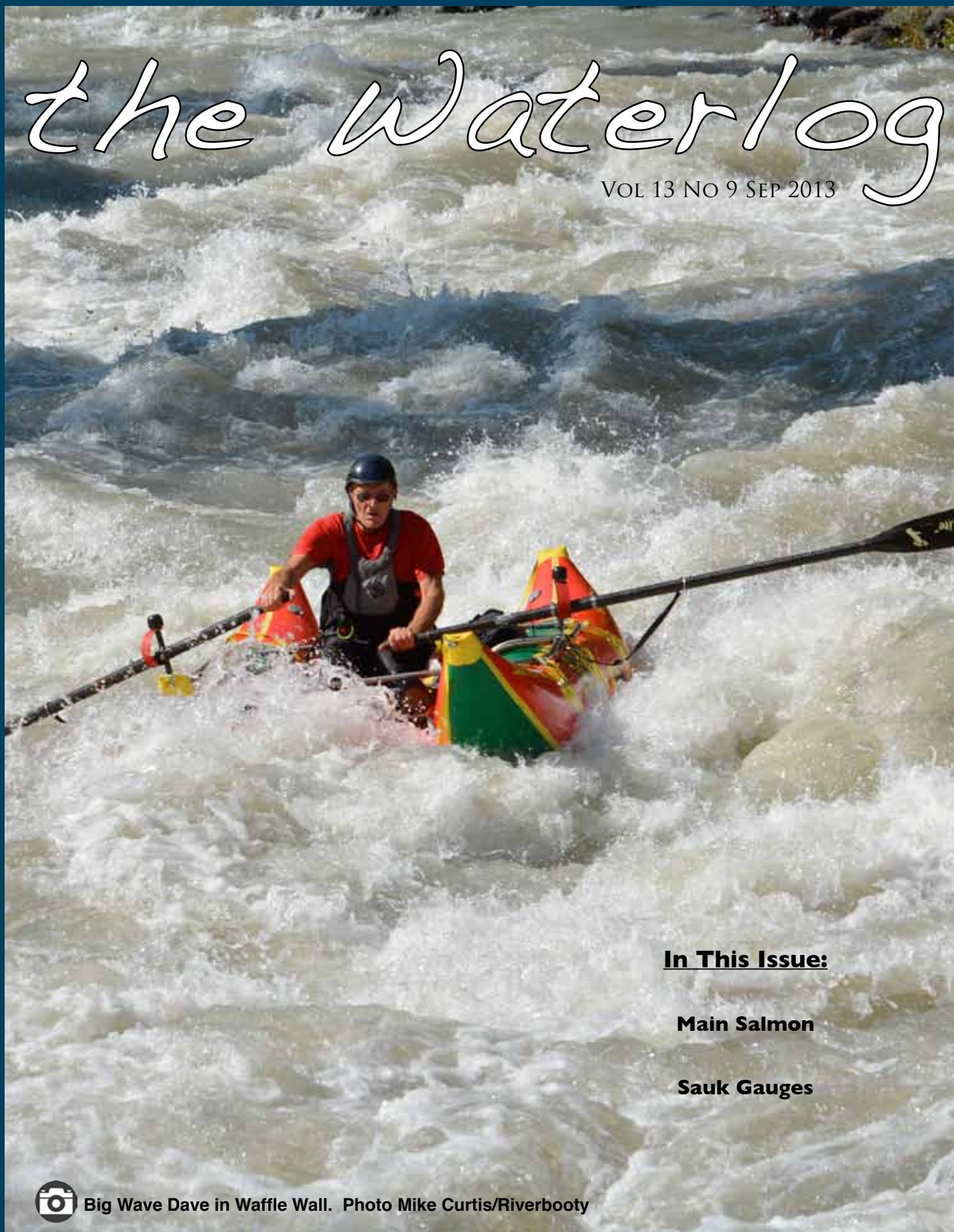


THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

the waterlog

VOL 13 NO 9 SEP 2013



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Big Wave Dave in Waffle Wall. Photo Mike Curtis/Riverbooty

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 6/1/13! 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) _____

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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:
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PMB 501
330 SW 43rd ST. Ste K
Renton, WA 98057

*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

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Gear Swap & Repair Clinic

October 12, 2014 - 11AM-4PM

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 2013 WRRR Board will be and have some fun with boats and gear.

