

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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## Low Water Trip on the Smith River (Montana)

*Submitted by Gary Simpson*

"Well, the water is a little low, its 120 cfs, but I talked with the forest service guy and he said he had done it in a raft at 120 without any trouble." Dan said the day before I was about to start the 800 mile drive to the launch on the Smith River in Montana. "We're going to go as long as it's above 110 when we get there." We would later wonder if the forest service guy was a pathological liar or possibly a direct decedent of the Marquis de Sade.

The Smith River runs through agricultural land near the town of White Sulphur Springs Montana, before entering a spectacular canyon through the mountains and then out through more agricultural land before dumping into the Missouri River 20 miles or so from Great Falls. The portion that is typically run is a 59 mile stretch starting at Camp Baker and taking out at Eden Bridge and runs through the canyon portion with some ag land at the beginning and end. It is considered a State Park in Montana but a lot of the river bank is private so you have to be careful if you plan to hike.

*Continued on page 4*

### April Club Meeting

*Flying Pie Pizza*  
 7804 SE Stark Street  
 Portland, OR 97215

Wednesday,  
 April 11, 2018  
 from 6:00-9:00 PM

*Speaker: Dr. Scott Fisher*  
*will speak about*  
*astronomy in Oregon*  
*(see page 11 for bio)*

# 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 and include the names of those pictured and a short caption (i.e. "Boxcar on the Deschutes").

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 Nichole Marino**  
[VicePresidentNewsletter@oregonwhitewater.org](mailto:VicePresidentNewsletter@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.

## Spring Brings More Club Trips!

by Scott Ogren

Now that spring is here, the water in most of the rivers is a bit more predictable and we can get out there on our local rivers! I've heard of trips on the Upper Clackamas, White Salmon and more. If you want to float a particular river, there's probably someone out in the club wants to float it too!

The safety gear project is complete! All that's left is delivery of everything and that will happen this week for the most part. In total, there were 31 orders and that included 20 pin kits, eight throw bags and eight people just needed the 150' rope. Thank you to all who purchased the gear and are doing your part to increase boater safety on our rivers.

Because of the safety gear project, the annual safety auction is behind schedule. It was originally going to end on the day of the April club meeting and because it hasn't started yet we will push it back a few weeks. Look for it to start soon! Look for an email from the club email group or in the Facebook group for a notification of when it starts and links to the auction. We have some great items on the list this year including gear from Aire, Cascade Outfitters, Sawyer Paddles and Oars and more! Also, several shuttle companies that we have donated in past years have donated again. It's going to be a great auction! Happy bidding and good luck!

We are also having another adventure day this spring at Bungee.com and ZipLineX on Sunday April 15! The signup is on the website and this is a great fundraiser for the club. This is a great way to get an adrenaline rush while supporting the club, and it's open to anyone, not just OWA members so invite all of your friends and I'll see you all out at the bungee.com and ziplinex.com facility!

You've heard this before and you'll hear it again. It's time for the monthly plug for the OWA first aid kit and AED. As a club, OWA has an extensive Wilderness First Aid kit and an AED that goes on all club trips and is available for club members to take on private trips as well. I encourage you all to take both with you on your next private trip. You can check them out by sending an email to [firstaid@oregonwhitewater.org](mailto:firstaid@oregonwhitewater.org).

### OWA Training Opportunities

This month, we are hosting our 8th annual River Safety Class. Since we expanded our program in 2011 we have facilitated training for over 250 members! Over the years, the safety program has expanded to include a Boater 101 class which will be offered May 5-6 this year. That is a great opportunity to float the North Santiam River and get tips and guidance from experienced boaters. Experienced boaters are also needed to assist with the class too, contact Matt Saucy if you are interested in helping assist with that. Also, this fall we are offering the Wilderness First Aid class that provides a very good skill set to have, and not just on the river!

