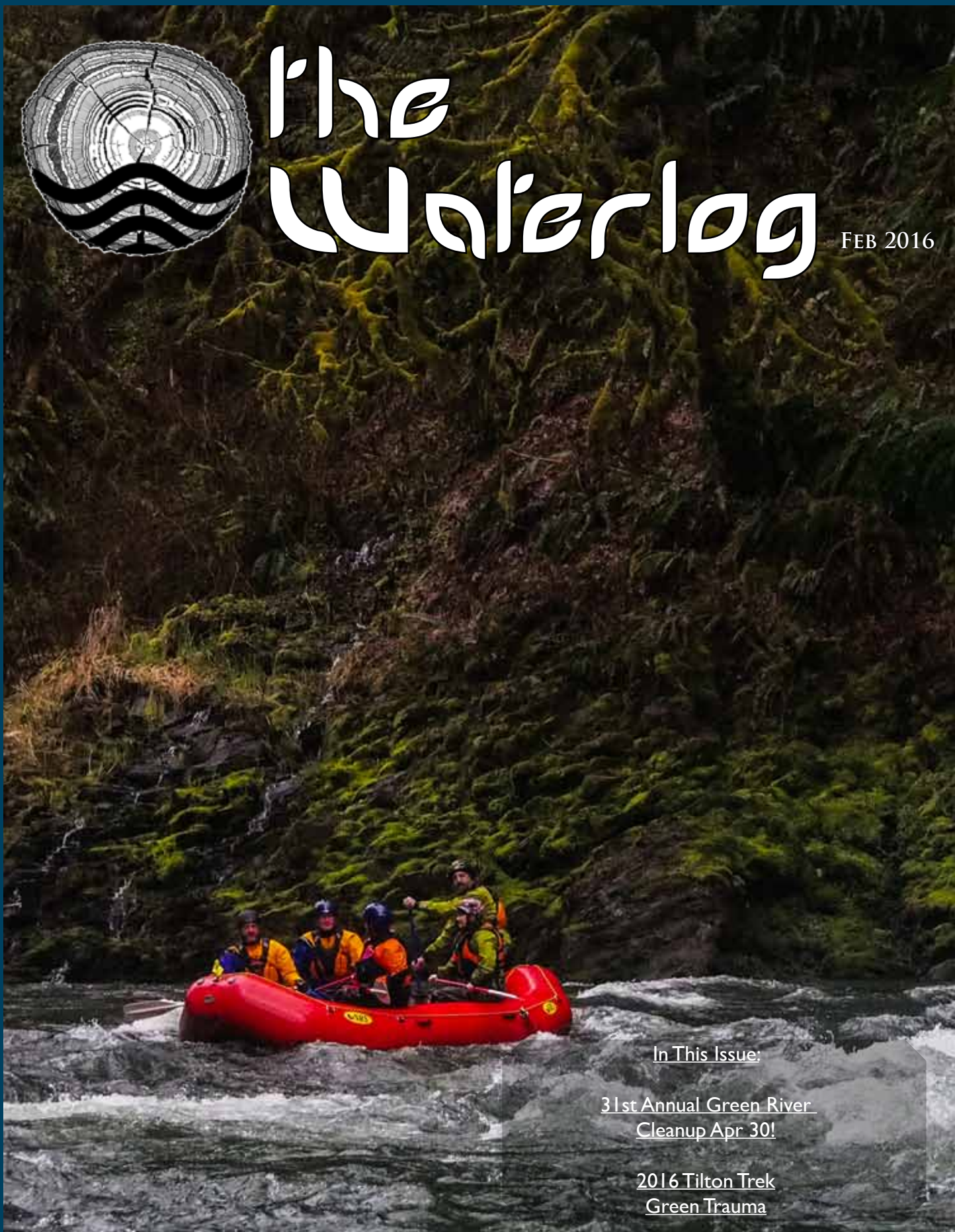


THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS



The Waterlog

FEB 2016



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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 \$1/1/13. 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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THE WATERLOG/Brian Vogt

