutes during the climb, then restarted near the tracks. A locomotive arrived, and Juliano was taken on board and rushed to a waiting ambulance at the Poplar put-in. He was rushed to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Several boaters, commenting on posted reports, noted that the hole at Murphy's Ledge is quite sticky, and will hold boaters who bail out after side-surfing it. Juliano was lightly dressed in a paddle jacket and light-weight neoprene top, but it is not clear if this contributed to the accident. One of the rescuers reported finding an inhaler attached to his PFD. It's possible that his difficulties may have been aggravated by asthma. Many people who witnessed the evacuation said it was well organized, and that the group doing the CPR was unusually competent.

On April 23, Thomas Makuk, 41, drowned on Connecticut's **Pattoconk River** after he was caught in the backwash of a low head dam. The river was running at near-flood stage following a storm that dumped 3 1/2" of water on the area. A second kayaker who accompanied him and ran the dam successfully called for help. Firefighters said that Makuk was apparently recirculated for about ten minutes before being pulled out. There's no word on the experience of the men or whether the run over the dam was intentional or accidental. Anyone who can provide more information is urged to contact the Safety Committee.

There was a drowning in Two Pair Rapid on the **North Fork of the Yuba** near Downieville, California for the second year in a row. Reports forwarded by Matt Buynoski indicate that the victim, Derek Snellings, 16, was an avid kayaker who had been on the river 32 days so far that year. Travelling with two very experienced adult friends, he attempted to run Two Pair on June 5th. This rapid has changed since last year, and there was a dangerous undercut rock at the bottom of the first drop in the river right channel. Snellings was pushed off his line by a lateral wave, broached against this previously unknown undercut, and was pinned upright. His friends moved in to help him, and got a rope in Snellings' hands. But when he popped his sprayskirt, his kayak filled with water and flipped suddenly. It took over 40 minutes to extricate him, and the rock itself was moved during the recovery.

AW director Chris Koll reported the death of Billy Danforth, 45, on Class IV-V **Teton**

Creek in Eastern Idaho on June 17th. Danforth, a noted big-water paddler, was familiar with this run. He was boating with two other paddlers when he apparently hit a rock with his bow, spun around, and became pinned in the river facing upstream. His body was recovered from the river a week later. We have few other details, so if you have more information about this unfortunate event, please contact the Safety Committee.

Canoe Accidents

A woman drowned after a canoe she and her husband were paddling capsized in the **Deep River** near Sanford, in central North Carolina, on March 18th. Her husband was found clinging to their canoe, which was caught in a logjam near the Route 421 Bridge. The pair were paddling with two other tandem canoes, and their friends sent for help. Rescuers arrived at 8:25 p.m. They threw the man a rope and pulled him ashore. They later freed the canoe and found his wife underneath it. Neither was wearing a life vest, but this alone would not have prevented the accident. Basic training that covers paddling techniques and hazard recognition would have been helpful.

On April 9th a 38 year-old man drowned when his canoe tipped over on the **Puyallup River** in Washington State. Life vests were carried on board, but he did not wear one. The man's wife, who wasn't wearing a life vest either, and their dog, who was, made it to shore safely.

Northern California's **Trinity River** is a beautiful stretch of Class III whitewater. Davis Steinhauer of Trinity River Rafting reported via e-mail that local resident Wendy Ellis was killed while on the river in front of her house in a canoe. She and her husband owned 80 acres of land on the opposite shore and were attempting to start a winery there. Both had considerable experience on the river and sometimes made dozens of crossings in a day. Her husband Don had been a river guide for a local outfitter, and his son was an avid kayaker. Wendy was the least comfortable with the river, but had made the trip many times.

Normal summer flow in the Trinity is 800-1,200 cfs, but on April 18th rains had raised the level to over 6,000 cfs. On that day the couple attempted to cross the river in a newly purchased canoe. This boat was larger than the one they had been using. It was not designed for whitewater or outfitted with air bags. They took the 13-year-old daughter of a close friend along. The weather was overcast, and the temperature was in the high 40s. Everyone wore hiking boots and heavy clothing, but, unfortunately, no PFDs. Wendy was carrying a 44-magnum revolver. The river surged and swamped the canoe, throwing them into the water. Don yelled for everyone to hold on to the boat, and tried to swim



it to shore. But the canoe quickly became unmanageable and they washed into a Class II rapid. They then floated into the next rapid, hit a hole, and became separated. Don made it to shore exhausted near the Big Flat River Access; the young girl also washed ashore nearby. Wendy was last seen floating face down in the river. Her body was never found.

Dave Guss, a U.S. Whitewater Team Member in the late 60s, reported that a kayaker discovered two bodies in the **Perkiomen Creek** near Collegeville in Eastern Pennsylvania on May 30th. The pair turned out to be Fredrick House, 42, and his 14 year-old son Paul, who had been missing since May 24th. Friends notified police when the two did not show up for a scheduled 7:00 p.m. pickup. Early the next morning their battered canoe, two PFDs, and a paddle were found near Goodrich Dam near Oaks, PA. This dam is one of several that Ed Gertler warns of in *Keystone Canoeing*. With the river running high the backwash was undoubtedly quite dangerous.

My wife and I took out at the junction of the **Cheat** and Big Sandy Rivers in West Virginia on June 1st to find the area crowded with rescue vehicles. The Morgantown, WV *Dominion-Post* reported that a 24-year-old man had been paddling a canoe with two women. Water levels were moderate; around 2.5 feet at Albright. The man attempted to run a Class II-III rapid below the take-out and capsized. No PFDs were worn, and he never resurfaced. A second canoe made it through the rapids without incident. The man's friends swam to shore and contacted bystanders, who then notified authorities. Rescue squads from Bruceton Mills, Albright and Masontown, assisted by divers, local kayakers, and outfitters, searched the area thoroughly without success. To date the body has not been found. The Cheat between Jenkinsburg Bridge and Cheat Lake is remote and not paddled often, and this will make the recovery difficult.

On June 7th The Grand Junction, *Colorado Daily Sentinel* carried a story that a woman was missing after a canoe capsized. Mary Faulk, 39 was paddling with her husband on May 31st when their boat capsized in the Black Rock area of the **Colorado River**. The spot is two miles east of the Utah border, upstream of Westwater Canyon. It contains a strong current but no major rapids. Neither paddler was wearing a life vest. Her husband made it to shore safely and flagged a train, and railroad personnel radioed authorities. Her body was recovered on June 6th after a long search through rugged country.

Rafting Accidents

In mid-February West Virginia experienced a very heavy rainstorm that raised streams throughout the state to near-record

levels. On February 18th, as the **Kanawha River** near South Charleston was reaching flood levels, a gas station employee called her supervisor to report that the river was creeping up towards their store. The manager, knowing the business did not carry flood insurance, told her to call other employees to the scene. Then he, along with the other employees, attempted to save the inventory. They filled each person's car with beer and cigarettes and drove the vehicles to higher ground. Afterwards, they returned to put the remaining inventory on high shelves and counters. The employees were scared and wanted to leave, but were ordered to stay. Soon the floodwaters rose into the store, cutting off their escape.

The group called 911 at 6:45 p.m., and the Charleston Fire Department responded with a small-motorized raft. Two firefighters and five gas station employees were loaded into this boat. None of the store employees were given life vests, even though two of them could not swim at all. The boat may have been overloaded, and the firefighters had little training in swift-water boat handling. As they headed for safety, the raft was pulled into nearby Kanawha-Two Mile Creek where it capsized. The two firefighters and two victims were recovered quickly, but Sue Kannaird, 54, Howard Fout, 52, and Betty Huffman, 56 were swept away. Over the next three days, their bodies were found downstream. Mrs. Huffman was found on the Ohio River, 150 miles away. On the day following the accident a local Junior High School student climbed 30 feet up a tree and found a purse that contained \$6,000 and the manager's I.D. The money was later returned to the storeowners.