### APRIL MEETING

*The next meeting will be at our normal meeting place, Flying Pie Pizza in Portland. Please plan to come out and join us for our monthly meeting and speaker where we will be hearing about the stars in the night sky!*

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dues.html](http://www.oregonwhitewater.org/dues.html)**



# Smith River Trip Report



## Continued from page 1

I arrived at the launch in the early afternoon of July 6th. The good news was the camping at the launch is free, the bad news was it was 95 degrees and there isn't any shade at all. Dan and Robbie had already put up a shade tarp, which ultimately worked double duty in providing shade as well as protection from the rain when a thunder storm rolled through. The thunder storm served the purpose of raising the humidity without lowering the temperature and bringing out a particularly voracious breed of mosquitos that were large enough to molest vultures. The good news was that this is the only place we had mosquito problems on the trip.

After the ranger talk the 7 of us got ready to launch. We had a raft and 3 cats including an 18 foot behemoth known affectionately as (or cursed as) the aircraft carrier due to its size. Why would you bring a huge boat like that on a low water trip you might ask, well if that's the boat you own, that's the boat you bring, which didn't stop Michael from asking that very question numerous times throughout the trip. We've all rafted together for years and have done a number of really low water trips on the Middle Fork and some other rivers, and one of the things we've learned over the years is that none of us seem to have the ability to leave anything behind to lighten the boats.

The first half day went pretty smoothly, a couple of pushes, but nothing too dramatic. Those the gods would crush, they first make happy. The second half the day made up for it. The river would get wider and wider, which made it shallower and shallower until there was literally no place deep enough to float a boat. There were paces you could walk across the river without getting your ankles wet. Get out and push, jump back in, float a couple hundred yards and repeat. You got really good at looking at the river and seeing that there was an inch more water over on that side, push for the depth! This was the pattern for the next day and a half, but the further down we went the more floating and less pushing you had to do. There weren't a lot of streams coming in from the sides, but each helped a little.

Once you are in the canyon, despite the pushing, the scenery is spectacular. Sheer cliffs along the river dominate a lot of it. We saw a lot of wildlife; mule and white tail deer, one boat saw a moose next to the river, bald and golden eagles, a peregrine falcon, white pelicans and a bunch of other stuff. The Smith is renowned for fishing, but not at this water level. The water was very warm and Montana implemented their 'hoot owl' rule which meant no fishing after 2 p.m. This, along with the time it took to push and shove the rafts meant we didn't have a lot of time to fish, but still managed to catch some rainbow and brown trout. The largest rainbows I caught were around 14" with the browns going to 18". Large dry flies, hoppers, and stimulators with rubber legs seemed to be the ticket. If it didn't have rubber legs it didn't catch fish.

The camps on the river were very nice, both those we stayed in and those we could see as we floated past. One nice thing that other rivers managers could take note of was that the camps were all nicely signed, no more hoping you don't float past your assigned camp without seeing it. The camps also had toilets, no groover required. But, and take note, there were toilets, but no toilet paper. We all assumed when it said toilets there would be toilet paper, NO, bad assumption. Fortunately we all had a couple of rolls in our 'emergency' supplies that averted a...dare I say it.....sh@y situation.

## Continued from page 4

One advantage of doing a trip during low water is you have the river pretty much to yourself. We were passed by 2 canoeists the second day and then we lapped them on the 4th day. They were the only people we saw on the river. We didn't float by any occupied camps (except theirs once) and didn't see any other boats. That made for a peaceful (from that point of view anyway) float with no competition at the takeout.

In summary, it's a beautiful river with great camping. I'd do this river again, but probably not in a raft at this water level. If you had even 4" more water this would be a primo float.

## If you go

This is a permitted river. You can apply in January. The peak floating time (and permit demand time) is mid-June. It appeared you would have no problem at all picking up a late season permit for the obvious reasons. You are limited to 4 nights and 5 days on the river. The State of Montana has a \$65 per person fee for out of state floaters (\$25 for in-state). The recommended minimum water flow for rafts is 250 cfs, which makes the 120 cfs we launched at either a profound lack of common sense or a reflection of desperation as it's the only permit we've drawn in 3 years. While do-able in a raft at this level, it would be better as a self-supporting IK or canoe trip. Another 50 cfs would make all the difference.

