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**THE SUV OF KAYAKS**

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**Great Falls, Potomac River, MD @ 20,000 cfs**

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*Photo: Luke Hopkins www.leafpaddler.com*

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Tanya Shuman  
Ken Whiting  
Jed Selby  
Brooke Winger  
Tyler Curtis  
Bryan Kirk  
**Jimmy Blohowiy**  
Deb Pinniger  
Luke Hopkins  
Karyn McMullin  
Bill McKnight  
Nate Helms  
Jamie Cooper  
John Grossman  
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Our mission is to conserve and restore America’s whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. American Whitewater (AW) is a national organization with a membership consisting of thousands of individual whitewater boating enthusiasts and more than 100 local paddling club affiliates.

CONSERVATION: AW maintains a complete national inventory of whitewater rivers, monitors threats to those rivers, publishes information on river conservation, provides technical advice to local groups, works with government agencies and other river users, and—when necessary—takes legal action to prevent river abuse.

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

EDUCATION: Through publication of the bi-monthly magazine, and by other means, American Whitewater provides information and education about whitewater rivers, boating safety, technique and equipment.

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

EVENTS: AW organizes sporting events, contests and festivals to raise funds for river conservation, including the Gauley River Festival in West Virginia (the largest gathering of whitewater boaters in the nation), and the Deerfield Festival in Massachusetts.

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at 1424 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 389-9453. AW is tax exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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On occasion, American Whitewater publishes official organizational policy statements drafted and approved by the Board of Directors. These policy statements will be clearly identified.

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Dear Editor,

I have been a member of American Whitewater for several years now and have always enjoyed reading the zine everytime it has come in the mail, but that is starting to change. I have just gotten the March/April edition and I haven't even read it and by looking at the cover I most likely will not read most of it. Why is there an increase in stories about rivers that are in other countries. I am not a pro, and I have a family, which is probably most of AW’s members. I will never go to another country to boat, nor would I want to. How about more articles about AMERICAN whitewater and less about Latin, Canadian, and Costa Rican whitewater.

Bryan Tudor
Streamkeeper
creekfreak@fuse.net

Dear Bryan,

Thanks for your letter and opinion, Bryan, as well as for your work as an AW Streamkeeper. As you correctly observed, one of the main functions of the Journal is to report on the conservation and access work of American Whitewater, as well as to provide information on the state of whitewater resources in the United States. However, other important goals of the Journal are to inspire, educate, and entertain. Our feature stories on international rivers have the potential to encourage boaters to travel, learn about other cultures, and understand the need for conservation and access in a whole different light. As a Streamkeeper, you serve an important role in documenting and defending the value of conservation and access to a (hopefully) free-flowing waterway. Other waterways in this world are not so fortunate. Our international features may only encourage and motivate a small number of paddlers. However, these may also be the paddlers who make a difference in the conservation and livelihood of those environments.

Having said all that, I can also assure you that the AW Journal is largely limited to the material we receive. If you are seeing an increase in articles on international rivers, then you can safely assume that we have received a larger than usual number of those articles for publication. As for me, I will feel fortunate to one day paddle in an exotic land (as much as I can’t wait to drive up to the Ottawa Valley every summer, I wouldn’t necessarily think of the trip as an exotic destination). I am also without sponsorship, and my wife believes that our tax refund should be used on something more “usable” than a bent-shaft paddle. I hope that you will continue to read the Journal and will look forward to our July/August issue which will feature western whitewater.

Tim Nickles
Editor - American Whitewater
This issue of American Whitewater takes a look at AW (first known as AWWA, subsequently AWA) halfway through our fiftieth year. As you peruse the historical perspectives you’ll likely be reminded that our enjoyment of rivers is timeless, and that which creates a smile or shiver about the tales of challenge or frolic is universal. The thrill of discovery, the sense of accomplishment overcoming hurdles, and the delight in hearing about the adventures of others who loved rivers in 1955 differs little from the stories and accomplishment experienced today, and certainly tomorrow.

There are also events in AW’s annals that have turned corners for the sport, creating a powerful new role for recreational river enthusiasts.

1955: The first publication of The American Whitewater Journal created a vehicle by which river runners could communicate, establishing a true national network for this new and burgeoning avocation.

1959: AWWA authored the Safety Code and International Scale of White Water Difficulty, establishing a common reference for describing the difficulty of river rapids and providing a guideline for on-water safety signals.

1988: Due to a violation incurred by a utility company during the construction of a hydroelectric power plant on the Black River and the astute observance by AW volunteer Steve Massaro, river runners have water turned on upon arrival — essentially upon demand.

2002: To find out the current and planned level of flow for the Mokelumne (CA), you only need to call the toll-free number to access the PG&E schedule. This capability represents but a glimpse of AW’s “information technology” offering that includes the website’s richness, offering members and the larger public insight and access to a wealth of useful information that can instruct, inform and entertain.

These are a few of many examples of accomplishments unique to AW: they set us apart from all other national river organizations and have created a legacy about which each of us should both be proud and whose perpetuation we are responsible.

Looking back can also enhance appreciation, and for some, inspiration and motivation for the work and outreach which lies ahead.

Who were these volunteers, and why the heck did they march us through our initial incorporation and produce and distribute journals each year? From one year to the next the challenges sounded like variations on a theme: They complain about the air of entitlement of the slalom racers in 1965, as well as the rodeo stars in 1995. In 1955 the editorial crew complained about not receiving articles from easterners. In 1995 we were an eastern ‘club,’ despite the fact that California boasted more members than any other state.

Why, oh why, have you and other volunteer stalwarts bothered to carry on? I believe it is because 1) you have felt a responsibility to those who had created the path and 2) a few who can think out of the box to be agents of change know they can outlast those who criticize and create drag.

Enjoying rivers by being one with them is a common draw and the related majesty, adventure, camaraderie and humility is something special that only you know… along with a few others upon whom you could depend on in a pinch and who’d throw you a rope if you were floating by.

AW is here today thanks to the volunteers who birthed it, nurtured it, and either modified the focus or tore down impediments that challenged its growth during the course of these fifty years. Likewise, AW can go forward only with the support of our members and volunteers. Thank you in advance for what you will do to contribute to our next fifty.
Some Words From the Editor  Tim Nickles

With American Whitewater’s 50th anniversary this year, we celebrate a half-century legacy of working for the preservation and enhancement of our sport.

Specifically, AW has fought for conservation and free-flowing rivers, safety standards, event and program development, political representation, and other important issues. Looking forward to the next fifty years, one wonders what challenges AW will face. Jason Robertson, AW’s Director of Conservation, looks at the existing issues and where their trends are likely to take us in the future. I wonder if new challenges may take shape unforeseen by us today.

I spent this winter in France, skiing in the Alps and living in Chamonix; my first real season as a ski bum. One of the things that struck me about the French ski experience is that it is almost entirely free of rules. They basically cart you up into the heights and let you go. Sure, there are a few scattered signs and the occasional rope but skiers and climbers are responsible for their own actions and no entity exists to attach blame to when things go wrong. This experience is the essence of personal responsibility.

This tradition of freedom in the mountains exists in France and is an essential part of the history and appeal of the mountain environment there. One of the reasons this tradition is allowed to flourish is that the tort system within France and Europe differs from that in the United States. In the US, class action lawsuits and other legal frameworks exist that create a huge pressure on the ski industry to essentially limit the freedoms skiers are able to enjoy. These legal actions do not have counterparts in Europe and so serious challenges to the mountain tradition have not yet developed there.

As boaters we enjoy a real tradition of freedom on the rivers and creeks largely taken for granted because of the nature of the sport. Free-flowing rivers, away from roads and other signs of the rule-filled society in which we live, allow us an escape from the predictability and relative safety of American life and it is hard to imagine it any other way. We are responsible for our own decisions, support, and safety and these responsibilities translate into a wholly different experience than boating under other terms. Traveling with an outfitter, for instance, introduces an element of protection that buffers the feeling of being in the wild under our own guidance.

The backcountry ski experience is obviously alive and well in the United States but the experience within the resort industry is entirely different. Liability exposure limits the opening of ski runs and lifts, access to areas outside ski-area boundaries, and forces the provision of large support systems such as ski-patrol and avalanche control. There are positive elements to these services and restrictions but the self-reliant nature of the backcountry experience is certainly compromised by them.

Is it possible that similar limitations can be introduced into the boating world? If power companies release water into otherwise dry waterways, can responsibility be somehow attached to them when things go awry? If a community alters a waterway to enhance recreational enjoyment, can blame be attached when a boater is injured or worse? Can industry be held accountable if a boat design creates an unforeseen problem leading to accidents? These questions may seem ridiculous today but parallels exist between the boating and skiing world.

Boating continues to become more popular and, as more and more people take up paddles, new pressures are being created. Economic pressure increases as more dollars flow into the industry and pressure to develop and enhance opportunities to paddle and experience whitewater increases with it. A larger boating community can more loudly demand access to waterways and their preservation but also more service-oriented or packaged whitewater experiences that reduce the element of personal responsibility. These pressures will present positive and negative opportunities to those interested in enhancing the freedoms boaters currently enjoy.

As you read this issue and contemplate American Whitewater’s work and contribution over the last fifty years, think about what challenges lie in our path. Let us know what you come up with – send me an email at editor@amwhitewater.org or write to AW’s staff. American Whitewater’s membership represents the best pool of boaters for this type of clairvoyance and we’re reliant on you for help anticipating the challenges ahead of us.
Here are a few notes from those belonging to specific flock in AW’s history, the course-changing eighties and nineties: Barry Grimes (KY), Pope Barrow (DC) and Bob Glanville (NY). They have spent thousands of hours on the phone, on a typewriter (kids, those were mechanical devices that we used to create documents for others to read...), or at a keyboard for amazingly selfless reasons: to create community, to share awesome news, to gather momentum for an advocacy effort, to restore this river, to protect your ability to use that one, or to know what to do to help save your buddy’s life on yet a third. You owe them and their successors your thanks.

Which years describe your time of greatest involvement as an AW volunteer?

POPE: My greatest involvement came when I brought the Gauley Festival to AWA as a fundraiser for fighting the utility company in order to get releases on the Black River. Prior to that time, I had been helping Pete Skinner with legal issues involving hydropower projects, mostly in NY State, but the Gauley Festival was the start of a much deeper involvement. I really cannot remember which Gauley Fest it was because it was one Hell of a long time ago and I was plastered the whole time anyway. Skinner and Ron Smith of Adirondack Outfitters, Chris Koll and myself, together with a few stray volunteers (and two stumbling bums we picked up on the side of the road who we bribed with free beer) pretty much ran the whole festival that year, including giving free chicken dinners to everyone. We made a lot of money. Koll and I were holding the money bag when we passed out in the mud. Upon arising the next morning, our hangovers were vastly enhanced by the discovery that we had lost ALL of the money earned at the festival. Someone came and got it from our drunken clutches whilst we slept in the mud. How we got it back and how my involvement with AWA became even more obsessive and weird over the next decade is a very long story, most of which I am trying hard to forget.