Cattaragus Creek, a popular run near Gowanda in Western New York State, rose from 1,000 to 9,000 cfs (over 9 feet) on April 7. Sudden rises in river flow, known as storm surges, have been linked to accidents in previous years. Local boater Craig Mavis reported that the river rose 3 feet in just an hour and a half! Kevin Sulewski aborted a planned trip to the area as the extent of the storm surge became clear from weather and water sites on the Internet. While strong, well-equipped local paddlers ran the river successfully, long time outfitter Jim Redline of Zoar Valley Outdoors cancelled his trips. It was clear that the river was not suitable for casual paddlers.

The river was running about 5.5 feet when AW director Bob Glanville launched on the South Branch. Arriving at the Main Branch, his party encountered a loose raft. After searching for its owners, he tied it to a tree and continued downstream. About two miles below he encountered a group of rafters on shore. They had a new, commercial-quality raft, but no life vests or wetsuits. They said that the raft ahead of them had flipped in a

hydraulic, spilling four men into the creek. They were able to chase down two of them, but the others disappeared downstream and were still missing. Glanville suggested that the group deflate their raft and seek help from a nearby farmhouse. He then continued downstream but found no one. That evening John Tenz, 57, and Daniel Zalasko, 48 were still missing. Authorities began a massive search for the pair on air and land. Glanville made a dawn run the next day but found nothing. The bodies were recovered, days later and many miles downstream.

A sixteen-year old boy died on a church sponsored camping trip when he fell out of a raft on May 6th. Details of Brandon Cooley's death are sketchy. The accident occurred near **Hardin Flat**, on Rt. 120 near the border of Yosemite National Park. The river was probably a nearby tributary of the **South Fork of the Toulumne**. According to the San Francisco *Bee*, the coroner reported that the raft was very light weight, and unsuitable for river running whitewater. If anyone has more information on this, they should contact the AW Safety Committee.

Samuel Johnson, 74, a passenger on a commercial raft trip, died in Utah's **Cataract Canyon** on May 12th. Aida Parkinson forwarded the National Park Service Morning Report, which described the incident as follows: The river was flowing at 27,000 cfs, a high level. The 18' raft Johnson was riding flipped in Big Drop #2, putting four people in the water. Johnson washed downstream through the huge hydraulic in Satan's Gut (Big Drop #3) before he was picked up by a motorized raft. A physician on the trip attempted to revive him, but was unsuccessful. A 54-year-old woman on the trip nearly drowned and had to be evacuated by helicopter.

Another commercial rafting guest died on May 28th. James Rolf, 47, fell out of his raft in Hells Corner Gorge on the **Upper Klamath River** on the Oregon/California line. We have no details other than that he was found wearing his life vest and helmet. AW Director Kevin Lewis, who lives in California and used to be a guide on this section, reported the accident. He rates the run as a solid Class IV. "At one turbine a swimmer would take a severe beating due to the 120 foot-per-mile gradient, at two turbines things get big and a flush drowning becomes more likely. I would never want to swim that rapid!"

Vince Thompson, Webmaster of Vince's Whitewater Page, reported that Eileen DiAngelo, 44, drowned on the **Salmon River** near Riggins, Idaho on Friday, June 2nd. The river, rated Class III-IV, was running at 27,300 cfs, which is quite high. Ms. DiAngelo, who was paddling a single duck with a commercial party, wore a PFD, helmet, and wetsuit. Running last at Chittam Rapids near Vinegar Creek, she became caught in "turbulent wa-

ter," flipped, and was then pulled beneath the surface. She reappeared in an eddy some distance downstream, floating facedown in her PFD. Guides worked along the steep shoreline cliffs, pulled her from the eddy, and attempted CPR. She was then transported via raft to a nearby boat ramp, where her family waited.

Ms. DiAngelo had swum a number of times previously during the trip. Most commercial outfitters are prepared to place ducky passengers who are having difficulties inside a raft, but it is unclear if this step was indicated here. Certainly a guest who is no longer having a good run should ask for this treatment.

A man died on the **Lower Youghiogheny** on June 26th. Willie Pate, 46, was paddling a rented double duck with a woman who had been down the river before. The water level was a moderate 1'8". The pair was alone when they reached Dimple Rapid. Here they were swept against Dimple Rock and capsized. No one witnessed the accident, but those familiar with the site speculate that he got hung up underwater on the slightly undercut upstream face of the rock. His partner flushed through the rapid. When Pate did not appear at the bottom, she asked some kayakers who were hanging out downstream at Swimmer's Hole to help search for him. As they moved upstream, they saw Pate float by unconscious. He was picked up by local guides, who performed CPR and radioed for help. They were unable to revive him. This is the second fatality at Dimple Rock in two years. This spot deserves serious respect from river runners

Miscellaneous

On April 23rd a man was killed when his powerboat stalled out in the fast moving **Des Plaines River** and went over Hoffman Dam. The man was killed; his wife clung to a tree branch and was rescued. John Nelson, who sent in the report, says you can see a warning sign perched on the lip of the dam in news reports. He thinks it ought to say, "If you can read this, you're too dam close!"

Also on April 23rd, a 16-year old girl was rescued after being pinned underneath her canoe. Carly Boehm was trapped under water when her canoe pinned around a bridge pillar during the Ridge to River Relay on the **Wenatchee River** in Washington. Rescue workers were on the scene in minutes, a winch was lowered from a fire truck and sheriff's deputies in a boat below attached it to the canoe. When the winch could not pull the canoe free, deputies rammed the canoe until it broke free. A second boat pulled her from the river and rushed Carly to an ambulance. Doctors were able to restart her heart at a local hospital. They said that the icy water lowered her body temperature to 77 degrees F, and that this probably saved her life.

Rescue squads pulled kayakers from the river in several areas. Slim Ray sent an e-mail describing a rescue on the **Delaware River** near Lambertville, NJ. On January 13th a Lambertville police officer heard cries for help from a solo paddler who was floating through Class II+ Lambertville Rapids. This is a wide, icy river and self-rescue would be tough. The Lambertville-New Hope Rescue Squad launched their Yankee Airboat from a downstream eddy, pulled the man from the river, and took him to a local hospital where he was treated for hypothermia. The presence of a second paddler would have probably made this rescue unnecessary.

On February 20th a state police helicopter picked up alone kayaker who was stranded after flipping on a mid-stream pour over on the **Potomac River** at White Horse Ledges near Harpers Ferry, WV. The river was high following recent rains, and observers said that he did not seem to have the skills to paddle this big, wide river safely. The man was helped to an island by other kayakers, but he became hypothermic, prompting a decision to call for help. A Maryland State Police helicopter arrived and transported him to a hospital in Frederic, MD where he was admitted and treated for hypothermia.

Rich Kulawaliec reported that on March 22nd firefighters found two men clinging to branches after floodwaters on Eastern Pennsylvania's **Brandywine Creek** wrapped their red ABS canoe around a large tree. No PFDs were worn by this pair, who claimed that they were trying to rescue their cat! The Concordville, PA Fire Department and Fame Fire Company from West Goshen, PA launched a hard-shell powerboat. They picked up the first man fairly easily, but the powerboat hit debris while trying to get to the second man and stalled out. The engine restarted after a few tense moments. Kulawaliec and his wife paddle a red slalom canoe, and neighbors were asking for weeks whether they were the ones that got pulled from the river!

Someone posted an "April Fool's Day" report about a drowning that resulted when Arab and Israeli soldier supposedly drew guns on each other during a "Peace Trip" on Israel's Jordan River and started shooting. In my opinion, this sort of thing is not funny, and it undermines the credibility of the sites where this falsehood was disseminated. There were several other, non-safety related, hoax postings on sites that caused others concern this year.

