

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.



*Packsaddle Park, photo by Donovan Strasser*

### Voices from the Santiam Canyon Submitted by Kimberly Long

*Contributions from Tim Luke, Donovan Strasser, and Sam Drevo*

The town of Detroit, about 50 miles East of Salem on the North Fork of the Santiam was decimated by the wildfires in early September. Tim Luke, who had a vacation home lost to the fire, offered to share his observations of the Detroit community. Approximately 25 out of 350 structures were lost to the fire, the vast majority of Detroit. Only a handful of the commercial and public buildings survived the fire, including the post office, Mountain High Grocery, a few units of The Detroit Lake Lodge Motel, and Connor's BBQ. Most homes were destroyed. At this time residents are evacuated. It may take more than a year and 2.5 million dollars to fully restore the water system. The power grid is being temporarily restored and most homes that made it through the fire have power, but permanent restoration of the power grid will take close to a year.

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### October Club Meeting on Zoom!

Wednesday,  
 October 14, 2020  
 at 6:00 PM

*Zoom meeting login information will be sent to your email. If you are a prospective new member and are interested in joining the meeting, please send an email to [president@oregonwhitewater.org](mailto:president@oregonwhitewater.org) for the Zoom meeting login information.*

**Speaker:**  
**Scott Burns**

**Topic: Geology**

# Contact Information



## Your OWA Officers and Volunteers

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<http://www.OregonWhitewater.org>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Everything Has Changed and We Need Some Advance Scouting on Our Rivers *by Scott Ogren*

Just when you thought 2020 could not get any crazier, it did. After everything else that has disrupted what we used to call normal life, wildfires burned through many of the river canyons in Oregon, damaging and destroying the places we all recreate in and love. Several OWA members have had their lives directly impacted by these fires by either being evacuated, had their homes and/or businesses burn, and more. On top of everything else, the landscape that we all collectively so often love to play in has changed and it might take years to recover. In the Santiam River canyon, Fisherman's Bend State Park is closed due to extensive wildfire damage. I have heard reports of new wood in the McKenzie River, and I haven't had a chance to take a drive up the Clackamas River yet, but that is on my list of things to do soon. Collectively, we all need new group knowledge before heading out to boat these rivers again. Landslides, wood in the river, and other things we don't know about until some advance scouting can happen are all things, we need to have some collective group knowledge on.

If you get a chance to do some scouting of any of the rivers that have been affected by the recent wildfires, please pass on what you find to either the club email list or the OWA Facebook group. The past couple of years we have hosted the Wilderness First Aid class at Fisherman's Bend Park on the N Santiam River. It is one of the best benefits of being an OWA member and Travis Reid of Oregon Rescue does an amazing job teaching the class. Because of COVID and the fact that there is extensive wildfire damage where we have been hosting it, the WFA class will be postponed until further notice.

We are going to have elections for OWA Board positions. If you are interested in serving on the OWA Board, please send an email to [president@oregonwhitewater.org](mailto:president@oregonwhitewater.org).

As many of you know, OWA has two extensive Wilderness First Aid Kits and AEDs that both go on all club trips and are available for club members to take on private trips as well. To check out either or both, send an email for [firstaid@oregonwhitewater.org](mailto:firstaid@oregonwhitewater.org) and Steve Oslund will work with you to check them out.

### *OWA Meetings*

I am a pretty social person and I miss seeing you all, whether we know each other well or not. While at Trout Creek earlier this summer, a newer OWA member recognized me and we had a great talk about the river and what we expected out trips to be. It's connections like this that I value and I really miss. OWA brings people together in ways that are unexpected and I am looking forward to a time when we can have more social interactions with each other. Rivers have often been used as metaphors for life and this case, the river brought two people together, even for if just for a brief moment. As our logo says, Life Is A River.

*All of our meetings for the foreseeable future will be online via Zoom. Please check your email or watch the OWA Facebook group for a link to the meetings. Links to the meetings will be published in the day or two before each meeting.*

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*Tree in Mill City Falls by Donovan Strasser*

## ***Santiam Canyon: Continued from page 1***

Tim reports the outpouring of support from individual Oregonians to their neighbors has been phenomenal. He has been impressed with the strength and resilience of the Detroit community who are “chomping at the bit” to roll up their sleeves and get to the clean up and rebuilding work. Recently residents were allowed in to sift through the remains of their homes and look for personal items. They now wait while state, federal, and local officials coordinate the next stage of clean up efforts, which includes teams working with the Environmental Protection Agency to remove hazardous materials. Rebuilding is complex and will come with additional challenges for residents. All of the homes lost in Detroit are on septic systems. North Santiam Canyon Sewer Council started approximately 3 years ago with the purpose of establishing a public sewer system throughout the Santiam Canyon, but that system is still several years in the future. This presents an additional challenge for the many properties with failing systems that cannot meet current requirements or would be cost prohibitive to rebuild.