BARRY: AWA impressed me as the only full time, grass roots, non-profit organization that was working directly to save and open up whitewater rivers. I first became aware of the organization through AWA’s involvement and success with obtaining releases on the Gauley. I attended the very first Gauley Festival (and have volunteered and attended every Gauley Festival since) where I witnessed first hand the dedication and energy of its board members and incredible enthusiasm of its volunteers. At that event I became convinced that the AWA was an organization that merited my help and dedication. I felt compelled to become an AWA member and join with the “probe unit” of AWA volunteers - Pete Skinner, Chris Koll and Risa Shimoda - among others who helped inspire in me a feeling of duty that as a boater I needed to “give something back” as they were doing, in order to help the whitewater rivers we all loved.

To that end and before being invited to serve on AW’s board I worked with other volunteers of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association to help establish the National Paddling Film Festival and the Russell Fork Rendezvous. I then pushed to have both of those events become fundraisers for AWA. To date both of these volunteer-driven events have generated heightened enthusiasm and publicity for AW as well as donated thousands of dollars to the pursuit of its mission.

What did you see in the organization- what we were or were not doing well, new trends or changes - that stands out most distinctly?

BOB: Pope and Pete, above all others, recognized the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity afforded by relicensing and, to a large extent, AW grew in order to take advantage of that opportunity in recognition of the fact that we needed a full-time staff in order to remain effectively involved in that process. If AW hadn’t become involved in relicensing when it did, paddling opportunities that many boaters today take for granted would not exist. Chris Koll’s Herculean effort to write and publish the journal essentially by himself for the better part of a decade enabled AW to maintain a membership of whitewater boaters who did not necessarily appreciate the service AW was providing to the boating community but who joined in order to get the Journal and thereby provided critical financial support for AW’s efforts.

POPE: At the time I joined AW, I saw nothing much of any value in the organization at all. It was flat broke and had no members. The only person doing anything at all was Pete Skinner and it was pretty much working out of his garage. However, Pete was a sparkplug with lots of crazy energy and enthusiasm. This appealed to me in a perverse way because I was looking for a national river organization that I could work with and challenge the hydromania that was going on all around the nation. American Rivers and all the big well-known national groups had no clue how important this issue was and did not want to have anything to do with troublemakers like Pete Skinner and me. With AWA, no one cared what we did. So we tried to take it over and build it into a force for the protection and preservation of whitewater rivers nationwide. Eventually, that was achieved, but a lot of other really whacked people (like “the General” Chris Koll) joined the fray before we got there.

Which events, people or initiatives were the most influential in steering the events, programming or organizational development during that time?

BARRY: In 1997 AW’s web site, once a cutting edge and innovative Internet communication tool, was in almost complete disrepair. I resolved that this state
Volunteer Salute

continued

of affairs must not last and committed most of my volunteer energy to improving the site. Six years later, and thanks to the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who answered the call to help, the AW web site has now regained its standing as the best and most visited whitewater information web address on Earth.

Three key people stand out in this effort: former AW Executive Director Rich Bowers, skilled programmer Scott Collins and volunteer Matt Muir. While the current AW web site is a collective effort and the product of hundreds of volunteers donating thousands of hours of time it is abundantly clear to me that were it not for the incredible contributions of these three talented individuals americanwhitewater.org would probably not exist today. Rich Bowers had the foresight to find the money to fund the web site effort and the determination to help convince the rest of the AW board members of the urgent need. Scott Collins had the technical skills and dedication to make the visions of virtual whitewater grandeur become reality. Matt Muir almost single-handedly created, recruited and molded the Stream Keepers into one of the most effective and innovative river information services anywhere. One of my fondest memories of AW is when these three guys each said, “Yes - I’ll help” and by doing so actually made americanWhitewater.org happen.

What are one or two of your fondest AW memories?

BOB: The great relief whenever we got through any Gauley Festival without torrential rains, hurricane force winds or a major power failure.

BARRY: I have consistently believed that AW’s strength and ultimate effectiveness as an organization has always been through its volunteers. Boaters talking to and recruiting other boaters can affect a personal recognition that AW’s mission of whitewater conservation, access and safety was best achieved through their individual and collective efforts. This belief was reinforced when in 1999 I helped spearhead the purchase of close to five acres for a vitally needed take out point on the Elkhorn Creek (KY). Thanks to an incredible effort by local volunteers over $30,000 was raised in less than five days from donors across five states in order to purchase the land - and donate it to AW. Thanks to the close cooperation of the organization (which provided the infrastructure to take in the donations and then assume title of the land) and dedicated volunteers we were able to effect the strongest, most assured method possible to obtain river access protection - direct property purchase.

BOB: The whitewater feasibility study on the Colton Section of the Racquette River because (i) we were doing what, for all practical purposes, was a first descent of a difficult river; (ii) it was a warm, sunny day; (iii) we were paddling with friends; (iv) nobody got hurt; (v) we were instrumental in opening a river reach that is even more visually impressive and challenging than the Bottom Moose; (vi) Niagara Mohawk Power Company provided a door-to-door shuttle; and (vii) it exemplifies AW at its best in expanding whitewater opportunities for paddlers everywhere.

POPE: I can say with absolute certainty that board meetings are NOT among my fondest AW memories.

My fondest memories are of the various times when the AW Access Staff Director, Rich (a.k.a. Rainey) Hoffman, tried to drown me. He once tried to drown me on the Fish Ladder at Great Falls on the Potomac by leading me directly into the hole at the bottom where my boat became pinned and then broken. He managed to rescue a few bits of my gear, but I had to climb out of the mess myself after a long sub-aqueous adventure. The second time was better; he tried to drown me in beer at the Upper Yough Race by pouring about five gallons of lager into my face as I was helpless, lying on the ground.

What should AW be concerned about today?

BARRY: In addition to the web site I also endeavored to help improve internal staff and board communication by setting up an internet-based message center. I have always held the opinion that increased communications and the maintenance of an on-going dialogue among board members and staff would help ensure that the energy and ideas formed from these discussions would fuel a renaissance in activism for the sport and advance AW through effective consensus building. Unfortunately, and even in light of an edict by the President of the AW Board, the use of the internet message board (or even email itself) has never been popular with a majority of the AW Board or staff. This lack of will to engage in effective group communications has been one of my greatest disappointments during my time on the board of AW.

The movement in 2002 and 2003 of AW from a volunteer board into a professional staff has, in my opinion, been the most influential development for the organization. AW now seems more attuned to attracting a few deep-pocketed, large-money donors over nurturing grass roots events and assisting individual volunteers with their local access and conservation efforts. It is this new concept of AW as a “professional staff” organization that stands out in my mind as AW’s most significant and current distinction.

Barry...we hear your concerns. They are important to know. Shame on us if we fail to take advantage of new organizational tools, or abandon leanness and our reputation for being the best possible bang for our members’ buck. I hope that your disappointment someday evidences your being too far ahead of the curve for us to satisfy your eagerness. We’ll always appreciate your tremendous past and continuing contribution to AW.
AW Welcomes Gerald Eldridge to the Asheville Outreach Office

Gerald Eldridge is the latest individual to join the American Whitewater staff. He will be working as the Project and Sales Coordinator based in Asheville, NC. This position is a redesign of the Corporate Relations Director position formerly held by AJ McIntyre. AW was sorry to see AJ move on, but applauds her dedication to the field of teaching. She will be returning to work as a teacher in the Maryland School Systems.

Gerald grew up paddling on the Obed/Emory watershed and the many rivers and creeks running off the escarpment of Walden’s Ridge in Eastern Tennessee. In 1992, he received his Bachelor’s degrees in Advertising and Marketing from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. His passion for business development and particularly sales within the paddlesports’ industry led him to Dagger Canoe and Kayak. While at Dagger he headed up customer service, then Canadian and Northeastern US sales, and eventually International Sales.

After Dagger, Gerald and his wife moved to Asheville and he worked as the mid-Atlantic regional sales manager for Nichol’s, he gained an enormous amount of fresh and unique sales experience that enabled him to pioneer a sales territory and turn it into the largest revenue-producing region in the company.

We expect that Gerald will use his skills and experiences to further grow AW’s Corporate Sponsorship Program, further improve the AW Journal, and expand AW’s fledging Product and Merchandise Program. When asked how it felt to join AW Gerald said, “It feels so good to be associated with AW’s strong heritage and commitment to river conservation. Truly, there is no place I would rather be.”

Besides paddling whitewater, Gerald has been fortunate to sea kayak extensively in southeastern Alaska and all along the eastern and western seaboard. He also loves running marathons and ultras, competitive cycling, fly-fishing, backpacking, skiing, and basically anything that will get him outside.

The AW Staff is thrilled to welcome Gerald to our staff. AW

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Cut down some trees. Pollute some water. It’s cool as long as it’s all in the name of progress. Right? Well, no. As a company, we value the outdoors. The trees, the water – they’re all connected. And as paddlers and humans, we’re a part of that connection and that’s why we support American Whitewater.

When you buy a Dagger boat, you’re doing a lot more than putting food on our tables…

you’re helping us protect our lifeblood - healthy rivers, lakes, streams and oceans. We partner with American Whitewater because both our organizations are dedicated to looking after Mother Earth and educating people to be good stewards of our most precious resource… Water. At Dagger, we believe that through good business practices, and with solid ecological partnerships, we can set a standard that will help lead the way to better protect the very waters that we are so drawn to.

So, how does Dagger support American Whitewater? Good question. Through financial donations, sponsorship dollars and program building opportunities. In 2004 AW and Dagger have rolled out a whole new way of doing business. Yes, AW still hosts the most memorable Whitewater Festivals in the country. And Yes, Dagger will still be there. But there's more. There's increased conservation through education. Dagger has joined forces with American Whitewater to help educate paddlers to be local river advocates and watchdogs. The new American Whitewater, RSI program will help build a strong foundation for present and future water conservation/usage rights advocates. And that’s something we can all feel good about.

But if you need it in a nut shell… here it is. “American Whitewater restores rivers dewatered by hydropower dams, eliminates water degradation, improves public land management and protects public access to rivers for responsible recreational use.” For those very reasons, Dagger has been a long term, leading supporter of this organization.

Kokatat remains one of AW’s strongest allies by continuing support of AW events and outreach and is playing a major role with AW’s River Stewardship Institute on the Klamath River this year.

Walden Kayaks is donating four recreational and light touring kayaks every year for the next five years, available for sale on the American Whitewater website through 2008. Today, friends of American Whitewater may purchase a Walden Experience, Adirondack, Odyssey, or Vista Expedition online to further support American Whitewater’s efforts to conserve and restore America's rivers and streams.

