

The Oregon Whitewater Association brings private boaters together for the enjoyment of whitewater boating. Our vision is to promote whitewater safety and training for all of our membership in an effort to provide safety awareness and confidence when executing river rescue skills. OWA is the community of choice where fun and river adventures thrive and where people and rivers connect.



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Grande Ronde Trip Report

Submitted by trip leaders Eric and Candace Ball

The river access opened 4 days before put-in, so our 90-miles-in-three-days muscle fest was on. We had 9 people in 5 boats, launching from Minam (at the confluence of the Wallowa and Minam Rivers) at 8 AM Friday, May 8th. The weather was perfect, the flow was decent (6,000-6,300 cfs for the 3 days), but not strong. For this trip, higher flows flush us down the river faster and are an asset. The highest we've done the river was 13,00cfs, and nothing really gets harder; just faster.

Self-issue BLM permit at the put-in.

The first 10 miles are on the Wallowa River, at which point you join the Grand Ronde. The upper canyon (first 38 miles) has nice ponderosa pine as well as other evergreen and deciduous and even some flowering trees. Many very nice campsites exist here. We try to get one as low as possible in the canyon to make the long second day a tad shorter. This time, we took a great spot about 28 miles from the put-in. Good, large camps disappear at about 32 miles downstream from the put-in. Two nights in the upper canyon would be a luxury.

Continued on page 4

June Club Meeting on Zoom!

Wednesday,
 June 10, 2020
 at 6:30 PM

(Check your email to see meeting topics. See details in the May newsletter for how to join.)

Contact Information



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We need your awesome rafting photos!

Did someone capture you hitting that rapid just right? Or did you get a photo of a friend barrelling through a standing wave? Whatever the epic pic - we want to feature it on the back page of the newsletter!

Send us your picture by emailing the image to VicePresident-Newsletter@oregonwhitewater.org. Be sure that the picture is high resolution, that you have permission to have it published. Include the names of those pictured, a short caption (i.e. "Boxcar on the Deschutes") and a photo credit to who took the picture.

We can't wait to see the amazing pictures you send!

Do you have something you would like to submit to the OWA newsletter? The tale of your latest rafting adventure? The recipe of the best dish you've ever cooked on the river?

Contact Kimberly Long
VicePresident-Newsletter@oregonwhitewater.org

To show our appreciation and to encourage future contributions, the Oregon Whitewater Association will have an annual drawing for a \$150 gift certificate to one of the OWA sponsors. Every member who submits written material that gets published in the newsletter will automatically be entered into the drawing.

Rivers Are Beginning to Open Up! Let's Go Boating! *by Scott Ogren*

Things are starting to open back up and we are starting to head back to the river again! Have you been able to get on the river yet? For me, I've only been able to get on the Lower Clackamas for a short float so far. No matter what's going on in the world, floating past High Rocks is always an adventure.

What are your plans for the summer? I know that it's been difficult to plan for trips when we don't know what's happening, but we can start making plans now! I have a couple of trips planned for my family.

In the roughly three months since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared a national emergency, our lives and perspectives have changed a lot. Keeping things strictly related to boating and outdoor recreation, our new perspectives mean we will need to reconsider how we interact with each other on river trips. There are a lot of little things that will probably need to change. We each need to ask ourselves what level of risk are each of us comfortable with and with who? Certainly, for family members not all that much changes, but what about close friends you see often away from the river? What about those friends you only see on river trips? We are living in a brand new environment and need to be mindful of not only our own wants and needs, but those around us as well. If someone on your next river trip is happy maintaining a large social distance while everyone else is comfortable being closer to each other, everyone's wants, and needs should be recognized and respected.

Rivers are starting to open up and remember that OWA has two Wilderness First Aid kits with PLBs and two AEDs for you to check out and take on your private trips. They go on club trips first, then OWA member's trips on a first-come-first-served basis after that. You can check them out by sending an email to firstaid@oregonwhitewater.org. As a club, we have invested in this potentially life saving equipment and it's put to best use out on your trips and not in someone's garage.

This is the last newsletter until September, so I wish you all a happy and safe summer. In this new environment, we are all fumbling about and trying to figure out how to navigate it the best we can. Let's all give each other the grace to do what each of us feel is best for ourselves. Let's all take care of each other.

Covid Spring

Spring is traditionally the busiest time of year for OWA and this year we mostly stayed at home because of COVID. As mentioned before, we are going to reschedule as many events as we can, but some we simply will not be able to. I am looking forward to a day when we can resume something that resembles life before the pandemic and we can socialize more than we are able to right now.

We are looking at when we can reschedule as many of the events as we can. Keep an eye on your email for announcements as we can reschedule each event.

