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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 12, 2011
at 7:00 PM

Keen Footwear
926 NW 13th Street, Suite 210
Portland, OR 97209

RIVER TIP

Submitted by Tom Hanson

When adding counterweights to your oars, be advised that they will no longer float so you had better tie them in.



Oregon WHITewater ASSOCIATION

Volume 12 Number 1

January 2011



Annual New Year's Day Float on the Sandy River

January 1, 2011 • Submitted by Brenda Bunce and Val Shaull

New Year's Day on the Sandy River is a perfect way to begin the new year. Old friends and new friends gather at Dodge Park to run seven miles of Sandy River down to Oxbow Park. It was a perfect 27 degrees, no rain and 2,900 CFS. This was much lower than the last two years when we ran it at 4,500 and 9-13,000 CFS respectively. We were approximately 30 boats, 70 people and two dogs. A few people swam in a rapid but were quickly recovered. Even Katy the dog shook off a cold swim. The weather never rose above freezing as ice and icicles jetted out from the cliffs and the river banks. Most folks felt the frigid temperature around the last bend to the take-out as the wind chill picked up, but everyone was still smiling and ready to fill their bellies with fabulous barbecue. The barbecue that followed the float was provided by the Disabled Americans Veterans and the rest of us brought potluck that was very much appreciated by all.

~Brenda

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Oregon Whitewater Association is dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting Oregon's rivers for the safe enjoyment of both public and private non-motorized boating, now and in the future. We advocate fairness in accessibility to river resources and provide a voice for responding to river issues and management concerns.



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The advertisement for Cascade Outfitters features a central image of various river equipment including a kayak, a hat, a tackle box, and a life vest. Below this, the website www.cascadecufitters.com and phone number 800-223-7238 are listed. The background of the ad shows a river with a campsite featuring a white tarp and a tent. At the bottom, a banner reads "Your Source for Top Quality Rafts, Kayaks, and River Equipment for Over 30 Years".

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Happy New Year!

As every year, we started out the new year with a bang on the Sandy river float from Dodge Park to Oxbow. Thanks to Team River Runners for a fabulous barbecue. We were approximately 70 in all and had a great river level of 2,900 CFS, no rain and 28 degrees.

Our next meeting will be held at Keen Footwear in downtown Portland on January 12th. Vic LeGall, of Goodwater Boat works, will give a presentation on inflatable boat FIELD repairs. Come check out the tips on creating and maintaining a good field repair kit and basic raft repair while on the river.

Our February 9 meeting will be at the Clackamas Aquatic pool. Instead of our regular meeting at Stark Street Pizza, we will have several people facilitating training sessions to practice your river skills. Come on out to practice your throw bag skills, knot-tying, flipping boats and setting up Z-drag. For those that take advantage of this opportunity to really practice your rescue skills, there will be an opportunity TO WIN THE DOOR PRIZE FOR A FREE SHUTTLE TO HENRY'S DELI for all those who attend.

First Aid and CPR with AED certification – Sign up with Dan Alsup for a February 12th class for only a \$35.00 cost. The location is to be determined and will be announced at the January meeting.

Our 2011 trip calendar is filled with many river trips. Step up and lead your favorite trip for an exciting new year. Stay tuned for our latest updates on our website. We are changing to a more dynamic and interactive website with improved options and more information. As always, you can renew your membership with Pay Pal on the home page.

Our next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 25. Come join us and give us your ideas for what you would like to see more of from your club.

Happy boating,
Brenda

“Do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am – a reluctant enthusiast ... a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it's still here. So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness.”

~ Edward Abbey – *Desert Solitaire*



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LOW-WATER RIVER TIPS

Submitted by David and Kendra Summers

Here is a list of tips made after a late season, low-water river trip:

Self rescue is a must – rock-dancing midstream while pulling your boat over rocks is required. Thus, pack light and pack so you may quickly jump back onto a moving boat from all sides.