In 2003, Clif Bar initiated The Flowing Rivers Campaign to help AW increase its Affiliate Clubs through six $500 grants to support work on conservation, access or safety issues. Clif Bar has extended its support in 2004 and AW looks forward to continued success.

In 2004, Smith Optics continues its sponsorship of AW’s River Festivals and is now offering AW major donors a special gift from Smith Optics.

Wavesport continues to support AW because whitewater rivers are not exactly a dime a dozen. In addition to a substantial monthly donation, Team Wavesport will be offering free clinics to AW members to help celebrate AW’s Anniversary and thank AW members for doing their part. Check the AW and Wavesport websites for more information.
Whitewater; the heart and soul of Lotus Designs, a company rooted in the rivers but now thriving in lakes and oceans as well. From the beginning we have gained inspiration from the challenging environments we are instinctively driven to seek out. Protecting these places from harm is just a natural consequence – and has been since day one.

American Whitewater – the voice of the sport. For 50 years they have worked tirelessly to protect free-flowing rivers from confinement, provide recreational releases on those sections already confined, and ensure access to waterways whether privately or publicly held.

Lotus Designs supports AW – has for years – because we share a common mission. For 2004 we invite you to celebrate AW’s 50 years of dedicated service to the rivers and river-users of America.

First, we’re offering an inspirational poster to new members of AW at select events.

Second, we’re gonna let you ‘fly the colors’ of AW wherever the river takes you. SHOW your commitment in our classic Sherman or our newest nugget – the 3-panel, ultra-compact Lolita – while sharing the love for the people that make so many wet experiences possible.

To take advantage of this opportunity, or to learn more about AW and its celebration, surf your way to Americanwhitewater.org or Lotusdesigns.com.

- Lotus Poster

NOC looks forward to continuing their successful Rapid Progressions Clinics and supporting AW by educating new paddlers about the rivers they enjoy while helping to increase AW’s membership!

Patagonia awarded AW a $5,000 grant to acknowledge our leadership role in restoring rivers through the hydro-relicensing process in the western U.S.

AW is honored to have Teva as one of its most important allies. For years AW and Teva have partnered in various forms to reach out to the paddling public. In 2004, Teva is presenting AW’s 50th Anniversary Gala in Vail, CO at the Teva Mountain Games.

In 2004, IR continues to lead the industry in demonstrating corporate responsibility. IR has continued its support of AW with its AW branded product, and the industry’s first Pro Donation Program. AW is grateful to have such a dedicated and sincere corporate partner.

www.americanwhitewater.org

American Whitewater
50th Anniversary Issue - May/June 2004
In writing a book like *Whitewater Classics*, Tyler Williams took a big risk. Too often books with ambitious-sounding titles are written from a generic perspective with little real information for whitewater boaters. You can probably envision the type of book I’m talking about – the one with river descriptions pilfered from the Department of Tourism and statements about the Gauley being the “number three river in the world.”

On the other hand, these are also the types of books that have the potential to contribute to the literature of their sport, providing not only an interesting and informative read, but also serving as a substantial contribution to the development of whitewater literature (i.e. Sue Taft’s *The River Chasers*). Fortunately for paddlers, Tyler Williams’ new book falls into this latter category.

*Whitewater Classics*: Fifty North American Rivers Picked by the Continent’s Leading Paddlers (Funhog Press) certainly tips its hat to a body of climbing literature comprised by such authors as Kroese, Messner, Whittaker, and Roper. Its style is inspired by Mark Kroese’s *Fifty Classic Climbs*, a seminal text in climbing literature that featured stories of top climbers and their favorite picks.

The book is arranged into regional sections (Northeast, Greater West Virginia, Southeast, Mexico, Rocky Mountain, West Coast, and North). Each regional section introduces readers to several paddlers and rivers that have helped to shape our sport.

There are a lot of things to like about this book. The paddler profiles are not simply reiterations of accomplishments, but are themselves intriguing stories that let us peak into the lives of boaters. The paddlers profiled represent diverse generations and genres of boating, and the stories bring the names to life. Not only do we learn about Dana Chladek’s racing days, Charlie Munsey’s Himalayan expeditions, and Walt Blackadar’s first time in a kayak on the swollen Salmon River, but we also learn about Shannon Carroll’s decision to skip out on a volleyball scholarship to Liberty University, Roger Paris’s development as a paddler (and a teenager) in Nazi-occupied France, and Jeff Snyder’s self-rescue from a “glacier pin” on Deckers Creek.

The rivers these paddlers pick might surprise you, and Williams does a good job to avoid simple rapid-by-rapid descriptions. The section on the Middle Fork of the Feather recounts Lars Holbek’s, Richard Montgomery’s and Chuck Stanley’s must-make ferry move above the lip of Atom Bomb Falls in the Bald Rock Canyon as they were searching for a portage route in the walled-in canyon. The section on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone recalls the first descent by Kay Swanson, Ron Frye, Roger Hazelwood, and John Lightner. We’re also with Chris Spelius and Ken Lagergren as they avoid police after their poached run of the Niagara Gorge. Similar first-time runs are recalled on the Green Narrows, Big Sandy Creek, and the Bottom Moose. Some of the other runs described in *Whitewater Classics* include Manns Creek, Vallecito, the Kennebec, the Susitna, and Rivoire du Nords.

The crowning jewel of the book is the color photography. There are many page-length full color photographs generously spliced throughout the book. Photographs of Crystal (Moose River), Big Splat (Big Sandy), the Niagara Gorge, the waterfalls of Agua Azul, Deckers Creek, Blackwater Falls, Manns Creek, Great Falls of the Potomac, Rock Island, Rio Zimatan, Embudo Canyon, the Grand Canyon of the Stikine, Gore Canyon, South Fork of the Salmon, the Lochsa, and the Tamul Falls section of the Santa Maria taunt and tease. Williams also includes a small map with each river description that highlights access points and nearby roads.

Don’t be fooled – *Whitewater Classics* is an impressive book, an entertaining and informative read, and an important contribution to our sport.
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DESIGNS that shaped a sport in progress

Young Clay Wright
© Slam Dunk, Upper Ocoee (pre-Olympic course)
© Little River Canyon, AL
photos by Dick Creswell

Field Notes by Clay Wright
Sure, I’m not the oldest guy in a skirt, but in my 30 years of kayaking the equipment has undergone more radical changes than any sport I know.

Now I’m not going to start with the Eskimos, and the Germans in the AKC haven’t gotten back to me yet, so here’s just enough so you’ll get out on the river, even if you’ve blown a gasket.

My first whitewater experiences were not pleasant. Perhaps it was the wool socks, pants, and shirt I was wearing under my raincoat? I started somewhere between flannel shirts and kids’ wetsuits, after the “hiking boots cause foot-entrapment” revelations but before the neo-everything period that dominated the sport ‘PL’ (pre-latex). In those days, hypothermia was the #1 hazard on the river. We didn’t go far without fire making materials, and it wasn’t uncommon to stop and build a fire to re-warm a swimmer. We were canoe... even people in kayaks rolled only some of the time. “The mark of an expert kayaker is the Eskimo roll” – don’t laugh, it really was. While there were many great paddlers in the 70s, there were also many great adventurers who paddled.

Our boats were huge, but they had to be to carry the army-navy drybag (designed for gas-masks) we packed lunch into, a thermos, fire-starter, and change of clothes. OK – I didn’t carry all this stuff cause I was 7 (I got off easy). I also got an 11’ (very short) Klepper Minor kids kayak instead of a 16’ canoe! My boat had a V shaped hull, a broomstick wedged in for a bulkhead and it only weighed around 30 lbs! The Royalex Blue Hole had just liberated the canoeists from aluminum but the age of plastic was not quite at hand. Boats pinned often, and folded slightly less so. It wasn’t uncommon to “lose a boat” then hike out and come back later to clean up the pieces. Modern boaters have it too easy . . .

**The Fiberglass Age**

Boats were cheaper, repairable, and could be made as light as you wanted. All you had to do was track down a mold, order the materials (John Sweet’s catalog), and learn the whole process! The craftsmen were valued members of any group because chances were good you would be patching boats every other weekend. Folded boats, cracked seams, or simple wear and tear required frequent maintenance. And while duct tape is a wonderful thing, it gets really heavy after you’ve wrapped a couple rolls in a couple of places. Paddling skills alone would only take you so far . . . you had to be a good craftsman to be a good paddler.

Soon commercial designs like the Seda Climax, CKS Needle Rig’s, or Phoenix Slipper made the Haughn and Mark 4 molds less valued. These well-made, lower volume designs were the hot-rods of the day. When the plastic RiverChaser arrived, some converted to the torpedo-shaped, flexible design while others snubbed the arrival, calling it “Tupperware.” Perception’s first entry, the Quest, did little to help the plastic cause. While the plastic walls kept flex to a minimum, this Mark IV-ish pencil was a step sideways in terms of boat design. The plastic vs. fiberglass rivalry was probably at its peak, when the low-maintenance boats just didn’t have the design chops to match the progressive material. The launch of the Perception Mirage changed things. This well marketed no-maintenance craft used rocker to make the boat turn, surf, and surface like few others. The shorter Dancer that followed was another huge step forward.

Soon radical Prioron and Pyranha designs began making the leap across the pond. Now free from fiberglass splinters and resin fumes, paddlers were also free to focus on paddling. They learned to use rocks to their advantage, running steeper and more technical terrain day after day to hone their skills and progress. This process continues to this day.

**Progress in Apparel**

Velcro closures ushered in the first real paddle-jackets, with neoprene closures right behind. The horsecollar was replaced by Seda’s sectional foam PFD – with a fold-up waist so the zipper only came to my chin when I rolled. Charlie Walbridge’s High Float added much more foam to the jackets, and was offered without the folding flap. These “highfloats” made really big water, like the Ocoee, feel safer.

Due to my small size, I had to use a women’s “S” wetsuit – and could pack lunch in the chest. I hated it, but it was warm, so what could I do? Looking for any options, I vividly remember the first polypropylene a friend brought back from the NCO – the way the water ran right out of it . . . how it didn’t itch like wool or smell of moth balls. I had to have it! The “Chuck Roast” and later

*continued on p.17 (2 column)*
Hello, AW readers, it’s me again! This time I’ll be talking about playing god (in a sense) with foamies. Here’s the best part about foamie boating: you get to make your own rapids and waterfalls and watch little “people” run them, but nobody gets hurt! Well, I guess if you slip and fall on the rocks while you are playing you could bust your butt, so be careful out there.

