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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 8, 2010
at 7:00 PM

Round Table Pizza
10070 S.W. Barbur Blvd.
503.245.2211

Oregon WHITewater ASSOCIATION

Volume 11 Number 8

September 2010



Ron Neve on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River

RIVER TIP

Submitted by Tom Hanson

Do you keep GPS waypoints? I have been keeping a folder of GPS waypoints from a number of rivers, as do many other OWA members. If you ever need the waypoints for a river, place an email on our list server since there is probably someone who has exactly what you are looking for.



Trip Report: Middle Fork

June 2010 • Submitted by Rick Carman

Steve Herring pulled a Middle Fork permit for June 2. Permits for this river are hard to come by and highly prized. But June 2? All kinds of things can happen because the undammed Middle Fork is all about the water level. Three previous trips taught me that below three feet it becomes a rock dodge, above five feet it gets exciting and over six feet is considered nuts. Concern ran high as fear of a heat wave melting the remaining snow pack and raising the level too high almost cancelled the trip. But everyone showed up and the flow on launch day was 4.3 feet. High enough to cover the rocks and provide a pushy, fast, wavy, rock and roll and exciting run but not too crazy. And no hot weather in the forecast. Perfect. Or so we thought.

The day before a launch all groups meet in the ranger's cabin to choose camp sites. Each group usually sends two representatives with a list of preferred campsites and you only get one hot springs camp. We were one of three groups and I was one of our reps.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Oregon Whitewater Association is dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting Oregon's rivers for the safe enjoyment of both public and private non-motorized boating, now and in the future. We advocate fairness in accessibility to river resources and provide a voice for responding to river issues and management concerns.



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The advertisement features a collage of river gear including a blue and yellow raft, a tan cowboy hat, a wooden gear box, a yellow and black life vest, and a wooden rack. Below the gear is a photograph of a river campsite with a white tarp shelter and a tent. The text "Cascade OUTFITTERS" is prominently displayed at the top, and the website and phone number are in the middle. A banner at the bottom states "Your Source for Top Quality Rafts, Kayaks, and River Equipment for Over 30 Years".

Trip Report: Middle Fork of the Salmon River

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One of the other “groups” consisted of a young (30 and 31) couple from Missouri who picked up a cancellation. He was a former guide on the Colorado but they had never run the Middle Fork. Mark Henry and I suggested it would be crazy to travel alone in one boat and convinced them to float with us. They agreed and became full time members of our group. It was wonderful having them as they were absolutely delightful and the rest of us were all in our mid 40s or 50s or worse. Mike Evans dad, age 71, was the senior member and was on his third raft trip of his life, having been a passenger on the Deschutes and (I believe) the Rogue. He passed up a trip to Hawaii to have an adventure with us.

Also along was Mike Evans, Sandi Alcantara, Donna Fox, Mark Henry, Scott, Rob and Ron. And the future star of the show, Dave Aldrich, who took me on my first raft trip in 1981 on the Deschutes. The same Dave Aldrich who had never flipped a raft in his life. And he had a bad shoulder so the plan was for him to be a passenger in his own boat and I would row it.

The red Moravia. Red like the devil. And the plan would change and the results were exciting. Way too exciting.

Travel tip: You can save a lot of drive time to the put in by getting off I-84 at Milepost 3 in Idaho, turn left over the freeway to Fruitland, follow the signs east to Emmett and then on up the Payette River to Highway 55 at Horseshoe Bend. Do your last-minute shopping in Emmett and there is a nice motel there.

But only one. And a really good pizza parlor. The next one is Sour Dough Lodge, about another hour and a half further up the road. Do not go past Boise on 84 and take Highway 21. You will regret it unless you like really slow and really curvy and really steep roads. We picked up Scott Fletcher at Sour Dough Lodge and it turned out to be a very good thing to have him along. Little did he know that he would be the hero in a difficult and dangerous rescue.

The day before launch day I had some free time to I tiptoed across a little log bridge over Boundary Creek and hiked the half mile up to Dagger Falls. There is a small camp ground there and you could launch from there but it involves and steep trail down to the river. And you would still have to get your passes at Boundary Creek. Looking at Dagger Falls makes one think about folks who launch upstream on Marsh Creek when the road to Boundary is still snowed in. Marsh Creek is small and steep and subject to logs and I could not see any reasonably safe run down Dagger. Most people take the better part of a day to portage it. Yuck.

Launch time on Day One always seems to take too long. We finally launched around one pm and blew downstream to Velvet Falls. There was too much current to make the pull left behind the big rock so all but one boat crashed directly over the falls. We had one boat surf a bit but all came out shiny side up. By now the rain, which had begun about when we launched, picked up steam and kept on the rest of the day. We stopped to soak in the hot springs at Trail Flat with

full rain gear and life jackets. I did not realize that my dry suit zipper was about an inch short of being fully zipped and when we got out of the hot springs, the suit was full of water inside the suit up to my knees. But it was warm water and I managed to drain most of it out of the leg gaskets. Oops.

