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#### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 7:00-9:00 PM

> **Stark Street Pizza** 9234 SE Stark Street Portland, OR 97216

#### **RIVER TIP** Submitted by Tom Hanson

Most of us carry first aid kits, but

when was the last time you checked the contents? Some items have expiration dates while other items (like bandages) can age in the warm summer sun. Make sure your first aid kit is up to date.





#### Volume 12 Number 7

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#### **Boats in Havasu**

## **TRIP REPORT: Grand Canyon, Part I**

May 6-7, 2011 • Submitted by Rick Carman

**SO MUCH OF LIFE IS TIMING.** I went to the OWA Annual Picnic last summer. New member Glen Chapman was there with a May 6, 2011 Grand Canyon launch date in hand. Hearing this,, Joan Aldrich introduced us. Glen and some friends had all applied for permits, agreeing that if someone got one, all would be invited. His group had some boating experience, none on the Colorado, and no gear or transport vehicles. Glen needed experienced Canyon boaters with gear and rigs and I had all three and knew people. Little good the experience did me but that is later.

#### **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

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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#### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

#### oin us at our meeting on September 14 at Stark Street Pizza. Our quest presenter will be Michael Cenedella. He has written a book on Tarpology and will talk to us about constructing tarps, different material, rope terminology, their care and storage. As always, this is a great opportunity to meet new boaters, learn new things and enjoy the free pizza.

Our annual club picnic was a huge success. We had 40 people attend at the beautiful Eagle Fern Park in Clackamas. We shared a great potluck, a good size gear sale and held a 50/50 raffle that will go to help support next years swift water rescue training course. Nino Tretter was our winner making \$78.00. We would like to continue holding raffles at .....

our monthly meetings and would like to recruit a small subcommittee to organize a few fundraisers throughout the year for our future swift water rescue courses. Please contact me if interested.

**BRENDA BUNCE** 

Sunday, September 11 is the Down the River Clean up. Go to the website and sign up to volunteer. http://www. welovecleanrivers.org.

There is still a need for kayak pod leaders, garbage scows and event raft captains. OWA has helped to support this event by donating \$150.

We Love Clean Rivers, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to cleaning high use rivers by mobilizing the river recreation community in partnership with local environmental, recreation, and educational organizations.

Order your club T-shirts or outdoor wear today. See details on our website at http://oregonwhitewater.org/about/owa-clothing. We need to purchase a bulk order to receive the group discount, so show your support for OWA and order your clothing today.

"We call upon the waters that rim the earth, horizon to horizon, that flow in our rivers and streams, that fall upon our gardensand fields, and we ask that they: Teach us, and show us the way."

~ American Indian, Chinook Blessing Litany, Earth Prayers from Around the World, 1991



We love to read your trip reports. They are now on-line and you can submit them right on the website. http:// oregonwhitewater.org/rivers/ trip-reports/

Check out our awesome website and stay attuned to upcoming events.

See you at the pizza parlor, Brenda

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## Grand Canyon CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I managed to recruit newer member Mark Wade and his lovely wife Leslie, the infamous Tom Riggs and his gracious step daughter Megan and non members but known to many -Andy and Rebecca Graham from Washington. Andy is a fireman, paramedic, mountain rescue quy and a great cook with 12 prior trips under his belt. A very useful guy to have along and a fun member of the team. Made my four and a half priors seem not so impressive. They introduced their friend and now new OWA member Jennifer Allen who charmed her way to an invite. Peter Staples and Dave Audet, both lawyers, completed my contribution to the crew. We were also joined by Dennis and his wife Erica (a great sport), Nall and his wife Tia, the gueen of the foot massage and the OGO's brother Dale, who made a great first half boat mate.

Everyone arrived at the put in on schedule and we launched around 11:00 am. The weather was nice but we had quiet few cloudy cool breezy days during the trip. The steady flow was around 16,000, due to go up to 22,000 about Day 10. Big water. There was carnage. Andy in his dory and passenger Jennifer got dump trucked at House Rock early on day 2. (Yes there is video). Welcome to the Grand Canyon swim team rookie Jennifer. That may be a new record for early entry. Jennifer decided to run the roaring 20s in my yellow 16-footer (borrowed from Andy, he supplied four boats total) for the rest of the day figuring one swim per day was enough. Of course the dory never had another problem the rest of the trip. Later that day Dennis got bucked out at Mile 24-1/2 (another initiate). Since his wife Ericka stayed in the boat, Andy was awarded the pink flamingo that night, having dumped 2 people instead of just one. So much for experience. Day Three is lots of flat water



**Big Water in House Rock** 

and we had strong upstream winds virtually all day with occasional gusts that literally stopped the boats dead in the current. The high water made for a strong current but it was still a brutal day. We made it to Saddle Canyon for the night where it rained pretty hard for a few hours in the middle of the night. Thank goodness for those bivy sacks. We did the marvelous Saddle Canyon hike and then went five miles to Nankoweap for a long day in camp and of course up to the granaries. From the granaries we could see huge gusts of wind roaring up river, blowing some our gear around and stirring up waves in the river. Not much wind up where we were.

