

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

# the waterlog

VOL 12 NO 4 APR 2012

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**Interview with Hans Hoomans**

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**Stories from WRRR's History**



Hans Hoomans and Scott Baker drop Bridal Veil Falls, Oregon. Photo Leslie Bryden

**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).  
 Please visit <http://www.wrrr.org/> 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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## The Bob Johnson Memorial Wenatchee Rendezvous Fri-Sun June 1-3 2012

Come join your fellow WRRR members for our annual Bob Johnson Memorial Wenatchee Rendezvous. Be a part of the greatest flotilla of inflatable boats on the Wenatchee followed by camping, raffle prizes, and a potluck dinner. Don't miss it! The Rendezvous is fun for the whole family, and with the snow pack still increasing, river levels should be great!

**Boating:** Trip Leaders: WRRR Board. The main float is Saturday morning. We will make final trip plans at the campground between 8:00-9:00 AM. If you want to meet at the river without going to the campground first and would like to join others, we usually put in at East Leavenworth in mid-morning. Call any board member and we will relay the information to others and try to hook you up. You may also coordinate with other boaters on the Yahoo Group. There may be Friday and Sunday trips also depending on interest. Check the Yahoo Group for Friday trip planning. Sunday plans will be made in the campground Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Most folks run the Wenatchee but there are some other good rivers nearby, like the Chiwawa, Entiat, Methow, Icicle Creek, and Peshastin Creek. Make plans on the Yahoo Group or in the campground.

**Camping:** Free camping for members at the Tumwater Campground Group Camp, located on the north side of U.S. 2 about 11 miles west of Leavenworth. We have the group camp reserved from 3 PM on Friday to 2 PM on Sunday. If you are looking for more privacy than the group camp there are usually some open spaces at Tumwater Campground for a fee. There is usually some unimproved camping on the south side of U.S. 2 across from Tumwater campground on both sides of Chiwaukum Creek.

**Non-member camping fee is \$10 per person.** If you are not current with your membership you have to pay for camping. Families camp for free only if you have joined at the Family level of higher. It's often a hard thing to collect from people because club members don't always prepare their guests for this, and the board member doing the collecting ends up being the baddie. **Please make sure that your guests know that there is a fee.** If you have not renewed your membership you will have an opportunity on Saturday night.

**Saturday Night Potluck Dinner:** We usually have a great meal. You bring food and your own beverages. WRRR will bring paper plates, plastic utensils, cups and napkins. We will try to have dinner at 6:30 PM on Saturday to allow time for the raffle.

The following is a suggestion for the type of dish to make or bring, if you have a specialty or preference please bring what you like. Last name begins with:

**A-H Main dish I-P Side dish/salad Q-Z Dessert**

**Raffle:** Following dinner on Saturday at the Tumwater group camp the club will raffle off some great river gear. You can buy your tickets at the campground before the raffle starts (or you can buy tickets from the newsletter editor after the raffle is over for half price!)

## WRRR White Salmon Weekend July 20-22

The White Salmon trip is coming up in July. Join us on this annual WRRR sponsored trip on a class 3-3+ run with one optional portage around Husam Falls. Some folks choose to run the eight to ten foot drop -- some don't even flip. An easy takeout above the falls is available.

We meet at the takeout (Northwestern Lake) at noon on Saturday for the shuttle. There is a sign on State Route 141 about five miles from the town of White Salmon. We will put in at BZ Corner.

The White Salmon got hit hard by the storms this year and may have issues with wood. Wood beta is being gathered.

Camping is free for WRRR members at Hollenbeck Park near Trout Lake, WA. This will be the 2nd year at Hollenbeck Park. The camp site has a large grassy area with spectacular views of Mt. Adams. Address: 33 Mt Adams Rd. (off Hwy 141 to Mt. Adams)

## Waterlog Story Contest

The WRRR Board is excited to announce a contest for best river story or picture.. Win a \$25 credit towards annual membership or WRRR Merchandise.