We rolled on down through the rain and stopped at Sheepeater Hot Springs, claiming the lower camp, which is quite flat and close to the water. We all pulled onto to an almost flat sand bar and stared to unload. Dave spun the Maravia around so the stern was on shore and in doing so ripped a 12-inch gash completely through the right rear tube. We never did figure out how that happened. So a complete derigging plus everyone had to haul all their gear off the sand bar and up a little higher into camp. The rain kept pouring down, the river rose and soon the sand bar was completely under water. And Sandi’s boat, with the kitchen gear on it, was moved up a newly flooded inlet until it was only eight feet from the kitchen. Very convenient.

We managed to haul the red boat under Dave’s sleeping canopy, used my Mr. Heater to soften up the raft fabric and minds greater than mine spent a couple of hours applying a large patch to both the inside and the outside of the tube. The rain continued to pelt down all night long. By morning I figured the river was a little over five feet. I was wrong. We launched and headed for Clear Creek and Pistol Creek Rapids. And the patch on the red boat was holding nicely.

Stay tuned for Chapter Two in the next issue

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Annual Memorial Day OWA Lochsa River Fest

If you want to push your boating skill level up at notch, consider the annual Memorial Day OWA Lochsa River Fest lead by Steve Herring. Advantages include safety in numbers on the river, choice of three 10-mile sections of river to run based on skill level and river flow, and staying in rustic cabins (or camping) in a resort with a large outdoor hot tub to tell stories in after a big day punching holes. Take your dry suit and be ready for Class V action!



May 30th, 2010 at Lochsa Falls; 3-3/4 feet on the bridge scale. In the boat: Eric Ball at the oars, with paddle assist by Dwight Gladden and John Brown.



2010 TRIP CALENDAR

Submitted by Josephine Denison

Please note that the dates for the November Rogue River trip have been changed

9.11-9.13 Sat-Mon	Hell's Canyon	II/IV	Mike Moses	mtymo_@hotmail.com	509.529.8603
9.17- 9.19 Fri-Sun	Tieton River	III	Brent Davis	bdavis599@yahoo.com	503.239.0948
10.16 Sat	North Santiam River	II/III	Josie Denison	josephinedenison@hotmail.com	503.851.9326

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Run from Packsaddle Park to Fisherman's Bend Park.

11.6-11.7 Sat-Sun	Great Wolf Lodge Family Trip	NA	Angie Evans	rvrunners@gmail.com	503.851.9326
11.12-11.14 Fri-Sun	Rogue River	III/IV	Scott Ogren	scott@scottogren.com	503.267.9785

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Graves Creek to Foster Bar. Staying at Galice Lodge on Thursday, November 11.

Please send trip submissions to
josephinedenison@hotmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BRENDA BUNCE

Hello Fellow Club members,

Join us September 8 at Round Table Pizza. Our guest Speaker, Zach Collier, will review intermediate rescue techniques with some hands-on knot tying opportunities as well as share basic rope handling and safety/awareness skills. Zach will also show brief videos of some gnarly wraps so come on out for some fun.

Mark your calendars for the Eighth Annual Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas River on Sunday, September 12, 2010! You can count on yet another fun day of paddling and stewardship activities in conjunction with the Clackamas River Basin Council. Registration will open the first week of August! If you are interested in serving as a key volunteer for this event (organizer, pod leader or otherwise), please email info@welovecleanrivers.org.

Also, September 17-18 is the joint annual club extravaganza on the Tieton River. We will be camping on the Tieton and share a Saturday night potluck with WRRR. We will have port-a-potties and a hand washing station.

Don't forget to renew your annual membership dues. We are still working to update our website with the Pay Pal ability, so stayed tuned.

Join us for free pizza!
Brenda Bunce

“How could
drops of water
know themselves
to be a river?
Yet the river
flows on.”

~Antoine de Saint-Exupery



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Oregon Whitewater Association

Membership Application Form

Address: _____

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Check for a hard copy newsletter via US mail.

A household membership is \$24.00 for one year, from July 1 to June 30.
Dues after January 1 are prorated at \$12.00, otherwise annual dues are \$24.00.

I hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by Oregon Whitewater Association (OWA) a non-profit corporation. I recognize that any outdoor or aquatic activity may involve certain dangers including, but not limited to, the hazards of traveling by boat on rivers or other bodies of water, accidents, or illnesses in remote places or occurring during portages, forces of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons. I further understand and agree that without some program providing protection of its assets and its leaders, officers, and members, OWA would not be able to offer its courses and activities.

In consideration of and as part of my payment for the right to participate in the activities offered by OWA, I hereby release OWA and its leaders, officers, and members from any and all liability, claims and causes of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in any activities offered by OWA. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities, and further agree to indemnify OWA and its leaders, officers, and members from all liability, claims, and courses of action which I may have arising from my participation in activities including, but not limited to those involving death, drowning, personal injury, and property damage. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, and for all members of my family including any minors. [Parent or legal guardian must sign for all persons under eighteen (18) years of age.] This agreement is effective as of the date signed, and has no termination date. I have fully informed myself of the contents of this release and indemnity agreement by reading it before I have signed it.

All participating adult members of the household (age 18+) must sign. Guardians must sign for minors.

Participant	Printed name	Signature
Member #1		
Member #2		
Member #3		
Member #4		

Participant	Email address	Preferred phone(s)
Member #1		
Member #2		
Member #3		
Member #4		

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