Cat boats with no floor were our preferred boat—one may push off rocks without scrambling completely out of the boat.

Low pressure on the cat tubes worked best; especially if the cat tubes were designed to have full-length inner and outer tubes versus two separate front and back air chambers.

High clearance frames seemed to be essential.

Spare oars and blades are required; especially due to the fact that unattended oars will find a rock to jam into while you are scrambling to jump back onto a moving boat bouncing off boulders.

Feathering blades is a must.

Plan for twice the time to cover the miles – this is due to the low water and traversing side to side due to rocks. In late season, days are also shorter.

The ability to read and run is necessary as the rocks are so abundant.

Lash all D-rings to the frame to help stabilize a soft boat in pulling it off rocks.

Needless to say, pack a good repair kit, first aid kit, and carry rescue signal devices. We packed for freezing temperatures, but we lucked out with weather.

Lastly – did we say pack light? The next trip will have more dried foods (vs. canned), collapsible buckets and tubs, etc. We did filter water vs. carry it, and did go with no ice which we would do again.

Here's what we learned on a two-person, seven-day trip on a Northwest river at 400-500 cfs





2011 TRIP CALENDAR

Submitted by Josephine Denison

2.19-2.21 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Paul Morin Rick Carman	p.morin@comcast.net frederickcarman@comcast.net	503.348.6310 503.642.9347
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
This will be a joint trip with OWA and OKCC. We have reserved the Galice Lodge for Friday, February 18. There is limited availability, reservations are required and are first come, first served. Please contact the Galice Lodge directly. Breakfast is also available for Saturday and reservations are also required.					
4.8-10 Fri-Sun	Lower North Umpqua	III/IV	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360.931.4224
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
We'll stay at Whistler's Bend County Park. We have reserved Section B, which is the bigger area that can be reserved and holds up to 70 people, 15-20 RVs and plenty of tents. Potluck Saturday night. This is a joint trip with the NWRA Roseburg chapter.					
4.16 Sat	Deschutes River	III/IV	Tom Hanson	TJHrafter@earthlink.net	503.201.4428
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
This is a day float on the middle Deschutes. The river is free of other boaters at this time. We will shuttle the vehicles down to Sandy Beach starting at 10:00am sharp for a 11:00 am launch Harpham Flats. Bring your lunch.					
5.13-5.15 Fri-Sun	Grande Ronde River	III	Eric and Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509.525.6134
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
Minam to Heller's Bar on the Snake, 90 miles in three days! Expect to do a lot of rowing, but in return you get great scenery, good camping and green canyon walls in this early season perennial favorite trip.					
5.28-5.29 Sat-Sun	Lochsa River	IV-V	Steve Herring	stevenh@tektronix.com	503.348.0648
6.3-6.5 Fri-Sun	North Umpqua River	III/IV	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360.931.4224
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
We'll stay at the Deerflat Group area at Horseshoe Bend. The main trip is Saturday from Boulder Flat to Gravel Bin but you can boat any of the three days. Potluck Saturday night. This is a joint trip with the NWRA Roseburg chapter.					
6.13-6.17 Mon-Fri	Main Salmon River	IV	Eric and Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509.525.6134
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
Corn Creek to Spring Bar, approximately 90 miles. This is a high flow, early season, pre-lottery run down the River of No Return. Wilderness Class IV water boating skills and appropriate equipment are required. NOTE: This trip will cancel if the trip leader gets a Yampa River permit.					
6.17-6.19 Fri-Sun	Lower Deschutes River	III	Carol Beatty	doncarol1@verizon.net	503.816.6172
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
The annual OWA Women's trip! Put in at Buck Hollow and run to Heritage Landing; 42 river miles. The trip is open to all skill levels from beginner to seasoned boater. For women wanting to learn more about boating, it's a great opportunity to learn from experienced boaters.					
6.18-6.21 Sat-Tues	John Day River	II	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503.267.9785
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
This is a great river for kids and families. The river is mellow and the camping is great! Join us on this beautiful river for a four-day, three-night float from Service Creek to Clarno.					