Share your river adventures, safety tips, favorite carnage story, or anything else river trip related. Fight the IKTimes, and write about rafting or catboating!

A winner will be announced quarterly, and will be the person with the most content published in the waterlog in that quarter. Members may only win once per year. So send a story, photo, cartoon, or anything river related (except Joe's socks!) to the editor.

## Class 2 Trips for New Boaters

As the new Safety and Education Chair, Chris Herman is organizing some class 2 river trips for newbies. We have lots of snow in the mts. and it should be a long season. Send an e-mail to [chris@wintersundesign.com](mailto:chris@wintersundesign.com) to be put in the group and receive announcements when we will be running something class 2. We expect to step up to easy class 3 by summer, in time for the Skagit Poker Run. Small boats are ideal for low water, though cats and rafts could also work. E-mail [chris@wintersundesign.com](mailto:chris@wintersundesign.com) to be included.

## So, Hans, Why a Raft?



Hans Doin' Work: Approach to Kenobi Gorge  
Photo by Seth Swallen

**Waterlog:** How do you approach extreme rafting? Is it closer to kayak culture than traditional rafting culture?

**Hans Hoomans:** A little on edge. I would much rather paddle stuff I'm comfortable with, but sometimes you have to scare your self! I think all the cultures are the same, the only thing that separates them is the grade of whitewater a person is paddling. We all love boating for mostly the same reasons.

**WL:** How is class V different in a raft?

**HH:** Rafting is a lot more work in every way other than getting in and out of the boat.

**WL:** What's the most important skill you need for this kind of ex-

treme water?

**HH:** A good team! Most of my extreme rafting has been with great paddlers I trust along side at least 2 kayakers that know the river well. This gives you confidence and that's really important in order to keep a cool head in class V.

**WL:** How does someone step up and start running this kind of water?

**HH:** Start paddling beginner and intermediate whitewater with a variety of folks and you will find people you want to progress with.

**WL:** What do you think the next step is for rafting?

**HH:** More and more rafts going up steam and, with a little help from some sponsors, more extreme

raft races, like the Wind or Canyon Creek races.

**WL:** What factors go into deciding the raft is the right boat for given piece of water?

**HH:** Size! The only time I really don't want to run a river is when the best rapids are too narrow to fit my raft. I do believe some rivers are best suited for kayaks, duckies, canoes, or catboats.

Check out Red Shack Productions new film Habitat. Hans' boating and that of many regional pioneers is featured. Support local whitewater history!

<http://habitatfilm.blogspot.com/>

To celebrate history, here's some stories from WRRR's past adventures:



## Some WRRR History

### Mark Burns

In 1990, Roger Boutell was trying to teach me how to navigate rivers in greater control than I had exhibited in previous year and told me that there was this group called Washington Recreational River Runners that cleaned up the river every year. Roger suggested that I meet these WRRR people to learn the Green River. Rafting the river sounded like much more fun than cleaning up a river; I would have to time this carefully to hit a fun day and not a cleanup day.

In 1992, I met Al Mickelson with WRRR and he introduced the concept of 'fun meter' to me. Evidently, Al could measure fun and the Green River had a lot of fun in it. I still wanted to float the river and not pick up trash as that really did not sound like fun.

Jay Cohen told me that the Green River was more fun than the day I met him and he did a Trident Missile Launch out of Hollywood Hole on a WRRR trip down the Toutle River in his 18 foot double tube catboat. I agreed to go down the Green River the next week with Al and Jay as long as there was no garbage involved.

After my first trip down the Green, I tried to measure the fun, I found that I was smiling ear to ear and I could not talking about the Green River Gorge. I decided that the Green was the funnest river I had ever been down and I would join Jay and Al on the Green River Cleanup if it gave me another day to float the river and have fun. I found that picking up trash was not difficult and fun could be shared with others by involving them in the Green River Cleanup.

