

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

the Waterlog

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Chris Herman minds his downstream oar. Tilton River, Wa

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
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I hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by Washington Recreational River Runners Association (WRRR) a non-profit corporation. I recognize that any outdoor or aquatic activity may involve certain dangers including, but not limited to, the hazards of traveling by boat on rivers or other bodies of water, accidents, or illnesses in remote places or occurring during portages, forces of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons. I further understand and agree that without some program providing protection of its assets and its leaders, officers, and members, WRRR would not be able to offer its courses and activities.

In consideration of and as part of my payment for the right to participate in the activities offered by WRRR, I hereby release WRRR and its leaders, officers, and members from any and all liability, claims and courses of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in any activities offered by WRRR. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities, and further agree to indemnify WRRR and its leaders, officers, and members from all liability, claims, and courses of action which I may have arising from my participation in activities including, but not limited to those involving death, drowning, personal injury, and property damage. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, and for all members of my family including any minors. [Parent or legal guardian must sign for all persons under eighteen (18) years of age.] This agreement is effective as of the date signed, and has no termination date. I have fully informed myself of the contents of this release and indemnity agreement by reading it before I have signed it.

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

Signed _____ Date _____

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*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

Atlas Fabrication

Raft Frames • Boat Repair
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Jim Sheflo
425-343-4105

The Bob Johnson Memorial Wenatchee Rendezvous

FRIDAY-SUNDAY MAY 31ST - JUNE 2nd 2013

Come join your fellow WRRR members for our annual Bob Johnson memorial Wenatchee Rendezvous. Be part of the greatest Flotilla of inflatable boats the Wenatchee has ever seen. End the day with a potluck

diner, a raffle of fantastic prizes, campfire stories, music and more.

The Rendezvous is a fun filled adventure for the whole family to enjoy, and with snow packed mountains the water level should be great.

28th Annual Green River Cleanup

SATURDAY MAY 4TH 2013

The Green River Clean-up is around the corner. Come join us for WRRR's fourth outing of the year at the 28th annual Green River Clean-up.

The biggest, oldest, best river clean-up in Washington State is organized by Washington Recreational River Runners (WRRR) and Friend of the Green River (FOG) – sponsors. Other sponsors include: Washington Kayak Club, Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Washington State Parks, Middle Green River Coalition, The Mountaineers, and others.

Bring your family and friends to enjoy a beautiful day on the river while looking for anything that doesn't belong there and hauling it down the river. Takeout and garbage disposal is at Flaming Geyser State Park. WRRR will sponsor a BBQ this year at Flaming Geyser State Park. Once again you can test your dutch oven skills at this year's dessert dutch oven cook off. We will end the evening sharing river stories around the campfire, making music and moe!

Registration: 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM at Kanaskat Palmer State Park, Flaming Geyser, or Headworks. Sign-in at one of the locations. Remember that when you sign up you are committing to pick up all the trash you can. Let's set a new record for boaters on how much trash we can gather. You'll stop to pick up trash along the shores and haul it down to Flam-

ing Geyser State Park. If you have a small boat, you may gather trash and leave it on shore at an eddy where a bigger boat can stop to pick it up. If you boat downstream from Flaming Geyser and need to leave trash by the road, let us know so we can arrange for a pick-up.

There will be a treasure hunt this year. There will be \$25.00 WRRR Buck certificates stashed on each section of the river this year. The WRRR Bucks can be used towards WRRR membership or WRRR wear. If you find one of these hidden treasures turn it into any Board Member to claim your prize.

Camp at Shangri – La: Camping is available for WRRR members Friday and Saturday night at Shangri – La. If you camp at Shangri – La, please help out in cleaning the park afterwards. We need to leave it in better shape than we found it. Shangri – La is located about one mile downstream from Paradise.

Directions to Shangri – La:

34401 Enumclaw-Franklin Rd, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

- Follow SR 169 S for 18 miles to Black Diamond
- Left at Lawson St (becomes SE Green River Gorge Rd)
- Cross bridge, continue on Enumclaw-Franklin Rd SE
- Look for sign on right side of road

More information:

<http://facebook.com/greenrivercleanup>

My Leap of Faith



This was my first time down the Tilton. In fact, of the 17 IKers, cat boaters and rafters on this run, only about five had ever been on the river before.