2011 TRIP CALENDAR CONTINUED

7.2-7.4 Sat-Mon	Lower Salmon River	III/IV	Eric and Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509.525.6134
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ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Run Hammer Creek to Heller's Bar on the Snake River, 73 miles in three days! This is another favorite trip, with great scenery, fabulous beach camping, history and fun whitewater. Expect hot weather.

NOTE: This trip cancels if flow is over 20,000 on Slide Rapid day, or if the trip leader gets a Middle Fork Permit.)

9.10 Sat	Yakima River	II	Vance Cordell	pyloris58@yahoo.com	360.253.3013
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ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

We will run 14 miles from the Ringer Loop boat ramp near Ellensburg to the Big Pines BLM campground on Highway 821. This is a family float with absolutely beautiful scenery along the river. The trip leader will go early and try to hold several camp sites at Big Pines for those who would like to arrive the evening before the float. Whether you come Friday evening or Saturday morning, we will start the shuttle at 10:00 am and be ready to put in at 11:00 am. For those who want to stay Saturday night, there will be a barbecue that evening.

9.17-9.19 Sat- Mon	Hell's Canyon	II/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509.240.4220
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11.12-11.14 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503.267.9785
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ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

The trip is from Graves Creek to Foster Bar. A group of us will be spending Friday night, November 11 at the Galice Lodge before the launch on Saturday morning.



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Annual New Year's Day Float on the Sandy River

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This is the third year that Team River Runner has teamed up with OWA and NWRA on their New Years Day raft trip on the Sandy River. We had the most Veterans – 26 – this year. Sam Drevo of Northwest River Guides, Alder Creek, Oregon Raft Team, Disabled American Veterans and private boaters donated their equipment. In Sam's case, he literally donated "the clothes off his back" to give the Vets a great trip.

We put in with four rafts at Dodge Park. The temperature was 26 degrees by my thermometer. It wasn't long to the first rapid, Pipeline, the first and only swim of the day. The swimmer came out of my boat as we hit a rock at the top of the rapid. The boat stopped, tipped a bit and the paddler next to the swimmer bumped him into the river. James Hakeem, the Vet who took the swim, did what I told him. He got on his back and went feet forward down through the meat of the rapid until we got him back in the boat. We gave him extra clothing to keep warm and continued the trip.

The rest of the trip went pretty smooth. We enjoyed the scenery and great camaraderie. The Veterans shared some of their stories and how they are coping now they are back in the "civilian world". As guide, I kept everyone paddling to stay warm. I know everyone was cold but there were no complaints. James let me know that he would be back next year. The swim didn't deter him.

After we got out At Oxbow Park. The Disabled American Veterans had a barbecue for us. Hot roast beef sliced right there were piled high on hungry Vet and rafter's plates along with food rafters had brought for the potluck.

It was a great day. I was with my favorite people, rafters and veterans. I can't wait for next year.

~Val Shaull



Middle Fork of the Salmon River: The Final Chapter

June 2010 • Submitted by Rick Carman

We recovered from our Day Four mishaps at Cradle Creek Camp in the middle of the S-turn between Upper Cliffside Rapid and Lower Cliff Side Rapid. The take-out eddy was way smaller than usual and there was a huge ponderosa pine tree growing out of the middle of it but the hike to camp was much shorter with the high water. Mike Evans warmed up the leftover cashew chicken and rice from Day three and it was heavenly. We sat under the tarp as the rain returned, reading the guide books for the last 12 miles. Devils Tooth, House Rock, Hancock and the biggest rapid on the river, Rubber! What would they be like at 7.5 feet? That translates to just over 10,000 cfs. I woke up a little too early the next morning and thinking about them kept me from going back to sleep. It was a pretty quiet group that loaded the boats and cast off. At least the sun was out. Things went fine for the first 300 yards.

