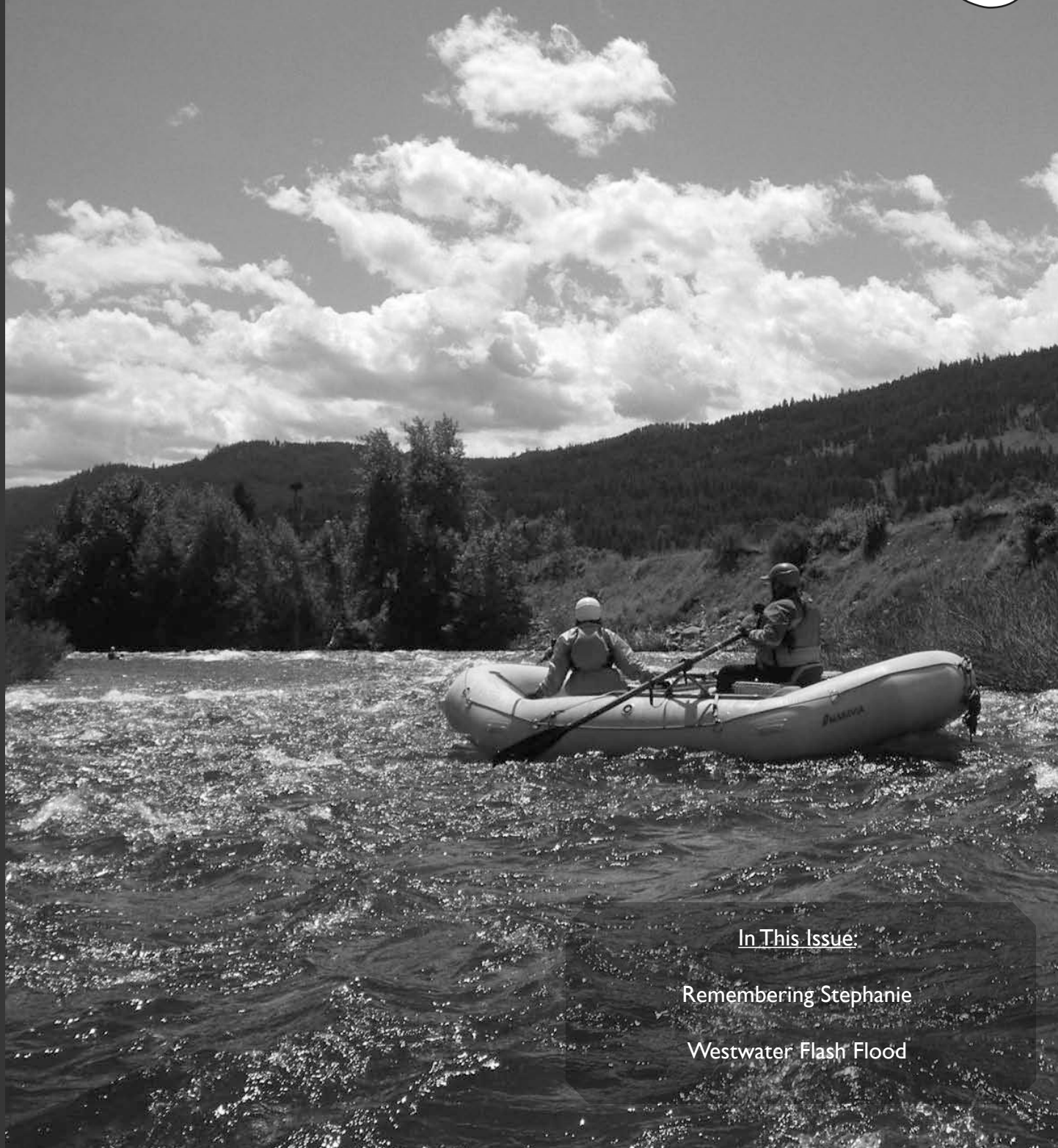


THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

the Waterlog

VOL 14 NO 8 AUG 2014



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Remembering Stephanie

Westwater Flash Flood

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

☐ **\$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) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ 2nd Phone _____

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:
Washington Recreational River Runners
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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Monday Eve Sauk Laps

Come join us after work on the Sauk. What a great excuse to not unload gear after a weekend of boating!!! We have made it at least once per week since MAY! The weather has been fabulous and the snowmelt friendly for our operations. Depending on the group we may change runs. Now that the water level is low we are putting in at clear creek and taking out at the mill. This is a 1-2 hour float depending on surfing. Whitechuck to Bachman at medium flows is 1.5-3 hours depending if the surf is up or not....