Randy Rogers 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. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, with tickets costing \$1 each - proceeds to benefit the WRRR safety and education fund.

Sauk River Gauge Guide

In the past, the gauges on the Sauk drainage have been a bit of a guessing game. When most of the guidebooks

were written, there was only one gauge, not far from where the Sauk drains into the Skagit. The guides gave an approximate percentage for all of the runs above - the NF Sauk, Upper Sauk, Whitechuck, Middle Sauk, Clear Creek, Lower Sauk, Suiattle, and Lower Lower Sauk (Suiattle to Skagit), but the actual percentage varied with the season and weather. Later on, a gauge was added on the Upper Sauk, a short way above the confluence with the Whitechuck. This made it a little easier to figure out what the flow would be on the Upper Sauk and Middle Sauk runs, but a lot of people still guessed based on the main gauge.

In 2011, a new gauge was placed at the bridge near the lumber mill in Darrington. This gauge gives a much more accurate gauge for the Middle Sauk, and it makes it possible to more accurately gauge the flow on the Whitechuck River. It also made it possible to get an accurate flow on the Suiattle.

In 2013, a new gauge was placed on the Suiattle River just below Rat Trap Bridge. This gauge is still undergoing calibration to get the best accuracy, but it is already useful to get the flow on the Suiattle.

With these new gauges, nearly all of the guesswork has been taken out of the Sauk drainage. You only need to guess the flows for the NF Sauk and Clear Creek, and both of those runs are really for experts and should be scouted beforehand.

Here are links to the gauges listed above. You can go to wrrr.org and click the River Info menu to see a page listing the new gauges and the related runs.

Upper Sauk

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?site_no=12186000

Sauk at Darrington

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site_no=12187500

Suiattle

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=12188380

Sauk at Sauk

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site_no=12189500

- David Elliott



Late Summer on the Salmon

There's nothing like a late season hit of sunshine to help ease the pain of those colder mornings and ever-earlier twilight. This year, our late summer escapism took place on the Main Salmon. We faced very low water, idyllic weather, and none of the urban techno nonsense so prevalent at home.

We arrived to find a thick brown mud in place of our preferred crystal clear Idaho water, thanks to several recent microbursts. Mom and dad were there, rigging boats a few days early and just hanging out riverside. Nick was nervous about his first gear boat rowing. Our friend Bill was rowing Bart and his wife Lesley down the river. And Mark, our lone IKer, was celebrating a sixty-first birthday on our trip.

Folks who have run the Main know it's not about the rapids. Though we did enjoy our first runs through Alder Creek and Black Canyon, new rapids since our last float. No, this trip was about recharging the spiritual batteries and renewing friendships.

Of course, that happens after you get launched. So, since 19 parties were launching on our permit day, we rallied to get boats rigged and off the ramp, despite rolling in at 7pm from a 5am departure from Seattle. I was lucky enough to find an inch long tear in my Sotar tubes from the drive to cap the evening off in good spirits. I even remembered to eat some dinner, an hour after dark.

But it all paid off in the morning, when I had a rigged boat and time to craft a repair. We were on the water with only group ahead of us, and no urgency for miles. We floated down to Lantz Bar for camp, after some fun

splashes in Killum, Gunsight, Rainier, and Alder Creek rapids.

It's amazing the caliber of river camp one can find when so many folks are around to establish the camps. Our IK trips often feature camps in sublime settings, but no one has designated a kitchen, landing beach, groover trail, or more tent sites than a scout troop on jambo-ree might need. We settled in under the ponderosa and let river time wash away the detritus of civilized living.

From Lantz, we floated on down to the masonry tub. While the Middle Fork is chock full of hot springs, none of them matches the setting or view from the tub perched 100 feet above the river, nestled against vertical walls. We had hours to ourselves in this special spot and it was tough to move down to camp at Barth, one of the nicest benches on the river.

Day three saw us moving down through Bailey, which

killed a kayaker from Utah on my last trip, and into the prime camp at Yellow Pine Bar. We ran into the MacKay Bar crew and ran up the trail to watch the sweep boat make the left side slot in Big Mallard. Easy-peasy!

