

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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OWA Safety Training Submitted by Mary Turner

The OWA safety training took place at Dodge Park on April 11-12. I learned several valuable lessons, met some amazing boaters and very talented instructors, and had some good laughs. Dodge Park is a beautiful setting where the Sandy River flows swiftly over a pebbly/rocky bottom with few above water obstacles. This setting offers a safe, yet challenging venue to practice newly acquired safety skills on land and in the water.

Like many boaters, I have witnessed and been a part of only a few "close call" rescues. This training not only taught me basic swift water rescue skills, but also served as a potent reminder of what I don't know, what I need to practice, and importantly, that I may be the one with the most experience on any given day on the river. The dry land portions of the training gave the students opportunities to practice knot tying, mechanical advantage set-ups, throw bag techniques, and rescue practice under simulated pressure from team-members and instructors alike.

Continued on page 4

May Club Meeting:

Flying Pie Pizza
 7804 SE Stark Street
 Portland, OR 97215

**Wednesday,
 May 13, 2015
 from 6:00-9:00 PM**

*Speaker: Aaron Stone from
 Sawyer Oars*

Contact Information



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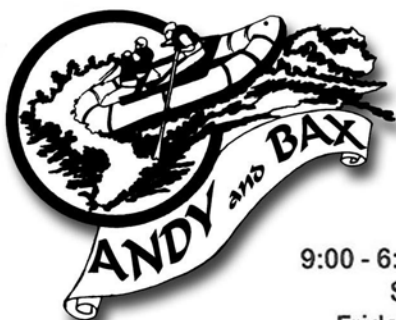
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OWA web site address:
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How the Safety Program Works!

by Bruce Ripley

I got a question at the RST class in April from one of our members essentially asking "How can you make this so cheap"? That's a good question, and while most of the board can answer that it's not something most club members know much about. First it starts with you! One of the primary reasons we can teach an affordable class is scale, we set up the class for 36 students which means we can spread our fixed costs over 36 people instead of 12. We still teach at a 12:1 student/instructor ratio to keep the quality high, but many costs get spread further. Second OUR PARTNERS and SPONSORS. The primary reason that we can even put on any safety program is because our Partners such as Hells Canyon Shuttles and Scotties donate money directly to the program to support it, and our other sponsors donate goods and services for us to auction off. We truly appreciate what each and every one of these small businesses do for us, and if you get the chance to thank them, or patronize them please do, they do a lot for OWA. The last key to the puzzle is our volunteer staff. From board members such as safety director to the 6 assistants that we recruit to help the instructors, to the many other volunteers that help out in a variety of ways the program simply would not exist without their energy. So what does that mean in terms of dollars?

The safety program has a budget of nearly \$11,000 (yes you read that right). If you compare our cost to the cost of a commercial course here is how the savings add up:

Savings Due To Scale:	-25%
Partners & Sponsors:	-25%
Club Subsidy:	-15%
Volunteers:	-10%
Direct Student Cost:	25%

So the bottom line is that your direct cost as a student is about 25% of what it would be for a commercially available course. So thank our partners and sponsors, our volunteers, our instructors, and everyone who bids on the auction items when you can!

OWA Auction

The OWA annual auction is in full swing. This is our primary fundraiser for our safety program and without a successful auction we wouldn't have a program at all. Have you looked over what we are offering? If not take a peek there are still some deals to be had, and even if it's not a deal remember that if you don't get it from us you are going to pay full retail for most of this stuff is you buy it later in the year. Shuttles are a great example, you can help out a great cause and maybe get a few bucks off the shuttle you are going to book anyway. Look for the link on the front page of the OWA website! Bid early and bid often! Thanks!

OWA May Meeting

The next meeting is at our normal location, Flying Pie on Stark Street. Come join us for free pizza and refreshments. Everything kicks off by 6:30 and we should be done by 8:00. Please plan on joining us!

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Pay online with PayPal!**

www.oregonwhitewater.org/dues.html

OWA Safety Training



OWA Safety Training: Continued from page 1

I was surprised how much the adrenalin and time pressure affected my and others ability to react, even in these simulated circumstances. Continued training and practice will help us be able to respond quickly, effectively and safely if the need arises in a real life scenario on the river. The in-water portions of the training offered opportunities to apply the techniques taught on dry-land. Hitting the water in your dry-suit that may or may not leak, tying knots with shivering hands, swimming in current, and managing group dynamics are what we experienced with the positive guidance of the instructors.