We encourage folks to join us. If you can't make the standard time we will push it back, have a rig at the takeout and meet you at the put in. Usually we meet at the takeout between 5-530 and on the river between 6-630. We BBQ food left in the cooler from the weekend while the shuttle is being run

We have been doing other after work runs like the Nooksack too, so hit us up if interested. We're going to go as long as we can. Trip leaders: Brenan Filippini, Chris Koker

Rogue River

Sept 25th 2014

Currently we have 2 permits at 10 persons each. Both permits are full with several people on the waiting list. We are confident that we can get more people on the river, but we will need help keeping an eye out on the cancellation list. It may be possible to launch a day "early" and still meet up with our float. Float space openings:

http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/rogue_river.php

Next year we hope to get more than 2 people putting in for permits so that we can bring a lot more and accommodate everyone. Right now we have had a few cancellations and adding alternates in the order they signed up. Let's make sure we get on the permits early next year. Rogue river 24, 2015 for next year. Mark your calendars!!!

Trip Leader: pinkyfilippini@yahoo.com

Sauktoberfest

Oct 25th 2014 Sauk River

Rafting, Growlers, BBQ!!! We will meet at the river and BBQ at the takeout weather pending. Camping is available at our house which is 3 miles north of 530/9 in Arlington and approx. 30-40 minutes from the Sauk river. We can move the BBQ there depending on group dynamic.

The Sauk is an excellent intermediate white-water run. Depending on the flows it can be friendly or "mean and green". It's one of my favorite runs and I know it well. If you aren't sure you are up to it, hop in our raft, or I can help you make the decision. We will eddy out more if new folks are on the run that day.

KEY TIMES:

Meet at IGA 10am, figure out takeout drop cars on way up to Whitechuck.

Put in launch 11:15 am

Takeout, run shuttle, light BBQ!!! (BYO food/drink)

Trip leader: pinkyfilippini@yahoo.com

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Remembering Stephanie



I hope you don't mind indulging a sentimental old romantic, but I want to tell you about Stephanie Landis.

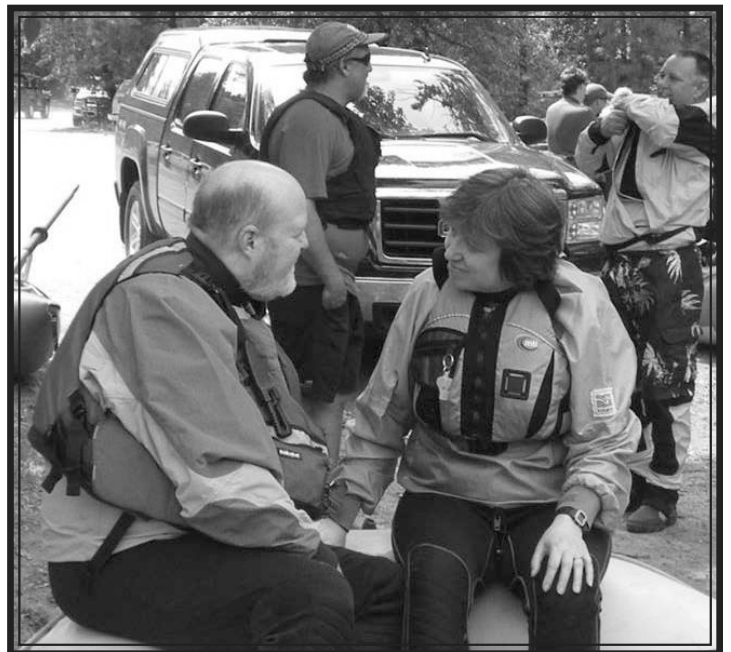
Our first date was just two years ago. On that first date, I told her that I liked to inflatable kayak and raft. Her eyes lit up and she told me she always wanted to do that on the river. She had tubed the SF Snoqualmie with her kids and she owned a 2-person IK that was fine on a lake, but she wanted to run the rapids.

