

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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The New Years Day Float

Submitted by Bethany-Jo Coleman

On the morning of January 1st you will find that most are still at home, recovering from lack of sleep or nursing a hangover. You will find clear roads and closed stores, and you will experience one of the very rare quiet days in Portland.

As I pulled up to Dodge Park at 10 am I saw some of the only people awake in Oregon at that time, the few dedicated, aptly equipped rafters and kayakers, lined up on the beach ready for a very cold day on the water. As shuttles were being run, gear secured, hats, gloves and helmets fitted, I was introduced to my paddle group who generously took me on last minute. I noted with amusement the bottle of champagne floating in the back, ensuring the quality of the trip to come.

Continued on page 4

January Club Meeting:

Flying Pie Pizza
7804 SE Stark Street
Portland, OR 97215

**Wednesday,
January 11, 2017
from 6:00-9:00 PM**

Holiday Party Part Deux!

*We'll announce the
New President, Membership
Director, Safety Director as well
as thanks all outgoing board
members for a job well done!*

Contact Information



Your OWA Officers and Volunteers

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Do you have something you would like to submit to the OWA Newsletter?

Contact Michele Gila at
VicePresidentNewsletter@oregonwhitewater.org

To show our appreciation and to encourage future contributions, the Oregon Whitewater Association will have an annual drawing for \$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.

Bruce "Hutch" Hutchinson

Bruce "Hutch" Hutchinson of Gresham, Oregon passed away at his home November 4, 2016 at the age of 69.

A Portland native, Hutch was a man who enjoyed life to its fullest and was always seeking the next adventure, even to his very end. As a rafter for over 35 years, he had been down countless rivers throughout the west, and made countless friends on those rivers. He was a long time member of OWA and was one of the first to join when the club was formed.

In addition to rafting, Hutch enjoyed fishing, hunting, exploring and writing. He was a proud Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War and recipient of two Purple Hearts.

Those lucky enough to know Hutch can tell you he was a true one-of-a-kind character with rough edges, a kind heart, and unfathomed depths. He will be missed.

Survey Says!

Happy New Year to Our Valued Members!

We've put together a short survey that will go out to all members very soon. The Board's hope is to check in with all of you to find out how we're doing & how you're doing, so it is our sincere hope you'll take a few minutes and give us your feedback. Some big changes ahead this year for our website and communication, and to make sure we're doing that in the best way to serve you, like the new year, a survey is born! Watch for it, fill it out, encourage your boating buddies to do the same.

~ Cheers from your 2017 Directors.

Changes to the OWA Board

by Scott Ogren

The transition from one year to the next is always an exciting time for the OWA Board. New Board members are coming in as those who have served the club are stepping down and there is always a transition period of new people learning about their new responsibilities. This year is no different. Lots of phone calls, emails and chatting about how to make the transition smoother for everyone involved. As incoming President, I very much appreciate everyone who is involved in making this transition smooth.

I would like to thank everyone whose Board of Directors term ended in 2016 for volunteering to serve the OWA. Without the volunteer efforts of everyone involved, we wouldn't have the great club we have! It takes a village and we are always very grateful for all the help we get. Many thanks to Stacey Strausberg, Josh Hollander, Steve Oslund, and Bruce Ripley for their years of service to the OWA in their roles as Technology Director, Membership Director, Training Director and President. We will thank them all in person at the January meeting.

I have been in contact with all the incoming and remaining board members and am excited to get to work on some of the exciting ideas we have for the club!

We want to hear from you and what your ideas are for your club! You will hear this more than once – we are putting together a questionnaire that you will see in January for you to provide input and let the Board know how we are doing. We want to know how we are doing in managing the club and what exciting ideas you have for us to consider.

Did you make it to the December meeting? Not many people did, so we are going to try it again in January. Our previously scheduled speaker has been rescheduled for later in the spring and we are going to have our Holiday Party again – only this time at Flying Pie. We will have the White Elephant gift exchange and hold the drawings for 2016 newsletter article submissions and speaker suggestions as we should have done in December. Because of the weather and traffic, everything was pushed to January. Let's see your ugly sweaters in January!

