

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

the waterlog

VOL 11 NO 7 JUN 2011

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Calling all web developers: The board is looking to spiff up WRRR's website, wrrr.org. Send us your proposals for how you would make the site rock by Aug 9. Top desires are for easy maintenance, updates, and training for new Board members. We have a limited budget so nothing too fancy. If you have any questions contact the VP of Business at jesdyson@yahoo.com. We will review all proposals at the August Board meeting.

JOIN THE FUN! BECOME A MEMBER OF THE "GREATEST WHITEWATER CLUB IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD".** Washington Recreational River Runners is a private, non profit corporation organized to promote river running as a safe and fun sport and to provide for an exchange of ideas among its members and public issues concerning rivers. Membership is open to anyone having an interest in the recreational use of rivers upon payment of annual dues as shown below. To join or renew your membership, cut out this form, fill out and mail to the address listed below. The Release and Indemnity Agreement **must** be signed before your application is processed.

- Select Membership level. Prices effective 6/6/08. All membership levels include the newsletter and access to club events
- \$25 SINGLE -membership for one
 - \$30 FAMILY for the whole family
 - \$40 SUSTAINING -same as family plus
5 free raffle tickets at Wenatchee Rendezvous and 1 free hand at the Poker Run
 - \$55 BENEFACTOR -same as family plus
10 free raffle tickets at Wenatchee Rendezvous and 2 free hands at the Poker Run
 - \$100 SPONSOR -for those wishing to advertise a product or service (must be river/outdoor-related) & UP

New Member Renewal Returning Member
(prior membership ran out)

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ 2nd Phone _____
 Email Address _____

I hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by Washington Recreational River Runners Association (WRRR) 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, WRRR 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 WRRR, I hereby release WRRR and its leaders, officers, and members from any and all liability, claims and courses of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in any activities offered by WRRR. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities, and further agree to indemnify WRRR 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.

Mail your check and signed Agreement to:
Washington Recreational River Runners
 PMB 501
 330 SW 43rd ST. Ste K
 Renton, WA 98057

Signed _____ Date _____
 Signed _____ Date _____

*Journal of Self-Serving Statistics, June 2009

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Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM (except December) at:
 Round Table Pizza, 302 SW 43rd St., Renton, WA 98055. 425-251-0606. ALL members welcome!

THE WATERLOG

EARN BIG-TIME RIVER KARMA! Flip less often! Get shuttles from bikini models! Stop losing your hair! Your boat will look better; your beer will be colder; the sun will shine every day you're on the river and it will rain every day you're off the river! All you have to do is...**SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THE WATERLOG!** (Photos & cartoons too! It's just that easy) The Waterlog is published 11 times a year. (Monthly except December) Material for publication should reach the editor by the 25th of the month. An attempt will be made to place submissions received after the 25th. However, no guarantees are given. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length. Articles and editorial comment do not necessarily reflect the view or opinions of WRRR, its Board of Directors, or its membership...They seem to think it's important that I print that last bit for some reason, go figure. Authors are solely responsible for the content of their articles.

Submit material for publication in The Waterlog to the editor:

Brian Vogt
 bvogt@wwik.org

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**Raft Frames • Boat Repair
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**Jim Sheflo
 425-343-4105**

Poker Run Fun!

Don't forget about WRRR's upcoming Carey Berger Memorial Poker Run! This year the event will take place the weekend of August 12 and will also be a General Membership Meeting.

Poker Run Details: Poker Run registration is from 9:30 AM to 11:30 on Saturday at the boat launch in Goodell Creek Campground. Dealers launch at 10, don't launch before them or you will miss your next cards. A "sweep" boat will launch at 12 and card stations shut down once the sweep boat arrives. Don't get behind the sweep boat or you may lose out on cards. Cost is \$5 per poker hand. We will compare poker hands after dinner about 7 PM at the group camp. You must be present to win. Poker hands will be sold Friday night from 7pm-9pm at the campfire and Saturday morning at putin like usual.

Safety Olympics: This is your chance to prove or improve your rescue skills. There is a task at each station. Re-flip your boat, build a z-drag, toss a throw bag. Earn points for your performance. High score gets a prize at the evening events. All judges decisions are final.

Potluck Dinner: There will be a potluck dinner on Saturday at the group camp at about 7. Bring your favorite side dish, main dish or dessert. **A to F:** appetizer or side dish, **G to S:** bring a main dish, **T to Z:** dessert (or when in doubt, bring desert).

