



AMERICAN WHITEWATER

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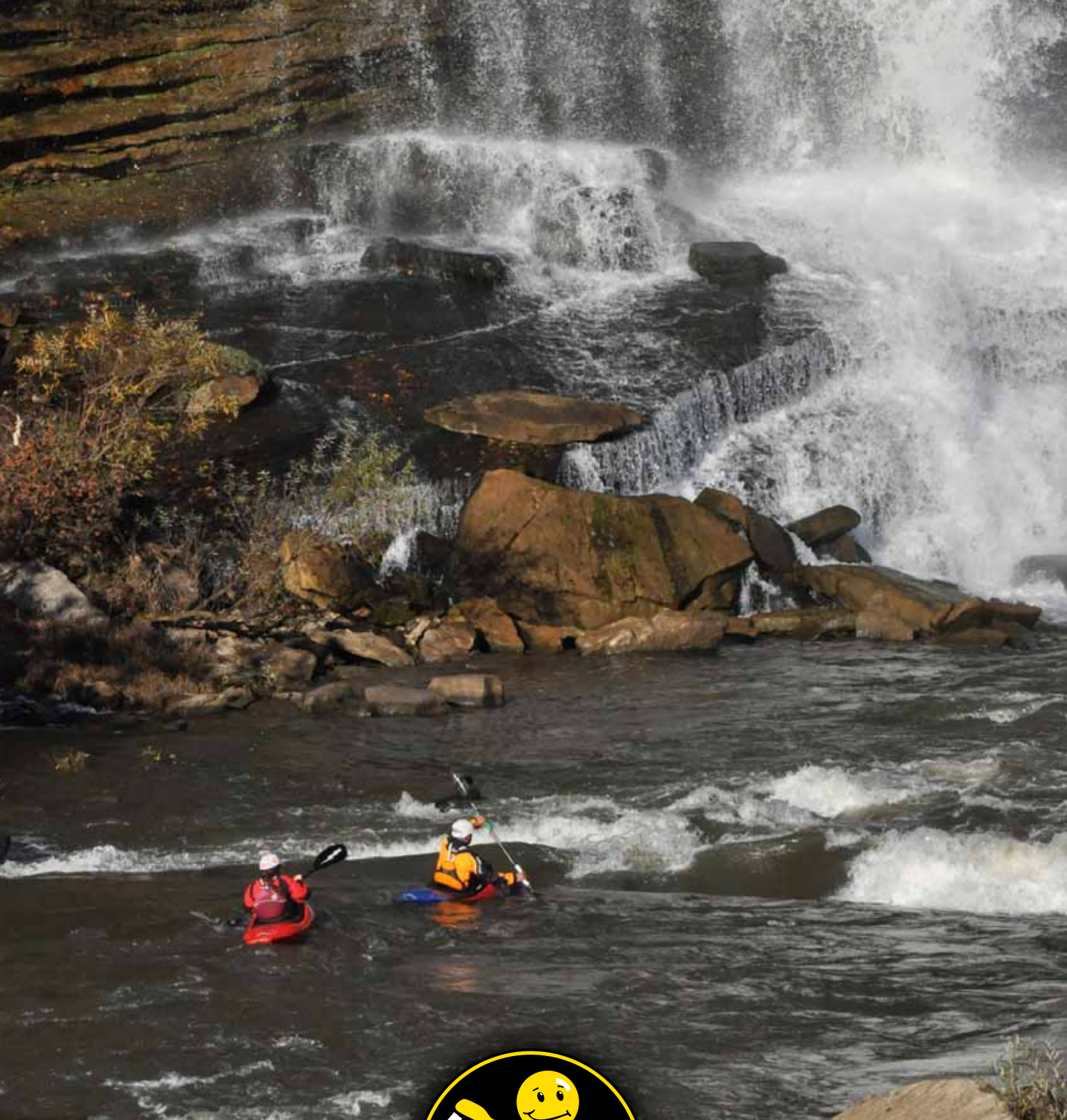
BY BOATERS FOR BOATERS
Jan/Feb 2014

THE TOP TEN RIVER STEWARDSHIP ISSUES OF 2014

AMERICAN WHITEWATER TURNS 60!

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR RICH HISTORY AND BRIGHT FUTURE!





AMERICAN WHITEWATER

A VOLUNTEER PUBLICATION PROMOTING RIVER CONSERVATION, ACCESS AND SAFETY

American Whitewater Journal

Jan/Feb 2014 – Volume 53 – Issue 1

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As a core member of Montanans for Healthy Rivers, AW has been advocating for protection of rivers like the North Fork of Deep Creek (pictured here) by extending Wild and Scenic designation to more rivers in the state, and thorough other grassroots strategies (see pg. 9 for more details).

Photo by Kevin Colburn

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RIVER STEWARDSHIP: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Our mission: "To conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely," is actively pursued through our conservation, access, safety and education efforts under the umbrella of River Stewardship. The only national organization representing the interest of all whitewater paddlers, American Whitewater is the national voice for thousands of individual whitewater enthusiasts, as well as over 100 local paddling club affiliates.

AW's River Stewardship program adheres to the four tenets of our mission statement:

CONSERVATION: AW's professional staff works closely with volunteers and partner organizations to protect the ecological and scenic values of all whitewater rivers. These goals are accomplished through direct participation in public decision-making

processes, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, empowerment of volunteers, public outreach and education, and, when necessary, legal action.

RIVER ACCESS: To assure public access to whitewater rivers pursuant to the guidelines published in its official Access Policy, AW arranges for river access through private lands by negotiation or purchase, seeks to protect the right of public passage on all rivers and streams navigable by kayak or canoe, encourages equitable and responsible management of whitewater rivers on public lands, and works with government agencies and other river users to achieve these goals.

SAFETY: AW promotes paddling safely, publishes reports on whitewater accidents, maintains a uniform national ranking system for whitewater rivers (the International Scale of Whitewater Difficulty) and publishes and disseminates the internationally-recognized American Whitewater Safety Code.

EDUCATION: AW shares information with the general public and the paddling community regarding

whitewater rivers, as well as river recreation, conservation, access, and safety. This is accomplished through our bimonthly *AW Journal*, a monthly e-news, americanwhitewater.org, paddling events, educational events, and through direct communication with the press.

Together, AW staff, members, volunteers, and affiliate clubs can achieve our goals of conserving, protecting and restoring America's whitewater resources and enhancing opportunities to safely enjoy these wonderful rivers.

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at PO Box 1540, Cullowhee, NC 28723; phone 1-866-BOAT-4-AW (1-866-262-8429). AW is tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service.



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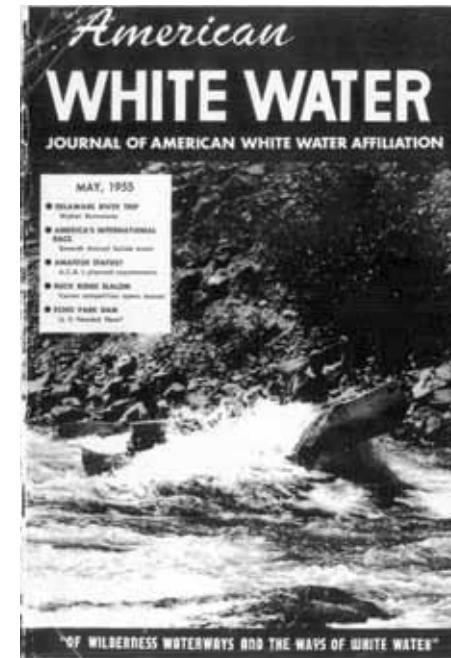
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1-866-262-8429**

THIS IS A big year for American Whitewater: we turn 60! That's right, back in 1954 a group of conservation-minded paddlers saw the need to form a national organization open to the needs of the whitewater paddling community that would share information on whitewater paddlesport and river conservation. The very first American Whitewater Journal, published in 1955, starts with this statement:

"We are observing in many sections of America an almost explosive development of interest in whitewater sport and in travel on wilderness waterways. Until recently these activities have been restricted to a few hardy individuals who, having discovered the rewarding satisfactions available, have been exploring and pioneering with very little fanfare."

Now, 60 years after this group of pioneers identified the need for a national organization serving the interests of whitewater enthusiasts, American Whitewater is still actively sharing information about whitewater paddling and working hard to provide for the conservation and stewardship of rivers that are important to our community. As whitewater paddlers, we know that you cannot love what you do not understand. It's our love of whitewater that makes us such fierce defenders of rivers. This intimate connection to flowing water has made paddlers an important force in river conservation. Starting back in the mid-50s, paddlers played an important role fighting the development of big western dams. Today our footprint can be seen in dam removal efforts often made possible through the hydroelectric licensing process that private dams undertake every 30-50 years.

What has American Whitewater learned over our collective 60-year history of river stewardship? It is this: change is hard and does not happen easily, it takes constant



Cover of the first American Whitewater Journal, published in May 1955.

expect these issues to be important themes in stewardship and conservation moving forward. The staff of American Whitewater plays key leadership roles in these issues impacting rivers across the country. Our Top Ten River Stewardship Issues take into consideration a broad geographic cross section of the country and identify some of the pressures that our nations' wild rivers confront.

Our stewardship program is made possible through on-going membership support. As we move into the next decade of our collective history, the staff at American Whitewater will be pushing for new opportunities to reconnect rivers with paddlers, habitat, and local economies. As we look to the future, we continue to appreciate the importance of rivers and their role in supporting the health and well being of the paddling community. Like our founders before us, we continue exploring and conserving wilderness waterways.

See you on the river,

Mark Singleton
Executive Director, American Whitewater

pressure evenly applied over time. Most of our signature issues have timelines that can be measured in decades. If this work were easy it would have been done already. The stewardship of our whitewater rivers requires balancing many competing interests. The secret sauce of our stewardship efforts is that we don't go away, paddlers show up and engage (often much to the chagrin of land managers and policy makers). It's this willingness to speak out, in authentic ways, on behalf of the rivers we all love and paddle that make us an influential force in river conservation.

At the core of the American Whitewater River Stewardship Program is the understanding that conservation and healthy human-powered outdoor recreation are mutually dependent. Whitewater boaters appreciate natural landscapes, and those special places need conservation-oriented paddlers to help preserve and protect these treasured natural resources. In this issue of the *Journal* we explore the Top Ten River Stewardship Issues of the coming year. We

2014 TOP TEN STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

BY THE AW STEWARDSHIP TEAM

TWENTY-FOURTEEN MARKS 60 years of American Whitewater. Our Top 10 Projects for this significant anniversary span the country, represent the breadth of our work, and will all lead to inspiring paddling trips for current and future generations. We are highlighting these deserving projects, and hope they resonate with you as a member of American Whitewater. In our Top 10 Projects, you'll see a mix of protecting wild rivers, restoring rivers impacted by dams and floods, and improving public river access. If you don't see your backyard issue on the list, don't worry: American Whitewater's small staff and outstanding volunteers are working hard on over 100 projects at any given time. So here, in no particular order of importance, are our top 10 Stewardship Projects for 2014.

Quinault Gorge, Olympic Peninsula, Washington.
Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

1. Wild Olympics Conservation Initiative

American Whitewater will be working throughout 2014 to permanently protect the Quinault Gorge and many other rivers on the Olympic Peninsula with Wild and Scenic protection.

Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

FOR MORE THAN two decades American Whitewater has advocated for long-term protection of the spectacular, free-flowing rivers of the Olympic Peninsula. Few places on earth offer the diversity and density of wild rivers that one finds here. In a 1993 issue of the *American Whitewater Journal*, Gary Korb described it as a "whitewater paradise, a land of towering mountains where rivers drop as much as 5000 feet in twenty miles on their way to the sea" with more than 70 runs from Class I to Class VI. With support from two Congressional champions for wild rivers, Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Norm Dicks, we successfully introduced legislation in 2012 to establish a new Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers bill that would protect 126,661 acres of ancient forests and 464 miles of Wild

and Scenic Rivers on the Olympic Peninsula. When Congressman Dicks retired, we had to work with our coalition partners and a new Congressman, Derek Kilmer, to get our bill reintroduced. This legislation will be a top priority in 2014 and we are grateful for the support of the Conservation Alliance and our industry partners who understand the value of resource protection and the outdoor recreation economy to the region. You can help by signing our petition, joining the Facebook group, and learning more at wildolympics.org. We will be providing updates through the year on how you can help us support this legislation and other efforts to designate new Wild and Scenic Rivers across the country.

STEWARDSHIP

2. Colorado River Access & Flood Recovery

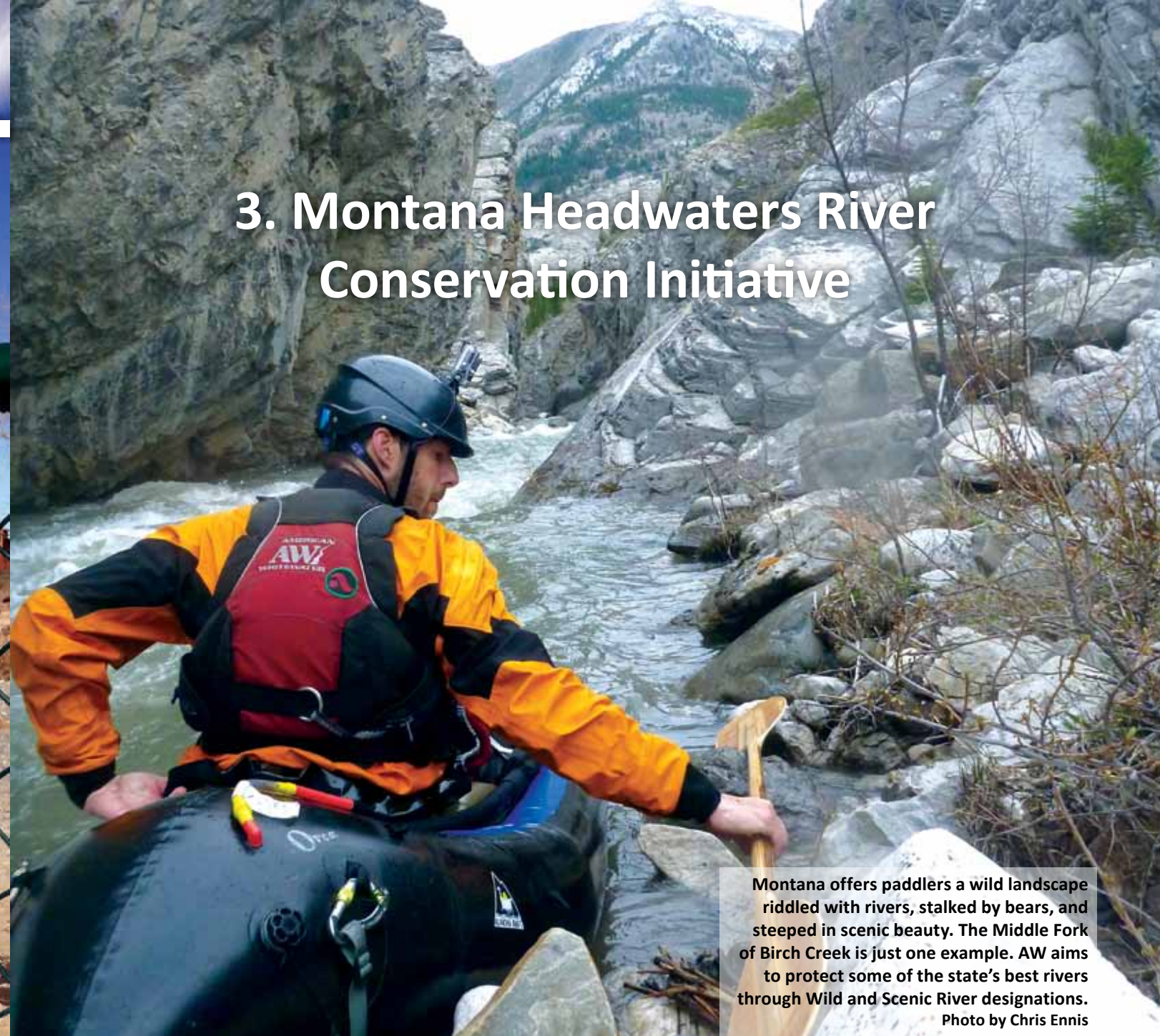


St. Vrain River and Trail, Colorado. American Whitewater will be busy with river access throughout Colorado in 2014, including restoring public access to rivers that were impacted by the severe flooding in 2013. Photo by Nathan Fey

RIVER ACCESS WILL be another hot-button issue in Colorado this year, and the impacts from September's floods are presenting additional hurdles to ensuring safe public access to the state's whitewater runs. Two proposed ballot initiatives have resurfaced in Colorado that, if passed, would rewrite the State's water law system, and threaten all valid existing water rights—including municipal and agricultural uses as well as environmental Instream Flows and Recreational In-Channel Diversions (RICDs). American Whitewater is working to ensure that the public is fully aware of how such sweeping changes to Colorado's system of water rights administration may impact the

few protections already in place for the state's headwaters and whitewater parks. Additionally, existing riverside trails and access points along several of Colorado's Front Range creeks, such as Boulder Creek, and the Saint Vrain River, have been destroyed by heavy flooding. It is our priority to see that safe public access is restored to flood-damaged areas, and that paddlers and private landowners continue to work together to promote cooperative solutions to river access conflicts that provide certainty and flexibility beyond what proposed Public Trust Initiatives can provide.

3. Montana Headwaters River Conservation Initiative



Montana offers paddlers a wild landscape riddled with rivers, stalked by bears, and steeped in scenic beauty. The Middle Fork of Birch Creek is just one example. AW aims to protect some of the state's best rivers through Wild and Scenic River designations. Photo by Chris Ennis

MONTANA BOASTS A spectacular array of free-flowing rivers, many of which remain at risk of hydropower development, oil and gas development, or other game-changing impacts. The state's only four Wild and Scenic Rivers were designated way back in 1976. American Whitewater is a core member of a coalition developing a grassroots plan for conserving Montana's last best rivers. We call our group Montanans for Healthy Rivers. We've been working for the past three years to build an ever-growing community of support around the concept of new Wild and Scenic designations for streams on public lands, paired with incentives and support for voluntary river conservation and restoration initiatives on private lands. Based on the results of the many workshops, outreach events,

community river forums, and one-on-one conversations that we've engaged in so far, our coalition will be crafting Wild and Scenic Rivers legislation in 2014 that makes sense for Montana and has broad support. We aim to protect a significant number of the state's and the nation's most beautiful rivers for current and future generations to enjoy. We'll need the support of every paddler that has a connection with the rivers of Montana, and all their friends. Check out the initiative at www.healthyriverst.org, and "like" Montanans for Healthy Rivers on Facebook. There will be significant opportunities in 2014 to recommend rivers for designation and to support those recommendations. A big shout out to Patagonia for supporting our role in this project, along with our members and donors.

