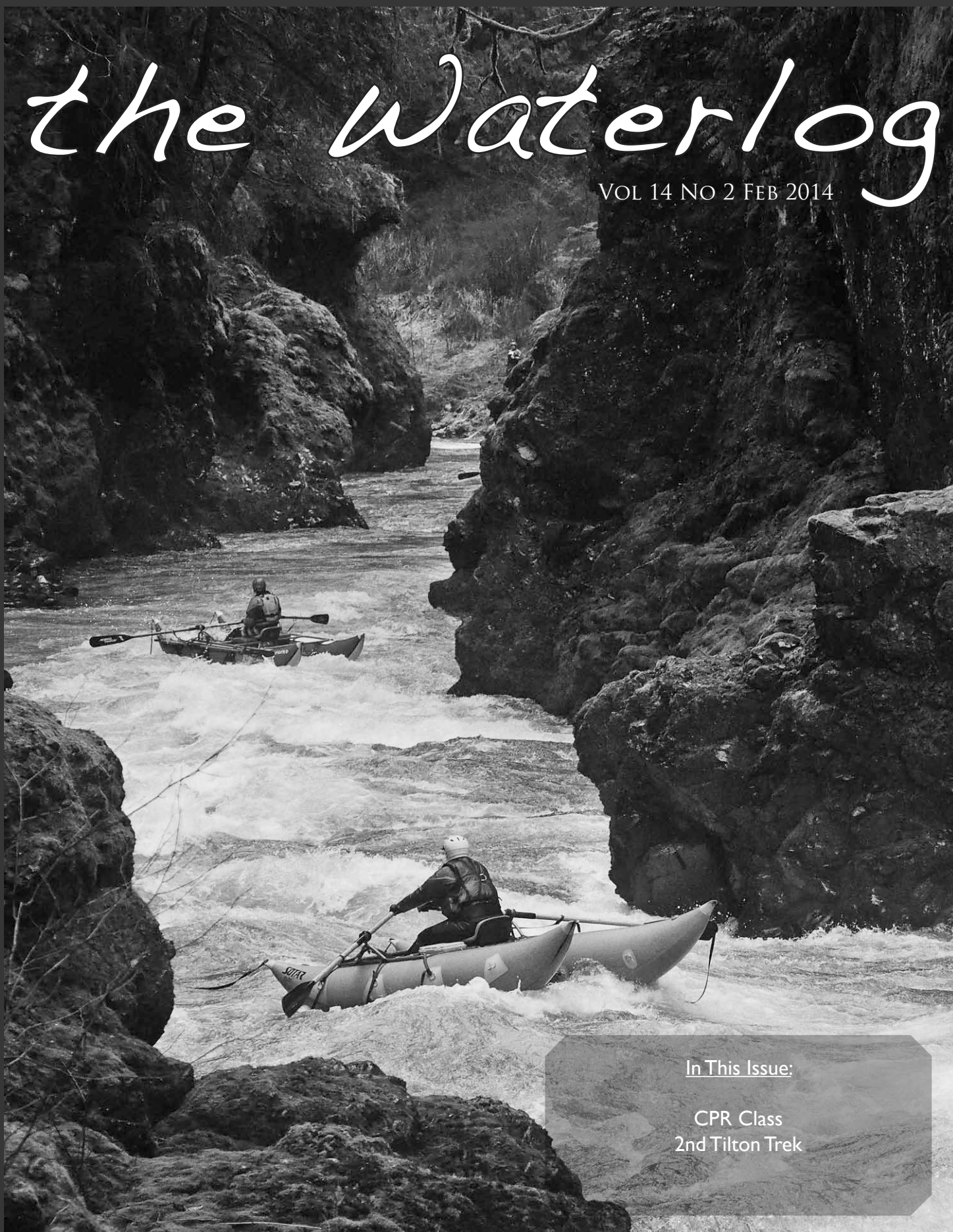


THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

# the waterlog

VOL 14 NO 2 FEB 2014



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CPR Class  
2nd Tilton Trek

*The lush inner gorge of the Tilton*

## 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 5/1/13! All membership levels include the newsletter and access to club events

☐ **\$30 HOUSEHOLD** - everyone residing at the registered address

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☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Returning Member (prior membership ran out)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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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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\*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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## 29th Annual Green River Cleanup

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Bring your friends! The biggest, oldest, best river clean-up in Washington State is coming soon! Join WRRR at the 29th Annual Green River Cleanup on May 3. Registration starts at 9AM at the Headworks, Kanasket-Palmer Park, and Flaming Geyser State Park, and goes through 11am. Help us clean up the Green River and keep it one of the most beautiful rivers you can raft.

Boaters from all over Washington and beyond come out to the Green-Duwamish River each year to clean up trash and enjoy the exciting runs on this beloved river. Don't miss the fun in 2014! Come high water or low flows, you know for sure that running the Green and helping clean it up will be a fun day for all.

There are activities available for all ages and even non

boating friends! Hikers, walkers, wanderers are all welcome to be a part of the ground crew cleanup and helping with the BBQ after the event. We encourage multiple generation participation to help keep our tradition strong.