I had been hearing about what a great run the Tilton is. And Brian had been describing Leap of Faith repeatedly since we arrived at camp Friday night. So, Saturday, in the rain we shuttled and launched.

The Tilton River is classic pool and drop. We had already scouted one rapid which is clearly the reason that David's IK ran it without him. but that's someone else's story. My story is about my Leap of Faith.

Brian signaled the scout with the usual hand signal. Hand to forehead, then to belly button, then to left chest and then across his chest. Leap of Faith is named for the faith you need since the river takes a sharp turn and the bottom of the rapid is out of sight. Did I mention wood? Ok, I will. Wood!

I eddied out my cat--my usual day craft is a 14 foot cat--on river left, in a one-boat slot just past the beginning of rapid. The line at

low water is to stay right, between some rocks and the right wall, then move left to avoid the log that sticks up from the water and leans on the right wall (no right bank, just a vertical rock wall). After that...well is isn't called Leap of Faith for no reason.

So I watched from my lonely eddy as everyone ahead of me styled it as far as I could see. My turn.

I was facing the bank on river left. I pushed out, backwards (for those not paying attention, this is a key point) into the current. I had to ferry across to the right side and turn forward in about fifty feet or... (queue dramatic music) I would encounter the first rock. I was about three fourths of the way around when I found the rock. I was suddenly starting over as the rock turned me straight upstream.

At least I was on the right side. So I started, again, to spin around to take the upcoming hole square. I was almost turned... Ok. I was half turned as I got to the hole. This is it. I'm sunk. I went into the hole sideways and came out of the hole somehow. I hit another hole, possible backwards, but who can tell by now as I had been turning so much. I know for sure I was not facing forward.



As I glanced forward, I noticed that my footbar was above me. I looked up (key work...up) at the tips of my tubes far above me. This is the point that gravity intervened.

But first, I want to remind you about the features of this rapid. Specifically, the tree. You remember the one that is sticking out of the water and leaning on the right wall. It is right after the hole that I am currently inspecting.

Back in the hole, I have no choice but to yield to gravity. But the laws of gravity don't regulate what you do with your hands. It never really occurred to me to let go of my oars. So I held on. I don't really know the specifics, but I found myself lying on my left tube behind my seat, oars in hand.

There were many things that could happen now as I was about to make a close encounter with the tree. (Yeah, this is the reason that I mentioned the tree a few paragraphs ago.) Trees cause flips and pins and are sometimes even associated with death. So you should be sitting on the edge of your seat. The background music should be dramatic. The camera should be zooming in or panning or whatever cameras do.

I never actually saw what happened with the tree. Remember I am lying on my left tube struggling with oars, etc, etc. Brian told me that I floated towards the tree, it caught the end of one of my tubes and turned me straight with the current for the first time since I entered the rapid.

You may have noticed that I missed a lot of the details as I proceeded through Leap of Faith. So I am not sure what I did to pull myself up and back into my seat. I also didn't notice the rest of the rapid, though I went around the bind turn and ended in the pool below the rapid, still in my seat and facing downstream.

So I took a Leap of Faith and survived. Next time I think I will eddy out farther upstream and enter the rapid facing downstream. I feel as if I missed a really fun rapid and really want to go back and see what I missed.

-Ken Gersten

Opposite page: Ken fights to hold on in Leap of Faith.

Above: Just a corner below Leap of Faith, the inner gorge of the Tilton offers just rewards to the brave

Safety Class

What: A one-day fun filled class to teach you how to keep yourself safe on the river. Topics may include swimming strategies, water crossing, throw bag rescue, rope work including z-drag, safety signals, knot work, etc.

When: Saturday, May 11, 2013- 8:45am to 5pm.

Where: On Skykomish River at WaveTrek Rescue site, 50301 Index-Galena Road, Index WA. 98256.

Who: 15 willing participants ready to have fun and learn great info/skills. Must be a current standing member in WRRR. Hosted by Ryan Murphy and Chris Jonason of WaveTrek Rescue. Here's their website <http://www.wavetrekrescue.com/aboutus>.