New Years Float

The annual New Year's Day float that is put on by Team River Runner is a great way to start the new year. They always put on a great BBQ for hungry river runners at Dodge Park. Team River Runner is a national organization that creates paddling opportunities for disabled veterans and the Portland Chapter is very active. They put on trips frequently throughout the year and are always looking for volunteers. I have helped them out on a few occasions and always have a great time and it always feels good to support such a great organization. Come on out to meet some of the veterans and hang out with OWA members! For more information about TRR, see www.TeamRiverRunner.org.

JANUARY MEETING

The next meeting will be at our usual meeting place – Flying Pie Pizza in SE Portland. Please plan to come as we are rebooting our club Holiday Party to the January meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!

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New Year's Float Trip Report



New Year's Float: Continued from page 1

When the time came to launch about 20 catboats flooded the scene, the few paddle boats lulled behind, and the swift and ever present kayaks paddling in between. The air was brisk, but we were all grateful there was no wind. The stretch of the Sandy was scenic and diverse, like most of Oregon's beautiful rivers. Snow peaked hills and mountains stretched out over the horizon. My hands stung with each rapid, ridiculing myself because I ignored the advice of a more seasoned boater (thanks Steve) and didn't wear gloves. While I got an unbearably graphic and descriptive story about how our boat captain lost his finger (Thanks Bob).

Like all OWA trips, the people were friendly, the laughter from each boat kept us warm and by the end of the float we were quite keen to get to eat and stand by the fire. A huge thank you to Val Shaul for organizing the event, Don Smith for his amazing pulled pork sandwiches, and the unique, lively and hearty people of the OWA and Team River Runner who make the New Years Day Float one worth waking up for.



OWA's Annual Holiday Party and Meeting 2016

Submitted by Mark Wheeler

This was a meeting that almost wasn't. As the snow hit Portland on December 14th, many started to wonder if they'd make it to the Lucky Lab Pub. Anyone who tried soon found way too many cars on the road, some abandoned or with a frozen driver at the wheel, and it became clear the effort might be futile. Some club members checked in and left messages that it was impossible for them to get there. Now, we're a hearty bunch of boaters who seek adventure and are prepared for nearly everything. Unfortunately not all of the area residents are so prepared, as evidenced by the ridiculous traffic & crashed cars.

22 brave & lucky folks did manage to make their way to the pub, where they were greeted with warm hugs and lots of pizza & beverages. Only one existing board member was able to be there, and two newly elected board directors made it. The meeting began with the proverbial gavel passing to our newly elected President, Scott Ogren. We were able to reach Bruce Ripley by phone and we sort of heard his outgoing president's speech from the phone through the speaker system.

Continued on page 6

Holiday Party Report

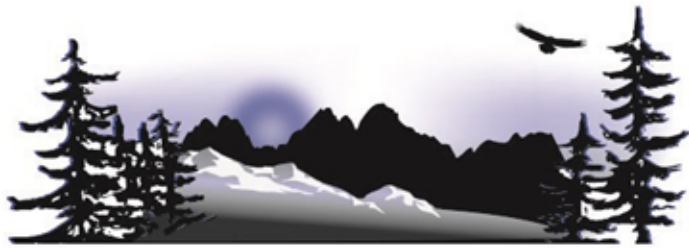


Rogue River Trip Report: Continued from page 5

We did the White Elephant Gift Exchange, and hilarity ensued. I think every gift Tom Riggs opened was quickly swiped from him. The highlight was surely the last gift: The Black Furry Handcuffs. There may have been a tussle between Candace and Anne as to who was going to go home with them. The author of this story is not sure who won, but hopefully they are being used.

Several club members also did their best to wear the ugliest Christmas sweater ever. But there was one clear winner, Matt Saucy and his pugly sweater will live on in infamy. Maybe next year someone will top that. You can start planning now.

With Snowpacalypse 2016 behind us, there are plans underway to celebrate in January 2017. We have outgoing board members to thank, some new volunteers to congratulate & thank, and some drawings to pick lucky winners for their contributions to the newsletters & club meetings. Happy NewYear, and See You On The River. Cheers! ~ Mark Wheeler



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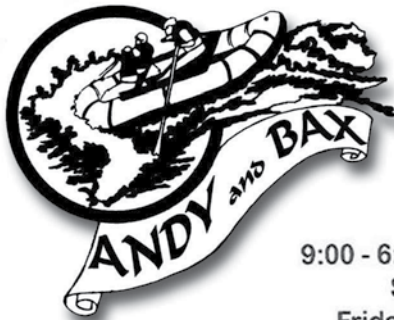
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Trailer Safety

Submitted by Dan Hudson

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.