Fast forward to 2012: I have been having fun while being involved with the Green River Cleanup since I met Al and Jay and I have been involved with every aspect of the cleanup in one year or another. My family and friends see the Green River Cleanup as an important part of their rafting year and there is greater appreciation of the need to keep river basins clear of debris. Each year I meet

new friends, reestablish old friendships, and interact with hundreds of other people who are better stewards of the environment as a result of their participation in the Green River Cleanup.

I am very proud of the great relationship I established between WRRR and Shangri La / Palmer Coking Coal Company over the last three years. Palmer Coking Coal Company began donating use of the facility to WRRR for the 25th annual Green River Cleanup in 2010 and now WRRR is able to have an amazing base of Operations each year for the Green River Cleanup. The use of Shangri La allows WRRR members to have a greater appreciation for the natural beauty of the Green River Gorge even if everybody is not able to go down the river.

If I pull out Al Mickelson's famous "fun meter", I can honestly say everybody has a lot of fun based on the smiles seen on the faces.

### Nick Borelli

I moved to Washington in 1994. I was excited since I had been watching flow gauges and guidebooks prior to the move since it looked like there were rivers close to Seattle than ran all year, unlike my Bay Area digs. First weekend I was here, popped into Watershed and met Roger Boutell. Asked him about his favorite runs and got as much Washington Beta as possible. Before I left, he asked me if I had a dry suit. I said, no I'm really OK boating in low temps. He smiled and said, "You'll be back". Went boating on the NF Sky the following day...at best it got to 38 degrees. When the run was over, I was really blue and literally couldn't even grip the steering wheel until I left my hands under the car heater vent for 10 minutes. Walked into Watershed that Monday, and said "I'll take 1 Large Kokotat please". He laughed for 20 minutes, and the beginning of a great friendship began...



# HABITAT

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Lyle Gorge, Klickitat  
Photo: Lana Young

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Habitat the film is here! This exciting new film by Ryan Scottt and Hans Hoomans documents over 35 years of rafting history in the Pacific Northwest. Local guides and club members are featured in the film, along with superb history, stories, and old school footage, as well as current class V hijinx. Get your copy today at

<http://habitatfilm.blogspot.com/>

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## Web Hits

Web Hits highlights excellent content from across the online boating communities in the western states. What exciting news and events have happened lately? Check these links out:

Self Support on the Rio Grande  
<http://bit.ly/IoSanD>

Bikerafting the Dirty Devil  
<http://bit.ly/KbuAvc>

Video: Last of the Great Unknown (Colorado Slots)  
<http://bit.ly/xr0bZL>

NRS Video: Souls+Water Series  
<http://bit.ly/lkvhFu>

C&K: New Biography of Freya Hoffmeister  
<http://bit.ly/HhSY2h>

Video: The Last One  
 Documentary on the Yampa  
<http://bit.ly/HLeLez>

C&K: Rafts on Mosier Creek Falls  
<http://bit.ly/Hvt4Zo>

C&K: New Hydro Proposal for Susitna River  
<http://bit.ly/JC7dRm>

ST: Paddling from Washington to Japan  
<http://bit.ly/lwps8w>

ST: WA State Parks in Trouble  
<http://bit.ly/JqOdAx>

C&K: On the Line with a Legend  
<http://bit.ly/HWl5Fb>

AW: Dam Removal on Sullivan Creek  
<http://bit.ly/lwpVHH>

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# So what's runnin'?

**April boating: After work runs, the start of snowmelt, and hot sunny days. Might not be summer yet, but we are close! Celebrate with a new river today.**

## Palouse II

Get out of the rain and head east to the Palouse for rolling hills, basalt canyons, and the high desert plateau. This scenic run is a spring time jewel with amazing canyon views and a short season. Check it out, and don't forget to scout 190 foot tall Palouse Falls.

