

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

the Waterlog

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The Harrowing of Tumwater Canyon, photo by Michael Stanford

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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☐ **\$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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2014 Tieton Rally

FRIDAY - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2014

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. Tentative launch times at 11am all days are designed to slip in between the commercial trips. 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. If campfires are banned we will make a circle of heaters and propane fire pits, bring them if you have them. Alternatively, 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.

Potluck: There will be a breakfast potluck Sunday Sept 14th 830 AM at the upper WRRR launch. Bring extra of what you like to cook!!!

Trip Leaders: Trip leaders needed! There will be many trips occurring this weekend. Rafting the Tieton is a game of skill. Find any of the wrrr board or the next group running and hit the river. Pinkyfilippini@yahoo.com

Main Floats: Launch from the WRRR camp (with shuttle completed prior)

Fri: 11am

Sat: 11am

Sun: 11am

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.

Directions: A half hour East of White Pass turn off highway 12 onto Tieton Road, 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!!!

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 dinner hours. Also ensure your dogs are not getting into other peoples kitchen areas. Keep in mind that some people may be cat people J

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!

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Minam Misadventure

"We may have to put her down," Steve Morris said. Our packer looked concerned, motioning back down the trail, where a snowdrift blocked a steep, rocky bit of trail. "I was about ready to cuss you out for going past such a bad spot!"

It's about noon on a lovely sunny Saturday in July. We've just crossed into the Eagle Cap Wilderness, heart of Oregon's Wallowa Mountains. We've been on the trail since 6 am, shovelling snow, bucking logs, and clearing trail. We're hoping to cross over 9000' Burger Pass and launch on the upper Minam, the largest, most remote river in the Wallowas. None of us have been here before, and it's a 12 mile approach that is snowed in much more than we had expected.

Morris sets about unpacking the mule. Once unburdened, she's more free to nip at his hand. "I'm trying to save you, old girl. Quit biting!" says Morris several times. The mule has fallen in the snow, which is knee-deep and covering the trail and adjacent rocks. We can't tell if

she's still on the trail, or whether the leg is intact. It doesn't look good for our trip, or for the animal.

We'd gotten out ahead of the pack train with a snow shovel. Reports of a few snowdrifts left us optimistic a few hours of grunt work might open the way. On the trail at 6, we hit snow at 8:30, 5 miles and 3500 feet of climbing above the valley floor. The first snow drift was long, deep, and covered a trail that climbed while side-hilling. We tried to clear it but hit many rocks. Steve Munk opted to head for the pass to explore how much snow blocked our way. Nick Borelli and I stayed and worked the shovel. Our crew of three was halved from the six we expected just two days ago. All this snow means flows are up, almost double any recorded trip we know of, and that's plenty to drive off half our crew with fears of wood and inescapable gorges. As we shovel snow in the rising heat, we ponder whether perhaps they were the wise ones after all.

At last, it becomes clear the mule can't regain her feet

with any amount of hand holding. Our packer has only his teenaged daughter wrangling for him. Luckily, fellow horsepackers soon arrive and lend a hand. It takes a truckers' hitch 3:1 and four men pulling for all they are worth before the mule manages to stagger up and out of the snow, only to roll down the rocks, ending up immobile on her back amongst the rocks. "We've got to get her on her feet quick, before she gives up," Morris tells us. "They'll just give up and never get up again once they decide its over."

When Steve returns from the scout of the pass, he reports a dozen snow drifts, all shorter, shallower, and less steep than the first we are still excavating. It's not yet 9:30, and we de-



bate waiting for the pack train. We figure its questionable if they can get past this first big drift. But maybe we can clear the others? We start up the trail, trading shifts with the snow shovel. We negotiate a snow bridge, then a steep swift creek crossing. While clearing the last drift, the plastic manure shovel we've relied on snaps. We leave it in the snow, and head for the high saddle NW of Burger

Butte.

Morris is pleading with the mule now: cajoling, berating, swearing. It's well after noon. Ropes are tugged and everyone lends a hand. At last, with a jerk, the mule rolls to her feet. The second she regains them, those hind legs lash out with a fury at her handlers. Everyone cheers, relieved that no animals were killed in the making of this Waterlog trip report.