Why: To keep you and your buddies enjoying rivers safely

How: Sign-up by contacting Peggy (your WRRR Safety Chair) by email, phone, Facebook Rescue class event page, telegram, or paper airplane. Please note your full name and contact info including phone number or email when signing up. **Note this class is limited in participant size due to cost, instructor capacity, and safety issues. Sign-up is first-come first serve. ** Preference will be given to the first group of 15 people who have indicated interest. Peggy will notify the first 15 people by email or phone call. Deadline to confirm sign-up is April 5. Payment must be received by April 12. If slots are not filled or someone does not sign-up with confirmed payment, the next person sequentially on the list will be contacted for interest.

Cost: NON-REFUNDABLE \$10 fee per participant.

This guarantees your spot in the class once we receive it. A class like this can cost \$150+/person. Wave Trek has offered a discount to WRRR and WRRR is subsidizing the cost even further. Payment may be made by Paypal or check. Chris Herman, VP Finance, will be handling payments. Those confirmed for sign-up will be notified with Chris's contact info for payment. **DO NOT SEND PAYMENT BEFORE RECEIVING CONFIRMATION FROM PEGGY!!!!**

Requirements: Again, you need to be a current standing member of WRRR. Please also bring the standard river attire including a proper PFD and helmet. Water will be cold and fast. A good portion of the class will be actually in the river. If you do not have a drysuit, contact Peggy for more info on drysuit rental options.

COME PREPARED! You are responsible for your own equipment and clothing options! If the instructors believe you are not prepared to participate safely, it is their discretion to exclude you from specific drills.

Please also bring: a change of clothes, food/drink including lunch, a throwbag if you have one, webbing/ pulleys/carabiners for z-drags if you have them. Also, a small length of rope might be nice to practice some basic knot tying. And don't forget...bring a sense of humor, enthusiasm, and patience!

Need more answers? Contact Peggy at riverpixie303@hotmail.com or at 206-595-6250

Flip For It!

On Sunday, April 21, WRRR will be holding the annual Flip Practice at Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish in Bellevue. The fun starts at 11AM and goes to 4PM. Bring your boat and safety gear. We'll go over techniques for flipping and re-flipping boats of all kinds, as well as other safety topics. The club will provide burgers, hot dogs, and grills - you bring a potluck item of your choice and beverages.

Vasa Park is located on West Lake Sammamish Parkway. Take I-90 to Exit 13 and go northwest. The park is at the bottom of the hill as the road curves to the right. There is a map on the club web site at wrrr.org.

If you have any questions, you can call Jim Johnson at 425-471-1035.

Brenan's River Beta

Next month: Green river gorge. Let's talk about Running Mercury and the setup for the Nozzle! These 2 features should cause every river runner to think twice! If you have any good pics of flips at pipeline those are encouraged as well!!!! The green river cleanup is just around the corner. Maybe we'll need to pretend like we are loaded for an overnight trip for all the trash coming out of the river this year!!! I have done some exploratory work and found some big projects in the green watershed to haul out! Including finishing off the collapsed building and the infamous gold sluice!

Send your photos and thoughts about Mercury and the Nozzle to :

brenan@plasteringplus.com



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Black Creek Rapid, Main Salmon ~5,000 cfs

Since Black Creek blew out and created a lake where Salmon Falls used to lie, there is now a new rapid, Black Creek. There is a nice place to pull over and scout river-left about 75 yards from Black Creek and walk downstream to a large rock outcropping with a clear view.

At first glance, there isn't a lot to it. There is a large boulder just right of center and a rock garden just following 50 ft. downstream. It seems narrow, but navigable. As we sit and watch a group of canoes, we pay attention to their line.

There are two routes that can be taken; from the view it appears that the left route is the easiest and safest. But the longer you look at it, this may not be wise. You can see large rocks for about 50 ft from entrance to exit, either just tipping the surface or lying waiting to rip the bottom of your boat. There would be no way to dodge these rocks as the speed increases very quickly, and especially at such a low level. As a group, we quickly dismiss this route. From watching the canoes, they also do not choose this line.

On to route 2, right. From the looks of river right at our vantage point it is very narrow, possibly only 2 boat widths apart from the rock garden to the 3 very large boulders lining river-right. We can't tell from our angle, but these large boulders angle towards river-center and can cause havoc if you do not set your line up correctly before the entrance. It's time to run.