There is virtually no white water, supposedly there are three class II's but they were really weren't much, I didn't even realize I'd gone through one of them, so if you are going for white water this isn't the river for you.

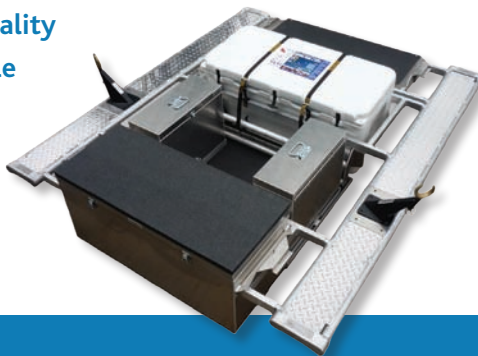
As mentioned above, fishing is supposed to be epic. The out of state fee for license is \$81 for 10 day fishing license. They are VERY strict on bear proofing camp. You have to jump through a bunch of hoops, including having coolers that are certified bear proof. One of our party purchased a portable electric bear fence which satisfied the ranger but dragging everything out of the boats every night was a pain. Even though it was in the 90's during the day it dropped to the mid 50's at night so plan accordingly. Also we had thunder storms almost every afternoon, and had them all day one day of the float.



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## 9th Annual Spring Break Lower Deschutes Trip

*Submitted by Sean Allensworth*

It was snowing as my daughter and I left the Eugene area for this trip. People on the freeway give you strange looks when you are pulling a raft in the snow. We drove most of the way to The Dalles in the rain, but it was dry as we started down Highway 197 to Buck Hollow boat ramp.

It was clear and cool the first morning as we rigged our boats at Buck Hollow, and -- thankfully -- the sun came up over the canyon wall and warmed us up before we left. We ended up with 23 people, one dog, and 14 boats. Scott gave us a safety talk, and we were on our way. I think there were three of us who had not rowed this stretch of river before. The canyon was beautiful with green grass just starting to sprout everywhere. The weather was cool, but not uncomfortable. The current was moving pretty fast so the rowing was easy. We had a good warm up period, and then we were upon Wreck Rapids -- a nice class 3 rapid. After that it was a scenic cruise to Beavertail Campground. We set up camp and had appetizers (thank you to the Albers family), got a fire going, and watched the sheep across the river. As evening rolled around we sat around the fire having great conversation and then chili for dinner.



# Spring Break Trip Report



*Continued from page 6*

Day two started at 7:00 am with a great oatmeal and fruit breakfast and coffee waiting for us when we got up. Thanks to Bill and Scott. We were all packed and on the river by 10:00 am for the 20 mile float to Harris Camp. There were not many rapids but the current was fast and the wind was mild by river standards. It was a very beautiful and relaxing float through deep canyons. The only weather we ran into was a small hail storm that ended quickly. We made it to Harris Camp about mid-afternoon and the weather was nice. We set up camp, appetizers were set out again (thank you to the Ben and Kaylee). There were sheep across the river again, and they were much closer. They were also very active, and we had a great time watching them. Sometimes it seemed they were having a good time watching us too. The kids on the trip really enjoyed this camp. It was big and there was lots for them to do. After the sun went down we started a couple camp fires and Lori cooked us a great burrito dinner (thank you!). We all had wonderful time talking around the camp fires.

Day three started at 7:00 am again with delicious French toast and sausage breakfast cooked by John and Dianne. Scott also made coffee again. Thanks for getting up and getting our day started so nicely! We were on the river by 10:00 am again. This day was to be a short day, but a fun day with more rapids than the previous two days combined. The rapids were fun, but not too threatening, and they all had sneak routes if people wanted. The day seemed a little colder but we were at Heritage Landing at about 1:00 pm.

This was a great trip with great people, great food, and beautiful scenery and of course the mighty Deschutes River.

## Trailer Safety

*Submitted by Dan Hudson*

### *This article is a rerun from a previous newsletter*

If you had not heard the news, I was involved in a serious accident on Hwy 58 just west of the summit of Willamette Pass on December 29th. I am banged and bruised, but on the mend. At the time of the accident I was towing our multipurpose trailer, which we use for rafting, hauling the farm tractor, hauling construction materials, or even hauling whole logs to the ranch for our sawmill. The other party is also okay, though her driving skills, or lack thereof, was the cause of the accident. The final inspection has not been completed at this time, but our truck and trailer are possibly total losses.

