



March/April 1988

**american whitewater**

How many rivers did you run last year?

What was your total river mileage?

Who was on that trip to Colorado?

Where is the put-in really at?

What is the gradient of the Gauley?

When was your first run on the Rogue?

If the answers to these and many other questions about past river trips are starting to become more than just a little

vague over time, then you need a Wet Dream to stimulate your memory.

## Additional Titles

### Footnotes

...a trail diary

### TeleMarks

...a ski touring diary

Only \$5.95 ea.

plus \$1.00 for Shipping.

Quantity discounts available!

Dealer Inquiries Welcome.

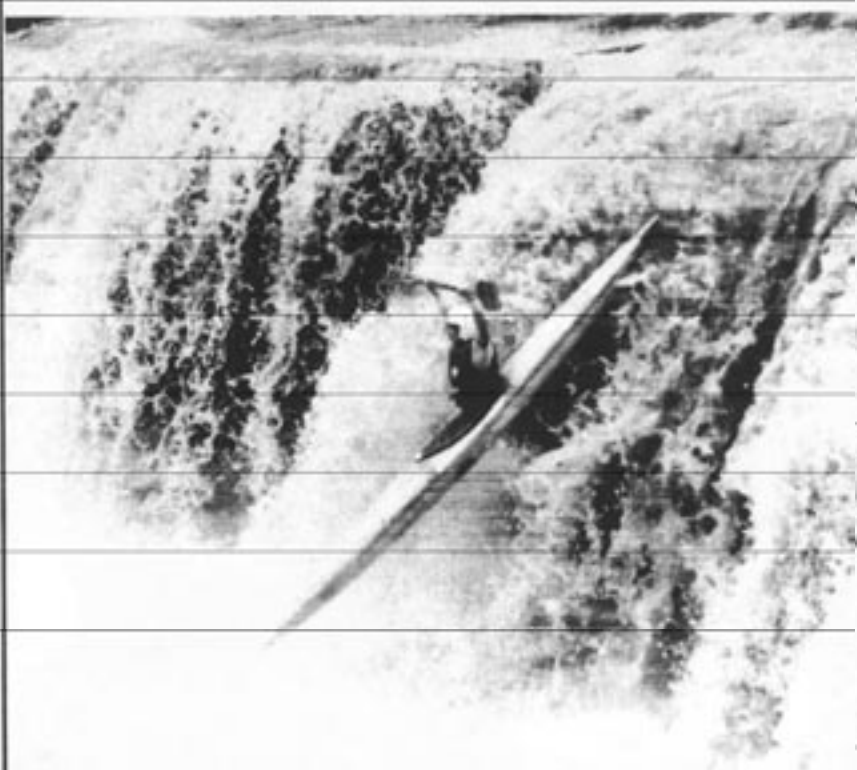
Satisfaction guaranteed or  
your money back!

Send Your Order To:

**Crystal Publications**

3361 Carriage Lane Dept.-1A  
Lexington, Ky. 40502

# Wet Dreams



... a river diary.

by Ed Puterbaugh  
Crystal Publications

Yes, I need a Wet Dream to help stimulate my memory.  
Send me my copy today along with the other titles I have checked below.  
(Please indicate quantity in the boxes)

☐ Wet Dreams ☐ Footnotes ☐ TeleMarks

☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ Check Sign.: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity _____	Name: _____
Total Price _____	Address: _____
Shipping _____	City/State: _____
Tax _____	Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Total Due _____	

---

# AMERICAN WHITEWATER

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN WHITEWATER AFFILIATION

March/April 1988  
Volume XXXIII, No. 2

## in this issue

### Departments

#### 6 letters

#### 7 awa briefs

Niagara access limited...Savage  
River restrictions

#### 9 Conservation Currents

Hydro on Housatonic...Dry dam  
proposed...Massive project planned on  
Poudre...Savage fundraiser  
successful...Klamath Falls named  
"Hydromaniac"...Olson comments

#### 18 Safety Lines

Litigation: the new whitewater danger

#### 22 Proposed AWA Constitution

#### 26 AWA Director elections



### Features

#### ***SQUIRTING—an American Whitewater special section***

#### 32 Introduction

#### 33 Boat manufacturing grows with sport

#### 34 North Carolina boat builders

#### 36 Grand Canyon squirting *by Zygmund W. Furmaniuk, Jr.*

#### 38 Jim Snyder comments

#### 39 "The Squirt Book"—a review *by Mac Thornton*

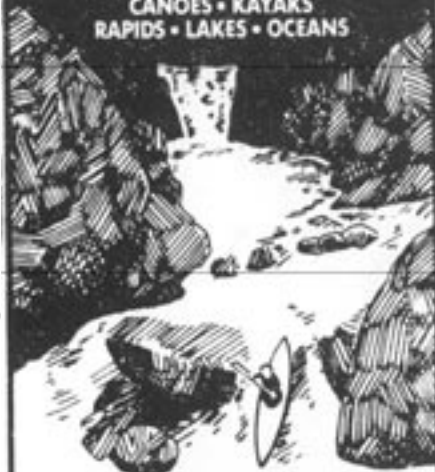
#### 40 "Never eat leftover lizard..." NY Congressman ventures into the Arctic on Canada's Horton River *by Bill Hoyt*

#### 44 Bad breaks in Costa Rica The adventure is getting off the river *by Olivia Barton*



## SERIOUS EQUIPMENT FOR SERIOUS PADDLERS

A FULL LINE OF GEAR FOR  
CANOES • KAYAKS  
RAPIDS • LAKES • OCEANS



Featuring quality products from Perception, Aquaterra, Extrasport!, Voyageurs, Pacific Water Sports, Blue Puma, Body Glove, Werner and more.

Write for our FREE Catalog of River Gear. Dealers: Ask about our Rescue Bags, Sprayskirts, and Pogies.

**WILDWATER DESIGNS**

230 PENLLYN PIKE, PENLLYN, PA 19422  
215-646-5034

## FIND OUT WHAT WORLD CLASS STANDARDS ARE.

From White Water  
to Ocean Touring

Entry  
Level  
to  
Expert



400<sup>00</sup>  
to  
1200<sup>00</sup>

**PHOENIX**  
Since 1973

For more information, give  
us a call.

Toll free 1-800-354-0190.

## editor's forum

I'm composing these opening lines in early January. It's difficult to concentrate upon whitewater. Just 24 hours ago, a fairly typical northern New York winter storm dumped nearly six feet of snow over an area just 40 miles north of here during the course of a single day.

I know that area well. The Moose River flows through the middle of it. And I'll be skiing in near-by Old Forge this weekend.

Boating and skiing go hand in hand up here in northern New York. You couldn't find two more compatible activities designed for the masochistic sportsman.

By the end of October, after a full season of bracing and rolling, my shoulders are shot. The simple motion of raising my arm to comb my hair or pick my nose causes my joints to ache. But by mid November, New York ski areas are cranking up the snow guns and I'm outdoors again.

Then in early March, after four months of skiing, another part of my body starts to betray me. My battered knees wobble with every step. But just when I'm about to be consigned to a wheelchair, the rivers ice out and it's time to boat again.

Between my wrecked knees and arthritic shoulders, I figure I'm crippled 100% of the year. Thank God for a combination like boating and skiing where an invalid can pretend to remain a healthy specimen.



So long as I can keep my seasons and injuries separate, I should be all right. Just don't tempt me with January boating in Costa Rica or skiing the Andes in July.

Although the weather may have relegated boating to the bottom of your priority list, take time necessary to study the proposed changes in the AWA Constitution and complete the enclosed ballot for the AWA Board of Directors election. The constitutional changes are required to continue AWA's expanding national role while a dynamic collection of leaders is essential for the AWA to maintain its momentum as America's foremost whitewater advocate.

### American Whitewater Staff

Editor: Chris Koll, 6 Farnham St., Cazenovia, NY 13035 (315)655-3159  
Membership Director: Marge Weaver, 146 N. Brockway, Palatine, IL 60067  
Advertising Director: Phyllis Horowitz W(914)679-2300 H(914)688-7401  
Conservation: Pope Barrow  
Safety: Charlie Walbridge  
Address Changes: Keith Morgan, 2601 Tanglewood Dr., Durham, NC 27705  
Missing Copies: Contact Peter Skinner, Box 272, W. Sand Lake, NY 12195  
American Whitewater is printed by the Hi-Neighbor, Cazenovia, NY. Laser printing by Syracuse Computer Store. All rights reserved.

**THE  
AMERICAN  
WHITEWATER  
AFFILIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1986-1988

**President**

**Marge Cline**

1343 North Portage  
Palatine, IL 60067

**Pope Barrow**

136-13th Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

**Rich Lewis**

1304 Chinook Trail  
Frankfort, KY 40601

**Keith Thompson**

1171 N. 10th Street  
Laramie, WY 82070

**Phyllis Horowitz**

P.O. Box 329  
Phoenicia, NY 12464

1982-1985

**Ken Horowitz**

P.O. Box 88108  
Seattle, WA 98188

**Peter N. Skinner**

Box 272, Snyder Rd.  
W. Sand Lake, NY 12195

**Ron Walters**

Idaho State University  
Box 8118

Pocatello, ID 83209

**Executive Director**

**Risa Callaway**

P.O. Box 375  
Denver, NC 28037

**Treasurer**

**Claire Gesalman**

6301 Hillcrest Place  
Alexandria, VA 22312



**RIVERSPORT**

213 Yough Street  
Confluence, PA 15424  
(814) 395-5744

One of the top whitewater schools in the country. **Riversport** offers a safe yet challenging experience for first-time beginners, as well as experts.

Friendly instructors, small **classes**, excellent equipment, and a beautiful riverfront camp combine to provide the perfect setting for learning whitewater skills. Students are carefully placed in small classes according to skill level, paddling interest and age. We guarantee your satisfaction. Ask about our special clinics and group rates.

**Whitesell**  
Canoes by Whitesell, Ltd.  
(404) 325-5330, Box 9839. Atlanta, GA 30319

Quality — The absolute best.  
Craftsmanship — Each canoe is hand built to your requirements.  
Service — The only shop completely customizing canoes specifically to your size and paddling style.

Own the best  
**Canoes by Whitesell, Ltd.**  
(404) 325-5330, Box 9839. Atlanta, GA 30319

TOM STULTIS WHITESTONE PHOTOGRAPHY

One to four day whitewater rafting trips  
Salmon and steelhead fishing

Write or Call for Information:  
P.O. Box 1647  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
(503) 479-9554

**GROUP KAYAK SUPPORT TRIPS**  
on the permit section of the  
"Wild & Scenic" Rogue River.

A Complete Line of  
River Running Rental Equipment available at **WHITEWATER SPORTS**



**WE SPECIALIZE IN SQUIRT KAYAKS**

The Pro Jet by New Wave is in stock in sizes from full to an 11/4" cut. We carry only the heavy duty 5 over 6 layups with epoxy seams and minicell wails as the standard. Other squirtable boats in stock include the Surge, the Ferrier and the Aero-Bat C-1. We also stock surface boats including Dancers, Dancer XT's, Mirages, Gyra-Maxs, AeroQuatics, Fits, and Dragonflys. Call us for a price on a new deck boat delivered anywhere east of the Mississippi




**BOB TAYLOR'S  
APPOMATTOX RIVER CO., INC.**

610 N. Main St.  
Farmville, Virginia 23901

**Phone 804-392-6645**

Open Tuesday-Saturday

**FREE! WHITEWATER EQUIPMENT CATALOG**



**CASCADE OUTFITTERS**  
A T Quality Equipment C  
PO Box 209 • Springfield OR 97477  
503 (747-2272)  
Toll-Free Order Line 1-800-223-7238



## Test yourself with the best!

Canada's **finest** and finest adult whitewater school, (established in 1972), provides highly **personal** instruction from **beginner** to expert levels in both whitewater kayaking and open canoeing — leading to **diplomas** recognized worldwide. Located on the **Mackinac** River, near Algonquin Park, M.K.C. offers all the comforts of a **resort**—including delicious meals **lunch** up with **world** hospitality —as well as excursions to the nearby and fast-moving waters of the **labulous** Petawawa and Ottawa Rivers

Our classes are small (a 1:5 ratio), and our currents clean, warm and uncrowded.

Rates start at Weekends: \$92.00; Five Days: \$140.00 (U.S.), subject to currency exchange. Book early to avoid disappointment.

For more information and application form, please write for our brochure.  
2 Tuna Court, **Mill** Mills, Ontario, M3A 3L1  
(416) 447 8845.

After June 1st: Barry's Bay, Ont., P.O. Box 635, KOJ 1B0 (613) 756-3620

**КАНАДА КАНОЕ**  
**КАНОЕ КАНОЕ**  
CANADA'S FINEST WHITE WATER SCHOOL  
FOR KAYAKS AND CANOES

## letters

Editor,

Your "Steep Creek Secrets" article in the July/August 87 issue is, in my opinion, the best whitewater article I've ever read. I love creek running and am somewhat dismayed at the lack of such articles in the "high dollar, color publications." I would be interested in purchasing any back issues with such articles on Class IV-VI hair runs or first descents. I have enclosed the \$15 for a subscription and am expecting more creek articles in future issues.

Thanks,

David

(editor's note: Dave's complementary note was forwarded to me by our subscription office, and it didn't include his name or address. But wherever you are, Dave, rest assured we're determined to continue covering the cutting edge of whitewater sport.)

Dear Chris,

Your three feature articles transformed the November/December issue of American Whitewater into an early X-mas present.

I thoroughly enjoyed each superbly written story and your juxtaposition of the Stephen Crane excerpts into the NI-AGARAI article was very effective.

My compliments and best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Norm Fairhurst

Dear Chris,

Wonderful. I really support the idea of a paid executive director's position. As some of you know, I outlined the idea of the position in a proposal that I prepared some years ago.

Obviously, I'm delighted with the concept, and I have felt for sometime that in this day and age a paid director is essential if our organization is to grow and meet the needs of the boating

community.

By all means, you have my vote of approval.

By the way, the Blackadar biography on which I've been working for the past four years is nearing completion. AWA played an important role in his life, and I haven't overlooked those contributions in the text.

Yours Aye,

Ron Watters  
Pocatello, Idaho

Chris:

Don't change a thing. I'm referring to the direction I want the AWA magazine to pursue.

The large magazine is great, too. By the way, I hope your EDITORSHIP is lifetime.

Kent Iggulden  
Hamburg, NY

### American Whitewater letters policy

American Whitewater invites comments from its readership. Your opinions regarding the magazine, its contents or its general editorial policies are solicited.

In addition, American Whitewater aspires to be a sounding board for the whitewater community. This column is dedicated to act as a clearinghouse for your reflections upon whitewater safety, conservation, equipment and trends.

Feel free to drop me a line at 6 Farnham Street, Cazenovia, NY 13235. Brevity is appreciated, but if the subject demands a novel, let the words fly. I'll make an honest effort to print all letters on any legitimate subject.

Hope to hear from more of you.

## awa briefs

### Access to Niagara Gorge restricted; legal action pending

On September 16, 1987 the New York State Office of Parks and recreation invited public comment on a proposed regulation that would prohibit boater access from Park property to the rapids of the Niagara Gorge. Since the Office owns or controls virtually all land affording access to the rapids, the adoption of such a regulation effectively would exclude boaters from the Niagara Gorge.

The Office received comments from several persons. All opposed the regulation. After a superficial review of the comments, conducted without benefit of advice from anyone having any whitewater expertise, on November 10, 1987 the Office adopted the prohibition.

On December 11, 1987 a lawsuit was brought to set aside that regulation. We are in the process of presenting the matter to the Court for resolution and are very optimistic. Either way, the matter should be resolved within the next several months. -- Bob Glanville

### Recreational paddling on Savage River limited during competitions

Two primary issues will effect casual recreational use of the Savage River during the 1988 dress rehearsal and the 1989 World Championships: traffic and safety.

During the events there will be a traffic management plan in place to safely and efficiently accommodate athletes, volunteers and spectators. The Savage River road is narrow and easily congested. Team vehicles from the competing nations must be accommodated, as well as the busses which will convey volunteers and spectators into the site. Therefore, the road along

the Savage from Bloomington to Spring Lick Road will be restricted to race-related vehicles and residents.

The section along the slalom course will be completely restricted except to emergency vehicles and wildwater team's shuttle vehicles (only during wildwater training and competition). This is not a casual decision; members of the organizing committee from the State Police, the Department of Natural Resources, and the State Highway Administration, among others have participated in this decision.

Safety is an additional, and more critical, concern. The Savage is a narrow river, with tight eddies and limited sight lines upstream. Wildwater competitors will be making intense use of the limited water, and the potential contact between a wildwater C-2 racing downstream and a cruising kayak headed upstream to play or peel out could be fatal.

The safety suggestions of the AWA and ACA would alleviate this problem, but those guidelines are often forgotten in the excitement of the moment. The State of Maryland has assumed significant financial and logistical responsibilities for the 1988 and 1989 events, and the concern over the potential for accidents is high. Special insurance coverage is being sought, and will undoubtedly limit the use of the river course to those connected with the event.

Traffic and safety management will restrict the casual recreational boaters' use of the Savage during the 1988 and 1989 contests, but that does not mean that all paddling opportunities must be foregone.

Whitewater Championships is sympathetic to the recreational paddlers who have few opportunities to paddle the Savage. There will be, as there have been all along, incidental water releases as part of the Upper Potomac Basin water management plan. Whitewater Championships will try to arrange for these releases to be scheduled on weekends, and will make the schedule information available to those clubs requesting it.



### KAYAKS FOR THE CONNOISSEUR A FULL RANGE OF KAYAKS & ACCESSORIES

featuring designs by  
**TOM DERRER**

One of America's Leading Designers

**Now also produced  
on the East Coast**



Please send \$2.00 for our  
complete information package.

East of Lake Michigan write:  
**LAMINEX INDUSTRIES**

Bldg. 4 Thompsons Point  
Portland, ME 04102  
(207) 775-2800

West of Lake Michigan write:  
**EDDYLINE KAYAKS**

Paine Field S.. Bldg. 302  
Everett, WA 98204  
(206) 743-9252

# The Right Stuff

Performance Boats for the  
Discriminating Paddler

**SPECIAL  
Pre-season  
Edition**

**Over 300  
Rainbow Colors  
With This  
Guarantee:**

*"If you find a boat  
exactly like yours, the  
next one is on us!"\**

**Treat Yourself  
to a Boat  
Designed With  
You in Mind!**



**New 1988 Colors Available  
At 1987 Prices Now!**

**Send for our all New Brochure**

**Include \$1.00 for postage and  
receive an exciting kayaking poster.**

**noah international**

**71 Maple Springs Road - Bryson City, NC 28713 • (704)488-3862**

\*Offer limited to Pre-season sales

Produced by Adventure Designs



## conservation currents

### Housatonic's Bull Bridge Gorge Whitewater Threatened by Hydro

Bulls Bridge Gorge on the Connecticut's Housatonic River is only two hours north of New York City and a hour and a half west of Hartford, but for years its 75 feet/mile of gradient and four major drops (Class III-V) were well-kept secrets in the paddling world.

Hidden out of view from Route 7 and only runnable when high flows caused water to spill over a dam at the head of the gorge, this section of the Housatonic attracted little attention from New England paddlers. Recently, as the number of boaters in the northwest corner of Connecticut has grown, Bulls Bridge has received greater use.

But just as paddlers have begun to "discover" Bulls Bridge, a proposal by Northeast Utilities (NU) to expand the powerplant at the top of the gorge threatens to greatly reduce the availability of runnable water levels in the gorge.

Currently the NU powerhouse can handle a flow of 1,250 cfs. This water is diverted out of the riverbed at the head of the gorge and into a canal. The water is returned to the river through a powerhouse



*Boater plunges through the middle of Housatonic's big drops. The Connecticut river is threatened by hydro development.*

about two miles downstream.

Whenever river flows are greater than 1,250 cfs, water flows over the dam, down the natural riverbed, and is available for paddling. Currently, this occurs approximately 139 days each year, of which 94 are at levels suitable for boating (500 cfs or more). NU proposes to increase the capacity of its powerhouse to 2,750 cfs which would reduce runnable water levels in the gorge to 31 days each year.

The Housatonic Area Canoe and Kayak Squad (HACKS) has proposed to NU that they schedule regular recreational releases to compensate for the reduced natural flows in the river. So far, this has met with a very lukewarm response from the utility.

To strengthen its position, the club is considering filing with FERC for intervenor status with regard to the expansion.

In addition, North American Whitewater Expeditions, a rafting company, has proposed buying releases from NU to facilitate commercial rafting trips. This proposal has met with considerable opposition from the local community which is against any commercial activity in the gorge area. The net effect has been to generate a great deal of controversy surrounding the area.

For further information on the status of the gorge, contact Doug Gordon, HACKS President (672-0293). For information on river conditions, contact Clarke Outdoors (672-6365).

### "Dry" dam proposed

In one of the strangest twists yet in the Auburn Dam saga, the Army Corps of Engineers has proposed building a dam in the canyon above Sacramento which would not actually hold any water. The "dry" dam might be filled to the brim in a big rainstorm, but would then drain within about two weeks.

For Sacramento, desiring more flood protection, and for environmentalists wanting to preserve the American River canyons, a "dry" dam may be the best proposition to result from the Auburn Dam controversy. A dry dam would provide flood control, but since it would

## "Dry" dam proposed...Poudre project opposed

only fill briefly, it would not significantly damage the canyonlands behind the dam. There are obstacles to this proposal, however, including the cost of the concrete dam large enough to hold back water from a flood of the magnitude expected to occur once in 200 years.

Neither have the proponents of a large multi-purpose Auburn Dam given up. The new Corps report shows higher figures for the dam's flood control benefits, and that along with new federal cost sharing policies which are more favorable to flood control, has renewed their hopes for federal money for a multi-purpose dam. Proponents envision the dam providing cheap water and power and vastly increased land values in the foothills, although there is little credible evidence to support that vision.

Proponents continue to argue that because nearly \$300 million was "sunk" into

the Auburn foundation, another \$1 billion should follow it. El Dorado and Placer Counties, where the reservoir would have been, complain that they would receive no benefits from a "dry" dam.