## Washougal III

The rainy season is coming to end, which means the end of Washougal season. The Washougal is chock full of great runs from III to V, but the main run is a rollocking good big water class III staple.

## EF Lewis IV

The East Fork Lewis is another sw Washington staple. With several different runs, there's everything from II-III drift boat fishing to white knuckle big water IV+. There's something for everyone, and the upper watershed is a lovely forested canyon.

## Wind River V

With the end of rainy season also comes the end of Wind season. A Washington proving ground matched only by Tumwater or the Cascade, the upper canyon on the Wind dished out hard lessons and stellar rapids.







## Safety Break: Oar Tethers

## May Agenda

Oar tethers have become a standard piece of rigging, and though they lack old-school-cred, they can be a real asset in heavy water. There's a fine art to the tether. It needs to be strong enough to retain a popped oar, but not so strong as to allow the oar to pin the boat, or require the oar to break before coming free.

You can buy a set of tethers from many sources. But there's nothing complex about them and it's easy to set up your own. For this version, I'm using 3mm cord, which is good for 375 lbs. If you are a climber, you'll recognize this as being derived from a Texas Prusik.

A) Start out with about 4 feet of cord. Tie a follow through figure eight around your oar tower with one end of the cord. This will stay on the oar tower.

B) Tie a figure eight stopper knot about 18 inches from the other end of the cord. This will be the limiting knot that prevents the

loop around the oar shaft from getting too tight and binding on the oar. It may take some trial and error to find the right minimum size.

C) Tie a fisherman's knot with the loose end of the cord. Place it to the inside of the figure eight stopper knot you tied in step 2.

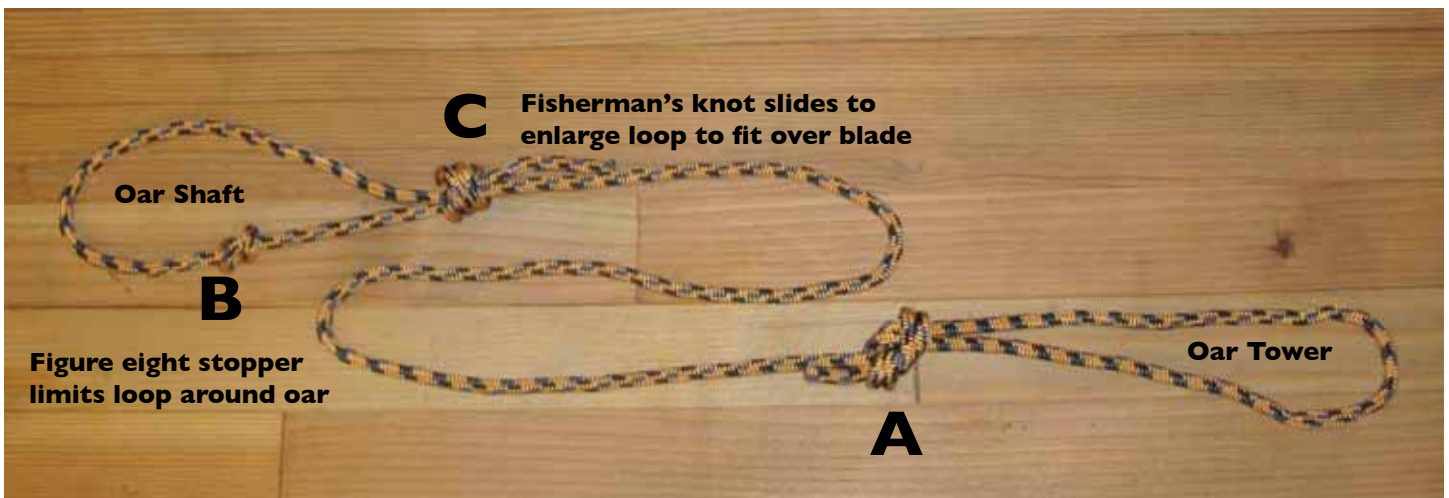
The elegance of this system is in the third step. The fisherman's knot will allow you to quickly expand the loop around the oar shaft to slip over even the largest blade. It'll then snug back up to the oar, but the figure eight will ensure a large enough loop that the tether doesn't bind on the oar shaft.

