

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

the waterlog

VOL 11 NO 9 SEP 2011

In This Issue:

Zion's Virgin



Wall Street, Virgin Narrows

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.

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New Member Renewal Returning Member
(prior membership ran out)

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 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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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.

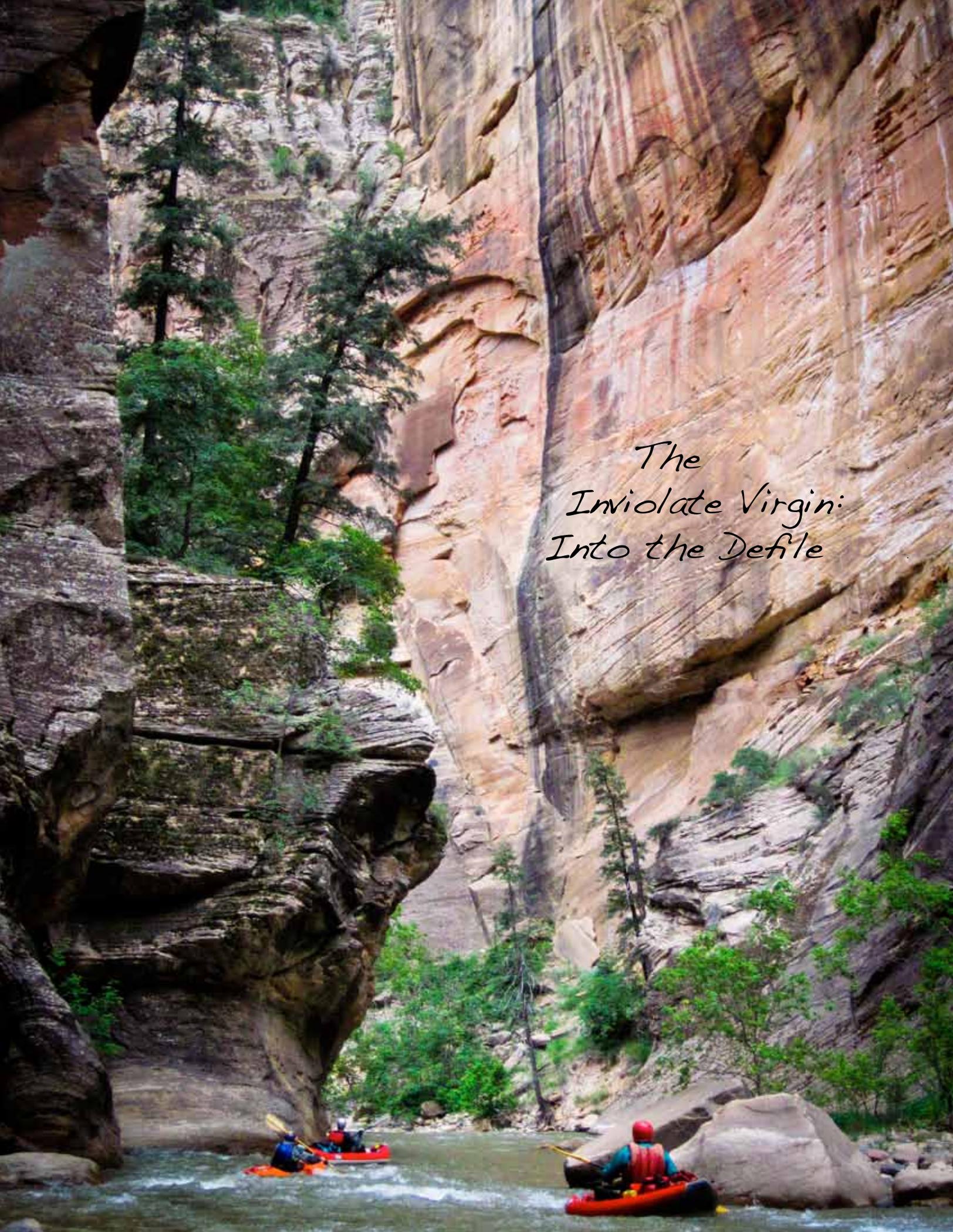
Submit material for publication in The Waterlog to the editor:

Brian Vogt
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*The
Inviolata Virgin:
Into the Defile*

From this spot on the trail, I can see the sheer walls close in around the Virgin Narrows some 10 miles distant. Between trail and canyon lies a broken land of folded rock, dense scrub oak and manzanita, and hints of the Navajo sandstone bedrock that will define our tortured path through this landscape for the next few days.