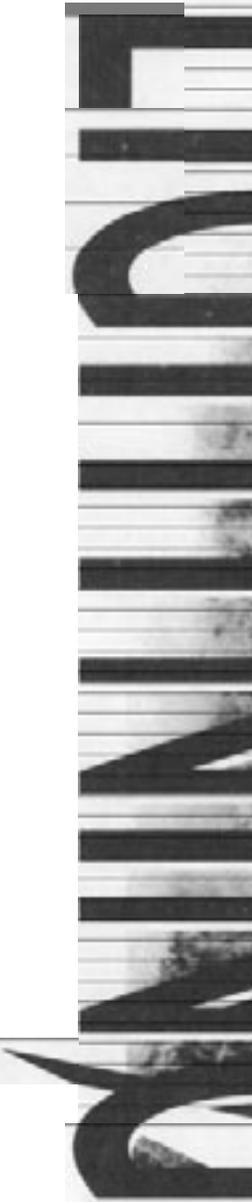
On May 11th three local boys got more than they bargained for when their raft got snagged under the Route 69 Bridge over **Fish Creek**, a popular Class III+ run in Taburg, NY. One boy remained in the raft while his buddies swam to shore and called for help. Firefighters lowered a harness over the railing of the bridge to the boy, and a few minutes later raised him to safety.

On June 16th the Lambertville-New Hope Rescue Squad's Yankee Airboat swamped and sank there during a training exercise at medium-high water. This type of craft, which some experts say is somewhat top-heavy, is often seen in the Everglades. The one used by the rescue squad has a reinforced bottom that allows it to skim over rocks, and it has made many rescues on the Lower Delaware over the years. Crewmembers, who were wearing life vests, escaped without injury. High water made locating the boat difficult, but it was finally found on June 23rd. It is apparently in pretty bad shape, and the group is preparing for salvage operations.

I'd like to thank everyone who sent the e-mails, news clippings, and Internet postings that formed the basis of this report. This summary would not be possible without your help. Please continue to send us this material. Don't worry, we don't mind getting duplicate submissions! Be sure to let us know if your name or any other information in a report should be kept confidential. Please send it to Charlie Walbridge, AW Safety Editor, Rt. 1, Box A43B, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525; Phone 304-379-9002; E-mail: ccwalbridge@cs.com.

SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMING

Lee Belknap and Charlie Walbridge are creating a group of knowledgeable people to serve as a resource for American Whitewater's staff, board, and volunteers. They will periodically be asked for advice about the future direction of AW's river safety program. We are interested in active paddlers with a special interest in river safety and rescue, especially play boaters and creek boaters. We are also looking for paddlers who are actively working in rescue squads, parks, and government agencies. E-mail access is a must! Slim Ray and Clay Wright have already agreed to participate. If you would like to help, or can recommend someone, send information to rivergypsy@sprintmail.com (Lee Belknap) or ccwalbridge@cs.com (Charlie Walbridge).



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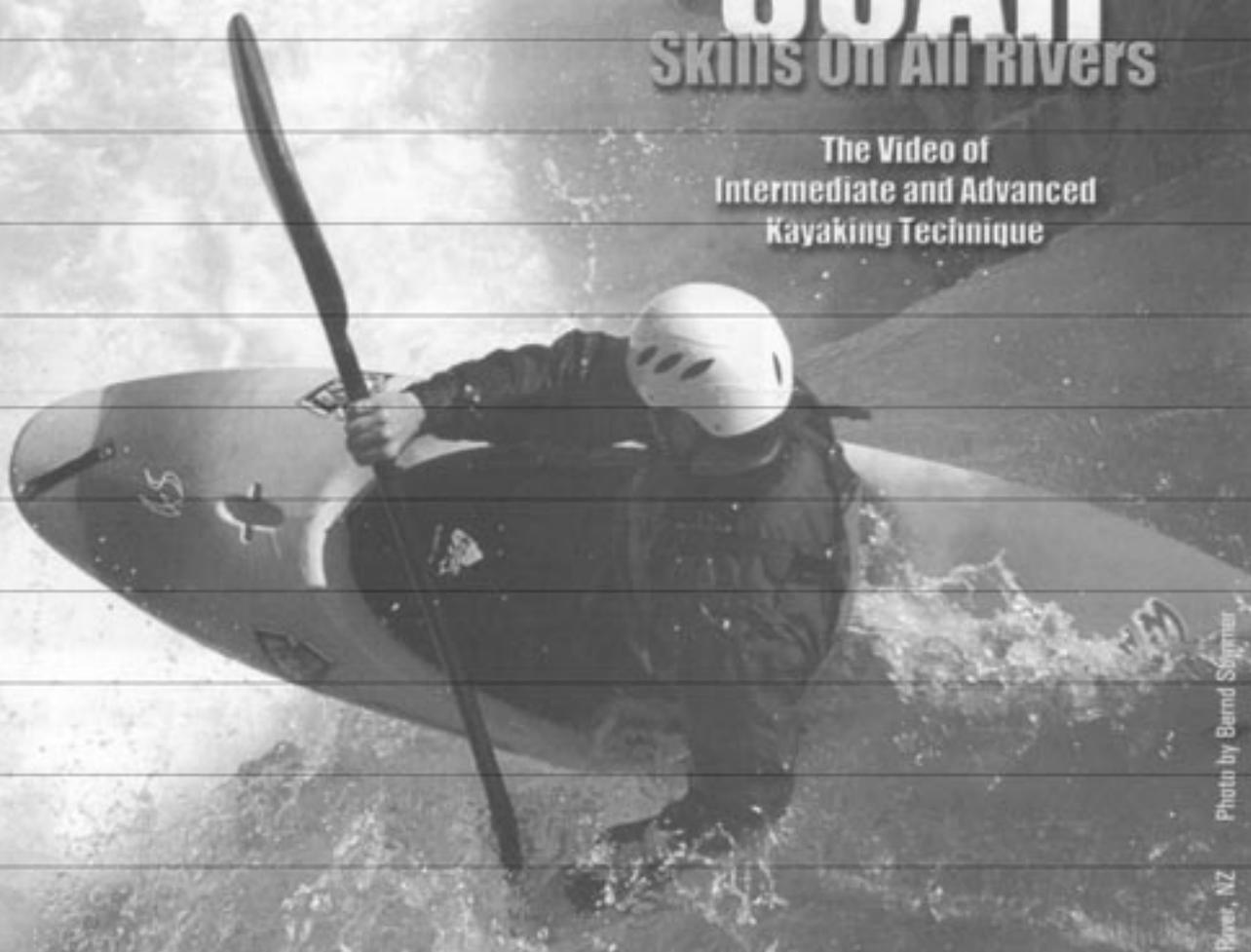
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Kayaking is Safer Than You Might Think (really!)

Laura Wittmann, Access Assistant

Editor's Note: Laura Wittmann has been working as an assistant to the Access Director for the past couple of years. In December, Laura finishes her Master's Degree in ESL teaching and leaves for Maine where her husband has taken a job teaching physics at the university. We wish her the best and will particularly miss her vibrant enthusiasm. Look out for the Wittmanns on Maine's lakes and rivers in 2001!

Although whitewater boating fatalities have been getting increased attention in the last couple of years, the fatality rate for whitewater kayaking (2.9 in 1998 per 100,000 participants) is not nearly as high as the number of recent deaths would lead you to believe. In fact, in comparison with other sports, it is safer than scuba diving (3.5) and climbing on rock, snow, or ice (3.2). In fact, driving a car is substantially more dangerous than whitewater boating, as the fatality rate for driving a passenger vehicle is 15.2. Above all, don't be a taxi driver (324.0) who moonlights as an Alaskan commercial fisherman (140.0)!

