

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

# the waterlog

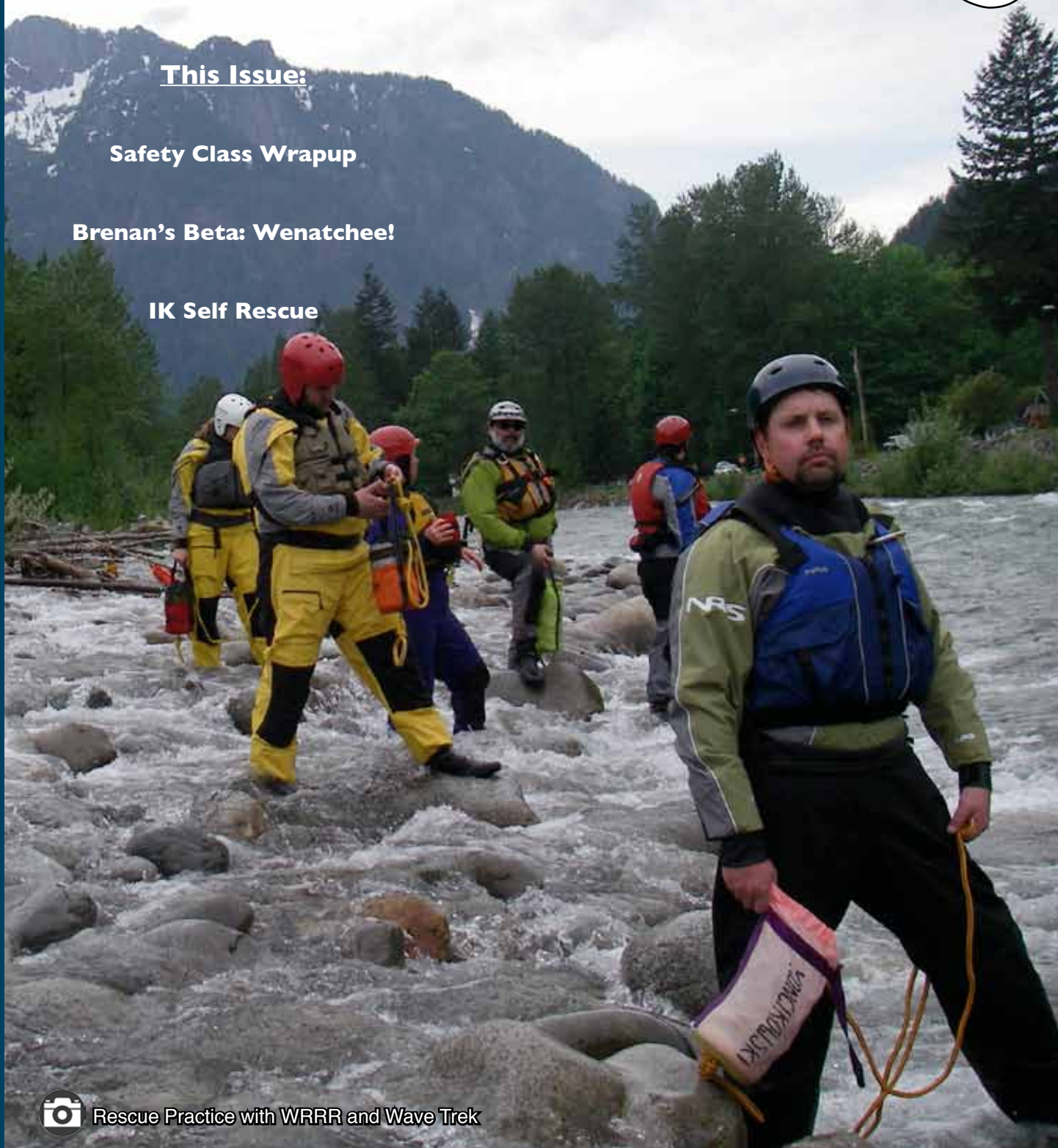
VOL 13 NO 5 MAY 2013

## This Issue:

**Safety Class Wrapup**

**Brenan's Beta: Wenatchee!**

**IK Self Rescue**



Rescue Practice with WRRR and Wave Trek

**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 memberships include the newsletter and access to club events

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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.

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Renton, WA 98057

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Journal of Self-Serving Statistics, June 2009

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Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM (except December).

Please visit <http://www.wrrr.org/> for meeting locations.

