

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS



the Waterlog

AUG 2015

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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)

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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.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Mail your check and signed Agreement to:
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330 SW 43rd ST. Ste K
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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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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.

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Boating with Dinosaurs

Randy and Nancy did the Gates of Lodore Section on the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument the first week of August. WRRR member Mark McGraw finally got a permit after 30 years of trying and we were lucky to get invited to join him.

It is a long desert drive to the ranger station at the put-in.....around 1000 miles. [Yes, books on tape did help pass the time] The river canyon starts with 2 massive red rocks. Our first day on the river you go through several Class II rapids along with Upper and Lower Disaster Falls, and Harp Falls....all easy Class III at this water level.

The level changes daily due to the dam, it averaged 1400 cfs. Midday thunderstorms came in and just dumped on us. We had high winds and hail, too. We pulled over to wait it out, some seeking shelter in a cave while others just stood under the overhanging rocks. So exciting!

Our first camp was just upstream of Triplett Falls, which

we scouted before dinner....another easy Class III. It would be a challenge at higher water levels to stay off the rocks...the ranger said someone had died there earlier this year. Our one hard shell kayaker swam at the lower end of the rapid. We hauled her into our raft while Doug struggled to get her kayak on his raft. It ended fine.

The next rapid was Hell's Half Mile, which must be harder at higher water, as it was a non-event for us. We enjoyed lunch at the confluence of the Yampa, at Echo Park. We did yell to hear the echo...we're still waiting. The river is now colored like chocolate milk, making it easier for the rocks to hide. There were mule deer enjoying the grasses along the banks.

We camped the next night just across the Colorado/Utah border, now in Utah, at a great spot called Jones's Hole. There is a creek that enters the river and there are 4 campsites in the area. We had a great one! Lots of trees, lots of options to pitch our tent and Mark found

a cement slab to camp on. We believe it was either the foundation of the past ranger station or the old out house....whatever, he was happy. We spent our layover day at Jones's Hole. We hiked up to Ely Creek to enjoy the waterfall there. Randy spotted a beautifully marked snake crossing the trail...he was enjoying the warm sunshine. Lucky for us, there are no poisonous snakes in the area.

Farther up the trail were petroglyphs. And past that was a fish hatchery. We had 2 Peregrine falcons in our camp, whistling and flying amidst the trees. We had a skunk visit our garbage pail, so very cute. Later that night he visited our tent and lucky for us, left without a stink. There was a dozen fish, bottom feeders that looked like colorful catfish, eating along the bank by our boats. We had a herd of big horn sheep resting in the field behind our camp. In the late afternoon they

moseyed over to the mouth of the creek for a drink. The beautiful sunset that evening filled half of the sky with orange light. So lovely!

The next day was a short 6 mile float to Island Park campground. It was a sandy beach, without much shade. I took my camp chair and sat in the river...nice. When the sun got behind the canyon walls, we were treated to another spectacular sunset, as the area opens up there. We did see a really long snake on a big rock, slithering down to the water's edge for a drink.

Our last day out was 13 miles long with Moonshine and S.O.B. , easy Class III rapids. The scenery the entire trip was fabulous! It reminds us of the Grand Canyon, as the rocks, their sizes, shapes, colors and layers were endless in their variety! Intermittent Class II and pools all the way to the take out at Split Mountain Boat



Ramp. We had a group of 8 folks and we got along well. We shared good food and good stories. We had 4 rafts, 2 catboats, 1 hard shell kayak. One of the rafts, made by Star, had a high floor, so it rowed like a catboat. Great idea! Diane says it is nice unless you overload it and then it is too tough to control. We recommend you start putting in for your permit as soon as possible. Around 250 permits are issued each year out of 1500 who apply. Great trip! Thanks Mark!

Repair Party Oct 17th 2014

We're continuing the tradition of a Gear Swap and Repair Clinic for the October General Membership meeting. Come join us to find out who the candidates for the 2016 WRRR Board will be and have some fun with boats and gear.

Randy has generously offered his hanger to give our

members space to repair and swap their gear. We are inviting you to bring your gear, and whatever supplies you will need....glue, D-rings, patches and valves, and we will attempt to fix it on the spot. We recommend you bring your repair kits. The club will supply some glue, but if you need a lot, bring your own. We encourage you to bring along any gear you no longer use to sell or trade to other club members. This can be a great opportunity to clear out your storage space and pick up some needed items. Even if it's not in prime shape, it may be perfect for someone starting out.

We will be meeting at the Auburn Airport where Randy Rogers has a hangar that will be available to us for shelter. The address is 2527 "E" St. N.E., hangar # 503. There is a locked gate so if you have a trailer, you can contact Randy on his cell phone and he can open the gate to let you drive in. 206-669-1877

We will start at 11:00 am so we will have plenty of time for the glue to dry. WRRR will be providing pizza and you should provide your own beverages.

MF Salmon: Off the Top at 1.5'



River permits are a lot like lottery tickets. Some call them the stupid tax. You pay your six bucks, knowing that some one else will be taking home the Golden Ticket.

Nonetheless, every year we all fire up our permit parties, triangulate calendar commitments, and pay our stupid taxes, one for each river we hope to run.

This year, I hit the jackpot: MF Salmon! Sure, we had to aim for August due to family issues, but the MF is always runnable, right?

Then the spring's abysmal drought became evident. First to die was the Chetco trip. Then the SF Owyhee. By May, the MF Salmon was predicted to be in the 1.25 foot range.

Just as we were starting to look at Deschutes runs as a consolation prize, a month-long series of storms hit Idaho's central mountains. When the dust settled, we were at Boundary Creek launch ramp on putin day, with 1.52' -- 0.02 feet above out cutoff.