Camping: Free camping for WRRR members from Thursday noon to Sunday noon at the any of the Goodell Group Camps. We have all three loops, and the two main loops Thursday night also. There are individual sites in the lower loop and a big open space for lots of rigs in the upper loop. To find the camp look for an unmarked dirt road under the power lines on the north side (left as you head east) of Hwy 20 just after you pass the main campground, about 1 mile west of Newhalem. The dirt road is just west of the bridge where the highway crosses Goodell Creek. Camping for non-members is \$10 per person.

Noise: Quiet hours for the upper loop are 10PM-8AM. There are no quiet hours for the lower loop. Pick your camp site accordingly.

Trip Leaders: Contact Brenan Filippini, VP of River Ops at 360-319-6528 or pinkyfilippini@yahoo.com or any other board member for more information.

Volunteers Needed: It takes a major effort to make an event like this a success. From dealing poker cards to judging safety stations, you can contribute. Anyone interested in helping with this event please contact any board member.

September is Tieton Season!

2011 Tieton Rally is fast approaching! Come join WRRR September 9th through 11th for our late summer adventure on one of the latest running rivers available in the northwest. The event will be at the usual place just upstream from "the dust bowl" put-in. Camping is free to everyone. Port-o-Potties and a garbage receptacle will also be provided. Come enjoy the campfire music and warm weather. There will not be an "organized" WRRR launch time or shuttle as individuals usually put together their own flotillas and shuttles the night before, or the day of. New this year will be the Costume float

If one weekend isn't enough, come back the next weekend, September 16th through 18th, as WRRR and the Oregon Whitewater Association (OWA) join forces to create one of the largest boating parties of the year.

Directions: From Yakima, take US12/SR410 West. When SR 410 and US 12 split, take US 12 West 17.5 miles and turn Left on Tieton Rd; From the top of White Pass, Take US 12 East 16.8 Miles and turn Right on Tieton Rd. Once on Tieton Rd go 0.5 miles, look for the WRRR signs, and Turn right on the gravel Forest Road 580 go 0.5 miles and turn right onto the dirt road. Continue following the WRRR signs to the camp on the dirt road by staying Left whenever given the option. Please drive slowly on the dirt roads to help keep the dust down.

1st Annual WRRR Costume Float 2011

Join us on the Tieton River on Saturday September 10, 2011 for WRRR's First Annual Costume Float!

Date : 9/10/11

Time: Shuttle at 1030 AM

Location: WRRR Camp

Trip Leader: Log Boy (Matt Holmes)

206-948-5730

marly12344@gmail.com

Participants will be judged on costume and float (Boat). Dress up as your favorite character and /or decorate your boat.

Best Costume Wins a Prize

Best Decorated Float wins a Prize

Best Combination of Costume and Float Wins the Grand Prize

Every participant wins a WRRR consolation prize

Safety and Environment: Please be careful about floats that will self destruct during the trip so that we don't have littering issues. Also, if you happen to wear a costume that is difficult to swim in, please have a backup plan. Have Fun, Be Creative, Impress Your Friends

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Springtime Gems: Joseph Creek

Joseph Creek is the kind of oddball run that you thumb past in the guidebook several times before noticing. Then, when you do, it sounds great. But you can't find any information about it anywhere else. Jeff Bennett describes the final 10 miles as "being coughed out of the canyon in a whitewater fit." A very apt description for this continuous run.

When we first went to run this river, we searched for public access. There is some, but navigability law in Oregon isn't very helpful and the putin was separated from the Wild and Scenic section by several private ranches, so it didn't allow access to the canyon. Nick worked a little diplomatic magic, and we earned access, at the cost of agreeing not to publicize the run. AW now hosts a full trip report and photos, though, so we are lifting the seal and giving you the story on this amazing canyon from a trip this year with Nick Borelli, Shaun Riedinger, and Bill Tuthill.

Joseph Creek flows east then north from Enterprise, Oregon. First through ranch land, then a Wild and Scenic canyon before joining with the Grande Ronde only a few miles above the confluence with the Snake. This makes Heller Bar a unique spot: you can take out from Hell's Canyon, the Lower Main Salmon, the Grand Ronde, Joseph Creek and the Imnaha -- all at Heller Bar. We usually opt to skip the flatwater and take out at the Chief Joseph Wildlife refuge, which is also where the gauge is located. We are launching with a hair under 500, slowly falling. Perfect medium flow.

At the putin, behind several locked gates, Joseph Creek is perhaps 250 cfs of swift moving water, full of riffles. It's similar to Peshastin Creek, though smaller here at the top and not so steep. The first few miles float through the last of the ranch land, and though there is evidence of grazing (any rancher worth

his salt will you it's the beaver that pollute the stream) leaving the road behind hides most signs of habitation.