4. Connecticut River at Turners Falls & Bellows Falls



American Whitewater will be working to restore paddling opportunities along New England's Connecticut River, including those at Rock Dam near Turner's Falls, MA. Photo credit: Norman Sims, Appalachian Mountain Club

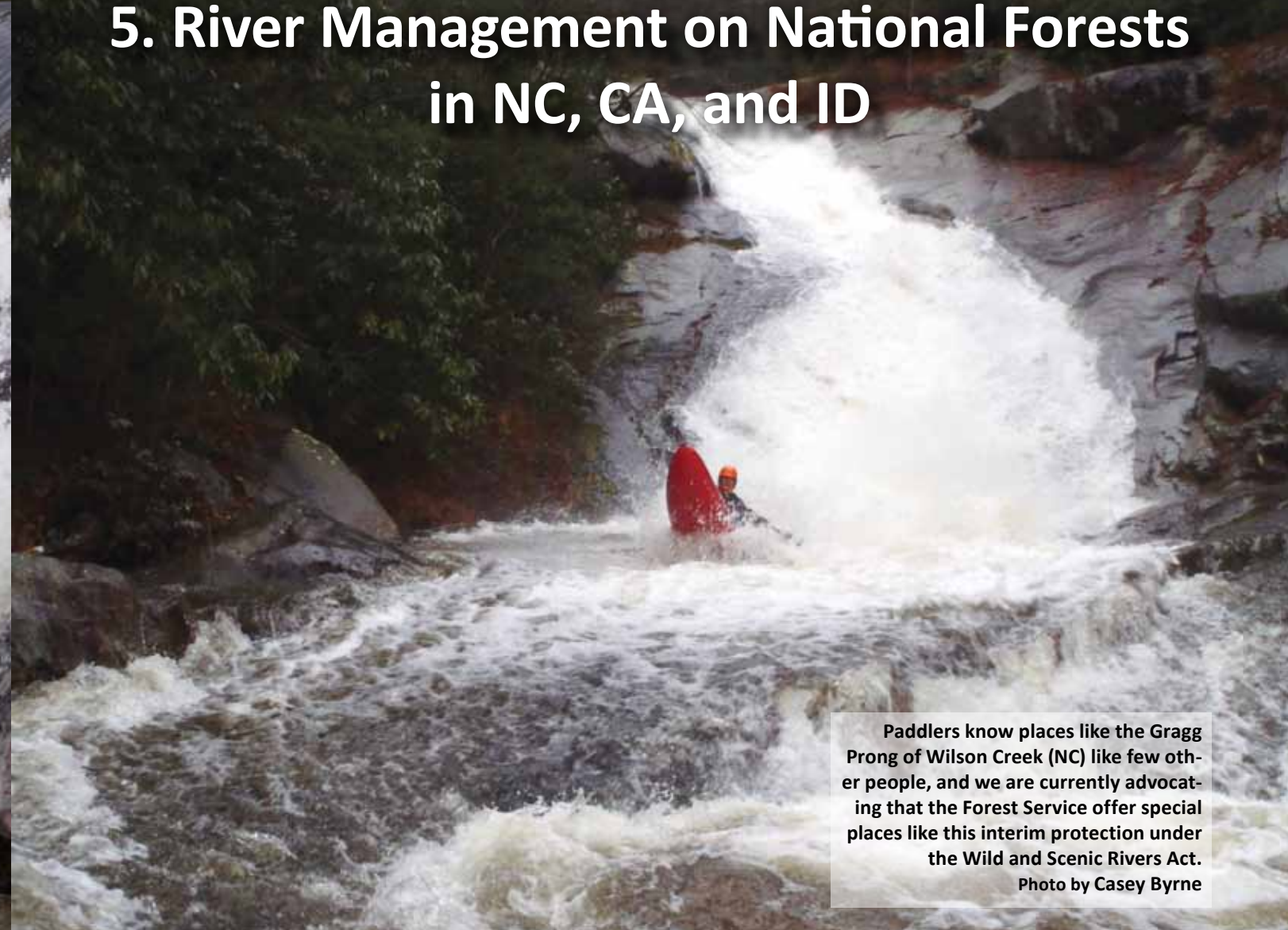
AMERICAN WHITEWATER HAS been working in the Northeast to restore sections of the Connecticut River that have been lost due to dams and hydropower diversions. We are actively engaged in dam relicensing activities along the Connecticut River that impact aquatic life and paddling opportunities at Sumner Falls and Bellows Falls in Vermont/New Hampshire and

continuing down through Turners Falls in Massachusetts. At Bellows Falls and Turners Falls, the natural river channels have been largely dewatered, negatively impacting fish passage and spawning, and leaving these sections unusable by the more than 7 million plus people who live within a two-hour drive of the river. Based on the involvement of American Whitewater and other groups in the

relicensing process, FERC has directed the licensees, TransCanada and FirstLight, to conduct controlled flow studies to determine the boatable flows at their hydropower projects. These studies, which will take place in the summer of 2014, will involve more than two-dozen paddlers over several days. Let us know if you want to participate in the flow studies and help us revive the Connecticut River.

STEWARDSHIP

5. River Management on National Forests in NC, CA, and ID



Paddlers know places like the Gragg Prong of Wilson Creek (NC) like few other people, and we are currently advocating that the Forest Service offer special places like this interim protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Photo by Casey Byrne

FOREST PLANNING IS a big deal for river management and conservation. In recent years, American Whitewater worked with our partners in the Outdoor Alliance to help shape a new process for determining how individual National Forests are managed. We are working on the roll out of this process in Western North Carolina, California, Idaho, and elsewhere. A big target for us is increasing the roster of streams protected as "eligible" for Wild and Scenic designation. We use the incredible information that our members

add to the river pages on our website to advocate that specific whitewater rivers are special and deserve interim protection from dams and other impacts. We also highlight opportunities to improve hydropower dam operations in National Forests (like on the Cheoah) as well as improve recreational management (like on the Chattooga). The new process we fought for only works if people show up. American Whitewater staff members are working hard to represent paddlers in many of these processes around the country with the help

of core volunteers. There us no substitute for local participation. Your knowledge of the rivers in your backyard can lead to their conservation, and your relationship with river and forest managers can lead to better access and fewer conflicts. If you paddle in NC, ID, CA, or MT, contact American Whitewater staff in your region to see how you can get involved. Our efforts on these projects are supported by Patagonia and members like you!

6. Paddling Management in Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Yosemite National Parks

YOU ARE WELCOME to paddle in nearly all National Parks that have rivers to float on. Nearly all. Long ago paddling was prohibited on most rivers in Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Yosemite National Parks. In Yellowstone the ban was created solely to prevent overfishing. The origins of the bans in the other parks are murkier. After decades of the status quo, these old bans have come up for review as new management plans have recently been developed for certain Wild and Scenic Rivers in the parks. Park Service leaders in Yosemite took up the challenge and are taking a hard look at allowing paddling. While we are waiting for the final decision from the Park as of press time, we are optimistic that the new river management plan will accommodate carefully and sustainably managed paddling. Yellowstone and Grand Teton could not

be more different. They refused to even consider allowing paddling on their Wild and Scenic Rivers. American Whitewater filed comments on their dismissive draft river management plan, which drew the attention of the national media, congressional leaders, and we presume the Park Service. 2014 will be a watershed year for paddling management in Yellowstone and Grand Teton. American Whitewater will have to choose whether or not to appeal a final decision on the river management plan, and perhaps what to do if that appeal is denied. This project will rely almost entirely on the contributions and activism of our members and the broader community of those interested in responsible river management in our national parks. Keep an eye on our website for updates!

Merced River, Yosemite National Park, CA. American Whitewater's work in Yosemite and Yellowstone aims to offer paddlers sustainable and carefully managed recreational opportunities in some of the nation's most spectacular landscapes. Photo by Paul Martzen

STEWARDSHIP

7. Protecting Free-Flowing Rivers Across the Pacific Northwest

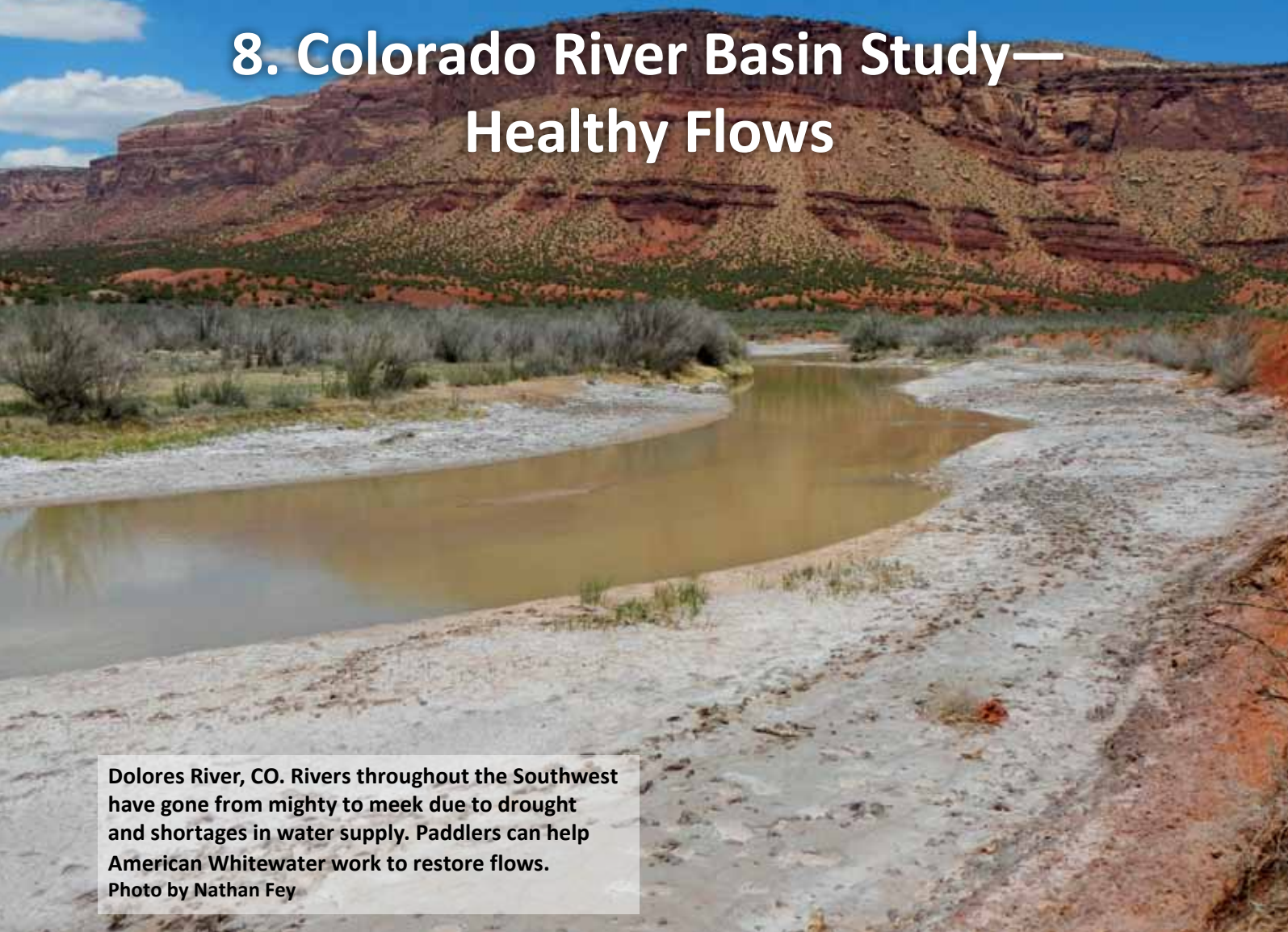
Protected Areas cover about 20% of Pacific Northwest Rivers, including Fantastic Falls on Washington's North Fork Snoqualmie River. American Whitewater will be working to defend these protections in 2014 to preserve this and other rivers in the region. Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

THE PUSH FOR new hydropower development in the Pacific Northwest is still on, and American Whitewater continues to prioritize preserving and protecting the last great freely flowing rivers in the region. In 2014, American Whitewater will be working hard to protect important recreation opportunities and defend and strengthen region-wide protections on freely flowing rivers. On the top of our list is the "Protected Areas" designation through the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (hereafter, simply "Council"). Protected Areas are rivers and streams where the Council has determined that any type of hydropower development would have unacceptable

risks of loss to fish and wildlife species and their habitat, and these river reaches are protected from future hydropower development. Protected Areas cover about 20% of the region's rivers (~44,000 river miles), and are in place to mitigate the devastating impacts that the Columbia River Hydropower System has had on fish and wildlife. Included in the Protected Area Program are the North Fork Snoqualmie and the South Fork Skykomish Rivers in Washington, where hydropower developers are proposing two projects that would have significant impacts on fish, wildlife, and the recreational and free-flowing values of these rivers. Hydropower developers are working hard to weaken and even eliminate

the Protected Areas Program, and in 2014 American Whitewater will be working just as hard to defend and strengthen it. A strong Protected Areas program will have far-reaching and long-term effects for the Pacific Northwest, and play a key role in the fate of the Snoqualmie and Skykomish Rivers. We'll need your help in defending the Protected Areas Program for the rivers in the Pacific Northwest. The Council will be seeking public comment in early 2014 on their Draft Fish and Wildlife Program. Watch the American Whitewater website and Facebook page for opportunities to weigh in.

8. Colorado River Basin Study— Healthy Flows



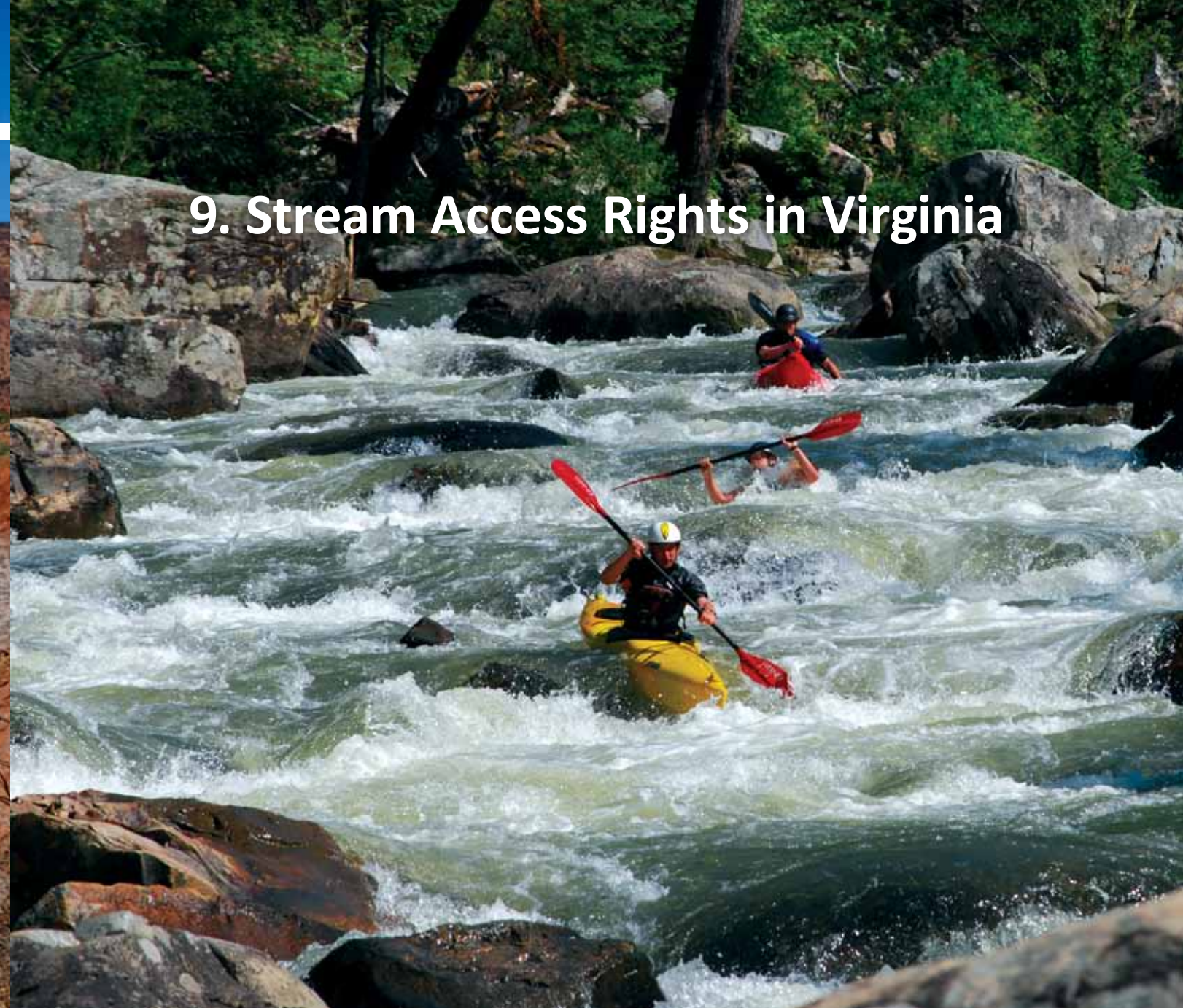
Dolores River, CO. Rivers throughout the Southwest have gone from mighty to meek due to drought and shortages in water supply. Paddlers can help American Whitewater work to restore flows.
Photo by Nathan Fey

IN 2012, THE US Bureau of Reclamation published the most comprehensive study of future water supplies and demands on the Colorado River ever undertaken. The Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study confirmed significant shortfalls between water supplies and demands across the southwestern US—shortfalls in water needed for cities, farms, fish, and recreation. In May of 2013, the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation convened key stakeholders representing the seven Basin States, Native American Tribes, and the conservation community, including

American Whitewater, to address the future imbalances in the Colorado River Basin. Over the next few years, we will be committed to protecting healthy river flows in the Colorado River Basin as solutions to these future challenges are developed by very powerful interests. It will be critically important for paddlers to assist in our efforts by participating in studies to define streamflows that sustain a range of paddling opportunities on high-priority whitewater rivers, and by making sure policymakers understand the importance of river-based recreation to communities across the basin. Similar to our study of

flows in the Gunnison Basin in 2013, we will be seeking input on recreational flows on several important rivers including high priority reaches in Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. Information that you provide will help AW ensure that the solutions to the water shortage in the southwest protect or improve whitewater paddling opportunities into the future. More information on the Basin Study and its potential effects on the Colorado River and its tributaries is available on the American Whitewater website.

9. Stream Access Rights in Virginia



Maury River, VA. Virginia has a great paddling community, but lacks modern stream access laws. American Whitewater is working with a group of paddlers aiming to update the laws and help more people connect with the state's great rivers.

