

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.



View from Horseshoe Bend Camp. Photo by Ann Stephenson

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## November Veteran's Day Weekend Lower Rogue Trip, November 7-9, 2015

*Submitted by Kevin Buck*

Hot, sunny and dry during the summer of 2015 parched the Rogue River drainage down to a near-record low for our Veteran's Day trip. Lots of hand wringing occurred in the weeks and days leading up. How to get through the Fish Ladder and past Rainie Falls? After a lot of pre-trip discussion and input (including annotated photos and detailed instructions), the trip was on. In retrospect, the low water made the trip very interesting, with more channeling in the rapids and more technical drops. We had virtually no wind, so the pools were pleasant.

Our trip count had dwindled from 45 to 27, when we collectively made our way to Galice. Most of us stayed at the Galice Resort, where Mary Lou graciously hosts us each year with a significant discount to club members and affiliates.

Saturday morning, after a hearty breakfast at the Lodge, we met at the boat launch at Graves Creek. A group of river guides and friends arrived about the same time but left before us. That was the last time we saw anyone else on the river...another great reason to float the Rogue this time of year! We had the place to ourselves, except for many a heron and Kingfisher, and a welcome from a well-nourished, mature black bear on the opposite shore at Tacoma.

*Continued on page 4*

### December Club Meeting

**Widmer Brothers Pub**  
 955 N Russell Street  
 Portland, OR 97227

**Thursday,  
 December 10, 2015  
 from 6:00-9:00 PM**

### Holiday Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange!

*Fun for all! Dress in an ugly holiday sweater, share and listen to river stories, and indulge in delicious food. See page 15 for more details!*

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## River Tip

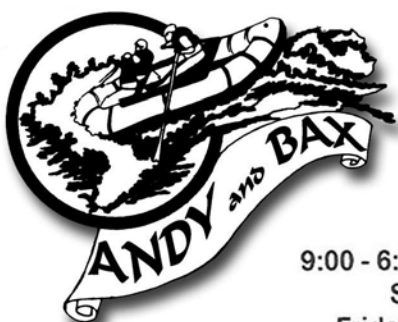
Submitted by Val Shaull

One of the first things most do when they get a new or used boat is blow it up and want to take it out on a river. After you blow it up find the serial number and write it down in case the boat is stolen. Not only have a hard copy and logged in your computer but log it to "the Cloud". Google Docs and Dropbox are two good ones and both are free. With your Username and Password you can access these programs from any computer connected to the web. Now go out and have fun.

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## So how was your year? *by Bruce Ripley*

Wow, it seems like every year you blink your eyes and bang the year's gone by and it's the holidays and everyone's talk turns to the trip planning for next year, applying for permits, and trying to figure out how they are going to raft more and work less. So this year was no different other than the fact that it was a weird water year, dry in place, wet in other places (well until April anyway) and no snow to be found. If you had a summer permit on any of the inland rivers I'm sure you were affected in one form or another. So a new year is upon us and it's shaping up as a different year, so far we're seeing lots of water, lots of snow, and lots of excited rafters and high expectations.

Over the years I've been lucky enough to run a lot of the rivers in the west, including some very remote ones that aren't run often. The one river that I didn't think I would be able to get to, at least for a while was the Grand Canyon. Canyon trips are notoriously long and since I still work those long trips are hard to schedule. This year however due to some good luck and timing I was able to do the top half of the canyon and hike out at phantom. If you've ever thought of doing a canyon trip but just don't think you have the time you should try and hook on a half trip. It was simply an excellent trip, and the hike out was a great part of the whole adventure. Fate being what it is I was fortunate enough to hook up on a second half trip this coming spring. So if things go as planned I'll have done the whole canyon over the course of 12 months.

So if you are new to the club, or you've been putting off doing a trip that you'd like to do I'd encourage you to reach out to some of your fellow club members and head out to a river you haven't done before. One of the things that the club excels at is bringing new people together so that they can enjoy a common passion. To facilitate that we are working on some new club trips in the coming year so watch for that, and if you'd like to lead a trip on a new river by all means please let us know.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your family!