We drift past tall black basalt pinnacles, covered in green moss and orange and yellow lichens. There's wood, of course. This is, after all, a creek, but here, wood is perhaps the defining characteristic. The rapids up top are mostly riffles and you need a fairly rare high flow to enjoy this stretch without hitting a lot of rocks. The DOE gauge has only been in place for a few years and those few years have seen less than a week of runnable flow usually. "Runnable" being 300 - 1000 or so. We've only seen the gauge hit 1000 once, until this spring when 2000 cfs ripped through here in April, before nearly a month of runnable flow teased us into coming back.

This year, the wood we know to expect is gone, flushed out of the way. This



Quality whitewater right out of camp.
Joseph Creek

Skirting wood on the right, ducking wood on the left: welcome to 'Whipface Creek'

is not encouraging, because it could now be anywhere. We reach Swamp Creek, where a 90 year old off-grid cabin awaits. No one has been here since we last stayed two years ago. The windows have been broken and a righteous mess awaits. We clear the floor of two inches of nests and feces and carcasses. We don't want to, but it's raining damn near an inch an hour. Soon the wood stove is heating the place, cocktails are mixed, the cards come out, and all is well in the world.

In the morning we are met with a rain swollen river. Our moderate flow of 500 has jumped to 900 overnight, the highest flow we've seen. Should be fun, but we know the wood situation requires careful attention. After a six mile II+ day on day 1, day 2 is a 25 mile III-IV day with very few breaks. We launch to clearing skies, apprehensive about the wood and whether the flow will stabilize. No one recommends this creek over 800 and we wonder if there's a reason.

We approach a tricky blind S-turn where an old 4x4 trail reaches the river. An abandoned camper trailer is



an obvious landmark. Wood. All over, with no warning -- scary wood. In both bends of the 'S'. We barely grab an eddy, lucky to have an easy portage trail over a grassy bluff. This is the nature of Joseph Creek. You move at easily 6 mph. The whitewater is continuous. The wood is omnipresent. You can't possibly scout it all. You just have to adopt a zen attitude about the wood because you will run something every 2 minutes you'd scout anywhere else. It's hard to scout because the river isn't bankful, it's in the trees and they block

access to the bank along most of the river. Leading is an unnerving and exhausting proposition. That's the charm of Joseph Creek: If you can do it and enjoy it, you probably look for harder whitewater and don't come here. If you enjoy III+ but it's your limit, you're going to be in over your head. No one comes here.

The rating system doesn't really allow for a way to convey this, but the reality of it from the boat is both terrifying and exhilarating, like the best of boating often is. The place is wild, with owls in the trees above the river, white tail deer on the ridges, and elk. Oh, the elk. One year, we floated parallel with a 30-head herd, til they bounded over a small bluff and disappeared. When we rounded the corner, they were mid-ford, chest deep in the water. We floated between them, mere inches away from their powerful bodies. They didn't really seem concerned, merely surprised.

The whitewater builds after lunch and becomes pushy IV in places. With wood. Did I mention the wood? Bill has taken to calling this Whipface Creek, because in the lower gorge, the trees span the entire river bed with branches at face level. Moves become four di-



Being coughed out of the canyon in a whitewater fit is more fun than it sounds.

mensional as you have to time strokes and head placement amongst the trees while you manage your boat in the rapids. You can't run after April, because the trees leaf out and you can't see downstream. I know -- the hard way.

We've seen so much river wide or channel spanning wood it seems commonplace now. We've only had to portage 3 times I think. The water is so high I blast past our usual night 2 camp without recognizing it, dropping into the white-water fit of IV drops. The best of which is a beaver dam rapid that is the biggest drop on the river. The beaver have shut down the old channel, creating maybe the only pool on the river. It's cliffed out though, so you still can't scout. The new channel tears over young rock and old trees, ending in a gauntlet of huge holes and wrap snags. This year it's clean. At last we find a perfect grassy bench, which even has a one boat eddy for us. The storm has given way to a blue sky and radiant sun. We've run 30 miles in 5 hours, including portages and lunch stop. That's more water than the double Green Gorge laps, nearly a whole Illinois or SF Salmon run. No, the rapids weren't as tough, but the exposure is as bad. Or worse. There's just no stopping on this creek and a swimmer would be isolated and at the mercy of the wood.

We sit around a campfire of sage and driftwood, steaks grilling, telling stories from the day, looking forward to the next time we get a big snowpack and a chance to visit Whipface Creek.