It is hard to get layover days with a 16-day trip if you want to do the hikes. The Little Colorado was incredibly blue but it was way to cold to even consider a swim. We did the fabulous Carbon-Lava Chuar loop hike with the downstream group led by yours truly. It had been many years since I did the hike up Carbon and I managed to get us turned around in the big rock pile and we had to climb it twice. The flamingo was back in my boat where it started the trip. So much for experience. As we crossed the divide over to Lava Chuar, we could see new snow on the north rim shining in the sun. Absolutely stunning. Day 5 had no wind and we

needed miles so we pushed late into Cardenas camp only to find two single backpackers already there. Promises of great food and all the booze they could drink quickly bought us permission to share camp with them. They got their money's worth. Andy cooked gyros with something called Euro Meat. It sounds weird but it was beyond delicious.

Hance Rapid provided the next bit of excitement on Day 6. I ran left for the first time, as did several others, and missed the big hole at the bottom. Dennis found it and flipped his 16 footer (actually Andy's other yellow 16 footer). Welcome Erica and that's two already for Dennis. We could not get the boat to shore until it went through Son of Hance although we got to the swimmers before that. Andy introduced a new, to me at least, method of flipping a boat. Get two oars up on top of the bottom of the boat. Wedge the oar blades into the gap between the floor and the tubes. Loop the flip lines around the top of the oars, by the handles. Two people stand on the boat and pull the flip lines backwards in the usual manner while others lift the tube that is being raised. The mechanical advantage provided by the length of the oars increases the leverage of the pull on the flip lines and the heavy boat flipped right over. Slick.

See Part II, next issue







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## PART II: Boating Lessons on the Cal-Salmon

SUBMITTED BY BRENT DAVIS

he following narrative recounts two days of boating in Northern California's Salmon River (Cal-Salmon) basin in the spring of 2011. The Cal-Salmon is a tributary to the Klamath River about 51 miles due west of Weed, CA, a very remote, but road accessible area. It's a Class IV/V pool drop run through some amazing geological features with lots of whitewater. Trip participants were myself, Doug Smith, Mike Evans, and Dave Hagmeier.

#### (See the July-August 2011 issue for Part I.)

4:45 PM, pool above Butler

**Creek.** We're half way done, but the biggest stuff is behind us. We enter Butler Creek rapid and find the hydraulics impressive, but manageable, as we pull hard to the left to avoid the large boulder and pillow at the bottom. Below this the hydraulics mellow and become more predictable and the river feels friendlier. At last we pass through Gaping Maw and leave the constricted canyon and class IV whitewater behind. We run 3 more miles to our take out, load up, and head for camp back at Nordheimer. In the end, we did have fun. The gauge at Somes Bar held steady at 6.4' for the afternoon. Over dinner, we discuss tomorrow's plan...

#### Saturday, May 7 9:30 AM, Nordheimer.

Breakfast and coffee are behind us and we've settled on a run on the North Fork Salmon. We have very little information about access and the river itself. Both Mike and Dave have run sections in the past, but recollections are vague. The guide books mention this river as an aside to the description of the run we did yesterday, but give no useful details. We've talked to kayakers at Nordheimer for the Cal-Salmon races and the general consensus is that it's runable class IV/IV+, that's all we have. We secure camp, load up, and head for The Forks of The Salmon, about four miles upriver to find a take-out.

**10:00 AM, Forks.** We've found an easy takeout just below the confluence of the North and South forks where we can drive right to the water. Shuttle is set and we plan to head up river eight to 11 miles to find a put-in, road scouting along the way.

10:45 AM, a high bluff on the road 2 miles up from Forks. We've seen some interesting rapids down in the canyon and stopped to take a closer look. We see clear lines between car and truck sized boulders, all good. We can't get a view of a portion of the river on the upstream side of the bluff. I say, "There's probably something down there we can't see." "Maybe, let's go..."

### 11:30 AM, Engine Fill site about 10 miles up the road

**from Forks.** We're unloading boats and getting rigged on a road grade with river access. This is a Forest Service facility for filling fire trucks from the river as denoted by the small wood sign on the road above that reads 'Engine Fill'. A perfect put-in.

