

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

# the waterlog

VOL 12 NO 1 JAN 2012

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2012 Board

Checkin' in to Norm's Resort



Lyles Larkin in Paradise

**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
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5 free raffle tickets at Wenatchee Rendezvous and 1 free hand at the Poker Run
  - \$55 BENEFACTOR -same as family plus  
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  - \$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)

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 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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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).  
 Please contact the WRRR Yahoo! or Facebook pages for meeting locations.

## 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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## Checkin' in to Norm's Resort



Nick Borelli, first drop of the day

Norm's Resort is one of the signature rapids on the Cooper River. The Cooper is one of the signature creeks in all of Washington. It's a tributary to the Cle Elum, and offers a magnificent gorge of polished granite, steep ledges, and amazing green water.

I love the Cooper. It's one of my favorite runs. There's very little downtime on the run. You launch at the base of a 60' bedrock slide that's never been run. After 20' of class III "warm up," you drop over a 15' bedrock slide, which feeds immediately into a 7' pour over. Then comes Norm's Resort. This legendary rapid features a class III lead-in to a pool at the lip of another 10' sliding bedrock ledge. But that bottom hole is so sticky there's only a boat-width line on the far far right that avoids the beatdown awaiting a lazy paddler.

Below Norm's, there are more fun ledges. A class III rapid leads into a broken ledge best run against the right wall to avoid a fin protruding into the left side landing zone. Next up is a blind drop of 10 feet with a

huge boulder in the landing center-left. That leads to a flume type drop into a steep-walled inner gorge and a huge hole. And if you've made it this far, that means you are right above S-Turn, the biggest drop on the run, and a 25' sliding bedrock ledge with the most amazing s-turn of current you can imagine. S-turn marks the end of the clean bedrock portion of the run. A small busy III-IV section leads into Shark's Tooth, a class V mess of boulders and lines that dead end in rocky shoals. Below Shark's Tooth, a collection of scenic boulder gardens and boulder ledges leads to Wall of Voodoo, a signature rapid and classic hang out for the locals. Stay out of the left pocket, and watch the fang of bedrock on the right -- a precise line is definitely required. Did I mention all this is packed into less than three miles? Whew!

On a recent trip with Lyles Larkin and Steve Munk, I was out in the lead as we approached Norm's Resort. Last time I was here, I swam the class III entry, and had to make a mountain goat style scree field slope portage on river left around the meaty bot-

tom hole when I failed to self-rescue. I was a little nervous about that lead-in drop, and it turns out, with cause. Because I swam it again. This time, I was lucky enough to get my boat corralled in the eddy above the main drop. As I clambered back into my boat, I looked up to see Lyles take the same swim I did, complicated by dropping his stern under a huge old growth log on the right side of the entry. I helped grab his boat and we both watched Steve style the drop.

Lyles followed Steve over the horizon line above the crux Norm's Resort hydraulic. At least I'd never swam here, I reasoned, confident I could nail the line. I had kept my boat, self-rescued -- surely it'd pay off with a tidy line in the main drop?

I charged out of the eddy, got all the way right with right angle, and cleaned the ledge. I was downstream of the recirculating water even, but, my freedom was not assured. As Steve and Lyles looked on in amusement, that hole reeled me back in and kicked my butt. I did several cycles through the hole.

For the first three, I was fighting hard to get high enough to get a breath. But I quickly realized I wasn't getting enough air, and I was never going to flush that way. So, I gave up on air and started balling up, trying to get to the deep, green flushing water. Three more recircs, with no air, and no closer to flushing I was getting desperate. It appeared I had a reservation. I had checked in to Norm's Resort.

I don't know when Steve and Lyles started trying to get me a throwbag. I never felt one, or heard "Rope!" but I'd also given up on trying to stay high in the foam. Eventually, I was worried about my situation. I could tell I was rapidly getting to the point where I might be in real trouble. I couldn't find the flushing water, couldn't feel a rope, couldn't imagine 10 more seconds without air. I made a final last-ditch effort to grab green water with my paddle, and it worked. I found the flushing water, buried a blade in it, and held on for all I was worth ... which wasn't much. The paddle was ripped out of

my hands.

I couldn't tell whether or not I was still in the hole, but I knew I had to try to get some air. As I made it to the surface, I finally found a rope. Lyles and Steve reeled me in like a drowning rat: flailing, gasping for air, exhausted. It took me several minutes to restore my equilibrium before we could continue. I felt silly at not making any effort to set safety at such a notorious swim generator. But, I was leading this trip and I needed to get back in the right mindset for making sharp, focused instantaneous decisions -- a critical prerequisite to running hard whitewater.