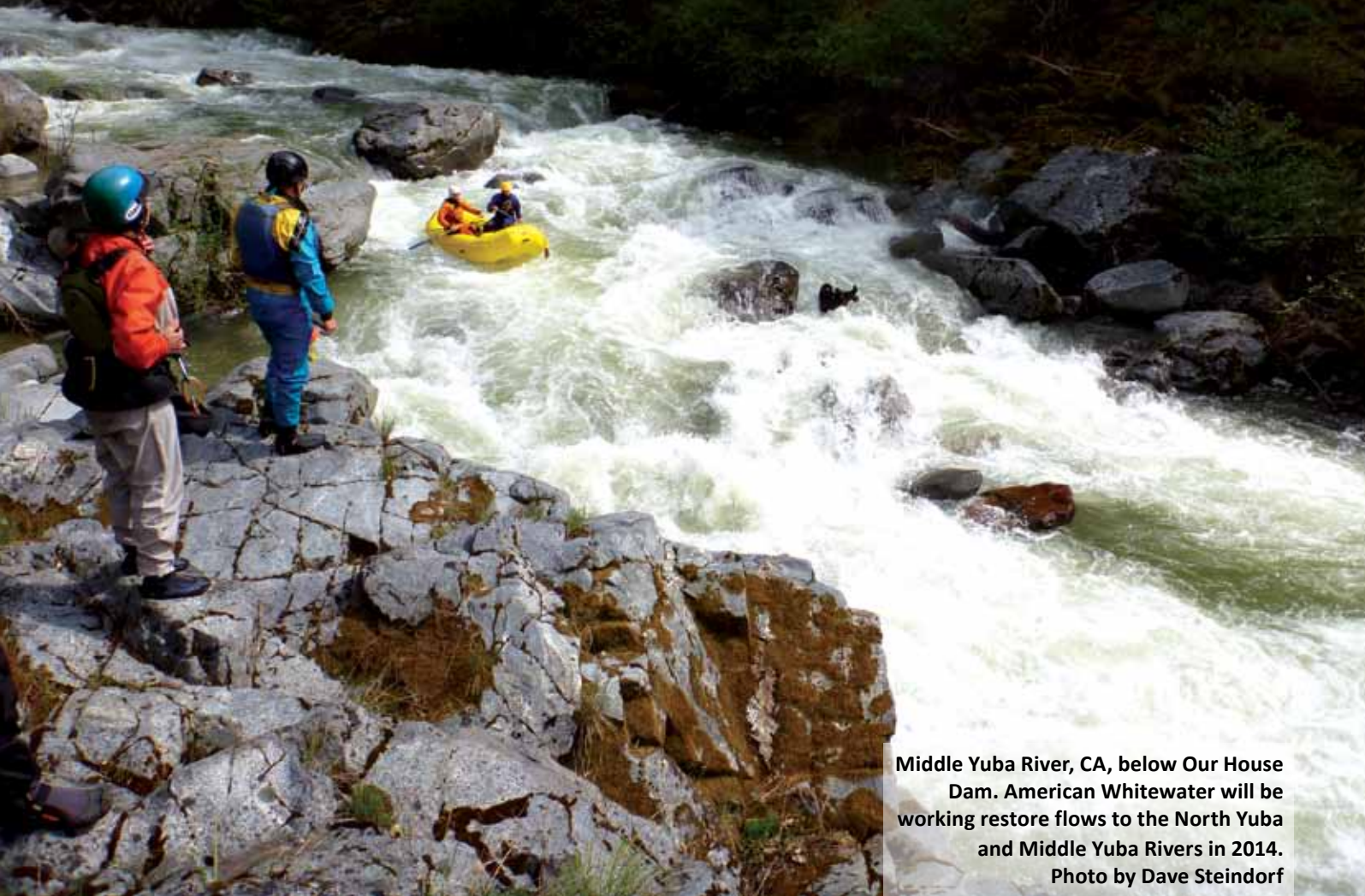
Photo by Leann Perault

FOR THE FIRST time in recent history a genuine groundswell of public support exists for broader and clearer paddling rights on Virginia rivers and streams. Legislation introduced last year led to a great debate, and was narrowly defeated. American Whitewater is part of a coalition of groups and individuals seeking new legislation and a more robust dialogue around the need for improved stream

use laws in the state. Virginia is among a handful of states that relies on outdated and unwieldy tests for determining which streams are open to boating. While neighboring states like North Carolina and West Virginia have progressive laws that support large river recreation-based economies and communities, Virginia lags far behind. American Whitewater will be working closely with our volunteers to

support legislation in the coming year, and we'll need your help. Legislation will only be passed if it is popular among a vocal and large group of Virginia voters and visitors. It is a big push, but an important one. We'll be keeping our members in the loop on how to help, and we look forward to a banner year for stream access in the state.

10. Yuba River Flow Restoration



Middle Yuba River, CA, below Our House Dam. American Whitewater will be working restore flows to the North Yuba and Middle Yuba Rivers in 2014. Photo by Dave Steindorf

IN 2014, AMERICAN Whitewater will be in the thick of the final hydropower relicensing in the Yuba River watershed. Following on the heels of our success in securing flows on the South Yuba River, Bear River, Canyon Creek, and Fordyce Creek through the FERC relicensing process of the Yuba/Bear and Drum/Spaulding projects, we'll be working to restore flows to sections of the North and Middle Yuba Rivers that are impacted by the Yuba County Water Agency's hydropower project. These runs are highly prized by paddlers. On the North Yuba, the Class V reach below the massive New Bullards Bar Dam was first run in 1982 by Lars Holbeck, Richard Montgomery, Mike Fentress, and Chuck Stanley. Lars wrote about the run in the book, *The Best Whitewater in California*, describing it as one of the most fantastic

Class V runs any in the group had ever done. And the reach on the Middle Yuba from Our House Dam down to Highway 49 is considered by many to be one of the finest Class IV reaches in the state. Compared to the other hydropower project in the Yuba watershed, which boasts 40 reservoirs and 16 powerhouses, the YCWA project is the picture of simplicity. It contains just one major reservoir and two powerhouses. It is by no means a small project though. The reservoir can hold back almost one million acre-feet of water, and the 315 MW Colgate Powerhouse is one of the largest in the state, producing more power than the neighboring projects combined. If you've paddled the North and Middle Yuba Rivers, we'll need your help in 2014. We have one final flow study to complete, and you can help shape the future of flows on these

rivers by filling out an online survey about your experience. Watch the American Whitewater website in the coming months for more information.

Conclusion:

If we pull off our Top 10 projects we'll permanently protect, restore, and improve access on over 1000 miles of rivers all across the country. Some of these projects will take more than just one year to come to fruition, and we are committed to each and every one of them. We are a small and ambitious organization fueled by the energy and generosity of the paddling community. It's exciting for us to share our Top 10 projects for 2014, and we appreciate your support on these and many more projects in the coming year.

STEWARDSHIP

Following Through on 2013's Top 10

OUR 2014 TOP Ten follows on the momentum of a great year. Here's an update of what happened with our 2013 Top Ten Projects.

- **Gunnison River (CO):** Well over 300 paddlers and volunteers helped American Whitewater define streamflows that support whitewater paddling across Colorado's Gunnison River Basin. We are currently working with water managers to leverage these data into long-term flow protections at the regional, state, and federal levels. We are seeking balanced protection of recreational flows with other priorities like agriculture and municipal supply—particularly as we stay committed to defending recreational needs as the Colorado River Basin Study moves forward.
- **Northern Rockies Wild and Scenic (MT):** American Whitewater is pleased to report that our campaign to designate new Wild and Scenic Rivers in Montana is in full swing. We've produced a website, held dozens of meetings, and hosted community river forums across the state. Next up: developing a broadly-supported legislative proposal.
- **Pit River (CA):** The fate of summer flows on the Pit 1 Hydroelectric project is currently in the hands of the CA State Water Resources Control Board. American Whitewater stayed engaged throughout 2013 as PG&E continued their efforts to permanently cancel the flows. As we waited for the Water Board to make their decision, boaters enjoyed four days on the water last fall.
- **West Fork Tuckasegee (NC):** American Whitewater and Duke Energy worked together to pull off a solid first season of releases on the West Fork Tuckasegee. The trail was completed, high flows moved the wood out of the channel in July, and we are now working on dialing in the perfect flows for 2014. Most importantly, paddlers had a blast.
- **Dolores River (CO):** American Whitewater worked to develop a new management plan for McPhee Dam and Reservoir that will improve the reliability of flows for boating, while also improving native fish populations. The plan is in its final draft, and will be released in early 2014. Meanwhile, we've continued to investigate the US Bureau of Reclamation's compliance with obligations set forth in the 1970s for

A paddler negotiates the Black Canyon of the Gunnison's formidable whitewater. In 2013, AW worked with paddlers to evaluate flows throughout the Gunnison River Basin (CO) to define water levels need for recreation.

Photo by Tom Janney





whitewater boating, including advance notice of releases and forecasted annual operations.

- **Merced (CA):** American Whitewater worked with our partners in 2013 to stop efforts to roll back the Wild and Scenic designation on the Merced River. We're continuing to keep a close eye on H.R. 934, which is still pending in the House.
- **Opposing New Hydropower Dams and Promoting Alternatives:** American Whitewater helped defeat proposed hydropower dams on East Rosebud Creek (MT), West Rosebud Creek (MT), the Madison River (MT), Boulder Creek (ID) and Boundary Creek (ID)! We are also excited to see efficiency improvements at existing projects that better optimizes energy production. Despite our recent victories, efforts to develop projects like Sunset Falls (WA) and Ernie's Gorge (WA) are moving forward and we will continue to work to stop them.
- **Improving Access to Rivers in the PNW:** This past fall we celebrated the opening of the new access point for the Powerhouse run on the Snoqualmie (WA). Access to Cable Drop on the Skykomish (WA) has been formalized and now accommodates rafts. Work on the Sultan River (WA) trail finally got underway and the plans for new access on Canyon Creek (WA) have been drawn up. Work on key acquisitions on the Hood River (OR) and Crooked River (OR) are underway. All of these projects benefited from the hard work of our local clubs, dedicated volunteers, and member contributions.
- **Developing and Growing the New England Program:** American Whitewater's New England Program worked with affiliate clubs to secure new boating opportunities through hydropower relicensing and compliance on the Green and Missisquoi Rivers (VT), and we are planning for controlled flow studies along the Connecticut River (VT/NH) in 2014. American Whitewater, with the help of its affiliate Merrimack Valley Paddlers, also succeeded in protecting boater access to the Contoocook River in southern New Hampshire.
- **New River Dries (WV):** American Whitewater successfully requested a flow study on the New River Dries that assessed a wide range of flows. The first scheduled study dates happened in August, with more dates next spring. An open online portion of the study will run continuously through next July.

West Fork Tuckaseegee, NC, a tremendous opportunity for paddlers to enjoy new flows and access.
Photo by Mark Singleton

MISSISQUOI: GOING BIG IN VERMONT

BY BOB NASDOR & RYAN MCCALL

SOME MIGHT THINK the notion of big water Vermont is an oxymoron. Perhaps it was, at least until last November 2nd in Sheldon Springs along the Missisquoi River in northern Vermont. There, an unexpected storm dropped an inch or so of rain on the northwest corner of the state a few hours before the start of a warm November weekend. After trying, unsuccessfully, to schedule weekend releases from the Sheldon Springs Dam in May and October, American Whitewater worked with the power company to provide the opportunity we had been waiting for. With a small impoundment at the Sheldon Springs Dam, opportunities to run the river on a weekend are infrequent. So, when the river gauge shot up Friday afternoon, the call went out, "Missisquoi's running! Want a release tomorrow?" Two hours later, we had a commitment from the dam operator for the release, and boaters jumped at the chance to run the river.

Back in the early 80s, boaters from the Northern Vermont Canoe Cruisers (the



Paddlers put in below the Sheldon Springs Dam on the Missisquoi River in November 2013 for the first boatable flows in many years.

Photo by Ryan McCall

precursor to the Vermont Paddlers Club) and the Vermont chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, wearing seal skin and wool and paddling their



Grumman canoes, realized the potential for boating on the Missisquoi. Together, they persuaded the Vermont Attorney General to intervene in the FERC hydroelectric relicensing application filed by Missisquoi Associates, then the operator of the Sheldon Springs Hydroelectric Project. Under the 1984 Settlement Agreement, the State of Vermont and Missisquoi Associates agreed to provide the whitewater boating community with six recreational releases annually. FERC approved the Settlement Agreement, and made it a part of the hydropower license.

Although providing whitewater releases was a license requirement, the current dam owner, Enel Green Power, has no record of the releases having actually occurred. As we have recently discovered, scheduling releases is a challenge due to the small

Missisquoi River, Vermont, a rare big-water treat for New England boaters.

Photo by Ryan McCall

STEWARDSHIP

impoundment and the uncertainty of sufficient flows, which caused us to cancel all scheduled weekend releases earlier this year. Enel Green has been working with American Whitewater and local paddlers to get these releases dialed in. So much so, that the power company has agreed to forgo some power generation to get us water in the bypass for our future study runs. Under their license, they are entitled to generate with the first 1000 cfs, but have agreed to reduce their generation to minimum flows if necessary to provide sufficient water in the natural bypass reach.

A decent crew of local boaters from the area (plus one from Montreal) showed up for the first release, and pronounced it a huge success and a unique paddling opportunity in Vermont. Among the comments provided in a follow-up survey of boaters, one boater noted, “I love paddling big water but almost never get to

in VT. This run is a great resource and really helps fill up Vermont’s repertoire of runs.”

According to the boaters, almost all of whom have strong Class IV/V skills, the run is AMAZING. Slightly short, but very lapable, and super high quality. Everyone who was on the river that day was impressed with Vermont’s new big water run. The riverbed is sort of a messy jumble of boulders from couch size to house size, and not overly friendly. However it drops a substantial amount of elevation between the put-in and the take-out (approx. 90 fpm), making for a continuous mile of river where one rapid pours into the next. The riverbed geomorphology helped to make the rapids less green and more turbulent and active.

At the flow we saw on November 2nd (4200 cfs), the Missisquoi was a solid Class IV river and even the sneaks along the left shore were something that you needed to pay

attention to. In the meat of the flow, the waves and holes were significant and would crash and swamp you in a hurry if you were snoozing. There were a couple of swims—not recommended—but all rated the level great for a standard run and are looking forward to coming back for future releases.

Over the next year, American Whitewater and Vermont Paddlers Club plan to study various flows in order to identify the minimum, optimal, and high-challenge flows suitable for paddling by boaters of various abilities. We also plan to work on establishing a better system of notifying boaters of the current conditions so that we can take advantage of unscheduled boating opportunities. American Whitewater, Vermont Paddlers Club, and local boaters are excited to be working together to make releases on the Missisquoi a success.

*Ben Schott charges through a rapid on the Missisquoi River.
Photo by Scott Gilbert*



JOIN AMERICAN WHITEWATER FOR A RIVER TRIP ON THE WILD AND SCENIC ROGUE RIVER!



*Wild and Scenic Rogue River, Oregon.
Photo by Thomas O’Keefe*

THIS SUMMER, AMERICAN Whitewater members will have an opportunity to join American Whitewater staff and board members for an exclusive trip on Oregon’s Rogue River. We invite you to come learn more about what we’re up to while having a great time enjoying one of our nation’s first Wild and Scenic Rivers. The trip, which will take place June 5-8, will be fully outfitted by Northwest Rafting Company with professional guides, exceptional food, transportation to and from Galice, and all equipment. You will have the option of bringing your own boat, renting a boat, or joining as a passenger on one of the rafts. A portion of the trip proceeds will go to American Whitewater to support our work. Interested in joining us? Make your reservation directly through

Northwest Rafting Company (www.nwrafting.com) today!

This will not be American Whitewater’s first river trip to showcase an important conservation opportunity while having fun out on the water. In the 1950s and 1960s American Whitewater organized a series of trips on the Lochsa, North Fork Clearwater, and Selway when those rivers were threatened by hydropower and resource extraction. In celebration of American Whitewater’s 60th anniversary, we think it’s time to revive our tradition of river trips. The Rogue is one of the nation’s classic multi-day river journeys. With headwaters near the northern edge of Crater Lake, the Rogue River flows from the Cascade Range and through the Klamath Mountains to

the Pacific Ocean. On its journey it passes through the Wild Rogue Wilderness, which will be the primary destination for our trip. Over the four days we are on the water you will have the opportunity to learn about American Whitewater’s conservation and access work to protect our nation’s whitewater resources—including efforts to further expand protections for the Rogue River.

Please contact us at 1-800-262-8429 or at info@americanwhitewater.org if you have any questions about the trip. We hope to see you on the Rogue River!

TWENTY FOURTEEN MARKS American Whitewater's 60th anniversary. American Whitewater (originally American White Water Affiliation) first came into existence because participants in fledgling whitewater paddlesports in the United States were mostly fumbling their way toward mastery without any sort of guidance. Every aspect of running rivers that we take for granted today was something of a mystery to those trying to figure out where to find or how to build craft appropriate for whitewater, or what techniques were best suited to paddling rivers. As Bruce Grant, Secretary of the organization, wrote in 1955,

Thus there are many currents flowing into the stream of white water activity, and from each we can learn better ways to pursue our sport safely and for maximum enjoyment. We find serious-minded men studying, writing and teaching in various parts of the country. They have wanted to compare their ideas with those of others—this was the origin of the AWWA.... They in turn wanted to share the growing fund of information with others—thus was born *American White Water Magazine*....

While American Whitewater originally helped whitewater enthusiasts share understanding about whitewater gear, technique, runs, and safety, the organization also filled the void of river conservation that existed before its creation.

In the 1950s the federal government was still on a dam building rampage across the country and whitewater paddlers were seeing many of their favorite runs—on some of the most spectacular rivers in the country—disappear beneath manmade reservoirs. In a 1955 *American White Water* article on the proposed construction of Echo Park Dam on Colorado's Green River, Stephen J. Bradley wrote, "Emotions have taken over in much of the thinking, pro and con, in the Echo Park dam controversy. Many boatmen would like to see Dinosaur preserved, but hesitate to support the preservation actively for fear of stifling the development of the West." Clearly the national conversation about environmental conservation and the value of wild, untouched places has shifted much in the last 60 years. But Bradley's acknowledgement of the political pressure to support dam-building across the Great American Desert also shows how progressive AW's early positions on conservation were—especially when, as this next excerpt from the same article illustrates, the organization represented the viewpoint that not every section of every river should be dammed: "They [the dam-building proponents] know that absolute need for Echo Park Dam cannot be proven now, and if they cannot get Echo Park Dam now—before the true value of this park is known to the public—they may never get it."



Fortunately for generations of river runners to come, Echo Park Dam was never built and consequently many paddlers have come to know and appreciate the river that was saved. While AW was too young to lead the fight against Echo Park Dam, its members knew better than most Americans how important wild, free-flowing rivers are, and that understanding laid the groundwork for future generations of paddlers to advocate for rivers all across the country. That spirit of conservation that existed in the young American Whitewater is what still drives the organization today.

