

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS



the Waterlog

JUL 2015

In This Issue:

Merced Mission: Exploratory IK
Tieton Rally
Board Members Needed!

Jacob Cruser and Priscilla Macy open the headwater of the Merced to IKs

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

☐ **\$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)

☐ 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.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

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

*Journal of Self-Serving Statistics, June 2009

WRRR 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

David Elliott
dce@dcell.com

VP FINANCE

Rebecca Post
repo461@yahoo.com

VP BUSINESS

Jason Cohen
(206) 8909645
duderight@hotmail.com

VP RIVER OPS

Brennan Filippini
brenan@plasteringplus.com

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Nancy Douty
425-413-0948

Jared Cook
jwcook84@gmail.com

Matt McCormick
mmccormick64@hotmail.com

Mary Koncikowski
Mkonci73@gmail.com

Adam Schierenbeck
adam.schierenbeck@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CHAIR/David Elliott

MEMBERSHIP/Mary Koncikowski

T-SHIRTS/Rebecca Post

RIVER WATCH/Brennan Filippini

COMMUNICATIONS/Adam Schierenbeck

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

 **DOWNSTREAM™ PRODUCTS**

www.RiverPeople.com

2015 Tieton Rally

SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2015

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. 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 dustbowl. 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. There is no garbage service here, so please bring your trash out with you.

Main Floats: Launch from the WRRR camp (with shuttle completed BEFORE!) at 11:00 am Fri, Sat, Sun.

Shuttles: Please make sure you have arranged a ride for yourself, boat and passengers prior to running the river. If you hope for the best you may be stranded at the takeout. Shuttles line up 1 hour prior to launch from the lower launch area to the road. Official shuttle meet time for all river days is 10am at the Dustbowl just downstream of the WRRR Camp.

Directions: A half hour East of White Pass turn off highway 12 onto Tieton Road (Careful there are 2 Tieton Roads it is a loop), crossing the river about 1/2 mile upstream of Hause Creek Campground. Turn right on the graded gravel road about 1/4 mile from the bridge (FR 580). In less than 1/2 mile after leaving the pavement turn on the 3rd dirt path to the right and curve straight back to the

river. Turn left at the boat launch dustbowl and go 50 yards. Look for the WRRR banner and signs. You are there!!!

Potluck: There will be a Breakfast Potluck Sunday the 13th. Bring whatever you like to eat or leftovers from the day before. Please bring Potluck items from 8:30-9am. We will have the potluck by the group fire at the upper WRRR camp near the portipotties.

Noise: Please be courteous of your neighbors. Noise will be loudest near the group areas, plan accordingly.

Dogs: Please keep dogs on leash in the main camp area and locked up during dinner hours, and that your dogs are not getting into other peoples kitchen areas! Keep in mind that some people may be cat people :->

Trash: Pack it in, Pack it out. The forest service area we camp in gets trashed some times of the year. WRRR in conjunction with outfitters, and other boaters has been able to keep this area clean and open. Please do your part and know that it is appreciated! There are no dumpsters here, so please pack out your trash.

SEE YOU THERE!!!

Board Members Needed!

It's been great being your WRRR President these past 3 years. I've enjoyed being on the board again. It gives me the opportunity to meet all of you in person and help make WRRR the fun club it has always been.

This is the time of year when the board looks for new blood - people who will become the new leaders for the future of WRRR. Because it's important to get the feel of the job before, we prefer that people start as Directors at Large for at least a year before becoming officers.

With that in mind, we are looking for candidates for Directors for 2016. If you have accounting skills or computer skills or any kind of management skills, those are a plus, because your goal should be to move up to being VP of Finance, Business, or River Ops. If your main skill is being a glutton for punishment, you could be an ideal future WRRR President!

Board meetings are held monthly, but we've made that part pretty easy. In January, April, July, and October, we meet in person. For other months, we have a phone conversation that usually lasts for about an hour.

Candidates must be WRRR members in good standing since March 1, 2015 to be eligible for 2016.

Atlas Fabrication

Raft Frames • Boat Repair
General Welding and Fabrication

Jim Sheflo
425-343-4105

Opening the Merced

This trip really started a couple months ago with a botched attempt at Upper Cherry. I was highly skeptical that the classic run was going to be in the desired flow range so I looked into other options in the area. I noticed that there were a couple runs on the Merced flowing and further research showed that a couple new sections on this stream had just been legalized thanks to the work of American Whitewater.