The fatality rate for whitewater boating can be examined using several methods and different numbers. Based on our research and the research done by Jennifer Plyler, the Safety Assistant to Charlie Walbridge, we calculated fatality rates for both user days and for number of participants. The American Whitewater standard estimated number of K1 whitewater participants in the United States is 700,000. In 1998 there were 20 whitewater kayak deaths in the United States, from which we calculated a 2.9 fatality rate for whitewater kayakers. Also, using a study described below of thirty managed rivers in the United States, we calculated a fatality rate of 0.87 per 100,000 user days over a five-year period (1994-1998) for all whitewater boaters, including private and commercial boaters as well as kayakers, canoers, and rafters. Using the same study, the fatality rate for all whitewater boaters in the United States in 1998 was 1.1 per 100,000 user days. Finally, the fatality rate for all human-powered boaters (flatwater, whitewater, and ocean) for 1995 (the latest available data) was 0.4 per 100,000 participants^m.



Chart 1: Kayaking, Canoeing, Rafting Fatality Rates (per 100,000 Participants)

K1 whitewater participants (1998)	2.9
Human-powered boaters (flatwater, ocean, whitewater) (1995)	0.4

Chart 2: Kayaking, Canoeing, Rafting Fatality Rates (per 100,000 User Days)

All whitewater craft; 1998 (based on managed-river study; 1998)	1.1
All whitewater craft from 1994-1998 (based on managed-river study)	0.86

User-day Study: In March 2000, American Whitewater completed a study on whitewater safety and usage. Our study was designed to determine a national whitewater fatality rate, based on measured levels of use on managed rivers. We found that there was an average of 0.86 fatalities per 100,000

whitewater boaters (both private and commercial) over a five-year (1994-1998) period. In 1998, the whitewater fatality rate for these same rivers was 1.15. This number represents a maximum fatality rate as the total use private numbers are almost certainly underreported.

Rivers Studied

American, South Fork	Illinois	Salmon, Middle
Arkansas	Kennebec	Selway
Chattooga	Nantahala	Skagit
Colorado (Cataract)	Ocoee	Snake (Alpine Canyon)
Colorado (Grand Canyon)	Owyhee	Snake (Hells Canyon)
Colorado (Westwater)	Rio Chama	Tuolumne
Deschutes	Rio Grande (Big Bend)	Yampa (Dinosaur)
Dolores	Rio Grande (Taos Box)	Yough, Lower
Green (Desolation and Gray)	Rogue	
Green (Dinosaur)	Salmon, Main	

Method: We contacted officials for 35 managed rivers and asked for usage figures for private and commercial boaters, and whitewater boating fatality data for the last five years. Of the 35 agencies contacted, 30 supplied data fitting our study requirements. For instance, the New and Gauley did not record or provide private boater numbers for the last five years, so their data was not included in the overall fatality rate. In general, usage numbers represented numbers of boaters counted each day, whether an individual boater ran a particular river once or several times a year. Since the commercial rafting companies were required to turn in usage numbers each season, their totals are significantly more accurate than private use counts. Each agency had its own method of counting private boaters, which varied substantially from agency to agency. Among the possible variables were the length of the counting season, how rented boats were counted, and whether private boaters were even counted at all.

Results: The total number of commercial boaters in a five-year period was 5,732,683; the total number of private boaters was 1,687,880, for a total of 7,420,563 whitewater boaters in a five-year period. During this period there were 64 whitewater boating deaths, including 26 commercial boater deaths and 38 private boater deaths. Eleven non-boater deaths (falling off cliffs, jumping off bridges) were also reported and subsequently omitted from the total. We calculated 0.86 whitewater fatalities per 100,000 boaters, or 2.25 private boater deaths per 100,000 and 0.45 commercial boater deaths per 100,000. The river with the greatest number of deaths was the Arkansas in Colorado, with 17 deaths in five years.

Comments: American Whitewater believes that this overall whitewater fatality rate based on user days would certainly have been even lower if more accurate number of private boaters had been available. Although our calculations are correct from the data we had, we feel that the number of private boaters is grossly underrepresented. If there is an optional requirement for you to sign in at your favorite managed river, please do so, if only to help our data-gathering to go more smoothly. We did not ask for the details of each fatality, so we do not know the causes or whether they could have been prevented. However, we *certainly encourage you to always wear your PFD and to boat safely*. Also, if you are involved in, or witness, a whitewater accident please let Charlie Walbridge know the details of the event. One interesting aspect of this study was that American Whitewater's data did not directly match with the data from the Coast Guard. Although Jennifer Plyler, the Safety Assistant, has been working on matching both data sets, any help is greatly appreciated. Charlie can be contacted at (304) 379-9002 or ccwalbridge@cs.com. You may also contact Jason Robertson at (301) 589-9453 or access@amwhitewater.org.

Chart 3: 1998 Fatality Rate^b in the United States

ACTIVITY ^a	FATALITY RATE ^b 1998
Taxi Driver	324.0
Mining Jobs	24.3
Forestry, Fishing, Agricultural Jobs	
Alaskan Commercial	140.0
Fishing (1996) ^h	22.1
Passenger Automobile	15.2
Construction Jobs	13.9
Recreational Boating ⁱ (registered 100,000 vessels)	6.5
Falls at home	4.0
Scuba Diving (1996) ^g	3.5
Climbing: rock, snow, ice ^{kk} (1997)	3.2
K1 White water boating^h	2.9
Swimming ^g	2.6
Pedestrians	2.2
Bicycling ^l	1.6
Fires at home	1.2
Drowning (in public places)	0.9
White water boating (based on 94-98 user days)^h	0.86
Hunting (1997)	0.7
Ski / Snowboarding ^l	0.4
Firearms (accidental)	0.1
Lightning	0.02

Chart 4: Total Number of Deaths in the United States (1998)

ACTIVITY ^a	TOTAL DEATHS (1998)
Passenger Automobile	41,200
Falls at home	10,700
Pedestrians	5,900
Fires at home	3,300
Drowning (in public places)	2,400
Swimming ^g	1,500
Construction Jobs	1,120
Recreational Boating ⁱ (registered vessels)	815
Forestry, Fishing, Agricultural Jobs	780
Bicycling ^l	700
Firearms (accidental)	200
Mining Jobs	150
Hunting ^l	99
Firemen ^l	91
Taxi Drivers ^c	86
White water boatingⁱ (1998 total on all rivers)	62
	20 kayak, 16 canoe, 6 raft, 20 other;
	4 commercial, 58 private
Policemen ^l	61
Parachuting	47
Hornets, wasps, bees (1996)	45
Lightning (1997)	42
Climbing: rock, snow, ice (1997) ^{kk}	31
Ski / Snowboarding 926: 22 skiers: 4 snowboarders	
Alaskan Commercial Fishermen (1996) ^d	13
Hang Gliding	9
Fireworks	2

^a Unless otherwise noted, statistics are from National Safety Council (1999). *Injury Facts*.

^b Fatality rate per 100,000 participants (except Lightning, Falls, Fires, Drowning, Motor Vehicles, Pedestrians, and Firearms, which are per 100,000 population).

^c National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health "Identifying High-Risk Small Business Industries" (May 1999) DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 99-107.

^d National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health "Commercial Fishing Fatalities in Alaska" (1997) DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 97-163.

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^f National Sporting Goods Association (1998, 1997). *Sports Participation*. As reported in "NSAA Report on Skiing1 Snowboarding Safety." (October 1999). <http://www.skinet.com/instruction/00/983.html>.

^g Wittmann, Laura (Sept. 1 Oct. 2000). "Whitewater Boating Fatality Study." *American Whitewater Journal*.