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

Atlas Fabrication

Raft Frames • Boat Repair
General Welding and Fabrication

Jim Sheflo
425-343-4105



Shangri-la
Pre-Clean

31st Green
River Cleanup

Low water at the Nozzle from packraft mobile studio

Please join us for a volunteer work effort from 9:30am-1:30pm Saturday April 2nd, 2016. For the past several Green River Cleanups, Palmer Coking Cole (<http://www.palmercc.com>) has donated free camping for WRRR members on their property at the Shangri-La. This is over a \$2,000 value for a weekend booking.

Shangri-La is providing WRRR with camping on Green River Cleanup weekend in exchange for helping to clean up the grounds. Participants will help clean and clear the wooded areas of winter debris. In the past we have done all sorts of activities. Volunteers will be helping move picnic tables, raking, pressure washing, cleaning bathrooms and grounds, firewood, trail cleaning, BBQ setup and other preseason activities. Please bring gloves, rain gear and any tools you may have that may be useful (Think coffee, rakes, wheelbarrow, pruners, hoes, etc). If you aren't able to do physical labor, The Green River Cleanup committee needs help mapping trash and doing our final preparations for the Cleanup Event.

Some people will be boating the Green River Gorge and other sections of the Green in the rower's progression that day as well. Details will be posted on the WRRR Forums and Facebook group page a few days before, since we will need to plan based on flows.

Please RSVP as lunch will be provided. Trip leaders Mark Burns, Brenan Filippini. Please see forums at WRRR.org for current information and updates.

Join WRRR at the 31st Annual Green River Cleanup on April 30th!!! Every year lots of outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the day recreating along the river, and cleaning up trash at the same time. As always, there will be lots to do for boaters and non boaters. River stretches are rated class 2-4. Last year proved that we will boat no matter the flow! Hiking and ground crew sections are available from flat trail to adventurous river corridor cleaning.

Registration goes from 9:30-11 AM at the Headworks, and Kanasket-Palmer State Park from 9am- 11:30AM. Help us clean up the Green River and keep it one of the most beautiful rivers you can raft.

WRRR members will enjoy free camping at Shangri-La Campground, Friday and Saturday nights. WRRR will also be hosting a BBQ at Flaming Geyser State Park on Saturday afternoon for members (or a \$5 donation for non-members). All cleanup volunteers have access to group camping at the Kanasket Palmer Group camp Friday and Saturday nights.

The Green River Cleanup NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER HELP to help make the event smooth and enjoyable for everyone. Please sign up with a trip leader if you are interested in any of the following:

- Event Setup and general help
- Folks to help others find camping (at Shangri la & KP)

- Volunteer organizers and leaders (at registration to help people find areas on map and lead ground crews)
- Boat pod leaders
- Flyers and communication to neighbors
- Registration helpers
- Brew Coffee in the AM!
- Shuttle organizers
- River Lead boat
- River Sweep Boat
- River safety crew at the Mercury / nozzle area
- Trash Pick-er-up-ers
- Recycle sorters
- BBQ supply gatherers
- BBQ grillers at picnic shelter 3
- BBQ Cleanup Helpers
- Event Cleanup
- Sunday Shangri La and KP camp cleaners

Make sure to check out future Waterlog for complete details, the green river cleanup facebook page, and www.greenrivercleanup.org WRRR Trip Leaders: Brenan Filippini and WRRR Board



Lyles runs Pipeline at low water, 30th Cleanup

Rower's Progression and IK Clinic

It's that time of year again. Below are the dates we are planning on getting out and learning / sharing new tricks and tips. We will be moving around based on flows. Final postings and meet places will be posted here the THURSDAY prior to the trip and cross posted on the FB and Yahoo servers.