## THE WATERLOG

EARN BIG-TIME RIVER KARMA! Flip less often! Get shuttles from bikini models! Stop losing your hair! Your boat will look better; your beer will be colder; the sun will shine every day you're on the river and it will rain every day you're off the river! All you have to do is...**SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THE WATERLOG!** (Photos & cartoons too! It's just that easy) The Waterlog is published 11 times a year. (Monthly except December) Material for publication should reach the editor by the 25th of the month. An attempt will be made to place submissions received after the 25th. However, no guarantees are given. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length. Articles and editorial comment do not necessarily reflect the view or opinions of WRRR, its Board of Directors, or its membership...They seem to think it's important that I print that last bit for some reason, go figure. Authors are solely responsible for the content of their articles.

Submit material for  
publication in The Waterlog  
to the editor:

Brian Vogt  
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## White Salmon Weekend July 19-21 2013

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

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

Camping is free for WRRR members at Hollenbeck Park near Trout Lake, WA. This will be the 3rd year at Hollenbeck Park. The camp site has a large grassy area with spectacular views of Mt. Adams. Address: 33 Mt Adams Rd. (off Hwy 141 to Mt. Adams)

PLEASE NOTE: There is a \$20.00 suggested donation for non WRRR members to camp for the weekend.

You will need to make your own arrangements for food, drink and camping/cooking gear.

### Driving Directions

#1 - I-5 South Google directions: <http://bit.ly/10jTsh5>

This is the most common route taken. Take I-5 South to Vancouver; then to I-205 S. Most folks continue over the Columbia, and take I-84 east on the Oregon side. There are two toll bridges back across the Columbia, I prefer the Cascade Locks exit and take the Bridge of the Gods to Stevenson. For this route, follow WA-14 east for about 22 miles, or until you cross the White Salmon river and then take Alt-141 which follows the White Salmon and joins the main 141 (turn left at the stop sign). The other bridge is in Hood River, OR and crosses over to the town of White Salmon. You will have to take WA-14 WEST for 2 miles before turning north on 141. Hwy 141 follows the river (for the most part) and goes through Husum, BZ Corner and Trout Lake.

Some folks also just stay on the Washington side and take Hwy 14 all the way from Vancouver. This route avoids the toll bridges, but is a much windier road with a lesser speed limit.

#2 - I-90 East Google directions: <http://bit.ly/13JBlwq>

Take I-90 East to Ellensburg, then WA-97 south all the way to the Columbia River (note that 97 joins both I-82 and WA-12 on this stretch). Cross the Columbia and take I-84 west to Hood River. Cross the Hood River Toll Bridge and take WA-14 west 2 miles to the town of White Salmon and join 141 North. Again, 141 accesses both the put-in and take-out as well as the

campground in Trout Lake. If taking this route directly into camp, there is a back road from Goldendale to Trout Lake. This route will be somewhat familiar to those of you who have floated the Klickitat. From Goldendale, take WA-142 for 10 miles to the Glenwood Highway. Follow this very (scary) curvy road into Glenwood, then continue straight to meet up with 141 just south of Trout Lake.

#3 - Forest Road 23 Google directions: <http://bit.ly/14OZI6P>

It does require about a 12-15 mile stretch on unpaved gravel roads. I do not recommend this route for your first trip to the White Salmon area, especially if driving your first time at night. If you have never travelled this route, it provides stunning views of Mt. Adams and other beautiful scenery.

Depending on your origin, there are several ways to begin this route. Most folks take Hwy 7 South to Elbe. Others take 161 (Meridian) from Puyallup to Eatonville, then the Alder cutoff road to Elbe. Basically, you are heading toward Mt. Rainier at Paradise. Anyway, from Elbe take Hwy 7 South to Morton, then east on Hwy 12 to Randle. In Randle, turn south at the signs for Forest Roads 25 & 23. You will follow Forest Road 25 for maybe a mile before veering left to 23. When on Forest Road 23, there are several forks in the road - you will need to stay left at these to remain on 23 (All are marked with direction signs). There is a 12-15 mile stretch of gravel road which was fairly pot-holed a couple weeks ago. The advantage of this route is that it ends on the north end of Trout Lake. When you reach the Chevron station, turn right to head to the campground, or take an easy left to join 141 south.

## Wenatchee Throwbag Throwdown

Get your game face on. Stretch your shoulders. Dust off your throwbag. Clean the mold out of your whistle. And join us at Tumwater Campground Saturday evening between 5-6 pm during the Wenatchee Rendezvous June 1.