The group of instructors teaching and organizing this training is dedicated to their work and obviously cares very much about safety. It was an incredibly supportive atmosphere with boaters of all skill levels, levels of physical conditioning, gender, and experience. It is to the credit of the instructors that we all felt comfortable enough to try new things, take risks, laugh at our mistakes, and tell some jokes along the way.

My instructor for the weekend was Travis. Travis has a very effective way of teaching knot tying. It seems that some of the most common knots require wrapping the rope three times around itself. I don't know exactly why this is, but it lends itself nicely to clever ways of teaching and remembering the various knots. Even after a month, the Lionel Richie chorus "once, twice, three times a lady" continues to reverberate in my brain. Lucky for me however, I remember those knots. Another important knot tying lesson we learned was to always leave at least 4" of tail when using webbing to tie a water knot. A member of our group raised his hand in all seriousness to ask Travis, "Travis, can you ever have too much tail?" From that moment on, we all remembered to leave at least 4" of tail, and my friend will forever be known as "Not-Enough-Tail Bill". Good times on the river.

In all seriousness, I learned so much about safety on the river during this 2-day training. I highly recommend it to anyone who spends any time on the water, regardless of experience level. I cannot say enough about the off-the charts experience and skill level of the instructors, the organization of the training, and the overall supportive group dynamic. This is a true community service that OWA offers. Thanks for a great weekend!

Wishing you all a safe boating season full of adventures!

Continued on page 5



OWA Safety Training





Deschutes Spring Break Trip



Annual Lower Deschutes Spring Break Trip Report Submitted by Carol Beatty

Forty-eight boaters with thirty-two rafts, cats, kayaks put in at Buck Hollow, lead by the Trip Leader, Scott Ogren.

It was advertised as a kid and dog friendly trip so there were 10 delightful “kiddies” and one well behaved river dog, Hunter, in the mix.

We camped at Beavertail and Harris camps, both perfect places for the kids to scamper around in sight of the adults, who didn’t scamper that much. At Beavertail they ran up and down the hill and circled the road and at Harris they ran up and down the hill to the railroad tracks. As far as I could tell there were no injuries in the scampering group.

Carson, Scott’s sixth grade son, worked on his rowing skills, pushing Scott’s loaded boat down the river.

There were high winds at times which come with the Lower Deschutes and light sprinkles of rain, nothing daunting though.

Everyone ran the rapids well, some for the first time. In fact, there were no mishaps of any kind that required a lot of attention, no high drama to report. It was a trip full of good cheer.

For boating families who want to include their children on an overnight rafting trip, this is a fine trip for it because they are kept safe and watched by all adults. Besides, the young ones were very entertaining.

Thanks to Scott for leading the trip; he had us all organized, made guidelines very clear; plus, he carries an incredible amount of gear.

Deschutes Spring Break Trip: Continued on page 9



Deschutes Spring Break Trip: Continued from page 8

North Umpqua Trip Report

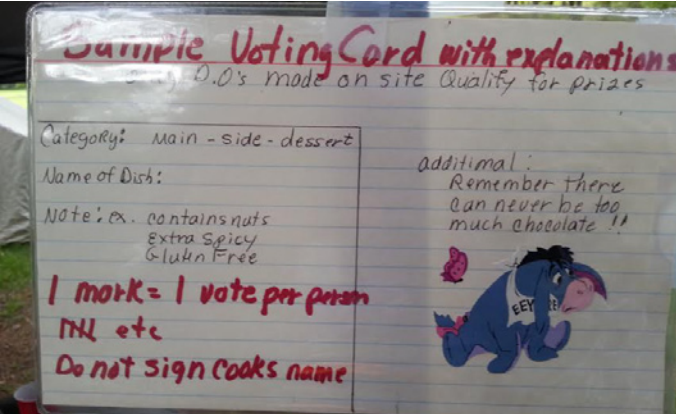


North Umpqua Trip Report Submitted by Vance Cordell

The OWA and their kin from the North West Rafters Association began gathering on the afternoon of April 24th at Whistler's Bend County Park for their annual float down various sections of the North Umpqua River. By 7:00 pm that evening, over fifty people, their tents and RVs were in place with more arriving every hour until well after midnight. Gary Steffy and Steve Schneringer started feeding people from their Dutch ovens giving folks a foretaste of the big feast scheduled for the following night. Everyone agreed that the jambalaya Steve served was absolutely delicious. Brian Freed started pouring samples of wine from his vineyard while Randy Ford played his guitar very softly for some of the folks setting up their tarps and tents.

