

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS



the Waterlog

JUN 2015

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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Wenatchee Rendezvous Round-up

Nate Wilson captured this excellent exposure atop the huge wall on the Upper Klickitat

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 \$1/1/13. All membership levels include the newsletter and access to club events

☐ **\$30 HOUSEHOLD** - everyone residing at the registered address

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☐ **\$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)

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Returning Member (prior membership ran out)

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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 causes 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 causes 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.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Mail your check and signed Agreement to:
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*Journal of Self-Serving Statistics, June 2009

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THE WATERLOG/Brian Vogt

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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Summer Sauk Over- Nighter



WRRR overnight rafting trip!!! JUNE 27th-28th

Come join us on the river for a WRRR sponsored OVERNIGHT rafting trip!!! We meet June 27th at 11am to rig the rafts and get going. We will launch when everyone is ready and float down to a camp on the river that is NOT accessible by car. We will be sharing group gear and meals, but you may do your own thing if that floats your boat. We had scheduled to do the Sauk from Bedal to the Mill, but with the low flows will move down stream. Our primary plans now will be either to do the Suitttle from Rat Trap Bridge to Sauk Park (Class 3) , or Sauk Park to the Skagit (Class 1-2) Stay tuned for more info and check back on the WRRR.org forums for final updates and trip planning. If you are not sure your skills are up to it, please contact a trip leader.

This is also a rowers progression / IK clinic and the focus will be on loading your craft for overnight rapid running. We will spend an extra few minutes going over gear rigging and enjoying whatever weather the PNW throws at us. We will have tarps for the sun or rain as well as some first class BBQ food. If fire bans are already on we will have propane fire pits to keep the magic going!

We will be doing a potluck grill dinner Saturday night and WRRR will be providing breakfast food on Sunday. BYO Drinks and coffee.

Meet time 11:00AM June 27 Darrington IGA

Trip leaders: Brenan and Kim Filippini, Jason Cohen, Chris Koker

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Carey Berger Memorial Poker Run

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Skagit River, August 7th to 9th, 2015



A poker game played with skill, you draw cards at river stations while you float the Skagit River at Newhalem-Marblemount*.

Not to be missed, the WRRR Poker run is one of the club's most popular events. The Skagit River is one of the few rivers still running late in the summer; the run is rated easy class 2-3 at most levels. Other activities include camping and a potluck dinner in the North Cascades National Park. Bring the family. There are often boats with 3 and 4 generations of family in them! Contact any board member for more information or check out the WRRR forums (wrrr.org)

TRIP LEADERS: Contact Brenan Filippini (pinkyfilippini@yahoo.com)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need your help to make sure this event goes great! Anyone interested in helping out by running a river station, prizes, shuttle, BBQ, Safety, etc please contact any board member.

POKER RUN DETAILS: Poker Run registration is from 9:00 AM to 11:29 on Saturday at the boat launch in Goodell Creek Campground. The station dealers launch at 9am, don't launch before them or you will miss your next cards. Last boats launch BEFORE 11:29. A "sweep" boat will launch at 11:30 and card stations shut down after the sweep boat arrives

at them. Don't get behind the sweep boat or you may lose out on cards and play with a short hand! Cost is \$5 per poker hand, you may buy/play as many hands as you want until we run out of cards. To play this game of skill you get your first card at the put-in and your next 4 cards are drawn at river "dealers" that you must eddy out for. If you miss the station you have to play a card short. Boaters with class 2-3 ability should have no problem. We will compare poker hands after dinner at 7:30 PM at the group camp, you will want to be there when we start because top prizes go first to the highest hand present. Pick the cash prize or river gear then subsequent highest hands choose prizes. There is a prize for the lowest hand also.

CAMPING: Free camping for current WRRR members from Thursday noon to Sunday noon at the Lower and Upper Goodell Group Camp. There are individual sites in the lower loop and a big open space for lots of rigs in the upper loop. The camp is on the north side of Hwy 20 along the west side of Goodell Creek. 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. The park service requests we secure food/coolers inside vehicles

when camp is unattended due to wild animals. All food must be stored in sealed containers until use, violators subject to fine. Overflow / Super quiet camping is available on the other side of the creek as well. It is about 5 minutes away and not recommended for trailers.