Just below Cradle Creek is Lower Cliff Side rapid, a sharp left turn. The water wants to push you to the outside of the turn where there are lots of large rocks. The safe run is to pull left to the inside of the turn, close to the cliff. It is an easy pull at reasonable water. Even if you don't make it, you suffer only the embarrassment of pinballing through the rocks. Not today. All that water pushed hard right and the rocks were covered with water, making gigantic holes. Boats struggled to get left. The Missouri youngsters were unable to make the pull but their 15-foot tank of a cat boat blasted the holes. I made the pull with considerable effort. Just past the giant waves, I turned to check on Dave. The powerful water and his damaged shoulder



combined to push him right. By the time I turned around the red Maravia had flipped again. This time Dave got whacked hard across the face and already had a large swollen welt from his forehead down the left side of his face by the time we got to him. We got the boat over to shore and Captain Steve made quick work of getting it turned back over and getting underway. But he somehow left

By the time I turned around the red Maravia had flipped again.

his throw bag tied to a tree branch about eight feet above the rushing water. I ending up hiking back upstream a couple of hundred yards across the face of the extremely steep bank, and shimmied out over the water on a large limb to retrieve the bag and rope. I was still wearing dry suit, life jacket and helmet in case I fell in.

In spite of his injury, which now looked even worse, Dave agreed to row the Maravia down to Rubber but did not want to risk that monster in his condition. Reese Creek Rapid just above Rubber was a big and ugly. On my 1992 trip

we ran Rubber on the right with no problem. Mike Evans and I ran Reese Creek on the left, hoping to find the legendary high water left sneak at Rubber. We stopped just above Rubber on river left while everyone else stopped on the right, a good 150 yards away. Without Dave, we were short a rower. So I watched in dismay as the right bank group tied down the Maravia oars and pushed it out into the river unmanned-with all my gear, clothes and truck keys on it! Dave got in Ron's boat and the right bank group launched and ran right.

Mike and I launched from the left, saw no left sneak and powered across the river to the right, where there was an easy wide sneak. Not mentioned in any of the guide books. No problem at all! We easily missed the GIANT wave in the middle. Except where was the Maravia?

Ron chased down the Maravia with Dave ready to jump in and continue rowing. They got close, Dave lunged out of the yellow boat and missed, dropped into the water and grabbed onto the yellow's boats safety line. The yellow boat then hit a large wave sideways and flipped with Dave still in the water. Fortunately there

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Middle Fork of the Salmon, Part V

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

was a large eddy just downstream and all hands focused on getting it back over, which took just a few minutes. By the time everyone had gathered themselves, the Maravia had disappeared downstream, still unmanned. With All My Stuff! And Dave's too. And then Steve put Dave in my boat! Did Dave still carry the curse with him?

The last eight miles of the Middle Fork in the narrow canyon was non-stop CHAOS! All the big rocks were covered, forming monster holes and huge waves. It was the most intense rafting experience of my life.. Total and complete focus every second, trying to miss the huge holes and hit the waves head on as they came at you from every direction. Our crazed, fearless leader did what leaders do – and we followed him through the maze of hazards, still hoping against hope that the Maravia had somehow found an eddy. There were no eddies.

The constant wave action did not stop until we joined the Main Salmon, which was huge, but free of rocks. As wide as it was, there must be an eddy to catch the Maravia but no way. Too much water moving too fast. As we passed the upper takeout just below the confluence, boaters on shore yelled out that they had seen the red boat go by five or 10 minutes earlier but it was passed them quickly and a long way from shore. It was headed for the Snake River over 100 miles away in one big hurry and then on to Lewiston. I was not looking forward to driving home in my dry suit for a day and a half. Thank goodness for that hide-a-key in my truck.