We are still planning to host the WFA event in the first weekend of October, unless we cannot due to the pandemic.

We are still planning to hold online meetings over the summer every second Wednesday of the month. Keep an eye on your email for each month's meeting topic! I'm looking forward to seeing you online!

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Grande Ronde River: Continued from page 1



The first possible take out is Powatka Bridge, 39 miles downstream from the put-in, and this has the best landing of any take out. Troy, OR, is another 6 miles downstream (river mile 45) and has a small, rocky take out (river right just under the bridge). You can stop for a break and walk across the old metal bridge to use a flush toilet and get potable water, or buy beer at the small store/café. From here to Boggan's Oasis, a road follows the river and you can see the occasional house or ranch property as well as plenty of basalt. At river mile 26, we hit Boggan's Oasis which has a small Washington Fish and Wildlife take out, vault toilets and a short walk to a milkshake, burgers and fries (take out only, this year), as well as access to the Flora-Lewiston highway, featuring Rattlesnake Grade, supposedly one of the top motorcycle rides in the US.

From there, we pushed on to our second night's camp about 10 miles from the take-out (51 miles from our first night's camp). Camps on the lower canyon are not as nice as those in the upper canyon, so we've struggled to find a way to make the second day shorter. If it's sunny and hot, it might be hard to find a truly shady and pleasant spot, especially if you have more than 1-2 boats. We plan a dedicated lower canyon camp scouting trip next year, but everything we've checked out so far hasn't made the cut. The lower canyon is worth seeing early in the year because the high basalt lava flow bluffs are still covered with green grass and are impressive in their own right. Leftovers from old homesteading efforts can still be seen, and the rafting traffic is much lighter. There are a couple of camp spots at Schumacher Access that would be shaded later in the day, but this site also has gravel road access.

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Grande Ronde River



Grande Ronde River: Continued from page 4

On day 3, we hit the Narrows Rapid, which scouts "bigger" than it would otherwise, because the Grand Ronde is such a tame river (the biggest hazard is not paying attention and getting stuck on a semi-submerged rock) that by contrast to what you've been through, it looks exciting. We've never had any carnage at any flow we've run (3,500 to 13,000). You can cheat it left or right, or run the gut. Scout it left.

Heller Bar is just after the confluence with the Snake on the Washington Side; don't forget your Washington State Park Pass to have your rigs parked there. We had one person get a ticket there in many years. The short last day means that people are packed up and driving for home around noon, an advantage if you're coming from Portland or elsewhere on the West side.



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Keep it Local - Paddling in a Pandemic Refined

Posted: 05/06/2020 By Evan Stafford to American Whitewater

www.americanwhitewater.org

For many boaters, our lives have been built around an ability to visit rivers as frequently as possible. And if they're not, we're probably dreaming about being able to do so. Unfortunately, paddling responsibly during COVID-19 has made visiting rivers difficult for many of us. Responses to the pandemic vary regionally and in some areas paddling opportunities are beginning to open back up. Most of the places where restrictions are being loosened, local leaders have made clear that this is not a return to normal and that continued access to outdoor recreation is contingent on the ability of the public to follow physical distancing practices and keep it local. We're all in this together and we all want to paddle, so let's work to make our communities response a model of how to recreate in a pandemic. Here's some simple guidelines on if, how, when and where paddling is a good idea right now which should apply broadly.

To help spread the word and share these guidelines with your friends and community feel free to use this [graphic](#). Thank you!

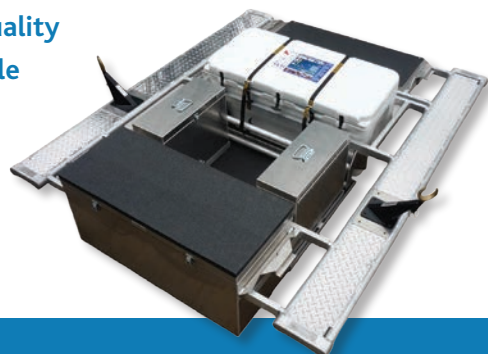
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Keep it LOCAL

American Whitewater's guidelines on if, how, when and where paddling is a good idea right now.

MAKE THE HEALTH OF OTHERS YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.

- The COVID-19 pandemic is serious stuff – conduct yourself in every respect with that in mind.
- Respect travel restrictions, state and local rules, and river closures.

MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCE.

- Stay at least 6 feet apart.
- Have a plan for a human-powered shuttle or another option that allows you to maintain physical distancing. Get creative.
- Get on the river with family members, roommates, or maintain physical distance from one or two partners.
- Avoid busy areas and times of day.

STAY CLOSE TO HOME.

- Consider impacts to vulnerable gateway communities with limited health care facilities.