In the coming year, we will be using this space to share a variety of stories about American Whitewater's past with our members. We are starting in this January/February issue by reprinting an excellent story from *Journals* past (and will continue to reprint old *Journal* articles all year long). In the coming months, expect to find perspectives from people who were involved in critical junctures of the organization's history, an overview of AW's stewardship highlights from the past, and an all-around appreciation of what this relatively small non-profit has been able to achieve. If you have stories that you'd like to contribute that illuminate part of AW's past, or if you have recommendations of stories to reprint, please contact the editor at: editor@americanwhitewater.org.

ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO TO YOUR COUNTRY

BY GARY CARLSON

Editors Note:

Ripped from the pages of the September/October 1992 issue of American Whitewater, published just months before the presidential election between George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and the unforgettable Ross Perot, this tongue-in-cheek appeal to whitewater paddlers to vote for the fictitious Gary Carlson for president is a classic. While all who know the true identity of the writer behind the Carlson pen name have been sworn to secrecy, the legacy of Gary Carlson's humor entries in the Journal is eternal. Though his name only appeared in the Journal for four brief years (1988-1992), Carlson brought brash, edgy humor to a sport in transition.

In the early 1990s kayaking was beginning to gain wider exposure in the general public than it had ever had and the sales of new boats gave many within the industry unreasonable hope that whitewater paddling would be the next big mainstream sport. In the following piece, Carlson's assumption that his myopic platform of pro-boater policies will get him elected United States President was a barb at least partly aimed at the industry's irrational exuberance about the future of whitewater kayaking.

But while whitewater is still not as popular as skiing or mountain biking, the Gary Carlson brand of humor did spawn several descendants, most notably Gary's cousin, Carla Garrison, humorist Jonathan Katz, and later, Bobby "ZoneDogg" Miller. While exaggerating, rather than deconstructing the stereotype of the ugly American kayaker made sense at the time Carlson's work appeared in the Journal, today American Whitewater's place in the national conservation movement makes it a less attractive choice. And while that means the Journal is a lot less funny than it used to be, we also receive fewer complaints from



angry readers and have a much bigger tent that welcomes not only accomplished whitewater kayakers, but canoeists, rafters, riverboarders, SUPers, and novices—even the occasional raft guide.

All that aside, it is an awful lot of fun to read Gary Carlson's humor again—just please don't send us any angry letters about it!

NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T share my tailgate with no geeky, stringbean of a boater. Specially one that was president of a major metropolitan paddling club. But since it was his case of ice-cold Rolling Rocks sittin' between us, I figured I could let him have his say:

"You know, Gary, many of us young, urban professionals who paddle feel totally disenfranchised since we no longer have Perot as an option..."

Well, I'd heard you couldn't buy that Perot Water no more. Something about that French spring where they bottle Perot Water contaminated with gasoline or

benzene or somezene. But I never figured people'd be that upset. Never made any sense to me to actually pay for water when you could go into any public restroom and fill up a bottle from the back of a toilet.

"...so we're searching for someone who can head up our party. Someone unafraid to make a punch. Someone who knows his country and can lead the new dance. Someone who understands the lines it takes to end up on top. Someone like you, Gary."

"Say," I said, "Am I gonna hafta pay for this slam-bang party?"

"Of course not. There will be contributions, and PAC money and matching funds to cover expenses."

Well, I couldn't deny the logic. I did know the recipe for a punch guaranteed to leave you in the gutter, I'd been listening to country music on the radio and I'd just learned the dance steps to "Achey, Breaky Heart," and although my lines more often resulted with a slap in the face than me on top—it wasn't for lack of effort.

And—what the Hell—the party was free!

"You've found yer man," I said, and reached for another Rolling Rock.

So that's how I ended up being the presidential candidate for the Paddlers' Party.

Now, I know a lot of you people are sayin':

"Gary—have you been paddling Class V water without a helmet? You gotta be crazy to want to be president!"

At first I thought so too. But after I got over the disappointment of running for a major political office instead of organizing a wild

party—I began to see some advantages to being the “paddling president.”

Take shuttles, for instance. You don’t think you couldn’t jam a whole bunch of boats into that presidential helicopter? No more walks up that steep Panther Creek Trail on the Gauley—just jump into the hovering whirlybird at the base of Sweet’s Falls and zip up to the dam for another run.

Now—I know you’re saying: “What about security, Gary? The president can’t go nowhere without his secret service agents.”

Of course not! They’d be damned useful.

Picture this: I’m in an eddy above an especially nasty drop. The left side looks particularly ominous. So I just say, “Agent Smith, would you care to probe the left side?”

Thank!

“Well, boys, looks like we want to run down the right.”

And then there’s the benefit of free digs over four years: the White House—the world’s ultimate guide shack. A pool in the basement for roll sessions. And with kayaks mounted on the presidential limo and a police motorcycle leading the cavalcade—the Class V Great Falls is only 10 minutes away.

Of course, residing in an inner-city like Washington, D.C. has a downside—you’re constantly surrounded by the dregs of humanity. It’s the underbelly of civilization—a subculture where rape and robbery are considered the norm. But then, I figger I can get used to it. You just have to stay out of the parts of town where you’d find lawyers...around ambulances, or where slush fund money is being divvied out, or golf courses.

Besides, what president actually spends time in Washington? Most of the time it seems they’re always hanging around Camp

David, Maryland. Where the Hell is Camp David, anyway? Does anyone really know for sure?

Well, since the camp’s location is somewhat obscure...I’ll just move it to Friendsville—right on the banks of the Upper Yough. And we’ll have water releases every day until Deep Creek Lake is sucked down to a mud puddle. Now, the folks in the million-dollar homes on the lake might bitch about the level going down, but the threat of an IRS audit ought to shut ‘em up.

So, you’re probably thinking: “Well, the presidency might be a good deal for you, Gary...but what’s in it for us? There’s gotta be some reason to vote for you other than just improving your paddling plans.”

Well, to paraphrase John Kennedy—ask not what your country can do for you...ask what you can do to your country. And I can do plenty!

In fact, just last night, me’n a panel of select advisors circled around a campfire to put the final touches on the campaign platform for the Paddling Party. It wasn’t easy ‘cuz a couple of the boys were squirt boaters who’d suffered some minor brain damage from oxygen deprivation during mystery moves. In fact, it took the better part of the night and all of a quarter keg to complete—but by the time the tap fizzled and spat the last of the brew, we figgered we’d licked the world’s problems.

Here’s what we came up with:

The Homeless

I figger, homelessness is mostly a state of mind. Hell—half the paddlers in the world don’t have a permanent address and they’re not complaining. So, to solve the problem, I’m proposing we give every homeless person in the country a kayak and a used van with roof racks.

Unemployment

F.D.R. had the right idea: people want to work if they have a chance. So bring back

the old C.C.C. camps! There’s plenty of clean-up that can be done around rivers. Hell, skilled workers can design and construct artificial whitewater courses in places like Iowa or Mississippi.

Of course, there will always be a minority of people without the responsibility or drive to accept a real job. They can be raft guides.

Welfare

You won’t get old Gary to say that folks should go hungry. But if I’m going to pay for welfare programs, I figger I oughta get somethin’ back. Some private services. Like letting able-bodied welfare recipients carry boats on portages...or drive shuttles. Or better yet...perform fiberglass work on my busted boats. I’ll bet after a few kayaks get ground and the fiberglass dust is flying, the nation’s welfare rolls will diminish significantly!

Drug Abuse

Here’s an innovative program designed to handle the drug problem once and for all! A whitewater camp for folks convicted of drug offences!

It’s located on the banks of the Russell Fork—that mean-spirited Class V run down in Kentucky. And unlike other drug rehabilitation programs, participants in my camp can ingest as much of the poison of their choice whenever they want to. The only requirement is: they need to run the river once a day for a solid month.

I figger the river will separate the users from the abusers. Those that can last a month on the Russell should be able to function in society and will be released. The others will simply be buried in mass graves marked only by toxic waste warning signs.

Women’s Rights

I’m all for women’s rights. They have the right to carry their own boats. The right to pack an equal amount of gear during a float trip. The right to probe a nasty drop. The right to pay for half the beer.

Hell, I figger the only real advantage the male gender enjoys is that it’s easier for us to make a piss-stop during a shuttle.

In addition, I think that what a woman does with her body is her own bizness. Now what a lot of women actually do with their bodies *should* be a crime. But you can’t arrest someone for gittin’ fat and ugly. Now, I don’t want our female readers getting their knickers in an uproar. Lord knows I’m not talking about them. Female boaters are typically fit as Amazons and I’d never say nothing bad about females with shoulders bigger’n mine.

Energy

Here’s a real dilemma. You can talk about cutting down on fossil fuels, but then how the Hell do you drive to a put-in? My mountain bike doesn’t have roof racks.

You can hate what hydro-electric power does to rivers, but how do you chill your beer without electricity? And sure, burning coal and wood pollutes the air, but who wants to see their breath when they’re sitting at home watching Monday Night Football?

Now don’t go talking about solar power. Hell, I hate the sun. Give me rain from Monday through Friday...hardly enough light to power solar cells. Admittedly, I don’t mind nukes much. I’d just as soon dump the waste in Kansas or some other worthless state that doesn’t have whitewater. But then we do need wheat to bake important things—like pretzels

So what to do?

Geothermal power! Hell, they run the whole country of Iceland by tapping in hot water trapped in the Earth’s innards. And besides, there’s a worthy byproduct of the used-up steam. We dump it into Adirondack rivers! I’m looking forward to paddling on 80-degree water in April!

World Affairs

The new location of Camp David is key to my conducting international diplomacy. I just invite world leaders to Friendsville and while we’re there, I suggest we take a little raft ride. Just a little pleasure cruise. Hah!

Say we’re hung up on a few key issues. Well, at the top of Triple Drop, I give my disagreeable counterpart a little shove. Splash!

I figger he’ll be seein’ things my way real fast in exchange for a helping hand. Specially with the hole at National Falls looming ahead.

Tax Relief

For the last 20 years, I’ve watched while the chowderheads in Washington and in our state capitol of Albany have frittered away the pounds of flesh they rip from my paycheck every week. And now to sustain their extravagant spending habits, they tell me they need to tax my boats and charge user fees every time I cross a put-in!

Well—I’m changin’ that! I sez...we tax every person in the country who don’t own a kayak!

After all—who is it that’s runnin’ up the cost of health care in this country? It’s the leadbutts who spend every weekend rooted in their Lazyboys chompin’ chips and dip and raisin’ their cholesterol levels like mercury in a Death Valley thermometer.

Sure boaters may call in sick from work on Fridays when the Upper Yough is running, but have you ever seen a paddler stay sick for the weekend? Never! At least not when there’s water.



And who is it that trashes the countryside by flinging empty bottles out the window of their cars? Again, not kayakers. Paddlers respect the environment too much, and besides, they're too cheap to throw away the nickel deposit.

And who is it that lives in our cities that suck government aid like a ravenous black hole? Who is it that needs expensive artificial lakes built by the Army Corps of Imbeciles for water-skiing? And who wants street lights on every corner and parkin' lots big enough to turn an RV around in?

Again, not kayakers. It's the other people who are a drain on the economy...the people that don't own boats. So, let them pay their fair share.

The system is simple: if you don't own a boat, you pay an extra \$1000 a year. But if you own a boat, you claim a \$1000 deduction. Or as in my case, if you own 10 boats, you get back 10 grand.

What a deal! Most boaters won't have to work anymore. They can just live off their tax returns.

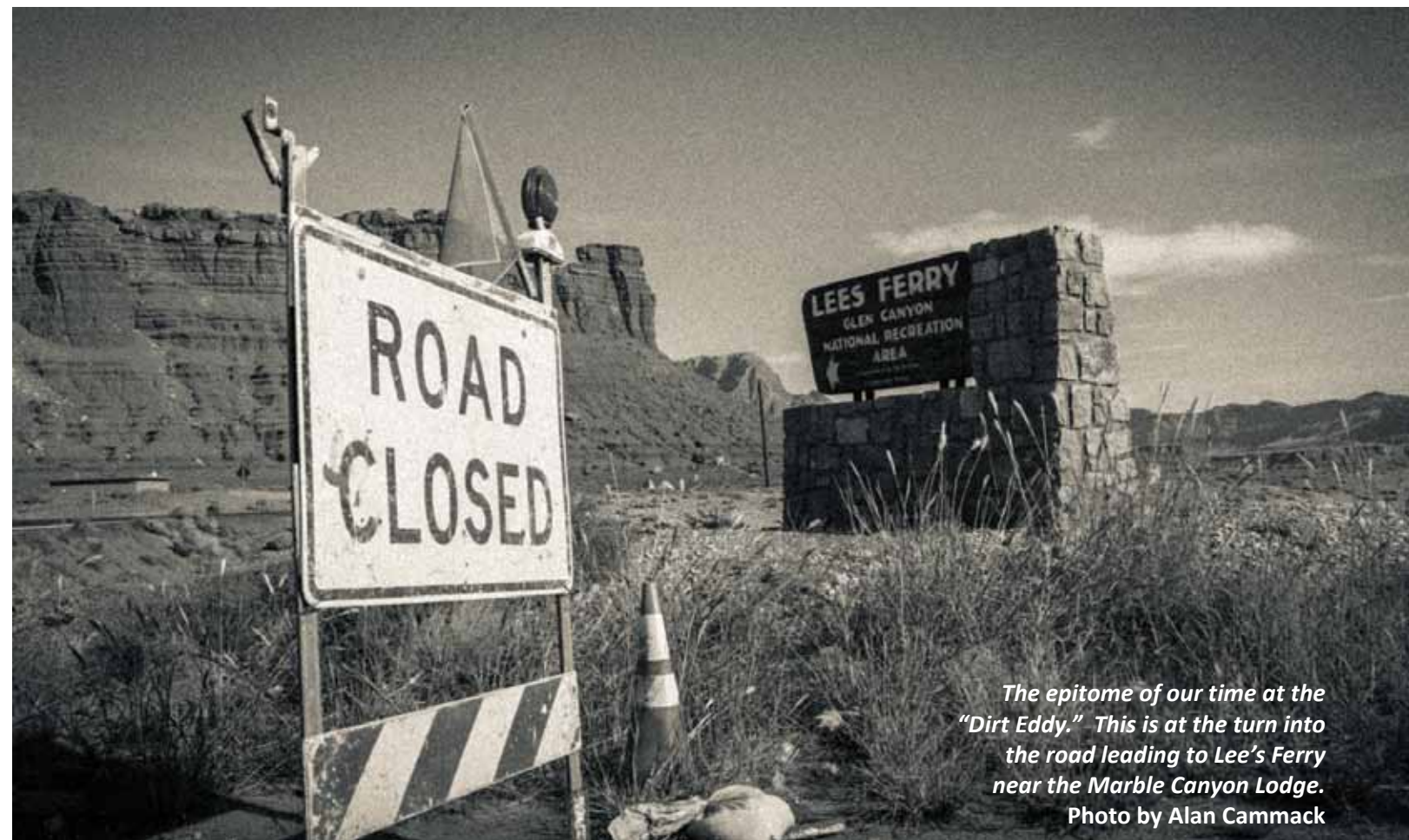
Now that you've seen my platform, I figger paddlers across the country will flock to my banner. I've already sent change-of-address cards to the post office.

And, Hell...you're all invited to my inaugural bash. But don't come expecting some wimpy black-tie affair where glad-handing political hacks buss cheeks and schmooze with champagne and canapés

Instead, picture a Gauley Festival on the Mall. Thousands of celebrants clad in river shorts and pile clutching cans of Milwaukee's Best. Kayak demos in the Reflective Pool. The Greatful Dead playing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Slam-dancing on Pennsylvania Avenue. A whitewater rodeo at Little Falls of the Potomac. Whitewater videos projected on the side of the Washington Monument...

Jeez...turns out I'm heading up a real party after all!

CANCELLED: HOW THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN PREVENTED A GROUP OF BOATERS FROM PADDLING THE GRAND CANYON BY ELISHA MCARTHUR



The epitome of our time at the "Dirt Eddy." This is at the turn into the road leading to Lee's Ferry near the Marble Canyon Lodge. Photo by Alan Cammack

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Editor's Note: The following piece appeared in Colorado Central Magazine's November 2013 issue (cozine.com). We thought it was relevant to our members and a cautionary tale about the consequences of gridlocked governance, so we asked if we could reprint it here. We are grateful to the author and her editors at Colorado Central Magazine for the chance to share it with you.

PERMITS TO RUN the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon are acquired by a weighted lottery system and are not easy to come by. What used to be a ten-year waiting list switched to a lottery in 2006. The weighted system means that you have a certain number

of points, giving you so many chances to win. My better half, Alan, and I put in for a permit in January of 2012, and even with my dad on our permit (who had priority lottery points from being on the waiting list for nine years before it switched to the lottery) did not win the primary lottery on Feb. 22. We did, however, win a permit from a secondary drawing held in March. Our launch date was Oct. 2, 2013; we were elated! We spent the next year and a half planning the perfect trip and rallying the perfect crew.

On Oct.1, 2013, as everyone knows, the federal government shut down. That same day, our group of 16 determined rafters and

kayakers drove to Lees Ferry with permit in hand and 23 days' worth of wilderness expedition gear in tow. We were ready to do everything within our powers to launch on the river trip we had been dreaming about and planning for so long.

Tensions ran high on the two-hour drive from Flagstaff, but so did optimism. The battle cry to rally early had been made at 9 p.m. the night before, when midnight hit the east coast and news of the shutdown hit us. Members of the group due to arrive the next day drove through the night, arriving between 3 and 8 a.m. Ceiba Adventures, the company from which we were renting boats, equipment, food packs,

RIVER VOICES



Morning of arrival at the blockade. Photo shows the closed road and a good view of Ceiba's 30+ foot gear trailer fully loaded with our 24 days' worth of gear.
Photo by Brockett Hudson

and a shuttle, also rallied to the battle cry and were at our hotel by 8 a.m.

There was a "soft closure" in effect from 8 a.m. until noon in order to clear out the park. Our plan was to be there before noon with the hopes that sympathetic rangers would let us in before the gate closed so we could launch a day early.

We arrived at Lees Ferry at 11 a.m. only to find that the barricade had just been erected and was manned by one frightened ranger. We asked him what we could do, to which he replied, "I don't know, I'm so sorry. The park is closed." Another group showed up shortly after. Their trip leader jumped out of the van spitting fire and threatening the poor ranger, who was already visibly trembling. More rangers then showed up, and all said the same thing: "I am so sorry. The park is closed."

Hungry but not yet defeated, and slightly annoyed with the behavior of the other group, we eventually wandered over to the Marble Canyon Lodge for some lunch and a recess. A week later we were still there. The owner was gracious enough to let us

Alan Cammack holding his permit in front of the road closed sign at the Lee's Ferry Road.

Photo by Scott Davis of Ceiba Adventures

(and other trips) camp in the big parking lot behind the lodge, which we affectionately dubbed "The Dirt Eddy." We were holding out hope that Congress would come to an agreement and that we would still be able to launch. Much of that week was spent hanging on every breaking news post.