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ⁱ FBI Clarksburg, WV. As quoted in Owenshine, Gordon. (May 7, 2000). "Police Fatalities Decrease." *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

^j The American Alpine Club (1998). *1998 Accidents in North American Mountaineering*.

^k Williamson, Jedd. Editor of *Accidents in North American Mountaineering*. Phone Conversation July 12, 2000.

^l Plyler, Jennifer. (2000). "Comparison of American Whitewater Safety Statistics to the U.S. Coast Guard." Unpublished Data. American Whitewater Safety Assistant.

^m Sporting Good Manufacturers Association (SGMA) and the USDA Forest Service. Cordell, Ken, McDonald, Barbara & Briggs, J. Alden. (1995). *Emerging Markets for Outdoor Recreation in the United States based on the National Survey on Recreation and Environment*. www.outdoorlink.com/infosource.nsr.



Losing your Fear of Holes



By Tanya Shuman
Photos by Eric Southwick

I can remember not long ago I was terrified of big holes. Okay, let's be realistic...any hole. My first question was always, "How sticky is the hole?"



hoping that the person would reply, "Oh, it isn't sticky at all." My usual ride consisted of getting in and out of a hole as soon as possible. I set world records getting in and out of holes. The thought of trying

a trick was out of the question. I was in survival mode, worried about staying alive.

I have to admit big holes still scare me, but I have learned to relax and enjoy them. What helped me deal with the fear while playing in holes big or small is something that I would like to share with you.

The first biggest factor was gaining confidence in my roll, which was always a worry for me. Entering the hole I would think, "Please don't swim, please don't swim in front of all these people. I don't want to be a complete loser." This led to my routine of getting in and out of holes at lightning

speeds. But after a while this got old and wasn't any fun. Everyone was having a grand time surfing, cartwheeling, spinning, etc., while I was just frantically ferrying in and out of the hole.

So I decided to get confidence in my roll. I spent countless hours in the pool rolling right, left, with paddle, without paddle. Then I tried it on the river in deep rapids where there weren't any rocks to hit. I would have a friend watch and safety rescue.

Then came the big step, going into holes and purposely rolling. Going right into the meat and flipping intentionally and rolling. That was scary at first and, yes, I did swim a ton. But with each swim I realized it wasn't that bad. The point is that it is alright to swim. It is part of the learning process. Of course, you should not be trying to roll in places like Rock Island. Choose rapids where there is a pool at the bottom and no down river hazards.

The next step was going into the hole and learning how to move forward and backward with correct body position and technique. Learning how to move in a hole helped build my confidence. I can remember some holes that I thought I would never escape. Panic would take over and I would end up swimming. But I tried and tried again. There were times when kayaking wasn't fun because I would be so terrified of getting stuck in a hole. So I started with little holes and moved up to the bigger holes. After perfecting my strokes and learning correct boat balance it became easier. I was able to move around and feel relaxed in a hole. I was no longer thinking about how to get out, but what new trick I can learn.

So my advice to overcome your fears of holes, little or big, is to have a confident roll and learn how to move about freely in a hole. With these two building blocks, I was able to start to learn basic tricks like surfing; and spinning.

Later I applied it to advanced moves like cartwheeling and blunting. I can't tell how much kayaking has changed my life for the better. There have definitely been frustrating times, but the rewards far outweigh the struggles. Remember in any sport, you are going to have good days and bad days, but it is always about the fun.



The Birth of Tude

By Bob Woodward

Someday, somebody will attempt to pinpoint the seminal moment at which attitude became part of the Personality Profile of Paddlers. To aid in future research efforts, I offer "The Klamath Incident."

It's 1978, now known as 18 BC (Before Corran), the long boat era. 13 foot Hollowform River Chasers are the boats of choice. River running is the only river game being played. And the longer the river trip, the better.

Three of us plan a mid-September four day trip down the Wild and Scenic section of Oregon's Rogue River. A search for a support raft proves fruitless until a friend says, "Call Heliotrope in Ashland. She loves to do support trips on the Rogue."

Heliotrope, no last name given or expected, accepts the support task eagerly. "Groovy," she yells into the phone and proceeds to reel off a huge list of must-have natural foods and cooking essentials. "Man," she concludes, "this is going to be very mellow. I'm getting good vibes." Far Out!

Heliotrope's shopping list filled, we head to Ashland, arriving at her house just after sunset. A very agitated, not-so-mellow woman answers our knock. "I had a Tarot reading this afternoon," she blurts out, "and, man, the signs are all wrong for this river thing." Heliotrope wilts and we repair to the nearest bar to figure out what to do.

A self-supported trip is nixed out of hand—too much pine nuts, brown rice and turnips to jam into our kayaks. Sitting around the put-in trying to hook up with another group heading down river is also rejected. It might be a long wait this time of year.

Our only option is to drive the short distance to the Klamath River and make a series of day trips. Wishing Heliotrope a lifetime of bad karma, we retreat from Ashland. The Klamath is Rogue-like in character, often wilder but not as scenic. To our surprise, the river is running unseasonably high. So we begin a series of Class III/IV daily doubles—one run in the morning, followed by a different run in the afternoon.

All is good. So good in fact that the Rogue is soon forgotten and Heliotrope is the butt of all jokes. On our last day, we plan to make one run, perhaps our hardest. It starts with a long Class IV rapid, diminishes to Class III+ for several miles, and ends with a nice Class IV ledge drop just above the take-out. We camp by the first rapid, scouting it at a dawn before heading out in search of a big breakfast. Not more than two miles down the road, a rambling roadhouse restaurant comes into view, its signboard announcing, "Loggers Specials—Eat Before You Cut".

But what's this? Hidden by the signboard but now visible as we pull in is a

compact car with two kayaks strapped on a wood rack held to the car's roof by Quick 'N Easy mounts. So, what's so extraordinary about a car with kayaks in a parking lot at a riverside restaurant? This is 1978. Just seeing other people with kayaks on their cars is cause for celebration. Kayaker sightings are like discovering that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe.

Such sightings while passing on highways are cause for frantic waving, flashing of "peace" signs and a sudden aura of well being. It's not unusual for both vehicles to screech to a halt, breaking countless traffic safety laws and caravan off on a mutual adventure.

A note about the car's rack. This is the pre-Yakima, make-you-own-rack era. Soon Don Banducci and Steve Cole will buy the Yakima music stand/kayak footbrace company and turn it into the rooftop rack company. But for now, four Quick 'N Easy mounts with 2 x 4s means a paddler-owned vehicle.

With high hopes of making new paddling friends and getting a shuttle together, we enter the restaurant. It's packed with burly loggers feasting on mounds of what appear to be food. A quick look at the menu puts names to the mounds: Special number 1- the large hippy hating, tree cutting, semi-driving, get-the-govment-out-of-our-lives special of slab o'steak, five eggs, four pancakes, hashbrowns, white toast and gravy-\$4.95; #2-the small hippy hating special (no hashbrowns or toast)-\$3.95.

Pondering our choices, we discuss how to approach the kayaking couple. She has that unmistakably well tanned southern California look; he has that certain "guess what movies I was an extra in "je ne sais quoi." After ordering the wimpy number 7 "Mini Logger," in and of itself a mound of food worthy of Henry VIII replete with chicken fried steak, I draw the short straw and amble over to make contact with our fellow paddlers.

Approaching the table, I'm immediately impressed. He's shoveling masses of the \$4.95 special into his mouth as fast as he can. She's

doing serious damage to the \$3.95 special with each bite.

"Hi," I stammer, "we noticed the kayaks on your car and wondered if you'd like to join us on the run.

"What water is it?" he interjects without looking up from his plate. She pretends I don't exist.

"Class III + with two good Class IVs," I answer.