Whether you are into freestyle or extreme foamie boating experiences, you can learn a lot by making your own rapids. Creekbeds have lots of great rocks to toss or place to make complicated rapids, waterfalls or big gnarly death holes. If you are more of a playboater, you’ll probably want a larger creek, anywhere from two to six feet wide with a good bit of gradient and many boulder gardens. If you are interested in setting up extreme creek settings, you want to look for a very steep creek, usually only between one to three feet wide, with many vertical drops and already complicated rapids. Depending on boat size, you’ll only want about one to two cfs to prevent losing your foamie altogether. If the creek is complicated and continuous, the boat will easily get away from you. Trust me; I’ve lost a few. The best type of steep creek consists of drop/pool rapids where you can stand in the pool and place the boat upstream for the perfect launch. My favorite kind of steep creek spot has a two to three-foot vertical drop, so if your foamie is about four inches long, that is like an 8-foot creekboat going over a 72 foot waterfall! (yep, I’m still taking math classes, so I figured that one out!)

Okay, now on to the design factors. My best advice is to try things. If you have a waterfall, dig out a nice and deep base. Make sure that there are no bounces (rocks or sticks poking out of the waterfall) and clear out any debris or obstacles at the lip. Then, put two rocks at the lip to constrict the flow and create a jet. If there is too much water flowing, or if the rocks are too close together, the current will build up on the rocks and create pillows that converge right at the edge (the lip) and make a “V-wave of death.” If the foamie goes over such a wave, it will usually result in one painful outcome: over-rotation. When you over-rotate, you either do a really big belly-flop and eject out of your boat, or you do a head dive - human pile driver, like Tim Gross did. Ultimately, you want to get away from over-rotating. Over-rotating is bad, but things could be worse, like landing flat or sideways, or pitoning a rock (yuck). Make adjustments until the current smoothly rolls off the lip with nearly no chop or strange phenomenon. If you want a totally different lip design, place another slender rock in between the two forming the main roller to part the water (ah yes, you are Moses for a day) so both currents hit the rocks at the lip and reconnect after the initial plummet. This usually forces one current to fold over the top of the other, allowing for a variety of foamie lines.

To make a great playhole, it is basically the same thing, only with bigger rocks and more current. Place a large rock in the center and place smaller rocks to either side, adjusting the strength of the hole and the seam lines. You can really begin to understand the difference between the smiley holes, the keeper “death holes”, and the great play spots. You can direct the foamie by nudging it with a stick or finger, as if the boater were trying to paddle his/her way out. Again, be sure you are in a spot where you can catch your foamie so it doesn’t blast away downstream. It is pretty frustrating to spend time making the perfect miniature of your favorite boat and to watch it disappear out of sight.

Ideally, you want the foamie to drift into the rapid so it will stay with the waterfall all the way down and you can observe the perfect (or not so perfect) line. Playing with both the placement of the rocks and the foamie can help you learn a lot about water dynamics and its affect on kayaks. It really helps to visualize scenarios and what you can do to correct them. I can’t tell you how many times playing with foamies has helped me discover a new technique. After all, I do have an advantage over a foamie: I can use my paddle and maneuver even moving upstream (foamies only move upstream in eddies).

Which gets us back to the big question: why is it good to play with foamies? Because you can learn one heck of a lot about currents, lines and the effects of moving water on boaters. Foamies are an excellent tool for instruction, and have been used in varying forms by the ACA and other instruction programs for years. I remember seeing an entire clinic on the Silvermine Creek at the Nantahala Outdoor Center, with Chris...
Spelius demonstrating river dynamics with a big old plastic Dagger model. You can make your own foamies to be more proportional to your boat size and shape, so you can imagine yourself down there in the water. Anytime I play with foamies, I imagine myself as the boater and note any changes or adjustments that I would have made.

Kayakers have an advantage over any athlete in the world, because water, no matter how big or small the flow, will always do the same thing. We just have to learn to tap into the flow and work with it to our advantage. Foamie play is a great way to become more familiar with water reading skills and understanding water dynamics.

There you have it: the final foamie installment. I have no idea what I’ll be writing about in the next installment of “Lifestyles of the Young and Hyperactive Paddler.” Any ideas? You can write me at Patkeller@charter.net. See you on the river, and good lines to all!

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The Latex Age

With the introduction of the first drytops – jackets with latex seals on the wrists and neck – the modern age of kayaking was born. What a revelation! Not only could you paddle in freezing weather, but you could also PLAY when others were racing to the take out. My first was the CKS drytop, and in one day on the Little River Canyon I was instantly a much better boater. Perhaps it is just that much easier to boat when you stay warm, even after a roll? I think a little of both. My progression as a paddler went hand in hand with the fast-paced progression happening in the world of gear and boat design. With every new boat and with every new gear innovation I felt more confident to take the next step on the water. What a great ride.

Credit where it is Due

Too many kayakers today brag about how cool the new generation of boaters is, and how skilled they are doing tricks and running the gnarr. Too many old-timers knock the kids for running waterfalls and risking their necks in cold weather. Few things people do today are as risky as boating class 3 in the 70’s, in winter, in an aluminum canoe, and in jeans and a wool sweater.

Modern technology transformed whitewater paddling, allowing us not only to be safer, but also more comfortable in increasingly demanding conditions. Let the kids not forget the suffering of our sport’s forefathers as they paved the new ground in old materials. May the forefathers revel in the feats of each new crop as they continue the work of a great sport in progress. And may we all remember that the advances made in the sport of whitewater paddling owe much to the innovation in materials, boat design, and paddling apparel. To sport’s biggest contributors – the designers both old and new – we salute you!
The National Paddling Film Festival (NPFF) is 21 years old – I guess that makes us legal?

We celebrated on Friday with Presenters’ Night, a Bourbon Tasting to which filmmakers, sponsors, NPFF volunteers, and special guests from the boating community were invited. This new special event introduced our visitors to one of Kentucky’s finest industries, courtesy of Commonwealth Wine and Spirits, at the spectacular Boone Creek Anglers Club, owned by BWA member and NPFF volunteer Burgess Carey.

In the comfort of the lodge’s rustic elegance, surrounded by plentiful food and drink, the community of river supporters mingled, swapped stories and showed video clips. A surprising and gratifying number of filmmakers traveled from distant places to join us. Presenters Eric Jackson and Corran Addison of course were centers of attention, but every corner was filled with excited conversation as both amateur and more experienced filmmakers discussed current and future projects. Tom O’Keefe (Yangtze River: Final Descent) came from Seattle, and Vince Shay, Fletcher Burton (Air) and Matt Fahey (Heaven on Earth: Whitewater Paddling Around Humboldt) traveled from California. Lance Jones (Kayakation and ArKAYAKansas) from Arkansas, Will Van DeBerg (Weasel Bait) and Ben Hayes (Local Hero) from Georgia.

Michael Munroe (Canoe Polo - Every Day at 5) from Florida, and Alex Kinsey and Goudi Vandal (White Noise) from Vermont represented the East and Southeast along with Bryon Dorr, Jeremy Laucks, Ben Hayes, Tyler Cundiff, Michael Spanjer and Kimberly Dequitis.

While somewhat blurry for a few of the revelers, Saturday morning dawned bright on the scurrying activity of volunteers preparing the massive Silent Auction in the lobby of the Kentucky Theater. The generosity of our sponsors (and hard work of volunteers) was evident in the best stocked Silent Auction in recent memory. More than one hundred separate items included over a dozen helmets, numerous dry tops and splash jackets, an Esquif canoe, a trip donated by Expediciones Chile and a week of instruction from Madawaska. Necky donated a kayak, as did local outfitter Phillip Gall’s. New sponsor Jackson Kayaks set up in the auction room and EJ stayed busy all day telling folks about the new designs. While he had never really paid attention to the NPFF before, EJ has finally seen the light and is looking forward to coming back next year. Please let our sponsors know you appreciate their support of the NPFF and the rivers.

Attendance this year was very strong, with folks coming from as far north as Vermont and Michigan, and as far south as Florida. Dozens of eager boaters already were lined up at 9:30 a.m. waiting for the admission desk to open. Local sponsor Barney Miller’s provided technical support and extra screens for the lobby and auction room so no one had to miss a moment of fun. Previews of Scott Lindgren’s (last year’s guest host) Burning Time and Epicity Project’s Bigger Than Rodeo started the festival, along with a short clip introducing new NPFF Benefactor J3 Helmets. The action continued non-stop, as the 2004 NPFF had more competitors than any festival in at least a decade – 15 Amateur, 13 Accomplished and 2 Professional entries – and the overall quality was outstanding. Former Festival Director and longtime volunteer Barry Grimes said “the dominance of the amateur and accomplished entries this year absolutely thrilled me.”

The professional instructional films were specially edited for the NPFF to capture the essence of the projects in a shortened timeframe more suitable for the competition experience. While both scored well, Playboating with Ken Whiting edged out Girls at Play, with judges citing good structure and sequencing of shots, a nice mix of environments and river settings, and clear narration and engaging content.

The Amateur contest was very close, with many excellent entries. Winner White Noise, by Alex Kinsey and Goudi Vandal from Vermont, was a fast-paced piece about New England creeking. Judges complimented them on their photography, especially camera angles and editing, calling it “the most professional ‘amateur’ film I have seen,” and “just the best amateur entry I can remember.” A couple judges encouraged these amateurs to take their work to the next level by developing stronger storylines. Foamy Boater: Foaming at the Mouth by Dylan Levy-Boyd and Arthur Bass was a close second, pleasing judges with its story line, humor and “hilarious” narration. Good camera angles made the most of the action. In a slightly different vein, second runner-up Indescribable by T.A. Loeffler and Kenna Fair from Newfoundland, was a brief (3 minute) montage of the wonders of the Grand Canyon.

The Accomplished Division had two categories this year, Documentary and General Boating. The G.B. winner, Local Hero by Benjamin Hayes of Tennessee, featured creeking and squirt boating, with the requisite big drop and carnage shots. Judges liked the variety of camera angles, settings and especially the music. Runners-up in the Accomplished Division were documentaries with unusual stories. Tom O’Keefe’s The Yangtze River: Final Descent documented a touring kayak trip down a section of the Yangtze now being submerged forever beneath the backwaters of the enormous hydroelectric project of the Three Gorges Dam. Canoe Polo: Every Thursday at 5:00 by Michael Munroe is a lighthearted look at a flatwater activity that builds agility and boat control, but the underlying message is about the camaraderie of boating and the importance of spending time with friends. Excellent
photography and a good storyline made up for the lower adrenaline quotient of this video.

Still Image winner was Dave Allnutt, with The Box at Climax on the Russell Fork River (paddler Clay Warren).

The big winner of the NPFF this year was perennial favorite Rick Gusic. His documentary Cheat River Canyon won its category, division, Judges’ Best of Festival and the audience voted Paddler’s Choice Award. Combining historic and contemporary footage, serious moments and comedy, this video told a captivating story of the Cheat River. One judge called it “the most enjoyable video by far,” and many mentioned its creativity and pacing. Once again, Rick has given us a great film.