## Fundraising

*Thanks to everyone who participated in the Zip-Lining for OWA last month. By all accounts it was a great time and a great way to help the club. I mentioned at the meeting that the budget for our safety program will be somewhere around \$10,000 this year. The total out of pocket to the club will most likely be less than \$500 which is really just amazing. That's only possible due to the hard work of our volunteers and the amazing generosity of our safety partners like Hells Canyon Shuttle and our other sponsors. Thanks to them and remember that when you have a chance to patronize them please do they make a real impact!*

## OWA December Meeting

*The next meeting is our annual Christmas party and meeting. We will be at Widmer Bros this year and we're looking forward to it. Hopefully we have a packed house so please plan on joining us!*

***If you pay your dues now we'll extend them through 2016!***

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



# Veteran's Weekend Trip Report



Graves Creek launch. Photo by Jerry Malloy

## ***Veteran's Weekend Trip Report: Continued from page 1***

We talked safety and our plan for Rainie Falls, and after paring down any unneeded gear and leaving some firewood behind, we launched. Chris Weiss, Russ Pascoe and the rest of the kayakers arrived first at the falls and set up along the fish ladder. At this low level, unassisted navigation of a raft or cat through the Fish Ladder was impossible. Each raft was met at the top of the ladder by a kayaker, who brought the raft to a complete stop, then lined up the raft to squeeze through the next set of rocks. The raft would then hang up at a second pinch point that required two kayakers (and often the raft captain) to move the raft down further. A final push and shove fest occurred just above the exit. About half the boats opted for the Middle Chute, which was no problem at all.

The canyon is always special, but in November, with fall colors and the shiny rock from the rain, it is really something to see and experience. We'd been advised to run right at Wildcat, which we did, but the alligator rock bit Steve Adams. Good team and rope work and he was freed without incident.

Horseshoe Bend, about 11 miles below Graves Creek, was our first camp. It's a moderate hike carrying gear up from the boats, but the view and ability to spread out on the flat expanse of gravel is very nice. We arrived during a short lull in the rain, sufficient for everyone to set up tents and for the several tarps to get deployed. In relatively mild conditions, the rain moved in as darkness fell, but good food and a well stoked fire kept us all happy and warm. The rain at night was pleasant on the tents, with many smiles in the morning over coffee and a warm breakfast.

Sunday morning and we had 19 miles to float to Tacoma. Although the river had some long, slow pools, I struggle to find any words to describe the beauty of the place. The rain was intermittent and left the gray and black rock shiny and glistening, a spectacle for the eyes.

We made a quick lunch stop at Mule Creek with 9 miles to camp, and as we descended into Mule Creek Canyon we suddenly had strong, chaotic wind and rain, with colored leaves blowing all around. The low water made the canyon deeper and narrower than during normal flows. The colored leaves, the wet rock, the rivulets of water everywhere; a somber, even mystic, scene for sure.

At Blossom Bar, the kayakers set up on and below the Picket Fence, and Jerry Malloy and Stefanie Ferrara led out in the cats. Most ran Blossom without scouting, but Chris Weiss coached those seeing this boulder choked drop for the first time and those who wanted the inspiring and beautiful look from the top of the scout rocks. We all made it (more or less) cleanly, to the cheers and support of what had become a solid team of Rogue boaters. If someone hung for a moment on the rocks, the kayakers were there to pull them off.

***Continued on page 6***



*The Middle Chute at Rainie Falls, with the entrance of the Fish Ladder in the background. Photo by Chris Paine.*



*Andy assisting Steve Adams on the Alligator rock at the bottom of Wildcat. Photo by Jerry Malloy*

# Veteran's Weekend Trip Report



Entering Kelsey Canyon. Photo by Kevin Buck

## ***Veteran's Weekend Trip Report: Continued from page 1***

We pushed on to Tacoma camp with steady rowing and paddling. A large black bear graced us with her presence on river left near Tate Creek, and we made it to camp... again getting the tarps up, lanterns on, and the fire blazing before dark and the return of the rain (again -- not cold). After Dutch oven mini pizzas for appetizers, Mark and Terry Lewis served up lasagna in a very delicious and creative way, then a no mess clean-up...just a couple serving spoons.

It rained, sometimes heavily, all night long, but we awoke Monday to broken clouds and still air. After Chef Sweeney created another amazing breakfast, we headed for Foster Bar, 5 miles downstream. With the weekend rains, the flow increased to 1700 CFS from our start at 1200.