We had 2 folks along, each with one MF lap. The rest of the party of 8 had never seen the river. We were nervous about how thin the upper bit would be, but we were committed. Once rigged and inspected, it was time to test our mettle against the lowest flow MF lap any of us had heard of.

Right off the bat is First Bend Rapid. Low water makes its ledges steep! But we got through ok. Maybe this whole thing would work out after all?

Entering lower First Bend, I espy the floor-ripping rock mentioned in the low water MFS video, filmed at 1.7 feet. It is nearly a foot out of the water -- no floor danger today, at least from that rock!

The action continued unabated through the first day. Ping Pong Alley was a long read and run, with tough moves over barely covered rocks. The Chutes had us eddy hopping in gear rafts to keep everyone in sight in case there was an issue.

Everyone handled their boats, the low water, and the endless instant adjustments with grins and great atti-



tudes. Watching folks boat scout their first Velvet Falls run was a hoot.

We saw folk with 20 laps under their belts, running their lowest ever flow, stopped at Rams Horn waiting for the ladies walking the low upper canyon on the trail.

Our first camp came at Big Bend, an idyllic wooded beach above Trail Flat. We earned our dinners this day! Sitting in the dusk, enjoying the gloaming, we were shocked to see a sweep boat come round the corner, barely visible in the dim light. Them young bucks!

The second day opened with a float to Trail and quick soak. Then the action picked up again, with great moves, hard to pick lines, and rocks everywhere.

We ended up at Big Snag, which I was dissappointed to find out was actually Big Snag this time and not Dolly Lake, our intended camp. But Big Snag was great and we had a wonderful social evening, complete with Nick furnishing fresh ice cream from his Yeti! Wow!

Day three was a long tough day. A quick scout of Pistol Creek showed the Lake Creek blowout debris settling back into form and the right side entry was good.

I managed to get too far left, jam my oar, escape being

jettisoned only to miss a stoke, plow my bow into the bank, spin, and crash in full reverse at full speed into the boulder at the bottom of the entrance.

This was of course all so I could calmly tuck into the eddy below the entrance and watch everyone else! Right? Y'all feel me.

Pistol Creek normally adds 1/3 of the flow to the MF but today added perhaps 50 cfs. Nonetheless, the canyon clearly changes character here as it widens and looses some steepness.

Of course this meant slower thinner water! Not to worry though as our intrepid crew continued to run barley passable water with out any major mishaps. It is amazing what soft tubes will slither over.

We enjoyed the Upper Jackass camp and a big happy birthday celebration and brownies for Matt who turned 32 that day.

Quite into the swing of things now, the pace of the trip was fully relaxed. Hikes for hotspings and pictographs were taken nearly hourly, helping break up the 6 to 8 hours of river running each day required.

We took our hot springs camp at Hospital Bar. I re-

membered it as a marginal hot springs, with a mediocre camp. So I was quite pleased to find the camp merely decent and the hot springs in excellent shape with three pools! I guess at 1.7, the water is too high!

We made the most of the evening with a Formal Night celebration and happy hour. Everything from ugly ties to tweed jackets made an appearance. The moonlight hot springs session was divine.

The next day we enjoyed some super whitewater through the Tappan series. Tappan III is my favorite,

mostly due to lovely water. It's amazing to watch the MF change with every mile as steep continuous water yields to short, then longer pools and as the hills get steeper and rockier as the canyon deepens.

We had high hopes for this day, changing our camp to Little Pine and hoping for a hike. Alas, it was our longest day in the boats and we lacked the energy and daylight to earn that view. Next time!

In addition, our stop to check in at the Flying B regarding fire activity had a foreboding forecast. It sounded





questionable whether our last camp would work so we decided to launch early. That way, if either of the fires reported to have burned to the river were still bad, we'd have a chance to push to the takeout.

But we woke to less smoke than any other day. As we reached the Big Creek pack bridge, we saw a ground crew climbing to the high country to battle the blaze. Lucky for us, only a few miles between Waterfall Creek and Porcupine were burned down to the river. Most of the trees looked to have survived, so hopefully the future scarring isn't too bad.

Smoke was not a problem, so we took our assigned camp of Lightning Strike. Might be the best camp down there, right up with Stoddard and Cliffside. We had a wonderful riverside beach, and even some juniper in camp for dense shade!

The early launch meant our first real early day in camp: out came the swim trunks, and the happy hour supplies and everyone basked in the sun and magic of the canyon the way only an impending takeout can inspire.

Our final day again had us launching early. Fifteen miles of Salmon pools slowed our pace. But the whitewater in Impassable Canyon was superb: focused and powerful, unlike the upper canyon, with laterals and holes and the whole hydraulic family.

Hancock was low up top and forceful at the bottom. We stopped to scout Devil's Tooth in time to watch a sweep boat come through, then tucked in and followed through House of Rocks. Matt nearly stood his raft on end in Rubber.

At last Goat Creek came in from the right and we could see the Main Salmon canyon in the distance.

Cramer Creek rapid was like a Grand Canyon rapid after all the low water boating we'd been doing. We boat scouted clean lines then made short work of the Cache Creek ramp takeout. The guides were trading bedroom conquest stories from their trips, and the Main Salmon boaters were rolling by, on the road, clean rigs and clean bodies excited to embark on a trip.

For us though, the trip was over. It was a very special trip for me, celebrating my brother's birthday, and showing him and my folks down a river they've always wanted to see. They sure nailed it! And if that's not winning the lottery, what the heck is?

--Ed



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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
Aug 7th - 9th	CAREY BERGER MEMORIAL SKAGIT POKER RUN	II-III	WRRR Board
Sep 11th - 13th	TETON RALLY	III+	WRRR Board
Oct 17th	REPAIR PARTY	II+	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

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