A defining moment of this year’s NPFF was the program by Corran Addison. He made a Hollywood style entrance to the theater, abetted by Festival Director Dave Margavage. But in spite of his carefully crafted image as kayaking’s bad boy, he blew his cover as a renegade. Corran’s presentation was very thoughtful and intelligent, as he discussed the use of “B-Roll” footage (the background stuff rather than the scripted scenes) to capture the spirit and atmosphere of a location, develop the characters, and build the story of a film. He told a hilarious tale of surreal hijinks with machine-gun toting guards at the Chechen border, which his companions were too terrified to tape. He spoke with great conviction about the need for boating films to have a plot, to tell a story, urging the audience to aim for Sundance or the Mountainfilm Festival and compete with other genres. The latter half of his talk turned more somber, as he noted that whitewater boating was quickly moving from being a very safe activity to one poised to make the list of top-ten dangerous sports. He noted that new boat designs make it easy for paddlers to gain skills faster than experience, and that many recent accidents can be attributed to inappropriate equipment (playboats in creeked situations), lack of safety equipment and training, and poor preparation for conditions. He said boating will always have risks, but there is no point to taking unnecessary chances. Look for a future AW article by Corran on this subject.

Later in the afternoon Corran and E J came out to double team the audience, asking for a show of hands of AW members. Sad to say, less than a third of the people raised their hands, and the pair set about changing that. While not quite a revival atmosphere, a number of people did feel the call, and joined on the spot. At the Awards Party that night, Risa Shimoda talked a little about the 50th Anniversary of AW, and treated us to a big cake as she marked the launching of the AW Anniversary Celebrations.

And speaking of celebrations, the Awards Party, with the music of Club Dub, was a lively affair. Local sponsor Kentucky Ale made sure no one went thirsty. Awards were presented by Milt Aitken, of Paddlesnake fame, Risa, EJ, Corran, and Festival Director Dave Margavage. Filmmakers, judges and audience members met and talked, people danced, old friends caught up with each other, and everyone enjoyed a fitting end to another successful National Paddling Film Festival.

Don’t be left out next year – come join us! And in the meantime, check out our Road Shows to find out how you can view some of these unique videos in your own area, and have a great time contributing both to local causes and the NPFF. Information about the Road Shows, our sponsors, and other aspects of the NPFF can be found at: http://www.surfbwa.org/npff

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American Whitewater

www.americanwhitewater.org
History of AW - The Sport's Cornerstone

by Sue Taft

The formation of AW in 1954 became the cornerstone of the sport of whitewater in America.

Although AW's founders and early leadership may not have anticipated this, the decision to define the organization's purpose as they did provided for that role. By encouraging "exploration and enjoyment of wilderness waterways; to foster research, study and teaching of improved techniques and equipment designs for safely negotiating white water" and protecting "the wilderness character of our waterways for the growing number of those who are discovering the rewards awaiting the river tourist," they established the basic foundation on which the sport would grow.

Much of what we take for granted today in common accepted terminology, river ratings, and river levels (gauges) for whitewater.

To support the fostering of "research, study and teaching of improved techniques and equipment designs for safely negotiating white water," the Safety Committee began soliciting input for a safety code in 1956. This elicited strong opinions from paddlers across the country. The suggestion of being a good swimmer as a requirement was met with considerable criticism, many pointing out that swimming after an "upset" [rolling kayaks, let alone canoes, was virtually unknown at this time] was absurd. The suggestion that life jackets [the term PFD did not come into use until the 1970's] be worn at all times also elicited strong opinions. The use of riverside throw lines was also seriously questioned for their practicality due to the concern about loose ropes in the water. One of the few suggestions that elicited little criticism was the hazard associated with cold water. The use of spray skirts was also encouraged, but so, too, was the issue of making sure the skirt could be released. A year later, the first draft of the Safety Code was submitted for comments. By 1959, the final version—the first of many revisions over the ensuing years as the sport progressed—was released and became established as ‘THE’ recognized safety code for whitewater.

For protecting the "wilderness character of our waterways," the Conservation Committee was formed in 1956. However, even before the formation of the committee, conservation already was an integral part of AW. The first issue of American WHITE WATER included an article titled "Echo Park Dam: Is it Needed Now" about the controversial Echo Park Dam on the Colorado River and the need to preserve versus satisfy future water needs for economic growth of the region. Consensus was difficult to obtain on many conservation issues and the leadership of the committee struggled with where the organization should stand on different issues. However, it nevertheless led to a growing awareness to a role that the organization would play over the ensuing years of collecting and disseminating information about issues that affected their sport.

To support being "a channel for bringing together ideas, procedures, and experiences," AW disseminated information that was critical to the development of the sport. Although many different ideas, procedures, and experiences were shared, some of the more important information concerned skills on technique and river running, and on fiberglass construction of canoes and kayaks. Paddling technique was debated in article after article in American WHITE WATER. In addition to providing a more uniform evolution of technique and skills, the exchange of information also illustrated the differences between East and West paddling technique and styles, which at the time was fairly large. As one writer noted, "New Englanders are conservative; Coloradans are more dashing."

Without the benefit of commercially available fiberglass canoes and kayaks specifically for whitewater use, the "how to" of fiberglass construction played a critical role in the development of the sport. The first article involving how to build a one-off fiberglass canoe was published in November 1955. In the ensuing years, many articles were published not only as manuals for how to build your own kayak, canoe, or paddle, but also how to design your own kayak or canoe. This contributed to the birth of the whitewater industry that has since replaced individual homemade kayaks and canoes with commercially available production plastic kayaks and canoes.

In a nutshell, in fulfilling those roles – in filling the blanks for what did not exist – AW established its place in the history and growth of whitewater in America. Without AW, we would not be where we are today.

Sue Taft is the author of The River Chasers, The History of American Whitewater Paddling. If you have a topic or question you would like answered, email it to staff@theriverchasers.com and look for its answer in an upcoming issue of the American Whitewater Journal.
Contest for Kids
Benefits AW by Jackson Kayaks

American Whitewater is pleased to announce that Jackson Kayaks and AW will conduct the 2004 AW Membership Drive for Kids – a program for enthusiastic young paddlers. Jackson Kayaks believes that it is critical that younger paddlers understand the importance of supporting American Whitewater with membership. To support their commitment, Jackson Kayaks will award a new Jackson Kayak to the paddler who collects the most AW memberships during the contest period. Additional prizes from IR, Lotus Designs, and AW will be awarded for runners up.

The AW Membership Drive will start on June 1st and end on July 31st. Only paddlers who are under the age of eighteen (not yet past their eighteenth birthday by July 31st) may participate. Paddlers must submit complete and accurate forms to be eligible to win. The winner will be announced at the AW Deerfield River Festival in Charlemont, MA on July 31st. Winners need not be present to collect their rewards. Special AW Membership Forms can be downloaded from both the AW website (www.americanwhitewater.org) and Jackson Kayak’s website (www.jacksonkayak.com).

Recruiters must collect at least (5) memberships to be eligible to win the kayak. In order for each eligible recruited membership to be counted, each corresponding membership form submitted must include the name and AW membership number of the recruiting member. Running tallies for each recruiter will be available on both the AW and Jackson Kayak websites. Tallies will be updated every two weeks beginning on June 12th and ending on July 24th.

For more information, please visit www.americanwhitewater.org.
Oz Hawksley was active in AWA from its first year – about the time that the first issue of the journal was put out in 1955.

A sort of executive committee was formed and one member of it was the Secretary (later called the Executive Secretary). The group was just made up of representative boaters from various parts of the country. Lawrence Grinnell (author of Canoeable Waterways of New York), who Oz knew at Cornell, convinced him to become involved. The first Secretary was Bruce Grant and then Bob McNair in '56.

In January, at the age of 83, Oz ran a section of the upper Guadalupe in the Texas Hill Country. He still has a Yugo II C-2 in his basement.

Which years describe your time of greatest involvement as an AW volunteer?

I guess I’d have to say that my years of greatest involvement began with 1958, when I became Secretary. That year we worked on a Constitution and By-laws, if you can imagine doing that with a carbon “flurry”! In ’59 I set up our first group whitewater trip in conjunction with the Sierra Club River Trip Committee. This meant doing all the scouting, food planning and commissary, shuttle arrangement, and financial planning. However, since the Sierra Club furnished the rafts, it allowed many of our boaters to take their non-boating family members along. We ran sections of the lower Selway and Lochsa and the North Fork of the Clearwater. In ’60 four of us ran the Selway to see if it was suitable for group trips and made a 16mm film which was used to help get the Selway included in the initial Scenic Rivers Act. There were 2 more group trips on the N. Fork of Clearwater that summer but Jack Reynolds and I had bought and equipped surplus rafts so that we were no longer involved with the Sierra Club. In ’60 I also became involved as Chair of the Advisory Committee, wrote articles, planned more western trips, continued guiding part of the summers for Hatch River Expeditions and met my wife on one of their Sierra Club trips. In ’61, the AW trips continued with runs on the Selway, Middle Fork and Main Salmon. We had to give up running AWA river trips in Idaho in ’62 (though I did manage to run some in later years) because the Idaho guides conspired (thru licensing and fees) to run “do-it-yourselves” off the rivers. 1958 thru ’61 were my years of most intense involvement with AW.

What did you see in the organization - what we were or were not doing well, new trends or changes - that stands out most distinctly?

I won’t make a judgment on “right or wrong,” but one problem that upset the development of AWA was the conflict between racing and non-racing. There was a period when the Journal seemed to be overboard on racing news and results. This sort of came to a head when Peter Whitney couldn’t seem to get the magazine out on a reasonable schedule (he and everyone else were volunteers, however), so a group got together and got Jim McAlister to volunteer to put out the journal. He switched to the larger size that many outdoor type magazines used, and since he was very river conservation minded, he included more material on conservation and little or nothing on racing, which was perhaps too extreme. That got the racers upset and some other people griped about changing the size of the magazine so Jim got disgusted and quit and wanted nothing further to do with AWA. Luckily, he still lived in Kansas City at that time and I knew him well and was able to go rescue the files. I think the magazine has a reasonably good balance today. I see it as being a little heavy on waterfalls sometimes and I wish it could include more articles on canoeing, even wilderness canoeing with less than spectacular whitewater but editors have to
take what they can get (editor’s note: this magazine is by paddlers and for paddlers—
if you’d like to see more stories on a certain boating genre, please send them in).

Which events, people, or initiatives were the most influential in steering the events, programming or organizational development during that time?