As a Field Training Officer (FTO) for my agency, I had to teach all new recruits driving skills. Good thing I listened and practiced my own teachings! The driving skills I taught were in practice and put to use in this incident. I narrowly avoided a head-on collision with controlled evasive action. Our HD Diesel truck took the impact on the right side, just rear of the passenger compartment. The impact was significant enough to shear off our trailer just behind the ball. The impact also completely separated the truck driveline, rear axle, bent the frame, and sheared off the spare tire under the bed of the truck. Talk about extreme forces. The first success to demonstrate from this accident; the emergency chains secured the trailer to the truck hitch when the trailer tongue sheared off. Post impact both chains were still connected from the trailer to the truck hitch. Our safety chains held as we correctly had them attached to our trailer and equipped them correctly at the hook end. Safety chains cannot be welded to the frame, and the hook end at the hitch needs to be closed with either a gate or screw mount pin. I have witnessed safety chains welded to the trailer break away under use. The strength of the metal chain is weakened and becomes brittle when heated up during a welding process. Because the safety chains held, the trailer break-away brake system did not need to engage. Remember to test your break-away trailer battery in the spring and fall, and charge them accordingly.

The second success to demonstrate from this incident; I didn't lose any of my load. My load contained two cords of firewood rounds. The rounds were covered by tarps and strapped to the trailer not only side to side, but also front to back. The tarps were heavy duty and were of sufficient containment that not a single piece of wood escaped the impact. What is amazing is the force of impact was so significant the welded spare tire mount and tire sheared off the trailer and the spare tire flew 30-40 feet laterally towards the impact direction. Remind yourself every time you load your rafting gear and rafts - not only do they need to be secured to the trailer for simple transport, you need to secure the rafting equipment so it will not inadvertently be catapulted away if you take sudden evasive action or you are involved in an accident.

The third success I recognized from this incident involved driving in a safe manner. I was traveling at a speed where I was under control and could easily switch lanes and/or take evasive action. Because I was towing a trailer, I chose to travel slower than the posted speed limit. Understanding a towed trailer greatly changes the dynamics and physics of your vehicle velocity, braking distance, shock and sway response, and your ability to avoid other traffic on the roadway. Just because you might be able to drive at the speed limit does not mean you should. Because I was traveling at a slower speed I was able to avoid a catastrophic head on collision that would certainly have subjected all of the passengers involved to significant injury. Remember, your driving skills, no matter how significant, cannot be counted on to always overcome the other driver's abilities or actions. In closing, remember these priorities. It's not how fast you get to or from a river trip. The priority is making your day a positive memory – arriving safely, enjoying a great river run, and making it home safe with your loved ones and all of your equipment.



The purpose of these monthly articles is to provide recreational boaters, budding naturalists, and the educated citizen with the knowledge to identify and report exotic weeds that impact aquatic ecosystems. By highlighting the impacts of aquatic invaders, it is hoped that proactive measures will be taken to minimize the introduction and spread of plants that affect our recreational waterways. Discussions of each of the plants/organisms highlighted in these articles should expand beyond these pages. Feel free to contact Alex Stauch for more info: [Stau9723@gmail.com](mailto:Stau9723@gmail.com)

## Water Weed Profile: Aquatic Primrose (Ludwigia) *Ludwigia hexapetala*; *Ludwigia peploides*



**Where did they come from?:** Invasive representatives of the Ludwigia genus hail primarily from Central and South America.

**How did they get here?:** Aquatic primroses are very popular in the aquarium trade. Irresponsible aquarium dumping and planting in ornamental ponds account for numerous introductions. The ability of the plant to reproduce by fragmentation allows stems, roots, EVEN LEAVES, to travel hundreds of miles on watercrafts or construction equipment and establish populations.