The next morning got started early with several briefings by Brenda Bunce, Skip Currier and Walt Bamman. Brenda gave an event briefing while Skip led the safety briefing. A head count showed that 47 people attended. Walt said that the water levels this year have been very low, and that the level that morning at the Copeland CR gauge was 1150 cfs. Normally this time of the year water levels are between 1500 and 2000 cfs. He also said that many people running the middle section of the river were electing to portage Bathtub. After the meeting was over, the people at the safety briefing were asked how many were planning to float the different runs on the river. At the time the poll was taken there were twelve groups with water craft of various types planning to float the Boulder Flat to Gravel Bin section and ten floating the Lone Rock to Whistler's Bend section. Later, on the river the actual count was 15 rafts, 2 IKs and 1 SUP (Stand-up Paddleboard) that floated the upper section, while sixteen craft of various types floated the lower section. Probably because of the possible portage, no one elected to float the middle section of the river this year.

North Umpqua Trip: Continued on page 11



North Umpqua Trip: Continued from page 8

Due to the great skill and bravery of all, no one took a serious swim. A couple of the folks in the IKs on the upper run took a quick dunk, but nothing serious. Everyone seemed to have a great time and by six o'clock that evening everyone was back in camp getting ready to take part in the Dutch oven cook-off. Gary Steffy was lending various cooking contestants one or more of his twenty-seven cast iron ovens. Shortly after seven o'clock, everything was ready and the feed began. A headcount showed that the crowd had grown to ninety-seven people. The food was all absolutely delicious. It was hard to tell which dishes were better than others, but Walt Bammann took first place for the main course with his chicken divan and Francesca Guyer took first place for dessert with her apple crisp.

A few of the folks left their rafts Saturday afternoon on the river just below the camp and then floated from there down to the Winchester take-out at Roseburg on Sunday morning. By 2:00 PM Sunday almost everyone had broken camp and headed home.

Despite a few drops of rain falling on Friday night and Saturday morning, everyone seemed to have a great time and the outing was truly successful. I don't know about you, but I plan to be there again next year.

Think Before You're in the Drink!

Submitted by Dave Pauli

On April 12th, 2015 we lost a fellow boater on the White Salmon despite commendable rescue efforts. Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt thoughts go out to Dr. Denise Brown's family and friends. Dave Pauli wrote this article prior to Dr. Denise Brown's tragic accident. He was hesitant to share it so soon after the accident but reconsidered so our readers could use these experiences as tools to build their skills and mitigate the dangers associated with recreational boating.

Having always been slightly retrospective, and a teacher at heart I have been more than willing to use my personal experiences as opportunities for others to learn whether from my successes or my failures. On January 31st my misadventure on the river pounded home some valuable reminders as the result of a swim that was way too close for comfort.

On that day four R2 teams hit the Farmlands section of the White Salmon. It was a solid group of boaters made up paddlers from the Oregon Rafting Team, Dirt Bag rafters, and OWA members. I wrote an extensive report on this stretch that appeared in October's OWA newsletter. This write up is not intended to re-hash that stretch of water, instead it is to reflect on some important reminders that can be helpful to any whitewater boater.

The river that day was running at 3.3 on the Husum gage, a decent volume of water but within the recommended level. We launched just below Sidewinder and were immediately into the stretch I call the drop zone. The drop zone is a 1.5-2 mile section with ledge drops coming one after another. One drop shortly above Lava Dam, (a 16' run-able waterfall) is Little Lava. This drop was perhaps 5' with a surprisingly sticky hole. As me and my R2 partner dropped into the hole the raft immediately turned sideways, surfed for a bit, was pulled into the hydraulic and flipped. Swimmer one was immediately flushed downstream and was rescued by one of the buddy boats that had pulled into a micro eddy. As for me...I got one hand onto the chicken line just as the raft went over. The raft was being surfed upside down in the hole while I was beneath the surface being held there as well. As I was being pummeled for what felt like forever I was quickly running out of air. I wasn't panicked, but was very aware that if something didn't change soon, I would be going home in a body bag. Fortunately after perhaps 30 seconds or so the raft washed out and my head finally surfaced in-between the thwart of the overturned raft. The buddy boat that had pulled in swimmer one was positioned to retrieve me as well. It was then that I discovered that my life jacket had come completely unzipped and was only being held on by the bottom waist buckle. Whether it unzipped during the beat down, or when I was pulled into the boat, I have no idea. Either way that was a serious eye opener. After catching my breath for a moment I declared, "That's number 15!" "Fifteen what?" came the reply. "Fifteen raft flips." That seems like an awful lot by any standard, but none the less taking my retrospective nature I have kept my own flip log. In it I keep basic information, where was I when I flipped, who was I with, what raft was I in, what was the river level, and most importantly, what did I learn, or what should I have done differently?