Obviously, some of the people on the original Executive Committee were very important in shaping the organizational development. I never met Eliot DuBois or Bruce Grant but they were very active in shaping the directions of the organization. I knew many of the Colorado group, including some that were not on the Executive Committee. People like Dave Stacey, Roy Kerswill, Clyde Jones and other people in that area edited, produced and mailed the journal, which was the basis of everything else that developed. Bob McNair brought the experience of his work with the very successful Buck Ridge Club (Pennsylvania) to us which was very helpful with various kinds of development.

What are one or two of your fondest AW memories?

Some of my fondest memories related to AW date back to our scouting/mapping trip on the Selway. Four of us made the trip: Jack Reynolds, a former graduate student of mine and river running partner for several years, Son John, who was 13 at the time, Art Midouhas of the Buck Ridge group and me. We took an army surplus raft with a home-made oar frame and a decked 15-foot Grumman. Jack and I alternated running the canoe with Art and running the raft. We had detailed Corps of Engineers topos of the river which we annotated as we described rapids, campsites, wildlife and other features. Later Les Jones used the information to create one of his famous river “scroll” maps. We saw no other humans on the river nor any evidence of them except at one inholding and at Moose Creek where the Forest Service maintains an airfield. With his fly rod, John could catch all the cut-throats we could use for an evening meal in 15 minutes; we saw and filmed nesting Ospreys, beaver, a bear cooling his butt in the river, and found cougar tracks on beaches; campsites were on sandy beaches where we could dive into crystal clear water for a skinny dip and we drank river water off our tipped up paddles. We ran everything in the canoe except Wolf Creek (then known as Jim’s Creek) where we ran only the unloaded raft through. At that time, the only way a kayak would run it was with a planned roll after the second big hole. It has changed due to blasting for the horse trail on the river right cliff and today is an easier run.

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Conservation

Today’s American Whitewater members know about the great work our volunteers and staff do to protect rivers, restore flows, and remove dams. We are among the most effective groups in US river conservation efforts, and some of our volunteers are also active in international river conservation efforts.

Those members with longer tenure are well aware that our efforts to require relicensing of federally regulated dams to include mandatory whitewater flows have been strong for years, coinciding with the hiring of AW professional staff back in the 1980s. But not everyone is aware of the tremendous river preservation battles of the 1960s and 1970s, in the days when AW was largely a volunteer organization.

Many of our battles came out of the explosion in the economy, and in the role of government in building dams that followed World War II. The rapidly growing economy demanded ever more water supply, electricity and flood control. Federal agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation took the lead in building these dams.

Other organizations were already involved in fighting dams when the American Whitewater Affiliation was founded in 1955. The Sierra Club had fought the damming of the Tuolumne in Hetch Hetchy Valley in 1910. They also led the fight in the 1950s against the Dinosaur National Monument Dams and the dams in the Grand Canyon. Other groups such as the Izaak Walton League, National Wildlife Federation, and National Audubon Society also were involved in a variety of dam fights.

A number of American Whitewater Board Members and our affiliate clubs involved the new organization in the effort to preserve whitewater rivers throughout the US. Everyone mentioned in this article served as AW Director during the 1960s and 1970s.

Oz Hawksley, author of a renowned guide to the Ozark waterways, fought to preserve the wonderful streams of his region. Just last August, people in St. Louis celebrated the 25th anniversary of the defeat of the Army Corps of Engineers’ attempt to dam the Meramac in Missouri. It was the first (and probably only time) that a Corps dam project was deauthorized after the land had been acquired. It was important because it was defeated by a referendum of the people in the affected area and it also stopped the building of 20 some other dams that were planned in the region, as the Meramec dam was the key to the system. AW members and the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club were much involved. The land was offered back to the landowners but what could not be sold back was given to the DNR and is now restored to a natural condition.

In California, Roland Davis served as Conservation Chair of the Bay Chapter River Touring Section, an AW affiliate, and was involved in numerous river protection efforts. Carl Trost prepared one of the first guides to California’s scenic rivers, greatly assisting the effort to pass the state’s Wild and Scenic River bill in 1972.

Peter Whitney brought a lawsuit seeking access to the California coast that became perhaps the most famous case in the US on public access (Marks vs. Whitney). The case had direct beneficial effects on river access in California.

Charlie Smith and George Larsen always sought to involve boaters in California river conservation efforts in California.

Iris and Jim Sindelar made sure that early editions of American Whitewater...
covered conservation issues, and that the organization was always allied with river conservation efforts nationwide.

Pete Skinner was one of the earliest leaders of the effort to gain whitewater releases when hydroelectric dams needed to be relicensed.

Mary Kaye Hession and her husband Jack were and are leaders in the effort to preserve the rivers of Alaska, both through AW and the Sierra Club.

AW was intimately involved in the creation of two of the nation’s leading river conservation organizations. The fight to preserve the Stanislaus River from New Melones Dam resulted in creation of Friends of the River. This occurred during my term on the AW Board, when I was working at the Environmental Defense Fund.

The fight to save the Stanislaus River was one of the first to be led by kayakers and rafters, mainly from AW, the Sierra Club, and the commercial raft companies. It galvanized many boaters to become river activists, and many gathered signatures for the initiative petition, attended demonstrations, and took part in boat ins, including one from the headwaters of the Stanislaus to San Francisco Bay. Tim Palmer, a boater himself, tells the story in *Stanislaus: Struggle for a River*.

Although the Stanislaus was lost, many of the boaters who were involved in that effort continued their work on the Tuolumne, which was saved from dams as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Early in the 1970s a number of AW activists and others recognized the need for a national organization which would devote itself to river conservation. I wrote an article in the *AW Journal* calling for such an organization, and similar points were made by other organizations.

Finally a meeting was called in Denver to discuss setting up such a group. It was attended by river conservationists from throughout the country, and resulted in the formation of the American River Conservation Council (ARCC), now American Rivers.

No one who was active fighting dams and saving rivers during the 1960s and 1970s could forget the tremendous efforts of Brent Blackwelder. Then at the Environmental Policy Center (he now leads Friends of the Earth), Brent was the guru of everyone who had to fight dams proposed by the Corps or Bureau. He organized the annual dam fighters conference, and helped organize river groups around the country.

The end of the 1970s saw a gradual decline in the river destroying efforts of the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. No new mainstream river dam in California was proposed after 1979, and the budgets of the dam building agencies declined steeply. River preservation efforts turned to the increasing number of hydro dams coming up for relicensing, and the need to restore rivers which had been damaged by the Corps and other agencies.

For those of us who lived through the dam building era, it is most heartening to see the new effort to tear down river destroying dams, and let the rivers live again.
Region: East

Flashflood: 1/14/04: Western Carolina Paddlers’ Rod Baird attended a critical negotiations meeting regarding the Cheoah River with AW staff (NC). 1/16/04: Tennessee Valley Canoe Club presents AW with a check for $1,500 for our Conservation and Access work (TN). 1/18/04: AW intern extraordinaire Dan Mullins hosted an evening symposium supporting dam removal on the Willimantic River which included a talk by AW board member Tom Christopher (CT). 1/19/04: AW staff member Kevin Colburn attended a meeting in Plattsburgh New York to advocate for Saranac River conservation and access (NY). 1/25/04: USFS decision to ban paddling on the Chattooga arrives in AW office, shortly thereafter AW pro bono attorney Nathan Galbreath, with the law firm Patton Boggs, steps up to represent AW in appealing the decision (NC, SC, GA). 1/29/04: AW volunteer Andrew Lazenby attended a Catawba River relicensing meeting (SC). 2/8/04: The Georgia Canoeing Association decided to offer AW financial support of our Chattooga River Appeal (GA). 2/10/04: AW’s Kevin Colburn advocates for the removal of Dillsboro Dam at a public meeting (NC). 3/3/04: Paul Cline offers to represent American Whitewater in his excellent work on protecting and restoring the Indian Creek Watershed (PA). 3/10/04: Greg Lawrence signed up to be an AW Regional Coordinator for central and northern Alabama.

Cheoah River Negotiations (NC) Rekindle and Falter Once More

In January and February Tapoco Incorporated, the owner of the dam on the Cheoah River, once again entered into settlement negotiations with American Whitewater. Tapoco offered to include recreational releases in the settlement (in addition to ecological restoration spring releases already in the settlement) associated with the relicensing of their dam: but for a price. Tapoco offered to provide as many releases as the public was willing to pay them for. In essence, Tapoco was asking the public to give the Cheoah River to them through relicensing, and then buy the water back from them. Obviously American Whitewater could not support such a proposal and will be requesting ecologically responsible recreational releases directly from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. American Whitewater, Western Carolina Paddlers and Carolina Canoe Club were successful in negotiating a solid environmental settlement on the Cheoah and Little Tennessee Rivers, but Tapoco was ultimately unwilling to provide recreational mitigation. We are very proud of our role in protecting these awesome rivers and look forward to a balanced resolution to our concerns, possibly as early as July 2004. See you on the River in 2005?
### Willimantic River (CT) Gets a Helping Hand

February 18th was a big day for the Willimantic River. As dawn broke, AW’s Eastern Conservation and Access Director Kevin Colburn was walking the banks of the river with the President of the newly formed Willimantic Whitewater Partnership, Dan Mullins. The two river advocates then walked into a local radio station where they were interviewed on live radio for significant portions of a 2-hour radio show. The topic was dam removal. As the Willimantic River runs through the town of Willimantic its flow is backed up by four old mill dams, two of which are working hydroelectric dams. Dan has a vision that will ultimately see the removal of all four dams, along with the construction of whitewater features and a city park.

In the evening, the University of Connecticut’s Evening Law Student Association helped Dan host a symposium that brought together a dam removal expert from American Rivers, a river advocacy expert from American Whitewater, an expert on migratory fish from the State of Connecticut, and the whitewater park designer who designed the Occoneechic Olympic Course. These speakers laid the groundwork for what we’re sure will be a very exciting and successful dam removal project. The speakers expressed their belief that this project on the Willimantic has a great chance of restoring a significant amount of habitat for fish that is currently blocked, of restoring/creating a high quality whitewater resource, and of helping to revitalize the town of Willimantic. Dan’s enthusiasm and selfless dedication to this project are contagious, and people from all walks of life are lining up to help on this project. American Whitewater is proud to be among Dan’s many supporters.

### REGION: WEST

#### Flashflood:

In the northern Rockies American Whitewater met with PacifiCorp staff to develop the post-license whitewater study at the Bigfork Hydropower Project on the Swan River (MT). In addition, American Whitewater, along with other stakeholders, provided comments on the implementation of recreational improvements in the new license. American Whitewater and local boaters continued meetings with PPL Montana for the Mystic Lake Hydro Project on West Rosebud Creek (MT). In an effort to develop an accurate assessment of the range of boatable flows, American Whitewater submitted whitewater boating dates and whitewater quality ratings gathered from local boaters over the past few years. The actual flow will be matched to those boating dates to develop an idea of the desirable boating range. American Whitewater reviewed and commented on the Montana River Recreation Advisory Council draft recommendations for managing river recreation in Montana. The most recent versions of this guidance document include recommendations on instituting and allocating permits.