Friends of the River has proposed that federal lands which were set aside for Auburn Dam be designated as a National Recreation Area, to be managed as a fee area by the National Park Service or State Parks and Recreation.

Only iron-clad protections for the upper American River canyons and the flows in the Lower American can lead to endorsement of the dry dam proposal by F.O.R. and other environmentalists. Congressional authorization of a dry dam would have to be accompanied by an NRA and the dam would have to be designed to prevent enlargement or conversion to a canyon destroying, multi-purpose dam.

## Massive power project planned on Colorado's Poudre

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District is moving rapidly and aggressively toward building the Poudre Power Project. The proposed project would destroy the scenic beauty and rugged wonders of the Lower Poudre Canyon, one of the most popular recreation areas in Colorado.

The proposed 1,250 acre Grey Mountain Reservoir would flood 7.4 miles of the Poudre mainstem to just below the tiny burg of Poudre Park. About 36 homes would be inundated; 12.9 miles of highway would have to be relocated along the high, jagged mountains south of the reservoir; a highly used Wild Trout Area would be destroyed; habitats for bald eagles and other species would be disrupted and Northern Colorado's most

popular kayaking and rafting runs would be eliminated.

Northern District documents say that Grey Mountain Reservoir probably would have no recreational use due to fluctuating water levels and steep, rocky banks. Water levels could fluctuate 25-60 feet on a weekly basis and occasionally drop down 200 feet. The fluctuations would leave dirty bathtub-like rings around the shore.

The Greyrock Trail would also be drastically and adversely affected. With more than 43,100 recreation visitor days a year, the 3-mile trail is the most popular in northern Colorado and one of only a few used all year long. If the Poudre Power Project is built, large portions of the trail would be destroyed and surrounding wilderness areas would be replaced by an industrial complex. Disrupted would be habitats for many rare animals, including bears, mountain lions and bighorn sheep.

The environmentally disruptive project would consist of three areas. The main dam, crossing Highway 14 four miles west of Ted's Place, would stand 400 feet high and 1,300 long across the crest. A 20-megawatt conventional hydroelectric plant would be located at the dam.

In the large bowl-shaped meadow below the Greyrock summit, the water district wants to construct a forebay consisting of a dam and two dikes that would



*The explosion of small-hydro threatens many of America's whitewater resources like this section of the Housatonic located at Connecticut's Bull Bridge Gorge.*

## No deals on Poudre...Low flying planes at Woodal Shoals?

have a 53,000-acre-foot storage capacity. The dam would be 370 feet tall and 4,000 feet long at the crest. The dikes would be 370 and 140 feet tall, with crest lengths running 2,000 and 1,000 feet. About 212 acres would be flooded.

Accompanying these alterations would be an industrial complex: power station, surge chambers, access tunnels, switchyard, spillway, shafts, tunnels and conduits..

In connection with this pumped storage project, a second dam would have to be constructed on the Poudre mainstem in the area what is now the Greyrock Trail Bridge. This would create a reservoir to act as an afterbay for the pumped storage project.

Supporters of damming the Poudre frequently and inaccurately claim that a compromise was made on the federal Wild and Scenic legislation that in 1986 gave perpetual protection to the upper 75 miles of the Poudre River. This status made the Poudre the first federally protected river in Colorado. The lower boundary of the designated area is at the east end of Poudre Park, where the high-water level of Grey Mountain Reservoir would be set.

However, the only compromise made in 1986 was that in return for designation of the upper 75 miles, a Lower Canyon Reservoir could be built if the project stood on its own merits. Under no circumstances

did proponents of the Upper River designation grant Northern Colorado a carte blanche opportunity to develop the Lower Canyon at will. Colorado citizens retain the right to examine and oppose the merits of any proposed Poudre projects.

To coordinate opposition to the Poudre Power Project, Friends of the Poudre has been organized. The group intends to analyze the FERC study and stop the project at that level, gain support against the Poudre Power Project among citizens and governmental agencies in the Northern District, change the non-representative nature of the Northern District and the Authority, and develop a

network of local and national groups to oppose the project.

Officers of FOTP are Gary Kimsey, president, 221-2957; Dale Hursh, vice president, 224-3681; Kate Hoffman, treasurer, 493-1492; Chris and Shaun Green, secretaries, 221-0377; Sandy Lamberg, coordinator, 484-6688.

### Airport near Chattooga?

Plans are afoot for a Clayton/Rabun County airport to be constructed adjacent to the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor on what is now U.S. Forest Service land.

Boaters are urged to write their congressmen to nip this intrusive presence in the bud.

## The Best Boaters In The World Are Coming To The USA!

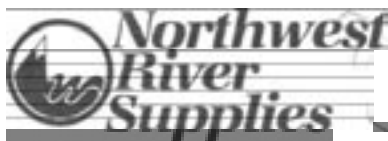
Colorful and functional paddling wear designed by Champions Richard Fox and Davey Hearn for **Wild-Water**.



Warm and flexible Avilastic and PVC drysuits from **DryFashion**

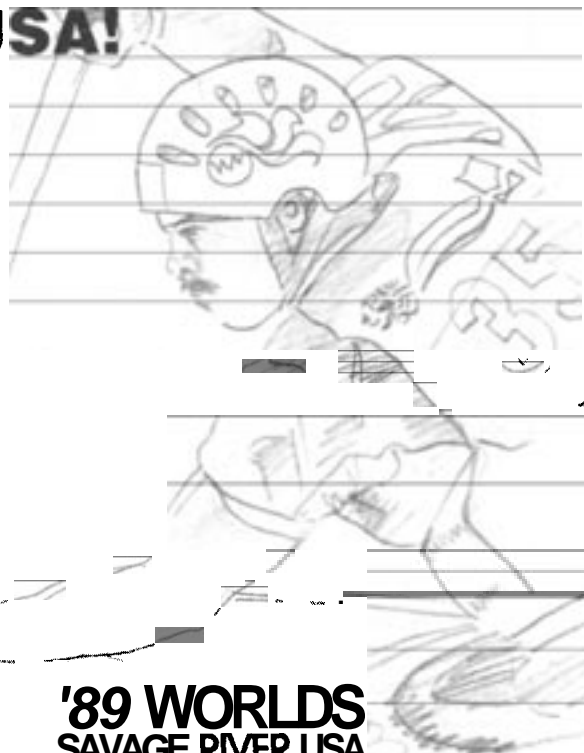


The best paddling gear is now available from **Northwest River Supplies**. See our complete line of equipment and accessories at your local specialty shop or call or write for free 1988 catalog



**1-800-635-5202**

P.O. Box 9186 AWA Moscow, ID 83843



**'89 WORLDS  
SAVAGE RIVER USA**

## Savage River hydro opponents load up for battle

### *Successful fund raising assists resistance on Savage*

By Angus Phillips  
Reprinted from **The Washington Post**

Washington-area paddlers, worried that the region's top whitewater racing stream may be jeopardized by a hydroelectric project, have raised a \$15,000 defense fund to save the Savage River.

The paddlers say a planned \$2 million power project could threaten recreational use of the river.

The cold, boisterous

Savage in far western Maryland is the designated site of the 1989 world whitewater championships, the first such championships to be staged in the United States.

Construction of the hydroelectric facility is not scheduled to begin until 1990, so the international races wouldn't be affected.

But the paddlers say the outcome of their battle could define boater's rights on other popular rivers currently being eyed for use by hydro developers, including the Youghiogheny in Pennsylvania, the busiest whitewater river in the East.

The Savage developer, John L. Reed of Fort Washington, Md., says he has no wish to interfere

with whitewater boating. But the paddlers say they want written assurances and Reed has declined.

The dispute is being played out before the Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC), which is considering Reed's application. The paddlers say if they don't get the assurances they want through FERC, they'll use their war chest to carry their fight as far as they can, even to Congress.

It's a classic confrontation between recreational and business interests over use of a public resource. Here's the background:

In 1952, a small dam was built on the Savage by the Army Corps of Engineers to control flow on a 5 112-mile stretch leading to

the Potomac. Since then, as an unexpected side benefit, occasional releases of water from the dam have provided high sport for whitewater enthusiasts in the narrow, rocky, forest-lined gorge.

The best paddling occurs three to six times a year, paddlers said, when the Corps releases water at a thunderous rate of about 1,000 cubic feet per second. In recent years, boaters have been notified in advance of the releases and they have scheduled forays to race or practice in the fast water.

So popular has the racing stretch grown that Maryland's Department of Natural Resources spent \$1 million upgrading streamside facilities for the

## DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

### SEDA PRODUCTS introduces MASTER from PYRANHA



Sleek, fast, maneuverable, modern asymmetrical design by PYRANHA, winners of all Whitewater World Championships since 1977. Molded from tough cross-linked CXL 9000 polyethylene. Volume 66 gals., length 11 ft. 8' beam 24" Paddle the whitewater thoroughbred.

Send for more information now or call.

DEALER INQUIRIES REQUESTED

**SEDA**

**SEDA PRODUCTS**

P.O. BOX 997  
CHULA VISTA  
CA 92012  
(619) 425-3222

YOU SAY YOU LIKE  
WHITEWATER !!



then join us in DIXIE

Paddling Instruction, rapid-running  
rescue seminars, river protection.  
wilderness overnightere,  
wildwater & slalom races,  
U.S. Team training.

It happens all year  
long in

**DIXIE!**

For more information contact:

**AMERICAN CANOE ASSOC  
DIXIE DIVISION**

David Mason  
2320 Salcedo St.  
Savannah, Georgia 31406



## Prospects bright for Savage

upcoming world championships.

Meanwhile, in January, members of Washington's Canoe Cruisers Association (CCA), the nation's largest paddling club, learned that Reed Hydroelectric Corp. was seeking federal approval for a 3.2-mega-watt generator at the dam to produce electricity for sale to public utilities.

CCA members Mac Thornton and Steve Taylor felt the development could imperil recreational use of the river and formed the Savage River Defense Fund.

Taylor, an engineer, said that since the generator can only use 50-300 cubic feet per second of water, releases at the higher rate paddlers need

would be water down the drain for the hydroelectric generator.

Taylor said the defense fund wants a promise that Reed Hydroelectric won't try to shape water-release policy for its financial advantage at the expense of boaters. Taylor's feasibility studies indicated the project's profit margins are tight and he foresees financial pressures on Reed to husband water resources for maximum profit.

The defense fund asked Reed to sign a memo pledging not to interfere with the 1988 pre-world championships or 1989 championships; not to reduce opportunities for whitewater sport in general, and not to seek to alter

water releases in a way that might harm whitewater recreation.

Reed's attorney, William J. Madden, said the company agreed to the first two requests. But as for future assurances, he said, "They want us to give up our First Amendment right to petition the government for change. We don't know what's going to happen in the distant future. Twenty years from now, whitewater recreation may be just a distant memory."

Madden said Reed Hydroelectric is perfectly happy with current levels of water releases at the Savage and has no intention to seek changes.

And he said Reed assured FERC, Maryland's Department of Natural

Resources and the Upper Potomac River Commission that it can live with current water release policies, including releases for whitewater recreation.

But, said defense fund member Mac Thornton, "What people say in order to get approval and what they do after they have it can be two different things. We want something in writing."

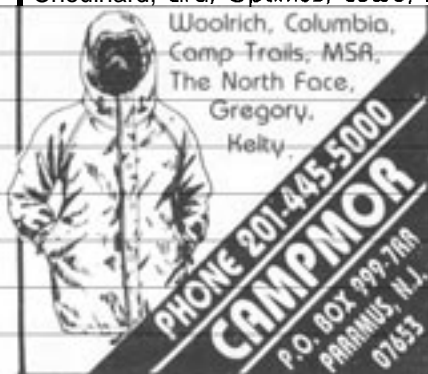
So, evidently, do legions of his fellow boaters, who bought more than 4,000 raffle tickets for the fundraiser last weekend at the REI outdoor equipment store in College Park.

Dozens of top paddlers were at hand at the drawing, including four-time world champion Jon Lugbill, who said he has been



**WRITE OR PHONE FOR OUR  
FREE DISCOUNT CATALOG**

Eureka, Jansport, Sierra Designs, Slumberjack, Cannondale, Peak 1, Chouinard, Lifa, Optimus, Lowe,



**PADDLE COMPANY**

**WHITewater**

**CANOE & KAYAK PADDLES**

with proven

- performance you demand
- durability you want
- value that makes \$ sense

Call or write for information & outfitters in your area;  
RD1, Spring Mills, PA 16875 814-422-8844

The **LAZER**

"A High Performance White Water Play Boat"

11'6" Roto-molded kayak  
with extra large cockpit  
and full-length  
foam pillars  
for safety.

Quick spinning  
High hull speed  
Responsive and FAST

**WAVE Sports, Inc.**

Write or call for your nearest dealer.

P.O. Box 5207/Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 (303)879-4371

## Savage River update...Klamath Falls wins dubious award

paddling the Savage since 1974 and wants to make sure he can canoe there 15 years from now.

**"It marks the first time in river conservation history that we've had the money we needed ahead of time."**

The defense fund set a goal of \$12,000, Thornton said, but with donations of \$1,000 each from REI and the American Rivers Conservation Council to start with, plus more than \$12,000 from the weekend's raffle, it's gone far over the top.

That alone was noteworthy, said one member of the defense fund. "It marks the first time in river conservation history," he said, "that we've had the money we needed ahead of time."

## Klamath Falls named 1987 Hydromaniac

Klamath Falls, Oregon received the dubious distinction of being named the winner of the 1987 Hydromania Award. The annual award is sponsored by the AWA and recognizes the city's proposed Salt Caves Project as an outstanding environmental insult.

A certificate of the award is being forwarded to the mayor of the city.

AWA defines hydromania as "a compulsive desire to build hydroelectric power projects without regard to environmental damage." The award is given to the developer of the hydroelectric power project exhibiting the highest degree of insensitivity to a natural river environment. The winner is selected from candidates nominated by canoe clubs, environmental organi-

zations and the general public.


The 1987 award to Klamath Falls recognizes the damage that the Salt Caves Project will do to scarce and valuable whitewater resources, to an exceptional wild rainbow trout fishery, to cultural and ecological resources and to the picturesque scenery of the river.

According to AWA Director Pope Barrow, a number of harmful projects were nominated, but the Salt Caves Project was a clear winner. In making the award, AWA cited the project's massive and irreversible damage to natural resources, the audacity of financing such an obvious boondoggle with tax free bonds, and the bizarre concept that the permanent loss of unique and scarce river recreation can be mitigated by the construction of ski slopes.



**SUNDANCE**  
EXPEDITIONS INC.

- ★ Our 15th year as The #1 Kayak School in The West.
- ★ 5 & 9 day. Beginner Kayak program on Oregon's Rogue River (lodging provided).
- ★ 4-day, 40-mile raft supported trips on the Wild & Scenic Rogue (permits included).
- ★ Featuring Perception Kayaks & other top quality Kayak gear.
- ★ Write for color brochure!!!



**BILL DVORAK'S  
KAYAK & RAFTING  
EXPEDITIONS, INC.**  
*Outfitting & Instructional  
experience since 1969*

Regularly scheduled 1-2 - 12-day clinics in kayaks, rafts, and canoes. You can choose from 28 canyons on great rivers like the Colorado, Arkansas, Guntzen, North Platte, Rio Chama, Green, Rio Grande, Dolores & Middle Fork of the Salmon. Flexibility that can accommodate your group or individuals. Innovators of participatory paddle boat trips we also have instruction for the disabled, including kayaking. Fully guided fishing trips. Equipment: Matrox & Avon rafts, Perception, Prijon, Hydra kayaks, Blue Bird canoes & accessories. **FREE BROCHURE.**  
17921-R U.S. Hwy. 285, Natron, CO 81236  
(719) 539-6851 or (800) 824-3795 U.S.

**14894 Galice Road  
Merlin, Oregon 97532  
503/479-8508**

### GRAVITY SPORTS VIDEOS




*Gravity Sports Films*

...outstanding  
collection of exciting action videos. Over 20  
titles covering climbing, whitewater,  
and boardsailing. Call or write for our free catalog

**Gravity Sports Films, Inc.**  
100 Broadway • Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Order Toll Free (800) 346-4884

### WHITewater VIDEO SERIES Paddleboating Down East



*And duckies on five  
most popular rivers  
the New Cheat Gauley Tygart and  
Upper Yough. \$44.95 includes shipping*

**Gravity Sports Films, Inc.**  
100 Broadway • Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Order Toll Free (800) 346-4884

## Studies continue for Yosemite reclamation

This summer Interior Secretary Donald Hodel raised the possibility of abandoning O'Shaughnessy Dam and restoring Hetch-Hetchy Valley--now buried under a reservoir in Yosemite National Park. Hodel's idea met with a storm of criticism from Bay Area political leaders who believed that Hetch-Hetchy water users would have to find replacement water supplies.

While the political storm was swirling, a number of conservation groups (in-

cluding F.O.R. and the Sierra Club) embraced the concept--quietly pointing out that San Francisco's water supply would not be compromised. San Francisco's Tuolumne River aqueduct system could be reconfigured to continue Tuolumne River deliveries to the Hetch-Hetchy service area.

This fall, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, working under a contract with the National Park Service, released a report on water and power replacement concepts for the Hetch-Hetchy system. The report confirmed the conceptual viability of the F.O.R. and Sierra Club analysis. The Hetch-Hetchy system is a water and power system currently being operated to optimize

operated to optimize water yields instead of power production, O'Shaughnessy Dam would not be needed.

According to Hodel, "the preliminary analysis is encouraging to me and suggests that we may yet be able to move forward with a plan which provides an alternate water and power supply in an economic fashion."

After analyzing the comments that it expects to receive on the draft concept report, the Department hopes to conduct a full scale feasibility analysis. The full scale analysis will provide detailed operational models and cost estimates needed for an informed public discussion about the Hetch-Hetchy restoration proposal.

## Small hydro emerges as foremost menace

*The following are excerpts from the inaugural speech of the annual Distinguished Lecture Series at Unity College, presented by W. Kent Olson, president of American Rivers.*

My topic is extinction. The most famous example is that of the dinosaurs. Whole genera vanished and scientists seem unable to explain precisely how. One school of thought is that early mammals ate the reptiles' eggs. According to National Lampoon, though, the Moral Majority

power revenues. If it were

has a plausible theory

**W**E DIDN'T SET OUT TO create the ultimate kayak school. It just happened. Originally our intent was to create the ultimate wilderness lodge. Kayaking was

something we did just for fun. So much fun, in fact, we now offer the best instructional program available. Everything is first class.

Our physical plant consists of 40 acres completely surrounded by wilderness. Private ponds for instruction, private beaches and a mile of private river front on the emerald green California-Salmon River are all located on the property.

Our instructors are well-known experts, our equipment the best exclusively by Perception and our lodge boasts numerous amenities including a spacious hot tub and Sauna and private decks off of each room. Our teaching technique stresses safety, the proper stroke, and an easy-to-learn "roll" technique.

We are dedicated to making this one of the great vacation experiences of your life. Color brochure available. Personal size classes. Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced.

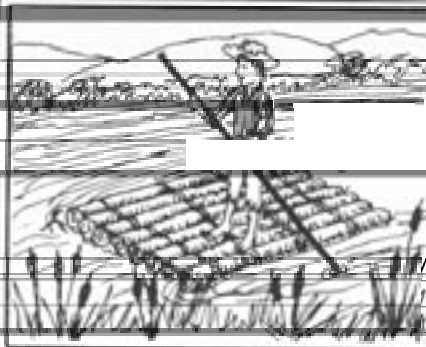


**OTTER BAR LODGE**

KAYAK HOLE

FORKS OF SALMON, CALIFORNIA 96031

Message number 707-444-3044, or ask operator for: Forks of Salmon Toll Station 4772



"We said there warn't no home like a raft, after all. Other places do seem so cramped up and smothery, but a raft don't. You feel mighty free and easy and comfortable on a raft."

--Mark Twain, Huckleberry Finn

## Achilles and Avon Rafts

For free River Supply catalog, call or write: **Wyoming River Raiders**, 501 Long Lane, Casper, WY 82609  
800-247-6068

## GET READY FOR THE CANOE SEASON WITH ADK CANOE GUIDES

- **Adirondack Canoe Waters - North Flow**  
More than 700 miles of canoe routes in the St. Lawrence/Lake Champlain drainage basins, and more than 30 rivers in the north and central Adirondack Park.
- **Adirondack Canoe Waters - South & West Flow**  
Covering the Black River, Mohawk River, and Upper Hudson River basins. A must for whitewater paddlers.

To order, call the Adirondack Mountain Club (518) 793-7737  
VISA/MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

## Free-flowing rivers: Dinosaurs of 21st century?

based on a "fundamentalist call of a literal interpretation of the fossil record":

"It's pretty obvious if you just examine the remains of the dinosaurs," claims Reverend X, the movement's organizing chairman. "Dig down into the older sediments and you'll see that the dinosaurs were pretty well off until the end of the Mesozoic. They were decent, moral creatures, just going about their daily business. But look at the end of the Mesozoic and you begin to see evidence of a stunning moral decline.

"Bones of wives and children all alone, with the philandering husband's bones nowhere in sight. Heaps of fossilized, unhatched, aborted dinosaur eggs. Males and females of different species living together in unnatural defiance of biblical law. Researchers have even excavated entire orgies--hundreds of animals with their bone intertwined in lewd positions. Immorality was rampant!"

Today we face in this country a less dramatic set of extinctions, that of rivers. The nation's free-flowing rivers are disappearing, being converted to motionless lagoons. The rate at which our riverine resources are being irreversibly altered far exceeds the rate at which even a modest sample of natural rivers can be saved. Of the nation's 3.5 million miles of rivers, some 500,000 to 600,000 miles, 14 to 17 percent, lie stilled behind dams, never to be rivers again. By contrast, only 17,000 miles, less than 0.5 percent, are protected legally from development.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers System, legislated by Congress in 1968, provides the strongest statutory protection available under American law. Dams are forbidden, stream-side development is limited, and essential aesthetic values are maintained. But this system is underfulfilled. Sixty thousand river miles, representing 1,500 rivers or segments, are eligible to be considered for protection. But only 7,000 miles have

all. (Maine is one of the notable exceptions, with a strong law of its own.)