"Are you kidding?" he says, downing a slice of steak as big as a deflated football. "Sounds kindaboring. We're looking for Class V, V+ runs. You know of any around here?"

"No. We've only been paddling for a few years and Class V is a bit out of our reach. You guys must have been paddling a long time?"

"Nah," he says corralling his remaining hashbrowns and lathering them with catsup before spooning them into his mouth. "We just started paddling six weeks ago."

Postscript

We make the run (pure fun) and draw straws to see who hitches a ride to get the car. Once again I draw the short straw. Fifteen trucks into my thumbing a beat up '52 Ford pickup grinds to a halt. The driver, pure Tammy Wynette from her beehive hairdo to her gingham shirt and blue jeans, asks, "How far you going?"

"About two miles beyond that restaurant where all the loggers stop to eat."

"Hop in."

I do, pushing a stack of 8-track tapes aside to make space on the seat.

"Put on some Elvis," she requests.

I rummage around in the stack of 8-tracks. The King provides the background for casual conversation. She admits that times are tough up here and she and the boyfriend are heading down to Redding to get better work. She also says she, "Ain't never seen no kayakers" before, let alone hitchhiking kayakers on the road. We come up on the rapids that mark the start of the run.

"That's Savage Rapids," she points out, "I hope you boys didn't run them Rapids?"

"No ma'am," I lie, "we just parked there and looked at them."

"Good, because eleven people died in them rapids last year and they ain't found but about six of the bodies."

Dead people, Class V in six weeks, big hippy hating specials on the menu, a woman named Heliotrope, Tammy's separated-at-birth twin, the King on 8-track and a '52 Ford pickup—now that's a river trip.



PiranhaUSA.com

The Kayaking Image

By Rush Sturges

First of all, the sport of kayaking isn't getting any less popular. We are not "losing paddlers." In fact, everyday whitewater recreation is expanding to anew level. With new and cool boat designs, hip gear, radical paddles, big rodeo money, incredible videos, and new moves, overall the kayaking "image" is improving. What was once considered a small strange sport suddenly looks way cool. It is beginning to attract more and more people. Most notably, within my generation. So, sorry everybody, but most magazines will not be running generic "kayaking ads." Yes, things do change. This is the evolution of all sports. And as offensive as it may be to some of you, Riot ads will always have women in Bikinis. And I must say, a hot girl in a Bikini sells. It always has and it always will. Accept it.

So is this really the new image? In several years will I see kids at my high-school

wearing cargo pants with a label reading "Immersion Research? And a T-shirt with Tao dropping a 200 footer? Sure. Why not? Isn't that all surfing is? Probably only two percent of the people sporting Quicksilver, Billabong, or Volcom are real surfers.

In a discussion the other day someone said that the kayaking industry could never become like the surfing industry. Their reasoning was that, as a sport, kayaking is not easy enough to learn and too easy to walk away from. This may be true.

However, in America, sports seem to be about the image, the pose, the fad. If that is what we want for kayaking I believe it could be possible. Despitewhat other people think, I feel it would be fairly simple for paddling to be just as popular as boarding, skating, etc. The truth is, however, that paddling is not surfing. Many of the people in our sport are

on the river for the fun of whitewater paddling. And that is great. There are also people on the river doing fakeyfree-wheel grabs over immense drops. And that's rad, too.

But which one do you think sells? Truthfully, as a fifteen-year old I am only guessing at what could happen with the sport, simply recognizing the potential. Maybe I'm only sayingwhat you guys already know. I will say, however, that not only is boating way fun, finally we see things that look cool. When I showed my buddies a video with a guy throwing multiple ends in hole, they instantly wanted to learn. "That looks way cool," they said. So I got them paddling. In time they will teach other buddies to paddle, and so on. Right there is the market for all sports.

Editor's note: Rush Sturges's family operates the Otter Bar Kayaking School in California.

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Thanks fox your support.



Whitewater Injury Survey Online

Participants Eligible for Prize

A survey is under way to gather data on types and numbers of injuries experienced by whitewater paddlers. Mike Stano, MSPT and Rick Schoen, MD based out of Seattle, WA developed the survey to look at chronic and acute injuries. The purpose of the survey is to compare injury rates and severity by age, sex, boat type, experience and types of rivers paddled.

The survey may be filled out on line at www.geocities.com/injury-survey. Detailed information is located at the site. Those who complete the survey will have their names entered into a drawing for a chance to win a gift certificate. The survey will run until the end of September. Anyone who paddles a whitewater kayak, C-1, C-2 or open canoe is eligible to complete the survey. You do not have to be injured. For further information please visit the web site or contact Mike Stano, at 425-369-0664 or e-mail mjstano@worldnet.att.net.

Briefs

Announcing WWW.AmericanWhitewater.org The All New AW Website

by Barry Grimes

AW Cyberspace Committee Chairman

Paddling a whitewater river can sometimes mean processing a lot of information to maximize the fun. You've got to know the stream or someone who does. Read guidebook descriptions, AWJournal articles, message board posts. Maybe watch videos, scan photos, and interrogate veterans or friends' brains to identify the rivers and which might be safely paddled. You need to find out if the streams are running, their latest levels and what the water volume may mean for difficulty. Perhaps find a map to understand the logistics of a shuttle and become aware of any local access or legal situations that exist.

Maybe take note of the weather prediction and possibly assess a paddling companion's skills and availability. The wvboater must gather, communicate and coordinate a vast amount of info before ever sliding into the hydraulics — typically doing it at the last minute, over the demands of family, friends, pets, homes and jobs. Figuring it all out can take a lot of time, talk, web searching, phone calls and gauge computations just to make it to the put-in.

Now, with help from the StreamKeepers (see article by StreamMaster Matt Muir in this issue of AWJournal) and paddlers everywhere sharing what they know, Phase I of the all new, massive, American Whitewater river database and web site, designed by Class V paddler and database programmer Scott Collins, and a team of dedicated AW staff and volunteers, is currently open to the public at www.AmericanWhitewater.org.

AW's powerful new home on the internet provides anyone into whitewater sport with a single, comprehensive river info source and communication tool that may be customized to deliver the specific river information they seek. American Whitewater has formed partnerships with members, volunteers, software programmers, sponsors, as well as the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Environmental Protection Agency and National Park Service's National River Inventory to make this a unique and unequalled online resource.

Here are a few of the exciting and unique AmericanWhitewater.org features available right now:

AWRiver database - The most comprehensive collection of whitewater river information on the planet. Thanks to the hundreds of "river information volunteers" or StreamKeepers (SKs) across the country, every wvriver in the U.S., and eventually the western hemisphere will have watching over it committed individuals, knowledgeable about their chosen streams working to keep the information available in the database verified and updated. Online input forms will also allow wvriver information submitted from the paddling public to be reviewed and included into the database. Advanced search and e-mail/web reporting capabilities will truly make this the ultimate river information tool for wvpaddlers everywhere.

RiverBot - A program designed and donated by AW member and wvpaddling programmer Christian Skalka. This innovative web bot will automatically seek out user-selected, online wvriver gauges from the USGS and other sources (including visually reported

readings from SKs) and report them daily via e-mail message or to an AmericanWhitewater.org web visitor's customized "My InfoStream" web page. In the coming months, Riverbot will also gain the ability to deliver gauge and river reports via wireless transmission to cell phones, pagers, and other personal communication devices.

My InfoStream - All visitors to AmericanWhitewater.org will be able to freely browse and use the new AW web site and for those who register there will also be the opportunity to create a customizable "wvhome page" that will deliver their own specific Riverbot gauge reports, all newly posted information received into the web site about their designated "home streams," customized www bookmarks, weather links, search engine choices as well as automatically receive up-to-date and immediate, important AW access, conservation, safety, and event information. The My InfoStream pages are designed to be the wvpaddler's one stop info gathering source for a variety of whitewater sport and web resources.