In early January, American Whitewater staff became aware of a proposal for an Idaho Non-motorized Boat Registration fee requiring non-motorized boats greater than seven feet in length to acquire a $13 registration decal. American Whitewater reviewed the registration proposal language using five criteria: 1) What services are promised in return for the registration fee; 2) Are the services needed by the whitewater community; 3) What is the cost of administering these services verses revenue generated from the registration fee; 4) Are collected fees held in a dedicated account or accumulated in a general treasury account; and 5) Is the registration and fee required among all recreational user groups receiving the same services? The Idaho registration fee proposal failed to identify services, account for estimates of registration revenues and administration costs, or identify dedicated accounts managing the funds collected and requirements for all user groups to be included in registration fee proposal. In the registration proposal Idaho did not promise any new services for the whitewater community nor did the state demonstrate a need to fund past programs benefiting whitewater boaters. In American Whitewater’s opinion, the Idaho Boat Registration proposal as written was not warranted. In light of American Whitewater’s website post reviewing the boat registration, the parties advocating this legislation dropped their proposal.

The Idaho Water Resources Board is circulating for public comment a revised draft of the South Fork Clearwater water quality plan. American Whitewater filed comments on this plan in 2003.

In Washington American Whitewater staff and local volunteers continue work to improve access and flows on a number of rivers. Access to the Snoqualmie adjacent to PSE’s powerhouse has recently been jeopardized (see more detailed article on following pages). Local paddlers Chris Wittenfeld, Pat Sumption and Tom O’Keefe met with Washington State Parks to discuss the Franklin Bridge take out on the Green River. This site meeting was coordinated by the Middle Green River Coalition which is working to protect the Green River Gorge for its incredible natural resource values and recreational opportunities. In achieving this objective, members of the coalition are working to preserve and enhance all the recreational opportunities that are enjoyed in the gorge. No short-term projects were discussed but it was an opportunity to document the important role of this site in any long-term vision for recreation in the Green River Gorge. The Forest Service began scouting for extensive road and bridge repairs resulting from major flooding in October 2003 that impacted access to the Sauk, Suiattle, Whitechuck, Bacon Creek, and the Upper Sultan. American Whitewater will be working with other conservation organizations and the tribes to develop...
sensible solutions that protect natural resource values while providing access to these important resources.

Access continues to be limited on the upper and lower Sultan (WA). These access points have been altered by Snohomish PUD in the aftermath of 9/11. American Whitewater staff and local volunteers continue to work with Snohomish PUD on solutions that satisfy security needs yet permit the public to access and recreate on this public waterway. These issues will come under review in the relicensing process that gets underway next year for the Sultan Hydropower Project.

In other WA whitewater news, Tom O’Keefe continues to make progress on access improvements on the Middle Fork Snowqualmie (see article on following pages from Tom). Tom is well organized and looking for volunteers to assist with this and other access issues in Washington.

In Oregon, American Whitewater staff along with local volunteer Jason Hartz have attended meetings and filed comments on recreation study plans for the Carmen Smith Hydropower Project located on the Mackenzie River. Comments were filed on the whitewater use report for the Clackamas River and were analyzed as part of the relicense process for Portland General Electric’s hydropower projects. American Whitewater, along with local boaters in southern Oregon, filed comments on the FERC scoping document for the Prospect Hydropower Project located on the Rogue River (OR).

In California, American Whitewater filed comments on PG&E’s study plan for a post-license Controlled Flow Whitewater Study for the Pit 1 Hydropower Project. The purpose of the study is to identify the suitable release volume for whitewater recreation as well as monitor potential effects of releases on cultural and biological resources. American Whitewater’s comments emphasized the need for an objective study conducted in a timely manner. In addition, American Whitewater worked with PG&E staff to make stream flow information accessible via the internet and a flow phone for the river reach routinely dewatered by the Pit 1 Hydropower Project. Further downstream on the Pit, American Whitewater staff provided input on biological and cultural monitoring plans centering around whitewater releases during collaborative meetings for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Hydropower Project.

American Whitewater is very busy on the North Fork Feather River (CA) working on three hydropower projects, The Upper North Fork Hydropower Project, in the final stages of settlement, requires considerable time commitments in negotiation meetings. On the Rock Creek-Cresta Hydropower Project American Whitewater staff are reviewing biological monitoring reports from the 2003 whitewater season and working with resource agencies for the 2004 season. PG&E has just kicked off a new collaborative process for the Poe Hydroelectric Project just downstream.

On the American River, local boaters and American Whitewater are encouraging California State Parks to include a whitewater park as an alternative in the updated Resource Management Plan for Folsom Lake SRA. A site visit took place February 26, 2004. Upstream on the Upper South Fork American, relicensing study review and approval continues to plod along in monthly meetings.

In southern California FERC staff scheduled a meeting with stakeholders, including American Whitewater volunteers, to review field study results including a whitewater flow study for the Santa Felicia Hydropower Project on Piru Creek. American Whitewater reviewed and approved resource measures for a new license for PG&E’s Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydropower Project and Tri-Dam’s Beardsley Donnell’s Hydropower Project located on the South Fork and Middle Forks of the Stanislaus River. Mitigation measures include real-time flow information for six river reaches dewatered by project operations and improved access and whitewater releases in consecutive non-spill years. American Whitewater filed comments to FERC on Southern California Edison’s Borel Hydropower Project on the Kern River (CA).
Whitewater Releases Slated for the Kern River (CA)

In December, 2002, American Whitewater, Friends of the River, and Southern California Edison (SCE) signed a Settlement Agreement for whitewater releases from Fairview Dam on the upper Kern River above the community of Kernville, California. Whitewater releases for the Kern River No. 3 (KR3) Hydropower project, licensed by the FERC in 1997, have been locked up in a five-year legal battle. The signing theoretically brings to an end this legal challenge with the potential for implementation of a new whitewater release schedule in April 2003. The Agreement increases the number of days for whitewater releases to 39 days annually as well as matches release volumes to kayak and rafting preferences.

The KR3 hydropower project will provide the following schedule of whitewater releases below Fairview Dam beginning no later than 10 a.m. and ending no earlier than 5 p.m.:

1. April 1st to the weekend before Memorial Day weekend SCE will provide Friday, Saturday and Sunday releases:
   a. If between 1,000 cfs and 1,300 cfs is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 700 cfs below Fairview Dam.
   b. If 1,700 cfs or greater is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 1,400 cfs below Fairview Dam.

2. Daily between the weekend before the Memorial Day weekend and July 4th:
   a. If between 1,000 cfs and 1,300 cfs is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 700 cfs below Fairview Dam.
   b. If 1,700 cfs or greater is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 1,400 cfs below Fairview Dam.

3. Weekends after July 4th and up to July 31st:
   a. If between 1,000 cfs and 1,300 cfs is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 700 cfs below Fairview Dam.
   b. If 1,700 cfs or greater is in the Kern River at Fairview Dam, SCE will release 1,400 cfs below Fairview Dam.

Resources impacted by the KR3 Hydropower Project

The KR3 hydropower project diverts 600 cfs in a canal around seventeen-miles of the Kern River. Flows in excess of 600 cfs typically occur during the spring and early summer coinciding with Sierra snowmelt. When inflows to Fairview Dam exceed 600 cfs the dam spills water into this seventeen-mile reach. The hydropower project has no water storage capacity. Whitewater opportunities in this seventeen-mile reach range from Class II to V depending on where you launch and take out.

Next Steps

The Settlement Agreement was submitted to the U.S. Forest Service and Ninth Circuit Court in January. As of this writing it is uncertain if the U.S. Forest Service plans to release the proposed schedule in an environmental assessment format for public review. Once approved by the U.S. Forest Service, SCE will adopt the whitewater schedule in the Settlement Agreement. American Whitewater encourages boaters to file comments in support of the Settlement Agreement.

American Whitewater and Friends of the River filed two successful lawsuits challenging the U.S. Forest Service’s recommendations for whitewater releases from Fairview Dam in the new hydropower operating license. American Whitewater and Friends of the River discovered that the Forest Service’s recommendations did not comply with the local Forest Plan and failed to satisfactorily mitigate the impacts to whitewater resources resulting from hydropower project construction and operation. Because of the successful lawsuit the FERC issued a new license to SCE for the KR3 hydropower project in 1997 without a whitewater release schedule. The whitewater release schedule was to be included in the license once the lawsuit was resolved. SCE, American Whitewater and Friends of the River elected to enter into settlement negotiations to craft a mutually agreeable whitewater flow schedule rather than let the court prescribe one.
In American Whitewater’s 50 year history we have witnessed significant losses of whitewater rivers inundated by reservoirs or dewatered by dams diverting water for out of channel consumption.

The death of these river reaches weighs heavily on the whitewater community. Few conservation organizations let alone river conservation organizations have the longevity to witness the loss and rebirth of a river in their history. In the spring of 2004, American Whitewater celebrates the rebirth of the Belden Reach on the North Fork Feather River, California. This river was once lost in the 1970s for power generation purposes but in March 2004 American Whitewater secured an agreement with PG&E for an annual schedule of whitewater releases in the new hydropower license.

Announcing the re-birth of the eight mile Class III Belden Reach on the North Fork Feather River is not only timely in our 50th year but also richly rewarding given the historic importance of this reach in the development of whitewater sport in the 1960s. The Belden Reach annually hosted regional slalom races in the 1960s and the national slalom championships in 1962. In fact a 1970 photo of slalom racing on the Belden Reach was featured in the spring 1971 Journal of American Whitewater (see above photo).

Scheduling slalom races and planning trips to the Belden Reach abruptly came to an end in the 1970s when PG&E’s Belden Powerhouse went online, thereby piping the entire river overland leaving the eight-mile reach essentially dry. This was the last of a series of hydropower dams constructed by PG&E in the North Fork Feather River Canyon. Over the years PG&E engineered a series of reservoirs, pipes, and powerhouses diverting water from virtually every mile of the 50-mile long North Fork Feather River. Prior to these hydropower projects, the North Fork Feather River would normally have carried 700 cfs during its lowest flow period of the year. This base flow was sufficient for year-round whitewater boating. As a consequence of PG&E’s engineering feats, most state and regional paddling guidebooks devote few if any descriptions to whitewater runs on the North Fork Feather. Why should they when there is no reliable water source to attract paddlers? Charles Martin’s 1974 guidebook A Paddlers Guide to the Rivers of California’s Sierra Nevada poignantly summarizes the North Fork Feather River canyon:
“Pacific Gas and Electric long ago destroyed the spectacular Feather River Canyon. They have built powerhouses every five miles and allow only enough water flow to keep the rocks wet. There was one stretch left open, Caribou Afterbay to the East Branch junction, that was ideal for whitewater boating. Its 80 feet per mile drop produced big waves in the narrow river bed. Pumpkinseed Rapid was a thrill for the most avid big-water boater. For years the most challenging slalom races in the country were held near one of the Forest Service campgrounds. The river was also a favorite spot for fishermen.