Stephanie's first whitewater trip was on the Tieton. She and I ran from the upper put-in near Rimrock down to Tim's Pond in a borrowed Super Puma with me rowing. I put that boat into every hole I could, and she laughed the whole time. She loved every minute of that run.

Stephanie's first IK trip was on the SF Snoqualmie. When it comes to IKing, some people have it and some don't. She took to the duckie like a duckie to water. I was so happy to see that she had no problems negotiating the rocks and handling the boat. She progressed quickly. We ran the Club Stretch, the Cedar, and then the Green Headworks - we ran Ledge Drop I nearly in the dark in early January. Finally, she was

ready for the Middle Middle. Her first run was perfect. Her second included a flip and self rescue in House Rocks. I was so proud of her ability to get back into the boat.

Her first run without me came at a time when I was sick and the Middle Middle was running nice and high. I got a ride for her on Kat and Aaron Birrell's raft. When





we met up at the takeout, the first thing she told me was that she had fallen out of the boat in a rapid above House Rocks and was worried that they wouldn't want to take her again. In typical Stephanie fashion, she had apologized profusely when she fell out of the raft.

Because of her work schedule and because she had to remodel her house in order to sell it, Stephanie didn't get to boat as much as she wanted. She did get in several more IK runs, and she got to run the White Salmon and Green River Gorge in rafts. We both enjoyed being a bow-paddling team for Lance Bailey, Rebecca Post, and Shane May.

Stephanie's last IK trip was



my 25th Anniversary trip on the SF Snoqualmie. After that trip, she decided to modify the Stiletto by removing the foot pegs and installing a foam foot brace. She didn't like the way the foot pegs would get in the way when she self-rescued, and

she wanted to be able to practice without getting banged-up shins.

Stephanie's last whitewater trip was the Sauk Summer Overnighter. She rode on the back of a 14' Ocelot with me on the oars and she took pictures. She still laughed as we hit the holes - well, except for that one where we back surfed unintentionally for a bit!

Stephanie loved helping me with my work in WRRR. She liked coming to board meetings with me and helping me out with the tasks that go along with being President.

Stephanie passed away on July 31, 2014. I will always love her.

--David Elliott



Westwater Monsoon



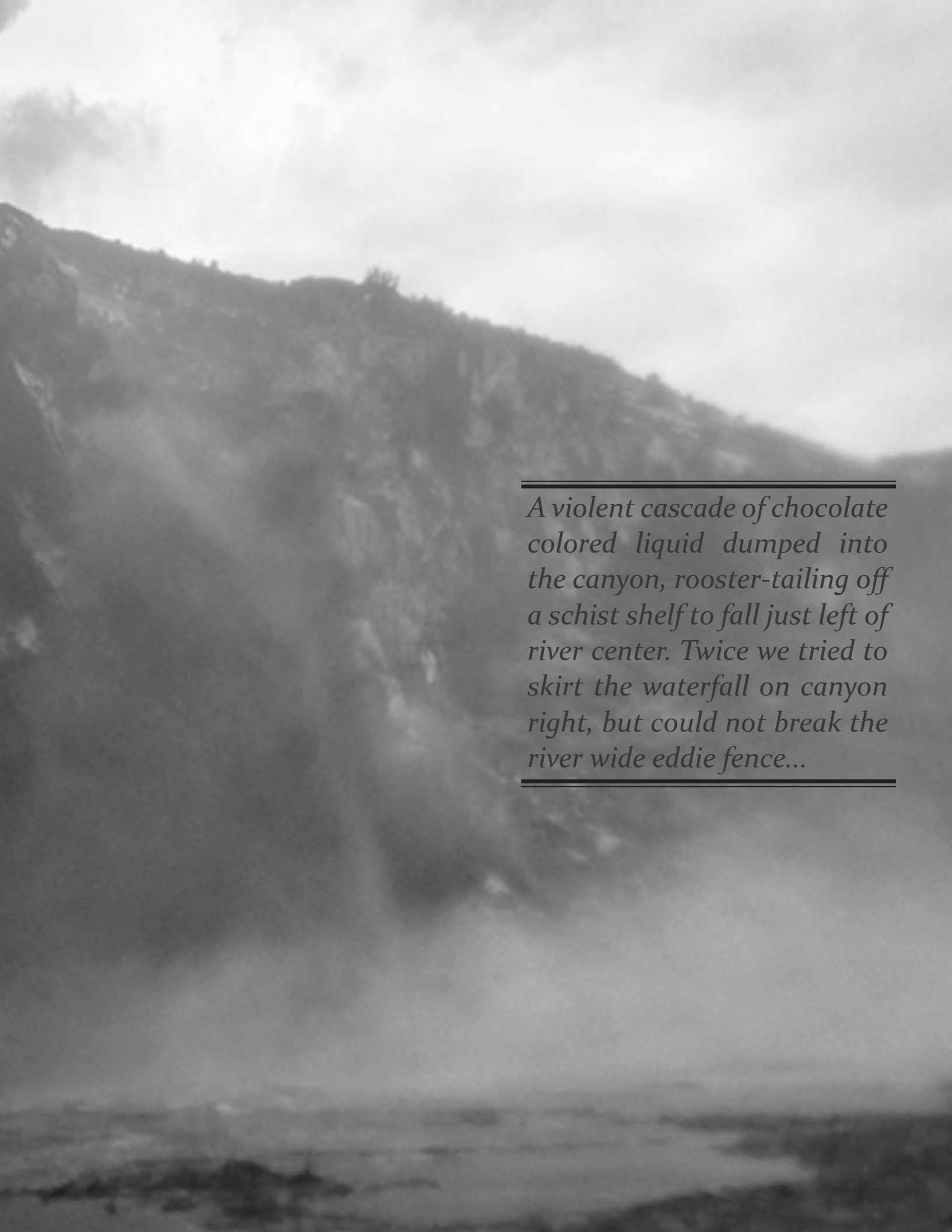
Westwater Canyon. Here, the Great Unconformity looms large as a narrow gorge of solid black Vishnu Schist rises up from river's edge, creating a beautiful yet formidable backdrop to a classic whitewater run. Full of whimsy, inspiring awe, these bedrock chasms burrow deep into both landscape and our collective psyche.