It's free to participate! But one lucky participant may win 20 worth of WRRR boater bucks that you can buy WRRR wear or apply towards membership fees. You have to successfully hit the target with your throwbag from the designated throwing area. All successful participants will be entered into a drawing and one name is chosen to win the \$20. The number of tosses are unlimited but only one toss is allowed at a time & anyone willing to participate will be given a chance.

Have fun. Work up an appetite for the potluck. Win free money. Practice your rescue skills.

What more could you ask for?



# 2013 WRRR Safety and Rescue Class

Fifteen eager river rats met with Ryan Murphy at Wave Trek on the Skykomish River for safety and rescue training. Flows were much higher than anticipated for early May (15000+cfs) so in-river practice was shifted to the North Fork. We reviewed basic safety principles, hydrology features, safety kits, unpinning a boat with either a z-drag or vector pull, throwbagging, and swimming a rapid.

Some key points to share from the class include:

Self preservation takes priority in rescue situations. Do not make yourself a second victim!

Many injuries happen on the shore or before/after the river. Watch your footing and lifting mechanics.

Designate a trip leader at every trip. Discuss any serious medical conditions that any paddlers have BEFORE your trip (Diabetes, Allergic reactions, Asthma, Seizures, etc.) Discuss potential hazards on the trip. Do this for day trips and extended trips.

Your most experienced boaters should be lead and sweep boats with lesser experienced boaters in between. Keep within eyesight

of the boat ahead and behind you if able.

Remember to use your voice as a rescue tool. Talking to the victim may help calm them & you during the rescue. It can also give you time to stop & formulate a good safe plan.

Watch your ropes for possible entanglement.

If you are being recirculated in a hole, try first to swim to the side of the hole to exit. If you can't, make yourself big by spreading your arms and feet out wide to attempt to catch the side current to flush out. Last ditch effort: take a deep breath and tuck yourself into a ball to get pulled under deep and flush out.

Your bandaids, extra clothing, pulleys, webbing, & rope are worthless if you leave them at home. Take your safety and unpin kit with you!!! (\*\*Look for a future article on what to include in your safety kit\*\*)

Usually a vector pull or 3:1 z-drag will unpin a boat. You will need a rope (50-100 feet), two pulleys, 5-6 feet of 1 inch webbing, 3 locking carabiners, and 2 prussiks. You will also need to know how to



tie: figure 8 on a bite, water knot, & a prussik knot!

Practice, practice, practice tossing a throwbag. Practice different distances. Practice throwing upstream, downstream, with coiled loops of rope. Practice while standing on unbalanced surfaces since a riverbank is uneven and slippery...and so is your boat.

We are all in between swims. Dress for the swim. If you end up away from your boat, keep your feet up and pointed downstream. Don't stand up in swift moving water due to risk of foot entrapment. Breathe at the bottom of a wave trough. Stay calm and look for a safe place to exit like an eddy.

Thank your fellow boaters for taking that safety/rescue class & allowing you to swim (or boat) another day J

SYOTR!  
RiverPixie



## Brenan's Beta: Wenatchee



This month's Rapid segment focuses on the Wenatchee River. Most all the "tough" carnage happens at Boulder Bend. At high flows there are some nice hit and huge holes over on river center spread all the way across to river left. At far river left there is some pretty hairy "code red" in the form of logs and other junk that accumulates in high water. Most paddle rafts get wiped out in the Geary Hole (River Center) and end up having a very long swim, get pushed over river left, and get thrashed. For me, I have a nice Green Highway on river right that I prefer to use. To enter the highway I take my exit right after the hwy 2 bridge at the Bent tree on river left. That is my cue to start working right. With a nice easy forward paddle, we end up about 40 feet off the river right bank at the start of the 120 degree turn. Once there it's an easy shot around the bend and we find a few of the larger holes and cut back river center right after the huge rock (river center/ rapid center). There's some nice ledge waves to hit and usually gets everyone on the paddle team fired up for the rest of the river.