NOISE: Quiet hours for the upper loop are 10PM-6AM. There are no quiet hours for the lower loop. Pick your camp site accordingly.

FOOD: Potluck dinner on Saturday at the group camp at 6:30 PM. Bring your favorite side dish, main dish or dessert, and a beer for the Waterlog editor. WRRR will provide plates, forks, etc. There will be a small BBQ lunch on the river until food runs out at station #3

KEY TIMES:

Thursday: Group camp is open for campers around 12pm Friday river

River run Skagit: TBD, see wrrr.org forums week prior

River run other: If flows are good there may be a few folks running the Sauk (III+) or Suiattle (III+) on the way to the poker run

Saturday Run (It's a game of skill play wisely)

Put in from 9am-11:28am Play Poker!

Small BBQ lunch on river approx. 11am-1pm at station #3

Finish run and shuttle

POTLUCK Dinner 6:30 pm

TOP PRIZE and General Membership meeting 7:00 pm

Prizes 7:30pm

Sunday

Alternate Runs Sunday may include Skagit, Suiattle, Sauk or Nooksack. Stay tuned!!!

White Salmon Retreat July 17th - 19th

Run the lovely White Salmon River! Camping is at Hollenbeck Park and free for WRRR members. We will be meeting ready to go at the BZ Corner Put in at 11am. Shuttle leaves from the old Northwestern Lake Takeout at 12pm Sharp!!! The river is a pool drop Class 3+ with optional Class V Husum Falls. The wa-

ter level may be low, so it will be best to think light and bring paddle rafts and IK's / Hardshells. Don't miss this trip and stay tuned for more details!!!

Camping is available Friday through Sunday nights at Hollenbeck Park 33 Mt Adams Road, Trout Lake, WA (off Hwy 141 to Mt Adams about 1/2 mile north of the store restaurant)

There is a Sunday trip going TBD. Who's going to the Columbia with us???

Trip Leaders: Aaron and Kat Birrell, Nancy Douty, RanyRogers, Brennan Filippini, WRRR Board

Tieton Rally Sept. 11th - 13th

The last hurrah before the rains begin a new season of boating. Camp with WRRR members, friends and family on the sunny Tieton River. The Tieton is a class III+ run with continuous gradient, lots of fun rapids, few eddies, and a runnable dam. There will be WRRR Board led trips leaving from the WRRR camp spot on river right Friday through Sunday. Tentative launch times on Saturday at 11am designed to slip in between the commercial trips. Friday launch about 11.

AM, Sunday 11 AM. Meet 1 hour earlier to join in the shuttle plans. We will use the takeout on river left after the 2nd bridge at Windy Point. There will also be other club members launching from the dam and upstream river left from camp. Folks run doubles, and launch at all times, so if you miss a trip meet up with some others and have fun.

Camping: Club members and friends camp for free on the Forest Service land in the same spot WRRR has been invading for several years in the dust-bowl. WRRR will provide a clean portable toilets but there are no other amenities except what you bring and some trees, rocks, dust and a swift river. Bring a chair, and a musical instrument if you play, for the evening camp circle. Figure on campfires being banned so bring your propane firepits and we will make a circle of those and heaters. There are some USFS fee campgrounds along the river that have running water, are more suited for large RVs or low clearance vehicles, and they are a little less dusty.

More info will be available on the wrrr.org forum and the next issue of the waterlog!!!