I checked out the maps and was most intrigued by the headwaters run on the Merced, which had large/ smooth slides that could be seen from the satellite imagery. I did some basic reconnaissance on the internet but since it was only a backup plan didn't delve too deep.

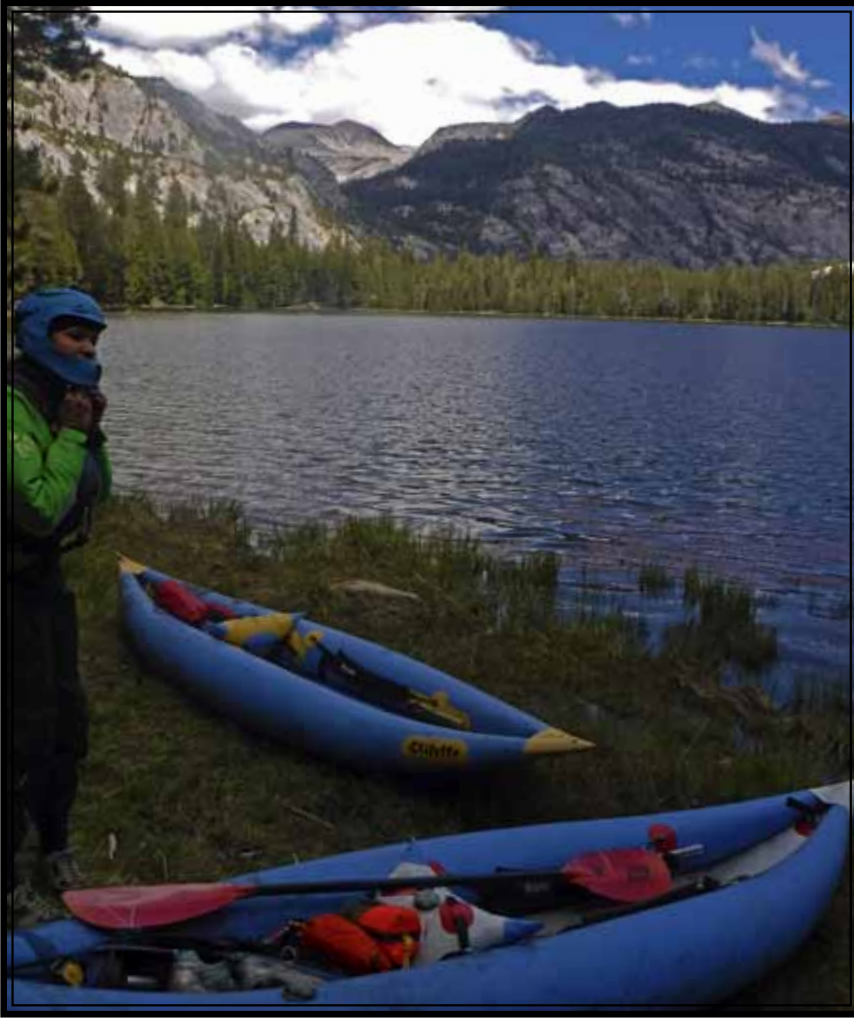
Sidetracked in Yosemite after water levels proved too high on Upper Cherry, we wanted to run the Merced headwater slides. We went to the local guiding company, but couldn't get an IK. I decided I would just haul my hardshell up and we could take turns carrying the boat and overnight gear, then take turns running the slides. We knew we needed a permit so went to the office where they informed us all the permits had been assigned for the day that allowed access to that area. We were a bit bummed but while looking through a book in the office we saw a picture of one of the slides and we which fueled our fire to return. It looked to be over 50' tall and totally clean! We got a permit to Ostrander Lake instead and had a nice evening hike up to the lake, doing the last hour or two at night under a full moon.

Then a friend called needing help with boat retrieval

after a hike out from a nearby mission. So we left California with mixed feelings. However, a week later while at work back in Salem the Upper Merced popped back into my mind. This time I did the fully required research, learned about the challenges of acquiring permits, the best hiking routes, compared pictures from hikers to historic water levels, found more than enough pictures of big granite slides to get me very excited and the trip planning began.

Priscilla and I decided we would take inflatable kayaks (IKs) to reduce weight on the 14 mile hike in. The internet scouting led us to believe the best drops would go just fine in these craft and would make portaging in tight locations easier. Levels looked good for a trip that weekend, but rain bumped up the levels out of our comfort zone a couple days before our planned departure. The next week looked great however, so Sunday evening we told our friend Ben about the trip, thinking he might be interested. Half hour later he informed us that Steve Fisher and Pat Keller were already hiking in the next day to do the very run we had been planning for. To be honest I was deflated, I had put a lot of work into the trip and wanted to be the first to do it. However, they had also put a lot of work in and beat us to it.