We (Joe Migoni, Erik Miller, Shaun Riedinger, Bill Tuthill, and Brian Vogt) are hiking in to a tributary of the Virgin River, the main waterway in Zion National Park. Erik Miller has spent several weekends sussing out the best access options and we've trusted his work to get us into the canyon at a spot with boatable flow, avoiding a 9 mile boat drag down the NF Virgin. Each of us has boat, paddle, on-river gear, camp gear, food and water strapped to our back. I estimate my load at 70lbs -- and I've used every backpacker trick in the book to get it that light.

I realize I used the word 'trail' -- and that might apply to the old road bed we hike for the first 3 miles. But when

we hit the rim, any semblance of a trail is lost. Perhaps this was once a game trail, but even that is questionable. We grovel through the manzanita, marvel at the old growth Ponderosa, and swear as we slide down the scree and talus that separates sections of deing sorting our gear for tomorrow. As we drift off to sleep, a narrow band of sky frames the hoodoos and spires of the inner canyon. Moonlight washes the forest in ethereal light. Our minds turn to the unknown journey ahead. Our only beta is that somewhere there is a waterfall that knocked a boater out, shredding a tube of his IK. It may or may not have been wood that KO'd the boater. We hope we are ready for the challenges we will face.

In the morning, the usual nervous bravado dominates. Soon enough, no more fiddling with gear can delay the inevitable and we are off, rushing headlong into a steep inescapable gorge about which we know very little. We think we have a 4 mile mostly class III section to run down to the NF Virgin confluence. Within 5 minutes, we are out scouting. Steep boulder drops of 10-12 feet are stacked

up without much in the way of recovery or flat water. But our scouts always reveal a safe route. We do find some wood, but it's mostly avoidable, or very quick to portage. We settle into the rhythm of creeking: the lead boater sets good lines until something gives pause. An eddy is caught, and the leader drifts back while a new probe boat scouts. We leapfrog each other, laughing about the unexpected quality of the class IV drops. We are in no hurry and we stop to savor particularly amazing walls, explore grottoes and amphitheatres carved from raw sandstone over millennia. Time passes, one supposes, but not in any meaningful way. It is simply an extended now, drawn out to impossible lengths as we savor the new sights of the unfolding canyon.

Bill signals we'd best scout the blind corner ahead. At first, all looks good. A steep class IV drop against a headwall is the biggest thing we've seen so far, and there are some trouble rocks, but the drop goes. Goes tearing around another corner, the scout re-



Bill finishes a drop in the upper canyon

veals, a corner jammed with a half dozen trees. No eddies exist below the entry drop. Well, Bill surely made the right call here. We portage first down the right, then ferry through the maze of trees and finish portaging on the left. We debate whether anyone might have considered the class IV entry a "waterfall" -- clearly one could get knocked out by the wood. But an unconscious swimmer would be in big trouble in the trees below. Is this our crux? Inconclusive. We pause for a snack and to consider our pace and scouting decisions.

The walls are bigger now. Basalt bands and small sandstone headwalls have been replaced with 600' monolithic walls, sheer and multi hued. Here a hanging alcove, there a hoodoo. Desert varnish. Springs and ferns and moss. The ponderosa are gone, though it's unclear if that's a function of elevation or lack of sufficient soil for such a large tree. The smaller trees, when they fall, often can't reach horizontal. They simply collapse against the opposite canyon wall, like giant lean-to structures. The whitewater has not lessened. Clearly, class III was not an accurate rating. We've definitely come the 2 miles our beta indicates it takes to reach the crux knock-out waterfall. Perhaps a concussion affected the beta? We continue on.



At long last, perhaps 5 miles in, we reach a horizon line. There hasn't been one yet, as the river simply drops 6 to 8 inches every foot or two, small but consistent drops punctuated with technical moves or an occasional constriction between the walls. A scout reveals a 6 foot ledge drop, boxed in, recircling, with undercut walls to boot. Surely, this is the waterfall crux. The drop continues, next into a sluice box with rocks in all the wrong places, and finally into a boulder jumble that offers a sieve filled line, that might clean up at twice the flow. Taken together, this is surely class V, perhaps V+. We portage quickly, with no discussion about

running the drops.