After my way to exciting swim on the Farmlands the take away's were many. Perhaps you may find these important reminders helpful for you as well.

Important Reminders for every Whitewater Boater!

- 1.) Treat Each Trip as if it's your first decent because in some respects it is! The first time you tackle a new stretch of water, there is focus. If you have ran a stretch of river on more than one occasion it can become easier to approach it more lackadaisical assuming you know what to expect, or simply expecting the same success you may have had on a previous run. In reality I have ran this stretch several times, however never at that exact level, or those exact same lines or the exact same circumstances. Had we launched from shore with the same intensity and focus of a personal first decent my story would have likely been different.
- 2.) Keep digging entering and plowing through the hole. Obvious I know, but important none the less. Had we flipped on the beast mode switch and been in attacked mode rather than react mode I'm convinced our results would have been different. Think before you're in the drink! Tell yourself, "I am going to attack this drop and I won't stop digging until I am well clear of the reversal."
- 3.) If the boat turns sideways don't hesitate! Think before you're in the drink, tell yourself, "If my boat turns sideways in this hole I will immediately jump to the downstream tube and start draw stroking like a mad man." Rehearse it in your head. My slight hesitation allowed a brief opportunity to hi-side and possibly draw stroke out of hydraulic slip away.

River Safety: Continued on page 13



INGREDIENTS

- 3.4 oz box of Instant Jell-O pudding mix, vanilla or chocolate
- 1 1/4 cup milk
- 8 oz container of Cool Whip
- 1 9" graham cracker or OREO pie crust
- 1 cup fruit (any kind)

Instant Pudding Pie Dessert

Submitted by Katie Watry

DIRECTIONS

- Whisk together the pudding mix and the milk in a large bowl just until it begins to thicken.
- Immediately whisk in half of the cool whip. This needs to be done quickly to avoid lumps, and I suggest only doing half of the cool whip so that it's manageable to mix in quickly.
- Fold in the remaining cool whip with a rubber spatula.
- Take graham cracker crust, spoon in layer of fruit and pour pudding-Cool Whip mix equally into the crust. .
- Serve immediately or store in the cooler covered. Add toppings as desired.
- Serves 6-8

River Safety: Continued from page 6

4.) If I am ever under a capsized raft that is being held in a hole what will I do? Think before you're in the drink. This had been a tough one for me to answer. On one side the only connection I had with the breathing world was my hand clenching onto that chicken line. And yet letting go of that security may have been exactly what I needed to do in order to flush out and get back to breathing a whole lot sooner.

5.) Know you're PFD intimately. I personally wear an NRS high float life jacket. I would never tell a boater to trade in their high float jacket for a low float jacket. However after discussing my mishap with a Class V creeker friend, he informed me that the high float jacket may have been some of the problem. He explained that in the same way a sticky hole can keep a raft, it may also more easily hold a swimmer wearing a high float jacket. He went on to inform that most of the boaters he knows running steeper rivers known for sticky holes are purposely wearing lower float jackets. The thought being that if they are stuck at the bottom of a hole like I was that they would have better odds of being pushed down deeper into the water and being washed downstream free of the hydraulic.

As stated, I would never be comfortable telling someone to trade in their high float for a low float, but I will say their argument does make sense. I will however animatedly say this again; Know your PFD intimately! As mentioned, once pulled into a buddy boat I discovered my jacket was completely unzipped. (Not good!) I was unaware that on my particular jacket that there is a small unassuming loop at the very top. Its intended purpose is for the zipper tab to be tucked into it to prevent accidental unzipping.

Happy Boating! And remember always...Think before you're in the drink.

Treasurer's Report



Hello boaters!

Here is a short version of what is going on with the budget. We are sticking close to our budget and will end up slightly less than even for the year. We have already paid for both safety classes for 2015 and the pool session for 2016, so we are ahead on payments. We had to adjust some budget numbers from last year because of an increased cost in the safety classes. The board wants to keep the price for participants the same, so that means the club paying more, and more fundraising. It will all even out and be fine. If you have a question, please contact me and we can talk about it.