I've seen lots of carnage and boats rolled up after this rapid. The most spectacular is engraved in my mind though. Everytime I run the rapid I chuckle a little. I had just made my way back into the center of the river to hit all the big wave trains at the bottom left, looked back to see an empty boat. I quickly blew the whistle and got our boat ready to go pickup and assist the swimmers. With my paddlers ready to receive, I took a quick glance back to make sure we were on the right track and WTH, they were all back in the boat. What had been maybe 10 seconds, Koker had climbed back in the raft and already had 4 paddlers in the boat. In the next 2 paddles strokes we took heading his way, he had grabbed them all. Cool I

thought, gave him the OK, got one back and we turned around to go finish out the rapid. What must have been 20 seconds later I looked back to check on the other rafts to see the most spectacular swiftwater dive ever. He was full on horizontal like a little missile wearing a PFD. Not knowing what was going on, I started to worry. Back to rescue mode. I thought maybe he was missing someone underwater? What could he be doing? His crew which was having a tough time moving the boat at the beginning of the rapid was now looking like an all star paddle team even with their guide in mid air. Another whistle blow and by the time I turned around the guy was back in the guide seat guiding again!!! Lucky for me, He was after my favorite guide stick and he got it! Wow, I couldn't stop laughing and wow.

I told the story the next day at my guide safety talk. I also colorfully describe my swims there, and that I really don't mind it and kind of enjoy swimming the wenatchee at most places. Wouldn't ya know it, they were paddling like banchees through Boulder Bend.....

In conclusion any description wouldn't be complete without my favorite places to get paddlers wet. Right after the Dam is probably my favorite spot on the Wenatchee. Most call it Upper and Lower Gorilla falls, but I call it the Gopher Holes. Reason: If you see a hole, you go for it. The best one for our Aire raft is River Center Left right under the bridge. This thing hits hard and usually sends me up to the front of the raft. After getting rocked around we get our raft drifting to the outside of the river to line up for some other big holes on river right at the outside of the bend. Whether you like running big or conservative there's a line for you on the Wenatchee.

Here's to having some fun in the sun this summer!!!!

### Pinky

Perhaps the most ill conceived trip of my long whitewater career was on the Wenatchee. It was 1988 and I was 30. I had recently gotten my first IK and run the usual class 3-4 rivers on the west side for a year or 2. I had rafted and canoed before getting the IK. One fine hot spring day, my river buddy and I both had the day off. Everything on the west side of the mountains was running too high. So my buddy says, "let's go do the Wenatchee." I said, "it's running 21,000 and he replied, "yeah but it's the Wenatchee - like it was no big deal. So we went, mid week, 2 IKs, no one else on the river. The boat ramp and the parking lot were under water, and it was mostly up the front steps of the house next door. Maybe I shouldn't even be writing this cause I honestly don't remember very much about the run, but it WAS memorable.

Lack of visibility is what I remember most, due to the huge waves. I knew if I lost hold of my paddle, I probably wouldn't find it again, and I didn't have a spare. So I tied it to my boat with some line that I figured I could break, if needed. I only took 1 swim that day and it was in Rock 'n Roll. I self rescued very quickly without having to worry about holding onto the paddle. Now the yarn spinner in me would love to tell you how the string broke, I lost my paddle and hand paddled through Gorilla and Drunkard's Drop.

But it didn't, and the next thing I remember was going into Snowblind. We planned to run down the left side but somehow there was a monstrous hole that we hadn't counted on, so I rud-dered just a tad-I thought. The entrance current grabbed my boat and surfed it 30' sideways in a heartbeat and I was going down the middle. I remember paddling, as hard as I could, into a trough and craning my neck to see the crest of the next wave. I swear it was like looking up at a 3 story building, and knowing you had to paddle over it. Quite a rush when I caught air at the top. I saw my Buddy for an instant 2 waves down, turned sideways. I thought, "don't swim here." Then I remember thinking, "I hope I don't hit Suffocator", cause I had little clue where I was in relation to the banks or anything else. And

maneuvering was really not an option, without being able to see. I was in a canyon of waves with no sight of anything but what was in my immediate vicinity. I knew the rapid would end and I had a hell of a ride. We took out at Monitor because we thought the park take out would be hard to catch. We ended up paddling between the cottonwoods, but at least there wasn't too much current.

When we got off the river, I knew that I would not do that again, and it was one hell of a ride.

**-Chris Herman**

**Boulder Bend:** To make it through without any terror, hug the right shore. As you move left you increase the possible terror factor. There is a nice hole near the beginning and center right. At higher levels it can keep you and even flip you if you are not on your game.

**Rock & Roll:** The current is trying to pull you into Satan's Eyeball. That is not advised. As you enter the rapid you will probably pass right of an exposed rock. Immediately start pulling left. The current will have other ideas. If all goes well you pass the eyeball on the left, hopefully far enough for comfort. Take a good look at what you avoided. If that is not possible to stay left, try to get right of the eyeball. After that, enjoy the waves but make sure to miss Satan's Asshole center left near the end of the wave train.