Keep an eye out at [www.wrrr.org](http://www.wrrr.org), and the Waterlog for future information, including the after river BBQ, Dutch Oven Desert Cookoff and any large cleanup projects that may be occurring.

We are searching for volunteer coordinators, help with sign in sheets, and Finding Trash. If you are interested in helping with the cleanup behind the scenes please contact Brenan @ [pinkyfilippini@yahoo.com](mailto:pinkyfilippini@yahoo.com)

## CPR and Basic First Aid Class

As you know over the years W.R.R.R. has taken a lot of pride in its safety and education. This year will be no different than the past. The boating season is right around the corner and what better way to prepare for the unexpected then to brush up on some first class safety knowledge? W.R.R.R. is planning to sponsor a Heart Smart CPR and Basic First Aid Class. The class will be instructed by a certified trainer with twenty-two years of EMT and search and rescue experience. The class is expected to last approximately four hours and you will receive a certification card upon completion. Before deciding on a time and date we wanted to make sure that this is something our members are interested in. If you would like to be more prepared for that next little tragedy please contact:

Mary Koncikowski  
Phone: 253-569-9989  
Email: [Mkonci73@gmail.com](mailto:Mkonci73@gmail.com)

## Content Contest

The WRRR Board is excited to announce a contest for best river story or picture. Win a \$25 credit towards annual membership or WRRR Merchandise.

To enter, send a story, photo, cartoon, or anything river related (except Joe's socks!) to the editor. A winner will be chosen by the board and announced later this year.

Share your river adventures, safety tips, favorite carnage story, or anything else river trip related. Fight the IKTies, and write about rafting or catboating!



## Tilton Trek

*Horner squares up for a big hit*

I ran my first Tilton lap one wet September weekend back in 2004. I noticed it was in at 2200 and falling while running shuttle on the Tieton. We rallied over White Pass to check it out, and I remember several swims, big horizon lines, and a dark moss-covered gorge that seemed more at home on the rainforest-laden Olympic Peninsula. It was big water in an IK. Why didn't more people run this canyon?

It's always been hard to find people to run the Tilton. Few people have heard of it. It's not very near anything else. It runs best in the darkest, coldest, wettest months, when the skiing is good and the driving less so. It has no snowmelt season, and the takeout and putin look unremarkable. It's too far for a day, but who wants to camp in the rain? But few people know how fun, and gorgeous, that inner canyon is.

But maybe that's changing now. For the second annual Tilton Trek, 32 people and 21 boats showed up for a rollicking day of surf, wood, canyon walls, waterfalls, and lots of big grins. Keep spreading the word! And call me when you go back!

For me the trip started with a lap Friday with Chris

and Jared, hardshellers from Olympia, and Bean and another cat boater. We had ideal levels, 2400, and the surf was up! There were too many waves to catch 'em all, but we tried. There are a handful of spots on the Tilton where you simply can't stop a big group of rafts, so to make for a fun Saturday, I wanted eyes on any new wood or issues, and a plan for Leap of Faith. All was in great shape, and we only had a little work to do at Scary Gary, cleaning up the branches from a large cedar tree nestled between gorge walls. The great news was the cats could go under -- no portage or eddy catching issues to worry about. Chris and Jared took my saw and got to work on the log -- that's some teambuilding effort right there! Three cheers for our rad kayak crew.

People started rolling in Friday evening. Joe Sauve made it down with his raft. The Browsers rolled in, and stopped by to watch some gopro footage of Friday's lap. Then the Birell's. Erik Smith was ready to roll. And the flows looked to be more perfect than perfect can be, dropping gently to 2100 for Saturday.

It was quite a scene at the putin, where we normally use about 1/4 of the turnout. In true WRRR flotilla



fashion, the turnout was full, the shoulder was full, and rigs were even across the road. Jay Cohen showed up. Bryan Rivard had a crew, Horner and Aaron Williams were rigging, and even Professor Paddle had a contingent of four hardhells to complement Nick, Steve, and David in their IKs. Brennan and Kim were each rowing their cats. Lance and Joe had oar frames and paddlers. We had a little bit of everything going on, boats of all kinds.

The class II float down to Bear Canyon was full of chat and laughs as boats jostled and friends caught up. I kept trying to get all the boats in my field of view at once -- I wouldn't succeed until lunchtime.

The first real rapid on the Tilton comes after 2 small class III rapids and as the canyon walls solidify and rise. Tall, gnarled maples cling to the walls, straining to find the sun. Bear Creek tumbles down from the left just as the river narrows from 70 feet in width to about 20.

I've swam out of this drop in an IK more than a few times, and it's always a scenic stop. On this day, some get out to scout, some eddy out and watch, some drop right in. Jay surfs at the lip for a look. Chris and his hardshell team casually take up safety positions just in case, without being asked and just for the fun of it. The lines go great, and Pixie saves a newbie from a swim with a clutch save at the bottom. Go Team Chaos!