You'll want to dial in a length that gives a loose oar a little leeway to move around, but not so long that you have to worry about the loop on the oar shaft catching where the blade enters the oar shaft.

So there you go. Cheap, light, DIY tethers

Board Meeting May 9th 2012  
Bogart's 3924 Airport Way So. Seattle WA

1. Call to order
2. Review minutes and approve.
3. Review agenda
4. Officer's Reports
  - a) Chairperson
  - b) President
  - c) VP River Ops
  - d) VP Business
  - e) VP Finance
5. Standing Committee Reports
  - a) Waterlog Committee
  - b) River Watch
  - c) Safety and Education
  - d) Communications
  - e) River Access
  - f) Membership
  - g) Programs/Volunteers
  - h) WRRR Wear
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Announcements and good for the order
9. Adjourn



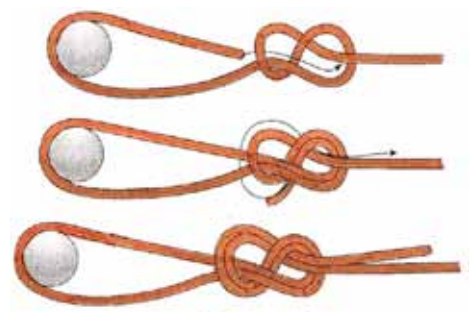
**Figure Eight Stopper Knot**



**Single Fisherman's Knot**



**Follow Through Figure Eight**





WRRR members can receive a 15% discount on any OS Systems surface water product, including drysuits, drysuit options and upgrades including custom sizing charges, undergarments, and accessories. This will not apply to drysuits made for other uses, to repair parts or to repair services. Visit <http://ossystems.com/> for info

on their drysuits and accessories. If you are in the Portland area and are a WRRR member, Andy & Bax will honor this discount as well. You will need a WRRR membership number to order. Contact the Membership Chair to get your membership number.

DAY/DATE	RIVER/DESCRIPTION	CLASS	CONTACT
May 9th	WRRR BOARD MEETING Bogart's on Airport W Seattle, WA	IV	Nancy Douty
May 5th	GREEN RIVER CLEANUP	III-IV	WRRR Board pinkifilippini@yahoo.com
May 26th - 28th	KLICKITAT OVERNIGHTER Memorial day weekend 3 days 2 night, upper, middle and lower	III	Mark McGraw RutRowlb@cablespeed.com
May 29th - Jun 2nd	WENATCHEE RENDEZVOUS	III+	WRRR Board pinkifilippini@yahoo.com
July 20th - 22nd	WHITE SALMON	III	WRRR Board pinkifilippini@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 pinkifilippini@yahoo.com
Aug 20th - 21st	THOMPSON RIVER, BC Come see the big water and bigger canyons of British Columbia	III-IV	Shaun Heublein wrrmembership@live.com
Sept 8th - 9th	WRRR TIETON WEEKEND	III	WRRR Board pinkifilippini@yahoo.com
Sept 15th - 16th	WRRR / OWA WEEKEND Potluck Saturday night	III	WRRR/OWA Board pinkifilippini@yahoo.com
Sep 23rd - 27th	ROGUE RIVER Pending Permits, Semi Wilderness	III-IV (V)	Brenan Filippini pinkifilippini@yahoo.com