Donovan Strasser, who runs Fur Sure Outfitters in Mill City shared some of the pictures he took of Fisherman’s Bend and Packsaddle Park not long after the fires. While Donovan’s family was fortunate to have their home spared from the flames, there are people who lost everything. As a community member of Mill City, Donovan did express some frustration with people driving through the Santiam canyon and getting on the river out of morbid curiosity to see the damage. There is concern that boaters who may not appreciate the danger of the river after a fire could behave in ways that could delay safe access for the rest of us. There is currently (as of October 3rd), a large tree right in the left hand line of Mill City Falls.

If you recall, not so very long ago, the access points to the N Santiam were closed due to the pandemic. Packsaddle Park is owned by the Army Corp of Engineers but leased and maintained by Marion County. Marion County parks did not have adequate staffing to maintain the restrooms as required to meet the pandemic cleaning requirements. If you escaped quarantine with a run on the N Santiam this summer, Donovan helped to make that possible. He stepped in and volunteered to help with cleaning the Packsaddle restroom every day to keep the park open. Donovan has been in contact with the Marion County parks manager to discuss the future of Packsaddle. Packsaddle is expected to be closed until summer of 2021 at least and possibly longer depending on the impact of erosion over the winter rain season.

***Continued on page 5***



Fisherman's Bend by Donovan Strasser

## Santiam Canyon: Continued from page 4

Approximately 70% of the trees have been burned. This could present an opportunity to make some needed upgrades to the park and river access, such as road improvements, repair to the boat ramp, and an improved staging area. Donovan has been told he is the sole voice expressing concerns with past safety issues in the park and the need for these improvements. If you would like to make sure Marion County appreciates the importance of Packsaddle as an access point to the river, or would like to share your ideas about how the park could be improved, please contact Marion County. Russ Dille, Parks Program Coordinator, Marion County Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE, Salem, OR 97035. Phone 503-365-3120 Fax 503-588-7970

Sam Drevo shared that there may be an immediate need for volunteers to help spread straw on burned areas in the Mill City/Gates area (perhaps before you read this newsletter). Ken Fredrick is a community organizer in Mill City/Gates organizing this effort who may also be a contact for possible volunteer opportunities in the future. His email is [wavehog3@gmail.com](mailto:wavehog3@gmail.com)

At the time of this newsletter, I did not have information on the Upper Clackamas/Estacada area or McKenzie. If you know someone who might have information or volunteer opportunities to share, send them my way. If we are limited in where we can be on the river right now, perhaps we can use the time to support the communities along the rivers we love. I can be reached at [VicePresident-Newsletter@oregonwhitewater.org](mailto:VicePresident-Newsletter@oregonwhitewater.org)

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## The Tieton Dam

*Submitted by Bill Elliot*

Sometime around 2010, I was running the Tieton dam on the right as I usually do (it's where the most fun ride is). I was running an Aire Ocelot at the time. As I reached the edge, I saw a boat bobbing in the wave at the bottom. There were no passengers - they were downstream at the cable crossing getting treated for injuries. As I went over, I had to push so I would have enough momentum to hit the boat on one side and still make it through. I had hoped that my push might kick the boat out of the recirculation, but that boat was so full of water that it just sat there...

In 2020, Matt, Sarah, and Norm were getting ready to run the Tieton dam in their raft. I was following in my 11x20 Sotar cat, Cubby, and trying to take photos. I got too close to the right wall above the dam and the boat hit a submerged rock and began to spin around. I started to turn the boat so it was facing downstream, but I realized I would not make it. I was able to get the boat turned backwards, but I still went over the drop at an angle. When I got to the bottom, the boat hit the pillow and then slid back into the dam sideways, facing river right. The boat bucked, but I held on. Suddenly, it started to tip upstream and I held on while the boat spun around. I worried that I would get thrown out of the boat and down under it.

On my first Tieton trip in 2003, there was a kayaker who swam the dam. She was wearing a wetsuit, and the back of it was badly scraped up. I thought of her as I was getting thrown around, knowing that I would be trashed by the rough concrete if I went out and went under my boat.