**The Dam:** Stay left approaching the dam. Look for the sloping boulders. Don't go too soon or you will be at the concrete part of the dam and will probably die. As soon as you can push over the boulders without hitting wood, do it. Make sure you don't wait too long or you could go over the high steep part with unknown results. Once over the drop, enjoy the hydraulics and avoid the few (very few) rocks.

**Snowblind:** Some people say the left side is easiest. Others say the right side is easiest. Still others say the right side is a guaranteed flip. I just head into the middle and push like hell as I hit the holes.

**-Ken Gersten**





Teamwork on the Green River makes the Cleanup a great event!

# A Guide to IK Self Rescue



If you run an inflatable kayak, you're going to flip. It's just part of the territory. Knowing how to self-rescue not only saves you from a potentially long swim, it will improve your confidence. Knowing you can get back in your boat makes it possible to take that tough line and deal with the consequences.

This guide will help you improve your ability to self-rescue.

## 1. Prepare Your Boat

Every IK should have thigh straps and a footbrace of some kind (footpegs or a foam block, or even a drybag filled with gear). The thigh straps need to hold your legs tight against the tubes. Some boats are set up with floor loops that you can attach your thigh straps to, but these are not as effective as attaching D-rings to the tubes to move the thigh straps up. When you flip, the thigh straps should hold you in the boat. The footbrace is important for after the flip, when you may not have time to get back into the thigh straps.

All gear in the boat should be strapped in so that it doesn't hang down a lot when the boat is upside-down. You don't want a big drybag hanging down into the water to get caught on something, and you don't want gear flopping around and preventing you from flipping the boat back over. Your

spare paddle - which you should be carrying - needs to be held into the boat, with no ends free to snag on a rock or limb.

Consider attaching straps to the back and front of your boat. If you find yourself away from the boat, you may still be able to reach the strap - or someone else may be able to use it to tow your boat. Choose a bright color. These should be no longer than 6 feet in the back and no longer than 4 feet in the front. You don't want them to be long enough that they can wrap around your paddle shaft. Do not substitute rope or tubular webbing for a nylon strap. Rope can get between rocks, compress and expand, trapping your boat. Tubular webbing does not float, so it's useless.

Some people will insist that dragging a strap is dangerous. If it matters, just put the strap in the boat - it will come out when you flip anyway, and that's when you need it.

## 2. Self Rescue

When your boat goes over, you will be disoriented for a moment. If your thigh straps and footbrace are set up correctly, you will still be attached to the boat, and you will need to make a little effort to get out. Take advantage of this time to grab your thigh strap with one hand while holding your paddle in the other. I almost always grab my thigh strap with my right hand and hold

my paddle in my left.

Once you are ready, straighten your legs to loosen the thigh straps. You will separate from the boat, but you should still be holding onto the thigh strap. If you didn't quite hold on, you'll need to go after your boat. Don't give up - the boat is your best bet in most cases.

Get to the side of the boat and reflip it. Don't wait to do this - an upside-down boat is hard to control and isn't doing you any good. The easiest way to reflip your boat is to reach under to the far side and grab the thigh strap that is furthest from you. Pull this toward you while pushing up on the near tube. This gives you the most leverage, and with practice you can flip the boat and already be partially in it. This isn't the only way to reflip your boat - if you find a technique that works better for you, such as grabbing the bail holes on the bottom, use it.

At this point, your paddle can be a bit of a hindrance. You'll need to discover the best way to deal with it. Some people put it across the boat. Some put it on the far tube. Some jam one blade under the backrest so the paddle is on the floor. All of these are effective, though the last one can mean a little more work when you are back in the boat, lying on top of the paddle.

One the boat is back over, flatten your body on the water and pull yourself in. You may need to push down on the near tube to do this. Some people even need to go to the front of the boat where there is less buoyancy. Many people grab the thigh strap on the far side and pull themselves in with that. In some cases, you may find that when you try to get back in, the boat tries to flip back over on you. If you are lucky, one of your fellow boaters can help hold the far side down. Otherwise, you will just need to try to get flatter on the river surface and push down on the floor.

When you re-enter the boat, get back into position as quickly as possible and get your paddle ready. You may not have time to get back into your thigh straps, which is why a good footbrace is very important. You can

run a drop effectively if you can wedge yourself tightly in the boat.