That week at work was rough, but I still wanted to do the run and so did Priscilla. We decided we would pull the trigger, taking some time off work for an extended weekend and give it a go for ourselves. Forecasted thunderstorms for the weekend had us a little nervous, but with levels projected not to be affected by the weather, Priscilla picked me up from work mid-day Thursday and we set off on our adventure.

We arrived in Tuolumne Meadows around 9:30 in the morning. We got in line at the permit office, excited to see we were first in line. We were willing to take any permit we could get, but had a desired route in mind. Come 11AM we walked up to the counter and secured our permit to hike from Glacier Point to Merced Lake. We had a day to prepare before we were allowed to begin our hike.

The drive to Yosemite Valley and our campsite was over an hour and just as we were getting ready to unload our gear the first thunderstorm of the weekend hit. We continued to unpack but as

the water piled up and gumdrop sized hail began in earnest we yielded to the weather and retreated back into the car where the large amount of gear prevented the seats from reclining. We spent the next hour waiting it out, we were then able to get camp set up and finally rested our eyes at 3PM.

The next morning we arrived at Glacier Point around 8AM, intending to camp at the end of the whitewater section. With 7 miles of trail in front of us 9AM seemed like a reasonable time to begin the hike, but two hours of packing had us on the trail after 10AM. The hike in really isn't too bad, but that much weight on your back for that long is going to hurt.

The thunder returned in the afternoon and this time we found it enjoyable. We made camp around 5PM near Moraine Dome at the upstream end of Little Yosemite Valley at the base of a large cascade.

We got camp set up just as it started raining, the rain ended an hour later and was the last precipitation of significance for the trip.

The next morning we began the six mile hike to Merced Lake by 2PM. We had left our camp set up near Moraine Dome and were hiking "light" with just our boating gear. By the time we reached Merced Lake we were tired but happy to be paddling.

The run starts off in top form with a fun, straight forward slide. The gorge the slide started off lasts about a half mile and is as fun as it gets. There were back to back 5-10 foot slides the whole way finishing with a 50 foot tall slip and slide.

Unfortunately, one of the limitations of the IK's was brought to focus when Priscilla hit a hole in a small rapid, filling up the boat

with water just above an eddy we intended to catch. The couple of seconds of having a heavy boat before it drained were enough to cause her to miss what otherwise would have been a simple eddy. She turned to face the next double drop while I yelled the line to her from shore. I jumped back in my boat when she did not pop out from the second drop in the series right away, as I did I saw her boat rocket unmanned into the air.

I still couldn't see her as I resurfaced from the first drop, and as I crested the second drop I saw her rise from the depths and into the pool below. We both got

out on the left side with her recovered gear and took some time as she was understandably shaken up. We talked it out and assessed that the combination of being tired and having IK's would likely mean we wouldn't be running some of the class V sections we had seen on the way up.

The next rapid was another double ledge/slide and she chose to hop back on the horse. We finished up the gorge shortly arriving at the exit drop (the 50'+ slide) We saw a sweet line on the left that could be done if we skipped the lead in, so only ran about 30-40 vertical feet of the slide, but it was a blast. As we were finding





out, this run is full of the largest class III-IV rapids either of us had ever run. Below this large one was an island we ran on the left and then a short meadow.

At the end of the meadow is a foot bridge marking the entrance to the largest gorge on the run. We ran/portaged the series of rapids leading up to the point where the walls became vertical and large just before a right turn and found our predetermined take out on the left.

This gorge is full of good rapids, but the entrance and exit didn't really go in IK's and portaging the exit would require setting up rope before dropping into the gorge so we decided to let it rest, confident Pat and Steve had likely already unlocked that particular piece of white-water. We deflated the boats and walked around the trail on the left.

Half hour or so later we arrived at the end of the gorge and stashed our gear (minus the IK's foam floors we were using for sleeping pads). Planning to finish the run the next day, we walked back to our camp. We ate ravenously that night and the joy that comes with adventure in the wilderness started setting in.

The next morning we were back to our gear and paddling downstream before noon. The day started with a few steep bouldery rapids with good boofs and a quick

portage or two. This section ended in yet another long slide, this one was lower angle but had a neat pillow move off a boulder in the middle. Another island followed, then we were back into steep bouldery rapids, one of which created a clean drop between 10-15'.