Our raft is first as I want to take some photos of the groups behind. It's slow going for those 75 yards to enter; but ample time to take a look straight downriver. We are 50 ft from entrance, and everything is in view. I position us about 20 ft to the right of the center boulder. I'm angled pointing at the 3 large boulders, while preparing to pull towards center. As we enter, I pull back, but it's too late, we are already going pretty fast and I nudge the first boulder. But somehow it corrects us and we ever so slightly ride over the second and miss the third. My heart's pounding and I find a nice eddy river-right to

exit and set up the photo-booth (Katie pulls out the throw bag just in case).

A few rafts go through with more and the same success. However, our last boat, a newbie on the sticks positions himself towards right at the center rock. I almost thought he was going to hit it. When he enters, the current pushes him to the far right. I can't stop taking photos to document this, but I'm nervous. Not only does he go over the first rock with flying colors, but also the next two. Oh, and the additional fourth boulder that was invisible at the exit.

Luckily, they did not lose anything and made it out safely. Black Creek was fun to raft, however, I much preferred Salmon Falls.

The main salmon at the flows we run is not overly difficult and we generally don't set a lot of safety. Also due to the pool and drop nature of the river consequences are not that high. You would think people in the group would be a bit more cautious due to all the gear we are hauling, but I don't think that was really the case. We only scouted Black Creek Rapid and Elkhorn, and everyone made it through those with fairly good lines. It was on an unassuming rapid, Carey Creek, less than a mile before the take-out that we had someone thrown from their boat. Just goes to show you need to be on your toes at all times!

--Kyle Anderson



so what's runnin'?

Yakima II

The Yakima Canyon is a scenic float. It may still be cold, but a scenic canyon on a sunny day is just the ticket this time of year!

Washougal III

This little appreciated run is SW Wa staple. Best at high water, surf abounds. And harder runs await upstream for those looking for a weekend of adventure.

Green River Gorge III

The refill may have started, but great snowpack promises a good spring season on the Green. Get 'er while this gettin' is goos, this one won't wait for summer.

SF Skokomish V

Yes it's been rowed. Yes it'll kick yer butt. Plan a long day, scout often, and drink in the unparalleled box canyon scenery.



Aaron, Kat, and John exit Lep of Faith, while Lyles is poised for rescue assistance. Tilton River, Wa

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:

Aaron's Tilton Trek Video
<http://bit.ly/YHiOzP>

Paddling the Green Gorge
<http://bit.ly/ZVhDOd>

AW Mobile Flows
<http://bit.ly/ZwUZ16>

Tamihi Creek Hydro Proposal
<http://bit.ly/YGA1tk>

C&K From the Vault:
America's Dams
<http://bit.ly/WgYbPD>

C&K Foot Entrapment
Rescue
<http://bit.ly/154SI4p>

AW: Merced Bill
Reintroduced
<http://bit.ly/119STbg>

Snorkeling Wa's Wild Rivers
<http://bit.ly/YGRt0V>

Zach's Watershed Moment
<http://bit.ly/WVJDpD>

Round 1 River Photo
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<http://bit.ly/YIVKaG>

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<http://bit.ly/14cUa2a>

The Columbia Experience
<http://bit.ly/T8RWvL>

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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 |
|----------------|--|--------|------------------------------------|
| April 21st | FLIP PRACTICE Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish | III-IV | Jim Johnson 425-471-1035 |
| April 27th | SHANG RI LA PRE-CLEAN Shang Ri La | | |
| May 4th | GREEN RIVER CLEANUP | III-IV | Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net |
| May 16th | LOCHSA PILGRIMAGE Wilderness Gateway east of Lowell, ID | IV | Jim Johnson 425-471-1035 |
| June 1st | WENATCHEE RENDEZVOUS | III | Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net |
| July 20th | WHITE SALMON RETREAT | III+ | Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net |
| August 17th | CAREY BERGER MEMORIAL POKER RUN Skagit River | II+ | Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net |
| September 14th | WRRR TIETON RALLY | III+ | Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net |

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Chris Weiss, Nick Borelli, and Lyles Larkin, entering the Tilton Canyon