Fully into river time now, we drifted down to Groundhog Bar on night 4, with thousands of BTUs of driftwood in tow. Oars were erected, tarps rigged, and a mother of a bonfire lit. Around dusk, it was Sauna Time.

Now, a river sauna is a delicate thing. There is no substitute for rocks of the first order. It is imperative to keep the rocks high in the fire (heat rises) and to have many times more rock and wood than you anticipate needing. Wood, because, well, it takes a lot of heat. Rocks, because most will shatter in the fire.

It is wise to first get the fire going, downwind and a safe distance from the sauna site. Not too far though -- remember, you have to move hot rocks by hand. Then,



Low water means steep gradient

while the rocks are beginning to bake, you can rig your sauna chamber. I like to use a three oar tripod arrangement, with a tarp, situated withing 5 feet or so of a swimming eddy. Sand is preferable for bare feet. Some folks get more creative with a wider, lower chamber, but that takes much more work. Make sure the top is sealed, the walls are firmly weighted, and that you have a door you can seal up well. Dig a pit in the center of the chamber for your hot rocks, and have a bucket of water on hand. Lest I undersell the effort, one must also clean up after that monster fire in the morning. Undertake only with a team willing to help out, for it is a lot of work.

When at last the fire has built through its last crescendo and is a dense roiling hot bed of coals, it's time. Using a military folding shovel, move your rocks into the pit. Ours were so hot, the were glowing red and flickering with an eerie inner light in the dusk. It is customary in my clan to begin a sauna with a shot of ouzo

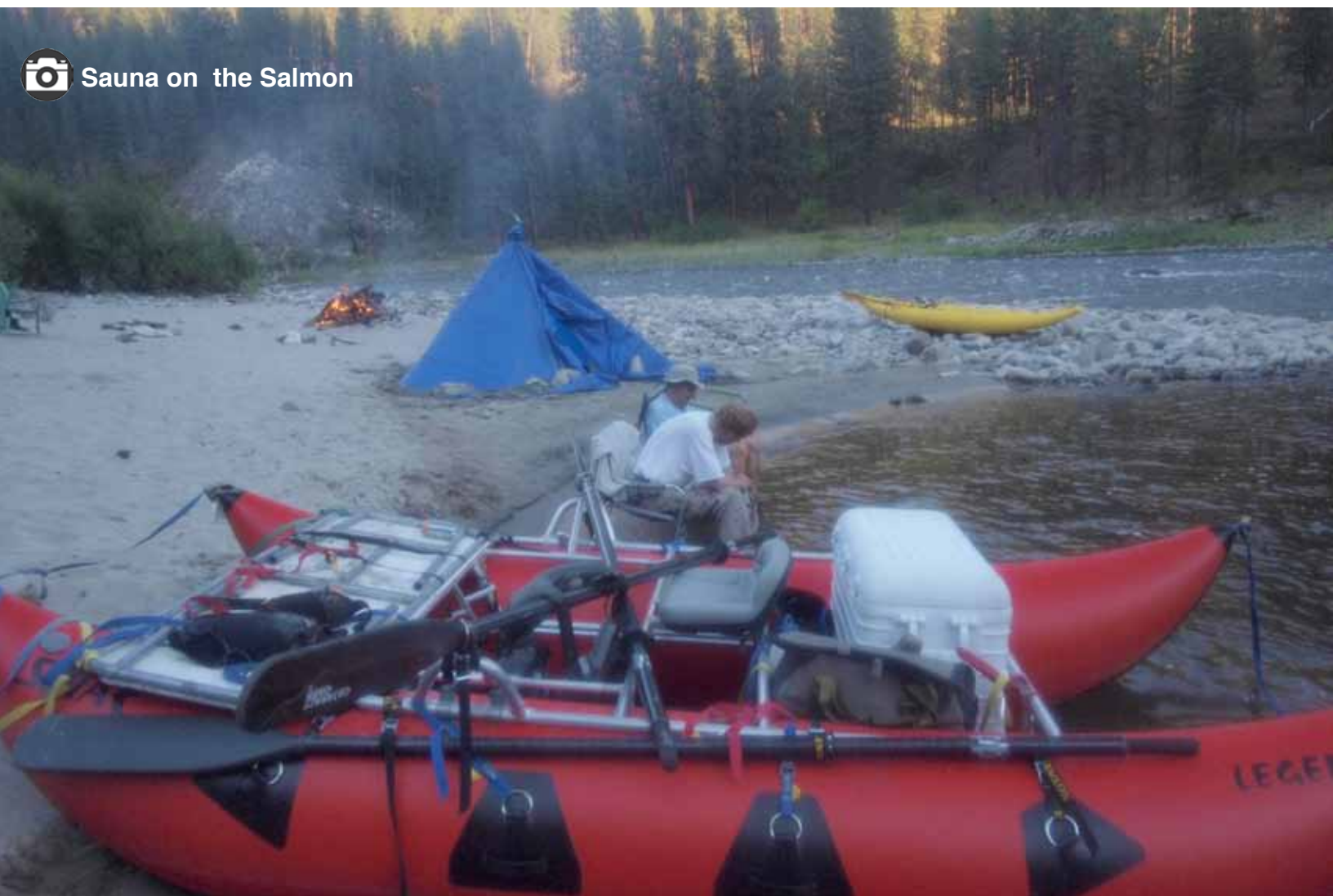
on the hot rocks.

