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Oregon WHITewater ASSOCIATION

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Tom Hanson staying warm and dry

TRIP REPORT: The Lower Deschutes River in March

Submitted by Scott Ogren

The weather forecast called for a small chance of showers for each of the three days our trip on the Lower Deschutes River was scheduled. All we kept saying on the trip was the weather forecasters missed this one – bad.

In total, there were 14 people on the trip. Nine adults and five kids went along on a trip that was filled with fast water, rain and a lot of wild life sightings. We saw big-horned sheep in several places, deer, several eagles and other birds, and even a mink scurrying along the river bank.

With the flow at the Moody gauge reading about 8200 cfs just before I left my house the morning we launched, I knew there would be enough water to push us down the river. Sure enough, we made it from Buck Hollow to Beaver Tail in about two hours. It wasn't too long after we got into camp when we realized we might have a little more rain than what was forecast.

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 13, 2011
7:00-9:00 PM

Stark Street Pizza
9234 SE Stark Street
Portland, OR 97216

RIVER TIP

Submitted by Tom Hanson

When joining a group, be prepared to carry group equipment. This includes a fire pan, ash bucket, portable toilet, toilet supplies, kitchen tarp, group meals, etc.

You'll find that willing "gear carriers and contributors" get invited on more trips.

Oregon Whitewater Association is dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting Oregon's rivers for the safe enjoyment of both public and private non-motorized boating, now and in the future. We advocate fairness in accessibility to river resources and provide a voice for responding to river issues and management concerns.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BRENDA BUNCE

Fellow Club members,

We enjoyed a record-breaking number of people who participated in our last club meeting (72). The support and enthusiasm to sign up for the swift-water rescue training in May was overwhelming and sold out in one night. This shows how important river safety is to our club. Because you all spoke out that cost was a barrier to participating in prior years, we greatly lowered the cost of the class. I wish to thank our VP, Bruce Ripley, and trainer Sam Drevo for working very hard to make it happen at an affordable price and with such a nice gear gift package to go along with it. However, it is largely only possible with your contribution to enter our raffle. With a big thanks to the generous donation of Hells Canyon Shuttles and Lower Salmon River Shuttles, we can support river safety by purchasing your raffle tickets for these great prizes. Go to our website for details at <http://oregonwhitewater.org/rivers/raffle>.

Join us April 13 for a presentation on the Tatshenshini River. Several of our club members team up to share their story and photos about their adventures on the Alaskan River from 2010.

Next Adventure and Keen Footwear are offering an exclusive discount to our club members.

Keen is offering a 50% discount on all retail items found ONLINE (only) up to \$600.00. To obtain the discount, go to www.keenfootwear.com/pro and enter "member of OWA". You will need to reference "Jennifer Carman" for this discount. Keen has also been very generous to OWA for allowing us to use their facility for several of our club meetings. Please support Keen and enjoy your discount.

Next Adventure is also offering our club members a generous discount of 10% off purchases made in both their stores and online. For online purchases, get in touch with an OWA member. For in-store purchases, they maintain a registry of members and will give your discount at the register.

We have become a vendor for invasive species tags from the Oregon Marine Board. By getting these straight from them, we can get two-year tyvek-tags for \$10.00 and save our members the cost of surcharge if the tags are purchased at the meetings. We will take orders and offer them at the end of the year for 2012 and 2013. We will not offer one year tags. Remember that these tags are interchangeable between your boats.

Mark your calendars for the annual OWA picnic and gear swap on August 20 at Eagle Fern Park. Flyers will be sent out near the date, so get your unused river gear out of the garage and make some pocket change and enjoy great food and good river folks.

Our next board meeting will be on April 26, Join us and give your input. For families with children, we will be having a June meeting precisely to entertain children and will hold it at Stark Street Pizza at an earlier time of 6:00 p.m. Please email me or Scott Ogren if you are interested in coming so that we can order just the right amount of pizza. Children's activities will be developed upon interest shown.