So of course I blew my line on the ledge below Norm's. I recognized it, and I knew I needed to be right, but the entry demanded I go left, and I just couldn't get back right. Somehow, I pulled off a late boof, land on my right hip -- a rock brace miracle of a line. Poor Lyles and Steve followed with less success. There may have been swims, but they were more my fault for the line than errors

on their parts.

As we approached S-Turn, I decided I was going to pull a Hoover (the Fastest Portage in the West) and I didn't even bother scouting the drop before portaging. I normally run S-Turn, but it's a steep, technical rapid, and I needed to limit my carnage. At the flow we had this day it was violent too. The water mostly enters far right, where it hits a slab extending from the right bank. The slab forces the water left, where it hits the 2nd part of the s-turn, the left bank's bedrock, which forces another 90 degree turn back right. That's the line many kayakers run, but I've always been partial to a line entering left of center, which avoids the first turn and gives you momentum away from that left wall. This flow was burly, and it didn't look to me like staying off that wall was very likely. But Lyles and Steve were fired up, and they wanted to run it.

Lyles went first, charging the center flake. He landed great, but was rocketed left



Looking down Shark's Tooth

into the wall so fast it was astonishing. He braced, then lined up on the burly bottom hole. Steve came next, charging even harder, determined to avoid the left wall. Somehow he managed it, having a very clean line. We were all grins at the bottom.

Next came Shark's Tooth, and we had a little trouble scouting. A hardshell was pinned right in the meat of the entrance, and there weren't many good options for missing it. We decided to move into an eddy just below the entrance so we could better evaluate the options, and seal launch around the boat if needed. I went first, and it was a very tricky move into the eddy. The eddy was huge, but it was a one stroke move, timed between lots of rocks. Any delay or mistiming of that stroke meant dropping in to the hardshell-choked main line. Steve came next. We got out and started looking over our options while Lyles came down to the eddy. Somehow he missed the eddy and was rejected back out into the main current. He made a heroic effort to deal with the

hardshell, but there just wasn't anywhere to put the boat. Our final swim for the day was tough to watch, as we couldn't do anything to help Lyles with the long boulder-studded swim.

Steve and I hustled to get down and make sure he was all right. But we weren't done having problems just yet: Steve was forced up on the boulder pile at the bottom and came out of his boat at the very end of the rapid. Ah well, sometimes a creaking lap goes like that.

But wait, it wasn't just a swim -- Steve put a hole in his stiletto tube! A tricky one right on the seam between floor and tube. Luckily I had the necessary materials and pulled over on a sunny bedrock slab for a patch session. We had time constraints that wouldn't allow for a full 60 minute glue session, so I used some AIRE PVC patch tape. It wouldn't hold full air, but after only 20 minutes, we were able to inflate and head downstream. We were digging deep into the bag of tricks

today! Don't ever assume a short 3 mile run means you can leave behind that spare paddle, repair kit, or throwbag. Being prepared means always being prepared.

When we finally hit Wall of Voodoo, there was a big kayak group there. I hate scouting that drop, so I caught an eddy and waited my chance to play through. Lyles and Steve were on the bank chatting with the scouting kayakers, but I had Natalia sitting up on river left and we had 2 hours to be at a wedding back on the west side. I waved adios, dropped in, and styled the only line I would style all day. I hit a clean boof with right angle on the entry, slid around the right side of the entry rock, and squared up on the crux flake, avoiding the river right hazard. It felt great to end on a good note.

I sure had a lot to think about on the drive home. A scary hole ride beatdown, pinned boats, emergency riverside repair -- it just might be the most action I've ever packed into 2.5 miles of river!

-Ed



Ledgey goodness on the Cooper

# So what's runnin'?

January boating: Winter may have just started, but the days are technically getting longer, and the rain gods have finally provided some river fillin' rain events. Get out on the water today!



Rio Verde , Arizona

### **Nisqually II**

The local float trip for many WRRR members, this South Sound staple is a great run to shake off the cobwebs and enjoy some lowland forest scenery.

### **Lower Foss III**

Perfect for running a few winter laps with short shuttles, the lower Foss is an action packed continuous III freight train. Drive up the valley for rare views into the IV-V Ken and Barbie run while the leaves are off the trees.