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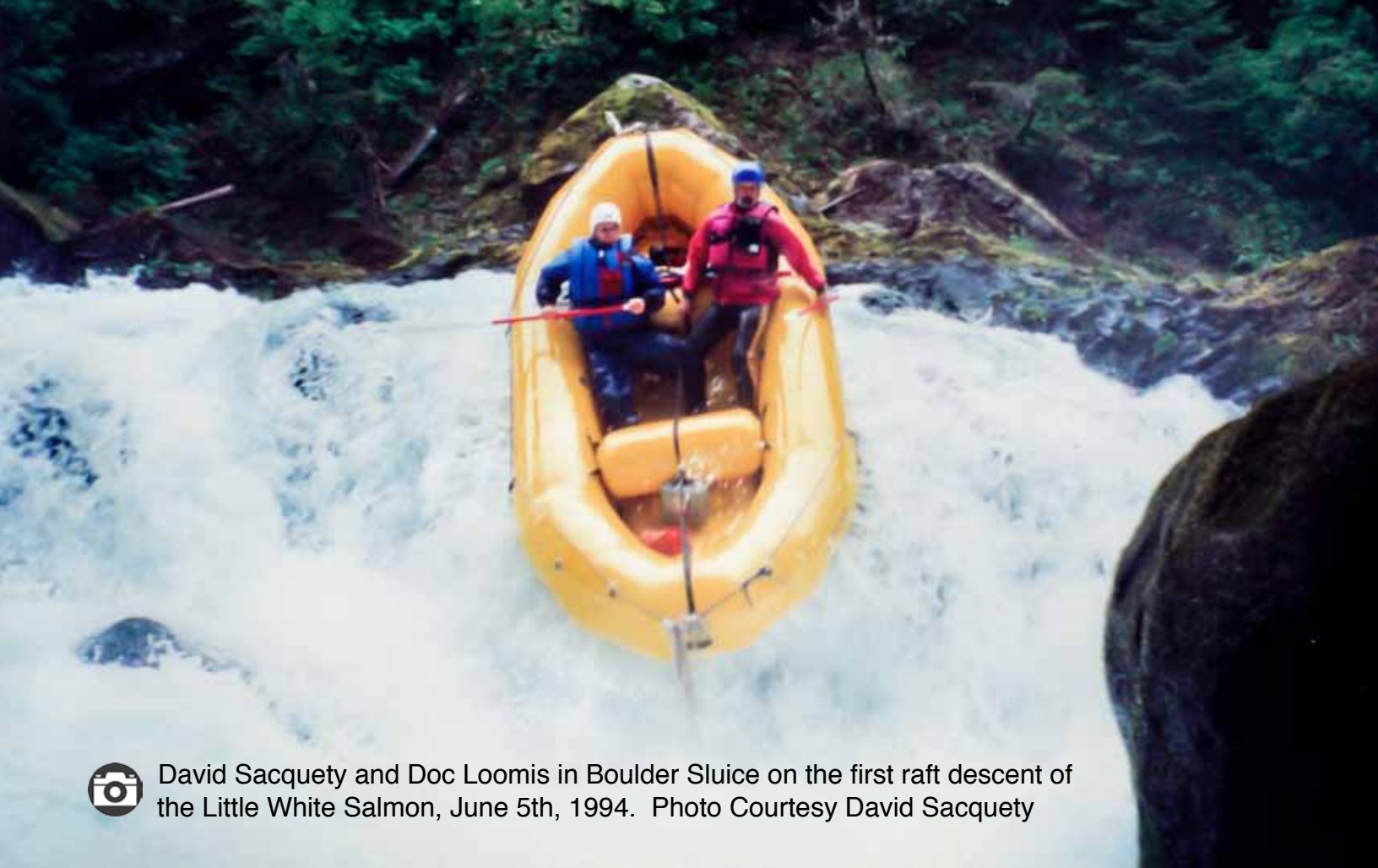
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David Sacquety and Doc Loomis in Boulder Sluice on the first raft descent of the Little White Salmon, June 5th, 1994. Photo Courtesy David Sacquety

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330 SW 43rd ST, Ste K  
Renton, WA 98057