-Ed



Web Hits

Web Hits features local access and conservation updates, expedition and exploratory trip reports from around the world, and highlights excellent forum exchanges from across the online boating communities in the western states. So, what exciting news and events have happened lately? Check these links out:

Armchair Carnage: Lochsa
Roadside Entertainment
<http://bit.ly/rrVFsr>

C&K: Off the Fence: The
State of Paddlers' Rights
<http://bit.ly/nIMgfh>

C&K: Girls Gone Wildwater
<http://bit.ly/kGpxxN>

C&K: Handbuilding Birchbark
Canoes
<http://bit.ly/l3r4KG>

C&K: 30 years of the Stikine
<http://bit.ly/lkj0v8>

NF American: Giant Gap
<http://bit.ly/mYDKHn>

MFS High Water Video:
Boundary to Murph's Hole
<http://bit.ly/rjn34Q>

MFS High Water Video:
Chasing flipped raft to Velvet
<http://bit.ly/oyrljl>

Kayak First Descents in
Japan
<http://bit.ly/o4cLTn>

Swiftwater Training in
Finland
<http://bit.ly/qoICBg>

Vancouver Island's Cameron
River Canyons
<http://bit.ly/p8vC4l>

AW: Take Action For Clean
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So what's runnin'?

July is here. Tighten your frame straps and hang on, cause snowmelt season is in full swing! It's time to get away from the office, and that means multiday trips! Here are some suggestions to get you out the door and on a new overnight expedition:



II Grand Ronde

The Grand Ronde is a sleeper. No it doesn't have hot springs, epic hikes, or huge whitewater. It does have more first-rate campsites than any other non-permitted river I've ever seen. Flows from 1,500 to 15,000 go, and you can fly in to Red's Horse Ranch to add 20 miles up top, or float past Troy all the way the Heller Bar. One night, 7 nights, you can make any kind of trip you want, and it's kid friendly. Just don't plan to go Memorial Day Weekend.

III Rogue

There's no secret the Rogue is one of the premier overnight runs in the Northwest. Oak forests, black bears, Rainie Falls, and Blossom Bar ensure no one will be bored on this trip. There's a river-long trail on the right bank, so you can hike any evening, or even let passengers take a day off the water. Great campsites encourage lay-over days. Hanging out at Vulture Rock watching dories and orange torpedos shoot the rapids is a great afternoon's entertainment.

IV Yampa

The Yampa is a stunning high desert canyon, a tributary of the Green River in Colorado that carves some truly stunning canyons. Some say it's better than the Grand Canyon since you can see river to rim. Don't miss the hikes at Starvation Canyon or Harding Hole, and take a moment to scout Warm-springs, on the Big Drops of the West, a true IV and the biggest drop on the run. The whitewater of Split Mountain Canyon ends the trip on a fun III note after the flats below Whirlpool Canyon.

IV-V Illinois

Sister to the Rogue, the Illinois was spared Glen Woolridge's Forest Service-endorsed blasting of rapids. Where the Rogue's legendary rapids were smoothed and cleared, the Illinois still contains the steep boulder-studded rapids Nature gave her. This run sees it all: IK floats at 150 cfs and catboat runs at 6,000+. Despite its low elevation headwaters, if you can find it in yourself to enjoy pool-drop IV+, 1000 cfs can often be had in May, when longer days and better weather prevail.