When we reach the saddle a bit after 10am, we are shocked to see a steep cirque, totally snow covered, far too steep to descend. We're definitely shut down, with no sign of a trail. The



Opposite: Steve about to top out in the Eagle Cap, Burger Butte in background. **Top:** Nick Borelli works the snow shovel. **Bottom:** Raft, Pack Raft.

collapsed forest service sign indicates that “Mark Turned Around Here.” Indeed. So shall we all. We stop for a bite, the bitter taste of hiking out palpable. Somehow we have cell service. I call our shuttle, thinking maybe we can save that expense. Alas, the cars are in La Grande already. We debate options and ask for them to be returned to the trail head. We watch the trail, expecting to see the pack train anytime. As the clock approaches eleven, with no sign, we opt to descend. When we reach that first snow drift, Steve is tying his horse to a tree. Looking me in the eye, he motions back down the trail. “We may have to put her down,” he says.

“I need pizza,” I say to Nick. Therapy. It’s 2pm now, and we’ve hiked out of our hike-in. We’ve collected our gear and are driving back out to I-84 and La Grande.

“We need to get on the river man!” Nick says. “We’ve already got all our food handled.”

“After all this nonsense today,” I point out, “there is no way I’m eating backpacker food for lunch.”

We call ahead for a pie, and the air conditioning, cold beverages, and general lack of catastrophic failure during lunch leaves us feeling quite a bit refreshed. There’s nothing for it but to rally to the town of Minam, our intended takeout, and launch on the 40 mile class II Grande Ronde run.

By 6pm we are rigged and drifting downstream on a river, away from the road, with a few days of freedom to anticipate. It might be plan d, it might be class II, but it’s scenic and the weather is perfect. We’ll find a way to make it work, by gum! Dinner is acceptable, and a swim for dessert and a river bath is the perfect end to an unbelievable day.

In the morning, I’m woken early by Steve kicking my tent. “Hey,” he says, “I can’t wake Nick up. But I think his boat is gone...” Sure enough, diurnal snow melt patterns



spiked the flow overnight, taking Nick's boat and gear. We wake Nick up and discuss options, simply aghast at how many things have gone wrong on this trip.

Luckily we are across from the railroad tracks that follow river right in the first few miles. Nick paddles my packraft over to the other bank and starts the 4 mile hike back to Minam. Steve and I go back to bed after watching the river otters play. By 9am, Nick is back in camp. Luckily my truck hadn't yet left for shuttle and I had an extra boat and paddle on hand. Despite our many setbacks, we shake our heads, wondering how many groups could survive losing a boat without needing rescue from another party.



We proceed downstream, eyes peeled for the boat. Blind Falls in the packraft is a hoot: steep and powerful. When we reach Rondowa, we catch an eddy to watch a bear swim the river; no boat needed thank you very much. A bald eagle streaks toward the river; talons lashing for lunch. No such luck.

At last we made camp, no boat found. We napped.

We swam. We watched the osprey. After hours of no boats, a single boat approaches our beach, clearly looking for camp. Our lack of rafts on the beach makes our camp look deserted. They wave when they notice and pull back out. As they drift past us, Nick says, "Huh. Kinda looks like an IK on their cooler."

I don my glasses for the first time and take a look.

"You mean the deflated Green Lynx?" I ask, I do believe I've gasted my flabber.

"Did you find a boat?" Nick shouts through cupped hands. A perfect double oar

Opposite: Nick's triumphant return using more of my boats at once than I ever have. 4 mi hiked; 4 mi boated in 2 boats before breakfast. Well played.

Top: The Introspective Bruin.
Bottom: Steve thinks any river time trumps work.





turn and 3 pulls later and the oarsman has beached his raft 30 yards below camp.

"Got a name?" he shouts. "Borelli!" Nick responds. Jackpot!!

"Found 'er above Blind Falls, under some brush and deep in the shade, river left," he informs us. We'd bithely floated right by it. Unbelievable! How did we miss it? No doubt we'd been remiss in our search at the prospect of gradient there. Typical whitewater junkies.