KEEP IT CHILL.

- Paddle well within your ability.

BE A GOOD RIVER STEWARD.

- Pack it in. Pack it out. Mud Flat, photo by Pen Nieves
- Plan ahead
- Avoid congregating at put-ins and take-outs that are often highly visible to the community.

SURF THE COUCH.

- Don't go out if you're sick or have been in contact with those who are. Pop in an LVM instead.

Be a part of the solution! Help us keep the delicate balance that ensures river access and enough water to boat from shifting in the wrong direction. Maintaining constructive relationships with communities where we recreate is in our long-term interest as we work with them to improve the health of rivers and our opportunities to enjoy them. Keep your phone clean. And always, always wash your hands.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 white cake mix
- 1 12 ounce can of Sprite or 7-Up
- 2 cans fruit pie filling (We used peach but blueberry is awesome too.)



River Trip Dutch Oven Cobbler

Submitted by David Pauli

DIRECTIONS

Pour fruit pie filling into a 6 quart Dutch oven. In a separate bowl, mix soda with cake mix. Batter will be lumpy. Pour over top of pie filling.

Bake with 20 coals on top and 10 on bottom until cake is golden color. Serve hot.

Wonderful served alone or with vanilla ice cream/ whip topping. Recipe can easily be doubled for 12 quart Dutch ovens.





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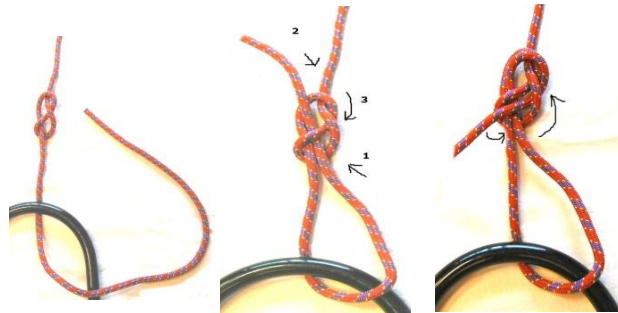
Figure 8 Follow Through

Overview

- It is a very strong knot & easy to tie
- Great for tying into a fixed anchor point, or around a frame or D-ring which you cannot pass a loop over/through

Use

- At the end of a rope as an anchor point, attach to a tree or raft frame or any other closed attach point
- To form a permanent loop



The key is to retrace the existing 8.

[Click for Step by step directions](#)

(Scroll to top of page)

[Click for a Video](#)

Steve K 2012



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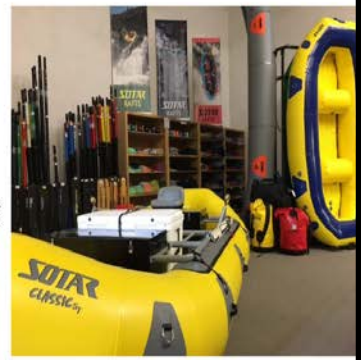


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Upcoming Trips



Submitted by Scott Harvey, Trip Editor

Detailed information for upcoming trips can be found at <http://oregonwhitewater.org/calendar/trip-calendar/>

UPCOMING OWA TRIPS

TRIP	DATES	TRIP LEADER	CONTACT INFO
2020 Upper North Umpqua OWA/NWRA Trip, Class III/IV	June 4-7, 2020	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com
2020 McKenzie River Weekend Trip, Class II/III	June 11-14, 2020	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com
2020 Tieton, Class II/III+	Sept 12-13, 2020	David Elliott	dce@dcell.com
2020 Snake River, Class II-IV	Sept 12-14, 2020	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com , 509-240-4220
2020 The Down the River Clean Up ~ Lower Clackamas River	Sept 13, 2020 8am-5pm		http://clackamasriver.org/events/down-the-river-cleanup/
2020 The Great Willamette Clean Up ~ Willamette River	Oct 3, 2020 All Day		https://willamette-riverkeeper.org/great-willamette-cleanup
2020 Fall Colors, North Santiam, Class II/III	October 10, 2020	Matt Saucy	sawdusty9@yahoo.com , 971-241-5396
2020 Veteran's Day, Rogue, Class III/IV	November 9-10, 2019		

IMPORTANT!

TRIPS MARKED WITH THIS COLOR HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED (AND MAY BE RESCHEDULED). PLEASE CHECK THE OWA WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON EACH TRIP, OR CHECK WITH TRIP LEADERS ON THE STATUS OF TRIPS, PERMITS, ETC.

For additional details on upcoming trips or to view past OWA trips go to <http://oregonwhitewater.org/calendar/trip-calendar>



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Jerry Malloy Rogue May 2020 , Photo by Courtney Wilton

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