Saunas can range from white hot heat to a steamy warm cocoon. As we had several first-timers we started small. Skepticism about sitting in our skivvies in the sand in the dark turned quickly to oohs and ahhs of delight as those first few coils of heat warmed the hut. But no sauna should be too comfortable for long. Soon, the newbies were sucking sand, trying to get as low as possible as the heat seared their throats and lungs. I may have giggled and poured on the water to enjoy the cries for mercy.

When at last it is simply too much, when you can't imagine one more infernal breath of such hot wet air that you think you'll drown and die of heat stroke at the same time, then and only then may one burst forth into the river seeking relief and balance for the body. The heat lingers in the chest, seeming to heat even the river water.



Sauna on the Salmon





Black Canyon Rapid

We went round after round, some so wickedly hot it hurt to exhale on your own skin. Hours later, rejuvenated, exhausted, refreshed and happy, we drifted off to our tents and beds.

We had a short day down to Hainey Bar on day 5. My first time at this camp, and I quite enjoyed it. We were deep into the mellow heart of river time, easy miles and perfect weather conspiring to make us lazy and content.

Our final night, we had a treat planned. We had booked a stay at Shepp Ranch. For all the times I've floated by, it was a really treat to stop and have a soft re-entry from the wilderness. We had lovely rooms, decks with views, conversations with hunters and guides, horse shoes, ripe pears and plums in the orchard, and an amazing home cooked feast.

The final evening of our trip wound down as we settled into the wood fired hot tub, in the dark under a massive catalpa tree, and a fierce electrical storm raged over the river. We were warm and well fed, with no gear victim to the raging forces of nature.

At last we retired for the night, clean, warm, and dry. Floating out in the morning past sand and rain soaked camps, after a heart warm breakfast, was a special treat. Wrapping up takeout and feeling clean was even better.

So, if you find yourself jonesing for some river time before winter hits, keep an open mind on low water Idaho trips. The Salmon is an excellent late season run and very family friendly. Just make sure your firepan is ready for the sauna fire!

-Ed



Family feeding time for the locals





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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
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 13th - 15th	WRRR TIETON RALLY	III+	Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net
September 20th - 22nd	WRRR-OREGON TIETON POTLUCK	III+	Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net
October 12th	WRRR REPAIR PARTY & GEAR SWAP 2527 "E" St. N.E., hangar # 503	II	Randy and Nancy 206-669-1877



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Skagit II

There ain't much water, but the Skagit is always in! Watch the weather break against the peaks of the North Cascades.

Sauk III

The Sauk has already started responding to rain events. With a long season, fun drops, and great scenery, what's not to like?

Pilchuck IV

Big rains mean rain fed runs. Pilchuck Creek is some of the best IV small river boating around. Great for those in the north end especially.

Cascade V

High summer may be gone, but the Cascade often has a long fall season. Enjoy the last of the blue glacial water!





Tieton sun and fun. Photo Mike Curtis/Riverbooty

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