A Basic schedule is listed below:

MARCH:

Saturday March 5th Sauk (Clear Creek to the Mill) Possible this changes flow based

Sunday March 20th Nisqually River

Additional Trips = TBD

APRIL

April 2nd TBD (We are hoping for the Sky Boulder Drop to Big Eddy) Class 3 to Split Rock, Beginners meet the group at Split Rock

April 16th Depending on interest

April 17th FLIP PRACTICE at the Lake (See Website for Club Trip info)

April 23th Green River (Headworks)

April 30th Green River Cleanup (Shangri-La to Flaming Geyser Class 3)

There will be 4 separate (and sometimes combined) things going on and it is up to you to see where you fit in. We need Jedi Masters and also Padawans. I for example may be a Rower's progression helper but also a Padiwon in the advanced IK Clinic. Please contact a trip leader if you are interested in helping!

#1: Rower's Progression: Working on Class 2+/3- rivers working up to Class 3+/Class 4-, rigging and oar techniques.

#2: IK Clinic Basics: Working on Class 2/3- Rivers working up to Class 3+/4-, basic skills, navigation and surfing.

#3: Rower's Progression Advanced: Is not covered here, but on a case by case basis.

#4: IK Clinic Masters: Working up to difficult runs Class 4+ and beyond.

Our Goal: Have fun on the water and advance our skills as a group. In turn, we will become comfortable with our craft, portage, scouting, rapid breakdown and rapid run sequence, eddy out In the middle of the rapids, signals and communication, know when to stay home, identify hazards and overcome/ avoid them, basic safety and river navigation. In the end an educated boater is a safe boater!!!

Each Trip we plan to work on the following: Basics: Group communication, Safety Talk, Trip leader, Sweep Boat, Allergies, Medications or other special circumstances, signals, boat spacing, Eddy practice, Goal setting as applicable, work on swimming/flipping in controlled area with trip leaders knowledge.

We encourage people take turns doing safety talk, doing signals / whistles, work on quick eddy out, navigation basics, leapfrog/follow the leader.

PLEASE READ and understand this statement from American Whitewater: [http://www.americanwhitewater.org/conte ...fety:start](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/conte...fety:start) While this event is led by different trip leaders we will expect that proper fitting PFD's and Helmets will be worn as well as Drysuit/ wetsuit as appropriate. Please brush up on your first aid and wilderness skills as well. As always we practice leave no trace ethics.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!! Trip Leaders Brenan Filippini, Rebecca Post, Jared Cook, Brian Vogt via Wrrr.org/forums link here: <http://wrrr.org/forums/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=92> Our Trip on the North Fork of the North Pole with Santa and friends

2016 Tilton Trek



This year's Tilton Trek was another fun year of powerful rapids, new friends, and rainy camping. It seems like the word is out about this stellar little canyon, and we have plenty of repeat visitors to help show new folks down the river.

The weekend started with a 10 boat lap on Friday, which has usually been a scouting day. With so large a crew it was nice to have recent reports of clean lines and no problem wood. You just never know down there, where one night of wind and one badly placed log is all it takes for things to become impassible.

But our lap went smooth and clean. We had bright shining sun, no rain, and big grins. Jay and big wave Dave were surfing, grinning, in the sun. Aaron and Kat ran a paddle crew into some minor excitement in Leap of Faith, with a tricky exit from a surging "eddy."

We lingered on the sunny beach near the waterfall at the mouth of the canyon, and found out it was Dave's first west side river trip! Many more fun runs await, what a treat to have so many great rivers to see for the first time.

Back in camp, the crews were rolling in and new friends were being made. I got to meet Randy and Cheryl and

their friend Linda, from Portland, who are interested in adding an OWA contingent to the Tilton festivities.

Saturday, all eyes were on the gauge, forecast to spike over 4,000 cfs. But we had a nice friendly flow on 1600 or so after light rain held flows steady. For Saturday's lap, we had 25 boats and at least 40 people. Bigwater Chris and Jared, the Olympia kayakers who have joined in the past, rallied a small crew out to enjoy the crowds and shenanigans.