See you at Stark Street pizza April 13 at 7:00 p.m. As always, the pizza is free and the company is FUN!



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Toilets on the Rogue River

Submitted by Zachary Collier

There has been an ongoing discussion between private boaters, outfitters, the BLM and the Forest Service about the toilets on the Rogue River.

Instead of using their river toilets, many river users are opting to use the woods leaving human feces and toilet paper behind. I can attest to this problem as I had the wonderful opportunity to clean up human waste and toilet paper at Wildcat Camp two years ago.

Using a river toilet is a mandatory part of being a wilderness river runner. I want to urge all river users to set up and



use their required toilet. For ease of use, I recommend the toilets made by Partner Steel and Selway Fabrication, but there are many other great options.

The BLM and USFS believes much of this problem occurs when groups are stopped for lunch or hikes. Now they are requiring that a toilet be immediately set up at each stop along the river that will last more than 30 minutes. Here is the language from the letter that was sent to each party leader:

Portable Toilet System (portable toilet): Wild Rogue

boaters are required to carry a watertight portable toilet for removing all solid human waste and toilet paper from the river canyon, year round. The portable toilet must be used when stopping at a location without a government-provided toilet and must be large enough to accommodate the entire group for the entire length of the trip, including lodge and self-support kayak trips. Plastic bag liners are not acceptable, with the exception of the following approved solid human waste pouches: WAG bags (cleanwaste) and RESTOP 2 bags. Used bags must be packed out in an approved watertight container. Portable toilets with snap-on lids, such as ammo cans or plastic buckets, are required to have a rubber gasket on the lid.

Portable RV-type toilets are not acceptable. To calculate the volume required for your group size, use one pint per person per day. For example, a group of 10 people on a four-day trip requires 40 uses/pints, at eight pints per gallon: the group needs five gallons of storage capacity. Cleanwaste and RESTOP 2s are calculated a four uses per bag, so the group needs 10 bags and a watertight container with the capacity to store the used bags. The total toilet capacity must be presented at the visitor center during check-in. Portable toilets (including bags systems) must be set up immediately, when stopping for more than 30 minutes for any reason, at a location without a government-provided toilet. Toilet set-up means the toilet must be

out of the boat, easily accessible for everyone in the group and away from the central gathering area or camp area.

A Forest Service enforcement officer spoke at an outfitter meeting last November and made it clear this will be strictly enforced. If you don't set up your toilet when you

I had the wonderful opportunity to clean up human waste

stop for a hike, swim, or lunch you will most likely get a ticket.

During the summer months, large campsites on the Rogue River seem scarce, which can create tensions between boaters. This requires commercial outfitters (like me) to send "speed boats" ahead to secure a camp large enough to accommodate our groups of around 25 people.

There are plenty of campsites on the Rogue River. The problems seem to ensue when small groups (around 10 people) choose campsites designed for large groups (20-30 people). Large groups (which tend to be led by outfitters) then can't secure a campsite that will fit their group, so some people end up setting up tents in the bushes or on the rocks. Outfitters with large groups want to avoid this, so they feel obligated to send one of their guides ahead to secure a large campsite.

The easy solution is to ask small groups to camp in small campsites. The BLM has done this for years, but some groups ignore

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

this request simply out of the inconvenience it poses. Since the larger campsites have pit toilets, and some people do not want to setup their portable toilets, some small groups take advantage of those sites with longdrops in larger camps. In my opinion, the established pit toilets are a big part of the camping problem.

Last season the Forest Service removed many of the pit toilets from the campsites along the lower Rogue River for maintenance. The toilets that the Forest Service removed are supposed to be replaced before this summer. The BLM has been permanently removing a few toilets each season, since there are no new places to dig replacement pit toilets in some locations.