If you master refliping the boat on the first try and getting back in quickly, you will find that you aren't winded from the exercise. I've been able to flip, reflip my boat, and complete a rapid without missing a beat.

### 3. Practice

The best way to learn to self-rescue is to practice. At first, try it out in an eddy where you are comfortable, but you will want to switch to practicing in rapids as soon as possible. After all, you aren't going to flip in an eddy very often. Pick a rapid where you have some easy water after it in case things don't go well. Try to practice in a variety of rapids.

Time yourself, or have a fellow paddler time you. You want to be back in your boat ready to go within 30 seconds. There is no panic like wondering if you will be swimming a rapid, so quickness is critical.

No cheating! We all know the rule against standing up in the river. It's sometimes easy to push off the bottom of the river to vault back into your boat. In a really flip, you probably won't have this opportunity, so when you practice don't do this. Also, don't just flop out of your boat and leave it upright so you can get back in without refliping it. Refliping the boat is one of the hardest parts, and you need to hone that skill.

### 4. Plan for Failure

OK, you've practiced and you tried hard to get back in your boat, but sometimes it just doesn't work out and you find yourself swimming. If you're in a long, tough rapid you may need to swim to shore or get rescued by another boat. Hopefully, you were paying attention before you flipped and know what the rapid looks like.

Don't let go of your paddle. You can use the paddle to help you

swim - those blades are much larger than your hands and can pull you along very effectively. Also, you're still going to need that paddle when you get back to your boat.

You should have a spare paddle in your boat. Yes, it's a pain to always have to carry this extra piece of gear. It's in the way and it takes more time to set up and take down your boat. And, hey, someone else in the group has a spare if you need it, right? Remember those excuses when you are watching your paddle float down the next rapid while you wait for your fellow paddler to get their spare paddle out so you can use it. Remember those excuses while you run the next few rapids searching for that paddle, thinking about the money you're going to spend replacing it. Just carry a spare paddle.

Master the techniques of self-rescue. You will enjoy boating more, and you will be able to boat a bigger variety of rivers with less fear and trepidation, and have a lot more fun!

-- David Elliott

## Lyles' Surprise

See, I've been boatin' for a while now. And I done seen some things that'd turn you white! But that's no fun, and this is all about fun, right? Well, in that spirit, I hit up a Thursday Middle Middle meetup. No big deal, just 3500 cfs, a flotilla of cats and rafts, and Lyles and I in our IKs.

Now, the Middle Middle is a fun little run. The problem is, while I used to run the MM a ton, I haven't for several years. Where the big rocks are? I dunno ... until the first time a 3 foot wave train drops me into a blind boat eating hole. Not my style -- where's the lazy fluid line in that? Pffft. Lyles, on the other hand, is a man who seeks the fine edge of balance between upstream and downstream currents. No where is that edge more delicately danced



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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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than when surfing. So of course, Lyles is deep in all his favorite spots on his home run. I'm just looking around.

As things build toward House Rocks, I find I'm letting go of finding big waves -- I'm just hole dodging. And eddy dodging, because those eddy lines are more treacherous than the holes.

But the biggest, baddest hole of the run is at the bottom of Surprise. I catch an eddy nearby to study it. It's huge, and would be right at home on the Illinois at 2000 cfs. I wonder if I could bust my cat through it.

Lyles, on the other hand, is unconcerned. Now, the pile is at least six feet high. It's recirculating for ten feet. Fun!!! Lyles comes flying over the pourover, hanging on a huge boof stroke, aired out and styling. But that's a lot of upstream current, and before you can blink, Lyles is deep in the trough, spun instantly by the force

of the water.

Surfing, they say, is critical to building your combat boating skills. So, I couldn't really tell if it was combat boating, or surf practice. I know I was wondering how long he'd recirc WHEN he swam. I definitely wondered if throwing a rope from an IK was stupid, or the only acceptable choice.

But I had time to wonder, because this surf was extended. I could see the helmet. Occasionally a blade, and rarely, the end of the boat. Eventually, Lyles popped up through the pile, riding a tube through the pile. It was like an endo, only sideways. Once he was completely out of the pile and below the recirculation, Lyles flashed a big grin. You know, cause practice makes perfect.

All I know is, that's biggest damn hole I ever did see an IKer surf.

**-Ed**



Teamwork on the Green River makes the Cleanup a great event!

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