I had the good fortune to travel the river at the beginning of August with an ex-Westwater BLM ranger friend of mine. Now living as a full time artist in Moab, (see moabart.com and subvertwithus.com) the scoured slabs of this fissure had burrowed a special place in Chad Niehaus' psyche.

The day before the launch, on my way to run the Gunnison Gorge, I glanced at the forecast for the area, which displayed a "flash flood" alert for the entire Westwater region. I'm always skeptical of desert forecasts claiming any such certainty, especially during monsoon season, and brushed this one off as the meteorological equivalent of "CYA." Needless to say, the extent of Chad and I's reaction was a casual "huh?"

We put in on Sunday afternoon to clear blue skies, our destination for the night, "Hades Bar" camp. After setting up the kitchen and munching on some homemade salsa and chips we were soon met with thunder/lightning and an intense (though brief) rain storm. Seeking shelter on Chad's boat (sweet bimini top) we watched horse hair thin fingers of water drop delicately from canyon rim all around us. It was a gorgeous though brief sight. We figured that the periphery of the storm system had touched our world and we were now in the clear.

The following morning, after lingering lazily, we decided to head downstream, navigating the meat of this particular run. The inner gorge of Westwater Canyon (around 5000 CFS) is punctuated by a number of fun wave train pool and drop type rapids. We picked our way through all the named rapids, including Skull, sipping beer while Chad's intimate familiarity made it look all too easy. Right above the final rapid of the day, Last Chance, we decided to pull over at a small sandy beach on river left to take one last long look at



A violent cascade of chocolate colored liquid dumped into the canyon, rooster-tailing off a schist shelf to fall just left of river center. Twice we tried to skirt the waterfall on canyon right, but could not break the river wide eddie fence...



the canyon we traveled through. Within minutes chairs had sprouted up, cold beers were doled out, and chips and salsa feasted on. All seemed right with the world. However, in a matter of minutes our small comfortable beach would vanish, victim to the most violent storm I've ever been caught in.

As we were sitting we began to notice a draft moving up canyon, followed quickly by a gathering of dark clouds and the low rumble of thunder. We decided we should take off and as the boat was loaded we momentarily looking up canyon to see misty sheets rain careening over the rim edge. Our eyes locked in a WTF stare. And then it happened. All hell broke loose. Within (what felt like) a matter of seconds the combined crescendo of gusting wind, roaring thunder, and sleeting rain was enough to drown out any possibility of Chad and I communicating - despite the fact that I was at the bow of the boat and he in the boatman's compartment. We decided at this juncture that we would stay put and wait for what we assumed was a typical quick/violent monsoon system to pass us by.