**Why should we care?** We should care... a lot. Invasive aquatic primroses are able to create large, dense monocultures that block waterways, increase sedimentation, reduce oxygen for aquatic organisms, and alter flooding regimes. Although swift moving water reduces the ability of aquatic primrose to establish, open water habitats are quickly filled in by aquatic primroses. Many bays, oxbow lakes, drainage systems, and river banks can be completely covered with aquatic primrose to depths up to 2 meters.

**How do we identify them?** Although there are some look-alikes, invasive representatives can be identified by their bright, yellow flowers and alternate willow like leaves. They possess semi-woody stems that sometimes exhibit a red color. Fruit is in the form of a cylindrical "capsule" which produces viable seeds that remain dormant in the seed bank for years.

**What do we do?** Clean your boats and don't dump your aquariums!!! After that, if you believe you've found a population, please report the weed to local experts. Unless you are an experienced naturalist, don't attempt to remove the target plants. By acting on your own, you could remove the wrong plant or spread the plant by improperly pulling it and creating fragments that can establish downstream. Report findings to the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline: <https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>. By doing so, the distribution of this plant in Oregon can be properly recorded, and managers can act to treat the species.

## INGREDIENTS

One large onion

Simply truth veggie crumbles

2 cans pinto beans

1 can black beans

1 can puréed tomatoes

(I have used paste as well)

1 cup frozen corn

4 Tablespoons taco seasoning, I use McCormick



## Everyone Loves Lazy Chili

*Submitted by Michelle Dorfi*

### DIRECTIONS

Dice and sauté in large onion in olive oil

I will sometimes add peppers and carrots in at this point.  
Cook on medium heat.

Once onions are translucent, add all cans and seasoning to pot, stir, turn down to low, and simmer for 20 minutes.

That's it.

Serve with tortilla chips, cheese, onions, whatever floats your boat!  
Vegenaise and sriracha are my go tos...1 pot, done.  
Could be made ahead and frozen or made riverside.  
Easily doubled or tripled.  
Feeds 6



## 2018 April Club Meeting

Astronomy in Oregon – Boldly Going Where Few Dare to Tread! Dr. Scott Fisher Director, Pine Mountain Observatory University of Oregon, Department of Physics In this public-level presentation Dr. Fisher will describe and speak about a new vision for astronomy education, research, and public outreach in Oregon. Along the way he will talk about what it is like to work as a staff scientist at a modern, large-aperture telescope, and how he plans to bring cutting-edge observational astronomy to Oregon. In particular he will discuss Pine Mountain Observatory (PMO) and the University of Oregon Remote Observatory Control Center (the UO ROCC) a planned on-campus center that will enable our astro-interested community (including academic collaborators, K-12 schools and the public) to observe and take part in research being conducted at PMO.

**Topic:** Stars of the Night Sky

**Speaker:** Scott Fisher, U of O Physics Professor and manager of the Rocky Mountain Observatory

**Description:**

***Astronomy in Oregon – Boldly Going Where Few Dare to Tread!***

Dr. Scott Fisher

Director, Pine Mountain Observatory

University of Oregon, Department of Physics

In this public-level presentation Dr. Fisher will describe and speak about a new vision for astronomy education, research, and public outreach in Oregon. Along the way he will talk about what it is like to work as a staff scientist at a modern, large-aperture telescope, and how he plans to bring cutting-edge observational astronomy to Oregon. In particular he will discuss Pine Mountain Observatory (PMO) and the University of Oregon Remote Observatory Control Center (the UO ROCC) a planned on-campus center that will enable our astro-interested community (including academic collaborators, K-12 schools and the public) to observe and take part in research being conducted at PMO. This presentation is full of images and videos that will be presented at a level that is appropriate for all ages and for all levels of astronomy knowledge. Dr. Fisher will also host a game of “Stump the Astronomer” where audience members get to ask questions about the discoveries discussed in the talk – or about any astronomy related topic!