We all called our congressmen and senators. We called the governor of Arizona. We called Speaker Boehner. We Facebooked and Twittered and interviewed for local TV channels, NPR, the AP, American Whitewater, and the L.A. Times. We did

everything that we could do—making as loud a cry as we could from that dirt eddy.

The Dirt Eddy was difficult. At first there was optimism, but as the days dragged on, spirits dampened. Alan and I, as trip leaders, were responsible for this group of people we had brought together from all across Colorado, California, Arizona, Oregon and even D.C. We tried our best to keep group morale up, checking on everyone daily, discussing options, rallying for short day hikes, and encouraging and cheering. Many tears were shed. Ultimately our collective hearts were crushed as we neared the deadline for even the shortest possible trip.

By the end of the week it was very clear that no movement was happening in Washington, and that we were not going to get to run the Grand. Sadly, we packed up camp at the Dirt Eddy and said goodbye to our newfound friends, the Lees Ferry rangers, with whom we had spent the week commiserating. The shutdown was hard on them, too.

We headed to Diamond Creek, the main take-out for the Grand Canyon, which is on the Hualapai Reservation, and spent the next six days floating from there to Pearce



Ferry (what used to be Lake Mead). Our original plan was to take out at Pearce Ferry. We essentially spent six days rafting what would have been the last two days of our 23-day Grand Canyon trip. There was one good rapid and the scenery was beautiful. We thoroughly enjoyed every moment of our Diamond down trip, but there were, and are, still holes in all of our hearts...holes that can only be filled by the roaring torrents of rapids like Lava Falls and Crystal, by the voluptuous curves and falls of side canyons like Matkatamiba and Shinumo—holes in our hearts that can only be filled by the walls of the Grand Canyon.

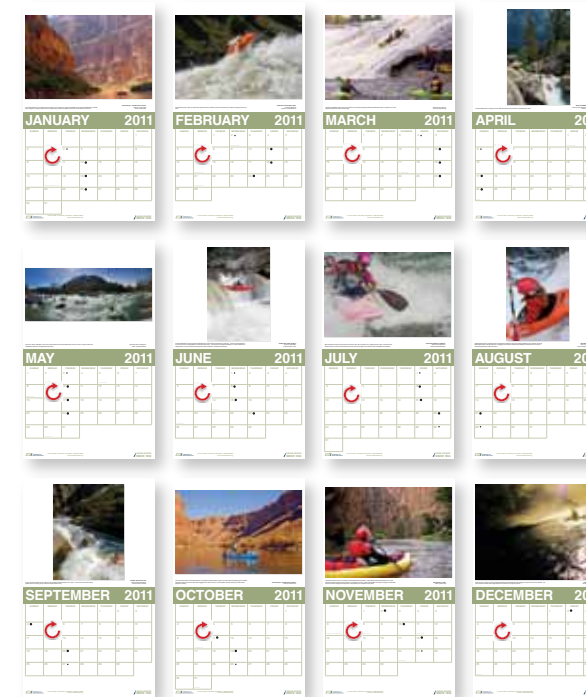
Apart from the emotional cost, opportunity and fiscal costs were high. Somewhere around \$30,000 was squandered on this river trip that never ran. Some members of our group had been saving up paid time off for over a year. Others had been saving



The author giving an interview for one of the local news networks during the wait.
Photo by Alan Cammack

their pennies. One member suffers from advanced stages of MS, and although it would have been his 13th Grand trip, it was also going to be his last. While I have been before, and I know I will go again, many of our group never have, and some may never

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RIVER VOICES

again get the opportunity. Though we all did our best to stay positive, huge losses were sustained that can never be regained.

Despite the loss and despite the pain, our motto during our few days on the water became "This doesn't suck." It didn't suck because of the amazing group of people whom we endured this travesty with and because of help from the likes of Ceiba Adventures, who went above and beyond, Marble Canyon Lodge, who opened their doors to us, the Hualapai tribe, who ignored the government's instructions to cease operations, the Lees Ferry rangers, whose jobs were held hostage; and the arsenal of friends and media, who spread the word about our plight. It didn't suck because of the extraordinary people who pulled together to make the best of a bad situation.



The Dirt Eddy. Our home for five long days.
Photo by Brockett Hudson

Now if only our government could do the same.

Elisha McArthur lives in Salida, Colorado where she manages a rafting company all summer long, plays music all winter long and is a full-time mom all year long.

AW STEWARDSHIP

AMERICAN WHITewater's ADVOCACY EFFORTS DURING THE SHUTDOWN

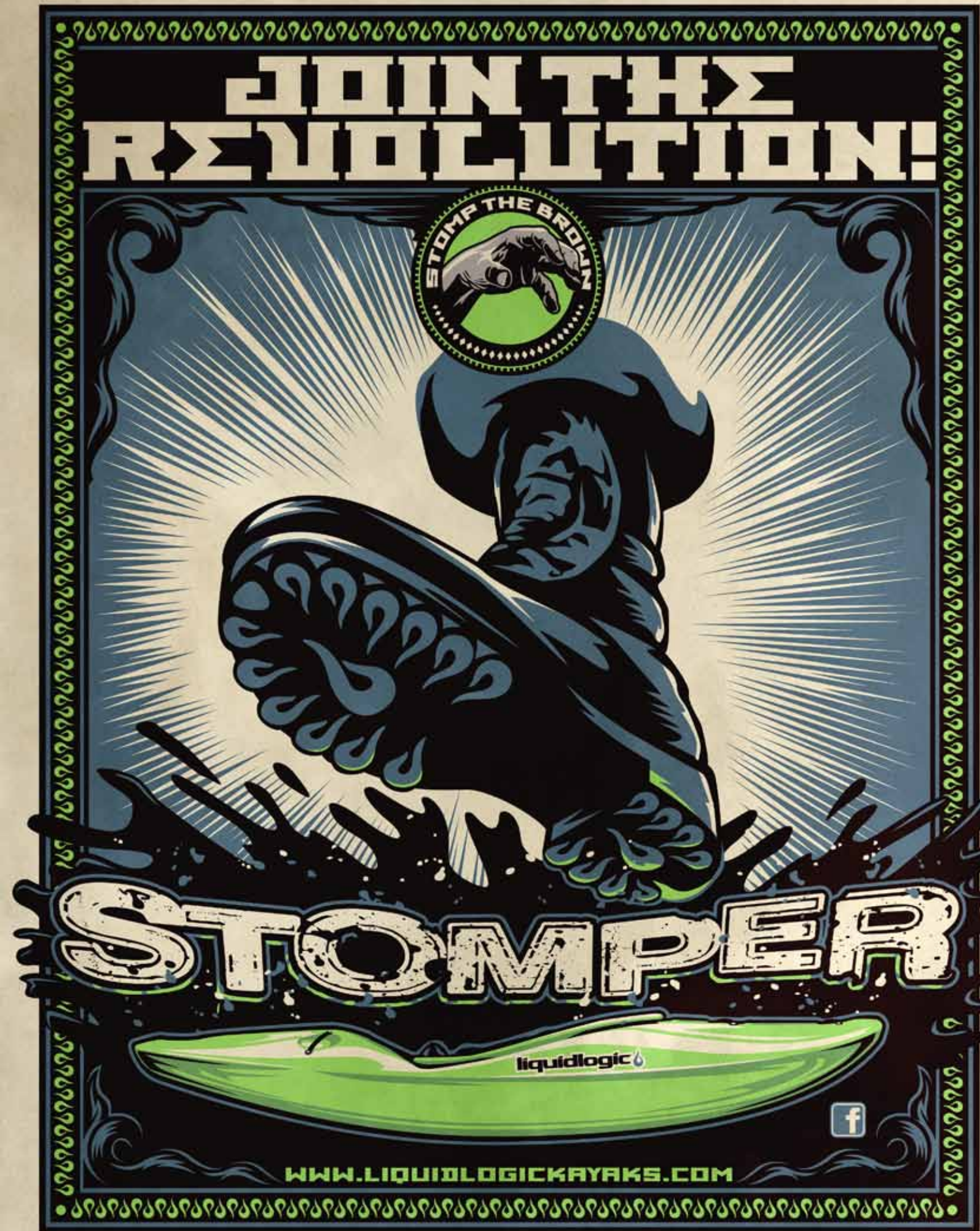
By Thomas O'Keefe

For more than two weeks in October, the United States federal government entered a shutdown and curtailed most routine operations after Congress failed to enact legislation appropriating funds for fiscal year 2014.

The closure of the boat launch at Lee's Ferry on the Grand Canyon was among the highest profile impacts of the government shutdown, but there were many other access closures that directly touched the whitewater community. The Forest Service pulled the special use permit for the annual Nooksack Slalom Races in Washington, resulting in the event being cancelled. Access to many other rivers was closed as well, including the Rio Grande, Delaware, Pit, Buffalo, Green (Dinosaur National Monument), and Colorado (Grand Canyon and Cataract Canyon through Canyonlands).

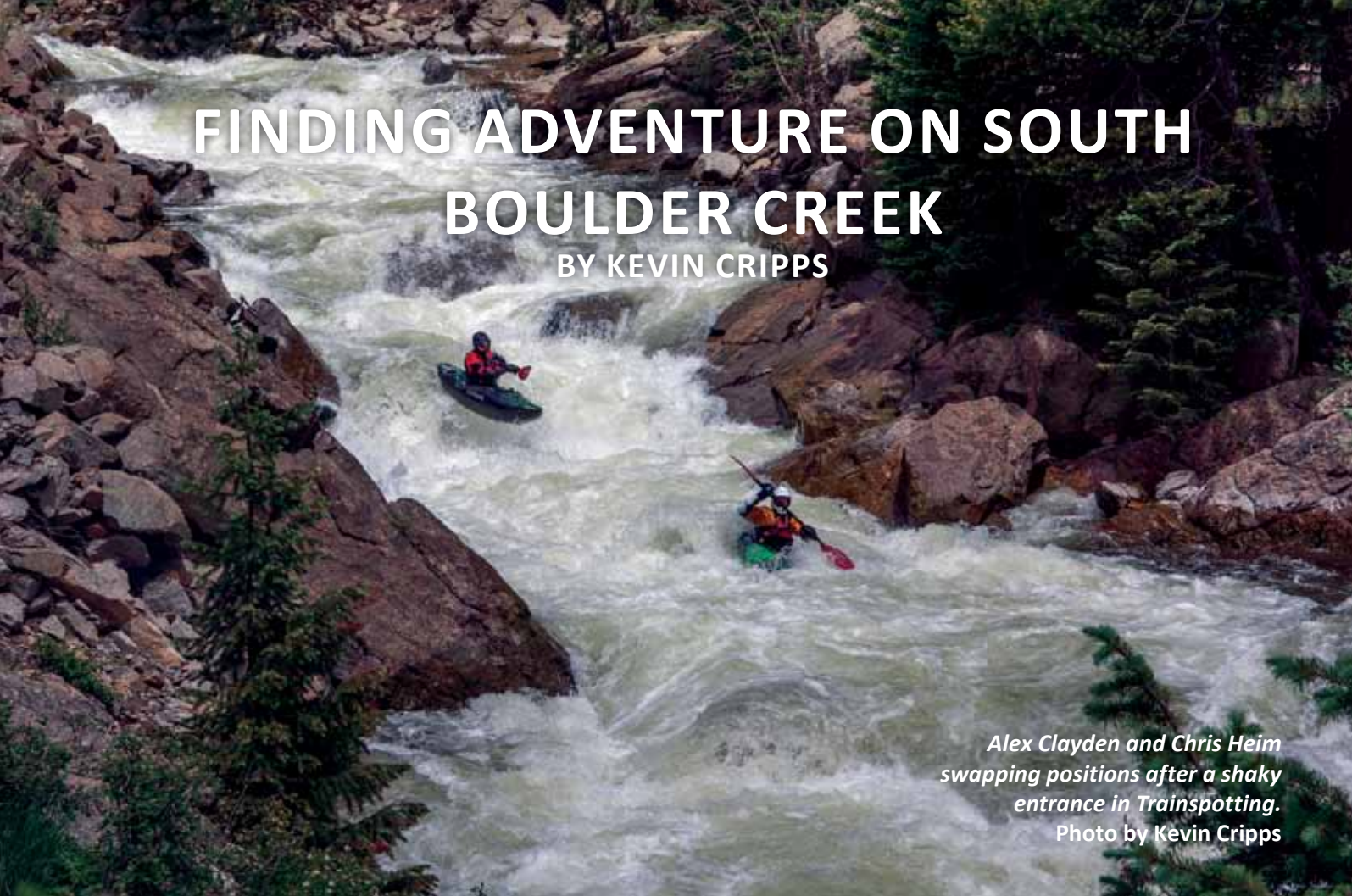
Whitewater paddlers were effective in getting their voices heard through phone calls, email, social media, and traditional media. Here at American Whitewater, we were able to help amplify the message by following up with individual members of Congress and their staff, as well as our contacts in the Administration. While loss of access to a river may have seemed like a mundane issue in light of all the major impacts that were felt across the country, the impacts of cancelled trips were very real for local communities and businesses that depend on outdoor recreation. Outfitters that rent gear, provide shuttles, or help put food together were all out of a job. Local restaurants and gear shops in gateway communities lost business from visitors who cancelled their trips. Contractors who were lined up to work on access projects that American Whitewater is involved with found themselves out of work, and projects had to be rescheduled.

We thank all our members who took the time to weigh in on the importance of access to rivers that are managed by the National Park Service and other federal agencies. While the impacts of the shutdown were indeed painful for those whose trips were impacted, it was a powerful moment for us to demonstrate the value and importance of our public lands and the rivers that flow through them.



FINDING ADVENTURE ON SOUTH BOULDER CREEK

BY KEVIN CRIPPS



Alex Clayden and Chris Heim swapping positions after a shaky entrance in Trainspotting. Photo by Kevin Cripps

THIS IS NOT a story of grand adventure through unexplored gorges in exotic lands. Nor does the tale involve 100-foot waterfalls, or life threatening injuries. It's about myself, just a frustratingly average adult male who was raised in the suburbs of Austin, TX. While I've learned that some parents were taking their children on grand climbing adventures and ski tours, my parents taught me how to always play it safe: "don't jump too high on the trampoline," "avoid uneven or rocky paths that put your ankles at risk of twisting," "chew at least 10 seconds before swallowing," and as I matured into adulthood, "if you find yourself peer-pressured into drinking a beer, eat lots of food beforehand to counter the effects." In fact, I was a cautious kid who in grade school chose to stand at the periphery of the playground and analyze the monkey bars rather than romping through the jungle gym like my classmates. As an adolescent in summer camp, I refused to rappel off the back of a 10-foot bus, unable to control my primal fear. I was that kid who walked up

the ladder on the high dive, peered down into the abyss below, and after a couple of minutes of indecision, down-climbed back to the bottom.

So, how did I find myself on one chilly spring morning, with flurries of snow prickling my cheeks, snapping on my skirt and sliding into the chilly waters of Upper South Boulder Creek, one of the most notorious Class V+ runs on the Colorado Front Range?

I learned to kayak in Boulder, Colorado. For years I'd strolled by streams and rivers, drawn to their edge, but at a loss as to what to do once I reached the boundary between earth and water. While attending graduate school in Boulder, my problem was solved when walking to class and seeing a group of kayakers float by. Boulder isn't the best place to learn how to kayak. Streamflows are ephemeral, rivers are shallow and rocky, and the local boating crews contain people of the most questionable character. But when a crisp spring breeze blows across a solid snowpack accumulated

from bountiful winter snows high up in the Indian Peaks Wilderness, Boulder can be a lovely place to reside for the steadfast creek boater. A few special stretches on Saint Vrain Creek, South Boulder Creek, and the headwaters of Boulder Creek offer wilderness Class V experiences that few frequent, despite their proximity to the overachieving population of Boulder.

When I first started boating, I was too preoccupied chasing my boat down the Class II Golden Play Park to even begin to fathom what those runs must be like. I immersed myself in tales on the Internet of steep boulder choked drops through remote canyons from which people crawled with broken ankles, or limped with busted shoulders and sore feet from hiking out scree fields after the river stripped them of their gear and mojo. It never occurred to me that I might one day be participating in these adventures in my own backyard.

As my boating circles expanded, I met a willing mentor in Mike French. While

CREEKING

guiding me down my first Class IV rapids, Mike would regale me with tales of running three-story waterfalls cascading through moss covered gorges in the Pacific Northwest, thundering towers of translucent blue waters on the Futaleufu, and remote helicopter accessed gorges in New Zealand. I learned that Class IV could be safely navigated by methodical analysis, strategic safety, and relentless, focused training. Gradually, I relocated Mike's stories out of the realm of legends and into the domain of attainable goals.

As I encountered more experienced boaters, I began to imitate their habits. I'd paddle back into a relatively safe hole and get chundered in order to train my body and mind for a tempestuous ride. On well-known runs, I'd catch every eddy, then I'd run it again taking the fastest lines possible. Competing in the Vertical Challenge, I learned that while one lap is good practice, two is better, and three even more so. While friends and coworkers would head out for happy hour, I'd cruise over to my local play hole. Sometimes my best days were when it was too low and too cold, but I'd have the world to myself. In the off-season I'd go to a slalom course and run gates in my creek boat. Some days I'd try paddling down an easy run taking only duffek strokes, and some days try to boof every rock and eddy line I encountered.

Even as I grew more skilled as a boater, and my confidence matured, it was easy to avoid runs like Upper South Boulder Creek. During the Colorado runoff, boaters partake in a feeding frenzy. So many runs are at optimal levels simultaneously for such a short period that it's easy to take refuge on the popular known quantities and ignore the fear inducing adventures lurking in adjacent canyons. But in 2012, curiosity and drought got the best of me and I decided it was time I checked out the infamous Upper South Boulder Creek (USB). Thanks to diversions from the Moffat tunnel, this was one of the few sections of local whitewater with runnable flows.

My quasi-regular crew consists of an athletic group of locals with vacillating boating enthusiasm, who are way too preoccupied with other aspects of life for my own narrow-minded tastes. I decided this particular adventure required a different team. I shot e-mails to a couple of inveterate local Class V boaters to see what they thought about a scrub like me flailing down USB. Alex Clayden was the first to chime in with a thorough description of the run, a manageability assessment, and a willingness to show me down. Sean Lee, never one to hide his passion, was more blunt about it. I believe he wrote, "...you will style that s&%t like you do every other run." Clearly Sean didn't have enough boating experience with me to know better, so I figured I'd better take the offer before he got any wiser.

Sean was assembling a crew of his usual suspects for a run the following Saturday. Friday night a cold front was moving in and potentially shutting down flows, so we were going to do a morning gauge check. That night I'd been pacing up and down my hallway reading and rereading excerpts from the local guidebook, *Colorado Rivers and Creeks (CRC)*: "...out of our numerous descents, few have gone without incident... USB is always an adventure b/c anything—repeat, anything—can happen!"