For most of us, home is north and we headed toward Powers, crossing the Rogue-Coquille pass and then following the Coquille River, with a lot of rock on the road to dodge along the way. Those heading east or south crossed the mountains on the Bear Camp road back to Galice. Snow had fallen overnight giving high sections of the road added beauty.

It was a great trip. To my knowledge there were no injuries and everyone worked as a team and seemed to enjoy one another. It is always special to reunite with old friends and to make new ones. It was my pleasure to lead the trip, but it only works because each person is committed to safety, teamwork, and being in the incredibly special place we call the Rogue Canyon.



Tate Country Black Bear (Big!) Photo by Ann Stephenson.

# Veteran's Weekend Trip Report



*Mark and Terry Lewis rounding the Horn in Upper Blossom.. Photo by Ann Stephenson.*



*Along Bear Camp Road. Photo by Stefanie Ferrara*



# Hell's Canyon Trip Report



## Hells Canyon Trip Submitted by Mike Moses

Ahhh the annual Hells trip. Always a staple of my year even if it's late in the summer. This trip would be my third of four trips to Hells Canyon in 2015. Over the years I have been a long distance member of the club. From the beginning, I have offered this annual trip to the clubs trip list for a long time. As the years passed, some of the participants have joined my "returns program" and then I also get the great opportunity to meet new people or members.

My daughter, Kami, was my co-pilot and fish-netting technician. The Bend contingent returned: Alan, MJ, JB and Jeff. They traveled up two days before the launch, camped downstream and joined us on the river when we passed by. From Walla Walla new friends: Mike, Liz and their guest Dave from Colorado. Ben and Kaylee from Salem and their friends (and now mine) Matt and Emilee from Yakima. Lastly new OWA member Mike P. from the PDX area.

We met at the put-in the morning of the launch. We were able to get assembled in proper time and set off down the river. Although I'm the trip leader I'm not usually in the lead, my passion (or necessity) for this river is bass fishing which always has me dead last. Plus for the last 15yrs I have never brought a second night's dinner, it's always fish! Of course we cover the usual safety talk, who has emergency equipment and the planned campsites. Going over the locations for scouts and making sure there are past Hells veterans in the mix to be sure no one passes those points.

Now my story of the trip may have a slight variation from the actual facts, but it's more of a memory thing than embellishment. The weather was outstanding. Our first scout at Wild Sheep was the usual, however when I reached the scout location the group was returning to their boats. As I said I'm always late to the party because I fish and I was nearly limited with the largest bass I've caught for the year.

*Hell's Canyon Trip Report: Continued on page 10*







# Hell's Canyon Trip Report



## ***Hell's Canyon Trip Report: Continued from page 8***

Dave from Colorado yelled out, "Ready to run. We're done with the scout." No matter, I say the customary run is enter left, move center or so to suit your tastes. I stay in the current. Mike, Liz and Dave ran the rapid with me and had great lines. The deep roller at the bottom is quite a fun ride. Ben, Kaylee, Alan and MJ make the run with equally fun lines. Matt and Emilee run the rapid for the first time in their Kayaks, great lines with one roll in the mix. JB & Jeff followed last with Mike P. making it through. Everything was like clockwork, with the mission accomplished I return to my fishing quest.

Not far down the river is Granite, another scout rapid. This time I stay closer to the herd and we scout as a group. People choose between a right run or a left run. The center is not the best option, runnable but more of a pour over at this flow. The center run is also home of the famous green room, but it takes more water to form that huge bowl. Today it's barely a foyer. One boat of the party and I run it first and again set up safety down stream. Everyone passes go and collects their 200 bonus points with successful runs. Great fun! About a mile down stream is our camp for the night, Oregon Hole: a large camp spot with a great kitchen area and a cliff overhang on one side. Night one clean fish, people set up camp, meals are prepared and great company had a blast.