We have no maps. There are no side canyons or tributaries that might serve as landmarks even if we did. We wonder how far we are from the confluence. The whitewater continues apace, delightful class III and IV with very little let up. Perhaps the occasional scout or log. We pass campsites we note for next time, when we can take more time. There is so much more river, so many more rapids of such a better quality than any of us has had dared to hope. We don't want it to end. We figure we've come 8 or 9 miles. At last, just as we are starting to admit we might get tired at some point -- there it is: the NF Virgin. Its mouth an 800 foot tall 20 foot wide crack in the river left wall, barely recognizable as a runnable 10 mile canyon in its own right. A break is called so that we might hike a little.

At last we return to the river, drifting down to camp. Now within Zion National Park, we are of course regulated as to where and when and with whom and under what conditions we might be allowed to hike, camp, eat, cook, shit. Camp 4 offers us a lovely beach, sandy, shady, sunny in parts. A perfect home. Out comes the rum, the cheese, the stories of the day. Did you see Shaun's flip? Brian's tube grab? Remember when Bill ran that line no one wanted any part of? How about



The wood portage

Erik's near-wrap on a log? We try to fix the memories firmly in our minds. Twilight filters down. The stars come out. The canyon is too narrow to see the full moon this night.

In the morning, we watch thunderheads roll over the canyon. We descend into an ever narrower gorge until we reach the Narrows proper. Eventually, the canyon is so steep and fluted the sky is visible only in fleeting glimmers; sunlight bounces off the walls and the chasm glows with an otherworldly light. The whitewater has eased to mostly II, with the occasional III. One class IV rapid is the only significant distraction from watching the canyon walls. Even the logjams appear benign. It seems perfect here: timeless, truly wild. It's hard to imagine this place packed with summer hikers and children shouting to hear their own echoes. There is only water and rock and light. We wish

it could go on forever.

Alas, it does not. We come out of the canyon abruptly at the Temple of Sinawava. A last class IV ledge awaits, and the tourists exclaim at the free show we provide. Spectators hauled in by tour bus, limited to those parts of the park that are paved. What will they remember from their time here? What lessons will they have absorbed from the raw power of nature writ so large? We know only that we have touched a sacred place, traversed a path followed only by water and occasionally, rarely, another boater or canyoneer. We hope some small part of the power of the place speaks to these people as they take our pictures then holler at us from the tour bus. Ah, the wild life.

-Ed

Kolob Creek Rapid, Virgin Narrows



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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:

Video: NF Payette
Catboating
<http://bit.ly/rv1o2P>

Lyles Larkin's Z-Drag Photos
<http://bit.ly/nkX7ji>

Devil's Postpile, San Juaquin
<http://bit.ly/pTTYaF>

NF Rogue R2 Video
<http://bit.ly/qhfYZB>

Grand Canyon Stikine
<http://bit.ly/qjClhw>

Clark's Fork Box,
Yellowstone River
<http://bit.ly/oYwqMx>

10 year online archive of
Rapid Magazine
<http://bit.ly/rqTD0u>

Condit Dam Update
<http://bit.ly/qmXVYS>

AW: New Threats to Wild
and Scenic Rivers
<http://bit.ly/qMIGVT>

AW: Flaming Gorge Pipeline
Moves Forward
<http://bit.ly/nT71Tj>

Alsek River Throught
Turnback Canyon
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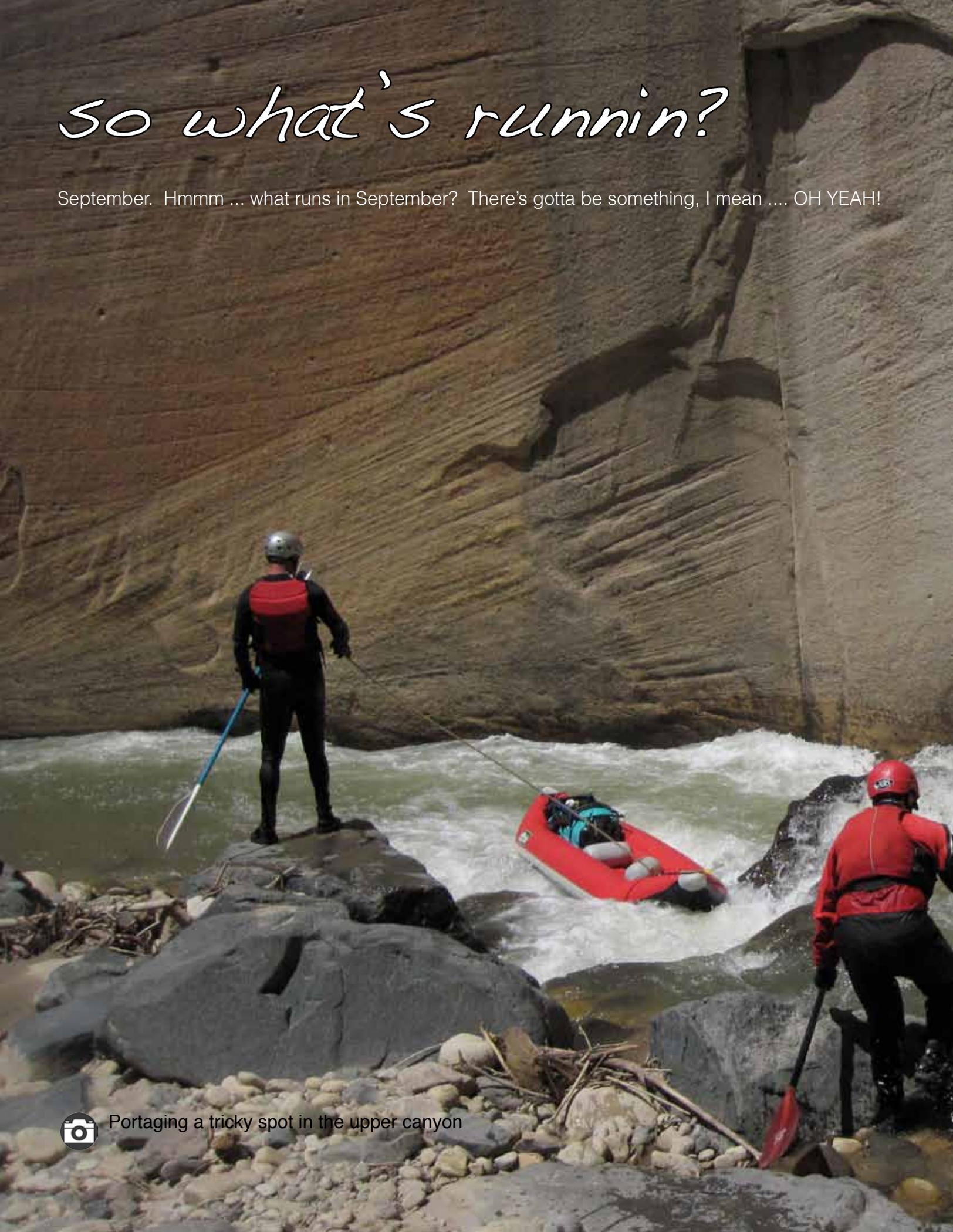
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So what's runnin'?

September. Hmmm ... what runs in September? There's gotta be something, I mean OH YEAH!



Portaging a tricky spot in the upper canyon

Tieton II-III

There's this river, see, with tons of free camping, continuous whitewater, endless shuttle options, and perfect weather. It's splashy, it's not ELF boating, and you'll see one of every kind of boat ever made. I don't know why I'm telling you this, you're probably there right now. If not, get it while the water's up!