Then I thought, "man *CRC* was written by a bunch of grey hairs who started boating in 11-foot cigar boats. Their Class V is our Class III, right?"

So I brushed off my copy of the recently written *Whitewater Guide to the Southern Rockies (WWSR)* to comfort myself with what I was sure would be a blasé evaluation by this group of sandbagging Class V authors. My guess was they would write something like, "It's amazing that this once frequently feared, carnage inducing stretch is by today's standard a short stretch of Class III/IV boogie water, but despite its mellow character is still a worthwhile trip for taking in some lovely high country scenery..." Unfortunately, what it actually



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Destinations
Soča - Slovenia
Tara - Montenegro
Arta - Greece
Corsica - France
Piemonte - Italy
Ticino - Switzerland
Sjøa - Norway
Valldal - Norway
Voss - Norway
Pucon - Chile
Zanskar - India
Tamur - Nepal

Trips
Class II-V
Fundamental Skills
Progressive WW
Steep Creeking
Multi Days
Road Trips
Qualification Training

All inclusive packages
with World Class
Coaching

Whitewater Kayaking Trips & Coaching



CREEKING



Chase Nobles getting his first taste of USB.
Photo by Kevin Cripps

said was, “USB inspires an up-swelling of fear in some of even the area’s most ardent creek boaters.”

I’m up earlier than normal, pacing around the house, assembling my boating gear and trying to settle my stomach. Sean rings my phone and gives me the report. The flow is on the low side, which actually increases the difficulty level due to all the pin rocks that come into play. He says he and local legend and wildman Forrest Noble did the run a week prior at similar flows and they both had bad pins and lost gear.

I look out the window, the sky is matted with every possible shade of grey and the spring temperatures are dipping into the 30s. Sean is torn between another lap on this familiar run in the cold or heading to doggie kindergarten (I’m serious). Sean makes a few more calls, then calls me back. Forrest is out, as is his right hand man Andy Blakeslee. We debate what to do and Sean says, “screw it, let’s go.” But at this point, I’m not quite sure. He’s just convinced me that it’s probably a bad idea, and now we’re just down to the two of us with a nasty spring storm settling in. We

decide to blow it off this time and wait for better conditions. Five minutes later my phone rings again—it’s Sean. “Forrest’s in. Blakeslee’s in. Let’s do it! RIMBY has the best boof on the Front Range, it’s going to be sick!” Now that’s decision making at its finest. I pack up my car and drive to Cafe Solle, where every serious Boulder boater rendezvouses before the day’s local adventure.

As the virgin, I’m volunteered to drive, so we load up my Subaru to meet Andy at the take-out. Andy shows up skidding his truck around in a circle and parking next to us. He hops out with his usual infectious grin. As we begin our shuttle, tales of debauchery quickly ensue only making me more unsettled. We make a pit-stop at Nick Wigston’s house en-route, to see if he wants to join. More importantly, it’s an excuse to steal some gear out of his house. Sean had lost his paddle the previous week from that bad pin on USB, and is hoping to use something better than his spare paddle with toothpick width blades. Just about everybody is eager to see if they can find some poggies or gloves in Wigston’s stash to keep their hands warm. Upper

South Boulder isn’t exactly known for its warm water and as we approach the put-in, snowflakes begin to fall in abundance and the mercury drops into the 30s.

If you’re still under the delusion that being a highly skilled boater means that you’re actually prepared to go boating, then get over it now. I begin unloading boats from my car. As I pull Forrest’s Nomad off the roof, I can’t believe how light it feels. I toss it on the ground and inspect the inside.

“Forrest,” I say, “why don’t you have anything in your boat?”

“What do you mean?” he responds, in a casual ingenuous manner that only people who know Forrest can really appreciate.

“Well, there’s no water bottle, no throw rope, no float bags, no med kit, no food, no pin kit, no breakdown paddle,” I try to point out.

“Aww, all that stuff’s too heavy!” he responds.

While I know Forrest likes to mess with people, in my nervous state I can’t decide if he’s serious or not. Then begins the cold weather gear talk. After a recent cold weather mission where Forrest attempted to wear a wool hat under his helmet with little success, he apparently went shopping. Have you met Forrest Noble? He’s been boating since he was in diapers. Most kids cut class to smoke cigarettes behind the gas station, but Forrest cut class to run the Great Falls section of the Potomac at the highest recorded flood stage in recent history. He’s chalked up first Ds on runs and drops all over Colorado and California. While I was peeing my pants contemplating the 10-foot rappel off the back of the bus at summer camp, Forrest was climbing El Cap with some ridiculously small rack. He has more adventure stories from last week than you’ve accumulated in your entire life. He doesn’t always make the kayaking lines look smooth, but when he’s fighting it out in a hole, you’ll have plenty of time to run

home and grab your camera before he even begins to contemplate pulling his skirt. But this week, well, he has just discovered the “skull cap.”

He explains to the group, “There’s these beanie things that are made out of neoprene. You put them on your head and they keep you warm! These things are sick! I’m gonna try mine out!” I see Andy looking on in amazement and jealousy. I offer him my spare. I give Andy a pass on this one, since until his recent marriage forced him to become a respectable member of society, he’s been a dirtbag kayaker who’s lived off paddling other people’s throw away boats. But, who the hell are these guys that I’ve just taken up with? What am I doing here? What kind of life is this? It’s 30 degrees outside, snowing, I’ve been so nervous from USB tales of carnage that I couldn’t eat anything all morning, and I’m being guided down by some sketchy cast

of characters who don’t like to carry water because it’s too heavy and just discovered neoprene paddling accessories.

Momentarily I look around from my perch on the high dive to see if there’s a way back down. But having long ago recognized that exercising good judgment is often antipodal to fun, I throw caution to the wind, already realizing that I’m in this for the duration. I hop in my boat and enjoy the 200 yards of Class III before the canyon cinches tight and the action begins. So what of my sketchy crew of hooligans? Well, they undergo an instant transformation as soon as the Class V begins.

Trainspotting is the USB opener and sets the standard for the run. Passing under the railroad bridge is like passing through the Gates of Mordor as you swallow your fear and commit yourself to the unknown. The gradient increases significantly here

and you must command yourself through several holes and ledges with precise moves that exit into more Class IV-V continuous boogie water blanketed with pin rocks.

Forrest explains that every time you run USB you have to check the drops for wood, recalling a time when he almost skipped a scout on S-turn because they’d just run it the day before, only to find a deadly log in the middle of the line that would have killed them all. We scout for wood, signal an all clear sign and Forrest pushes into the current to show us how it’s done. He misses the first eddy, but nonplussed, spins around and hits the line. Andy goes next, making it look smooth like he always does. Anxious to prove to myself that I’m ready for this run, I shake off heavy nerves. I jump in right behind Sean and follow his line. This was the system for the remainder of the run. Sean and I jump out to scout, I get to see two lines, then I follow Sean



Bridger Steele loving the boof in RIMBY.
Photo by Kevin Cripps

CREEKING

down with safety set at the bottom. Guides don't get much better than this! I've already forgotten about the cold and foreboding and am loving some sweet Class V creeking in my backyard with the best crew Boulder has to offer.

The first portage for us is the Gash. Forrest looks noticeably disappointed as we all begin carrying our boats around the drop. The rapid is run even less frequently than it used to be after a prominent boater died in the sieve at the bottom. As we put in below the drop, Forrest tells me that he was the first to run this drop.

"They told me it was impossible to get right of the sieve and I shouldn't run it," he explains.

"But I told those guys that they were full of shit and I could get right."

"So you hit the line, and proved them wrong, eh?" I ask

"Nah, it was impossible to get right! But I went left and boofed over the top of the sieve and that sort of worked."

"The portage is pretty easy," I say.

S-turn is one of the more significant drops encountered midway through the run. It's not exceptionally difficult, but it ends just above LZ Falls, a rapid that most people consider a mandatory portage, and one that is not even remotely safe to swim into. Forrest runs S-turn first with no safety. He slams into an undercut, gets flipped, smashes his already injured hand, rolls up with a grin, and eddies out, staging himself to play catcher in the bottom micro eddy. "This is a great guy to have on your team," I think to myself.

Sean points out the pin rock at the crux of the drop that led to his swim the previous week. Before the run he said he might portage the drop. The pin rock was very much in play. Although Andy made it look easy, the odds seem stacked against us. I anticipate Sean saying he is walking it and am ready to follow suit. But at this point, Sean is fired up and merely says, "You ready?" Enthusiasm can be infectious. I hop in my boat and while I don't completely style my line, I keep it straight and hop into the small eddy on the right above the portage with Forrest's massive grin greeting me.

We stop for a break at the bottom of the LZ Falls portage. I share a little food and water, having personally accepted the weight penalty of bringing a few provisions. As the snow stops, temperatures warm slightly and there's a round of discussion regarding the skull caps. Everybody except

myself decides that having something over their ears is compromising their balance.

The next section is a long series of drops that are a bit cumbersome to scout, collectively known as Grand Piton National Park. Forrest asks me if I like beta or if I prefer to follow blindly.

"I'll take some beta," I respond.

Forrest begins his explanation, "Well you go through some boogie and then the water splits into two channels. You want to take the right channel. The left channel goes, but you'll go underneath some rocks and stuff." He pauses, "It goes though."

At this point Sean turns to me, shakes his head and says, "Don't go left." Andy warns me that this is a pretty heavy section of whitewater. We proceed downstream, take the right channel and boof a couple ledges and squeeze through a slot at the bottom. The action just keeps coming at me as we continue downstream dodging holes and pin rocks and down another set of continuous ledges and holes. Forrest's voice keeps ringing in my head like he's my sensei, "just follow the helmet in front of you...." I don't have a clear mental picture of what we just navigated through, but it was an outstanding section and I'm at the bottom in one piece.

I follow the crew through another long stretch of read and run steep creeking until we reach RIMBY, the final rapid. A wave hole feeds into a glorious 10-foot boof with a knob in the middle of the lip that disconnects you entirely from the curtain. One by one we launch the biggest boof we can muster and collect ourselves in the pool on river right below. I'm given some verbal descriptions of how to run the next two ledge holes. They paddle relatively smoothly and we regroup in some micro eddies below. Forrest and Andy begin heading downstream, and Sean gets flushed out the back of an eddy, turns around and disappears over the horizon. I try to get back into the current as quickly

as possible to follow the lines through the Class V runout of RIMBY, but by the time I clear the horizon line, nobody's in sight.

At the next set of boulders I choose the wrong door and find myself pinned at a 45-degree angle against a couple downstream boulders. "Oh no," I think to myself, "I've made it down the entire run and I get destroyed in the last rapid with nobody in sight." Luckily, the force of the water here was only moderate, and with some careful wiggling, lifting, and pushing, I manage to pry myself free and continue downstream to find a couple of relieved faces waiting for me below.

The whitewater mellows into Class III and I breathe a great sigh of relief when we enter the calm waters of Gross Reservoir and am flushed with the satisfaction of my accomplishment. The usual hordes of fisherman, lake boaters, and picnickers are absent today. This is the kind of weather that can only draw the most infatuated recreationists. As we walk back up to the car, Forrest turns to the group and says, "who's in for a second lap?" I know I'm done for the day. I'm humbled having realized that I just survived my first descent down this notorious hair run with no major issues. But I also know now that I'm a Class V boater, and that I'll return.

With the great Boulder floods of September 2013 receding and the wake of destruction still being remediated, reflecting on these adventures holds an even greater poignancy. The rare Colorado monsoons that boaters normally cherish have resulted in several deaths and widespread destruction of homes and property. With rapids on many local runs having changed forever, it's a reminder that our window on the world is only a snapshot. I have friends in Lyons who have been displaced from their homes. My own house had significant flooding only 3 days after my first child was born and it's the same people who've joined me on my boating peregrinations who materialized to help rescue my home. As the first snows of the year descend upon

the Colorado High Country and I reminisce about past adventures, I ponder what exploits my newborn daughter will be telling in 20 years. As I watch her flail her chubby arms and legs in the air, I imagine what her miniature hands and feet will one day be capable of and the possibilities for adventure seem endless.

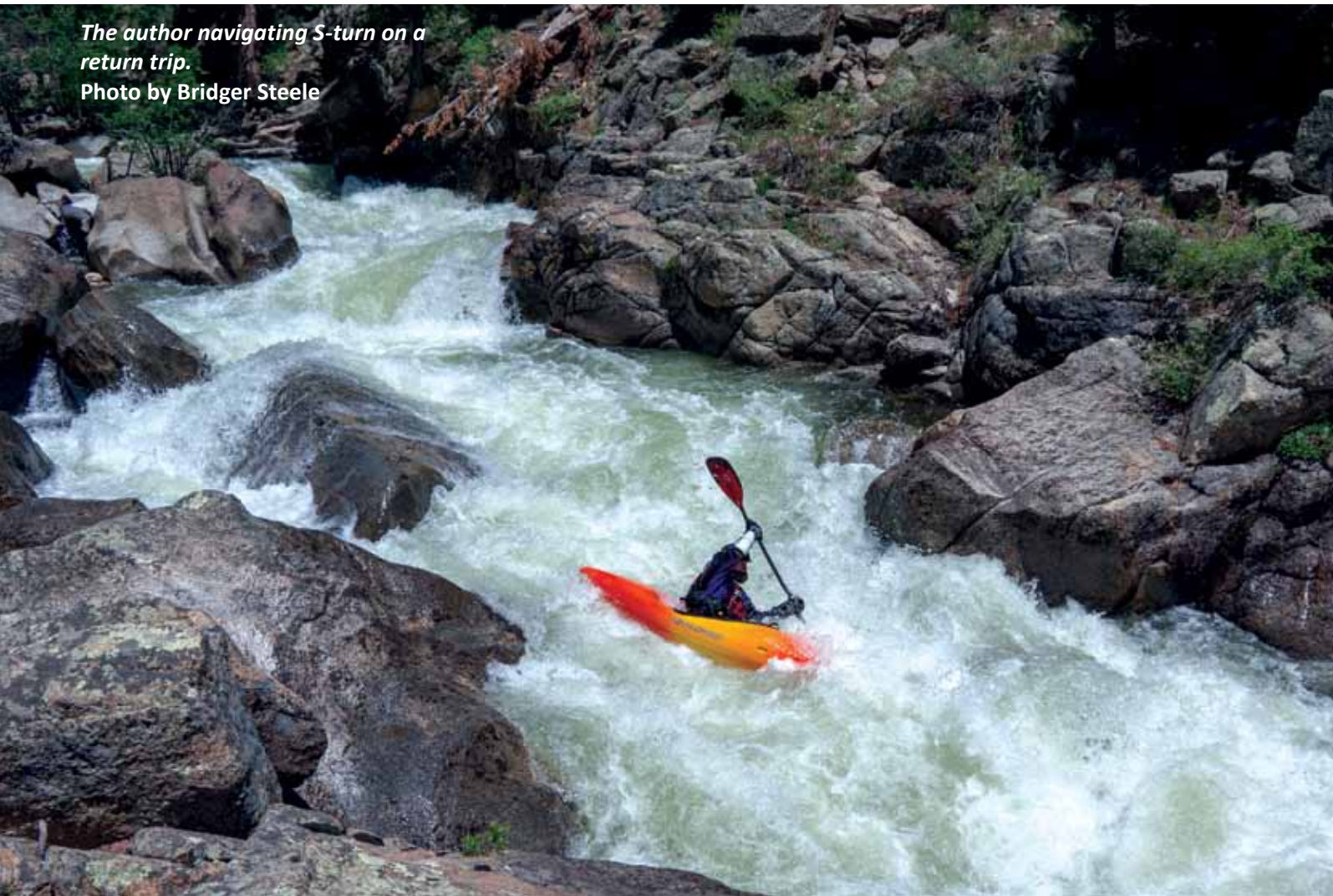
AW STEWARDSHIP

COLORADO FLOODING

The devastating flooding that hit Colorado in September 2013 had enormous impacts on some of the state's best known Front Range watersheds. Among those impacted, Boulder Creek, North and South St. Vrain Creeks, and the Big Thompson River reached levels never before recorded, sweeping houses, roads, bridges, and entire neighborhoods downstream. Class IV/V river reaches and well-loved playparks are choked with twisted cars and trucks, remnants of houses and barns, and silt and debris from cottonwood forests scoured by the rushing waters.

American Whitewater has been working with federal, state, and local officials to find ways that we can help "rebuild smarter." We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to coordinate with irrigators and farmers, utility providers, and entire communities to improve the resiliency of our streams, provide safe public access to our rivers and parks, and to re-establish a vibrant economy that relies on healthy rivers and recreation. For more information about American Whitewater's River Access and Flood Recovery efforts, visit americanwhitewater.org.

The author navigating S-turn on a return trip.
Photo by Bridger Steele



NEWS & NOTES

PASSING IT ON, WITH A TWIST

BY B. J. PHILLIPS

WE ARE APPROACHING Nantahala Falls. My friend is behind me. It is his first descent. I keep turning my head around to be sure he is on line and still upright—he is. Britt Lindstrom is behind him, helping make last second corrections. I bypass the traditional eddy at Truck Stop, but yell for him to try to slow down some to decrease our momentum and approach the middle line (Line B) just river left of the top hole while hugging the current as close to that hole as possible. This is the easiest line for the Falls, and is the line that my mentors taught me when I was a novice boater and they were “passing it on” to me. I hug the hole and start down the green tongue and take one last look around and yell, “Paddle hard.” He is still behind me on a perfect line. I hit the curler wave at the base of the Falls and run it clean; he flips at that wave (not unusual for most of us) and does a textbook combat roll. He has run an almost clean first descent.

Some will say that there is nothing exceptional about a first descent at

Nantahala Falls; it happens on a daily basis. But in this case it is nothing short of remarkable. You see, my friend, my paddling partner is 100% blind!

His name is Lonnie Bedwell and I met him on a Team River Runner trip in 2012 in Montana at an “Outta Sight” clinic. That trip was his introduction to whitewater kayaking. We paddled the Yellowstone River that flows out of Yellowstone National Park and into a valley known locally as Paradise Valley, which is aptly named. It is nestled among the mountains, hills, and the brilliant blue of Montana’s “Big Sky Country.” We stay at the ranch of Mike Story, whose generosity has allowed the participants of this trip to enjoy and paddle in this scenic area of Montana. I am a combat veteran and kayaking has become my passion and therapy for the effects of war—and for the love of the sport!

On this trip ‘sighted’ paddlers, such as I, are paired up with totally or partially blind veterans and we all learn the techniques and skills of paddling and guiding our non-sighted brothers and sisters down whitewater. This section of the Yellowstone is Class I/II.

We started out on a nearby lake to introduce the non-sighted participants to a kayak, paddle strokes, the feel of being in a boat on water, wet exits, bow rescues, and how to lead and follow verbal commands. Then we progressed to a Class I section to actually lead and follow verbal commands and how to swim in current. Lonnie caught on quickly to bow rescues and was performing them with no problem in moving water. The final step was a Class II section known as Yankee Jim Canyon. Although all the non-sighted paddlers/veterans performed phenomenal, Lonnie Bedwell sort of stood out with his determination to learn this sport! We fast became friends and agreed to meet and paddle together again (He lives in Indiana and I live in Lexington). And we did!