As we did so, the rain began to pick up. Harder and harder it drove into the canyon, reducing all visibility up and downstream. At one point, hunched over be-

neath the bow with my back to the rain, my head between knees I began to gasp, feeling as if I could not get enough air, almost as if I were drowning, despite being on land. I retreated into my head, trying to find some sort of buddha like state, taking long slow breaths while telling myself "its ok, it will pass quickly, we are safe."

It was then that we heard a loud crashing sound, jolting me out of my panic induced meditation. Chad has wood decking atop his front frame bay and a large piece over his cooler. Something hard had struck one of them. We looked at one another momentarily before we heard something ricocheted off the upstream tube of his boat. We soon realized bowling ball sized rocks were raining down on us from atop the canyon wall. Chad looked at me as I heard him yell "protect your head." Adding to the already surreal state of dry land drowning I crouched down further and wrapped both arms over my head.

After sitting like this for about a minute I looked back at Chad who was staring at the canyon wall towering behind us. What had been a small waterfall was now full on torrent growing by the minute. The small beach clinging to the canyon wall was vanishing beneath our feet, dissolving into the river, when I heard Chad yell

"we need to get out of here!!"

Chad lunged out of the boat, sprinting up the beach to grab the bow line. Once in the boat we quickly ran the last rapid as the rain refused to loosen its grip on the narrow gorge. Around the corner a massive debris filled outflow of unimpeded water poured into the canyon. A strong smell of dirt, like sticking your face into a bag of fresh mulch, enveloped our senses as we quickly pushed around this waterfall.

All the while, what we had assumed would be a quick monsoon like deluge instead showed no signs of weakening. We knew we would be safest outside the cramped schist gorge but just downriver we encountered an obstacle that we could not find passage around. Emanating from some unforeseen drainage on river left a violent cascade of chocolate colored liquid dumped into the canyon, rooster tailing off a schist shelf to fall just left of river center. This particular outflow was much larger and violent than the ones we had witnessed upstream. What was worse is that the increasingly strong currents in the canyon wanted to push us right into where the two bodies of water met. Chad was able to pull a small eddie river right as I tried to find a good handhold ttp cling to, all the while hoping that nothing big would rain down on us from above.

Twice we tried to skirt the waterfall on canyon right but could not break the river wide eddie fence created by the large standing waves pushing across canyon left to right wanting to slam us against the right side wall. We tucked back into the small eddie and waited.

Eventually, the rain began to abate and the force of the outflow began to slowly diminish allowing us a frantic river right skirting of the falls as globs of mud sprayed our face. Downstream, as the canyon began to open up the violent sounds of thundering water were replaced by an ever so delicate dripping as dark walls of solid stone dripped with the aftermath of the violent squall. As we moved downstream, the remnants of dark clouds gave way to blue skies as the two of us and the landscape we traveled through breathed a deep sigh of relief.

In this day and age, the majority of our lives are spent

wallowing in climate controlled comfort. It is good once in a while to be reminded of the natural order of things.

--Matt Vogt

Gear Swap and Repair Clinic

October 18, 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 2015 WRRR Board will be and have some fun with boats and gear.

Randy Rogers has once again 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 you own beverages.



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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
Sep 13th	TIETON RALLY	III	Brennan Filippini brenan@plasteringplus.com
Sep 25th	ROGUE RIVER @ ALMEDA BAR	III-IV	brenan@plasteringplus.com
Oct 18th	GEAR SWAP + BOAT REPAIR 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting @ Randy's Hanger #503	III	
Jan 1st, 2015	NEW YEAR'S HANGOVER FLOAT	III	
Feb 14th	TILTON TREK	IV	Brian Vogt bvogt@wwik.org
April 19th	FLIP PRACTICE @ Vasa Park	II	
April 25th	SHANGRI-LA CLEANUP 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	II	
May 2nd	GREEN RIVER CLEANUP	IV	
Jun 2nd	BOB JOHNSON MEMORIAL WENATCHEE RENDEZVOUS	III+	

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