12:30 PM, eddy, river left a few miles below Engine Fill. Dave says, "this is just good clean fun!" We've run a series technical of class IV boulder gardens separated by pools, easy read and run water. We're smiling. From here the rapids change as the drops confine the flow and get bigger. The hydraulics get stronger and some bigger holes appear. I miss a center to right move in one rapid and have to grab frame as I bounce over a steep

bouldery 6-foot drop into a hole. Oops, but the hydraulics are still forgiving and I come out laughing at myself.

Dave is parked across the river in a kayak eddy between the drops, tight against a vertical rock wall with a flip line tied to a log hanging over his head.

**1:20 PM.** The river narrows into a gorge and enters an 'S' turn. We pass under a rope foot bridge, there's a home on the left bank. As we come to the tail of the S, an old man in faded jeans, suspenders, and a plaid flannel work shirt, with a gray beard down to his waist (seriously) appears on the left bank waving his arms to get our attention. We warily drift toward him and he yells, "DOWN AROUND



THE CORNER YOUR GOING TO COME TO A HOUSE SIZED ROCK THAT BLOCKS THE RIVER! YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GO LEFT OR RIGHT, BUT YOU'LL WANT TO STOP AND LOOK AT IT" Sure enough, we round the corner and see nothing but rock. Good advice old miner dude.

#### 1:30 PM, river right above the "house sized rock". We

scout and quickly decide to go left through a steep 7-foot airplane turn drop just wide enough for the boats. We also notice a blind horizon line downstream about 50 yards. We clean the drop. I'm third. I turn to watch Doug's run and when I turn back downstream, I see Dave lining up on the left. He disappears over the horizon line. Mike is rowing hard for the right bank. He's out of his boat as he lands, grabbing his throw rope and beaching his boat in one fluid motion. He scrambles downstream. Doug and I land upstream of Mike's boat and follow him. We're looking at a two stage falls with an eight-foot drop leading into a 12-foot drop. The top of the right side is a rocky sieve bounded by several car sized boulders in the middle of the river. We can't see the left side of the top drop yet, but Dave is parked across the river in a kayak eddy between the drops, tight against a vertical rock wall with a flip line tied to a log hanging over his head. How did he manage that?

Immediately below Dave is a 12-foot drop over a jumble of boulders with a 5-foot diameter log pointing straight downstream in the middle of the drop. The root ball is hanging, dry, 15 feet past the edge of the drop, over the pool below. If Dave had followed the current, he would have straddled the log or side flipped, mid drop, as one tube or the other went over the log while the rest of the boat fell over the drop. Dave gives us the "okay" signal.

### 1:35 PM, river right at an unexpected Class V+/VI

**falls.** It takes me three seconds to react to what I see. "I'm NOT running that!"

Mike replies, "I think we can line the boats down the right side to this eddy, but we'll have to run the last bit."

"What about Dave?" "Dave is on his own, It looks like he'll have to break is boat down and portage it in pieces."

Dave gets our attention and points to the middle of the rapid. The bottom drop is divided by a cement truck sized rock, the left is as described above. The right is a less vertical boulder drop leading into a very large, hungry, hole on the left half and a series of small ledges on the right half terminating in a headwall hydraulic flowing around the right side of the big hole. After we line our boats, we're planning on running out the lower half of these ledges. What Dave is asking is if we think he can ferry across the left channel in front of the midstream boulder and make the pour-over to the right side. He can't see the impossible hydraulics he'd have to fight to get to the right of the center rock, or the hole he'd end up in at the bottom if, by some miracle, he did manage the ferry. All three of us give the universal wave for "NO WAY!" and signal "portage."

At this point, Doug says, "I bet this is that spot you talked about from the road where we probably weren't seeing something."

We begin the lining process and quickly learn that we really need 3 people to safely manage the rope and obstacles. We get Mike's boat down and tie it off in fast current below the one-boat eddy we planned to re-launch from. Mine is next, we park it, dry, on a 50-degree sloped rock above the eddy. Finally we get Doug's boat down into the eddy. By this time, Dave is wading in the shallows downstream of his boat with a line, but he can't figure out how to untie his flip line from the overhead log and retain control of the boat single handed.

#### 2:10 PM, still river right at an unexpected Class V+/

**VI falls.** Mike gets set to run out the rapid and we decide I have to cut his line to release his boat and avoid dragging a rope through the ledges. He's away and through, ferrying across to the left to help Dave. Doug gets set from the eddy and I give him a push. I retrieve Mike's rope, bag it, then pull my boat off its perch into the eddy, get set, push out and run out the falls.