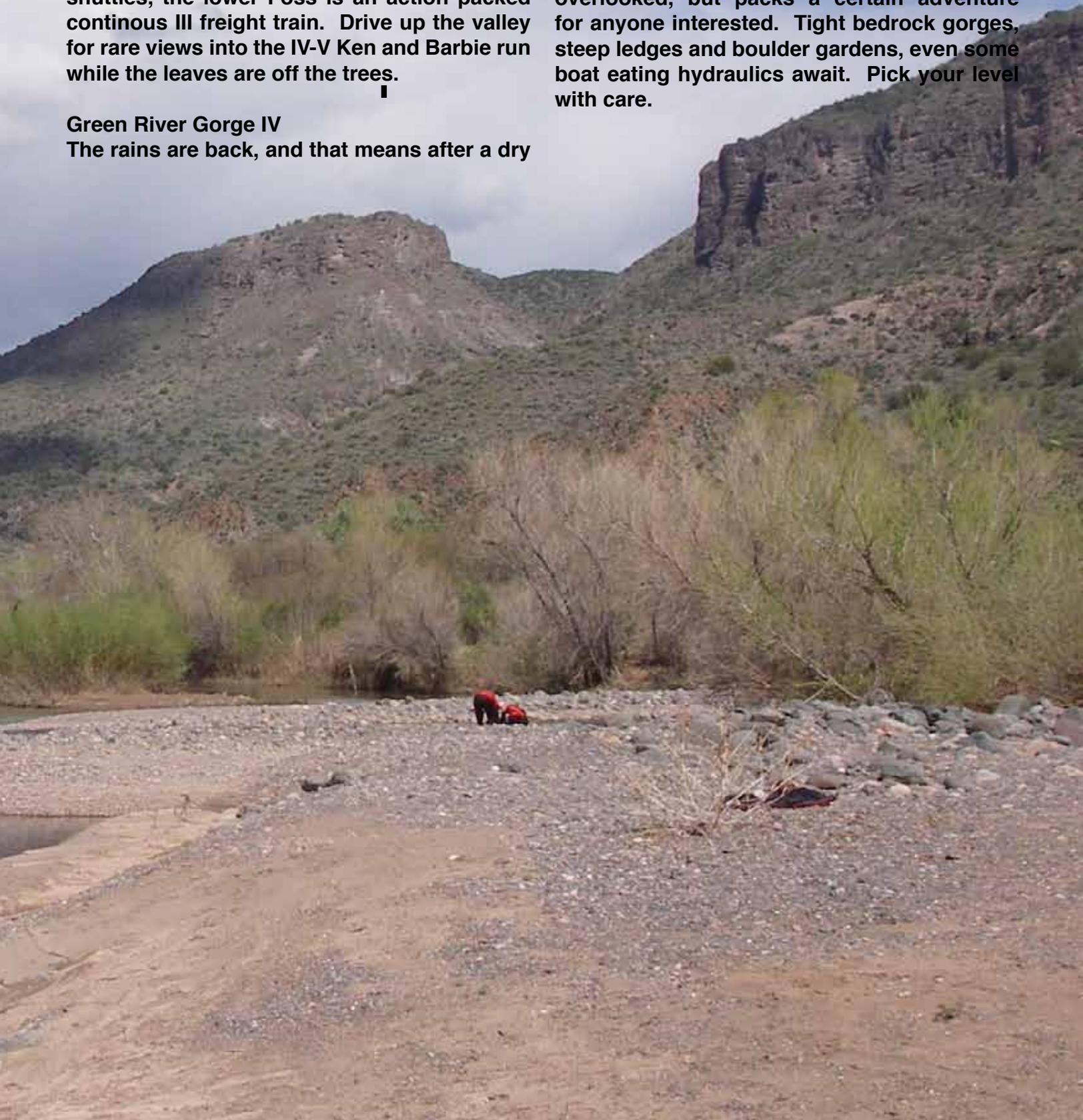
### **Green River Gorge IV**

The rains are back, and that means after a dry

fall the Green River has water again! You may know it by heart, but where else can you run 15 miles of roadless canyon whitewater within 45 minutes of downtown Seattle? See you at Paradise!

### **Grays River V**

The Grays River in SW Washington is often overlooked, but packs a certain adventure for anyone interested. Tight bedrock gorges, steep ledges and boulder gardens, even some boat eating hydraulics await. Pick your level with care.



# 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: Double Carnage at Lava Falls  
<http://bit.ly/wBiCOP>

C&K: Across Europe by Canoe  
<http://bit.ly/Aq99IF>

Rapid: No Such Thing as a First Descent  
<http://bit.ly/wbKZEA>

C&K: Top Stories of 2011  
<http://bit.ly/v2NnGj>

Black Canyon of the Gunnison in December  
<http://bit.ly/wcj7NK>

Coastal Alaskan Packrafting  
<http://bit.ly/uhTd7Y>

AW: Files in Opposition of Sunset Falls Hydro  
<http://bit.ly/wClmsf>

Noccalula Falls First Descent  
<http://bit.ly/u6Vwku>

No Agenda but the Bender  
<http://bit.ly/yUNnK6>

AW: Proposal for Wild Olympics  
<http://bit.ly/wGTdpC>

WRRR 2012 18 Month Whitewater Calendar  
<http://bit.ly/vsOEyR>

Darin McQuoid 2012 Whitewater Calendar  
<http://bit.ly/zuwnH7>



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## Board Meeting Minutes October 2011