I am now worried that since

everyone will be required to set up our toilets each time we stop, we will now have “Lunchsite Competition” much like we already have “Campsite Competition.” Since all groups on the river (large and small) won’t want to set up a toilet for lunch, the lunch sites with “government-provided toilets” will

There are plenty of campsites on the Rogue River

be the most popular and sought after lunch sites.

There is no other river in the world that requires toilets to be set up at any place other than camp. I also don’t know of any other river that has problems with toilets and human feces. In my

opinion, the problem stems from river users that are accustomed to using the “government-provided toilets” and refuse to use their river toilets in camp. The problem was exaggerated last summer since there were fewer “government-provided toilets” along the river.


So, just a heads up that the BLM (downriver boat patrols between Grave Creek and Mule Creek) and the Forest Service (jet boat and trail patrols below Blossom Bar) will be actively enforcing the requirement to immediately set up a portable toilet at all stops of 30 minutes or more (unless there is a government toilet nearby). We’ll do our best to set up our toilet, not use long-drop sites for lunch stops and camp in an appropriately sized camp this summer and we hope you’ll do the same.


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Women's Rafting Trip on the Lower Deschutes

JUNE 17-19, 2011 • SUBMITTED BY CAROL BEATTY

The Women's Trip on the Lower Deschutes River is open to women of all all rafting abilities.

This is an opportunity for both beginning rowers to practice their boating skills in a supporting and relaxing atmosphere as well as an opportunity for more skilled boaters to share their skills with beginning rowers.

The Lower Deschutes is a forgiving river, providing manageable challenges for the novice rower and yet still

providing interesting enough water for the experienced rower.

It is a weekend to meet river women, learn new boating skills, learn ecological camping and cooking skills and to have fun.

There will be time to hike and explore the Lower Deschutes as well as to sit around camp sharing stories, skills, ideas and jokes.

The size is limited to 16. Once the trip is full, cooking teams and responsibilities will be established. The put-in is at Buck Hollow on Friday, June 19 at 10:00 and takeout is at



Heritage Park on Sunday, June 19 at about 2:00.

If you are new to boating, but don't have a boat, rent or borrow one and join us on the Deschutes.

Contact Carol Beatty
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OWA Says Goodbye to Judi Baumgartner

Submitted by Becka Storey

Judi Baumgartner passed peacefully away Saturday night, March 26, after a long and courageous battle with lung cancer. Her three sons and sister were by her side.

Judi was born in Salem, Oregon and was the apple of her parent's eye. When she was eight she moved to Portland with her mother and new baby sister. She attended Duniway Grade School, Cleveland High School and Portland State College.

Judi started rafting in 1985 after taking a class at Portland Community College. It soon became a passion for her – spending every available weekend dedicated to the sport. She was responsible



for introducing the sport to hundreds of people through her enthusiasm of the sport and the rafting classes she gave for Berfunde Ski Club.

Around 2000 Judi started the River Connection, a

successful whitewater boating supply company, where she put to use all of the skills she had learned from her previous careers. The River Connection will live on with her son Monte and his business partner Ken at the helm. They are currently looking for space to move the showroom and shop.

At her request there will be no service. Her ashes will be spread over the Salmon River this summer. Her sister is in the process of planning a Wake in Judi's honor and there will be a Judi Baumgartner Memorial float on the Deschutes this summer. Judi was an inspiration to those around her, an unique and amazing woman. She will be greatly missed.



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Well, At Least We Found the Takeout

Submitted by Tom Riggs

Look for the Green River in Washington and most likely you will be steered to the action packed run that starts below Howard Hanson Dam and ends at Flaming Geyser Park near Tacoma. You might even be directed to the Greenwater River. Neither of these were our target on Sunday, March 13 as Paul Morin and I searched for a new river to run.

Using Jeff Bennet's Washington Whitewater Guide book we made a plan to catch this run during a projected rainy weekend when there should be sufficient water to bump a couple of rafts down the 12-mile stretch. Figuring to use a mountain bike as our shuttle rig we loaded our gear and drove up to Toledo, Washington. We zipped five miles past our cutoff. We were admiring the views of the North Fork Toutle but knew something was amiss.