Thanks,

Merrie King

OWA Treasurer

Oregon Whitewater Board Report

Membership Status								
Members	Year							Grand Total
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Total	46	96	165	34	13	1	1	356

Bank Balance Status				
Opening Balance	Current Balance	Projected Balance		
		Income	Expense	Closing
\$16,000	\$10,000	\$18,000	(\$19,000)	\$15,000

* All values rounded to the nearest \$1,000

Budget Status					
Amount	Budget				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Member Dues	\$3,220	\$5,148	\$5,768	\$7,028	\$7,028
Advertising	\$1,000	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,700	\$1,600
River Trip	\$1,520	\$1,000	\$1,300	\$480	\$736
Events	(\$350)	(\$250)	(\$250)	(\$250)	(\$275)
Charity	(\$150)	(\$300)	(\$500)	(\$500)	(\$500)
Miscellaneous	(\$200)	(\$200)	(\$400)	(\$700)	(\$700)
Fees	(\$219)	(\$219)	(\$219)	(\$1,055)	(\$1,055)
Safety Training	(\$925)	(\$1,760)	(\$1,965)	(\$2,190)	(\$2,522)
Newsletter	(\$1,820)	(\$1,900)	(\$2,200)	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)
Meeting	(\$1,600)	(\$2,300)	(\$2,300)	(\$2,400)	(\$2,700)
Total	\$476	\$1,019	\$1,034	\$113	(\$388)

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

Contact Katie Watry 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.

Oregon Whitewater Association



and gear swap at Eagle Fern Park (Area 3)

27505 SE Eagle Fern Road, Eagle Creek, Oregon 97022

Sunday, August 9th 11-3 p.m.

Details:

- Picnic Area 3 is a large grassy area with picnic tables
- Located by horseshoe pits & volleyball court
- Throw rope competition – bring a throw rope
- Alcohol and dogs are allowed in the park, so bring your own

Gear Swap and Sale:

Swap or sell your new or used boating gear. From boats to bags, all gear is welcome. There are great deals every year!

Provided: hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, all the fixin's and nonalcoholic beverages (pop and juice)

You Bring: a pot luck side dish or dessert, the whole family!

Fee: \$5.00 vehicle parking pass at the entrance gate

Directions and park maps: <http://www.clackamas.us/parks/eaglefern.html>

RSVP: vicepresident@oregonwhitewater.org

May OWA Meeting Speaker: Aaron Stone

Speaker

Aaron Stone of Sawyer Oars will be discussing Sawyer in terms of history, what they have been doing as of late with their move to Gold Hill, and the future. He will also discuss Sawyer's products and best uses. He will also discuss repairing products if time allows.

Bio

Aaron Stone began boating in 1976, commercially in '82 - he still works in a trip when there's time. He was certified ACA Kayak Instructor many years ago as well as Swiftwater Technician. Aaron spends most of his time in Southern/Northern Oregon boating on the Rogue, Klamath, Umpqua, Cal-Salmon, Scott, Trinity, Illinois rivers to name a few. He's previously worked for and has been associated with SOTAR and has been with Sawyer for the past three years in Sales and Marketing which has taken him all over the United States. He is also working with the Upper Clackamas Whitewater Festival to promote this great event.



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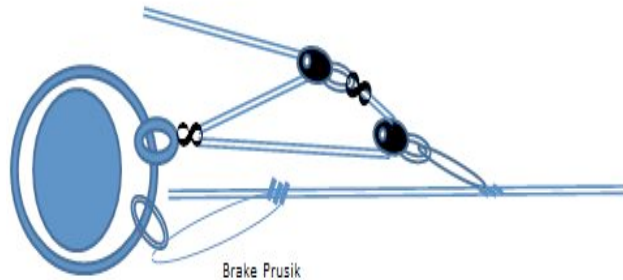
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Pig Rig 4:1

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Minimal Requirements

- 1 20' of 1" tubular webbing
- 2 Pulleys
- 2 Locking Carabineers (min) 4 illustrated
- 2 Prusik Loops
- Haul line
- 2nd line (throw bag)
- Can use a no-knot in lieu of the brake prusik



Knots Needed: Figure 8 on a bight, Prusik, Double Fisherman's

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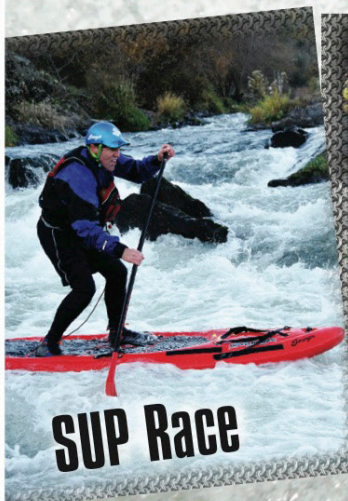
10% OFF EVERYDAY FOR OWA MEMBERS
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Who
is
the