**Speaker Bio:**

Dr. Scott Fisher is a faculty member in the University of Oregon Department of Physics where he teaches introductory-level astronomy courses and serves as the Director for Undergraduate Studies for the department. Scott previously worked at the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC where he was responsible for selecting and funding astronomy programs across the United States. Before his time in Washington, Scott was based in Hilo, Hawaii where he worked as a staff scientist of the Gemini Observatory. At Gemini, he worked as an instrument scientist and as a member of the Gemini Outreach team. Scott’s main area of research is searching for and studying planet-forming disks around young stars. In addition to his love of astronomy, Scott is an amateur photographer and a Geocacher. When he is not observing, he can often be found in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, or anywhere with nightlife full of bright neon lights, poker cards, and casino chips!



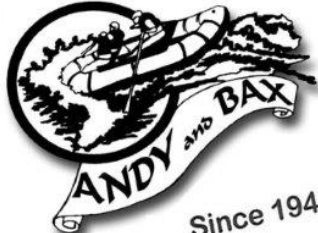
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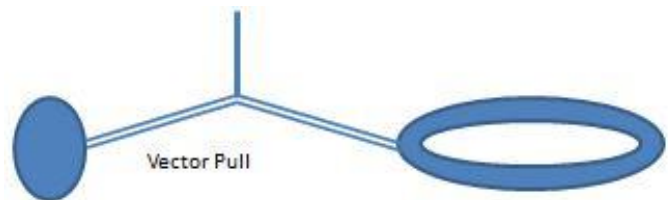
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- Attach the second line to the mid point of your haul line. Can use a figure 8 in the haul line to attach to, girth hitch etc..
- You can add a vector pull into a haul system thus doubling the power of your haul system for instance a 3:1 Z-Drag becomes a 6:1



### Minimal Requirements

- Haul line and a secondary line

Steve K 2012

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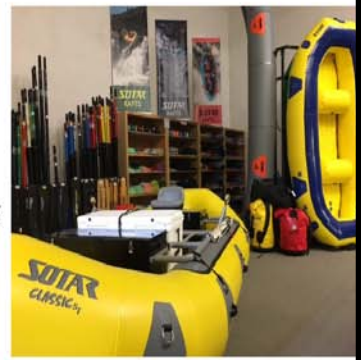
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# Upcoming Trips

Submitted by Cheryl Ford,  
Trip Editor



## UPCOMING OWA TRIPS

TRIP	DATES	TRIP LEADER	CONTACT INFO
2018 Tax Relief Float, Deschutes River, Class III/IV	April 15, 2018	Bill Goss	<a href="mailto:zangg@msn.com">zangg@msn.com</a> , 503-757-4659
2018 Lower North Umpqua OWA/NWRA Trip	April 27-29, 2018	Brenda Bunce	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a>
2018 Boating Skills 101	May 4-6, 2018	Matt Saucy	<a href="mailto:sawdusty9@yahoo.com">sawdusty9@yahoo.com</a> , 971-241-5396
2018 Grande Ronde River, Class II/III	May 11-13, 2018	Eric & Candace Ball	<a href="mailto:balle@pocketinet.com">balle@pocketinet.com</a> , 509-525-6134
2018 Annual Upper Clackamas Whitewater Festival	May 18-20, 2018		<a href="http://www.upperclackamasfestival.org">www.upperclackamasfestival.org</a>
2018 Rogue River Lodge Trip, Class III/IV	May 25-28, 2018	Van McKay	<a href="mailto:vanm1@aol.com">vanm1@aol.com</a> , 360-737-3148
2018 Upper N Umpqua NWRA/ OWA Trip, Class III/IV	June 1-3, 2018	Bill Goss	<a href="mailto:zangg@msn.com">zangg@msn.com</a> , 503-757-4659
2018 Women's Trip, Class II/III	June 8, 2018	Carol Beatty	TBD
2018 Grande Ronde, Class II/III	June 14-18, 2018	Dave Graf	<a href="mailto:dmgraf55@centurytel.net">dmgraf55@centurytel.net</a>
2018 McKenzie River, Class II/ III	June 14-17, 2018	Brenda Bunce	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a> ,
2018 Snake River, Class II-IV	Sept 15-17, 2018	Mike Moses	<a href="mailto:mtymo_@hotmail.com">mtymo_@hotmail.com</a> , 509-240-4220

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



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