Thus many streams of enormous local and regional significance face extinction. Their destruction will be the nation's loss. For their multiple values--as aesthetic, recreational, ecological, cultural, and utilitarian resources--give our community rivers a special place in the mosaic of natural landscapes and man-made environments that define the American



Boater approaches Funnel on NY's Bottom Moose. The second half of the *Bottom Moose's* classic class 5 run has been permanently altered by a low-hydroproject,

been designated so far, comprising 66 rivers or segments. Even if conservationists can bring the system to full complement by the end of the century, the achievement may come at the expense of many of the remaining three million river miles not contemplated for inclusion in the system, because many of these excluded rivers are already under threat. Some of them will be converted irrevocably before conservationists act.

Although 28 states have river protection statutes, some of them are toothless and few states use them at

continent.

My introduction to rivers came in 1975. I had gone with five friends to do a photographic and essay calendar about the St. John, then threatened with two big dams. We had one Mad River canoe in the flotilla, and although it was far and away the best craft on the water, we unwittingly manned it with two of our worst canoeists. They were nailed by a sweeper not fifteen minutes after putting in on the remote upper reaches.

They had forgotten to tie in their gear. Their sleeping bags got dunked, their

dignity was soaked, and a couple of expensive Nikons went for a swim. But those happenings weren't anything compared to the most critical loss, that of our special first aid kit consisting of a few bottles of Johnny Walker Red, some Jack Daniels, a taste of Smirnoff, and two cases of Budweiser--some \$60 worth of valuable wilderness medicine. The real tragedy was that my two friends didn't go to the bottom too.

As I was standing at the river's edge one evening, several days later, brushing my teeth and watching the sunset, a camper from another group we'd not seen before came over beside me. He, too, was watching dusk come on, and at first he was silent, in the manner of native Maine people. Then he turned to me and said, "Say, you heah 'bout them dumb fellas lost the booze on the uppah rivah?"

Conservationists cannot and should not lay claim to every undeveloped river. Some rivers ought to be developed, while some ought to be preserved in near-natural condition. But right now, no one in government or the conservation community is affirmatively choosing which to protect and which to give over deliberately--rather than accidentally or by default as is now the case--to utilitarian purposes.

In the two-year period from 1984 through 1985 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency that licenses hydroelectric dams, receive applications to build 551 new dams.

please turn to page 48



# NO QUESTION



## The AWA is working!

Take a look around you, the signs are everywhere:

- the AWA sponsors the most successful Gauley Festival in history.
- AWA director Pope Barrow is named Perception's "1987 River Conservationist of the Year."

- the AWA revises its internationally recognized Safety Code.

- the AWA, with the help of American Rivers, launches its Hydro Early-Warning System.

- American Whitewater, the journal of the AWA, adopts an improved full-sized format.

Your \$15 membership contribution entitles you to a year of **American Whitewater** and helps the AWA save rivers.

There's no question, the AWA is an organization on the move. Get connected with our energy.

■ Yes, I want to join the AWA and receive a subscription to American Whitewater. I've enclosed my tax-deductible contribution of \$15 (\$18 Canada, \$25 overseas) to help conserve our whitewater resources and promote river safety. □

■ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

■ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Marge Weaver, 146 N. Brockway, Palatine, IL 60067

## safety lines

# Litigation: the new whitewater danger

By Charlie Walbridge  
AWA Safety Chairman  
*The author is indebted to Mac  
Thorton, Richard Ellis and the Eastern  
Professional River Outfitters Association  
for helping to educate his non-legal  
mind.*



Anyone connected with competitive athletics and adventure sports knows that the problem of lawsuits has increased dramatically over the past decade. When I first took the job as AWA Safety Chairman, my job was primarily to educate the average paddler about the risks connected with whitewater. During the past few years, I have often been asked how paddlers can avoid litigation. With all the talk about lawsuits, it's important to know what the risks really are.

Liability is legalese for responsibility. A person can be held financially responsible for the consequences of their actions regardless of intent. A person must exercise the care that a prudent person usually employs. A person who either acts or fails to act correctly by this standard is said to be negligent, and can be held liable for damages.

There are different standards of care based on how you hold yourself out to the public. A professional guide, for example, can expect to be held to a very strict standard. A recreational boater paddling casually with friends, on the other hand, is relatively immune.

### Understanding large awards

As the increasing number of lawsuits will attest, negligence is not always cut and dried. The United States has a very large population of lawyers, who in true capitalist fashion are seeking to "broaden their market areas" by breaking new legal ground. Most cases are taken on a contingent fee basis, which means that the lawyer will take a percentage of the total award. More and more people are being exposed to this concept through television advertising, and I would expect the growth in court cases to continue.

People are often surprised at the size of court judgments, and wonder how any sensible person could support them. To give you an idea of how they are arrived at,

let's take the hypothetical "wrongful death" of a 30-year old married electrician with three preschool-aged children:

His salary is \$40,000 per year; over the next 20 years his family will lose \$800,000 in wages alone. If his heirs sue successfully, they can expect to receive at least this amount in actual losses. Extra money will be awarded for such intangible values as "loss of companionship" and "grief." The courts also award punitive damages in cases of extreme misconduct, which can greatly increase the award. When spread over many years, the potential for huge financial losses exist even when dealing with ordinary people.

Average people are also more vulnerable to lawsuits than they might think. True, it takes almost \$200,000 in assets to make it worthwhile to sue, but when you total up the value of your home, car and savings, you may be closer to that figure than you think. Furthermore, many of us have substantial personal liability insurance through our homeowners policies. This is not a bad idea, because the cost of hiring a lawyer for even a simple defense is quite substantial.

When someone believes that they have suffered damage, their case falls into several categories. If there has been little damage and evidence is scanty, no lawyer will be willing to take the case. If there is serious damage and excellent evidence, the case will probably be settled out of court. Slight damage and good evidence (the so-called nuisance suit) will often be settled quickly to avoid legal expenses, which today run at least \$100 per hour of lawyer's time and often double or triple that. The cases which most frequently go to trial involve serious damages combined with evidence which the defendant feels can be contested.

It's important to realize that each case becomes a complex poker game with lots of maneuvering. What one side considers an open and shut case the other side may

consider a weak one. During the "discovery" phase of the **proceedings**, all the principals of the case **are** interviewed under oath. As the case unfolds, strategies are developed and pressure to settle may or may not increase.

At the mal, questioning will often be intense and unpleasant. Cases are often settled during trials, as the jury's reaction becomes apparent. The huge expense of litigation has caused many insurance companies to cut their losses and settle for sums which, though large, are less than projected legal fees.

### Reducing your risks

The concept of huge financial losses rightfully frightens many people. But not all of us **are** equally vulnerable. On private paddling trips, the burden of responsibility rests with the individual. We know of no case where a person on a club paddling trip has been sued after an accident, and suspect that it's unlikely except in the case of gross misconduct.

The law recognizes the concept of the "common adventurer;" individuals banding together and sharing the risks, with each person taking full responsibility for the consequences of their actions. The AWA Safety Code was recently revised to support this concept, a vital one in a sport like ours which depends so much on the individual's skill and judgement.

Clubs need to recognize that the traditional idea of a "trip leader" leaves the leader and the organization he represents exposed to lawsuits. Unless those running the trips are fully prepared to assume legal responsibility for the people they are "leading," the AWA **recommends** that the clubs state up front that their events are **run** as "common adventures" and that individual participants are fully responsible both for determining their fitness for the outing and for their actions on the water.

**Forms** developed by the Three Rivers Paddling Club of Pittsburgh and the Canoe Cruiser's Association of Washington to convey this message to their membership are appended to this article. While they should be reviewed by an attorney familiar with the laws in your state, they represent considerable thought on the part of several paddling lawyers and serve as a good place to start.

Many paddlers are unhappy with the tone of the revised safety code and with the "common adventurer" concept. They feel

that it creates an "every man for himself" approach which is contrary to the rules of mutual support which is central to safe paddling. They feel that the format in which the leader screens the participants and exercises considerable authority is best for all participants. And they may be ignorant of the legal pitfalls they **are** creating for themselves.

If they **are** not **comfortable** with the legal risks, there's no reason not to continue. But the fact is that paddlesport has changed over the past few decades. From a trip planner's standpoint, the biggest difference is that we have gone from inexperienced groups dependant on the skills of a few experts to well-trained parties of roughly equal abilities.

The "leaders" role has gradually been reduced, and many trips which **list** a leader **are**, in fact, common adventurer outings. It should also be realized that mutual support is still important. It's still appropriate to question participants about their experience, just as you would on any trip with people you don't know.

A person who knows the river can still act as mp coordinator, arranging **starting** times, shuttles and other logistics. On the water the more skilled boaters will continue to assist the less skilled as they always have. Rescues and informal arrangements to assist weaker paddlers will **continue** as always.

But if these procedures are codified and the leader is given responsibility to see that they **are** followed, the court may decide that he or she is responsible in the event of trouble. The lack of structure may take some getting used to, but in practice many club trips already follow less formal procedures.

### Liability and instruction

Basic instruction and guided (**i.e.**: by a tripleader) trips do not lend themselves well to the "common adventurer" format, since the participants do not have the experience needed to make their own decisions. When you hold yourself out as an "**instructor**" or "**leader**," you should be **aware of** the standards and procedures required by your situation and follow them.

The American Canoe Association has developed a program for training instructors and a format for running their programs. The guidelines they lay down are extremely useful. It's my feeling that in a club program beginners should receive

extensive basic instruction. They can then participate in common adventurer trips at their own level, continuing to learn from other paddlers while assuming responsibility for their decisions in easy water.

Insurance is your first line of defense. Even though the risks of lawsuits are relatively small for instruction and trips provided by non-profit organizations through unpaid leaders and teachers, liability coverage is still a good idea. The American Canoe Association provides **reasonably**-priced insurance both for its certified instructors and for races and other events **run** by its certified clubs.

For more information on membership and precise qualifications for the insurance program, write the ACA at PO Box 1900, Newington, VA 22122. For those unable to locate on-water coverage, personal liability insurance protection can be purchased as part of a homeowner's policy. A few clubs have been able to find insurance through local agencies, but it tends to be expensive.

The second line of defense is a good liability release, which should be written by an attorney familiar with the laws of your state. The best format is an "Acknowledgement of Risk and Agreement Not to Sue." In it, the participant recognizes that there is an uncontrollable element of danger in whitewater sport, listing some of its risks.

The release should specifically release the organizers, instructors and leaders from liability for all accidents including negligence. Contrary to popular belief, most states permit a person to sign away their right to sue. The participants should certify that they are able swimmers, in **good health and** willing to wear a life jacket and follow the instructions of the group leader. This piece of paper can result in a case being thrown out in its earliest stages, and is worth the trouble.

### Liability for professional guides

Even though river running can never be made risk free, professional outfitters are held to a stricter standard than private groups. Lawsuits will center around the "standard of care" in the industry as a whole. Professional guides need to be aware of what their competition is doing, and realize that if they deviate from the norms (such as by running rivers at unusually high water levels) they may **have problems** if someone gets hurt.

Deviation from published standards, such as government regulations, association requirements and your own operating guidelines is called negligence per se. If you've violated your **own rules**, you'll lose the case. It's important not to write down any rules which you don't intend to follow, such as the extensive "rules for tripleaders" published by some clubs. The AWA Safety Code was written to pass on advice by **couching** it in terms of individual, rather

than a leader's, responsibility. An outfitter can only do this in a limited way, and therefore is more exposed.

One issue that comes up often is that of guides or instructors who work for outfitters as "independent contractors." Not only are you not covered by workman's **compensation** in the event of personal injury, but you may not be covered by the outfitter's insurance after an accident! For those of us **with no assets but an old car and**

a **beat-up** boat, this may be fine. But if you own a home **and have** savings, watch out! If you aren't going to be **on** the payroll, insist on seeing a **copy** of the outfitter's insurance policy. Most "weekend warriors" are better off as employees.

### Issues in liability

Many of the horror stories you read about lawsuits are based on several **unfor-**

## CLUB STATEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

In response to the crisis with liability insurance and to clarify the relationship between the club and its members, the officers of the Canoe Cruiser's Association of Washington, D.C. have proposed these materials regarding the conduct of their trips. The intent is to make the individual participant, and not the tripleader, responsible for judging the qualifications of individual members and assuming responsibility for their safety. To do so is not only unreasonable, but invites litigation which could threaten the existence of ~~the club~~.

This material coincides closely with what I have heard from ~~other~~ experts in the ~~field~~, and describes closely ~~the way~~ most clubs run their trips. Although this is only a draft, I am publishing it to assist organizations in their efforts to deal with the problems posed by the threat of litigation. Please check with your organization's legal counsel for a final word on the suitability of this material for your application.

The material is in two parts: an annual waiver which would be included with membership renewal, and a description of information to be included with the trip schedule. PROPOSED ANNUAL WAIVER

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please ~~print~~ or type ~~name—each~~ ~~name~~ if family application)  
DESIRING TO JOIN MY FELLOW PADDLERS IN THE CANOE CRUISERS ASSOCIATION (CCA), DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I FULLY ~~UNDERSTAND~~ AND ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING FACTS OF LIFE ON THE RIVER:

(1) Canoeing, kayaking, or rafting, particularly on whitewater rivers, exposes participants to various safety hazards;

(2) No one but myself is responsible for my safety when I choose to challenge my capabilities by running a particular river, or a particular rapid;

(3) I expect to assist my fellow paddlers to the best ~~of~~ my own personal skill and ability

if they appear ~~to~~ need such assistance—but only so long as I can do so, in my **own** judgment, without significant danger to myself. I further understand that this does not imply any LEGAL duty for me to do so, nor for anyone else to render such assistance to me.

NOW THEREFORE, INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND, I HEREBY WAIVE, for myself and for anyone else claiming through me, my right to sue the CCA, its officers, trip coordinators or leaders, or any of my fellow paddlers, for any injuries to my person or my equipment ~~which may occur during~~, in preparation for, or in transit ~~to~~ ~~me~~ from a CCA outing. This waiver applies to any negligent act or omission, and to any intentional act intended to promote my safety or well-being.

This waiver is given in the interest of permitting the CCA to exist and to serve the paddling community, and to enable myself and my fellow paddlers to feel free to donate their services to improving the sport and to ~~help~~ in training those less skilled ~~than~~ ourselves without fear of liability.

MY WAIVER IS GIVEN IN EXCHANGE FOR SIMILAR WAIVERS TO BE GRANTED ON MY BEHALF BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CCA.

SIGNED, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Each Adult and Family Member)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Each Adult and Family Member)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Each Adult and Family Member)

Signature of ~~parent~~ if any applicant is under 18 years of ~~age~~ \_\_\_\_\_



fortunate trends. One is "strict negligence." This is most commonly a factor in product liability cases, and is a real worry for anyone who sells sporting equipment. Although some fault on the part of a manufacturer is legally required to win a case, in practice it may not work that way.

Sympathetic juries see businessmen and their insurers as wealthy "fat cats" and have made awards based on injury without regard to evidence. There is a lawsuit pending against a major kayak company whose boat performed flawlessly; the individual paddling it was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The cost of insuring against accidents for products decades old has put many helmet manufacturers out of business and caused prices of others to skyrocket. Lawyers are skilled in putting together juries who are likely to agree with this concept. Some cases are overturned or reduced on appeal, but others stand.

Joint and several liability is another issue. Formerly if you contributed at all to your injury, even as little as 1%, you could not recover. That law was unfair, and today damages can be apportioned according to the percentage of fault of each party.

But if one party can't pay, the others who were at fault must pay this share in addition to their own. This is why parks and national forests require liability insurance; a guide may be penniless and the company may have few assets, leaving the government holding the bag.

Lawyers love to get the government involved, it's the deepest pocket of all! Although I know of no successful suit against the government resulting from adventure sport activities, people keep trying. The real risk is that recreational areas could be closed to the general public, or that certain activities be banned. Today it is an issue for little leagues and other youth groups, but we well may be impacted more in the future.

### Dealing with a lawsuit

If you are involved in a situation which may result in litigation, there are some guidelines. First, treat people as you would want to be treated yourself. This means communicating directly and honestly with the survivors and relatives. Although it's difficult to face the loved ones of someone who has died, they need to hear what happened and to sense that you care. Many lawsuits have their origins in rude or

thoughtless treatment. Be especially careful what you say to the press. Reporters don't understand whitewater, and will have no qualms about making you look bad to get a good story. Organizations should designate a single press spokesman, and refer all questions to him. Nothing will make a group look worse than a barrage of conflicting stories.

Most clubs, outfitters and groups will want to investigate an accident. The best way is to interview each person separately and to have each person write down their recollections soon after the incident. The investigator can use this raw material to figure out what really went on.

This information can be subpoenaed by the victim's attorney. Call your lawyer immediately and ask him to instruct you in writing to investigate the accident "in anticipation of litigation." The report then becomes "attorney work product" which is protected from opposition.

It is important to avoid "outrage factors" in the days following an accident. Lack of concern, rudeness to the victim's family, lying about the circumstances surrounding the accident or destroying paperwork can not only lead people to sue, but will hurt your case.

Everything you do contributes to your image in a court battle, and this perception is extremely important. If you do something unethical the jurors will get angry, and will be more likely to bring back a larger award. Good legal advice and a humane approach to the situation, however, will go a long way towards making things better.

**please turn to page 49**



## WATAUGA LAMINATES

17 current boat designs to choose from, including; The NEW "Extra Jet", "Jet", "Mobi Thruster", "Fit", "Extra", "Mopho", "Extrabat".

We specialize in SQUIRT BOAT construction custom built for the individuals size and weight. GRAPHICS ARE FREE

KEVLAR BOATS only \$625.00

Kits available for considerable less; vacuum-bagged boats considerably more.

\$50 shipping max. to West Coast

Factory direct sales available if we do not have a dealer in your area.

WATAUGA LAMINATES  
RT. 4 BOX 74  
BANNER ELK, NC 28604  
704-963-4093

# Proposed changes in the AWA Constitution

The AWA is in the midst of a revitalization. After years of learning the rules of the game, we're becoming a significant factor in national river conservation; our safety code has recently been updated; American Whitewater is gaining new popularity with its improved format.

With all the changes within the organization, the rules by which the AWA is administered are in need of a review. The following document is the proposed amended constitution. Please consider the changes and vote to accept or reject the amendments on the attached ballot.

[Brackets] indicate deletions proposed by the Board of Directors. Underlines indicate proposed new language.

## 1. NAME

The name of this organization is the American Whitewater Affiliation. The initials are AWA.

## 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of the American Whitewater Affiliation is to:

- Encourage the exploration, enjoyment, and preservation of American recreational waterways for man powered craft;
- Protect the wilderness character of waterways through conservation of water, forests, parks, wildlife, and related resources;
- Promote safety and proficiency in all aspects of white-water activities such as the navigation of moving water, teaching, teamwork leadership, and equipment design, by publishing and demonstrating developments in these and related fields;
- Promote appreciation for the recreational value of wilderness cruising and of white-water sports.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP.

Membership in this affiliation is open to all individuals interested in the recreational use of American waterways who will subscribe to the above purposes.

## 4. AFFILIATED CLUBS

All clubs or organizations which share the above purpose are invited to affiliate as member clubs.

## 5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The powers, duties and responsibilities of proper management of the affairs of this organization shall be vested in a Board of Directors, to be elected to staggered terms by the affiliated clubs and the individual due-paying members of the organization. The Board of Directors shall consist of [9] not less than 9 nor more than 25 individuals who are each members in good standing of the organization. The Board of Directors shall specify the number of members to serve on the Board before each election. The Board may also appoint up to 10 Honorary Board Members. Honorary Board Members shall be individuals who, by reason of special expertise, experience, or other qualifications, are especially qualified to advise and assist the Board. Honorary Board Members shall be nonvoting.

*Explanation: The changes above are designed to allow the Board of Directors to expand the number of members up to 25 and to allow the appointment of specially qualified individuals to serve as nonvoting Honorary Board Members.*

[In order to assure representation on the Board of Directors for all members of the organization, the Nominating Committee shall always include within the slate of nominees for the Board at least one, but not more than two, candidates from each of the following major geographical areas of the United States of America: Northeastern States, Middle Atlantic States, Southeastern-Southwestern States, Great Lakes States, Midwestern and Mountain States, Pacific States. A candidate from the dominion of Canada may be nominated if the size of the Canadian membership makes this seem desirable in the judgment of the Nominating Committee. The number (one or two) of nominations made for each area shall be based upon the number of AWA members in each area as determined by the most recent membership list, and upon a consideration of the number of Board members from each region who will remain on the Board for the following year.]

Meetings of the Board may be conducted in person or by telephone including conference calls. Voting and other Board actions may be taken at a meeting, by telephone polling, or by mail.

*Explanation: The provisions now in the second paragraph of item 5, dealing with the nomination process and geographical diversity, are handled in item 6 below. A new paragraph is added because it is often necessary for the Board to vote or take other action when it is impossible for many members to meet in person. In this situation, conference calls, telephone polling of Board members, or letters to each Board member need to be used.*

The Board of Directors shall be assisted by a four-member executive committee composed of the President, Vice-president, Secretary, and the Executive Director for the organization. The executive Director shall be chairman of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be in session at all times, and shall exercise all powers of the Board of Directors, subject only to such restrictions as the full Board may from time to time impose.

The Board, as a full Board or through its Executive Committee, shall have the power to manage all of the business affairs of the organization; to elect or appoint [such] officers or committee chairmen [as are called for by this Constitution and the By-Laws]; to fill all vacancies on the Board, or any committee, or in any office if any when the same occur; to remove from office any officer, Director, or committee member for good cause shown; to appoint the Editor of the official publication of the organization; and to do any act reasonably necessary to the attainment of the purposes of the organization.

## Item 6. Nominating [Committee] New Board Members

[The Nominating Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the Board of Directors, the then editor of the official journal of the organization, the then

Executive Director of the organization, and five dues-paying members selected by the Board of Directors from the general membership with those five members being selected so as to represent a cross-section of the United States and Canada. The President of the Board of Directors shall serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and shall be responsible for seeing that it commences its work with dispatch and concludes it with efficiency.]