Wenatchee Rendezvous Round-up

Wow, what can I say. It was another great year of WRRR rafting on the Wenatchee this year!!! The action started early this year. The usual Tumwater group camp was closed this year. Luckily the WRRR committee tasked with finding alternate camping found a great spot in the form of Chiwaukum Creek. We had outhouses, a bridge to link the campgrounds phased out, and other exciting things to make it the best camp ever. Things were going good until we heard from the portipotty people on our way over the pass, that they dropped the toilets in the wrong spot. No problem I told them, we will just move them. Shortly after hanging up (and some interesting looks from Kim) I realized I was in the van and did not have my liftgate truck... lol. So no problem, Kim and I can just move them the 1/4 mile on the van bumper.....Easy right? Our plans were to go rafting Friday, but Kim had a good thought. "Let's move the toilets before they get full!" Great Idea!!! I just love this girl! SO - we pulled into upper Chiwaukum Creek and started loading them up. We needed a Z drag to winch them off the ground. It was a 3 man job and with only Kim and I we were reevaluating our plan (prob the same feeling people get before they shoot at wrapped boats). Luckily within a couple minutes Erik Smith came arrived and saved the

day. He helped us put the extra muscle into the operation and proceeded to be our pilot car safety lights down the road to the right spot at Lower Chiwaukum Creek. I was a little nervous and going about 5mph not wanting things to get "crappy". Thanks to Joe K, I do feel a little dirty.....Still.....

On to phase 2: We pulled into the turnout to see the ranger parked there hanging some signs. She asked us what we were doing, and of course trying to be incognito (with 2 toilets on the back of the van) I casually mentioned we were meeting some friends for weekend camping. That's when she informed us that the camping is closed here. (Turns out they had posted no camping signs the weekend after we scouted it and they got removed by some yahoos over memorial day). The area was closed due to weather hazards from the wildfires in 2014. Even though the area looked stable and weather was great; command had been received from higher up. Over the last week I looked around and there are several hazard trees way up the hill that "could" be an issue I suppose..... At any rate, we got a few options for large group camping from the ranger. She was very helpful and probably saved Pinky for the 5th time for from group camping disasters. We left

with her final warning: "Memorial day was a mess here, lots of vandalism and toilet damage over the entire area, we haven't been to the other spots since then, so be careful"! I was a little nervous not gonna lie.....

Phase 3: Phase 2 was only about 5 minutes, but enough time for Erik, Kim and I to nervously reevaluate the plan and fate of the weekend. Kim got to work right away drawing maps, notes, directions on plates, buckets and anything she could find. We weren't sure what we would find so we left a note that we would post the final plan shortly and come back to Chiwaukum to help guide people through the move. The big hurdle here was the toilets were still on the van! Oh crap, well we might as well see what happens. Lucky for us we made it up the new camp at Eagle creek with no problems. The camp was great with lots of room and place to cruise around. Sigh, on to phase 4.

Phase 4: Now with camp secured Erik stayed up there to hold down the new fort, and Kim/I went back to town to post directions, signage and go back to Chiwaukum to start moving things. We left message for Koker to grab the bridge on his way home from hiking the Enchantments. All was good and we returned back to the new Eagle Creek camp shortly thereafter.

Phase 6,7,8,9: Well this was all pretty easy. Everyone did great and was understanding of the move so that went smooth. It was a short time later we were enjoying the evening and friends getting ready for the Saturday run. Saturday we went down the river after some tire trouble that Mark and Paul helped us through. The river was great and uneventful with lots of boats and people enjoying the day. We finished up Saturday night with the Prize raffle and a great potluck! Stories were told about Bob Johnson and the history of the club, then we finished up the evening with great weather and campfire music!!! Top Prizes were an Outfitter table, Kayak 4pc breakdown Werner Player Paddle, Bill's Bag dry bag, new tractor seat for raft/cat frames, throw bags and all sorts of other goodies. A big shout out to our sponsors especially Casey Garland for getting us some last minute throw bag donations as well as his new CD's!!! People can buy them at www.riverpeople.com

Thanks everyone for pitching in, helping move camp, being safe on the river and keeping WRRR as the best boating club in the universe!!!!