Our last hope for the red boat died when we got to the main take out ramp. Not there. The other group on the river was there. The

Main was so high that a good part of the ramp was underwater and there was a large play wave on the downstream side of it that a kayaker was taking advantage of. And then another miracle. The Maravia was not on its way to Lewiston. It was tied up out of sight about a hundred yards downstream. The access road to the Main runs along side the river. As the Maravia was floating down the Main a pick came down the road and passed it. The alert driver raced, as much as you can on that crappy road, down to the take out, rounded up a kayaker and his boat, raced back up stream to meet the Maravia where the yakker quickly launched, rowed out to the Maravia and dragged it into the eddy just below the take out. Marvelous stuff.

To make things even better, Tom Riggs and Dave Audet were there as planned to join the trip down the Main, while Mike, his dad, me and one another member were going to drive home in Tom's truck. Remember, the rest of our vehicles are in White Bird, 10 hours away. Then the bad news. The run down the Main was cancelled due to the high water. Now what? No

way to get all our boats and gear and people in Tom's pick up. We loaded all we could in the bed and six of us climbed in to start the drive to our vehicles. We left the rest of the group camped in the takeout parking lot with enough gear, food and booze to survive for 24 hours. It takes almost two hours just to get to Highway 93 and then we would try

Maybe God really does look after children, drunks and rafters.

to get to Sourdough Lodge another three or four hours away before stopping for the night. Fearless Leader then had his best idea ever. He called our shuttle company and she agreed to round up drivers to get our vehicles to Cascade Idaho the next morning and leave them there. That would save us at least five total hours the next day, two-and-one-half each way.

The next morning we were off to Cascade. A good part of the drive is along the North Fork of the Payette, running at historically high levels. The raging water was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Middle Fork

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

truly a sight to behold. It was unbelievable. And three crazy yakkers were running it. There were photographers lined up at one spot to save the moment for posterity. I guess they made it as we did not hear to the contrary.

We got to Cascade about 10:30 a.m. and our trucks were parked right where they were supposed

to be. We had told the shuttle company to charge whatever was fair and she dinged us a lousy \$25 total, for both vehicles. That is why I recommend All River's Shuttle in White Bird Idaho.

We bid farewell to Tom, Dave, Mike and Dale as they headed for home and Tom and I began the endless drive back to the put in, arriving at around 6:00 pm. There we loaded all rest of the gear and bodies and made it to Hamilton Montana by about 10:30 that night

and then the 10 hours or so back to Portland the next day. Jeff pulled another hero move as he drove most of the way while I lounged, napping and reading while he and Dave argued politics. And we actually got stopped by the boat inspectors parked along I-84 in Montana.

It was an all time adventure that I am sure none of us will ever forget. Maybe God really does look after children, drunks and rafters.



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I hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by Oregon Whitewater Association (OWA) a non-profit corporation. I recognize that any outdoor or aquatic activity may involve certain dangers including, but not limited to, the hazards of traveling by boat on rivers or other bodies of water, accidents, or illnesses in remote places or occurring during portages, forces of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons. I further understand and agree that without some program providing protection of its assets and its leaders, officers, and members, OWA would not be able to offer its courses and activities.

In consideration of and as part of my payment for the right to participate in the activities offered by OWA, I hereby release OWA and its leaders, officers, and members from any and all liability, claims and causes of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in any activities offered by OWA. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities, and further agree to indemnify OWA and its leaders, officers, and members from all liability, claims, and courses of action which I may have arising from my participation in activities including, but not limited to those involving death, drowning, personal injury, and property damage. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, and for all members of my family including any minors. [Parent or legal guardian must sign for all persons under eighteen (18) years of age.] This agreement is effective as of the date signed, and has no termination date. I have fully informed myself of the contents of this release and indemnity agreement by reading it before I have signed it.

All participating adult members of the household (age 18+) must sign. Guardians must sign for minors.

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Participant	Email address	Preferred phone(s)
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