Skykomish III+

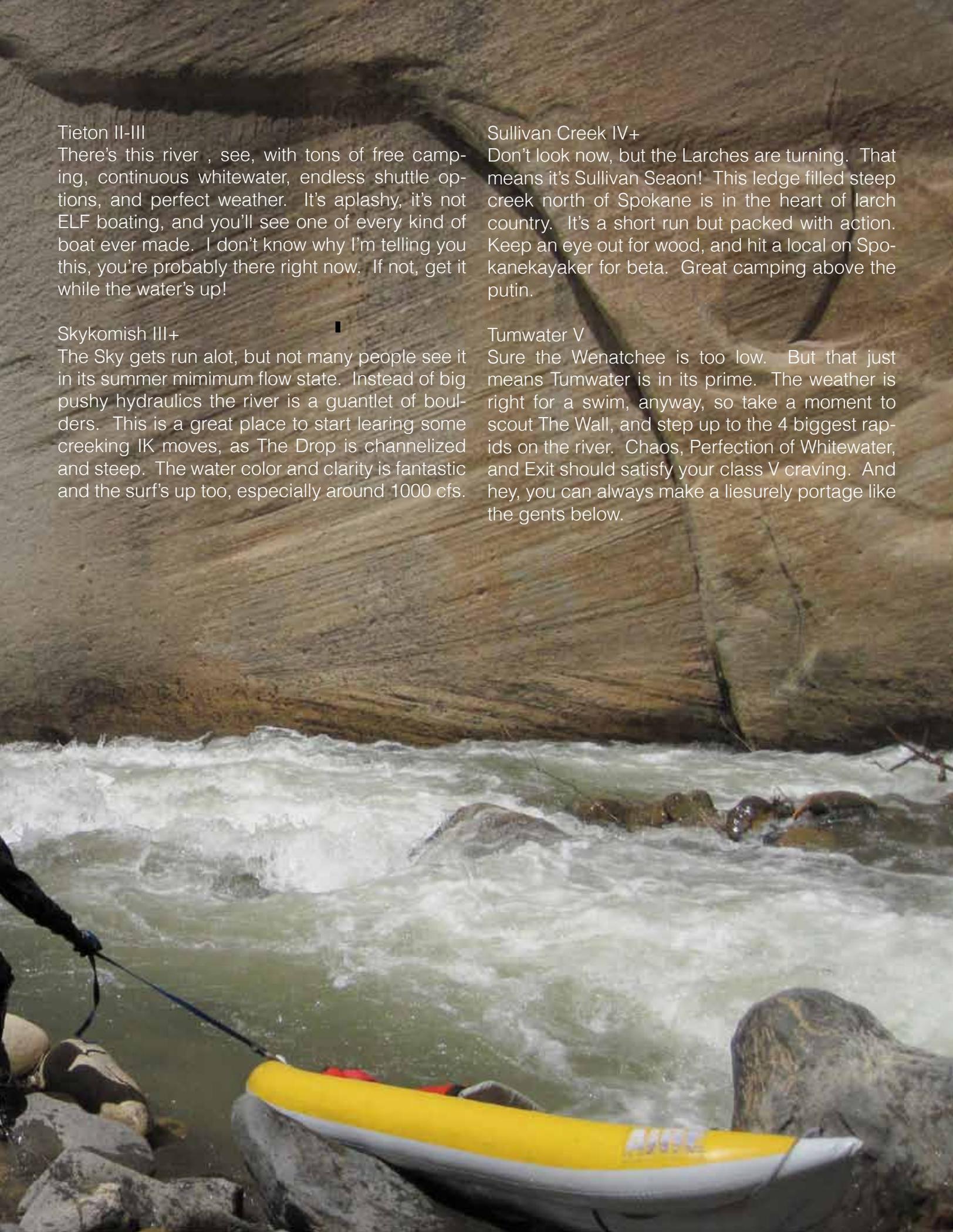
The Sky gets run a lot, but not many people see it in its summer minimum flow state. Instead of big pushy hydraulics the river is a gauntlet of boulders. This is a great place to start learning some creeking IK moves, as The Drop is channelized and steep. The water color and clarity is fantastic and the surf's up too, especially around 1000 cfs.

Sullivan Creek IV+

Don't look now, but the Larches are turning. That means it's Sullivan Season! This ledge filled steep creek north of Spokane is in the heart of larch country. It's a short run but packed with action. Keep an eye out for wood, and hit a local on Spokane kayaker for beta. Great camping above the putin.

Tumwater V

Sure the Wenatchee is too low. But that just means Tumwater is in its prime. The weather is right for a swim, anyway, so take a moment to scout The Wall, and step up to the 4 biggest rapids on the river. Chaos, Perfection of Whitewater, and Exit should satisfy your class V craving. And hey, you can always make a leisurely portage like the gents below.