The next morning brings a new dawn. My general rule is that I don't set a launch time. Over the years I have experienced that people will start on their own and we always seem to launch at a very agreeable time for all. With a new day, I have a new limit to catch. The best of the remaining rapids require no scout: upper and lower Bernard, Water Spouts and Rush Creek. As the non-fisherpersons quickly gain the lead, I'm trailing again, dang. Well as I make my way down stream and approaching Saddle Creek I get a shout out from Jeff and JB's boat. After several attempts and me replying "What??" I get the message, "Do you have a net?" Why yes I do and row over to them. JB is fighting a fish and I offer my bass net. "Oh no" they reply, "That's too small." As luck would have it JB was fighting a very large fish on an ultra light pole with 6lb test, not out of the ordinary for what we were fishing for. JB fights this fish for 30-40 minutes to what ended up being a Chinook salmon. OK we need to land it, remove the hook and set it free. With no net and just our hands this plan doesn't come to fruition. The salmon gives the gallant fight, flops around and breaks the line as we try to get it on shore. Now that was exciting and I was just the spectator. The rest of the day everyone floats along and enjoys the river. This trip was 50/50 for people new to the river and returning veterans. I catch my limit before Pine Creek, or commonly called Sturgeon Rock.

***Hell's Canyon Trip Report: Continued on page 11***

## *Hell's Canyon Report: Continued from page 4*

I reduce the gap and the second night's camp is Kirkwood Ranch. I try to get the end camp but it was taken, so we take camp #1. Evening number two, repeat night number one. Clean fish, set up camp, fix dinner and have a great time. But wait, night two is fish night. There is something special about that and I have a recipe for bass that has been passed down to me from real fisherman (see the featured recipe of the month). I cook up the tasty treats. The best part for the group is that I have more than I can eat. I fry up all the bass and feed the group as well. If you have ever camped at Kirkwood you know the volunteer caretaker Bill will come by and visit; he is keen on my fish and always takes a good sampling. Bill will also warn you of the skunk problem and any other issues for the year. Night two and too full again!! Ugh. Well as luck would have it, the skunk visited me in the night. I sleep on the ground and he was nuzzling under my ground tarp right at my head. Quite a startle to wake up to, however no matter again. We have met before and I politely suggest he moves on, his normal path to escape is over the bank towards the river. Now move number two according to our custom we have developed, I use rocks and be more persuasive to stay away.

The nice thing about Kirkwood camp, it's 5 miles from the take-out. Here the early birds get up and head to the takeout, others part ways according to their needs for the drive back. It always seems to be staged in layers for a not so crowded take-out. Not planned, just happens that way. Another success, how could it get any better?

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## Happy Holidays! and Tips for Safety Review

*Submitted by Julie Munger of Sierra Rescue*

Happy Holidays to all! By now, we are well into the holiday season, and while keeping an eye on river flows and paddling opportunities, we are also negotiating through a different sort of river of relatives and friends. We spend time in happy eddies chatting, telling stories around the tables and exchanging our cold beers or sodas for hot chocolate and toddies. As we negotiate through some of our more challenging and rewarding relationships, we also give pause to reflect on the year, and make plans for the year to come.

This is also a great time to look back on your outdoor paddling life, and not only look to the coming year, but take time to reflect on the amazing river trips of 2015. From a safety and rescue perspective, this is an opportunity not to be missed. Here are some thoughts for review, reflection and looking to the future!



1. Near Miss? Take a moment to reflect back on one moment when you feel like there was a “near miss”. It could be as simple as barely making a roll in a rapid, or getting perched in your raft, and narrowly missing a wrap. Ask yourself questions. What could I have done differently? Is there a lesson to be learned? If I was just “lucky”, how can I prevent something from happening in the future? Were there ways that you were perfectly prepared? What skills can I improve on? Rescue, first aid, navigation, eddy catching?

2. Do I Always Speak Up? During your paddling days, do you always speak up, keep the group focused, and ask good questions when necessary? Intuition is an extremely important sense. Many times if it just does not “feel” right, it is NOT right. While there is no real statistical evidence to back this up, I am a firm believer in listening to that inner voice. Sometimes just asking the question. “Hey does everyone feel good about this” can start a discussion that will divert you to another river, or keep you from paddling that day at all. This is GREAT. These are the statistics that never

*Continued on page 13*

*River Safety: Continued from page 9*

get recorded because a bad situation has been diverted. It could be that a subtle combination of things has been nagging at you when one big one does not stand out and most likely involves a combination of river flows, temperatures, paddling ability, time of day, etc. All those things that look obvious on paper, but are sometimes not so obvious at put-in, or on the shuttle drive, or even scouting a rapid. Make a commitment in 2016 to always speak up about ANY safety concerns within a group, and listen to your intuition if something just doesn't "feel" right. If you always have a back-up plan, you always have another plan besides going home to fall back on.