[The first order of business of each incoming Board of Directors shall be to, first, hold its organizational meeting, and then appoint the five members of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee may accept written suggestions for nominees to the Board of Directors from any individual members or affiliated club, but the final determination of the slate of candidates shall be the sole decision of the Nominating Committee, subject only to the regional representation requirements of Article 5 of this Constitution.]

~~Before an election the Board of Directors shall prepare and publish in the journal a list of nominees to fill vacancies on the Board together with their names and address, a brief summary of their background and qualifications, and a printed ballot to be used for the election. The Board may accept suggestions from any member or affiliate for nominations. To the extent possible, the list of nominees should include individuals residing in different geographic areas throughout the United States. The Board should be generally representative the geographical diversity of the membership of the organization.~~

The Executive Director shall be Chairman pro tem of the organizational meeting of each new Board.

[A slate of 10 nominees for the next upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee, and the names of the individuals, their addresses, and a brief summary of their backgrounds and qualifications shall be presented by the Committee to the Editor in time to be included in the Fall issue of the official journal, along with a printed ballot for the use of the members and affiliates. The Chairman of the Nominating Com-

mittee shall publish a deadline for the submission of all nominations from all sources.]

*Explanation: The rewrite of item 6 makes it possible to hold elections when necessary to fill vacancies and make it possible for the Board to nominate new members without first establishing a separate nominating committee. (The Board could still have a nominating committee if it wanted.) The changes also allow the Board to have more or less than 10 nominees for the vacancies.*

*This will simplify the nominating process, allow for an expanded Board, and make it easier to develop a list of nominees to fill vacancies. Each Board of Directors should have enough geographic diversity to generally (but not strictly) mirror the membership of the organization. The changes also recognize that there is no longer a fall issue of the journal.*

[Item 7. Initial Nominating Committee]

[There is hereby created an Initial Nominating Committee to serve only for the year in which this constitution is first adopted, and to be thereafter automatically dissolved. This Initial Nominating Committee shall be composed of the following persons in office at the time of adoption: the then Executive Secretary, the members of the old Advisory Committee, the Editor of the official journal, the Membership Chairman, the Business Manager, the Trip Planning Chairman, and the Safety Chairman.]

[This Initial Nominating Committee shall have as its chairman the Executive Secretary, and shall present its initial slate of 12 nominees for the 9 members of the initial Board of Directors in time so that the slate, the ballot, and the summary of qualifications of each nominee can be published in the journal].

*Explanation: Item 7 is obsolete.*

#### Item 8. Officers

The Board of Directors shall elect the following officers of the organization from the members of the Board; a President, Vice-president, and Secretary. The Board shall likewise appoint

from the general dues-paying membership, the following additional officers, an Executive Director, an Editor of the official journal, a Treasurer, and such other officers, committee chairmen, and agents of the organization as the Board deems advisable.

The Executive Director shall be the administrative head of the organization and shall coordinate the activities of the various officers and committees. He or she shall serve as general manager of the business of the organization, and [as the Chairman] shall chair the Executive Committee. The Board may delegate additional authorities and functions to the Executive Director and, notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution, authorize the membership to appoint or reappoint the Executive Director (and to any support staff which the Executive Director may employ with the approval of the Board)

*Explanation: AWA needs to better coordinate its activities through an Executive Director. The Executive Director could be male or female and would need to spend at least 25 percent of his or her working day on the job of managing AWA in a professional way. This is not possible with a purely volunteer Executive Director. The change allows the payment of a salary to an Executive Director and to any staff which the Executive Director may need.*

The Treasurer shall receive all funds and manage all finances of the organization and shall be responsible for keeping the books and records of accounts, in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures. All other officers or committees shall have such powers and obligations as the Board may delegate to them. Any member may be both a director and an appointed officer of the organization, so long as he is a dues-paying member in good standing. A member of the Nominating Committee may be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors.

#### 9. VACANCIES

Any vacancy in any office, or on any committee, or on the Board, whether it be occasioned by the inability, disqualification, removal, resignation or death

of any officer, Director, or committee member shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by appointment by the Board of Directors, the replacement to be selected from the ~~due-paying~~ members of the organization.

#### 10. TERMS OF OFFICE

Directors shall hold office for a term of four (4) years[, except that four (4) of the members of the first Board of Directors selected under this plan shall hold office for a term of two (2) years. The five members of the Board who receive the highest number of votes shall serve for the four year terms. Thereafter all Directors will be elected for 4-year terms.].

***Explanation: Phrase is obsolete.***

Terms of office will begin on January 1 and end on December 31. All other officers and committee members shall be [immediately appointed or] deemed reappointed by the incoming Board of Directors to serve until the next Board is elected, unless sooner removed.

***Explanation: Each new Board should not have to act to reappoint existing committees and officers.***

Any Director, officer, or committee member may be elected or appointed to successive terms in different offices.

#### 11. REMOVAL.

Any Director may be removed from office only by the affirmative vote of all of the remaining Directors. Any officer, appointee or committee member may be removed from office by the Board of Directors on the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members then comprising the Board of Directors, except that the Editor of the official publication may only be removed by a three-fourths vote.

In all cases of removal from any office, the party to be removed shall receive fifteen days notice in writing of the pending motion to remove and of the specific reasons why removal is being considered. A written letter from the President, or Vice-president of the Board, properly stamped and addressed to the last known address of

the party in question, shall be sufficient notice, provided that it is mailed at least 18 days in advance of the final action of the Board. Within that fifteen day period the party whose removal is being considered may mail to the Board of Directors a written statement in opposition or explanation. At any time after the expiration of the fifteen day period the Board may act on the motion to remove, and shall immediately notify the party in question in writing of the decision of the Board, and, if removal is ordered, of the name and address of his successor. Upon being duly removed from office it shall be the duty of the party so removed to immediately forward to his successor all files and materials of his office.

#### 12. FINANCE.

This organization shall at all times be a non-profit organization dedicated to the purposes set forth in this Constitution and no person or organization shall ever profit by or through this organization. All money received by the organization from any source whatever shall be used for the circulation and publication of the official journal, for membership processing services, for conservation and education purposes, or for specific contributions toward whitewater sport and river conservation. The Treasurer may pay salaries and expenses of the Executive Director and other employees of the organization and the Treasurer may also reimburse officers or members for ordinary expenses incurred in furthering the purposes of the organization, upon presentation of [vouchers] records of the expenses.

***Explanation: For an explanation of the paid Executive Director provision, see above. The Treasurer should be authorized to reimburse for expenses for which receipts can be provided.***

The Board may authorize special items of expense if it believes that the purposes of the organization will thereby be furthered, without penalizing the regular programs of the organization.

Upon the winding up and dissolution of this corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to a

nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation, which is organized and operated, exclusively for charitable, educational, and/or scientific purposes related to whitewater or to river conservation and which has established its tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If this corporation holds any assets in trust, such assets shall be disposed of in such manner as may be directed by decree of the superior court of the county in which this corporation's principal office is located, upon petition therefor by the Attorney General or by any person concerned in the liquidation.

#### 13. VOTING.

Each individual who is a due-paying member for the current year, in good standing, shall be entitled to one vote for each of the Directors to be elected at the [annual] election, and shall be entitled to one vote in any election to amend the Constitution. Every fully affiliated club or organization, as a group, shall have two votes for each of the Directors to be elected at the [annual] election, and two votes on any election to amend this Constitution, such two votes to be cast for the affiliated club or organization only by its duly appointed representative.

Votes may not be cumulated. The Board of Directors shall make fair and reasonable provisions for the receipt and counting of ballots in all election so as to guarantee that all votes cast are properly counted and the election duly certified. Each ballot must state on its face the date by which it must be received in order to be counted. Ballots received after that date will be rejected. The Board, at its option, may provide in the By-Laws for special or junior classes of affiliates, paying lesser dues, with restricted voting privileges.

#### 14. QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE.

No person shall hold any office or be nominated, appointed or elected to any office unless he is a bona fide due-paying member of the AWA. Failure to keep his dues currently paid up shall be a mandatory ground for removal of any officer or director.

#### 15. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

In the event that no elections are held, or that final tabulation of ballots is



incomplete on January 1, or if for any reason the new members of the Board of Directors are not ready to assume office on January 1, or in the event that any office, appointed position, or committee assignment is not properly filled by the time the incumbent's term expires, then the incumbent shall hold over in office and be fully empowered to act and discharge the duties of the office until a successor has been duly elected, appointed, or qualified.

#### 16. AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to this Constitution must first be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors, and published in the official journal along with the Board's explanation of the same. In the same issue of the journal a ballot may be published for use by the members. Amendments shall pass if two-thirds of the ballots actually received back from the members and affiliates are in favor of the amendments proposed. The ballots shall state the date by which they must be received in order to be counted. Any group of affiliates or members may submit proposed amendments to the Board with a petition that they be submitted to the membership.

W  
S  
S

## WHITEWATER SERVICE & SUPPLY CO.

### An Affordable Way to Sell or Repair Your Used Equipment

#### • *Whitewater Trader*

A clearing house, in newsletter form, for used whitewater equipment.

#### • *Repair Services*

- Raft/Canoe/Kayak
- Custom Outfitting
- Custom Gear to your specifications
- Complete line of repair parts

Write or call for information

**20 Wesser Cr. Rd.**

**Bryson City, NC 28713  
(704)488-6525**



We know you're tired of being wet and cold. That's why we made a one piece dry suit, a two piece dry suit and a dry paddling jacket just for you! The material we use in all our quality dry paddling outfits is Avylon® and all our seams are high frequency welded and have a lifetime guarantee. The soft, stretchy neck and wrist seals are comfortable, adjustable and replaceable, and designed to seal in the warmth and seal out the wet and cold. So paddle in BERMUDES and keep the water in the river—where it belongs!

Ask for Bermudes Drysuits at your local canoe dealer.

Bermudes, USA Inc. • 51 Millina Drive • Easthampton, NY 11937 • 516-324-8585

**TEST DRIVE A**  
**SLALOM and CANYON**

The T-Slalom is a favorite among beginners and experts alike. Its design characteristics allow quick spinning, good playing, and easy rolling. And the blowmolded hull has four times the tear-strength of roto-molded boats. New this year from Prijon is the T-Canyon. This shorter new boat is perfectly designed for extreme descents and its unique high performance hull promotes fast spinning, excellent playing, and easy learning.

The T-Slalom and the T-Canyon. Test drive them today. But be careful; you may find you need a two-kayak garage.

**PRIJON**  
Wildwasser Sport USA, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4617 Boulder, Colorado 80506

For more information or your nearest dealer Call: 303-444-2336

photo: Rod Walker

# AWA Board of Directors Election

## Meet of the candidates:

An **organization** is only as strong as the leadership its directors provide. For the AWA to continue its **role** as a national advocate for whitewater safety, conservation and recreation, the selection of a **dynamic** Board of Directors is a critical necessity.

**Serving** as a member of the board is often a thankless chore. Directors receive no remuneration and are expected to shoulder a specific **responsibility**—whether it be coordinating **membership**, fund raising, the Gauley Festival, American **Whitewater** advertising, **conservation** or safety **programs**—during their two-year terms. It is not simply an honorary position.

Therefore, selection of candidates should be based upon their ability to getting vital jobs done.

The following profiles are included to introduce you to the **nominees** to the Board. Scrutinize the individual resumes and take **part** in selecting the **people** who will **lead** the AWA into the next decade.

**Making your** decisions will be no easy task. AN of the candidates on the slate are **uniquely** talented individuals. In addition, this year's **ballot** includes **many** of the nation's foremost whitewater paddlers. Although the possession of expert boating **skills** is certainly not essential to make valuable **contributions** to the **AWA's programs**, we're **proud** that this year's candidates represent the cutting edge of our sport.

For your convenience, a pre-addressed ballot is attached with this issue. **Please** vote **for six** of the eight candidates, place a stamp on the card, and drop it in the mail no later than April 15, 1988.

### Bob Gedekoh Elizabeth, Pennsylvania

The camaraderie...the wilderness experience...the freedom to challenge one's own personal limits. This is the essence of whitewater boating. River running is an integral part of my lifestyle. But after seven years of kayaking, I'm starting to get worried.

Worried about regulations that could limit our access to the rivers. Worried about hydroelectric projects that threaten some of the best whitewater in the United States. Worried about the increasing number of recreational boaters who are dying every year.

Most of all, I'm worried about the apathy of many of the boaters I meet. Unless whitewater enthusiasts band together now, we stand to lose a great deal...and soon. The AWA is the most effective voice we have. But the membership of the AWA has been embarrassingly small. If elected to the AWA board, I would consider an innovative membership drive a



priority.

I have boated class five water in Alaska, Canada, California, Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado as well as throughout the Appalachians. I know boaters from all over the country and have been sensitized to their concerns. As past Chairperson of Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Paddling Club, I led the opposition to small boat registration in our state...a battle which we won. I have been politically involved in the struggle to keep the Upper Youghiogheny accessible to whitewater boaters and I have volunteered at several Gauley Festivals.

As a physician, safety is a particular concern of mine. I am a member of the Wilderness Medical Society. I lecture at whitewater safety courses and teach CPR to private boaters and commercial guides. More and more private landowners, state and national park officials and other bureaucrats are arguing that boaters should be denied the right to challenge difficult whitewater because of the fear of litigation. A better safety record might alleviate their fears. We should also work toward legislative reforms that would limit the liability of these individuals, thereby protecting our right to adventure.

During the past year and a half, I have contributed several articles to River Runner and American Whitewater. An important function of American Whitewater is to introduce boaters to new rivers, thereby diminishing the crowding on the

old standbys. Exploratory **self-contained** kayaking is my special area of interest and I am always happy to share my experience with others.

The future of our sport will be decided within the next decade. If elected I will do my best to make the AWA an even more effective voice for all whitewater enthusiasts.

See you on the river.

## Bob Glanville Glenwood, New York



I have been a member of the AWA since I first heard of the organization in 1982. I am pleased to have supported and grateful to have benefitted from the AWA's river preservation and whitewater safety efforts and find American Whitewater to be one of the most interesting and useful periodic whitewater publications available. The first obligation of any member of the AWA Board of Directors is, in my view, to continue and enhance these efforts. I hope to be given the opportunity to do that.

While I live and practice law in Western New York, I paddle principally in West Virginia and Western Maryland. I also have boated throughout the East and on many rivers in the West. I am a co-director of our local paddling club and have, for a number of years, been involved in organizing training sessions, river trips, newsletters and other club activities. On a regional level, I am currently involved in efforts to preserve and enhance for paddlers several rivers in New York State, including the Genesee River in the Letchworth Gorge, the Salmon River in Northern New York and the Niagara River in the Niagara Gorge. Through these efforts I have become acquainted with and developed a working relationship with numerous individuals, both within and without the AWA, who are involved in river conservation and whitewater safety efforts. As a member of the AWA Board of Directors I would hope to participate in river conservation and whitewater

safety efforts on a national scale. I believe that my local and regional experience in such matters has prepared me for that task.

## Diana Holder Roanoke, Virginia

My name is Diana Holder and I live in Roanoke, Virginia. My former roommate, AWA executive director Risa Callaway, and I picked Roanoke out on the map as a good place to live in order to boat the water I liked and I moved from Atlanta. I am a DE Underwriter and Loan Consultant for Dominion Bankshares and also teach Finance at New River Community College.

I have boated for going on four years although I have been involved with whitewater since 1979. I grew up about 20 minutes from the Ocoee River in Cleveland, Tennessee. I worked weekends for Ocoee Outdoors as a photographer and, of course, all my friends rafted.

Although I worked for an outfitter, I knew kayaking was for me. I was attracted to its individual aspects. I now prefer paddling squirt boats, particularly my Surge. Although I have boated class IV and V water all over the East and in Colorado, my favorite place is the Upper Yough. I would do that every day, if possible.

I feel like I would be a great asset to the AWA with my background in Finance and my personal emphasis on safety. I work hard at everything I start and would do so for the AWA.

I am particularly concerned with the rapid expansion of the sport and feel like helping to develop a national safety guideline is up my alley. I experienced a near-death situation in March of 1987 when I pinned on the Watauga, and that incident emphasized to me that although there is no guarantee that someone can save your life--it's nice to know that the ability exists among the people you choose to paddle with. I was one of the lucky ones. I'd like to work to increase the safety awareness of other paddlers so that other accident victims could be as fortunate.



## Eric Magnuson Lotus, California

My induction into the world of whitewater began during my early teen years in the mid-seventies when my family began making frequent raft trips down the Stanislaus River. I quickly



succumbed to the magical spell of flowing water and developed a keen sense of appreciation for the wilderness and primal beauty of a pristine river canyon. My initiation with the Stanislaus was profound and prophetic in two respects: I knew that I wanted rivers to forever be a part of my life; and, that with the eventual damming of the

Stanislaus, I was going to have to become an environmental activist in order to insure the former.

From 1984 to the present, I have assumed the role of director of **Sierra Kayak School**. During my tenure at SKS, the kayak school has undergone considerable expansion yet has maintained its stalwart integrity in offering high quality instruction in a wide variety of courses. SKS has been an innovative developer of new and authoritative programs which reflect the growing concerns and trends of the sport. We offer specialized instruction by experts in slalom racing, hot-dogging and squirt boating. I take special pride, however, in being the first western kayak school to develop its own comprehensive kayak safety and rescue program. This

intensive 2-day course is taught by kayakers from a variety of emergency medical and swiftwater rescue backgrounds and, among other things, provides participants with hands on training in dealing with simulated "real life" kayaking emergencies.

Basically, I would like to help the AWA in any way I can. I already have an on going interest in the area of kayak safety and rescue and am greatly interested in furthering the promotion, development and standardization of kayak safety programs and techniques.

I am presently involved with the organization of the first annual American River Festival. This Festival is modeled after the well-known Gauley Festival and Animas River Days and will hopefully be as successful in providing a large portion of river runners with a good time as well as raise money for river conservation. The AWA could have a presence here and gain good exposure to the western boating scene.

As far as conservation, I have a very close working relationship with Friends of the River, a very large and effective national river conservation organization based nearby in Sacramento.

Last but not least, I could help facilitate the AWA gaining a larger presence in boating retail stores, kayak clubs, and of course to our own students of the Sierra Kayak School.

QUALITY WHITE WATER PRODUCTS

# American

welding & mfg.

Aluminum rowing frames, camp kitchens, dry boxes and tables.  
Achilles & SOTAR inflatable boats and FishRite aluminum boats & sleds.

**(503) 773-5582**

5179-C Crater Lake Hwy.  
Central Point, OR 97502

Call or Write for our  
Free River Equipment Catalog

## SIERRA

### KAYAK SCHOOL

#### KAYAK WITH THE BEST!

- The leader in kayak instruction since 1975
- Nationally renowned staff
- 2- to 5-day courses for beginning to advanced students
- ✦ State of the art kayaks and accessories
- Courses in kayak safety & rescue slalom racing, and hotdog kayaking

**P.O. Box 460, Lotus, CA 95651**  
**(916) 626-8006**

### WHITewater VIDEO SERIES

#### Hardboating East Meets West

Squirtboating, holeriding and surfing, class IV+ canoeing. \$44.95 includes shipping.

Gravity Sports Films, Inc.  
100 Broadway • Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Order Toll Free (800) 346-4884

## KEEL-HAULERS OUTFITTERS

-PERCEPTION-HYDRA-PRION-HARMONY-MOHAWK-  
-YAKIMA-BODY GLOVE-BERNUDES-HELLY HANSEN-  
-KOKATAT-SILVER CREEK-EXTRASPORT-SEDA-

-DISCOUNT PRICES - FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE-

-CALL OR WRITE FOR A FREE CATALOG-

30940 LORAIN RD. NORTH OLMSTEAD, OH 44070  
(216) 779-4545

### WHITewater VIDEO SERIES

#### Paucartambo-Inca fiver

John Armstrong's thrilling film of a 1985 attempt by four Americans to make the first descent of Peru's Paucartambo River, a 14,000 foot drop through the heart of the Inca Empire. \$54.95 includes shipping.

Gravity Sports Films, Inc.  
100 Broadway • Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Order Toll Free (800) 346-4884

## John Porterfield Manchester, New Hampshire

A New England native, I started whitewater kayaking in 1973 at the tender age of 13. Inspired by 1972 Olympic Trials held at Tariffville Gorge on the Farmington River in Connecticut, I saved my pennies and purchased a club-produced coffinboat (remember the ones with the overlapping seams) and set out to conquer the rapids. Older local boaters enrolled me into the "crash and bum" school of kayaking, and I welcomed their sage advice after spending as much time swimming next to my boat as in it.

Today, in a squirt boat and in search of the cartwheel, I spend most of my free time paddling throughout the Northeast. An aspiring writer and budding squirtist, I decided to keep track of my runs throughout Eastern New York State, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Those same "crash and burn" colleagues from my early days were fans of high water, and the data I collected from outings on those high-level runs (combined with some less-intense runs at medium and low water) added up to the potential for a whitewater guidebook. In 1986 opportunity arose through Menasha Ridge Press to co-author Appalachian Whitewater, Volume III, The Northern Mountains, a project which hit the shelves of outfitting shops and bookstores this past June. In addition to editorial pursuits, I have managed to make bi-annual adventures to West Virginia to paddle the Gauley, the New, and the Cheat, forays

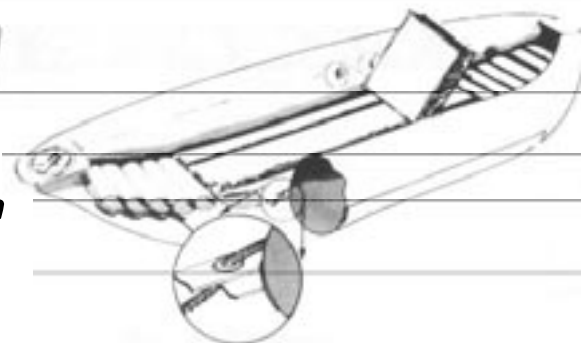


into Tennessee and North Carolina to explore the Nolichucky and battle the crowds on the Ocoee, and weekday afternoon runs on the Upper Yough on the long drive back to New England. Canada has also been a favorite summer playground, with big water runs on the Ottawa and the Rouge. Western paddling has been mostly confined to Colorado, with runs on the Arkansas, Roaring Fork, Taylor and the Colorado. Utah paddling through Westwater and Cataract Canyons added red silt and sunburn to my paddling experiences.