Meeting called to order by Brenan at 7:35pm. Board members present Brenan Nancy Shaun Lyles Jim Johnson arrived late at 19:35, presence required for quorum

1. Minutes reviewed
  - a. Intro date of meeting amended from August to September
  - b. (4))(a).(i.) Amended Brenan to Nancy
2. Discussions
  - a. Brenan will look in to insurance policy hard copy
  - b. Brenan will follow up on City of Kent event notice to Yahoo! group
  - c. Minutes approved as amended
3. Nominating committee
  - a. The following people are willing to run for the board in the noted positions.
    - i. Nancy – President
    - ii. Brenan – VP Finance
    - iii. Shaun – VP Business
    - iv. Lyles-VP Operations
    - v. Directors at large: Jason Cohen, Chris Herman, Jim Johnson, Chris Koker
  - b. Shaun brought up that the By-laws state that with the proper procedure (a vote of the board members, and ratification by general membership) a minimum of 8 board members can be accepted.
  - c. This led to a renewed push to find a 5th director at large. Jim Johnson called Paul Sestak and left a message inquiring about being a Director at Large. Charlene Henderson may also be interested.
  - d. Nancy will follow up with her
  - e. Nancy also suggested asking Jay Cohen
  - f. Jim called Jay Cohen, who respectfully declined
  - g. Lyles mentioned David Hablwitz showing reluctant interest at the Skagit.
  - h. Research showed that David's membership had expired on 8/31/2011. By-laws state candidates be members in good standing for the previous 8 months prior to October 31st of the election
4. IRS revocation
  - a. Brenan is working on it with assistance from Mark.
  - b. Brenan's research confirmed we have until December 2012 to still be retroactively reinstated.
  - c. Shaun voiced concern in waiting for the last minute to submit the required documents.
  - d. Jim asked about alternate plans for the Green River Clean Up in regards to using Shangri la if unavailable.
  - e. Brenan reminded the board that we have the Kanasket Palmer group camp made available to us by Washington State Parks, and in the previous couple years we have donated the facility to various groups, but that he believes we will have that facility available to us next year as well.
  - f. Lyles made a request that, if we do use Shangri La, picnic tables be moved prior to the event so that we can make use of them, instead of after the event as happened last year.
5. New Business
  - a. Brenan
    - i. The Wenatchee/Natchez Forest Service has a new Forest Service Management plan being made public soon. He also suggested we bring this to the membership's attention so those interested can make their case to the forest service.
    - ii. He noted the lack of input given late in the process by users of the Windy Point take out, and how lacking user input the Forest Service did whatever they wanted. Getting our suggestions in early on this proposed plan may give users a better chance of having our needs met, or facing another Windy Point parking fiasco at some other location.
  - iii. Brenan had a chat with member Zach Collier of Northwest Rafting Company, regarding upcoming meetings with the BLM over Toilet and various conflicts between Commercial users and Private Boaters on the Rogue River. Zach was hoping we could make our members aware that Private boaters have been significantly under-represented at previous meetings and urged Private Boaters to attend these upcoming meetings
- b. VP Business
  - i. Shaun Presented a prepared report for Jessica:
    - a. Jessica looked into what she needed to do to file the newly approved revisions to the by-laws.
    - b. She emailed the Secretary of State who emailed back saying that they don't file or record by-laws at the Secretary of State office. The only thing they keep on file, and need to file amendments for if something changes in them, are the articles of incorporation (which include name of corporation, purpose, address, and governing officers)
  - c. She then reviewed the Secretary of State Washington Nonprofit Handbook to see if there was any other authority or place that by-law modifications/amendments needed to be filed.
    - i. The IRS requires that a current version of by-laws with amendments and record of approval of amendments be kept on permanent file at the corporation (in case of audit)
  - d. Net Net – We don't have to file our amended by laws with any the Secretary of State or the IRS but we must keep them in our perma-



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WRRR

DAY/DATE	RIVER/DESCRIPTION	CLASS	CONTACT
Jan 1st	New Year's Hangover Float on the Cedar	II-III	Nancy Douy
May 5th	GREEN RIVER CLEANUP	III-IV	WRRR Board pinkofilippini@yahoo.com
May 29th - Jun 2nd	WENATCHEE RENDEZVOUS	III+	WRRR Board pinkofilippini@yahoo.com
July 20th - 22nd	WHITE SALMON	III	WRRR Board pinkofilippini@yahoo.com
Aug 9th-12th	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 wmmembership@live.com
Sept 8th - 9th	WRRR TIETON WEEKEND	III	WRRR Board pinkofilippini@yahoo.com
Sept 15th - 16th	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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