We portaged the gorge above Bunnell Cascade. The entry drop had three boofs in quick succession and would have required not getting any water in the IK in order to execute said boofs. I thought it went for sure in a hardshell and likely went in an IK, but decided against running it.

We both ran Bunnell Cascade, which I thought was one of the funnest drops I have ever run. It's tall and fast and low difficulty! The exploding mess at the top had me a bit worried, but after further study I was confident there was a line on the left and indeed there was.

Below here was an island and a meadow with an easy log portage or two before a couple of class IV rapids leading up to the final large cascade just above our camp. The lead in rapids were fun and the cascade was divine; tall, fast and all it required was lining up and keeping it straight, resulting in a skip across the pool at the bottom.

We then took a nap and a swim before deciding we

may as well paddle/hike out that afternoon. One more island below camp and then a few miles of pleasant meadow floating through Little Yosemite Valley.

This section had a few easy log portages. We took out just before the whitewater picked up again. Below this point the stream enters a gorge which concludes with Nevada Fall and is not legal to paddle. We were going to take the Mist Trail, but weren't sure where it branched off from the trail we were on (John Muir). We made it to the lip of Nevada Fall before realizing it had branched off back near the bathrooms. We were glad to have made the mistake as the view from the lip of Nevada Fall is incredible. We backtracked and began the knee/back busting descent down the Mist trail. The Mist trail is breathtaking and should be done by anyone capable, but not with a kayak on your back. If you are carrying a boat, use the John Muir trail. This trail is a little longer but not as steep. For us, the Mist trail turned out to be the most difficult part of the whole trip and our bodies were pretty beat.

The trail flattens a bit before Vernal Fall which helped

ease the strain. As the trail descends from the lip of Vernal it gets rough again and we were really feeling the pain. The next hour or two was challenging for us, but we made it out to the bus stop shortly after dark and it only took us a little stumbling around in the dark to locate our camp and flop down for the night sans dinner.

The next morning we ate a hearty breakfast of all our left over camping food. I took the last seat on a \$25 dollar shuttle bus to return to our car on Glacier Point. I expected a dull ride, but it went quick as the driver told stories of the area and how things got their names, it was nice being a tourist after many days of effort.

Upon arriving back at Glacier Point the adventure had one more trick up its sleeve in the form of a dead battery. After figuring out the tricks of jump-starting a Hybrid I returned to Priscilla and the Valley where we loaded up and began the 10 or so hour drive to Grants Pass.

The trip was long and full of trials: one of my favorites yet.

--Jacob Cruser and Priscilla Macy







OS SYSTEMS

503-543-3126 WWW.OSSYSTEMS.COM INFO@OSSYSTEMS.COM



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
Aug 7th - 9th	CAREY BERGER MEMORIAL SKAGIT POKER RUN	II-III	WRRR Board
Sep 11th - 13th	TIETON RALLY	III+	WRRR Board
Oct 24th	SAUKTOBERFEST	III-IV	WRRR Board
Jan 1st	HANGOVER FLOAT Cedar River	II+	WRRR Board
Feb 12th - 14th	TILTON TREK	IV	WRRR Board
Apr 17th	FLIP PRACTICE Vasa Park	III	WRRR Board

CASCADE DESIGNS



Drybags • Therm-A-Rest • PackTowel • Filters
4000 1st Avenue South; Seattle, WA 98134
1-800-531-9531
www.cascadedesigns.com



"All the best paddlesports gear and instruction in one place!"
Kayak Instruction - Drysuit Rentals - New and Used Drysuit Sales
www.kayakacademy.com www.issaquahpaddlesports.com



MADCATR

MADCATR CREATIONS - CUSTOM FABRICATION

CUSTOM FABRICATED STAINLESS STEEL AND ALUMINUM
RAFTING & RIVER EQUIPMENT

DAVID NISSEN

Designer - Fabricator - River Rat

madcatr.com
madcatr@aol.com

Phone: 509.588.4082 |
509.947.1862 (Cell) 509.832.1105 (Truck)
PO Box 5013 Benton City, WA 99320



Rowing Frames

Dryboxes/Kitchen Boxes

Fold Down Oar Towers

Cargo Modules

Specialized Gear



Packing for hike in goodies!

WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS
PMB 501
330 SW 43rd ST. Ste K
Renton, WA 98057