"I been wonderin' just how long I'd have to haul this thing," Nick's benefactor said. He didn't sound keen on having to rescue, pack, and ship lost gear. "Glad to get it outta my boat!" Abject thanks paid, Nick has one hundred percent gear recovery confirmed. Including the camera in the pocket of the pfd that wasn't clipped in. Including the new spare paddle. Are you kidding me? Of course, once we thought about, it made sense the boat would have a hard time getting out into the middle of the river. A true lesson well taught!

Over dinner, Nick admits a shocking thought. "You know, I was thinking for hours last night. I couldn't come up with a boat I'd want to replace this boat with. I was so mad I'd lost a perfectly good boat, and I couldn't even jus-

tify it somehow with a new boat. I love that Lynx when I need a gear boat."

Maybe there's the real lesson: be in tune with the boat. I mean, it makes as much sense as river karma, right? If you love a boat, set it free. It's a sign of respect for the better lines we all know our boats have without us. And just maybe, if it's the right boat, and you've taken 'er through well-chosen lines, well ... who knows? Maybe that boat knows a good thing and comes on back for more. I mean who needs river time more than your boat, huh?

Absolutely nothing happened in the 30-odd miles and four days that followed. Which was awesome.

-Ed



Duty Now For The Future!

It's that time of year again - WRRR is looking for a few volunteers for the Board of Directors. We are looking for a new generation of people who will lead the club into the future. Someday soon, we're going to need a new President, a new VP of Finance (our treasurer), a new VP of Business (our secretary), and a new VP of River Ops (the person who puts together all of our fun events). It's very difficult to take someone new and put them into one of these positions - this is where our Directors-At-Large come in. As well as being volunteers at events, Directors learn what the officers do so they can someday take over.

The requirements for a Director-At-Large position are:

- * Be a paid WRRR member since March 2014
- * Attend as many WRRR events as possible
- * Attend monthly board meetings

That's it - and to make it even easier on you, most of the board meetings happen by phone and last around an hour. Even when we have a meeting in person, you can attend by phone.

If you are interested in joining the WRRR Board of Directors for 2015, or have questions about being on the board, please let us know by sending an email message to president@wrrr.org.



Safety Scholarship

WRRR has safety scholarship money available! WRRR will pay up to 1/3 of tuition costs for river related safety and first aid classes for our members. How can you get in on this action?

- Be a WRRR member
- Email or tell a Board member what class you want to take in order to get pre-approved
- Attend and complete/pass course
- Send/give your receipt for reimbursement along with a newsletter article about your experience to the Board

For more information contact the 2014 WRRR Safety & Education Committee:

Jason Cohen duderight@hotmail.com 206-890-9645
Brenan Filippini pinkyfilippini@yahoo.com

WRRR Forums

Which river do you plan on running this weekend? Looking for others to join? Have questions on which line to run, what gear to bring, or where to catch a surf? Reach out to your fellow river runners! Check

out our online Forums page at WRRR.org. It's easy to use and a great way to keep in touch and shoot the s#*t with other members. Post trip announcements, general river discussions, and look out for news from the club.