I'm still learning how to handle the trip leading aspects of this event. This time, I tried to chat with each crew leaving the beach, which let me talk in smaller groups and tailor my warnings to the skill of the crew. Seemed to work well, and the group even stopped to regroup at the first rapid! Thanks everyone for your patience and support!

Scouting the first rapid is one of my favorite parts of the Tilton Trek. Folks who know, just go. Newbies scout, or watch from the eddy. This time, a few paddle crews hiked to see the full drop, but most were content to look from the eddy. This led to a highly entertaining round of rodeo rides for the boats coming through.

It may look like a simple drop with no particular line,



but the best route is to enter with left momentum, using the apex of the biggest entry wave to ensure you are left of the main flow. Fail to do that and you'll ride the powerful curler anywhere it wants to throw you! For several boaters, this was a huge tailstand, or a bounce right out of their rowing seat. No flips or swimmers though so it was all good clean fun.

The logjam is still gone, so we had a fun float down to the lunch beach. I

sent Nick, rowing the Tilton for the first time, as lead boat for Leap of Faith and he had a fantastic line. It is tough to stop many boats at leap of faith, so we don't scout there. It can be intimidating, fast, and blind, but everyone ran great lines.

The only carnage cam from a 3 person raft. The oarsman pulled so far right at the bottom, the boat hit the wall, spun into the powerful bottom hole, and ejected the bow paddler. Just as the boat was reeled

in sideways and climbing for the flip, a 14' R2 raft blasted through hole, leveling the boat out. The oarsman grabbed the chicken line for a free ride out of the hole, and the swimmer was picked up immediately.

Excellent work by all involved. It was a highlight of my winter listening to stories from the day around the campfire. I hope to see you next year for another super year of whitewater on the Tilton!





Green Trauma



As you likely know, I love the Green Gorge. It was my first run with WRRR. It's my backyard run. I love it at 300 in my packraft and I love it at 4,000 in my cat boat. It's got a lot of fun moves, changes at every flow, and is tucked away in a roadless canyon. Just my speed!

But then there's Mercury and the Nozzle. I know I'm preaching to the choir here, but that spot is nuts! Subtle currents, hidden hazards, few options to scout. And consequential as hell.

I've set safety there. I've pulled swimmers out above the nozzle, and below. I've offered my spare paddle to more strangers above the Nozzle than all other rivers combined. I always treat this spot with respect, concern, even trepidation, because things go wrong so fast here, and it's tough to help when they do.

Sean, a new boater in town, was asking after a boating trip, eyeing the Green, and considering solo paddling with a bike shuttle. A solid IV boater with a qualified resume, I invited him to join Lyles, Steve, and I for a lap.

When Steve forgot his drysuit, that meant a 3 boat float at 2800. Big water for the IK but not outrageous. We talked over the hazards, the lack of scouting options, and decided to give 'er.

The run started out so well. We launched at KP, and were right in the action. Sean did great, busting holes with a big grin on his face. Ledge 2 went well. I warned

him about the big holes center in the next drop, and sure enough, he went right in that 3rd monster hole.

Swimmer! Sean swam down to the beach above Bob's Hole and regrouped with a smile. We skirted the meaty left side of Bob's Hole, then tore down the wave train above Don't Go Right. What a huge hole on the outside of that bend!

Secret IV had wood, but Pipeline went smooth. We caught an eddy below the powerlines to talk about Mercury and the Nozzle. This be the crux, sez I. Don't be swimmin, sez I. Stay on my 6, sez I.

Mercury goes great, as far as I can tell. Sean is right behind me, we dial in the left line, power through Mercury, and line up for a clean run of the Nozzle. Then I hear the whistle from Lyles.