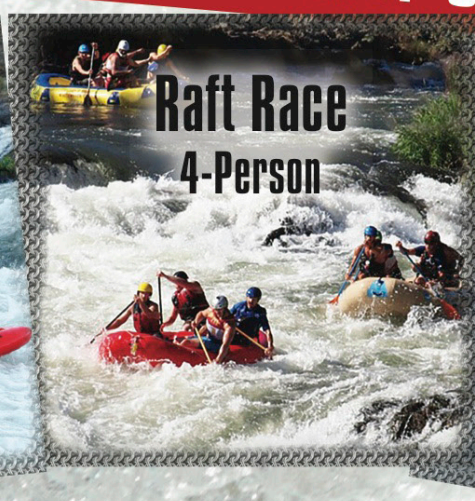
KING OF THE ROGUE



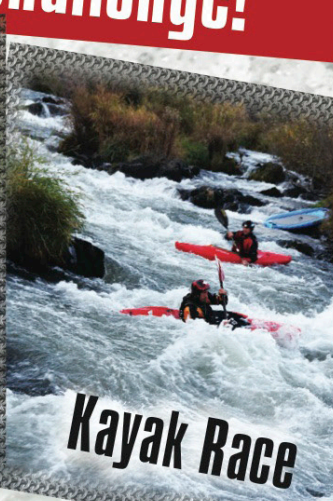
The Ultimate Whitewater Challenge!



SUP Race



**Raft Race
4-Person**



Kayak Race

NO WIMPS!

Saturday, July 11, 2015

Ti'lomikh Falls/Powerhouse Rapids - Class IV

NEW! Fishing Derby - Tuber Challenge - Beach Park BBQ

Help Build the New Gold Hill Whitewater Park- HWY 234

Details/Registration: GoldHillWhiteWater.org



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Upcoming Trips

Submitted by Pat Barry,
Trip Editor



Please go to the OWA website for additional details on each trip, [CLICK HERE](#)
Or go to <http://oregonwhitewater.org/calendar/trip-calendar>

5.15-18	Rogue River Lodge	III/IV Sat-Sun	Van McKay	vanm1@aol.com	360-737-3148
5.21-25 Thur-Mon	John Day River	II/III	Dave Graf	dmgraf55@centurytel.net	
5.29-31 Fri-Sun	Upper N. Umpqua	III/IV	Walt Bamaan	wbamaan@wmni.net	
6.19-21 Fri-Sun	Lower Deschutes Women's Trip	II/III	Carol Beatty	caroldon1@comcast.net	503-816-6172
6.25-28 Thur-Sun	McKenzie River	III	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360-931-4224
8.6-9 Thur-Sun	Selway River (low flow) IK trip	III	Eric Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509-529-6134
9.12- Sat-Mon	Hell's Canyon	III/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509-240-4220

PAST OWA RAFTING TRIPS

4.18 Sat	Deschutes River Tax Relief Float	III/IV	Bill Goss	zanng@msn.com	503-757-4659
4.24-26 Fri-Sun	Lower N. Umpqua	II/III	Brenda Bunce	brenda.bunce@gmail.com	360-931-4224
5.2 Sat	Green River Cleanup	III/IV	Brenan Filippini	www.wrrr.org	
5.8-10 Fri-Sun	Grande Ronde	III	Eric & Candace Ball	balle@pocketinet.com	509-529-6134
5.9-10 Sat-Sun	Lower Cispus	II/III	Tina and Eric	TNEMYREN@gmail.com	
3.21-23 Sat-Mon	Lower Deschutes Spring Break Float	II/III	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503-267-9785
2.14-16 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Steve Oslund	stevilone@gmail.com	503-709-7661
1.1 Thurs	Sandy River	II/III	Val Shaul	val.shaul@frontier.com	503-805-8991
11.9-11 Sat-Mon	Rogue River	III/IV	Ann Stephenson	astephensn@hotmail.com	360-771-5288
9.13-14 Sat-Sun	Tieton River	II/III+	David Elliott	dce@dcell.com	
9.13-15 Sat-Mon	Hell's Canyon	III/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509-240-4220
9.20 Sat	Santiam Fall Colors Float	II/III	Matt Saucy	sawdusty9@yahoo.com	971-241-5396



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