When I was confident I wasn't going to flip right away, I took stock of my situation. My left oar was fine, but the right had popped out of the oarlock and was flopping around as I held it. I pulled in the left oar and put the right oar back into the oarlock. I then set up and turned the boat upstream. I was finally in control and I set up to get out. I put in a hard backstroke and the boat lurched backwards. I felt the boat go up onto the hump of the wave, and then it began to turn downstream.

The day before this trip, my wife Toria had run the boat and went into the hole at Waffle Wall. When she came out, one of the oars was stuck - the sleeve was jammed into the oarlock, and the oar was flat to the water, making it useless. This same thing happened to me on the Green one year at the Nozzle and I couldn't get it out of the oar. Luckily, that time the oar was in a position to be somewhat useful. Toria was able to get the oar unstuck...

*Continued on page 7*

# The Tieton Dam



## Tieton Dam: Continued from page 5

I wasn't. As I headed downstream under the bridge below the dam, I realized that my oar was jammed into the oarlock so deeply that it would not come out. I quickly pulled the keeper pin on the oarlock and took the oar out. I opened the drybox on my right ("Righty-repair, Lefty-lunchy") and got out the spare oarlock. I installed it and got the spare oar out. This took the most time because I got the spare oar caught in the oar tether, but I was able to get it installed and stay out of trouble.

In the end, I had to hammer the oarlock out of the sleeve and replace it. As you can see in the photos, the gouge is pretty deep. You may also be able to see the scars from the previous times the oar was stuck.

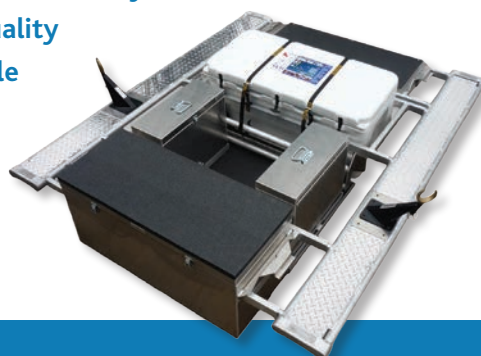
So, what did I learn from this? After all, Jay Cohen says that there's nothing wrong with getting into a situation as long as you learn something. The main thing I learned from this was to not try to take pictures when I don't really have enough time. I should probably be using a GoPro anyway. Everything else was just putting into practice the things I've learned in the past, like having a spare oarlock and knowing where it is, and knowing how to replace the oar in a rapid.



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# Selway Photos

## Selway

*Courtney Wilton shared some photos from a 6 day Selway trip launching July 24th. It was a low water trip (1.35 at start) but beautiful and drama free. Ladle rapid was toughest for the rafters.*





## INGREDIENTS

- 5 eggs
- 1 large can of pumpkin
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice (or to taste)
- 1 large can of evaporated milk
- 1 cube butter
- 1 package dry cake mix (yellow)
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped



## Pumpkin Spice Cake

*Submitted by Cathy Tyler*

## DIRECTIONS

Mix together eggs, can of pumpkin, sugar and pumpkin pie spice.

Pour can of evaporated milk into a 2-cup measuring cup and add water

To equal two cups. Stir milk liquid into pumpkin mixture. Pour into a 9"x13" pan that has been sprayed with Pam. Pour package of dry cake mix (yellow) into a bowl. In a pan, melt one cube of butter and then slowly add to cake mix while stirring. Mix till consistency is 'crumbly'. Stir in walnuts. Sprinkle over pumpkin mix.

Bake 350 degrees F for 1 hour 15min.



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## Knot of the Month – Figure 8 on Bight

Each month we will showcase essential knots you should know for river situations

### Overview

- The figure 8 on a Bight forms a permanent loop in the rope.
- It is a very strong knot and can be tied anywhere on the rope (not just the end)
- Drawback: It cannot be tied around anything so you must clip into it with a carabineer or tie another knot/webbing into it.

### Use

- At the end of a rope as an anchor point. Anywhere within the rope for a pig rig. In the middle of a haul line to pull against



bight

Tied: The same as a Figure 8 but you start off with a bight

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Steve K 2012

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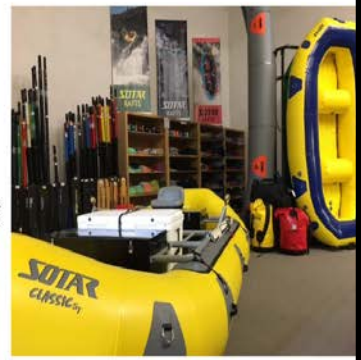


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# Upcoming Trips



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 Fall Colors, North Santiam, Class II/III	October 10, 2020	Matt Saucy	
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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Kayaker on the Selway River, Photo by Courtney Wilton

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