Bill Tuthill, gazing down river and deep in time, Yampa River



Board Meeting Minutes May 2011

- 1) Call to order May 4th, 2011 Washington Recreation River Runners Board Meeting at Spiro's Pizza in Shoreline. Board Members in attendance: Mark Burns, Jessica Dyson, Nancy Douty, Brenan Filippini, Shaun Heublein, Matt Holmes, Jim Johnson, Lyles Larkin
- 2) Approval of minutes from last month's meeting
 - A) All approved as printed
- 3) Request to flag action items in Board Meeting Minutes
 - A) Jessica pointed out that the minutes don't get handed out until next month's meeting so flagging in minutes won't drive action, the action owners need to keep a record of their actions
 - B) Nancy said it would be nice though
 - C) Jessica agreed to do it on trial basis
- 4) River Ops
 - A) Wenatchee Rendezvous
 - I) Brenan to email Brian the information about the event for the newsletter including
 - II) Potluck-recommended dish by letter of last name
 - III) Mark and Brenan to get prizes
 - B) White Salmon
 - I) This will be the first year we use a different camp so need to communicate that change early & often
 - 1) Include in newsletter
 - 2) Need to post a sign at the old camp location notifying of new location
 - C) Green River Clean Up Post-Mortem
 - I) Still need tally from sign ups - Brenan trying to get as Chris Koker was on point
 - II) Recommendation from 2011 Board for future Board - Consider scaling back food WRRR Provides by cutting out Friday night meal
 - III) Recommendation from 2011 Board for future Board - Additional signs providing information at camping (Shangri -La) outlining rules would be helpful
- 5) Business
 - A) Code of Conduct
 - I) Should be incorporated into membership waiver
 - II) Lyles and Shaun would like to review content and provide feedback before it gets incorporated
 - B) Board Insurance
 - I) Nancy provided written statement of financials as needed
 - II) Jessica will submit information requested to insurance agent so they can provide quote
- 6) Finance
 - A) WRRR wear sales at Green Clean up = \$360
 - B) Nancy followed up on Jessica's request to understand the average expected income per event
 - I) Wenatchee 5 year average = \$1,109
 - II) Poker run 4 year average = 963
 - C) Jessica questioned if it makes more sense to use average in budgeting than last year's carry forward. No decision made
- 7) Safety and Education
 - A) Lyles has contact Kurk from Idaho River Rescue for costs on conducting the multi day safety course. Waiting for Kurk's reply
 - B) If no response from Kurk Lyles will look into using Casey or Wet Planet
 - C) 2nd Annual Spring Picnic and Flip Practice hosted by Jim Johnson was great success. Had 14 people in attendance even with limited advertising. Hoping for more next year.
- 8) Communication
 - A) Newsletter articles
 - I) Wenatchee article - Brenan
 - II) White Salmon article - Mark
 - III) Poker Run article - Ken
 - IV) Tieton article - Shaun
- 9) Programs
 - A) Matt Holmes needs to write and send an article to Brian for the newsletter regarding the new costume float at Tieton
 - B) Matt needs to get can cozies from Nancy for costume participation gifts
 - C) Matt needs to work with Brenan on lining up three prizes for the costume float

DAY/DATE	RIVER/DESCRIPTION	CLASS	CONTACT
Mar-July	MM SNOQUALMIE Every Thursday Night!!!! Check the Yahoo! group for meet times.	III	David Elliott dce@dcell.com
Jul 2nd-4th	CHILLIWACK CANYON, BC	IV	Terry Donoho 509-476-3219 whiteh2o2@gmail.com
Jul 8th-10th	WHITE SALMON Camping at Hollenbeck Park	III (V)	WRRR Board pinkylippini@yahoo.com
August	COOPER RIVER High quality cascade mountain creaking	IV-V	Brian Vogt bvogt@wwik.org
Aug 11th	LOWER SAUK OVERNIGHTER (On your way to the Skagit Poker run)	III+	Brenan Filippini pinkylippini@yahoo.com
Aug 11th-14th	SKAGIT POKER RUN. Safety Olympics / Potluck / Prizes Saturday Group Camp reserved Thurs night thru Sun Noon	II-III	WRRR Board pinkylippini@yahoo.com
Aug 20th-21st	THOMPSON RIVER, BC Come see the big water and bigger canyons of British Columbia	III-IV	Shaun Heublein wrmembership@live.com
Sep 9th-11th	WRRR TIETON WEEKEND Costume Float and contest 9/10/2011	III	WRRR Board Matt Holmes 206-948-5730
Sep 16th-18th	WRRR / OWA WEEKEND Potluck Saturday night	III	WRRR/OWA Board pinkylippini@yahoo.com
Sep 23rd-27th	ROGUE RIVER Pending Permits, Semi Wilderness	III-IV (V)	Brenan Filippini pinkylippini@yahoo.com

Club Announcements

The 3rd Quarter general membership meeting will be held during the Skagit Poker Run Event. We will be asking members to review and ratify updates to the Washington Recreation River Runners By-Laws. After 25 years there are things we no longer do as a club due to technology changes like keeping a voice recorded trip hotline; other things we do more of, like we now have monthly Board meetings instead of quarterly. We have made minor updates to the WRRR By-Laws to bring them up to date, and added a simple code of conduct section which most recreation clubs have these days. Any change to the By-Laws even minor ones like these require that the general membership vote to ratify the changes. We will be

collecting your vote at the Skagit Poker Run Event following the poker hand winner announcements. We have posted a document to the WRRR yahoo group which details what we are proposing be changed for your advanced review. We will also be bringing paper copies of the By-Laws to the Skagit Poker Run Event for your convenience.

August Board Meeting Location: Mitzels in Kent <http://mitzels.com/> Address: 22330 84th Ave South Kent, WA 98032

September Board Meeting Location: Big E Ales in Lynwood <http://www.ellersickbrewing.com/> 5030 208th ST SW Ste. A Lynwood, WA 98036



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Shaun takes a moment to reflect.
Clover Creek/Bruneau confluence

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