I am interested in developing a marketable product that is designed to create a strong link between local paddling clubs



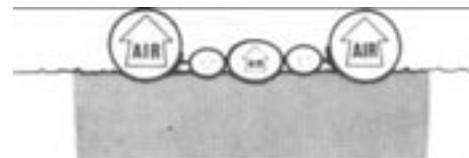
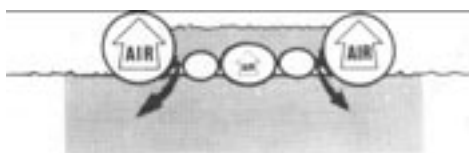
## "Unsinkable"



**Padillac**  
SELF-BAILING KAYAK

1 & 2 man models available

San Francisco Chronicle "Whenever the craft takes on water, the displacement... empties it out almost immediately."  
River Runner Magazine "A design which could set standards in inflatable performance."



Forget about any watercraft you've been in. Picture yourself floating on an air mattress, then hit by a wave. The water rushes off, leaving this mattress high and dry - simple displacement. Now lace this mattress to a kayak tube and you have Padillac.

Padillac floor is laced, above the water line, the full length of the boat leaving grommet holes open to drain the water.

Consider the possibilities, a boat that empties itself instantly. No more pulling off in tight spots to empty the boat of water. Never again

will you have to maneuver a sluggish swamped boat. The ease of storage and stability it has over a rigid boat makes Padillac the ultimate craft.

Padillac is built with some of the toughest materials known today. The core fabric is manufactured for bullet proof vests. This virtually indestructible fabric is then coated both sides with abrasion resistant Hypalon®. That means it can stand up to daily beating against rocks. Commercial raft guides depend on this kind of performance year after year.

Write or call for fabric sample & informative pamphlet.

**P.O. Box Z • Kernville, CA 93238**

**(619) 376-3225**

Ask about our other self-bailing and standard rafts.

and the AWA. This product, a nationwide computer network for the collection of timely river level information, would be linked through modems to a central collection point (the AWA) which would then "publish" regional river level reports in computer data and taped voice formats. All that would be required from each club would be a willing member who was computer and modem-equipped, who would dial up an AWA number, connect to a modem-equipped PC, and send the latest river information. They in turn would collect data from other regions, to aid in planning trips. The AWA would benefit in two ways: if the service was attached to a membership fee, extra revenue would be generated. If a "free service," the AWA would become "the source" for up-to-date river level information. Either way, the AWA gains valuable exposure and creates awareness in the paddling community.

Although I am not a racer, I have been involved with the establishment of a slalom (and squirt!) training course on the Merrimack River in Manchester, New Hampshire. Assisting C-1 racer Mark Ciborowski, we have managed to gain the cooperation of the State of New Hampshire, the City of Manchester, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Army Reserve and a handful of construction companies to construct the 1/4 mile course. We have traded ACA tax write-offs for the purchase, trucking and placement of 35 boulders and a high-tension cable, which are expected to be in place this summer. We have also sponsored slalom races and hot-dog contests at this site for the Manchester Riverfest Celebration over the past three years.

## Ron Rathnow Amherst, Massachusetts

My primary interests at this time are squirting and recreational paddling. I have been whitewater boating for five years. My first year was as an open boater and the last four as a kayaker. I have only boated in the United States and all of that has been east of the Mississippi from Alabama to Maine.

College and previous job experience has given me a strong background in environmental and conservation science. I am also the author of The Great American Rivers Flip Map Series which is published by Menasha Ridge Press. Currently this series consists of six guides and covers seven rivers. These rivers are the Ocoee, Nantahala, Chattooga Section IV, New River Gorge, Lower Yough, West Branch of the Penobscot and the Kennebec Gorge. I am also working with John Porterfield (Co-author of Appalachian Wildwater III) on a whitewater video of New England rivers. Recently I was selected to become a member of Perception's Consumer Advisory Board and am currently helping them with product testing.

I am 34 years old and married. Prior to moving to Massachusetts a year ago, I lived in Kentucky. As a result of my books I have developed numerous contacts with outfitters, raft companies, and other boaters in general. Presently, I am working for Eastern Mountain Sports in Amherst, Massachusetts.

My motivation for preserving rivers and helping other river

### Costa Rica Expeditions

*Apartado 6941  
San Jose, Costa Rica C.A.*

### KAYAK AND RAFT TRIPS

For the beginner to the expert.

FOR raises money to save rivers through chartering kayak and raft trips. Kayak and raft the Grand Canyon, Salmon, Rogue and everywhere in the West. Special charters and bookings. They are fun, safe, affordable and memorable.

Call: Friends of the River  
(415) 771-0400

a non-profit organization protecting wild rivers: est. 1974



QUALITY OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

SQUIRT BOATS, SEA KAYAKS,  
EXPEDITION K-1 & C-1's

All boats vacuum bagged with the best materials available. Dealers call 919-883-7410 — We deliver.

1310 Starr Dr., High Point, NC 27260.  
Designs by Wilderness Systems, Jess Whittamore, Wick Walker, Tom McEwan, and John Abbenhouse.

CLAVEY  
EQUIPMENT

River Outfitters

AVON RAFTS  
ROWING FRAMES  
LIFEVESTS  
OARS AND PADDLES

11431 Highway 1  
P.O. Box 1149

Point Reyes, California 94956  
(415) 663-1921

### WILDERNESS TOURS

*Box 89, Beachburg  
Ontario, Canada KOJ 1C0*

### WOMEN KAYAK/RAFT TRIPS

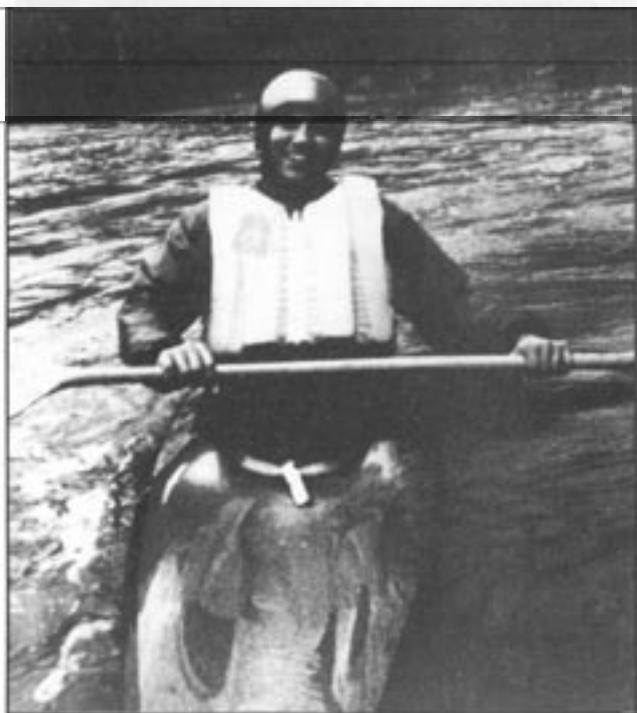
Unforgettable and outrageous!

FOR raises money to save rivers through chartering affordable kayak and raft trips. Join some of the best women kayakers in the country on the Grand Main Salmon and Dolores Rivers. An experience of a lifetime.

Call: Friends of the River  
(415) 771-0400

a non-profit organization protecting wild rivers: est. 1974





related activities should be fairly obvious. I think that I can be a strong asset to the AWA.

## Bo Shelby Corvallis, Oregon

I have been running rivers for almost twenty years. During that time, paddling has provided for some of the best things in my life--fine friends, great adventures, and the chance to travel throughout the "Lower 48," Canada, Alaska, Mexico, Central America, New Zealand, Pakistan and India. How lucky can one guy be?

As a professor at Oregon State University, I work on resource management issues, often specifically related to river management. My research has taken me to river systems throughout the western states, Alaska, and several foreign countries, including several years of work in the Grand Canyon. The places are different, but the issue is always the same: How can we make sure that future generations have the incredible opportunities we have had?

This is a tough question, but AWA is dedicated to finding good answers and providing a forum for sharing experiences. I'd like to help. Paddling has given me a lot, and this is a chance to give something back.

## Peter Skinner West Sand Lake, New York

For more than a decade, I have alternately tried to keep AWA afloat and to make it an active and modern organization. Keeping AWA going has meant licking a zillion envelopes and trekking bags of journals to the post office. Other times it has been begging others to do what they could to help us. The list

seems endless. In fact, I think I have done just about everything once for AWA.

Although I often thought AWA was a hopeless cause, we muddled through. And now, finally, a bright light has dawned on AWA's horizon. The new directors have truly put their shoulders to the grindstone. The Gauley Festival successes, our financial stability, the new Journal, the new Safety Code, our substantial river conservation agenda are but a few of the tangible examples of a very **alive** AWA. If the upcoming membership campaign bears real fruit, I'll be really overjoyed. These successes make my decade of tribulations a good investment. I do hope you agree.

AWA's foundation is strong now. Others now do the envelope licking, permitting me to exercise my first love--river conservation. Because my workaday job involves environmental advocacy, I get to apply these skills at night for AWA to help stop dams across the country--especially in the Northeast. I want to focus most of my AWA time on that area if re-elected. Next, I would like to develop the skills needed to create a river corridor land trust network and thereby facilitate permanent river access and protection on a regional and eventually national level.

Working with AWA has changed my life. Great new people now bear much of the load and great new candidates have come forward to propel us forward into the next decade with vigor. I'd be honored to be among that group for another term and be part of the new AWA that will truly change the world of paddling.



## Squirt boating: Everybody has their own opinion



Squirt boats. The razor-thin crafts may prove to be the most significant development in whitewater paddling since the introduction of plastic **kayaks**.

The signs of their proliferation are everywhere: new custom kayak manufacturers with squirt boats as their featured models are springing up over the East; squirt-related slang words are creeping into the paddling vernacular, vehicles with eight boats loaded side-by-side on roof racks are showing up at the put-ins of popular runs.

Canoe magazine even listed a "squirt boat" category in its annual buyers guide. Now that's really going mainstream.

But surprising, despite the rapid growth of this whitewater subgroup, precious little print has appeared in national publications concerning the activity. Oh, there's been plenty of casual allusions to **squirting**--sidebars and small bits of columns--but when have you read a lead story dealing with the squirt scene?

Why the apparent lack of publicity? Perhaps it's because writers still find difficulty **pinning** down exactly what squirting is all about. What is the attraction of paddling a kayak that is damned uncomfortable to fit into, unforgiving in **squirrely** water and requires a whole new set of skills to master?

What follows is a special section outlin-



(Top and middle) A Jet by Watauga Laminates squirts on NY's Moose River. (Right) Squirt action on the Gauley in a ProMagnum by New Wave.

ing different aspects of squirting. Whether they clarify the attributes of squirting is another question.

What does become apparent is that many so-called "squirtists" believe the activity has certain metaphysical qualities. Some of you may find that a little tough to swallow.

I know I do--and I've been **paddling** squirt boats for over four years. But while I don't pretend to understand the supposed Zen-like characteristics of **squirting**, I do know why I paddle low volume boats--



they're faster (at least the full-length models), they **can turn** faster with the pivot, and finally you have a better feel for what the water's doing.

That's why I like squirt boating--here's what others have to say:

# Once a cottage industry, Squirt boat manufacturing grows with sport

The first boats used for squirting weren't actually squirt boats.

Back in the early part of the decade when Jess Wittemore, Phil Coleman, Jim Snyder and other inveterate Friendsville paddlers discovered the tendency of the stem of a low-volume kayak to dive when crossing an eddy line at a particular angle--they weren't actually paddling squirt boats.

No. in the early days, Friendsville paddlers learned the rudiments of submerged kayaking in squirtable boats--mostly sharp-edged racing machines--than true squirt boats.

But that soon changed. Early "squirtists" weren't concerned with racing anyway, just the boat's ability to stand on end and pirouette down the river. So, some of the Friendsville boys began to tinker with the contemporary designs.

They "hogged" the back end down--removing the rocker of the stem so the entire back edge of the boat would slice into the water...scooped out whole-sale chunks of volume...shortened the length.

Squirt boats were born.

It wasn't long before other paddlers, passing through Friendsville and noticing the early "squirtists" at play, wanted to take part in the game. The only difficulty was, where could they acquire their own toys?

The only place to buy one of these custom boats was to have Wittemore, Snyder or Coleman whip you up a kayak off one of their particular molds. A cottage industry was developed.

Friendsville's Deb and Don Pepper, Emergency Room doctors in real life, operated the first quasi-company named Sabre Sports. Wittemore served as the company's principal employee, creating and building many of the initial squirt boat designs such as the Falcon and the Silon.

Wittemore later opened his own company--Wittemore Laminates--and quickly became the toast of the squirting world.

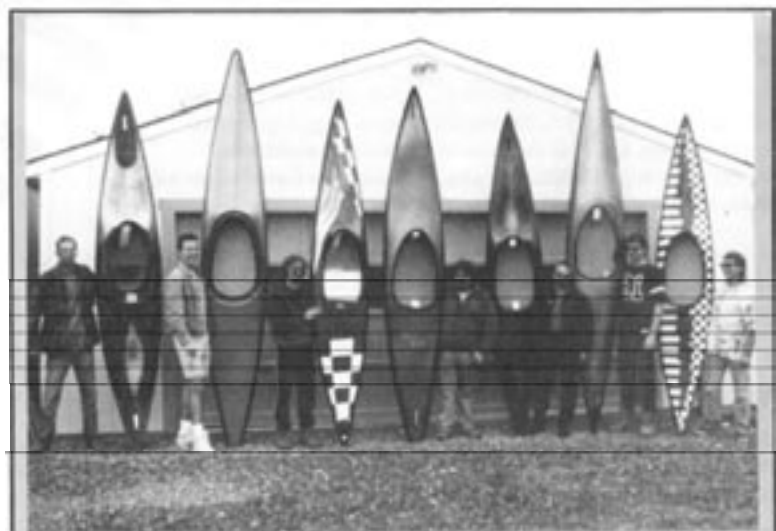
Additional designs like the Blaster and the Surge followed, and the back orders for a "Jesse boat" swelled. The waiting time for a Wittemore boat started at a few months, then stretched to six, then a year. Somewhere along the line, the great American dream failed. Wittemore's company suffered financial set-backs, production slowed, then stopped. Some orders remain unfilled today.

Fortunately for the progress of sport, other boat builders stepped in to take up the slack. New Wave Kayaks, headed by John Schueiner, soon became the country's leading producer of squirt kayaks, rolling out designs by Wittemore, Snyder and himself.

Perception also jumped on the band wagon with its Sabre. The Sabre didn't provide the customized fit or high performance of a glass boat, but offered a plastic alternative at a reasonable price.

And finally, in 1986, two North Carolina companies emerged to help supply the growing demand for squirt boats. Watauga Laminates, owned by Chase Ambler, builds its own designs and boats by Snyder while Wilderness Systems, headed by Andy Zimmerman and John Sheppard, offer its own boats and Wittemore's Surge.

(Above) Wilderness Systems now builds the Wittemore-designed Surge (Right) New Wave Kayaks offers the nation's widest product line of custom-built squirt kayaks featuring eye-catching graphics.



## North Carolina boat builders enter squirt-boating market

Andy Zimmerman of Wilderness Systems is only joking when he calls High Point, North Carolina "the boat-building capitol of the world."

His claim to that distinction is based on the presence of a major fiberglasscabin cruiser manufacturer in town rather than his production of squirt and sea kayaks.

But with Wilderness System owned by Zimmerman and John Sheppard in High Point, and **Watauga** Laminates headed up by Chase Ambler over in **Banner Elk**--North Carolina is threatening to become the squirt boat-building center of the nation.

The two companies share common roots. Spurred by the exploding number of North Carolina whitewater boaters and growing demand for squirt kayaks, both companies started production in early 1987 and enjoyed immediate success.

In both cases, much of their initial sales depended upon the production of popular squirt designs highlighted with cosmic metal-flake finishes. Zimmerman and Ambler concur that outrageous cosmetics are part-and-parcel of the squirt boating phenomenon.

"Squirt boaters want wild looking boats," Ambler said. "They're not interested in having a plain-jane blue boat."

Zimmerman notes that the psyche of the **squirt** boater demands a unique appearing craft.

"I'm one of the original flashes--I always wanted to be different," Zimmerman said. "It's like in rock climbing...people used to be real conservative, but now you see flashy tights and floral chalk bags. Fashion has hit the paddling community and everybody wants to make a statement."

But while the eye-catching graphics first draw attention to the creations of the two companies, it's the solid designs and quality construction that continue to rack up sales.

Wilderness Systems features the Femer, designed by Sheppard, as well as the Surge in its stable of squirt boats. The Surge is a full-length boat, and like all of **Wittmore's** designs, is known for its exceptional speed. But Zimmerman is particularly proud of the Femer's initial success.

"We did real well with it for the first year," Zimmerman said. "it's just starting to take off. It's a good stem **squirting** boat but it has some additional volume up front. It's 11-7 long, tremendously stable, and still has good speed."

While Wilderness's early claim to fame may be squirt boats, it also builds the White Bear, a cruising K-1 design by Tom **McEwan** for "creeking, expeditions or big water" and the Blackwater. Wick walker's **superb** cruising C-1 design known for its many "hair" descents.

In addition to whitewater boats, Wilderness is **finding** another market in the production of sea



## SQUIRTING: an american whitewater special section

kayaks.

"Squirt and sea kayaks are now neck and neck and by next year, sea kayaks will probably own the bigger share of our business," Zimmerman said. "The East is just now catching up with the West coast in terms of sea **kayaking** popularity. It's appealing to a larger group of people. It **can be** dangerous, **but it can also be** very safe...it's less intimidating **than** whitewater.

"But whitewater is where we got our **start...we** don't plan to ignore that element."

Watauga Laminates began production in September of 1986. Ambler had negotiated for the rights to the Jet, a Snyder design, the year before. After **building** some boats for himself and friends, Ambler entered the business full-time and hasn't looked back.

"I don't know if the demand for boats is increasing across the industry," Ambler said. "but I do know there's been an increase in demand for our boats. We're **looking** at major growth. We're averaging four or five boats a week and building more and more."

Along with the Jet, Watauga builds the Extra Jet and Mobius Thruster—both squirt designs—along with the Fit and the Assault. In addition, approximately 30 percent of Watauga's sales are race **boats...** "We produce virtually every wildwater and slalom boat available," Ambler claims.

While the Jet remains Watauga's leading seller, Ambler expects the Extra Jet—an updated version with alterations by Watauga—to assume the top position this year.

"The Extra Jet is really a new design," Ambler said. "We took a Jet plug and knocked out volume where it really wasn't needed and then relocated volume where it was. The result is a boat with about the same volume as a Jet but with more room for the paddler."

Ambler continues to work on new designs. His next boat may be something a little less radical than the minimalism offered in the Jet.

"We're **looking** at a boat with a little more volume," Ambler said, "something more stable. We're looking to build a boat that will squirt, but a boat people are going to be willing to take on the Upper Gauley. We'd give up some **squirting** ability for added comfort and stability."

Despite the similarities in their product lines, how the two companies go about the marketing aspects of their business differs significantly.

Watauga has taken the grass roots approach: Want a boat? Give Ambler a call with your specifications and they'll build you one special. While there are nine or ten dealers that do inventory Watauga kayaks,

the real good boaters. We did a couple of outdoor retail shows in February last year and had built some beautiful samples to exhibit. It didn't take much to convince retailers that fiberglass boats are coming back in."

Despite the lack of **direct** sales, availability of Wilderness Systems boats looks good. Zimmerman has worked to establish



*A Jet, built by Watauga Laminates, is recognizable by its spectacular graphics.*

75 percent of all sales are direct.

Not surprisingly, most of those phone calls come from the East coast. But Ambler sees a heartening growth of squirt boat sales to points west.

"Interest is **picking up** in the West," Ambler said. "They're **finding** out that when spring water leaves, the squirt boat gives them something to do in low water. The majority of our sales remain on the East coast, but we're shipping more and more to Oregon and California."

Wilderness Systems has taken an opposite tack, distributing boats only through approved dealers.

"We only sell our boats through **white-water** retail shops," Zimmerman said. "Our marketing is done strictly through shops. We'll answer any questions a consumer might ask if he calls us and we'll let them demo boats, but all our sales are to retail outlets.

"There's been a big void in whitewater shops. They haven't been able to cater to

a broad network of dealers.

"We're selling boats in retail stores in every state on the East coast and also in California and Michigan," Zimmerman said, "although the East coast remains our primary market."

And leading that market is the growth of whitewater boating right in the state of North Carolina.

"Whitewater boating is exploding **here**," Zimmerman said. "Every major city in North Carolina has a great whitewater shop. In some states, you have to travel miles to find a store that sells boating gear. It's just a great state for outdoor recreation.

"North Carolina has an outdoor **oriented** population--the **area** is very **stimulating** with a variety of activities: rock climbing, paddling... And the N.O.C. has had a tremendous influence. I grew up hanging out there nine or ten years ago, **surfing** the falls. They attract so many new-comers

*please turn to page 47*

# A Grand squirting river trip

By Zygmund W. Furmaniuk, Jr.