Dan Hudson

chrisoffdan@hotmail.com

8 January 2017 | Volume 18 Number 1



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INGREDIENTS

Soup:

- 1tb olive oil
- 1tb salt
- 1tsp pepper
- 2 yellow onions chopped
- 2 carrots chopped
- 3 pieces celery chopped
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 6 chicken thighs with bone and skin
- 10 cups chicken stock
- 2tb Italian seasoning

Dumplings:

- 3/4c buttermilk
- 3/4 stick butter
- 2.5 cup flour
- 1tb baking powder
- 1tsp baking soda
- 1tsp salt
- 2tb fresh chopped parsley

- Chopped parsley for garnish



Chicken & Dumplings

Submitted by Shannon Scroggins

DIRECTIONS

- 1) Season chicken with salt and pepper. Brown in oil about 2min each side. Remove from pot.
- 2) Saute celery, onions, garlic and carrots until tender in same pot as chicken. Season with more salt and pepper and Italian herbs.
- 3) Add stock to vegetables. Bring soup to a simmer.
- 4) Add chicken back to the pot and cook about 20 minutes.
- 5) Remove chicken and let cool on a plate. When it's cool enough to handle, remove skin and bones and shred with a fork.
- 6) Return shredded chicken back to the soup.
- 7) Make the dumplings by adding dry ingredients to a bowl and mixing with a spoon. Pour buttermilk, parsley and melted butter into the dry ingredients. Stir with a spoon until a wet dough is formed.
- 8) With the soup still at a simmer drop tablespoon sized balls of dough into the soup. Let them boil about 3 minutes then flip them over and allow to cook another 7 minutes until light and fluffy.
- 9) Serve in a bowl and garnish with fresh parsley. Serves 6.

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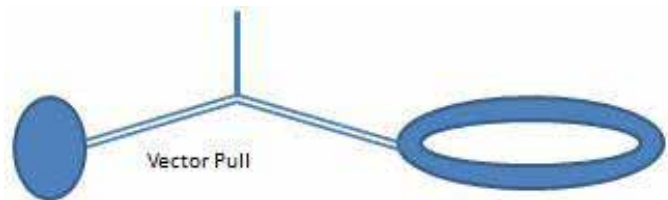
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- Haul line and a secondary line

Steve K 2012

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Upcoming Trips

Submitted by Cheryl Ford,
Trip Editor



UPCOMING OWA TRIPS

TRIP	DATES	TRIP LEADER	CONTACT INFO
2017 Nehalem River	February 4, 2017	Thomas Riggs	triggs@solenis.com
2017 Rogue River President's Day Trip, Class III/IV	February 18-20, 2017	Steve Oslund	stevilone@gmail.com, 503-709-7661
2017 Spring Break Trip - Lower Deschutes River, Class II/III	March 25-27, 2017	Scott Ogren	Scott@ScottOgren.com, 503-267-9785
2017 Tax Relief Float, Deschutes River, Class III/IV	April 16, 2017	Bill Goss	zanng@msn.com, 503-757-4659
2017 Lower North Umpqua Trip	April 28, 2017	Bill Goss	zanng@msn.com, 503-757-4659
2017 Grande Ronde River, Class II/III	May 5-7, 2017	Eric & Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com, 509-525-6134
Annual Upper Clackamas Whitewater Festival	May 20-21, 2017		www.upperclackamasfestival.org
2017 Upper N Umpqua	June 2, 2016	Walt Bammann	wbamman@wizards.net, 541-817-7904
2017 Women's Trip on the Lower Deschutes, Class II/III	June 16-18, 2017	Carol Beatty	Stacey Strausberg, scs@scs1024.com
2017 McKenzie River, Class II/III	June 22-25, 2017	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com, 360-931-4224
2017 Fall Colors, North Santiam, Class II/III	October 8, 2016	Matt Saucy	sawdusty9@yahoo.com, 971-241-5396

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



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