2:20 PM, river left still at an unexpected Class V+/VI falls. By the time Doug and I get eddied out on the left, tied off, and up to the top of the bottom drop, Mike is helping Dave form a plan. I take a moment to look upstream at the left top drop. It's a steep eight-foot high ledge feature. It is a wonder Dave ran it clean enough to catch his tiny

#### **CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**



**OWA Annual Picnic** 

Submitted by Brenda Bunce

his year's annual club picnic was held at Eagle Fern Park in Clackamas and was a huge success! Forty people enjoyed the potluck, gear swap/sale and the 50/50 raffle that will go to help support next years Swift Water Rescue Training class. The club made \$78.00 from the raffle and Nino Tretter won the other half of the pot.





ABOVE: Scott Ogren and Merri King ABOVE RIGHT: Dave Aldrich RIGHT: Nino Tretter wins the raffle











## **Boating Lessons on the Cal-Salmon CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7**

eddy. They toss me the line Dave has tied to his boat and Doug positions to act as a catcher. Mike holds the boat, while Dave unties the flip line, then they use the flip line to turn the boat on its side and float it between the bank and a rock. Once the boat is clear and back on both tubes, I can pull it to my position as Doug catches it, we then drag it over some rocks into a small shallow pool to the left of the drop. We want to secure the ropes and have Dave seal-launch from the pool into the bottom of the drop, but he wants the boat in the pool at the bottom before he has anything to do with it. So Mike moves downstream over some large boulders with the line and, once he's set, the rest of us push the boat over the ledge. It drops into the pool and Dave scrambles down into it to secure his ropes and get set on the oars. We head back to our boats and I give Mike his rope, minus the three feet still tied to his oar tower.

Post trip research fails to reveal a name for this Class V gorge or its rapids, but one kayaker's blog post refers to it as a "manky class V/portage" and a more complete description (cacreeks.com) describes the gorge as follows:

#### Mile 9: Foreboding, class V-, scout right

A landslide on the right marks the start of a Class V gorge. (This rapid named after Holbek, who apparently dislikes landslides.) This steep drop among large boulders can probably be run most easily on the far right. Eddy out immediately below!

#### Mile 9.1: The P-word, class V, scout right, possible left portage

This rapid is portaged more often than run. It starts with a class IV drop on the left that turns the corner right and out of sight thru some gigantic landslide boulders. The standard route goes all

the way left, pausing above an entrapment chute, then all the way right around some smaller rocks, and exits against the right wall. A "devious" sneak route described by Holbek seems to have been eliminated by recent geologic activity (1996).

#### 2:35 PM. On the river below

the unknown falls. We approach the next rapid and the horizon line is blind yet again. We're sure we looked at this rapid from the road, but at this point the GCI is back in the toilet and we're a little gun shy about blind drops, so we pull off to the right to scout. A quick look reveals a straightforward Class IV rapid. One more rapid like the last and we exit the gorge. We find a few surf waves to round out the day and reach the takeout at about 3:30 PM. We discuss a possible short run in the morning before heading home, but everyone agrees we've filled our thrill baskets full enough for one trip.



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2011 TRIP CALENDAR Submitted by Josephine Denison							
9.10 Sat	Yakima River	II	Vance Cordell	pyloris58@yahoo.com	360.253.3013		
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 the evening before the float. 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.							
9.16-18 Fri-Sun	Tieton River	III+	Brent Davis	bdavis599@yahoo.com	360.253.3013		
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION Annual OWA & WRRR Tieton float. Free camping on Forest Service land just out of Rimrock, WA off of Tieton Road. Port-o-potties and hand wash stations will be provided. Come enjoy the river, campfire, music and meet new friends. Joint potluck Saturday night.							
9.17-9.19 Sat- Mon	Hell's Canyon	II/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509.240.4220		
10.1 Sat	North Santiam River	III	Rick Hendon	gonetothedogsinc @msn.com	360.253.3013		
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION   The annual North Santiam float is back. The float will be from Packsaddle to North Santiam State Park.							
11.12-11.14 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503.267.9785		
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.							



## **Rafts, Catarafts & Kayaks**

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## **Oregon Whitewater Association Membership Application Form**

Address:

City, State Zip:\_\_

Check for a hard copy newsletter via US mail.

A household membership is \$24.00 for one year, from July 1 to June 30. Dues after January 1 are prorated at \$12.00, otherwise annual dues are \$24.00.

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

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

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

Participant	Printed name	Signature
Member #1		
Member #2		
Member #3		
Member #4		

Participant	Email address	Preferred phone(s)
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