InFlow Message Board - Unlike most other wvmessage boards currently in existence, selected Inflow postings are integrated directly into the main AWRiver database. River trip reports, gear reviews, safety and technique advice and other useful, shared information from the paddling public will be identified by volunteer Inflow moderators for database inclusion allowing for cataloging, archiving and expanded search capabilities.

@AmericanWhitewater.org E-mail Addresses - Free to all AW members. Register and reserve your river address now!

Click to Save Rivers! When you visit the AW web site you will find only a few ads, but just by clicking on those of interest you will automatically generate money for American Whitewater - and your local AW Affiliated club or organization. AW will be giving back 50% of the revenue generated through its visitors click actions directly to AW Affiliates for application to grass roots river conservation projects. The more members registering and designating a particular AW Affiliate, the more money that Affiliate will receive. In addition if you consent to allow AW's commercial sponsors to send selected outdoor recreation related ads to you via your Riverbot e-mails or My InfoStream web pages you will be helping to directly generate even more money for American Whitewater to use to protect and free wvivers for paddling.

In addition to these features the new AmericanWhitewater.org also provides a strong political tool for use by wvpaddlers working to conserve, free and open up wvivers everywhere. You can investigate state navigability laws, liability and recreational use statues as well as report access problems and check out and act upon pending state and

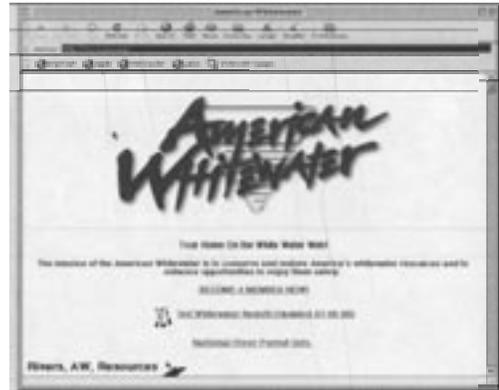
federal legislation affecting your wvstreams. Find out how to open up and protect your local streams from closure or dewatering plus how to volunteer your time or skills to help in the effort.

AW has always been about paddling wvivers safely and the new website continues this effort with a comprehensive database of accident reports, and accident report forms and statistics. Download and print out the AW Safety Code to pass out at paddling clinics plus find safety related articles and safety contact information. By registering, you may also choose to receive safety bulletins via your RiverBot e-mail messages and My InfoStream page.

Festivals and river events are now easily found in the AW Events pages. It's simple to register your events online and check out the handy calendar with links for the events near you. By visiting AmericanWhitewater.org you can even download an comprehensive handbook detailing exactly how to create a local event or festival to raise funds for your wvivers.

AmericanWhitewater.org visitors can locate contacts and links to AW Affiliates and personal web pages. AW members may electronically make donations, renew membership and pay dues plus make address changes online. Visitors may order and purchase AW logo merchandise and check out the comprehensive river recreation business listings in the Gear, Guides and Services directory.

AmericanWhitewater.org is the ultimate internet tool enabling paddlers to quickly find out the information they need to find, paddle and safely enjoy whitewater rivers. The massive ongoing effort to create a useful and optimum online wvriver info source will only be able to continue with the active participation of wvboaters everywhere willing to volunteer and share what they know. More information will ultimately equal more wvflow and the collective power will help obtain it. So next time your paddling you're electronic surfing machine click into the eddy at <http://www.americanwhitewater.org> and be sure to pick it up and give it up for whitewater.



Scott Collins Joins AW as Web Design Consultant

Meet Scott Collins, AW's lead programmer and staff web design consultant leading the new AmericanWhitewater.org website construction effort. Scott is 21 years old and was born in Takoma Park, MD and is currently living in Portland, Oregon.

His first time in a kayak was as a prenatal on Section III of the Chatooga. He soloed in a kayak at Age 11 on the Potomac River. Scott claims to have become addicted to wvkayaking while paddling the Tellico River in Tennessee @ 4,000cfs during the summer of '97. The owner of three kayaks, a Gradient, Forplay, and Stubby Scott lists the steepest drop he has paddled to date as Spirit Falls, on the Little White Salmon, WA.

Scott has paddled in Nepal, France, Honduras, and Mexico and lists his favorite whitewater runs as the Jatate in Mexico, Little White Salmon in Washington, Oh-Be-Joyful in Colorado, and the Green in North Carolina.

Scott's mother introduced him to kayaking outside of the womb at age 11, when he spent summers kayaking on the Potomac. Things got a little more serious when he got his driver's license and a map of West Virginia. When he began working summers at the Nantahala Outdoor Center, it was all over. He had fallen in love with the wvsport and spent all his free time on the river. Scott soon attained ACA Instructor Certification and taught whitewater kayaking for the NOC. At the same time he was trying to finish school as quickly as possible, because it was interfering with his boating. The result was a Computer Science degree from the University of Maryland in just 3 years.

After graduation Scott took a year to travel, leading trips for KayakMexico plus paddling in Colorado, Washington, Oregon, California, and the Grand Canyon. During this time he also put together a paddling website, paddlesource.com, with gauge readings and river descriptions. American Whitewater eventually contacted him to find a web designer who knew programming as well as paddling. It seems AW found the right person—a Class V programmer and paddler!

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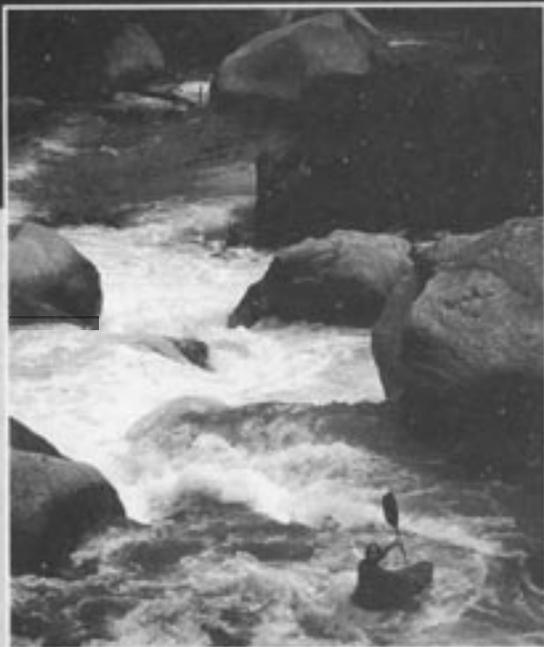
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Catching the Last Eddy: In Memory of Hunt Charach

By Andy Reese

On July 10, 2000, Hunt Charach lost his battle with cancer. Hunt was an avid kayaker, and vice-president of the West Virginia Wildwater Association. He was 44 years old.

Hunt was a fixture on West Virginia's rivers, especially the big southern rivers, the New and the Gauley. Rec Boats Paddle regulars will recall his harrowing tale of swimming Double-Z in the New Gorge at high levels and losing his boat. Doubtless he had many other "whitewater tales of terror" to share. It's difficult to say how many people Hunt introduced to the sublime pleasures of whitewater paddling, although I've read more than one trip report in which fledgling paddlers drew inspiration and confidence from him.

Hunt had a special place in his heart for the "middle" section of the Gauley River.

One of his message board postings admonished "newbie" paddlers to forsake the warm, microbe-filled waters of the upper New River, and instead to join him on the cool, clean middle Gauley.

I had a chance to paddle with Hunt this past April on a WVWA club trip on the lower Cranberry River. At the put-in I noticed that Hunt looked gaunt and frail, and soon had to take out just a mile or so into the run. Later as we ate lunch, my paddling buddies informed me of Hunt's aggressive cancer.