Board Meeting Minutes July 2011

Call to order Wednesday, July 13, 2011 | Washington Recreation River Runners Board Meeting at Angelos in Burien . Board Members in attendance: Mark Burns, Jessica Dyson, Nancy Douty, Shaun Heublein, Matt Holmes, Jim Johnson, Lyles Larkin

1. June Meeting Minutes not available to approve will have to review June Minutes in August Meeting

2. New Business

1. Website

- a. Some members have been complaining about the event calendar on the WRRR website being incorrect
- b. Attempts to get current website calendar updated have not been successful
- c. Short term solution recommendation: Post river trip events to the Yahoo Croup calendar and Facebook. Keep referring people to the Waterlog Newsletter which has the correct calendar listings in addition to Yahoo and Facebook
- d. Permanent Solution: We will put a notice in the July Waterlog announcing we are taking proposals for designing the new revised WRRR Website. The notice will say all proposals due before August Board Meeting. The Board will review and vote on which proposal to proceed with at August Board meeting

2. Nomination Committee

- a. List of nominations for the 2012 Board due October 1st b. Lyles nominated as chairman of the committee c. Jessica, Shaun, and Jim Johnson did it last year d. Election Committee (counts the votes, audits results) separate committee and should be chaired by someone not running for the 2012 Board

3. August Board Meeting

- a. Board voted to have a meeting in August so we can review website proposals and Sponsorship Program plans
- b. August will be in South end again per the rotation plan. The Board decided to try Mitzels in Kent in August. September we will be back in North end at Big E Ales in Lynwood.

4. Fourth Quarter General Membership Meeting

- a. With Sauktoberfest no longer happening we

need to identify a 4th Quarter membership meeting

- b. Board came up with the idea of doing a Gear Swap and Gear Repair Workshop.
- c. Mark to contact Sheflo about potentially using his space and expertise for the event

5. River Ops

a. Skagit i. Potluck

- 1) Concern about not enough people bringing main dishes (too many desserts and sides)
- 2) Board decided to limit to three categories (appetizer/side dish, main dish, and desserts) and have the most letter of the alphabet assigned to the main category to encourage more main dishes

b. Volunteers

- i. Mark won't be available t
- ii. Jim Johnson can help but prefers not doing a river station

c. White Salmon Recap

- i. Only 14 people attended
- ii. Hollenbeck Park was very nice campground (Zoe Hollenbeck donated estimated \$140 in value in discounted c ampsite fees)

6. Finance

- a. IRS sent us notification that has to be completed online - Nancy asked if someone with better computer skills could help. Shaun and Jessica offered to complete the online form

7. Business

- a. Once approved the updated By-Laws will have to be filed with the Secretary of State
- b. Sponsorship Program presented to Board in August. Jessica is proposing offering benefits retroactively to sponsors from last year to recognize them (late better than never?)

8. Programs

a. Costume Float

- i. Matt has cozzies for participants
- ii. 1st Prize agreed value of \$50, 2nd Prize \$25
- iii. Jessica will send Matt list of existing sponsors who have donated goods so he can consider them for acquiring his prizes

Poker Run Wrap-Up:

The Medalists for the Safety Olympics.

- GOLD: David Sestak
- SILVER: Jim Johnson
- BRONZE: David Hablewitz

Olympians trained all year for this. "The air was thick out there. You could cut it with a knife" Judge Brennan said. The wrrr safety olympics is both mental and physical. "Participants need to seek out

the events and be ready for anything when they get there" Brennan continued.... There were undercover judges along the way to ensure that no cheating was going on. The safety olympics is a fun way to get involved and work on your safety skills. It's an informal event to encourage members new and old to participate. Anyone that hasn't participated will be able to sign up for the 2012. Registration is open from now until the put in of the poker run in 2012 @ 11:30am. It's time to give the returning medalists a run for their money.

DAY/DATE	RIVER/DESCRIPTION	CLASS	CONTACT
Jan 1st	New Year's Hangover Float	II-III	
May 5th	GREEN RIVER CLEANUP	III-IV	WRRR Board pinkofilippini@yahoo.com
Jun 2nd	WENATCHEE RENDEZVOUS	III+	WRRR Board pinkofilippini@yahoo.com
Sept 8th 2012	WRRR TIETON RALLY	III	WRRR Board pinkofilippini@yahoo.com
Sept 15th 2012	OWA TIETON POTLUCK	III+	Brenan Filippini pinkofilippini@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 pinkofilippini@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	III	WRRR Board Matt Holmes 206-948-5730
Sep 16th-18th	WRRR / OWA WEEKEND Potluck Saturday night	III	WRRR/OWA Board pinkofilippini@yahoo.com
Sep 23rd-27th	ROGUE RIVER Pending Permits, Semi Wilderness	III-IV (V)	Brenan Filippini pinkofilippini@yahoo.com



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