On our return through Kid Valley there was a sign for Road 1900. We veered onto this gravel Weyerhaeuser road and crossed the North Fork Toutle winding our way up past several locked gates, diligently following the instructions in Bennet's book. Things started looking up as the gravel transitioned into chip seal – all the while passing more locked gates. The optimism faded as our paved road was blocked by a locked gate that lead to Pete's Place.

Figuring we must be near the river, Paul and I began hiking down an abandoned skidder road which became an elk path eventually leading to a stream and dense underbush with no sign of the river. We hiked back to the truck believing we were on the right road but in the wrong century. (Bennet's book was published in 1991.)

"There was that one fork in the road that was not gated," said Paul. Being determined to find the river and scout it we decided to give it a try. Up at an intersection there was a man, a van and several vehicles parked beside the road. "Aha, a local, we thought. Surely he will be able to guide us to the nice boat ramp launch and takeout points." We asked him if he could direct us to the

Green River but he admitted it was his first time up here. He did say there were fishermen nearby who might be able to help. Being males, we had used up our "get to ask directions once per day" quota – so we declined.

We asked what they were doing up in the woods and he replied they were working on a show for "Animal Planet."

We continued down the road and finally could see a river that was green, not the mud color of the North Fork Toutle. We were at a fish hatchery located about a half mile above the Green's confluence with the North Fork Toutle. No one was there so we walked downriver looking for the bridge described in the book and the gaging station. We got to within sight of the North Fork Toutle and there was no bridge and no gage; only elk and fishermen trails. We did find a nice takeout area at the hatchery but it was 150 yards beyond the "Hatchery Vehicles Only" sign.

The road upstream from the hatchery was gated so Paul and I began hiking along the river looking for the gage and picking up a stray pop can here and there hoping this would improve our river karma and help us find a way to the put in. Our karma was sort of answered when we saw a flatbed truck pull up to the gate and a woman getting out to unlock it. We flagged her down before she could drive off and asked her about river access.

"There is no bridge across the Green River and this road dead ends one mile upstream. We have no gage but use information from the North Fork Toutle gage to help us estimate flows on the Green."

"What about getting to Cascade Creek?" I ask referencing the launch point in Bennet's book.

She looked puzzled and said she had not heard of Cascade Creek, but assured me the road had no forks or bridges, just a dead end.

She said the hatchery had been there since 1955 but there was a time in the early '90s when it was not there. It was rebuilt in 1995 and displaced some houses that had been there. That might

explain the omission of a hatchery in our guide book, but I was dismayed by the lack of bridge abutments or road. She said the chip seal road was the access point to the river in the past but was now gated by Pete's Place. She didn't recall any bridge but admitted she had only been working there for three years.

One of the tasks that the hatchery does is install a fish weir on the river about a mile up. She said that when it is installed it could be a problem for anyone who happened to be boating the river. It is not in the river all the time however. I would caution anyone who can figure out a way to run this river to check with the Washington Department of Fisheries to find out the status of the weir.

She mentioned that Weyerhaeuser opens several of the roads during hunting season in the fall and we might be able to access the put in then. Unfortunately, in the fall, most rivers turn to a trickle. One thought that crossed my mind was to call Weyerhaeuser to see if they planned any open weekends in the winter or early spring. It might be possible to catch a weekend if and when the gates open.

I guess there was a reason I had never run into anyone who had run this Green River in recent years. At the takeout it looked similar in size to the Trask, big enough to fit a raft. The Gazetteer shows a myriad of roads in the area and it may be possible to approach Cascade Creek from Randle on Highway 12 but even if that were a viable route, it would preclude any bicycle shuttle.