Sean had got too close to my tail, and opted for the slow water left, right at the lip of Mercury. I dropped in, Lyles passed him, then Sean pulled back out into the current. He flipped quickly, violently, and was swimming almost immediately. I saw his paddle flush through the Nozzle, but didn't chase til I knew he was ok.

I saw Sean swim himself to shore above the Nozzle. His boat had eddied out below Merucry, in the eddy Lyles was in. Sean was bloody in the face, but tapping his head in the river sign for All-OK.

I walked up to him. He was a little disoriented, but knew his name, that he was on the Green, that he had swam. He asked for some time so I went up to get his boat down to him.

Once that little task was handled. Sean was together enough to suggest he didn't want to continue boating. Luckily, a few minutes later, Paul Sestak came round the corner, running solo head of a slow WRRR group. He chatted with Sean before continuing on.

Perhaps 20 more minutes go by before Matt and Brian Holmes and Paula Tarp come down. Brian takes the kayak on his cat and Matt takes Sean on the raft. Thank goodness we had friends with big boats or we might well have run out of time on a scary evacuation.

At this point, Sean is alert, engaged, chatting -- even laughing. Cold, but otherwise all signs are good. We debate exiting at Paradise, where we do not have a car, or cell service. We agree a fast exit to Flaming Geyser is best. But when we get to Paradise, Sean asks to exit.

Here we made a major mistake. We sent him up the hill alone.

We watched to ensure he made it up ok, and he did. Then, we were in the dark. I took off for the takeout, hoping when I arrived Sean's car would be gone. But it wasn't.

So, I tore off to Paradise hoping to find him. But he wasn't there. So I doubled back, thinking, surely his truck would be gone now? But it wasn't. So I rallied toward SR-18 trying to get cell service so I could get some news.

That's when I got a text from Ellie Wheat. She had seen Sean hiking up the hill, and had given him a ride back to his rig. Somewhere in there, he started going downhill fast. Unresponsive. Ellie got him to a clinic, which put him in an ambulance to the regional trauma center at Harborview.

Before we reached Flaming Geyser, Sean was in the

ICU. Had we boated out, he'd have been unresponsive in the boat in the lower gorge. Had he reached his car half an hour sooner, he might have been driving.

I then had to cold call Sean's girlfriend, a graduate student at the UW now standing outside the ICU with an unconscious partner and no knowledge of the people or events leading up to it. That was tough.

The great news is that Sean is doing great. He woke up the next day, was out of the ICU a day later, and discharged the next day. He's waiting to be cleared to boat again, and I hope to boat with him again.

But I'll be thinking an awful lot about this day for a long time. I rant about the danger of this spot often, usually to folks uninspired by the hazards. I see a lot of cavalier groups with poor spacing or support if things go wrong. And I'll continue to harp on those things.

But I'll definitely be thinking about my own mistakes, wrong assumptions, and unconsidered decisions. Because this time everything worked out, but so easily it might not have. Thanks a ton to Matt and Brian, Paula, Lyles, Ellie, and Scott -- it took a team!

So if some grouchy bearded dude is in your face at the putin for not wearing a helmet, just remember it might be the hard earned lesson from some Green trauma.





OS SYSTEMS

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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
Mar	ROWER'S PROGRESSION	IV	WRRR Board
Apr 17th	FLIP PRACTICE Vasa Park	III	WRRR Board
Apr 23rd	Shang-ri-la Cleanup	II	WRRR Board
Apr 30th	GREEN RIVER CLEANUP	IV	WRRR Board
Jun 2nd - 5th	BOB JOHNSON MEMORIAL WENATCHEE RENDEZVOUS	III	WRRR Board
Jun 25th	SAUK SUMMER OVERNIGHTER	III+	WRRR Board
July 16th - 17th	WHITE SALMON RETREAT	III+	WRRR Board
Aug 11th - 14th	CAREY BERGER MEMORIAL SKAGIT POKER RUN	II+	WRRR Board
Sep 17th - 18th	TIETON RALLY	III	WRRR Board

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