-Pinky



Rescue Recap



Many years ago, on a low water float on the Skykomish River while guiding a family of seven on a commercial trip, I mistakenly veered the raft straight into an exposed pyramid-shaped rock at just the right (sideways) angle, causing the boat to fold in half and forcibly wrap around it. Nobody fell out, but we were now stuck up to our waists in water on a sunken boat on a rock in the middle of a rapid, the sun now setting, and me wondering what in the world to do next.

I signed up for WRRR's 2014 River Rescue Certification class to learn how to tackle scenarios like this, joining 14 other participants on a gorgeous, sunny, 70-degree day on the Cedar River. We met on the upstream side of the Landsburg Bridge, just across the street from the Cedar River Trailhead. I had visited this area many times before and had often put in the river on the downstream side of the bridge for a float to Maple Valley. I was surprised to learn that on the upstream side of the bridge, there is a large grassy park with benches, a beach and swimming hole, and access to the slalom course rapid above the bridge! Our fearless leaders Dave and Jeff from WetPlanet Whitewater welcomed us enthusiastically and we started the day with laying down the necessary groundwork for river rescue scenarios, covering leadership principles that they would engrain in us by the end of the weekend. They also told

us some harrowing stories of rescue scenarios that they have participated in, most recently a body recovery on the Upper White Salmon, driving home the importance of rescue know-how and reminding us all of the risks that our favorite sport carries.

Our first hands-on session was throw bag practice. Going into it, I thought tossing my throw bag would be a straightforward exercise. I mean, if there's one piece of river equipment other than a PFD and helmet that I always carry, it's a throw bag. But it turns out that hitting the target is easier said than done, and there's a lot more to know than just throwing the bag. We were soon using throw bags to rescue foot-entrapped victims, build rope and pulley systems, zip lines, and of course practice live rescue of swimmers in the water. After covering the fundamentals, we put on our drysuits and moved the class to the water for some swim practice. Swimming the rapid at 300 CFS was a bumpy ride, but it offered some good opportunity to practice swimming across the current, catching eddies, and at the end of the day, even completing a seven-person shallow water crossing on foot. The water crossing, which involved wading through swift, chest-deep water, was challenging and exciting! We were glad to have made it without getting swept away, and were especially excited for our accomplishment when we

floated an incapacitated swimmer (aka Dave floating on his back) behind the group on our second crossing back to the other side.

Day 2 was another gorgeous, sunny day. It was time to get out the ropes! We covered everything from knot-tying, to anchoring, to pulley systems. What I thought was truly valuable, which set this class apart from another I had taken a few years ago, was that the instruction focused on using only minimal gear – the typical gear most folks would and should carry on the river. By the afternoon, we were tackling rescue scenarios that our fearless leaders prepared for us, giving us an opportunity to put our heads together and use the skills we learned to tackle challenges like unwrapping a raft, unpinning a kayak, and rescuing a foot-entrapped victim. The two-day course was filled with valuable lessons, leaving us not only with technical know-how, but

also a firm grasp on the importance of leadership and responsibility in a rescue scenario.

As for that day on the Skykomish River, we were not carrying the minimal gear necessary for our low-water float, which should have included some ropes, carabiners, and pulleys. Fortunately, a larger commercial trip was just behind us. They eddied out, and I witnessed one brave rescuer who waded his way across the not-so-shallow current, climbed onto the boat, and rigged ropes to the D-rings, while a crew on the shore set up an anchor and pulley system to pull the raft off of the rock. I was very fortunate to have a helping hand and learned a valuable lesson that day: Don't run a seven-load on the Skykomish at 1,000 CFS.

--Adam Schierenbeck







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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 |
|------------------|---|--------|------------|
| June 27th - 28th | SAUK SUMMER OVERNIGHTER | III+ | WRRR Board |
| July 18th - 19th | WHITE SALMON RETREAT | III+ | WRRR Board |
| Aug 7th - 9th | CAREY BERGER MEMORIAL SKAGIT POKER RUN | II-III | WRRR Board |
| Sep 11th - 13th | TIETON RALLY | III+ | WRRR Board |

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