At thought that crossed out minds with the lack of scouting reports and roads was how would we get ourselves out of a jamb if it turned out the river above us was choked with log jams or debris slides. We weren't going to find out today.

We thanked her for her time, and before we parted she shared that the Animal Planet people were making a "Bigfoot" documentary. I wished I had a gorilla suit. We could have some real fun I thought.

Deschutes in March

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Most of the evening was dry with an occasional shower. It wasn't until later in the evening when we got our first downpour of the trip that we knew things were off a little. It kept raining and raining and raining. Then in the morning, it rained some more. It rained so much that we decided to just hang out in camp under the tarp to see if we would get a break from the rain so we could float without getting rained on.

By mid morning we got our chance to quickly break camp and head downstream. We finally left camp just a few minutes before noon bound for Airstrip. The already high flow combined with all of the rain pushed the flow up to about 8500 cfs, and that meant we were doing about 5.5 mph drifting without doing any rowing. So, despite the late start we still got to Airstrip at about 3:00.

When we got camp all set up, the skies cleared and our tents even dried out. Until the next rain shower, that is. But, by the time it got dark there wasn't a cloud in the sky and the star gazing was incredible. We looked at constellations and satellites for a short while before turning in – it was getting cold fast and the best place to be was in your sleeping bag.

The next morning was nice – no rain and the temperature was warm. It was going to be a good day on the river. One thing about the Lower Deschutes river is other than one class III rapid about 45 minutes after launching from the put-in at Buck Hollow, all of the class III rapids are in the last 10 miles of the trip. That means it's a good



river to take someone who is learning how to row. They get a few days to get the hang of it before hitting the big water...and even Wreck Rapids at the beginning of the trip is pretty straight forward.

At the higher than normal flows we had for our trip, the rapids were not difficult at all. The eddy lines at Washout and Rattle Snake rapids were gone and the big hole at Colorado was not much more than a class II wave train. The rest of the rapids were very easy as well. The sneak routes through Gordon Ridge were river wide and if you wanted to miss the wave train at Jet Pump you could have – the gravel bar that forces you into the rapid was under about 2 feet of water. In other words, this river gets pretty easy at high flows.

Other than the weather being a little colder and wetter than we expected, this was a great trip. Easy floating, the rapids were easy and good company are some of the ingredients of a great river trip. We are lucky to have such good access to a great river run.