The U.S. Public Defender for the state's southern federal court district, Hunt, was diagnosed with cancer last year.

"He demanded excellence from himself and everyone who worked with him," said First Assistant U.S. Public Defender Ed Weis,

who worked with Charach since 1989. "He also brought a great deal of energy to the office."

Born in California, and raised in New York, he transferred to Concord College in West Virginia, because he liked the state so much.

Charach attended law school at the University of Tulsa, graduating first in his class. He began his legal career as a federal law clerk, and joined the district's public defender's office as an assistant in 1988.

He was 34 when tapped to head the office in 1989, becoming one of the youngest public defenders in the nation. He was reappointed in 1994 and 1998.

Charach led a small but dedicated band of lawyers assigned to represent people charged with federal crimes who were too poor to hire their own lawyers.

Charach played guitar for the Trusty House Band, which performs Appalachian and Celtic music at local FOOTMAD dances and similar events.

He is survived by his wife, Teresa and his mother, Clarice Mirazo.

Paddlemania Worldwide Reviewed

By Greg Akins

More of an extreme sport brochure than a paddling video, Paddlemania Worldwide highlights extreme sports including, but not limited to whitewater paddling.

Paul Tefft is an excellent producer. His videos have polish that many other kayaking films lack. Because of his excellent filmmaking skills, Paddlemania Worldwide seems more like an extreme sports video-postcard than the typical steep drop, hair-fest.

Unfortunately, this distinction may be lost on many new-school boaters. Trained to watch hours upon hours of left-side cartwheeling, younger boaters might not appreciate the appeal of traveling to exotic destinations and trying 'alternative' sports. However, before the term "park-and-play" was coined, boaters often described themselves as drivers who just happened to boat a couple hours every weekend.

This video is for those people. Most of the paddling is on Class IV whitewater. Most of the paddlers are of moderate skill level. But they show, through Paul's interpretive filmmaking, that paddling is more than just playing on the river. The video includes trips to Nepal, Mexico, Hawaii and other exotic locations. Along the way, sports like snowboarding, surfboarding, and skiing receive equal billing alongside whitewater kayaking. And Frank Gambali, a non-kayaker, is featured for his contribution to the sport of BASE jumping.

This adds a dimension not usually found in kayaking videos. To add that dimension to your video library, call Enviro-Action Sports at 970-923-3955 or surf to www.enviro-actionsports.com.

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Emergency Rebreather Proposal & Survey

My name is Vincent Aszman, the father of a fine 19-year-old young man who drowned while kayaking on Oregon's Bull Run River on March 1, 1999. He was trapped underwater against a strainer when the river's force rolled him and collapsed his kayak. Approximately 20 minutes later his partner, through great risk to himself, cut free the tree that held him. It was too late. My son was found 40 days later miles down river.

David used the best equipment available, but like so many others, it did not save his life. This brings us the purpose of this survey. I have been in contact with a designer of rebreathers and a company that manufactures military rebreathers. I asked them if it would be possible to incorporate a small rebreather into a life vest for emergency situations. The response was positive, but they need a market survey to justify research and development. Please take a few minutes and complete the survey to help me help you.

This survey is a market input study to determine two things:

1. Is there enough interest to invest the funds for research and development?
2. To solicit consumer input on design and cost parameters.

The product is a whitewater life vest with a built in breathing device called a rebreather.

A rebreather is a device that allows you to recycle the air in your lungs by passing it through a filter. A mouthpiece is used to expel the air in your lungs through a chemical filter which removes the carbon dioxide. In the bag, oxygen is added, then the air you breathed out is inhaled back in. Air contains 21% oxygen and 79% nitrogen. Nitrogen isn't used by the body, whereas oxygen is. Oxygen reacts with the body combining with sugar (fuel) to burn (metabolize) and creates carbon dioxide, which eliminates a molecule of oxygen for every molecule of carbon dioxide created. Removing carbon dioxide must be countered by adding oxygen. A 2"x6" bottle pressurized to 3000 psi would provide about 30 minutes of breathable gas. This depends on the metabolic rate of the person using it and can vary considerably, depending on his/her size and situation. A person in a panic will use air faster than one who is breathing much slower.

The intent of a rebreather is to increase one's chance of survival when trapped underwater, to give the trapped person that critical 5 to 15 minutes for a rescue to take place.

Send survey responses to: gustovh@pacifier.com or Vincent Aszman, 434 N.E. Liberty, Gresham Or. 97030

Rebreather Survey

1. Are you a:
 - Kayaker
 - Rafting
 - Canoeist
 - Other _____
2. Years of experience? _____
3. Number of days a year wearing a life vest: _____
 - Playing _____
 - Working _____
4. Have you ever been in or assisted in a water rescue?
 - Yes
 - No
5. Do you think a rebreather could be a reasonable safety device?
 - Yes
 - No
6. If No to #5, why? _____

7. What additional weight would you deem reasonable to add to the vest?
 - _____ 1/4 lb.
 - _____ 1/2 lb.
 - _____ 3/4 lb.
 - _____ 1 lb.
8. Where on/in the life vest you prefer the additional bulk, if any, to be located?
 - Front
 - Back
 - Other _____
9. How much extra vest thickness/bulk would you accept for such a device?
 - _____ 1/2"
 - _____ 3/4"
 - _____ 1"
 - _____ 1-2"
 - _____ 2-3"
10. Where would you prefer the mouthpiece be located for accessibility?
 - Shoulder
 - Under the chin
 - Center chin
 - Other _____
11. How would you want a device like this to be activated? i.e. by pulling a ring like a grenade. _____
12. Keep in mind that the longer the device is intended to function, the bigger the device must be. What would consider optimal duration for the rebreather?
 - 5 minutes
 - 10 minutes
 - 15 minutes
 - 20 minutes
 - Other
13. What would a reasonable cost for this rebreather be?
 - \$200 \$350
 - \$250 \$400
 - \$300 Other
14. List any questions, concerns, or ideas.

Send results to Vincent Aszman, 434 N.E. Liberty, Greshman, Oregon 97030 or to gustovh@pacifier.com

Or *WV* do a clean 720, a vert end...
 Throw me into a monster hole, to a cartwheel
 to a splitwheel then let's *swap ten ends*
 thrill me little luv boat... *turn me around...*
 squirt me out...
 make life fun again...
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Marc Reisner's passing

As the Journal goes to press, we learned that one of the greatest friends of whitewater and rivers has died of cancer at his home in California. Marc Reisner's passing at the age of only 51 stills the nation's strongest voice for river restoration and common sense water management. A devoted husband and father of two daughters, Marc leaves several major writing projects unfinished and a substantial major public speaking and consensus process career behind.

Besides his family, Marc leaves behind a legacy few can boast. His major oeuvre, Cadillac Desert, told the tale of determined engineers and politicians who conspired to plug up the West's major river arteries, leaving behind pauperized riverine ecosystems, vast irrigated farms, and profligate human colonies totally dependent on gigantic water projects which transport lifeblood hundreds of miles to deserts God never intended be inhabited or farmed. This book and his many speeches (including one at an AW Board Meeting several years ago) spawned a highly acclaimed PBS TV special about these water projects and their progeny and the recent multi-page Time Magazine article. Like Rachel Carson did for the environmental movement decades before, Marc's work has spawned a revolution in American thinking about the importance of free flowing rivers. The emerging dam removal movement and a growing army of determined dam busters across the nation will echo his work and credo for decades to come.

AW will be joining other organizations and individuals in an effort to leverage Marc's great work for river restoration through the creation of a national Reisner River Fund. Long time friend and AW Boardmember, Pete Skinner, will be preparing a larger article about Marc and this Fund in the next issue of the Journal.





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1. in which any style can
be used 2. fresh,
innovative ways to
playboat including
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3. creativity which
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