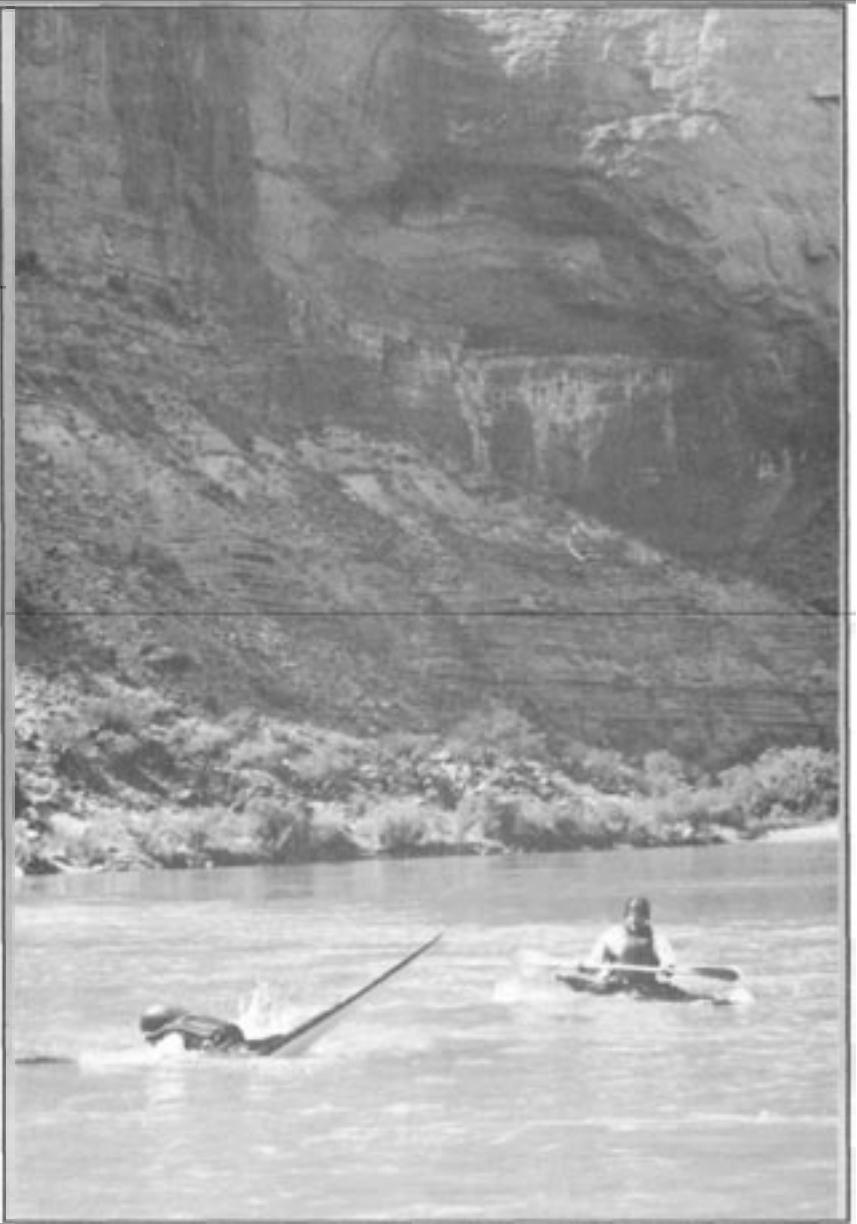
The first thing that struck me was that though we were in the desert, the water was biting cold. We were a few miles below the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River. The next thing that struck me, much to both my horror and fascination, was that I had been surrounded by a beached flotilla of kayaks scarcely bigger than skateboards. I laced my lifejacket just a little bit tighter and thanked my personal vision of the sacred that I would be on a raft.

Forrest Callaway and Risa Shimoda Callaway had organized this--the first all-squirt boat descent of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Eighteen boaters who decided the best route to a good time was via 220-some-odd miles of water between the put-in and take-out.

My significant other, Judy Morrison, was an invitee. I, decidedly not qualified to navigate the Colorado, found myself invited along for the raft ride. What follows are my personal observations on the trek.

The Colorado follows a monotonous pattern: long flat stretches before a relatively short drop that would gladly swallow you forever, followed by a deep, still pool. With the major exceptions of Crystal and Lava, there's very little possibility of hitting the Canyon on your way down. Comforting...if you're wiped out, at least you're pretty certain that if you keep your head about you you'll wash into a calm place.

The conventional wisdom on the river says that if you're going down the Grand you'd better have a big boat. The conventional wisdom also says that there are rapids which will challenge you no matter what you paddle, but that there aren't a lot of good play places. The description usually ends up saying that it's a good thing that the Canyon is so aesthetically pleasing, because most of the trip is spent on



Deep within the canyon walls, AWA executive director Risa Callaway executes a bow squirt.

Foring flatwater.

But that's the wisdom for pig boats, the plastic Dancers, Jetis and Dragonflies, next to which a squirt boat starts to look like a fiberglass potato chip. Squirters have a different wisdom, and we were here to test it.

Almost every inch of the Canyon is a superb squirt locale. Eastern rivers are by and large shallow. Sure, you can find the clear, powerful eddylines that squirting requires, but east of the Mississippi you

will sometimes stub the nose of your boat on a river bed (or worse). It's not that bad, of course. Squirting was born and grew up in the East. But depth does become a great concern when you're trying to go vertical.

If anything, the Colorado had more dynamic eddylines that the group of boaters assembled could have envisioned in their wildest dreams. Most paddlers are accustomed to eddies close to shore, in proximity to a rock or hole. On the Colorado, the volume of water and contours of



## SQUIRTING: an american whitewater special section

unseen terrain make the convoluted currents almost everywhere. It takes some getting used to--but right in the middle of the river you're likely to run into the "swirlies."

The "swirlies" became both the greatest merriment and the greatest fear of the our group. The "swirlies" were variously **shifting**, confusing currents mysteriously appearing on what should have been **stillwater**, or moderately-sized **whirlpools**. Witnessing a squirt boater caught in the vortex of a "swirlie" was like watching a person slam dancing next to a cliff.

It wasn't long into the trip before I noticed that squirt boating is **kayaking** played out on the Edge. I don't mean the edge of your boat or the edge of your seat, but the edge of skill and quite possibly the edge of sanity. You know these maniacs must **know** what they're doing, but still... they're on the edge. And sometimes **edgework** results in slipping over to the other side...

Surprising few people in the group fell off the precipice. When they did, though, the results were dramatic. One woman **negotiated Bedrock Rapid** and then, spending a few minutes on the Edge, pointing towards **the sky in one** of the "swirlies," got tossed over the edge by the river. She became a **mote in nature's** vacuum cleaner, disappearing **beneath the surface** for five or six seconds that actually lasted an eternity. In the end she emerged unscathed and continued paddling.

She wasn't quite as fortunate further downriver. The scariest thing I saw the



entire trip was her kayak (minus her) ejected straight up out of the river--a whale breaching the surface--catching air before coming back, barely missing her in the water.

Do not get me wrong--it's not all fear. Time after time I would see smiling boaters squirting down tongues into rapids. The most graceful boaters being able to switch from a bow to a stem squirt with the same effortless motion normally reserved for **Mikhail Baryshnikov**. How can you **not** have **fun**? The sheer joy of the activity would be apparent to all but a blind man.

One of the things that began to astound me was how quickly you begin to pick up the slang: mystery moves, rocket moves, **surfing**, blasting, stem squirts, bow **pivots**--

--the list goes on. A couple of days into this and you suddenly realize that all that any of this is describing are the various ways of either staying on the water, or altering your course either above or below the surface.

There were those who got their kicks from the multitude of waves, and spent what have totalled hours placidly **surfing** on the surface of standing waves. There were those who spent their time trying to fly, riding air above the water for as long as they could. And there were the U-boat commanders who mused and mystery moved their ways down the river.

Compared to these, the more traditional activities of trying to blast through holes and the never-ending search for clean lines through messy water seemed **anti-climatic**.

Anti-climax is not something you do with a craft the size of a squirt boat. Something called the "inverse volume principle" comes into play here. This briefly stated, says that the smaller your boat, the more control you have in rough water. Note that I don't say the more control the boat **has**--I mean the more control the paddler has.

The squirt boat is small, and therefore more maneuverable, almost to a fault. The paddler sits in the water, not on top of it. In



**(Above) What is a collection of squirt boaters called: a pack?...a herd?...a hoard?...a school?...a pod? (Left) Blasting on a glassy canyon wave.**  
please turn to page 47

# The "whys" of squirting according to Snyder

By Jim Snyder

A half dozen years and a few hundred squirt boats down the line from the dawn of squirt boating, experts everywhere are starting to ask a very key question: "Why?"

Indeed, why look for trouble? Isn't there something low about these moves done under the table? Aren't there rocks down there? Do they really intend to do those things in squirt boats?

As an avid squirt boater, I think I can shed some light on these questions.

It may be useful to point out some of the significant similarities and differences between squirt boating and normal kayaking (or canoeing). Let me first touch on some similarities.

Both forms of boating are effected by what I call the "Great Equalizers" of the whitewater world. The first great equalizer in the sport is the fact that no matter what kind of boat or rapid you may be running, you should be prepared to swim. Swimming is a real possibility, regardless of the type of boat you prefer to paddle. But as squirt boats have been called glorified life jackets, I guess squirt boatin' is glorified swimming--whether you're in or out of the boat.

The second great equalizer common to all in the sport has to be the thrill we all pursue regardless of the paddling mode we prefer. The bottom line in boating is--if you're having fun, you're ultimately doing as good as any expert. From this aspect, novices are often more successful than experts. No matter the frame of reference, the goal is always the same: a precious few moments of perfect timing that we can claim as our doing. After all, the river is just sort of there. isn't it? The goal can be

had by all who try correctly.

But are squirt boats correct? Well, there are some technical questions to debate. Squirt boats steer faster and have more density than "beachball" boats--characteristics which makes them preferable by some people for even big Grand Canyon

up at all the antique kayaks that tend to collect around "poker chip" boats (in case an imminent disaster needs witnessing). Often squirt play spots don't jive well with neighboring normal play spots. The clashes usually end up with squirt space being encroached upon from above. Some-

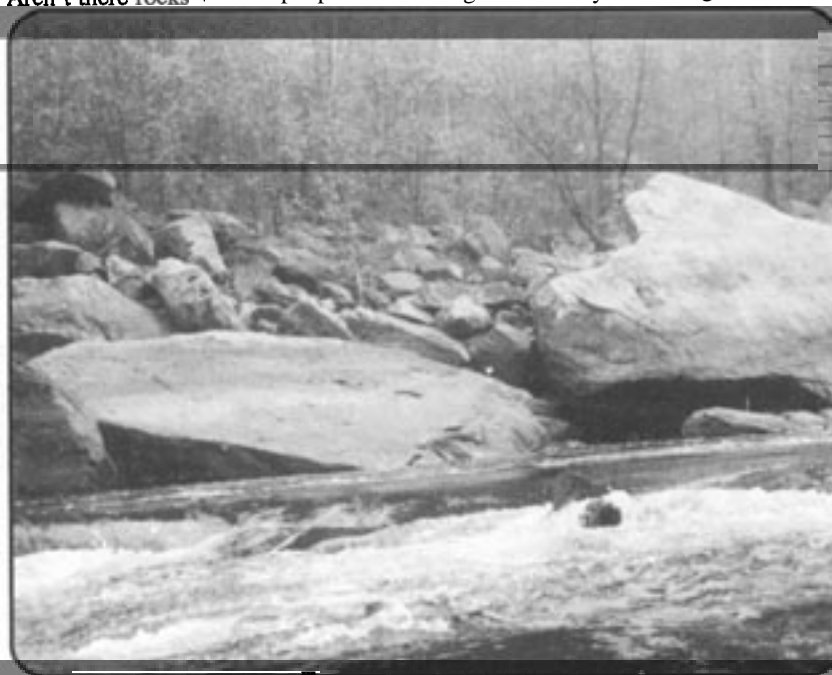
times in a squirt boat you feel very, very small. The river can womp on you royal.

So why is it that when squirtists turn on to a good "mystery spot" they attack it like a feeding frenzy in a shark tank? Only total exhaustion can slow their hot pursuit. They are like a rat hitting a button for positive reinforcement; unable to stop indulging to a point beyond control; victims of causes beyond their reckoning.

The real reasons are easy to find. First, there's the little known fact that our biological clocks are wound by centrifugally-triggered mechanisms. Spinning around creates a cheap, legal, dizzy buzz. This sensation is the result of running back your biological odometer. These dervish-esque delights are actually better for you than a bushel of sprouts.

The most potent incentive, though, is freedom. Freedom of expression, freedom of motion, and the freedom to get tired when we want. Squirt boats are much more exhausting than average kayaks. After a hard day of play practice, most squirt boaters are so tired that they could get mugged and still chalk it up as a fun day. This, of course, is a side effect of the corollary that "T i e is greater than money." Squirt boaters know that freedom is worth any price.

I think we should give squirt boaters their space (about twenty feet in diameter).



MYSTERY MOVE-Jim Snyder's head reemerges from the depths

type whitewater. Another safety factor is the way squirt boats can surf monster holes with superior control by blasting them, which means to surf them straight on like a wave. Squirt boats find many more play spots than surface boats can. But even the fact that squirt boats can provide hours of fun on flatwaters should be laid aside debating the question. "Why?"

The urge to submerge comes from somewhere below. Amphibosity is a spiritually rewarding experience. It's a privilege to mingle successfully with a force as powerful as a river. The fact that squirt boaters sacrifice so much for their sport is evidence of some rewards. By now everyone knows that a squirt boater's feet hurt nearly as much as those of a C-boater. Riding in a low squirt boat requires looking

In **return**, they can provide valuable probe information and entertainment. It may be hard to relate to those from another dimension but if you treat them like they are weird they may disappear after a while. Much of this sport revolves around the critical need of having something to talk about. Squirt boating fills this need and lets everyone **come up with** plenty of reasons to **support** their **opinion**, either pro or con.

Finally, I'd like to mention the reasons I use to validate my presence underwater. It is (1)**Fun**, (2)**Cubic**, (3)**Awesome**, (4)**Challenging**, (5)**Humbling**, (6)**Exciting**, (7)**Cool**, (8)**Hot**, (9)**New**, and again (10)**Fun**. I realize that most of these criteria are intangible, but they constitute the definition of the force that keeps this rat button **happy**.

Please don't pity or praise me; I'm just

in it for the ride and I've already been paid in full. In **fact**, I might owe by now. There's now doubt that squirt **kayaking** will continue to raise controversy because it is neither fish or fowl but an indescribable intermediate. It **makes** me sink to my stomach, at least. I **think** that living with an unfettered imagination has let me realize that ships are kept in a harbor but not meant to stay there.

## The Squirt Book: a review

By Mac Thornton

Watching paddlers at the Gauley's famed Pillow Rock rapid has always been entertaining, as intermediates desperately try to avoid being splatted on the rock which gives the rapid its name. But now, since the invention of squirt boating, one can watch a paddler "rock splat" that rock, leaning upstream on purpose, then "cartwheel" downstream, then sink both ends of the boat and disappear completely (a "mystery move"), only to pop up 50 feet downstream with a "black attack" (attacking the world from the black of **underwater**). Wow!

The best surface boater can only operate in two dimensions, like driving a sports car. The squirt boater lives in three dimensions, like flying a stunt airplane.

Squirt boating is no longer just a series of "mystery moves" to the paddling public, now that The Squirt Book has "blasted" onto the paddling scene. Author Jim Snyder, inventor of many squirt moves and witness to the invention of many others, gives us everything: the technique, the history, as well as the philosophy of "squirtech."

To use the term ""inventions"" for squirt boats and the

various moves is exactly what happened. Squirt boating was named and nurtured in the crucible of the Friendsville, Maryland-Albright, West Virginia area beginning about 1981. While there may not be gold in these hills, the fabulous Upper Youghiogheny and old standby Cheat Canyon are located here. And when the water is high, the challenging Big Sandy and dozens of small steep creeks become **runnable**. No wonder this is probably the #1 area in the country for boat and paddle design, and for the very latest and most difficult paddling techniques.

Since squirt moves tend to be built upon one another, and often combine basic moves, Snyder describes each move in the order in which the moves were actually invented. Often, he can identify the specific person and **specific month and year of a milestone** in squirt boating history. For example, the term "squirt" **first** occurred to Phil Coleman at the top of Tear Drop Rapid in the Cheat Canyon. He leaned upstream exiting an eddy and was propelled down the rapid like a bar of soap squeezed out of your hands in a shower. The term "squirt" seemed right and it stuck.

Although squirt boating technique is **extraordinarily** difficult to put into words, the descriptions of the moves are generally clear, with explanations of the physics, too. In other words, Snyder gives the "why" a move works as well as the "how." His insights into the mechanics of river currents are sure to amaze.

But the book is made an effective teaching tool by the detailed drawings of William Nealy. Nealy is not just a cartoonist with a particularly off-beat sense of humor. (Don't get me wrong—I love it—it's my sense of humor exactly). Drawing on the range of illustration technique and insight displayed in his own book, Kayak, Nealy's visual renderings of squirt technique are absolutely brilliant. Many of the drawings are in four dimensions, **i.e.**, they include time. And the classic Nealyesque **humor** is here **also**. One cartoon features a wild-eyed **squirtist** cleanly slicing a raft in two **with his thin, sharp boat**. The turkeys in the raft are astonished, but the raft guide is portrayed smiling with silent admiration.

The book has a sobering side, too. The Squirt Book is dedicated to squirt boater Allen Connelly, who was running the lower Gauley at

20,000 CFS in March 1981 when he literally vanished from his group in the vicinity of Stairstep Rapid. When the water was turned off at the dam the next day, he was found one mile downstream, still in his boat, drowned. Snyder felt the loss deeply and personally, and muses if he too is a "terminal squirtist"...living "on borrowed time." The book acknowledges that **squirting** does involve somewhat greater risks than surface kayaking. This is a short but valuable discussion for all potential squirtists.

As we climb into Snyder's **wafer-thin** boat with him and run through all the basic moves, we also climb into his head. In many respects, this is the hard part. Squirtech is **not just** a boating technique; it's a sport which reflects the attitudes, lifestyle and philosophy of the Friendsville-Albright boaters.

"Charc" is a key concept. defined as "changing arc." or "the angle of attack of a boat's long axis as it encounters local **currents/features**." "Charc" also applies directly to people, **i.e.**, "bad charc" or "clean up your

**please turn to page 47**

# "Never eat leftover lizard..."

*There are plenty of lessons to be learned on an Arctic river like the Horton... the least of which is the proper culinary preparation of a reptile*



*Relaxing around the cookfire, the Arctic canoeists ponder the contents of the pots.*

There was no evidence of man on **Horton Lake**. I browsed around near its shore in a canoe, looking for firewood, and later wandered back into the interior, searching for deadfall. The air was still and the day was quiet. No waves lapped at the shore.

It was hot, 91 degrees, the first of four 90-degree days we would experience. The sky was cloudless. There were some mosquitos, but not the menacing hordes that I had expected here in **Canada's** Northwest Territories, one full degree of latitude north of the Arctic Circle.

My only companion, and I heard him before I saw him, was a white tundra wolf. A large, shaggy brute, it splashed across a shallow creek, turned, sat on its haunches 200 yards away and stared at our campsite for more than an hour. There were no signs of campfires set by previous canoeists, no bits of human debris, not even an old Eskimo tent ring. "I was right," I said to myself. "No one else is here." My goal of a totally isolated wilderness canoe trip--a two-week journey with friends--had become a reality.

Despite the quietude of my walk into the Barren Lands, our paddling group of eight was not without its rambunctious joys. Fred Seidl, dean of the State University of Buffalo's School of Social Work

and an inveterate guitarist, sang to all who would listen (the wolf didn't; it was over a ridge by the middle of the chorus):

*I do not know how to make soufflé,  
My blintzes will never be great.  
And Julia Child wouldn't go wild  
With my squab under glass on her plate.  
But this I know in the kitchen,  
It was learned in the school of hard knocks.  
Never eat leftover lizard,  
You'd be better off munching old socks.  
Never eat leftover lizard,  
It does not keep well at all.  
It will rot in a matter of hours  
And lead to your decline and fall.  
Now rattlesnake lasts quite a long time..  
And even road runner's OK.  
But never eat leftover lizard  
You'll be signing your future away.*

On the morning of July 17, with a cry of "On to the polar sea," we pushed our four aluminum **Grumman** canoes into the waters of Horton Lake and commenced what we hoped would be a trip north for the length of the Horton River, 375 miles into the Canadian Arctic. We had camped at that lake, 50 miles north of Great Near Lake, for two days of **fishing**, sorting out gear and getting the lay of the land. To get

## About Bill Hoyt...

The author, Bill Hoyt of Buffalo, NY, is a 14-year member of the New York State Assembly. Hoyt's avid interest in whitewater canoeing carries over to his responsible positions on issues of river conservation before the NY legislature. And as chairman of the Energy Committee, NY paddlers are blessed with a voice of reason when laws effecting hydro-electric development come before the state government.

Hoyt is presently heading up a consortium of concerned citizens opposing a proposed hydro project on the Genesee's Letchworth Gorge and also provided assistance in opening access to the Niagara Gorge for whitewater paddlers.



there, we had taken commercial airlines to a town called Norman Wells and then two flights on **Nahanni Air**, a charter company on the Mackenzie River.

Our brigade of paddlers consisted of myself; Seidl; Peter Raymont, a filmmaker from Toronto; Eric Poggenpohl, a professional photographer from **Amherst, Mass.**; Roger Vaughan of Oxford, Md., an author on assignment with Poggenpohl for the Washington Post; Steve **Lunsford**, a **rare-book dealer from North Vancouver, British Columbia**; and two other Buffalonians--Bill Fleming, a physician, and Jim **Magavem**, an attorney. All were members of the Erie Basin Sons of Ahab, a loosely knit group of 60 or 70 American and Canadian canoeists who over the years had paddled the rivers and lakes of the arctic watershed. Four of us had experience paddling in the North (this was my seventh trip); the others were eager and enthusiastic **journeymen**.

The Horton is the northernmost river in continental Canada. Isolated and remote, it flows northwest into Franklin Bay on the Arctic Ocean. Only two or three canoe groups paddle it each summer. **Ingmar Remmler**, of Arctic Waterways in **Ste-**

vensville, **Ont.**, is an exception. He rafts 125 miles of the river each July. **Larry Osgood**, a former Buffalonian now living in Ottawa, paddled the Horton in 1974; it was his river journal we used as a guidebook for our trip.

The Horton River valley abounds with wildlife. Along the way, we saw grizzly bears and wolves, caribous and muskoxen, bald and golden eagles. It is not a **white-water** river--it drops only 1,200 feet in its flow to the sea. Rather, the Horton is an intimate river with forgiving gravel bars. Its course is bordered by black spruce trees to within 30 miles of the Arctic Ocean. But just 100 yards back from the river the tundra begins--muskeg bogs and pothole lakes, stretching bleakly for hundreds of miles in all directions.