3. Did I become a better team member? This time of year is the PERFECT time of year to ask for gifts that improve your contributions to safety and rescue. How is your first aid kit? Can I upgrade the quality of rope in my throw bag? Do I have an emergency blanket, or a little survival kit if my group and I get stuck out on the banks of a river over night? No matter which Holiday you celebrate, there are folks asking for your list! Challenge yourself to include at least one new item that will make you a more productive contributor to the team if something unexpected happens on the river.

Most importantly, reflect on the good times, the beautiful places that the river takes us, and that exhilarating feeling at the bottom of a challenging rapid and commit to doing MORE paddling in 2016.

I wish you all a very Happy and Merry Year of paddling in 2016!

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# Recipe of the Month



## INGREDIENTS

Boned and Filleted Bass  
Egg Beaters  
Ritz Crackers  
Wheat Thin Crackers  
Oil

## Hell's Canyon Bass Recipe

*Submitted by Mike Moses*

### DIRECTIONS:

*Pots needed: Frying pan*

Make a breading of 50% crushed Ritz crackers and 50% Wheat Thin crackers. Dip each piece of fish in the egg beaters. Coat with the breading. Fry in oil until flaky and delicious.

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

Contact Katie Watry at

[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 \$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.



# **OWA HOLIDAY PARTY**

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10th**

**6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

**at Widmer Brothers Pub**

**955 N Russell Street**

**Portland, OR 97227**

***Wear your ugliest sweater, bring your best river story and your white elephant gift and join us for a fun evening at our annual holiday party!***

***This is a social event so there will be no program speaker.***

***Ugly sweaters, white elephant gift exchange and sharing of river stores are all optional.***

**6:00 - 7:30 Social Time**

**7:30 - 8:30 Adventures from 2015 & White Elephant Gift Exchange**

*How to play the White Elephant Gift Exchange Game:*

- 1) If you'd like to participate, bring an inexpensive gift to the party. Bring something laying around the house or garage that is funky, weird, cheesy or funny. It can also be utilitarian or rafting/camping related. If there is absolutely nothing you can part with in your house, then purchase under \$15.00. \*Whether you bring a "hot" desirable gift or a funny "dud", both varieties make this game fun.*
- 2) All gifts should be wrapped with no outside markings. You shouldn't know who the gifts are from or what they are. All gifts will be placed in a pile on one table in the room.*
- 3) Participants will draw a number that will determine when they will take their turn.*
- 4) Number 1 goes first, picks and unwraps a gift.*
- 5) Number 2 can pick another gift or "steal" an unwrapped gift. When a player is trying to decide what to take, you should hold up your gift if its still eligible to be stolen (hiding gifts is not allowed). If an unwrapped gift is "stolen" the person it is stolen from can then "steal" or pick a wrapped gift.*
- 6) A gift cannot be "stolen" more than twice. So whoever steals it second gets the gift.*
- 7) A gift cannot be immediately stolen back by the person it was stolen from.*

**8:30 - 9:00 Clean-up**

## Knot of the Month – Double Fisherman's

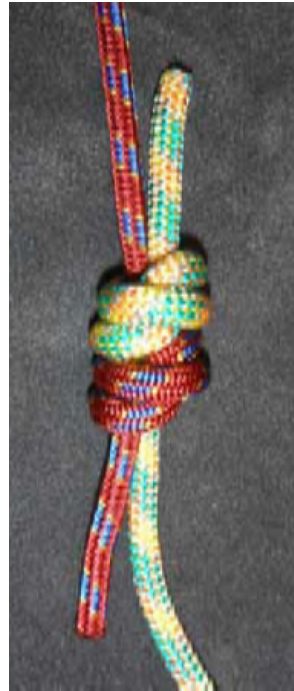
Each month we will showcase essential knots you should know for river situations

### Overview

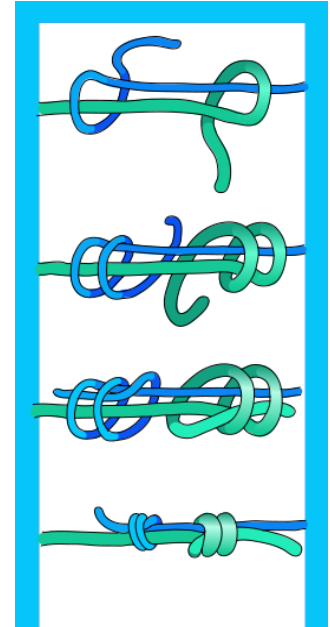
- Used to form high-strength loops from cords.
- Tied correctly you will see a double XX on one side and a smooth barrel on the other.