I am a member of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association (B.W.A.). Each year the B.W.A. holds a spring clinic at the Russell Fork River on the Kentucky/Virginia border to teach kayaking skills to people just beginning the sport and more advanced paddling at higher skill levels. Also, a B.W.A. member, Adelessa Grace, holds “Adventure” weekends that do much the same for beginning paddlers. Lonnie attended one of those in the fall of 2012 at the Russell Fork and again showed great dedication to acquiring the skills to be a paddler. Ron Hunt, another combat veteran paddler, and Robert Smith, an Elkhorn City area local, helped me work with Lonnie at that clinic. Both of them said it was one of the greatest experiences of their kayaking—and personal—lives! Ron gave Lonnie a kayak and much gear. Plus, Benchmark of Lexington donated a new paddle (Thanks Benchmark and Neil!), and Lonnie never turned back. HE WAS HOOKED ON THE SPORT.

Between that fall session and the next time we met to paddle together, with the help of

B.J., Lonnie, Linda Tribble (shuttle goddess), and Britt Lindstrom (behind).

Photo by Linda Tribble



Beginning of Power House rapid on the Upper Pigeon.

Photo by Linda Tribble

a paddler in Indiana, Lonnie had perfected rolling on both strong and weak sides.

During the summer of 2013 Lonnie once again came to Lexington and we took off for Tennessee/North Carolina to do some Southeast boating. Our first run was on the Lower Pigeon (Class I/II). Robert Smith again joined us as I paddled lead, giving verbal guidance. Lonnie nailed it.

Lonnie did so well that I decided to skip the Hiwassee and go straight to the Nantahala (This is a normal progression for Southeast boaters and the same progression on which my mentors led me). The Nantahala is basically a Class II run with, of course, Nantahala Falls (Class III) at the end. It is a kayaker’s paradise though, with the area virtually designed for the river enthusiast. It was the site of the Worlds Free styling Championships in 2013. For more advanced skill levels there are releases on the Upper and Cascades periodically. You have read about Lonnie’s first descent, but we tried various other lines and some resulted in

Vegomatic rapid on Upper Pigeon.

Photo by Linda Tribble

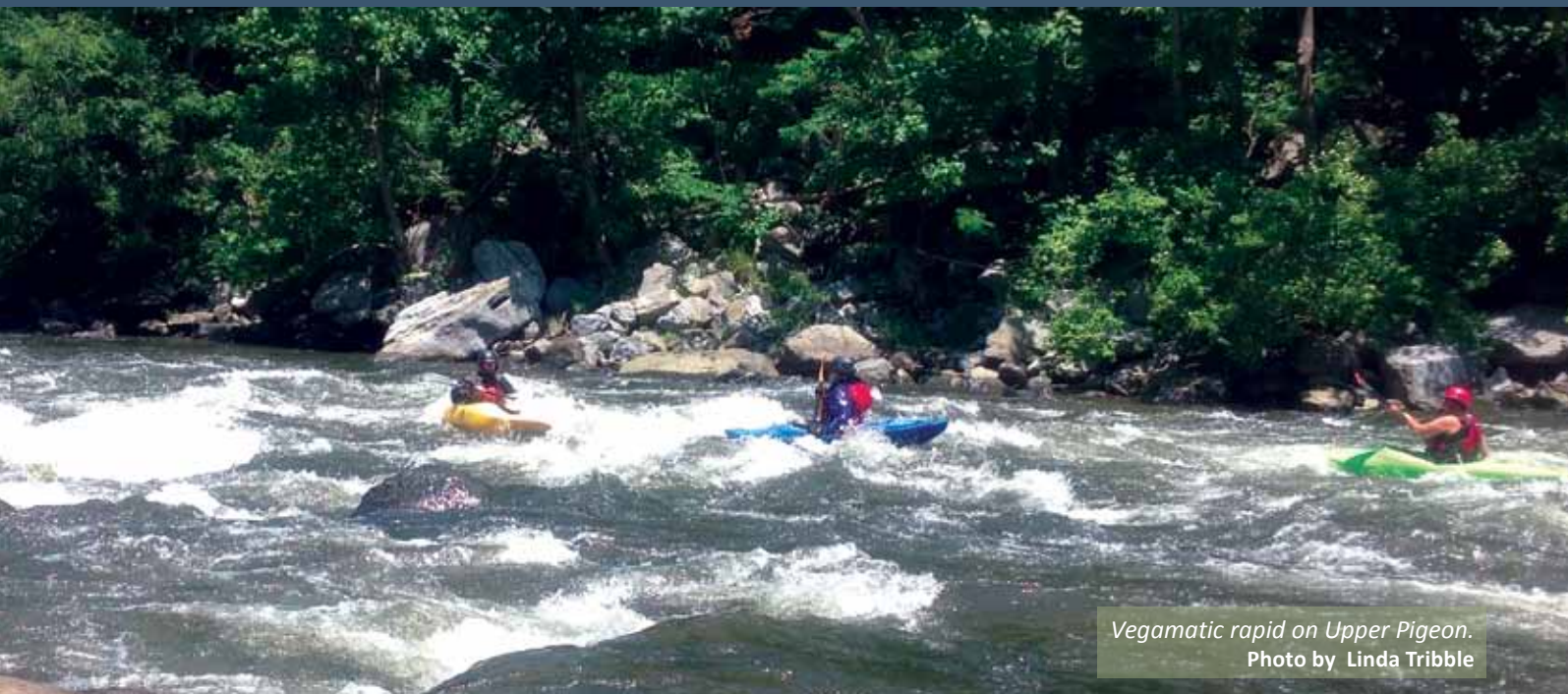
river to step it up to bigger water and to learn to read and run whitewater. It is a superb beginning intermediate run! The U.P., or Dirty Bird, as it is affectionately known locally, is challenging to paddlers moving up from Class II water. To be honest I was somewhat hesitant about us achieving an Upper Pigeon run in such short time, but it was my highest goal for this trip. After Lonnie’s success on the Nanty I thought it was feasible.

There were several paddlers now who wanted to paddle with Lonnie, and, by happenstance, we ran into Lou Rudolph, a local paddling friend at the put-in. So we had plenty of safety. The kayaking community knew something special was going on! I led, Britt Lindstrom was behind Lonnie, and a safety net was spread up and down the river.

Lonnie ran Powerhouse rapid clean at the put-in. At Lost Guide rapid we went to mid river left following local outfitter Dave Crawford of Rapid Expeditions’ line. Lonnie flipped at the hole/wave at the bottom of the rapid but he combat rolled to cheers. When we told other kayakers/rafters in the eddy on river right that Lonnie is 100% blind they looked stunned and asked, “How is that possible?”



NEWS & NOTES



Vegamatic rapid on Upper Pigeon.
Photo by Linda Tribble

The next major drop is Double Reactionary. This rapid is one of those confluences of currents that intermingle in a relatively narrow slot. A strong current from river left and a stronger current coming in from the right of the rapid slam into each other near mid river. The river right current, being dominant, creates a curler wave and becomes the main channel current crossing from river right to river left. It can be tricky but fun!

We took a line shown to me by Brent Austin (B.W.A. Class V boater) that he calls, "a Class IV move on a Class III rapid." We skirted the holes and negotiated the boogie water approaching the rapid near river left, then crossed over to mid river above the rapid where the kayak almost came to a stall, and then the current along with some paddle strokes propelled the kayak towards the head of the curler of Double Reactionary. We hit the curler and had a swimmer—it was me!

I got turned around too much trying to ensure Lonnie was on line, missed the line, and dropped off into a pour-over sideways, got window shaded, and tried repeated rolls to no avail—I pulled! Lonnie stayed on line with

Britt's help, flipped at the curler, and did a combat roll.

Sometimes leading and making verbal/visual contact with a non-sighted boater is like walking a tightrope where trying to keep them and yourself on line is not always easy. Also, as we all know, whitewater has a way of humbling us at times. The safety boaters gather me, my boat, and my ego up and we head into the final major rapid called Accelerator.

We went into that rapid at mid-river right where there is a tongue and follow the main current into a wave train that leads slightly to river left where the main current does an s-curve at the bottom of the rapid. Lonnie got off line slightly at the s-curve, but ran Accelerator clean.

On the last section of Class II boogie water and surf spots we approach a fun boof that, if hit right, propels the kayak to cop a little air. Lonnie hits the boof perfect and we end the run of the Upper Pigeon laughing and yelling!

Lonnie, once again, attended the Team River Runner 'Outta Sight' clinic in 2013 and Chip Sell, a combat veteran Washington

state paddler, asked him, "Who have you been paddling with?" Lonnie told him and Chip thought that he was ready for something bigger.

At this time, let me say that we challenged Lonnie—and myself. We didn't take easy lines or sneaks. We took on difficult lines, caught eddies with squirrely water, and crashed through holes. At the age of 62, I keep trying to expand my own paddling skills with creek runs on the Little River in the beautiful Smokey Mountains this year with the help of B.W.A. mentors and the kayaking community passing it on. I do these runs in an old school Wave Sport Big EZ play/river runner. I am not ready to lie down YET or quit learning this sport that I love!

Oh, I guess you may be wondering what that "something bigger" was for kayaker Lonnie Bedwell. Well, my kayak partner became the first non-sighted paddler in his own boat to paddle the Grand Canyon section of the Colorado River in late summer of 2013 with Team River Runner.

Awesome stuff dudes! Now that is PASSING IT ON, with a twist!



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Evan Garcia

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Evan Garcia in Aqua Azul on the Río Tulijáe, Mexico
photo: Lane Jacobs and River Roots

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HENDRI COETZEE

BY KARA BLACKMORE

RECOGNIZED AS ONE of the world's best whitewater experts, Hendri Coetzee coupled philosophy and adventure like a modern incarnation of and cross between Livingstone, Stanley, Baker, Burton, and Speke. In his newly released memoir, *Living the Best Day Ever*, Coetzee muses about his aspirations to dream up an epic river mission. He writes: "I want the freedom of the unknown. I want to be a Great White Explorer... I would have thought of it sooner, but I had been imprisoned by the belief that the only real explorers left on the planet are men so superior to me that I am only worthy of reading about them."

The Man

Already a trained South African Defense Forces medic, Coetzee qualified as a raft guide on the Zambezi in 1997. It was on the Zambezi that he started his long-term friendship with Pete Meredith. Meredith mentored Coetzee as he grew from a self-confident young paddler into an introspective explorer. The pair are most recognized for their journey along the Nile in 2004, when they spent over four months journeying from the source in Jinja,

Uganda all the way to Rosetta, Egypt in the Mediterranean Sea. Between 1997 and 2004 he rafted and guided trips on rivers in eleven different countries, eight of which are in Africa.

Holding a base in Jinaj, Uganda, Coetzee opened up sections of river that had previously been unexplored. The back channels, as they were known, were restricted areas of whitewater, not available to commercial rafting but perfect for the curious kayaker. The Nile progressively became Coetzee's domain and he shared its secrets with those who were brave enough to make the trip. This includes leading trips for the likes of Scott Lindgren and Steve Fisher down the 'Murch Section' (2006), inspiring the young minds of Rush Sturges and Tyler Bradt, and hosting the Jackson family during their annual pilgrimage to the warm waters of the Nile.

The golden gem of the Nile's whitewater is maintained to be the Karuma to Murchison Falls section. High on the experience of exploring undisturbed African wilderness, Coetzee reflected, "The days of the great explorers who walked and sailed into blank continents and oceans are gone. People like me are cheap copies and wannabes. I don't care. To be here, to see this piece of

art, to be allowed into nature's VIP lounge reserved for the viewing pleasure of those willing and able to pay the entrance fee, still beats anything else I know." This 80-kilometer stretch of continuous Class V rapids eluded the early explorers. In fact, it was not mapped until a decade after the debate was thought to be settled around the sources of the Nile, for the profound reason that local tribes had used the islands dotted along the stretch as battle grounds.

Coetzee, however, was never too concerned with warring conditions. He even sought them out as prime places to explore by river. Some suppose that his comfort with conflict zones came from a time in his childhood when he lived on a military camp. His father was active in South African Defence Forces. A stoic yet adventurous man bearing the same name as his son—Johannes Hendrik Coetzee II, or Henk—would have no doubt sought out the Angolan attackers that shelled his home and threatened his family. For the young Hendri, life on the frontline was terribly exciting, a place where he learned how to practice the departure to and return from battle.

When rivers seemed to be too conquerable and expeditions started to lose their

EARLY DAYS OF NOTE



HENDRI WITH HIS FATHER AND SISTER.



A YOUNG EXPLORER (LEFT) HENDRI WITH HIS MOTHER (RIGHT)

lustre, Coetzee searched for a more metaphysical connection to nature. He used solo expeditions and the meditative state they offered as a vehicle to explore his motivations. He walked along the East African Coastline from Mombassa to the Rufigi River, a distance of over 1000 kilometers. Later, in 2009, he spent six months alone in the Congolese wilderness. While in the DRC he pushed the boundaries of paddling by attempting the second descent of the Kinsuka rapids with hand paddles.

Nature, both human and wild, mesmerized Coetzee. His unparalleled experiences were paired with academic and spiritual endeavors. He nurtured his thirst for knowledge through an honors degree in Psychology from the University of South Africa and a three-month meditation course in Thailand.

Coetzee's story does not end with the last paddle strokes of December 7, 2010. He is considered a whitewater legend for pushing boundaries and encouraging others to live their dreams. This is evidenced in the awards that have been named in his honor,

the social media sites that continue his memory, and the demand for his memoir. His ripple effect is publicly expressed again and again because he derived inspiration for life from a simple philosophy: "the best day ever!" According to Coetzee, "It is all about today. Today is the *best day ever* because tomorrow might not happen."

The Book

This story is a timeless tale of a young man's quest for wisdom, adventure, and identity. Kicked out of his parents' house with nowhere to go, Coetzee starts his journey as a lost young man. This epic memoir documents his growth from a boy into a self-proclaimed Great White Explorer. Traveling as a white man on a continent that offers no camouflage, Coetzee emerges with a refreshing and truly unique African perspective.

Set as a present tense compilation of extraordinary expeditions, the story first joins Coetzee as he leads a navigation of the Nile from source to sea. His justification for attempting a first descent of the world's longest river through two critically unstable war zones is, "I need something worth living for, or more importantly for my advanced case of superhero dementia, something worth risking my life for." During the four months on a raft Coetzee grapples with issues of leadership. He is continually plagued with the social intricacies of expedition travel and tries to untangle his failures within the group.

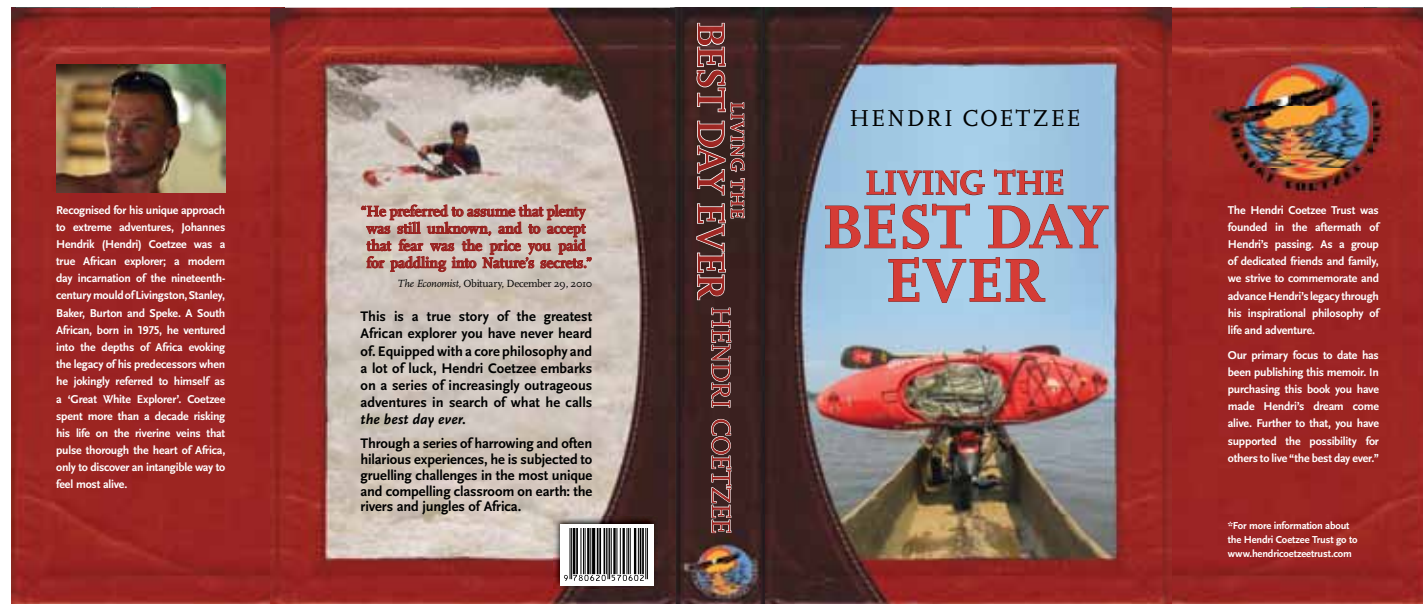
To reconcile this issue of leadership Coetzee decides that maybe traveling alone is more his style. In two subsequent chapters he becomes the only man to kayak solo in Uganda's Murchison Falls National Park and walks for days down the Tanzanian coastline. Not clouded by the distractions of social dynamics, Coetzee in these chapters paints

portraits of magnificent African landscapes, introspectively challenges his thoughts, and crafts a formula for the *best day ever*.

The quest for *the best day ever* is exponentially increased during his journey in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the forest and on the river Coetzee claims to feel more in touch with the world around him than ever before. He kayaks monster rapids, lives on a barge, gets captured by cannibals, finds humor in bureaucracy, and experiences a sense of humanity he never expected in the infamous "heart of darkness."

The final journey of this book, and indeed of Coetzee's full life, is a kayak expedition that goes from his home in Uganda, through Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and back to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At this point he has grown into a man more concerned with political and philosophical dilemmas than trivial squabbles with teammates. Introspective curiosities in *Living the Best Day Ever* provide a high dose of self-deprecating humor where he constantly pokes fun at his ego and his identity as the Great White Explorer.

Filled with history and prophetic prose, this is a book that will inspire. It will make the reader laugh and, at best, it will give the outsider an unrivaled view into the life of a modern day African explorer.



REMEMBRANCE

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL REMEMBERS ALAN PANEBAKER

BY MEGAN HOOKER

ALAN PANEBAKER TOUCHED many lives across the country, including ours at American Whitewater, where he served as our New England Stewardship Director for a short time. Alan was a skilled paddler with a passion for river conservation, and he graduated from Vermont Law School in 2011 with the skills and tools he needed to protect the rivers he loved. Alan's untimely death in a kayaking accident in September 2012 shocked and saddened us all, and hit the Vermont Law School community particularly hard.