Because the Horton lies north of the rocky Canadian Shield, it does not encounter Precambrian rock as it twists and turns its way to the Arctic Ocean. It slides through braided gravel bars and **scree-littered** limestone banks, interrupted frequently by small riffles and swifts, a paddler's joy.

Its gentle flow did not increase appre-

ciably as we moved downstream; July was *dry*, and the lack of rain had choked off several tributaries. The water was clear and turquoise; we could see individual grayling 15 feet below the surface.

Seventy miles from the ocean the Horton **turns** turbid, and therefore unfishable, as sulfurous rivulets drain from the Smoking Hills nearby. As the river moves north, the valley flattens out and the adjacent hills become more prominent. Verdant terraces covered with spruce, willows, aspen and lichen give the valley an **Irish** look, particularly after the morning sun has melted away the fog.

The Canadian Arctic has fascinated me for years. I have read about it, accumulated **books** on it, corresponded with its inhabitants, collected its art and artifacts, and made every possible excuse to visit it as frequently as possible. I'm probably the only person in New York State to subscribe to **News/North**, a weekly newspaper out of Yellowknife, which I get a month late. I once wrote to former Prime Minister Pierre **Trudeau**, suggesting that Canada proclaim a national holiday on the birthday of poet Robert Service. (The author of "The Spell

of the Yukon," Service has been called the Canadian Rudyard Kipling.) So my motives for going "north of 60" were plain: The sheer pleasure of being in the Arctic is its own reward. Also, after six months in Albany, with all of its caterwauling and jabbering, **a stint in the North** is like breathing pure oxygen.

Once we left Horton Lake, our life for the next 16 days would be lived out in canoes and tents. Our days followed a pattern. We awoke at 7 and left the campsite at **9:30** or 10. We took an hour off for lunch, and usually made camp by 6 in the evening. It was a pleasant, wmpanionable existence. Everyone had a role to perform; experienced and **unexperienced** alike pitched in with remarkably little direction.

Canoeing, especially long-distance wilderness canoeing with its emphasis on 20-mile days, is not **intellectually** taxing. Rhythmical, steady, plodding, the job is to get from point A to point B without major mishap. **Cold** weather and rainstorms are vexations, but not unbearable ones. Head winds become the real enemy--they can keep you in your tent for days on end in the northern latitudes. Portages, of any length, have no virtue and should be avoided at any cost.

On our **10th** day we came upon our **first** and only rapids--a set of eight that stepped down for 30 miles through a low-walled limestone canyon. We took two days to **run** them. I have been shooting white water all my life, and never have completely mastered the skill. My stomach always heaves a bit as the canoe is drawn into the smooth tongue of current above the **first** drop. "Dancing horses," the natives used to call the foaming waters. Though they were not difficult by the standards of the South Nahanni River or the Coppermine River (both in Canada's Northwest Territories), we still approached the rapids with caution. We scouted each one in turn, and portaged our packs and gear around several before attempting the canoe **run**.

There were no mishaps, except that **Lunsford** and Seidl swamped several times because their spray cover didn't fit their canoe. The weather continued to be exceptionally hot, so the 45-degree water posed no threat of hypothermia.

---

*The Arctic paddlers enjoy unusually warm weather as they drift through a rugged gorge on the Horton.*

We were 110 miles north of Horton Lake before the wind changed. "A tail **wind**," Vaughan yelled upon emerging from his tent that morning. "We can sail." **Until** then we had either paddled with no **wind** at all or faced a slighthead wind from the northwest. Now the wind had swung around to the south, and our "great **experiment**" could take place: sailing in the **Barren** Lands.

Vaughan and **Poggenpohl**, both experienced in racing ocean sailboats, took charge. Vaughan had brought along a **spinaker**. We lashed our four canoes together at the gunwales with **bungee** cords, and he **rigged** a mast--a 16-foot black spruce pole **secured** to a **seat** in one of the inside canoes. **We ran** lines ("not ropes, Hoyt," they reminded me) every which way around our "quadramaran" and set sail, using our paddles in the stem as rudders.

I was a little skeptical about the whole business. What would Jack London have said? A sleek **multistriped** product of the **DuPont Corp.** fluttering through the **Barrens**--it seemed to violate caste. But on the other hand, every yard we sailed was a yard we didn't have to paddle.

We sailed contently north, a 10-knot breeze at our backs, eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and **telling** heroic **tales** of our youth. We saw no animals **during** this 40-mile stint, our one day of sailing. Even the arctic terns, usually **fearless**, swooped a good distance away from this frightening apparition.

On July 30 at about 4 **p.m.** we reached **Coal Creek**. We had paddled 25 miles since **breakfast**. Here I expected to fulfill one of

my goals for the trip: to find the remains of the cabin in which explorer **Vihjalmur Stefansson** had lived during the winter of 1911-12.

Stefansson is one of my heroes. Born in Manitoba in 1879, he grew up in North Dakota. He entered **Harvard** University as a divinity student, but soon fell under the spell of Frederic Ward **Putnam** in the **anthropology** department.

Explorer, scientist, **Eskimo** linguist, teacher and anthropologist, Stefansson first went to the Arctic in 1906; after that, he lived there almost continuously until 1917. He caused a stir with his book "The Friendly Arctic" by asserting that the North was not brutal and inhospitable, as most believed, but decently manageable for those who took the **time** to study native ways of dress, travel, diet and housing. He thwized that the "blond" Eskimos of the western Arctic were in fact offspring of the Vikings who had migrated westward to Coronation Gulf in the days following **Leif Ericsson's** explorations. Stefansson was highly individualistic, both in his fieldwork and in print. He was a splendid loner.

In his journal, Osgood noted that he and two companions had spent a day searching before they found the explorer's hut. His description of its location was vague, and Stefansson's own book "Living With the Eskimo" also left some doubt about the site. Nevertheless, I was confident that we would find it. Coal Creek was mostly dry because of lack of rain. We beached the canoes and headed inward.

After we had walked for an hour, Luns-





ford found the cabin--or, to be exact, the baseboards and uprights that remained. It was **on** the north bank of Coal Creek, 1,000 yards upstream from the Horton River. This was an exciting moment. Here Stefansson and his native **companions** had "wintered over" **75 years** ago. They had used this 8-by-12-foot log hut as a base camp for hunting and exploring. The **ruins** suggested that it was double-walled and thickly insulated. It even had a flagpole out front. A narrow, gravelike indentation indicated a convenience: an icebox set into the permafrost.

Neighboring black spruce trees were cut off four feet above the ground, implying that the cabin had been built after the **f i t** deep snowfall. Stefansson had positioned it facing south to catch what meager sunlight the arctic winter permitted. It was built only a short distance from an older course, now **dry**, of Coal Creek. So Stefansson would have **had quick** access by snowshoe to the Horton River, where he **could** cut holes through the ice for fishing.

I poked **around** in the moss and pine needles that covered the dirt floor and came up with a discarded tobacco tin, brown with rust and battered with time, that had been fashioned into a candleholder. Raymont proclaimed it an old tin can--"they're all over the North"--but to me it was an important artifact, only a shade less valuable than the Rosetta stone.

Dinner in the bush is a solemn occasion. After we had paddled for six to eight hours, God help the cook who screws up; fortunately, it's difficult to damage freeze-dried food. We've come a long way since the '60s and '70s, when camping-food packagers aimed their products at fearful survivalists. Now you can buy dozens of delicious entrees, including a vast assortment of gourmet camping foods. And a good spice kit almost always guarantees success.

Our group had high culinary **standards**--we **demand**ed better than the granola bars, acorns and bark you see hikers eating on the Appalachian Trail. Canoes, after **all**, can carry more food than backpacks. Three-alarm chili with homemade corn bread, shrimp **Newburg**, tinned ham with cherry sauce and wild rice, and chicken **curry** with five separate condiments were all four-star meals. **Linguini**, beef stroganoff and turkey **tetrazzini** were a close second. Fish were plentiful, and we supplemented many meals with grayling. One day, while we were still on Horton Lake,



*At journeys end: Arctic paddlers pose before their floatplane near where the Horton dumps into the Arctic Ocean.*

we caught a half-dozen trout, including a monstrous 25-pounder. We ate like kings that night, and fish chowder livened up the **next** several lunches.

The only real gastronomic disaster **came** on our 14th night. The weather had **turned** sour, and all day we fought a 20 mph lead wind that brought intermittent rain. The air temperature hovered in the mid-40s **and** the river was just as cold. Despite a **decent current**, we were making very little **progress**. Very discouraging. So we pulled **off** the river, looking forward to a warming fire and a grand spaghetti **dinner**.

It was not to be. Even though I had **triple-wrapped** it back in Buffalo, the **spaghetti** was soaked. What we had was one **giant** mass of pasta. My comrades' advice **on** how to restore it was less than subtle. The rain, and the complaints, increased **steadily**. Then the soup burned and, worst of all, we were running short on bourbon. The final indignity came when the dinner **ent** blew down on our heads. Exasperated, Raymont grabbed the ax, slammed the **huge** hunk of spaghetti down on an **over-**turned canoe and whacked the pasta into **pieces**. Not stylish but practical.

Finally, we ate our dinner and went to **bed**--but not for long. A gust of wind **licked** up one of the unsecured canoes and **blew** it 30 feet into the river. Wearing long **johns**, we piled frantically into the other **canoes** and retrieved it. We missed our **bedtime** story, a nightly reading from Algonron Blackwood's northern classic

"The Windigo." It had been along evening.

We paddled 300 miles in 16 days, but in the end we fell short by several days of our goal of **Franklin** Bay and the Arctic Ocean. We flew back to civilization on another chartered plane.

The Horton is a magnificent river--intimate, isolated, uninhabited. It is full of vivid memories for me: fatigue and restoration, laughter and loneliness, delight and despondency. But mainly it abounds with the joy of being **with good** friends on a great adventure.

Around one of our last campfires, Seidl--this summer's Robert Service--returned to his favorite quirky folk song.

*Now, fresh lizard's dandy for dinner  
Served with kumquats and wild rice,  
And poached lizard's tasty in pastry,  
And even smoked lizard is nice.*

*Bur eat it the day that you kill it,  
Or bury it deep in a hole;  
For leftover lizard gets rancid,  
And could poison the heartiest soul.*

# Bad breaks in Costa Rica



***Getting hurt in a foreign country presents an unusual array of hardships...but where else would you be served bananas in the ambulance?***

by Olivia Barton

I was running out of air and out of choices. My kayak had flipped upside down in the turbulent white water of Costa Rica's **Rio** Reventazon. My paddle dragged beneath me, scraping the rocky river bottom.

As hard as I struggled, I couldn't pull it to the surface above the surging waves. There was no calm eddy downstream, only more rocks and swift current.

If I couldn't roll up pretty soon. I would have to push myself free of the boat, to

come up for air and face the consequences.

Late October is the end of the rainy season in Costa Rica. It's a good time to run rivers in this Central American country where the water is warm and the scenery spectacular.

I'd planned a vacation here to kayak three rivers in a group of 14 experienced paddlers from the **South and Midwest**. Two experts from North Carolina would be our river guides. a Costa **Rican** outfitter would provide the boats and raft support.

I knew we would run rivers that carve into **rugged** mountain gorges where waterfalls tumble through lush green jungle. We'd see volcanoes, iguanas and parrots and maybe monkeys, all from an exciting white water roller coaster.

But, I didn't count on a dramatic river rescue that would land me in a hospital where almost no one spoke English.

*Modeling a low-volume PFD for the leg? **Not** quite. Olivia awaits rescue while perched on a rock in the middle of the Rio Reventazon.*

My friends thought I was nuts to go in the **first** place. What about insurgents? What if you get hijacked? What about snakes? What if you get hurt?

Costa Rica has no army and its president, Oscar Arias, just won the Nobel Peace Prize for his peace plan for Central America. There was little chance of **being** seized by insurgents. About as much chance of being hijacked.

And there was little chance of stumbling upon one of Costa Rica's deadliest snakes, the Fer-de-Lance. In the four days we spent paddling the Rio General, we saw only one snake--a boa constrictor wrapped around a tree limb hanging over the river. He seemed content to mind his own **busi-**

ness.

Besides, the Rio General made good one its promises. The rapids were **challenging**, but **fun**. And, the jungle with its waterfalls and weird **sounds** was exotic and eerie.

I never worried about insurgents or snakes. But, with any outdoor sport, there's always a risk of getting hurt.

I'd even joked about it with my w-workers. I'd left my rent check at the office and asked them to mail it if something happened to me.

On the morning we drove to the **Rio Reventazon**, I **kid**-dingly told my friend Cathy Weil where I'd hidden my jewelry. She laughed. But, she was a little nervous like I was. We'd seen pictures of this river. We knew it was big stuff.

From the dirt mountain road leading to the put-in, the Reventazon looked like a muddy torrent racing down a deep green gorge toward the Atlantic Ocean. From far away, we could see the crashing waves.

The thick maze of jungle that tangled the river banks offered no refuge and seemingly, no way out.

There were 16 of us in **kayaks**, plus a raft which carried lunch, two raft guides and a group of Chinese people from San Jose who'd never been whitewater rafting.

**Once on the river**, we would be committed for the next 12 miles.

I felt the nagging fear of the unknown creep into a pit in my stomach as I squeezed into the cockpit of the sleek, red kayak.

At **first**, the river seemed to be just continuous, smacking waves. We followed each other one at a time, staying close to the right bank.

We'd paddled maybe a quarter mile when the river suddenly got steeper and rockier. forming bigger drops, bigger holes, bigger **waves**.

My heart was **pounding** when I got knocked upside down. I held my breath and reached my paddle for the surface. With a broad sweep, I rolled upright

again, but I was bouncing backward against the chop.

Seconds later, I was slapped over again, this time against the rocks. I tried desperately to pull the paddle up, but the river just sucked it down in the wave troughs.

Out of air, I popped the **sprayskirt** that

called out for help.

It was just before noon. I would spend a small eternity--more than two hours on that rock before my fellow boaters would be able to rescue me. It would be seven hours before I reached a hospital.

Eric Nies, one of the trip leaders, was among the **first** to reach me with a first aid kit. He and Tom Massing, a physician's assistant from **Washington D.C.**, gingerly slid my leg into a knee-high inflatable bag. The pressure of the bag eased the pain.

For the next few hours, Tom kept the bag inflated and kept me company on **the rock**, along with our mutual D.C. friend Ed Gilliland. We told some jokes.

Meanwhile, the raft with the Chinese people came flying down the river. I shouted to the raft guides. Chuck **Champe** and Mara Loveridge, hoping they could paddle over. I figured the raft was my only way out.

But Chuck and Mara were having problems with the Chinese who were excited and frightened. They couldn't make them understand in English or Spanish that they should paddle.

The raft careened past me and disappeared.

By now, our group was spread out up and down the river. **The other group leader**, Mary **Hipsher**, had chased after **my** boat. She would

spend the next **few** hours downstream with two others who went to tell her what happened.

My friend Cathy had also taken a spill and lost her boat. She was badly shaken. but safe on the right bank. Most of the other kayakers managed to land safely on my island.

From there, Eric began organizing the rescue effort which included the difficult task of getting the raft back upstream and the uncertain task of **finding** a way out of the gorge.

About half a mile or so downstream, Chuck and Mara finally pulled the raft over to the right bank and deposited the Chinese in the jungle. Chuck sent Mara



*Costa Rican rivers like the Rio Reventazon offer **tush** tropical scenery. Unfortunately, they are difficult to evacuate.*

sealed me into the cockpit. Water gushed in as I **kicked** my way out of the boat and came **up gasping**.

Downstream, the river broke into two channels around a small rocky island. I hung onto the boat and tried to push it to shore. But the current was much too powerful. It slammed me feet **first** into the rocks.

What I saw when I looked **down** **made** me let go of the boat. It quickly disappeared down river.

My left foot dangled limply. The impact with the rocks had broken my ankle. I stared at it in disbelief. Fighting the urge to cry, I crawled onto the nearest exposed rock and

back through the dense undergrowth to find a path back to the put-in. Eric, meanwhile, had gone to explore the left side.

Her legs scratched and scraped, Mara climbed up to a narrow dirt road where she found a man walking with a small boy and a horse.

"They lived close by in a shack. The man said there was no way back. But he said the road led to a small town. I asked if he had an ox-cart," said Mara, who speaks fluent Spanish.

He didn't have an ox-cart, but he had seen some men down the road picking bananas and cultivating pejabeye, a red fruit. One of them had a truck. His name was Eduardo.

He would take me to Turrialba, the nearest town where I could get a cab to the hospital in San Jose. No problem, he told Mara.

The problem was getting me off the island. The raft could only be moved upstream a few yards at a time because the current was so strong and the raft got stuck in holes.

"We had to keep climbing over trees. Some men with machetes helped us clear out the jungle so we could carry the raft up," said Cathy.

I was relieved when I could finally see the raft. By this time, I was feeling punchy and dehydrated.

I showed my friends how to wave without getting tired if you're ever in a parade or stranded on a rivet. My friend Lois Sparks who marched in New York's Macy's parade, taught me this:

Elbow, elbow, wrist, wrist. Elbow, elbow, wrist, wrist.

I was nuts. The tropical sun and the pain were working on me. I didn't know what was going to happen to me.

When the raft was lined up even with the island, the guys took turns making a chair with their arms and carried me carefully over the ropes to the raft. Then, they pulled the raft with ropes to the right bank.

It was there I gulped down a bunch of fruit juice and met Eduardo and his brother, Bernardo.

Their skirts were open to the waist and stained from work. They wore wide-brimmed hats and moustaches.

Eduardo drove the truck, with one of the Chinese women up front. She'd had enough of the river. Bernardo climbed into the wooden flatbed with me, propped up against the cab, along with Cathy, Mara and the bananas.

The winding road out of the gorge was rocky and steep. At one point, Cathy's eyes just about popped out. "Don't look," she told me. "We're going over a waterfall."

The water showered off a cliff and ran over the road. I could see the stream through the slats in the flatbed as the truck clambered over some boulders.

Near the rim of the gorge, we came to a little town called Tucurrique. That's where Bernardo got off with the bananas. He lived there. The town had a few small houses and a store. There were dogs and children playing along the dirt road and men on horseback.

*"Lady, you're going to have to move. This is where we put the fragile baggage."*

We continued on, past fields of sugar cane and coffee plantations. We forded a tributary of the Reventazon. I shut my eyes.

I'm not sure how far it was to Turrialba. It took us almost two hours to get there. Eduardo didn't want any money. I insisted. For the gas, Mara told him.

We left Cathy and the Chinese woman in Turrialba. They would wait for the others to get off the river.

Mara bargained with a cab driver to take us to the hospital, another two hours away in San Jose. It was starting to get dark. I'd had nothing for the pain.

The hospital emergency room was a do-it-yourself sort of place. Rafael Gallo, our Costa Rican outfitter, met us there. He and Mara had to carry me in and wheel me down to X-ray. There wasn't an orderly in sight.

Mara, who's about five feet tall and 100 pounds, lifted me onto the X-ray table while Rafael held me leg.

The X-ray was bad news. The ankle was broken in three places. Circulation was being cut off, the doctor told me in Spanish with Rafael translating. I needed surgery within the hour. It'd been almost eight hours since the accident. I had barely enough time to call home.

The hospital room was pitch dark when the throbbing in my left leg woke me from a deep, drugged sleep. I fumbled around the nightstand for the light and squinted at my watch. It was 4 a.m.

I pressed a button, hoping it would bring a nurse. The pain was deep in the

bone where two screws and a pin now held my ankle together.

The nurse came quickly, greeting me in the only Spanish I could understand, "Buenos dias."

"Pain," I told her. "I'm in a lot of pain."

"Pee pee?" she asked, holding up the bedpan. "Poo poo?" I shook my head. We weren't getting anywhere fast and the ache was becoming unbearable.

I motioned to the closet for my daypack which contained a Spanish phrasebook for travellers. The cover boasted, "1200 phrases—2000 useful words." Surely pain is a useful word.

I thumbed to the doctor section and found it. "Tengo un dolor aqui. I have a pain here."

The nurse's eyes widened and she dashed from the room.

Later in the morning I got a few phone calls. Mom and Dad. My boss, Congressman Tom Bevill and his wife Lou. My friend Brian O'Malley who wanted to sign my cast, "I break for rocks."

Then, the phone rang and a man with a British accent explained to me that he was on vacation at the beach in Costa Rica. He'd caught some kind of virus and had a stomachache and a headache. What did I advise?

"Who do you think you're talking to?" I asked him. "The doctor," he replied.

"I'm the patient. I broke my ankle in the Rio Reventazon and came out on a banana truck. How did you get me?" I asked.

"They told me to call this hospital and ask for someone who spoke English," he sighed.

The chaplain was the only person I met in two days at the hospital who spoke English. She brought me the New Testament in English and Spanish. Her comment on my injury was: "Such is life."

Later, Rafael, Eric and Mary brought me a T-shirt. It says: "Such is life in Costa Rica." I wore it home.

Going through customs in Miami, an airline employee who was pushing my wheelchair backed me up against a wall while he went to get my luggage.

A few minutes later, a skycap came up and said, "Lady, you're going to have to move. This is where we put the fragile baggage."

Such is life.

## NC boats cont.

through their rafting, advertising, their catalog and outdoor travel programs. It's a real class act--incredible for the sport."

Ambler also has a deep affection for North Carolina--and it's easy to understand why. His shop is located right on the banks of the Watauga, one of the South's premier class 5 runs.

"This area is definitely on the edge of the backwoods," Ambler concedes...but right on the cutting edge of boat building technology and design.

## Grand river cont.

In this sense, there's not much difference between squirters and those mountaineers who climb cliffs with nothing other than chalk dust, lycra tights and climbing shoes--you're reducing everything to bare essentials. It's between your athletic ability and the river's savage caprice.

Sure, the boats are brightly painted in metalflake with colors that would never be found in nature (for some reason purple and orange tones seem to be a favorite among squirtboaters). Emerging as the hot accessory are aerodynamic bicycling helmets painted in metal flake to match the paddler's boat design. All sub-cultures strive to define their own identity, to seize upon something which distinguishes them to the outside world. Squirters have seized upon outrageous equipment as their instruments. In this sense **squirting** is like belonging to a punk street gang.