### Hints

- Tie the first half on your left side, then flip the knot over and tie the second half exactly the same way. This way you can easily tie the knot correctly.
- Always complete the wraps in the same direction.
- The tails will come out on opposite sides.



Steve K 2012



Double Fisherman

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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>

11.7-9 Sat-Mon	<a href="#">Veteran's Day Rogue River</a>	III/IV	Kevin Buck	<a href="mailto:buckriverman@gmail.com">buckriverman@gmail.com</a>	360-890-6776
3.19-21 Sat-Mon	<a href="#">Lower Deschutes Spring Break Float</a>	II/III	Scott Ogren	<a href="mailto:scott@scottogren.com">scott@scottogren.com</a>	503-267-9785
4.24-26 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Lower N. Umpqua</a>	II/III	Brenda Bunce	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a>	360-931-4224

## PAST OWA RAFTING TRIPS

9.12- Sat-Mon	<a href="#">Hell's Canyon</a>	III/IV	Mike Moses	<a href="mailto:mtymo_@hotmail.com">mtymo_@hotmail.com</a>	509-240-4220
9.19 Sat	<a href="#">Santiam Fall Colors Float</a>	II/III	Matt Saucy	<a href="mailto:sawdusty9@yahoo.com">sawdusty9@yahoo.com</a>	971-241-5396
8.6-9 Thur-Sun	<a href="#">Selway River (low flow) IK trip</a>	III	Eric Ball	<a href="mailto:balle@pocketinet.com">balle@pocketinet.com</a>	509-529-6134
6.25-28 Thur-Sun	<a href="#">McKenzie River</a>	III	Brenda Bunce	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a>	360-931-4224
6.19-21 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Lower Deschutes Women's Trip</a>	II/III	Carol Beatty	<a href="mailto:caroldon1@comcast.net">caroldon1@comcast.net</a>	503-816-6172
5.29-31 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Upper N. Umpqua</a>	III/IV	Walt Bamaan	<a href="mailto:wbamaan@wmni.net">wbamaan@wmni.net</a>	
5.21-25 Thur-Mon	<a href="#">John Day River</a>	II/III	Dave Graf	<a href="mailto:dmgraf55@centurytel.net">dmgraf55@centurytel.net</a>	
5.15-18 Sat-Sun	<a href="#">Rogue River Lodge</a>	III/IV	Van McKay	<a href="mailto:vanm1@aol.com">vanm1@aol.com</a>	360-737-3148
5.9-10 Sat-Sun	<a href="#">Lower Cispus</a>	II/III	Tina and Eric	<a href="mailto:TNEMYREN@gmail.com">TNEMYREN@gmail.com</a>	
5.8-10 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Grande Ronde</a>	III	Eric & Candace	<a href="mailto:balle@pocketinet.com">balle@pocketinet.com</a>	509-529-6134
5.2 Sat	<a href="#">Green River Cleanup</a>	III/IV	Brenan Filippini	<a href="http://www.wrrr.org">www.wrrr.org</a>	
4.24-26 Fri-Sun	<a href="#">Lower N. Umpqua</a>	II/III	Brenda Bunce	<a href="mailto:brenda.bunce@gmail.com">brenda.bunce@gmail.com</a>	360-931-4224
4.18 Sat	<a href="#">Deschutes River Tax Relief Float</a>	III/IV	Bill Goss	<a href="mailto:zanng@msn.com">zanng@msn.com</a>	503-757-4659
3.21-23 Sat-Mon	<a href="#">Lower Deschutes Spring Break Float</a>	II/III	Scott Ogren	<a href="mailto:scott@scottogren.com">scott@scottogren.com</a>	503-267-9785
2.14-16 Sat-Mon	<a href="#">Rogue River</a>	III/IV	Steve Oslund	<a href="mailto:stevilone@gmail.com">stevilone@gmail.com</a>	503-709-7661



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