We drift down to the logjam. I quite enjoy sitting in the eddy, watching as the cold rain drizzles down between dark canyon walls. I wonder when the last time people portaged might have been. When they will next encounter a river-wide logjam. Mostly, I enjoy watching people lend a hand to other boats. I don't hear a single negative word. It might be a nuisance, but it's a small one, in a beautiful place, and puts the power and scale of this flood channel we're floating into some kind of larger perspective. Later, when we float 20 feet below a log Chris tells us is underwater at 7,000 cfs, we'll

*Team Chaos and a clutch save by Pixie (back left)*







*Top: The gang's all here! Below: Entering Leap of Faith. Opposite: Jay in the maw of Leap of Faith*

have quite the contrast to this low and unstable pile of flotsam, lodged in this gutter of the earth.

We regroup below the log jam. This middle stretch is a bit easier, with a series of lovely waterfalls, a few beaches, and a couple miles of incredible catch on the fly surfing. I work my way towards the front, to make sure we can stop the boats before we enter the lower canyon.

Unlike the Wenatchee or even the White Salmon, it can get a little hairy having 20 boats strung out on the Tilton. There are perhaps 3 places to stop all the boats together in the lower canyon. None of them come

before Leap of Faith, or the blind, narrow crux of the gorge. If support is needed back upstream, well, there better be a support boat back there. There is no egress back upstream.

Our lunch beach has a dynamic surf wave with eddy service, and is just above the entrance to the lower canyon. On the right bank, a Sevylor raft's ruined remains are tied above the high water line, a mute testament to a family's summer adventure gone wrong. Good thing they hiked out here, and on the right. The last exit on land is up the creek on the right below Leap of Faith. The left leads over Tilton Mountain before dropping down to SR-12.







*Top: Erik Smith in the slot, Leap of Faith. Below: Kim regains control. Opposite: Bean and Greg at Scary Gary.*

Snacks and surfs are traded round. Eventually we break into 4 roughly equal groups for the entrance to Leap of Faith. The kayaks offer to go first with the IKs and set safety. One at the creek below the rapid, where the crux narrows lies, a blind left that is 12 feet wide and can collect wood. Another below Leap of Faith itself. And the key rescue support, a boat in the eddy on the left at the bend, above the rock pile that can catch swimmers or boats on the outside of the corner. I climb for a good vantage to work the cameras, and enjoy getting to see every single run at Leap of Faith.

Normally I like to scout this drop, but at this flow, the scouting eddy is a 2-3 raft surging eddy, right at the lip.

There was no timely way to let 30 people look at it, so the Tilton vets stepped up and led groups through, setting perfect lines.

Man was it fun watching folks come around the corner to see Leap of Faith, boat after boat after boat. It looks ominous, a little blind, with a tight chute against the wall, and big rocks in play followed by bigger waves. Someone got bounced out of the Birells' raft, who were in the lead. A quick self rescue deftly performed made it look trivial. Kim had a rough entrance, losing her oars, but rode a lovely pirouette into a front surf in the main hole. That had to be exciting! It was great to see not only a couple but also a father-son team in the









*Above: Soul Surfin' on the Tilton. Below: Brennan and Kim in the last boulder garden. See ya next year!*

Browsers come through the drop. Jay looked tempted to surf the main wave. More grins and hoots flashed along the canyon.

By the time the last group came through, I could only see a couple of safety boaters. I wouldn't see most of the group again until the takeout. I was glad to know the wood at Scary Gary was no issue, so I slowed down and enjoyed the last bit of great III down to Scary Gary. The final boulder garden was in fine shape, big, fluffy, and long.

It's hard to encounter the flatwater of the lake. The Tilton was just getting started, losing 40-50 feet per mile for another 3 miles to its confluence with the Cowlitz. Those miles and the drowned canyons haunt the pad-

dle out as we wonder what other superb whitewater and canyon scenery the Tilton once held in her bosom. The confluence was a sacred place to the native americans. The Tilton's fish runs were huge, with no big waterfalls and so much gravel valley in the headwaters.

At last we pull up at Ike Kinswa, ready for heat, food, drink. We takeout in a lovely park with full services and a nice campground that wouldn't be here were the river still free. The dam keepers giveth, and they taketh away.

But what they've left us is a stunning canyon, filled with surf and fun rapids, waterfalls and fluted bedrock, a place that looks as primaeval and ancient as it ever has. I hope to see you in that canyon next year! Surf's up!





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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 26th	SHANG-RI-LA CLEANUP	II	Mark Burns
April 27th	FLIP PRACTICE Vasa Park, Lk Sammamish 11am - 4pm	III+	Brennan Filippini <a href="mailto:brenan@plasteringplus.com">brenan@plasteringplus.com</a>
May 3rd	GREEN RIVER CLEANUP	III-IV	Brennan Filippini <a href="mailto:brenan@plasteringplus.com">brenan@plasteringplus.com</a>
May 29th - Jun 1st	BOB JOHNSON MEMORIAL WENATCHEE RENDEZVOUS	III	Brennan Filippini <a href="mailto:brenan@plasteringplus.com">brenan@plasteringplus.com</a>
Jul 28th - 29th	SAUK SUMMER OVERNIGHTER	III+	Brennan Filippini <a href="mailto:brenan@plasteringplus.com">brenan@plasteringplus.com</a>

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*Chris and Jared help tidy wood on a scout lap*

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