Alan loving his time on New York's Beaver River.
Photo by Ryan Mooney

During his time at Vermont Law School, Alan was known as an avid outdoor enthusiast, but he was equally recognized for his strong passion for environmental advocacy and his hard work invested in that field. He participated in the Environmental Moot Court and worked as a student clinician at the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, giving legal support to communities fighting for environmental justice. When the news of Alan's death reached campus, Alan's professors and

fellow students at VLS knew they had to find a way to honor his memory.

A group quickly came together and started raising funds to name the student workroom in the school's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic for Alan. As part of this gift, a Panebaker family friend, Sandy Graves, designed a bronze sculpture that, when completed, will represent how Alan lived his life—balancing hard work with adventure and joy. In a few

months, Vermont Law School will install this sculpture and hope it will serve to remind students of this balance and of the exceptional life Alan lived.

Last fall, a year after Alan's death, Alan's professors, family, friends, and classmates gathered to remember Alan and formally dedicate the room in his name. It was clear that their efforts had served not only to honor Alan's memory, but also helped those closest to him stay connected and help each other through their grief. The ceremony brought some closure to a tough year, and also celebrated a life well-lived. As Alan's classmate Leslie Welts noted, Alan "unapologetically lived in the moment, whether in the classroom, on the river, or sharing a beer with friends. Alan packed more into his short 29 years than many people could in 50."

To learn more about the Alan Panebaker Memorial Fund, visit <http://connect.vermontlaw.edu/panebaker>

Sandy Graves works on the bronze sculpture that will go in the Alan Panebaker Student Workroom at Vermont Law School.

Photo by Janet Panebaker



Leave a lasting legacy to the special places that made a difference in your life.



Become a member of the American Whitewater Enduring Rivers Circle, created exclusively to honor and recognize people who have helped to continue our river stewardship efforts through a gift to American Whitewater in their estate plans.

For more information about making a bequest to American Whitewater CONTACT Carla Miner: 1.866.262.8429 or carla@americanwhitewater.org

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AMERICAN WHITEWATER Today!

American Whitewater has been extraordinarily fortunate in our ability to leverage a strong grassroots base—members and other volunteers—to assist our limited staff with many whitewater river conservation and restoration efforts.

Over the years, American Whitewater volunteers have participated in numerous hydropower meetings as well as instream and recreational flow studies; filed comments and assisted with an uncountable number of filings; appeared as expert witnesses; lobbied; worked to fight new dams, remove existing dams, deny licenses, and improve public access to rivers and streams. In nearly every river stewardship issue AW has been involved with, the outcome has been favorable to paddlers. Not only has AW secured favorable decisions for the paddling community, but we are the only national organization representing paddlers as these decisions are being made.

A growing membership base is crucial to our ability to continue with our work. Some studies show that there are currently over 100,000 whitewater paddlers in the U.S. American Whitewater currently has 6,300 active members. When considering the amount of whitewater river miles that AW has had a direct impact on, this membership number is unimpressive. We need all paddlers to join American Whitewater. If you are a member, please be sure that everyone you paddle with understands the work AW does, and how you, as an AW member, value that work.

Membership support is what will determine our ability to continue our river stewardship work in the years to come. Individual Annual Memberships are only \$35. If you are a member of your local paddling club and your club is an Affiliate Club member of AW, join as a Club Affiliate Individual for \$25. This is less than a tank of gas or an inexpensive night out. This is certainly not too much to pay to have a national organization representing your paddling interests all across the country.

Join on-line today at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/>, call 1-866-BOAT4AW (866-262-8429), or fill out the form on the back of this page and mail it to:

Membership
P.O. Box 1540
Cullowhee, NC 28723



Join or Renew Form

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- | | |
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Club: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Platinum Paddler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Student
School: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Explorer |
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REMEMBRANCE

CHUCK SINGER TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND AND LEGEND

BY SUE TAFT

CHUCK SINGER WAS a father, husband, and companion, but it is Chuck, the paddler, that many may recall as friend and mentor. Chuck was very much a legend in his time as evidenced by the outpouring of sadness, love, and loss from the paddling community when news of his death spread. As one paddler noted, "There was no more generous and decent spirit than the one this great and humble man brought to everyone he met and everything he did."

Chuck truly embodied the spirit and essence of whitewater boating. He lived a life that often revolved around his passion—being on water, but notably, being on whitewater. He never got over his enthusiasm from his earliest intro to whitewater on a Keel Hauler trip in 1971 to his death when he should have been getting ready for yet another trip (which would have made more than a dozen) on the Grand Canyon. Chuck died on the scheduled put-in day, May 5. When asked what the worst thing about kayaking was, he responded, "When it's over."

Described as a scruffy-looking hippie-type, Chuck often responded that he considered himself "ruggedly handsome." Yet scruffy was an apt description. He had long, scraggly hair and beard, and often wore mismatched, sun-faded or patched gear on the river. Style was of no concern to him; utility was. Chuck didn't even stylize his home-built fiberglass kayaks—he built them with no color, just semi-transparent resin and glass. He belatedly moved into the plastic era in 1985 when he ordered a multi-colored Perception Mirage, one where yellow and blue resins were added to the ends and then mixed during molding. Of course, the result was a middle section marbled with various shades of (some would say unappealing) green, perhaps



Chuck on the lower Yough (PA).

Photo by **Ohiopyle Adventure Photography**

inadvertently fitting for Chuck's somewhat unkempt river persona at the time.

But Chuck was more than just a kayaker. He was a consummate and gifted paddler. He paddled kayak, C-2, raft, and shredder—all exceptionally well. After his early retirement in 1991 at the age of 50, he guided for MS&T (Mountain Streams and Trails) in West Virginia and Pennsylvania endearing himself to fellow raft guides and customers alike. Many of his trips down the Grand Canyon were the result of invitations on private trips, not only because of his boating skills but because of his personality. Chuck was unpretentious and self-deprecating with a dry sense of humor. He got along with everyone and was particularly good at defusing tense situations. He was also the person you wanted along to handle unexpected circumstances, whether it was dealing with a life and death river crisis or jerry-rigging a solution for malfunctioning equipment.

Chuck readily shared his knowledge and expertise, not in the traditional

instructional sense but in the eastern-style master sense. One kayaker observed that "Watching Chuck size up a rapid is like watching someone choose a piece of chocolate from an assortment box.... He actually stops dead and examines it, then works his way through the rocks like it's a maze, stopping completely at times and rotating his boat 180 degrees, if required." Another noted that Chuck was one of the most generous kayakers giving to the paddling community more than money or things. "He gave his time and commitment to those of us who were learning to kayak, then he taught us to love and respect the river and nature, and most importantly, he taught us to live the good life!" Chuck was also pragmatic. In sharing early spring rivers with fishermen he would say, "Never anger ANYONE who can stick some sharp, pointing thingy in your body."

When river runs dried-up in the summer, Chuck was often found sitting at Vulture Rock overlooking Dimple on the Lower Yough. Responding to a raft flip one day where a girl popped up entrapped—her

head caught between the raft side ropes and tube—Chuck wearing nothing more than his river shorts, dove into the water, within seconds freeing the girl's head from the entrapment. His lanky body belied his strength, endurance, and skill. He carried a dive mask and often swam the river and eddies below Dimple using underwater rocks as hand holds in search of lost glasses, watches, and rings that he returned to their owners.

Chuck also paddled rivers in Central and South America, South Africa, Southeast Asia, New Zealand, and Australia—the more notable being the White Nile and Zambezi in Africa, Tully in Australia, Buller in New Zealand, Futaleufu, Bio Bio (before it was dammed), Upper Misahyakki and Upper Quijos in South America, and in Central America and Mexico, the Congrejal, Sico, Reventezon, Pacuare, Actopan, Micos, Naranja, Poscados and Tampoan rivers. Being unpretentious and frugal, he often avoided the typical tourist destinations, choosing instead memorable paddling vacations designed around low-cost travel and lodging, and blending in with local culture and customs. His travels were not about marking off rivers, countries, and continents from a list, but much more about absorbing culture and diversity, establishing himself as the perfect ambassador for paddlers wherever he went.

Many of us celebrated his life in our own way upon hearing of his death. The guides of MS&T celebrated his life with their own special party and paddle on the Cheat. His ashes were split between his two home rivers, the Vermilion in Ohio and the Youghiogeney where he had a cabin in the woods outside Ohiopyle. As one paddler succinctly put it, "If you look carefully the next time you paddle by Swimmers, you may see him surfing the wave while juggling some river rocks. His memory will remain in our hearts forever"...and always with a smile on his face.

It's Easy to Support AW!

American Whitewater is proud of the work we have accomplished in our stewardship program but we need your help to sustain our success. Your support through membership and donations enables our staff to be active and engaged in the process of river stewardship. Donations don't have to be large; each person doing a small part makes a noticeable difference. Many donors fail to take full advantage of federal tax incentives specifically intended to encourage charitable contributions. Such incentives often enable a donor to make a larger gift to AW at little or no additional cost. For more information about maximizing your gift visit the IRS website dedicated to charitable organizations.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, EIN# 23-7083760. To learn more about the Giving Options below, contact us at 866-BOAT4AW or visit the "Donate" link under "Support AW" on our website at www.americanwhitewater.org

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- Monthly Giving: Contribute a minimum of \$10 via credit card or electronic transfer from your bank account.
- Bequests: Include AW in your will or living trust. Bequests to AW are generally exempt from federal or state inheritance taxes, and subject to an unlimited deduction.
- Combined Federal Campaign: Federal employees including federal civilians, military personnel and U.S. Postal Workers can donate to AW through the CFC a once a year charitable fund raising program. Look for AW (Agency #11351) in the official CFC listing of eligible donors.
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- Employer Matching: Many employers will match your donations to non-profit organizations. This includes membership payments, as well as additional contributions. Check to see if your employer has a matching program.
- MissionFish: Sell your items through the MissionFish program on eBay and the proceeds come directly to AW.
- Other Assets: A gift of real estate to AW qualifies you for a tax deduction based on the property's fair market value. If it is not a river access point, AW will sell the property and use the proceeds to protect access and restore rivers. Acceptance of property is subject to certain conditions. You may also be eligible to receive tax benefits for gifts of real property. Art and jewelry are examples of personal property items that may be eligible. Interested donors should check with your financial and tax advisors and AW on the feasibility and tax considerations of such gifts.
- Securities: Donating appreciated stock to AW benefits both the donor and whitewater rivers. The donor receives two tax-related benefits. First, the gain on the stock is not subject to capital gains taxes. Second, the donor can deduct the value of the stock as a charitable contribution.
- United Way: All federal campaigns, and a few of the local campaigns will allow you to donate to AW. AW's UNITED WAY member # is 2302.
- Vehicle Donations: Turn that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax deductible donation benefiting AW.

AFFILIATE CLUBS

AW'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE

BY CARLA MINER

The Affiliate Club Program lies at the very heart of American Whitewater's existence. American Whitewater's original purpose since 1954 has been to distribute information among its Affiliate Clubs. Our relationships with local clubs have provided the backbone for the river conservation and access work we accomplish. We have over 100 current AW Club Affiliates and they are all doing great work on your behalf. If you don't belong to a club, consider joining one.

Our Affiliate Club Spotlight this issue is on the Viking Canoe Club an outstanding Affiliate Club and long time supporter of our mission to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

The Viking Canoe Club located in Louisville, Kentucky promotes and encourages the recreational navigation of wild and scenic rivers; promotes conservation of wild and scenic rivers; develops paddling skills through instruction, training and participation in canoeing and kayak events; and promotes appreciation for the beauty of our wild and scenic river resources for the recreational value of wilderness cruising, camping, canoe racing and whitewater sports.

Membership in the Viking Canoe Club is an affordable \$21 and includes discounts on roll sessions and a parking pass to Elkhorn Acres (Elkhorn Creek put-in). Club meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at El Tarasco in Louisville. Fellowship begins at 6:30pm and the Club meeting follows at 7:30pm. To learn more about the Viking Canoe Club check out their website at <http://vikingcanoeclub.info/> or join them at one of their meetings to learn about their river stewardship and outdoor activities.

A big thank you to the Viking Canoe Club for their continued support of American Whitewater and our mission to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely!

The AW Journal Club Affiliates by state:

Alaska

Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks
Nova Riverrunners Inc., Chickaloon

Alabama

Birmingham Canoe Club, Birmingham
Coosa River Paddling Club, Montgomery
Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

Arizona

Grand Canyon Private Boaters Assn,
Outdoors Unlimited, Flagstaff

Arkansas

Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

California

California Floaters Society, Cameron Park
Chico Paddleheads, Chico
Gold Country Paddlers, Lotus
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Paddlers, San Jose

Colorado

Avid4 Adventure Inc., Boulder
Colorado Whitewater Assn, Denver
Dolores River Boating Advocates, Dolores
Friends of the Arkansas River, Canon City
Friends of the Yampa, Steamboat Springs
Pikes Peak Whitewater Club, Colorado Springs
San Miguel Whitewater Asso, Telluride

Connecticut

AMC - Connecticut Chapter, Waterbury

Delaware

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks
Wilmington Trail Club, Newark

Georgia

Georgia Canoeing Asso, Atlanta
Paddlers4Christ, Ellijay

Idaho

Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise
North Idaho Whitewater Boating, Post Falls

Illinois

Chicago Whitewater Assn, Chicago

Indiana

Ohio Valley Paddlers, Evansville

Iowa

Iowa Whitewater Coalition, W. Des Moines

Kentucky

Bardstown Boaters, Bardstown,
Bluegrass Wildwater Asso, Lexington
Viking Canoe Club, Louisville

Maine

Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society, Troy

Maryland

Blue Ridge Voyageurs, Silver Spring
Greater Baltimore Canoe Club, Baltimore
Monocacy Canoe Club, Frederick

Massachusetts

AMC Boston Chapter Paddlers, Boston
UConn Kayaking, Amherst
UMass Outing Club - Whitewater Kayaking, Amherst

Minnesota

Minnesota Canoe Asso, Minneapolis
SCSU Outdoor Endeavors, Saint Cloud

Missouri

Missouri Whitewater Assn, St Louis
Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Springfield
Ozark Wilderness Waterways, Kansas City

Montana

Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings

Nevada

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

New Hampshire

AMC New Hampshire Paddlers, Raymond
Merrimack Valley Paddlers, Nashua

New Jersey

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks
KCCNY, Flanders

New Mexico

Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico,
Albuquerque

New York

ADK Schenectady, Schenectady
AMC NY/NJ Chapter, New York
Colgate University, Hamilton
FLOW Paddlers' Club, Rochester
Hamilton College, Clinton
Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq.,
Ossining
KCCNY, Flanders
Zoar Valley Paddling Club, Buffalo

North Carolina

Base Camp Cullowhee, Cullowhee
Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh
Landmark Learning, Cullowhee
Triad River Runners, Winston-Salem
Western Carolina Paddlers, Asheville

Ohio

Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, Columbus
Keelhauler Canoe Club, Cleveland
Toledo River Gang, Toledo

Oregon

Eugene Kayaker, Eugene
Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Portland
Northwest Rafters Association, Roseburg
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Portland
Oregon Whitewater Association, Beaverton
PDXKayaker, Portland
Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club, Corvallis

Pennsylvania

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks
Bradford County Canoe and Kayak Club, Sayre
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg,
Harrisburg
Conewago Canoe Club, York
Holtwood Hooligans, Paradise
Lehigh Valley Whitewater Inc., Lehigh Valley
Philadelphia Canoe Club, Philadelphia
Three Rivers Paddling Club, Pittsburgh

S. Carolina

Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

Tennessee

Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts,
Limestone
Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville
East Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge
Plateau Eco-Sports, Cookeville
Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, Kingsport
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Chattanooga

Texas

Rockin 'R' River Rides, New Braunfels

Utah

High Jim and the A.S.K., Salt Lake City
Utah Whitewater Club, Salt Lake City

Vermont

Vermont Paddlers Club, Montpelier

Virginia

Creek Freak Paddlers, Rocky Mount
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Roanoke

Washington

BEWET- Boeing Employees Whitewater & Touring Club, Bellevue
EPIC Adventures, Cheney
Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle
Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club, Spokane
University Kayak Club, Seattle
Washington Kayak Club, Seattle
Washington Recreational River Runners, Renton

West Virginia

Dbl Z! Whitewater Club, Fayetteville
Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers, Berkeley Springs
WVU Whitewater Club, Morgantown
West VA Wildwater Assn, S. Charleston

Wisconsin

Hoofers Outing Club, Madison
North East Wisconsin Paddlers, Inc.,
Nenah
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter, Madison

Wyoming

American Packrafting Association, Wilson

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Guelph Kayak Club, Elora
Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers, The Kawarthas

British Columbia

Thompson Rivers Univ Adventure Studies,
Kamloops

DISCOUNTED AW MEMBERSHIP FOR AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERS

By Carla Miner, Membership Manager

AW offers a discounted Affiliate Club membership of \$25, a \$10 savings. If you are renewing your AW membership or joining as a new member, select the Affiliate Club Discounted Personal Membership online at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/> Or, if you are renewing or joining by mail or telephone just mention the name of the Affiliate Club you belong to and you can take advantage of the \$25 membership.

A list of AW Affiliate Clubs can be found on our website at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/>. If you do not see your Club listed here please encourage them to renew their Club membership or to join AW as a new Affiliate Club. Your Club's membership and your personal membership enable our staff to be active and engaged in the process of river stewardship. When you join or renew your membership your support is helping to meet the many challenges whitewater rivers face.

If you have any questions about the Affiliate Club membership, please contact me. I can be reached at 866_BOAT-4AW or membership@americanwhitewater.org.

JOIN AMERICAN WHITEWATER AS A CLUB AFFILIATE!

10 REASONS TO JOIN AW AS AN AFFILIATE CLUB

1. Support river access and restoration through the AW River Stewardship Team.
2. Be part of a national voice for the protection of the whitewater rivers your club values.
3. Tap into the professional expertise of AW staff for river issues that come up in your backyard.
4. Your club's members can become AW members for \$25. A \$10 savings!
5. Receive the American Whitewater Journal, the oldest continually published whitewater magazine.
6. Your club is recognized in the list of Affiliate Clubs posted to the AW website.
7. Recognize your club in the list of Affiliate Clubs noted in each bi-monthly AW Journal.
8. Post Club information on the AW Website to help paddlers find you.
9. Gain Club satisfaction from lending support to AW's stewardship efforts.
10. Improve your club members river karma.

For more information, contact Carla Miner at membership@americanwhitewater.org or sign-up online at www.americanwhitewater.org/membership.

AW AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Saving Rivers Since 1954

Rok Sribar and friends, East Fork Kaweah, CA. © Darin McQuoid

\$35 Cheaper than anything in your gear bag, twice as important.
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