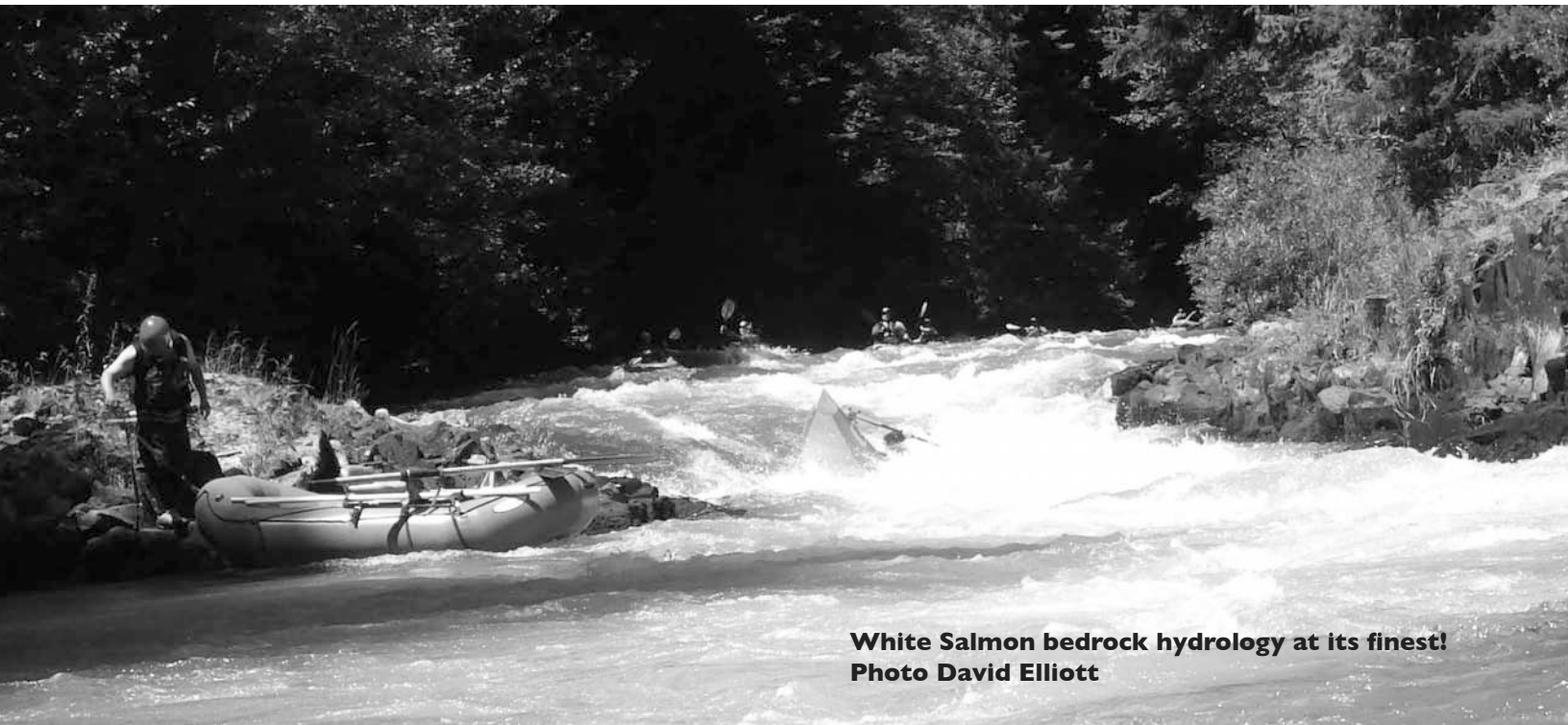
Club members also often use Facebook and Yahoo Groups. While Facebook is great for posting pictures and easy to use, it's difficult to keep track of the conversations topics. Yahoo Groups has also become tough to follow for a while now, and the ads are increasing. Sometimes when I try to post trips I notice that several of my conversations are posting a couple of days later or not at all.

The WRRR forums are much easier to follow than Facebook or Yahoo Groups. There are no ads or pop-ups and all the links and functions are working well. There are three main topics and you can start a thread for each river trip you are planning. Communication from River Ops will be posted there. The WRRR forums will be updated regularly with the most recent on upcoming events and news.

You don't need to be a WRRR member to see content or register. Just make sure to use your real name for your username, or a name everyone in the club will recognize, so we know who we're boating with.

Visit wrrr.org today. Talk to you there, and see you on the river!

--Adam Schierenbeck



White Salmon bedrock hydrology at its finest!
Photo David Elliott



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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- Aug 10th	CAREY BERGER MEMORIAL SKAGIT POKER RUN	II	Brennan Filippini brenan@plasteringplus.com
Sep 13th	TIETON RALLY	III	Brennan Filippini brenan@plasteringplus.com
Sep 25th	ROGUE RIVER @ ALMEDA BAR	III-IV	Brennan Filippini brenan@plasteringplus.com

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