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2011 TRIP CALENDAR

Submitted by Josephine Denison

4.16 Sat	Deschutes River	III/IV	Tom Hanson	TJHRafter@earthlink.net	503.201.4428
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
This is a day float on the middle Deschutes. The river is free of other boaters at this time. We will shuttle the vehicles down to Sandy Beach starting at 10:00am sharp for a 11:00 am launch Harpham Flats. Bring your lunch.					
5.13-5.15 Fri-Sun	Grande Ronde River	III	Eric and Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509.525.6134
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
Minam to Heller's Bar on the Snake, 90 miles in three days! Expect to do a lot of rowing, but in return you get great scenery, good camping and green canyon walls in this early season perennial favorite trip.					
5.28-5.29 Sat-Sun	Lochsa River	IV-V	Steve Herring	stevenh@tektronix.com	503.348.0648
6.3-6.5 Fri-Sun	North Umpqua River	III/IV	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360.931.4224
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
We'll stay at the Deerflat Group area at Horseshoe Bend. The main trip is Saturday from Boulder Flat to Gravel Bin but you can boat any of the three days. Potluck Saturday night. This is a joint trip with the NWR Roseburg chapter.					
6.13-6.17 Mon-Fri	Main Salmon River	IV	Eric and Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509.525.6134
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
Corn Creek to Spring Bar, approximately 90 miles. This is a high flow, early season, pre-lottery run down the River of No Return. Wilderness Class IV water boating skills and appropriate equipment are required. In return, expect to beat the crowds and enjoy the experience with a great group of boaters.					
NOTE: This trip will cancel if the trip leader gets a Yampa River permit.					
6.17-6.19 Fri-Sun	Lower Deschutes River	III	Carol Beatty	doncarol1@verizon.net	503.816.6172
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
The annual OWA Women's trip! Put in at Buck Hollow and run to Heritage Landing; 42 river miles. The trip is open to all skill levels from beginner to seasoned boater. For women wanting to learn more about boating, it's a great opportunity to learn from experienced boaters.					
6.18-6.21 Sat-Tues	John Day River	II	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503.267.9785
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
This is a great river for kids and families. The river is mellow and the camping is great! Join us on this beautiful river for a four-day and three-night float from Service Creek to Clarno.					
7.2-7.4 Sat-Mon	Lower Salmon River	III/IV	Eric and Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509.525.6134
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
Hammer Creek to Heller's Bar on the Snake, 73 miles in 3 days! This is a favorite trip, with great scenery, fabulous beach camping, history and fun whitewater. High flow at this time of year flushes down the river with ease. Expect hot weather.					
NOTE: This trip cancels if flow is over 20,000 on Slide Rapid day.					
7.15-17 Fri-Sun	McKenzie River	III	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360.931.4224
ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION					
Join us for an OWA Board-sponsored weekend of rafting on the McKenzie River. OWA has paid for campsites reservations at Paradise campground. This is a beautiful Class III river. We have a choice of separate runs rated II+ to III between Ollalie Campground and McKenzie Bridge. This is an excellent family float. Our plan is to arrive Friday evening, and we will raft Saturday and/or Sunday. Enjoy hot springs at Belknap and a group potluck Saturday evening.					

2011 TRIP CALENDAR CONTINUED

8.20 Sat	Eagle Fern Park	NA	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360.931.4224
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EVENT INFORMATION

OWA annual picnic and gear swap at Eagle Fern Park from 1 to 3pm; Area One is reserved. The club will provide food for meat lovers and vegetarians alike. This is a potluck so please bring a side dish or a dessert. This is a dog-friendly event, bring your own beverages. Alcohol is permitted. There is a \$5 car entry fee. This is a covered area so come rain or shine.

9.10 Sat	Yakima River	II	Vance Cordell	pyloris58@yahoo.com	360.253.3013
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ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

We will run 14 miles from the Ringer Loop boat ramp near Ellensburg to the Big Pines BLM campground on Highway 821. This is a family float with absolutely beautiful scenery along the river. The trip leader will go early and try to hold several camp sites at Big Pines for the evening before the float. We will start the shuttle at 10:00 am and be ready to put in at 11:00 am. For those who want to stay Saturday night, there will be a barbecue that evening.

9.17-9.19 Sat- Mon	Hell's Canyon	II/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509.240.4220
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11.12-11.14 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503.267.9785
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ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

The trip is from Graves Creek to Foster Bar. A group of us will be spending Friday night, November 11 at the Galice Lodge before the launch on Saturday morning.

Make sure you pay regular visits to:
www.oregonwhitewater.org



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Check for a hard copy newsletter via US mail.

A household membership is \$24.00 for one year, from July 1 to June 30.

Dues after January 1 are prorated at \$12.00, otherwise annual dues are \$24.00.

I hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by Oregon Whitewater Association (OWA) 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, OWA 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 OWA, I hereby release OWA and its leaders, officers, and members from any and all liability, claims and causes of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in any activities offered by OWA. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities, and further agree to indemnify OWA and its leaders, officers, and members from all liability, claims, and causes 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.

All participating adult members of the household (age 18+) must sign. Guardians must sign for minors.

Participant	Printed name	Signature
Member #1		
Member #2		
Member #3		
Member #4		

Participant	Email address	Preferred phone(s)
Member #1		
Member #2		
Member #3		
Member #4		

Make your check payable to the Oregon Whitewater Association and mail to:

Oregon Whitewater Association
P. O. Box 2137
Beaverton, Oregon 97075-2137