**Punks** or athletes? It's really both sides of the coin. Both groups live by their wits on the razor edge of what they think is possible and what the world around them is doggedly saying can't be done. Both sides also crave the respectability which popularity brings. But while the athlete is already lauded in our society, punks became respectable only when Billy Idol brought them into the mainstream. Most squirters see themselves as Billy Idols, taking something most people thought was just a weird offshoot and bringing it to the attention of the masses by sheer brilliance.

It's this audacity, this athletic willingness to take chances and defy the traditional wisdom of a boat as something that you want to always see riding on top of the water, that really sets squirting apart.

To the participants in the Canyon trip, the expedition represented a **confirmation**

of their status as a boating subculture--a celebration of their own wild achievements. It served as a rite of passage for squirting. Undoubtedly, there will be more, but for the time being, the challenge issued was met. Now it's time to scope out the next set of impossibilities.

## Squirt review cont.

**prehensible**, but there are some true mystery moves in the philosophy department. Some examples:

"Oblivion **charcs** always leave you short of your goal because oblivion, by its very nature, is unobtainable."

"A river is a symbol of the time function applied to the stable factors of an environment. It teaches us to pursue the infinite detail while accepting the perfect flaw."

Thankfully, Snyder advises the reader not to let such philosophical gems "get in your way. They're only words and it's only water."

The feeling that dominates the book is the sheer joy of the stunt pilot. These waterborne **barnstormers** seem to have acquired fins and gills. In squirting, the boater "can become dizzy with potential as water, air and metalflake combine in surrealist scenarios." And remember, "The power of the **charc** is all that counts."

## MAXIMUM WHITEWATER PERFORMANCE



by David Hearn

## WORLD CLASS WHITEWATER EQUIPMENT

### WILD-WATER

Paddle Jackets: LS & SS  
Check out these  
Features! Soft TACTEL  
Fabric, tough rubber  
coating never peels.  
Sealed seams mean  
this gear keeps the  
water out. Neoprene  
collar, cuffs & waist  
In Hot & Cool colors  
Ripstop Shirts - Mitts  
Float Vests - Gear Bags  
Neoprene Spray Skirts  
Helmets - Paddle Bags  
'Avilastic' DrySuits &  
DryTops to keep U **DRY**.

### PROPULSION

**SUPER PADDLES!** HI-TECH  
EPOXY, CARBON FIBER &  
KEVLAR CONSTRUCTION.  
**BOMBPROOF ALLOY TIP!**  
These K-1 & C-1 STICKS  
are really TOUGH, and  
PLEASANTLY LIGHT too.

## nomad

The best boats in  
the world. Extra K-1,  
ExtraBat C-1. In stock  
& to order. Top layouts  
Available now.

Call David Hearn at:  
301 229-4304, or write  
to: MWP, 6211 RIDGE DR  
BETHESDA, MD. 20816

## Olson cont...

(At the beginning of the period, 162 hydroelectric plants were already under construction.) In 1986 FERC received 27 new applications. The numbers do not include the requests to refurbish some of the nation's 60,000 existing dams. The recent spate of proposals arises from amendments to the Federal Power Act that, among other things, give private developers the rights of eminent domain and provide federal subsidies for hydro projects. Without such artificial price supports, furnished by the taxpayer, many proposed dams would be uneconomic and would therefore not be built.

The laws governing hydroelectricity are complex and the technical issues often incomprehensible. Consequently, some basic issues get obscured, including whether a proposed dam might have irreversible effects on the ecological, aesthetic, cultural, historical, archeological, and recreational qualities of the river. Nor does the FERC application process adequately evaluate the economic benefits of a river kept in its natural condition, even if the river supports commercial activity such as rafting.

While FERC is the agency that formally sanctions the permanent alteration of many of our remaining natural waterways, there is no equivalent agency whose sole mission is to safeguard them. This absence of a balanced oversight is unusual in a nation that otherwise cherishes its natural resources. The national timber crop is watched over by the United States Forest Service, our park lands by the National Park Service, our agrarian estate by the Soil Conservation Service, our endangered species by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the public property by the Bureau of Land Management. Even the oceans and air have their own stewards, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Conservationists, ironically, are part of the problem. Larger non-profit organizations have tended to give rivers short shrift. And local groups have understandably concentrated only on selected rivers within a limited geographic domain. We at American Rivers, a national organization devoted exclusively to protecting free-flowing rivers, freely admit our frustration at not being able to develop a truly transnational program to preserve in perpetuity a modest number of our country's finest rivers, whether important to a community,

state, region, or the nation as a whole, and whether significant for **ecologic**, recreational, geologic, historic, cultural, scenic or **economic** reasons.

Conservationists must renew the effort to designate Wild and Scenic Rivers, to fulfill the system at 60,000 miles. And we must initiate a separate system aimed at the 3 million miles never envisioned for such designation, the unprotected community rivers. To preserve a modest sample of the latter across America will require the action of every state. In a **coordinated** nationwide effort to establish a Transcontinental Community Rivers system. Unlike the Wild and Scenic Rivers system, which was created to preserve nationally important rivers, the Community Rivers system would encourage the protection of selected streams of local and regional significance, however large or small, wild or docile. The idea is to complement the Wild and Scenic River system by crisscrossing the nation with a network of community rivers protected from overdevelopment.

## American Rivers lists endangered rivers

American Rivers, one of the country's respected river conservation organizations, has included four notable whitewater streams in its annual ten most endangered rivers list.

Included on the list are:

--Oregon's Klamath River where a \$500 million hydroelectric power dam proposed by the City of Klamath Falls threatens the outstanding year-round boating and rafting.

--California's American River where the Army Corps of Engineers proposes the building of a huge "dry" dam as part of a flood control program. Although the Corps insists the dam would only be filled in times of flood, American Rivers suspects the proposed single-purpose dam could be easily upgraded to a multi-purpose dam which would inundate 40 miles of canyon.

--Colorado's Animas River where a huge irrigation project would divert much of the flow of the Animas and of the downstream San Juan River.

--New York's Black River where several proposed hydroelectric plants still threaten to destroy one of the few Northeastern stretches of summer whitewater.

American Rivers also named an honorable mention list of endangered rivers which includes considerable other significant whitewater runs. Making the honorable mention list are New York's Oswegatchie and Genesee; California's Smith and Lower Kern; Idaho's Snake and South Fork of the Payette; West Virginia's Gauley; Colorado's Yampa; Michigan's Crystal; and New Mexico's Rio Chama.



NOT EVERYONE IS AN ACCOMPLISHED PADDLER

There is a way to share your experience and the joys of the river with family and friends . . .

RAFTS and INFLATABLE KAYAKS

of the quality required by Pros at affordable prices.

Write today for the catalogue that allows you to share your fun!

903 Alton Parkway ■ Birmingham, Alabama 35210 ■ 205/833-3564

River  
Equipment  
Distributors  
INC.

## AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION SAFETY COMMITTEE ACCIDENT REPORT

Please mail to: ACA, Box 248, Lorton, VA, 22079. Atten: Safety Chairman.

☐ FATAL ACCIDENT

☐ NEAR MISS

**Information on Victim:**

**Information on the River:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of River \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Condition \_\_\_\_\_

Level: Low Med High **Flood**

Swimming Ability \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

Paddling Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Flow \_\_\_\_\_ **ft/s** at \_\_\_\_\_

Run River Before? \_\_\_\_\_

Temp: Water \_\_\_\_\_ Air \_\_\_\_\_

Partner (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Difficulty (I-VI) \_\_\_\_\_

Conditions at site \_\_\_\_\_

**Information on Boat:**

**Information on Gear:**

Type Boat \_\_\_\_\_

Item: Yes No

(K-1, C-1, C-2, Open Canoe, Raft; Paddle or Oar, etc. Be specific!)

Victim PFD ☐ ☐

Length \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Victim Wetsuit ☐ ☐

Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_

Victim Helmet ☐ ☐

Rotation: ☐ Adequate ☐ Inadequate

Group Throwline ☐ ☐

Supplemental Rotation: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Group First Aid ☐ ☒

Any modifications? \_\_\_\_\_

Other Gear \_\_\_\_\_

Ownership: Own Boat Borrowed

Comment on any equipment failure.

Rented Stolen

**Check** appropriate phrases:

- ☐ Private trip
- ☐ Club sponsored trip
- ☐ School sponsored trip
- ☐ Commercial trip

- ☐ Training trip
- ☐ Daytrip
- ☐ Overnight trip
- ☐ Expedition

- ☐ Pow planning
- ☐ Bad judgement
- ☐ Inexperience
- ☐ Inadequate skills

- ☐ Inadequate equipment
- ☐ Equipment failure
- ☐ Lack of rescue equip.
- ☐ Health problem

- ☐ Head injury:
  - ☐ No helmet
  - ☐ Helmet worn
- ☐ Lack of self-rescue skills

- ☐ Flush-drowning
- ☐ Can low dam
- ☐ Recirculated in hole
- ☐ Pinned in strainer
- ☐ Pinned in boat
- ☐ Boat entrapment
- ☐ Encounter with trees
- ☐ Undercut rock involved

- ☐ Paddling alone
- ☐ PFD not worn
- ☐ Wind and waves
- ☐ No running lights
- ☐ Bad weather
- ☐ Hypothermia
- ☐ Alcohol abuse
- ☐ Drug abuse
- ☐ Boat overloaded for conditions

- ☐ Inadequate group rescue training
- ☐ Collision w/other craft
- ☐ Collision w/fixed object
- ☐ Swamping
- ☐ Capsizing

- ☐ Group size too small
- ☐ Absence of rescue equip.
- ☐ Group size too large

Other info: Date of accident \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

Leader's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Party Size \_\_\_\_\_

Person Filing Report \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Use this form to help gather information. Although it alone is helpful, written statements are more useful to the work of the Committee.

# awa affiliates

**Adirondack** Mt. Club **Schenectady**  
c/o Ken Robbins  
21 Beechwood Dr.  
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

**Allegheny** Canoe Club  
c/o **Walt Pilewski**  
755 W. Spring St.  
Titusville, PA 16354

**Antioch** Kayak Club  
c/o Karl Mahle  
P.E. Dept. Antioch College  
Yellow Spring, OH 45387

**Appalachian** Mt. Club  
Connecticut Chapter  
c/o Richard Ploski  
29 Hardwick Rd  
Forestville, CT 06010

Appalachian Mt. Club  
NY-NO. J. Chap. Canoe Comm.  
% Braley, 64 Lupine Way  
Stirling, NJ 07980

Ashville YMCA Kayak Club  
c/o Charles Hines  
30 Woodfin St.  
Ashville, NC 28801

Beartooth Paddler's **Society**  
c/o Keith Thompson  
1171 N. 10 St.  
Laramie, WY 82070

Beartooth Paddler's Society  
c/o **Michael Maxwell**  
4440 Toyon Dr  
Billings, MT 59106

Birmingham Canoe Club  
Box 951  
Birmingham, AL 35201

Boat Busters Anonymous  
2961 Hemingway Ave  
St Paul, MN 55119

Buck Ridge Ski Club  
c/o Jay E. Bradbury  
1024 Carolyn Dr  
West Chester, PA 19380

Canoe Club 01 Gr. **Harrisburg**  
c/o Walt Sieger  
2747 N. 4th St  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Canoe Cruisers Assoc. of  
Greater Washington, D.C. Inc.  
P.O. Box 572  
Arlington, VA 22216

**Castillo**, Larry  
2224 S.W. 24 St  
Miami, Fla 33145

**Chicago** Whitewater Association  
c/o Marge Chene  
1343 No. Portage  
Palantine, IL 60067

Clinton River Canoe School  
23705 Audrey  
Warren, MI 48091

Coastal Canoeists, Inc.  
P.O. Box 566  
Richmond, VA 23204

Colorado Whitewater Assoc.  
7600 E. Arapahoe  
Englewood, CO 80112

Dragonfly Designs  
Box 468T  
Geyserville, CA 95441

Eastern Montana College  
Outdoor Program  
c/o Mark Polakoff Box 570  
Billings, MT 59101

Explorer Post 2001  
c/o James A. Hasse  
11627 So. Arbor Dr.  
Houston, TX 77089

Explorer Post 999  
c/o R. Steve Thomas, Jr.  
3509 W. Colonial Dr.  
Hopewell, VA 23860

Farmington **Hills P&R** Canoe &  
Kayak  
c/o David Justus  
31555 Eleven Mile Rd  
Farmington Hills, MI 48018

Foothill Canoe Club  
PO Box 10664 F.S.  
Greenville, SC 29603

**Furman**, Dr. Richard  
702 State Farm Rd  
Boone, NC 28607

G.L.O.P.  
c/o James Tibensky  
1510 Lombard Ave  
Berwyn, ILL 60402

Georgia Canoeing Assoc.  
PO Box 7023  
Atlanta, GA 30357

Hoosier Canoe Club  
c/o Jerry Schoditsch  
6418 Bramshaw Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Idaho Alpine Club  
P.O. Box 2885  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Idaho State University  
Outdoor Prog.  
c/o Ron Watters  
Box 8118 ISU  
Pocatello, ID 83209

Idaho Whitewater Assoc.  
c/o Rob Lesser  
1812 N. 21st  
Boise, ID 83702

KCCNY  
■ Phyllis Horowitz  
P.O. Box 329  
Phoenicia, NY 12464

Keel-Hauler Canoe Club  
■ O Box 30094  
Middleburg Hgts OH 44130

Kennebec Sewer **Runners**  
c/o Paul **Reinstein**  
RFD #1 Box 5240  
Skowhegan, ME 04976

**Keystone** Raft and Kayak Adv.  
Box 1486  
Valdez, AK 99686

**Ledyard** Canoe Club  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, NH 03755

Lower Columbia Canoe Club  
Box 40210  
Portland, OR 97240

Mason-Dixon Canoe Cruisers  
c/o Ron Shanholtz  
222 Pheasant Trail  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Meramec River Canoe Club  
Earl C. Biffle  
26 Lake Rd  
Fenton, MO 63026

Merrimack Valley Paddlers  
c/o James Jackson  
38 Beebe Lane  
Merrimack, NH 03054

Metropolitan Canoe  
& Kayak Club  
c/o N.A. Payne  
Box 1868  
Brooklyn, NY 11202

Minnesota Canoe Assoc., Inc.  
Box 14207 University Station  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

**Monocacy** Canoe Club  
Box 1083  
Frederick, MD 21701

**Monoco** Canoe Club, Inc.  
c/o Tom Buckard  
456 Steuben Ave.  
Forked River, NJ 08731

National Org. River Sports  
c/o Mary McCurdy, Ed  
Box 6847  
Colorado Springs, CO 80934

New Waves Kayak Club  
Smith, Morgan  
2644 Bonnie Brae  
Casper, WY 82601

**Monoco** Canoe Club, Inc.  
c/o Tom Buckard  
301 Oakdale St  
Toms River, NJ 08757

Northern Arizona Paddlers Club  
c/o James Rolf  
P.O. Box 1224  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Northern New York Paddlers  
Box 228  
Schenectady, NY 12308

Northern Vermont Canoe Cruisers  
■ Alan Roberts  
Box 826 Wellington St  
Coicheston, VT 05446

**Ozark** Wilderness Waterways  
Club  
P.O. Box 16072  
Kansas City, MO 64112

Outdoor Adventure Club  
c/o Rodman D. **Jablove**  
2845 Liberty Ellerton Rd  
Dayton, OH 45418

Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Soc  
■ Adrien Humphreys  
20 Forest Ave  
Orono, ME 04473

Philadelphia Canoe Club  
4900 Ridge Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19128

Raw Strength & Courage Kayake  
Jerry Gluck  
1230 Astro Dr #B2022  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-6165

Redwood Paddlers  
c/o John Farison  
6794 Clara Lane  
Foresville, CA 95436

Rutgers Univ. Outdoor Cl.  
P.O. Box 231  
c/o Robert Markley  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

Sierra Club **Loma** Prieta Chapter  
c/o David Kim  
3309 Oxford Lane  
San Jose, CA 95117

Telluride Navy  
P.O. Box 888  
Telluride, CO 81435

**Tenn** Valley Canoe Club  
Box 11125  
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Tennessee Valley Authority  
Forestry Library  
Norris, TN 37828

Texas Whitewater Assoc.  
Box 5429  
Austin, TX 78763

Toledo River Gang  
c/o Jim Hock  
320 Cyril St.  
Toledo, OH

Triad River Runners  
912 Bellview St  
c/o Glenn Creamer  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

U of **M** Outdoor Prog.  
U of Montana, UC 164  
Missoula, MT 59812

U-Wisconsin Hoofers **Club**  
c/o Mike Sklavos  
379N Jackson #3  
Janesville, WI 53545

Upper Delaware NS & RR  
Box C  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Valdez Alpine Club  
c/o Andrew Embick MD  
P.O. Box 1889  
Valdez, AK 99686

WIMPS  
c/o Bill Wang  
66 Stat! Rd  
Rochester, NY 14624

W-PAFB Outdoor  
Adventurers Club  
c/o **Bob D. Jablove**  
2845 Liberty-Ellerton Rd  
Dayton, OH 45418

Wanda Canoe **Club**  
c/o F. Trautmann  
15 Beveridge Rd  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

**Wasatch** Min. Club  
c/o **Raymond** ■  
3155 Highland Dr  
Salt Lake City, ■ 84106

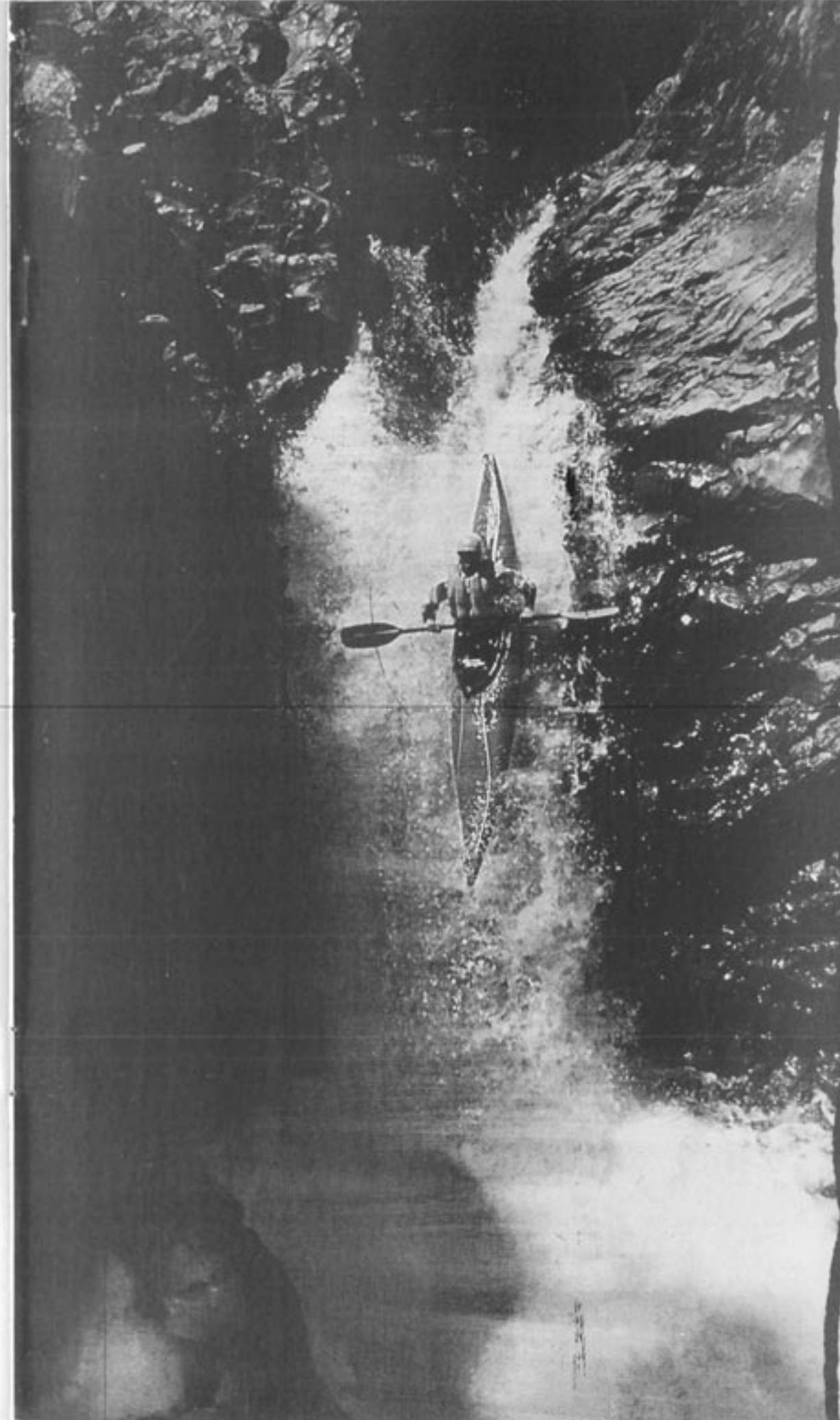
Washington Kayak **Club**  
P.O. Box 24263  
Seattle, WA 98124

Wild-Water Rafting Club  
Box 1523  
York, PA 17405-1523

Willamette Kayak & Canoe  
P.O. Box 1062  
Corvallis, OR 97331

Wilmington Trail Club  
Box 1184  
Wilmington, DE 19899

Z.C.P.F. and C.K.C.  
c/o Robert W. Smith  
10422 Tomkinson Dr  
Scotts, MI 49088



Take  
me  
to  
the  
river ...  
drop  
me  
in  
the  
water ...

Phil DeRiemer, Siete  
Tazas, Rio Claro, Chile.  
Photo by Lars Holbek.  
Kayak by Perception.

1110 Powdermill Road,  
Eastley, South Carolina 29640.  
(803) 859-7518



**perception**



# AMERICAN WHITEWATER

**AWA Journal**

146 N. Brockway  
Palatine, IL 60067

*Address Correction Requested*

NON-PROFIT  
BULK RATE  
Permit No. 9  
West Sand Lake  
NY 12196

0  
JAMES NICHOLSON  
1406 MERION AVE  
EASTON PA 18042