However, to see water flowing down the river was anathema to the engineers: since 1969 the water has bypassed the river to the new Belden powerhouse. PG&E guarantees that no water beyond a small fish release will ever again flow down the Caribou Run unless $4000 for water is paid for a race weekend. The Fish and Game people are narrowing the river bed with the hope that a few fish will be able to stay alive in the trickle of water if the flow is concentrated in a small strip. In the words of Carl Trost: “The PG&E giveth and the PG&E taketh away.”

American Whitewater staff and volunteers have been working to change that image of the North Fork Feather River. Since 1999, we have been working hard to restore whitewater flows to the Belden Reach, former site of the National Slalom Races. In September and October 2000, American Whitewater staff and volunteers participated in a Controlled Flow Whitewater Study for the Belden and Seneca Reaches of the North Fork Feather. Since that study we have been participating in negotiations with PG&E and resource agencies in meetings aimed at developing new license conditions. In March 2004 American Whitewater successfully reached agreement for a schedule of eight whitewater releases annually on the Belden Reach. This restoration success adds to previous success downstream on the North Fork’s Rock Creek-Crests Hydropower Project where American Whitewater secured an annual schedule for ten whitewater releases annually with a cap of thirty-eight annually if whitewater use increases. We are not stopping here. Already, American Whitewater is at work negotiating for an annual schedule of whitewater on the nine-mile Poe Reach dewatered by the Poe hydropower project. The Poe reach contains a 4.5 mile Class IV-V reach and a 4.5 mile Class III reach.

With American Whitewater’s track record on the North Fork Feather, future whitewater guidebooks will need to devote entire chapters to accommodate all the restored whitewater runs in this canyon.
Conservation and Access

Troubled Borders by Jennifer Chewning

Our High School Encountered Problems at the Argentina Border

Typically, our traveling high school takes a couple of hours to pack clothes, kayaks, food, and clean our domicile. Today, we accomplished these tasks in less than an hour, mostly, because we packed at the end of our Thanksgiving Day for our trip from Pucon, Chile to Bariloche, Argentina.
After hopping out of bed at our Rio Liecera base, we tied our kayaks with incredible speed and efficiency. Then we ate eggs, fruits, and cereal. We ate all of our fruits, as we would not be allowed to cross the border with them. The day had a great beginning, and it was clear and sunny as we left the volcano region of Pucon. I thought, “Maybe we can paddle in the afternoon in the Patagonia Mountain’s Rio Manso.” The day had a different plan in store for us.

The day first began going astray as we departed Pucon and passed the lakeshore town of Villarrica. We expected an hour and a half drive to Osorno to catch a bus across the Argentine border. I was listening to music when a student shouted; “I left my passport in the truck.” David Hughes, our trip leader, and our Chilean driver Andres were traveling two hours behind us with a pack truck. They had to wait in Pucon for proper trailer documents to arrive at the bus station at 10:30am. We called David, and Andres was sent with the passport to Villarrica to meet us while David waited on the trailer papers in Pucon.

An hour and a half later and we were back on the road again. Now, Andres and David would not be far behind us. We arrived at the bus station at 1:30 pm, and missed our bus by ten minutes due to our previous delay. We would wait for the 4:45 bus. We passed time by roaming town and playing cards.

Finally, we got on the bus. Eight passengers had to stand during the bus ride. Thus, we were happy to have seats. The bus was large, nice and comfortable. After crossing the Chilean border we had to drive through a no zone area for forty kilometers. Then we arrived at the Argentine border.

It was this no zone area that caused us to have to ride the public transit bus. David tried to hire private vehicles to meet us at the border, but neither our vehicles nor the Argentine private vans could cross into the no zone area without insurance from the other country. This sounds confusing, because it is and was. The bottom line is that after two weeks of research the only legal way for our school to go surf the Rio Manso waves was to utilize the public transportation system.

As soon as you cross into the Argentine no zone area the road turns from pavement to dirt. And there you are in the heart Patagonia. The mountains were blue and beautiful and the road was strangely covered.
in giant squashed spiders. We drove down the gigantic Patagonia Mountains and came upon the Argentine border. Andres and David were mysteriously waiting with the pack truck and sixteen of our kayaks prior to the actual border. I could tell by their expressions there was trouble. The Argentine aduanas, customs, would not allow them to cross as the boats appeared to be illegal imports or for commercial purposes. They had no luck explaining that Huge Experiences is a high school, and were almost kicked out due to their efforts.

David walked into the border control behind our bus. The aduanas began speaking with David and Vero, our Argentine Spanish teacher. As they spoke students plopped off of the bus and encircled them. We were shooting photos and videos, and the aduanas asked us to get in the customs’ line; they did not look happy. David later told us our encircling flock was a good thing as the officials were able to clearly see there was only one kayak for each person – thus, validating their previous explanations.

In the end Vero signed her car as collateral in order for the kayaks to cross and return, and David signed papers stating he would pay $500 per kayak if they did not make the return to the border. The aduanas stamped our passports, and we returned to the bus for Bariloche. Andres and David stayed as the aduanas searched everything on the pack truck and trailer. They stated they would catch up to us.

We arrived in Bariloche and had pizza for dinner. Vic Simenc waited for Andres and David at the bus station. After chowing down on eight pizzas Vic rushed into the establishment. Andres had arrived without David. The equipment trailer had lost a wheel outside of Bariloche. This did not surprise us...
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Yea...we’re talking to you. We’ve consulted our “experts,” studied charts and graphs, and determined exactly what you are looking for in kayaking entertainment. “What’s that?,” you say...we haven’t asked YOU what YOU want. Forget about it, leave the decision making to us. Trust us, our new lineup of kayaking films are guaranteed to be run of the mill, uber conservative, and completely derivative...just the way you like them.

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as the trailer was packed full of kayaks and camping gear for twenty people. Plus, while the roads of Patagonia are majestically gorgeous they are not exactly I-40.

David stayed with the trailer on the border to Bariloche road, guarding over our precious gear now worth $500/item to the aduanas. It was chilly in this Patagonia region and David resided with his tent and and sleeping bag for warmth in the case he needed to spend the night.

Vic took our private bus we previously hired to take us to the Río Manso that afternoon. It was obvious to us hours earlier that we would not be going to the Río Manso. The private bus with a trailer took Vic back to the broken down trailer and our cold leader. David had already hired a tow truck. After all of our gear was reloaded onto a new trailer the well used trailer was towed into a Bariloche shop. We had to hire a garage to store our gear and trailer due to the possibility of gear theft. We finished our dinner and the restaurant closed. Then we walked the tourist town streets with Christian and Veronica, our English and science teachers. Bariloche is an amazing mountain ski town on a lake. Of course, it has multitudes of shops, restaurants, and internet cafes.

Vic, David, and Andres returned-tired, dirty, and exhausted much like the rest of us. We drove to our hostel. As soon as our heads hit the pillows, we were out cold. The day went from record breaking packing to “can anything else go wrong!” It will be a day we will all remember, and a great example of “positive improv.”

“Positive Improv” is the Huge Experiences philosophy of being able to take a negative moment, adversity, or challenge and turn it into a positive experience. The positive improv of this day was to have a great story, and memories of my friends and me trying to make it to Argentina.

Now, I am writing this letter from the Río Manso. We take daily hikes from our camp base to the forty-five foot waterfall and slide downstream. If we have a period off and we are caught up with school we have the option to paddle at the play waves outside of our camp. And each afternoon we play on the waves as we prepare for a rodeo at the end of the week. Looking back, the trip to Patagonia was unquestioned.

Jennifer Chewning is a student of the Academy of Huge Experiences, a high school for kayakers.

Grayson Schaffer
Paddler Scott Ligare revels in the immense beauty while paddling in Kyrgyzstan, Russia, 2003.
Get into the water using waterproof, breathable GORE-TEX® garments

GORE-TEX® Wave Drytop

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BROOKE WINGER
2003 Worlds Women’s Rodeo Kayak Champion

photos by David Hughes and Grayson Schaffer

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American Whitewater
Timeline of Journal Covers

MAY 1955
Georgie White celebrates 10 Grand Canyon Trips: two swimming, eight by raft!

AUTUMN 1970
Fall River (CA) judged navigable, making it legal to fish and boat this 20 mile California treasure!

SUMMER 1968
Scenic Bill approved by House: protects Middle Forks of Salmon and Clearwater, Rio Grande, Rogue, others.

SUMMER 1973
AWA Director Jerry Meral calls for founding of American Rivers

JAN/FEB 1975
First-ever Accident Report Planned
NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation takes charge of conservation releases: A rebirth for the Cannonsville, Pepacton, Neversink and Schoharie

Report on Running the Niagara Gorge

Legislation Protects West Virginia Rivers!

Drs. Blackadar, Krissoff and others debate shoulder dislocation prevention

River Rendezvous Pays Tribute to Walt Blackadar
‘Better,’ ‘New,’ or ‘Improved:’
It’s a relative thing.
Madison Avenue must have been proud
“I believe! Where can I buy one?”

\[ \text{American Whitewater}
\text{Fifty Years of Advertising} \]

\[ \text{Journal change of address note}
\text{March/April 1975} \]

\[ \text{Tell Your Friends!}
\text{September/October 1978} \]

\[ \text{Current Ad for Shred Ready 2004} \]
Life jacket for glasses ad November 1959

Old kayak ad May 1955

Grumman Canoe ad Winter 1957

Blue Hole Canoes ad July/August 1977

Old gear ad Summer 1971

Waterproof Nylon Shirt & Helmet

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**SHIRT**


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Nylon adjustable size white water helmet with removable chin strap. Webbed lower suspension. Will not soak up or hold water. $8.50 postpaid.

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THE DARTMOUTH CO-OP, Main St., Hanover, N. H. 03755
Some laughs are timeless
Timeless smiles
Smiles know no age.

- Dam issues
  September/October 1974
- East vs. West
  November 1959
- Shuttle
  November/December 1974
Funny then, not P.C. now
Nov/Dec 1974

Can’t do anymore
July/August 1976

Hydro issues
September/October 1988

Kayaking and Rock Climbing
September/October 1978

Hydro issues
July/August 1985

November/December 1976

May/June 1978
Trying to Restore Rivers and Access Ain’t New

Water Wars started when Mel Gibson was but a twinkle...

Water Wars are older than AW

The stories haven’t changes:
the old names are now revered.

Glen Canyon Dam

T-shirt ad
Jan/Feb 1978

Mad Pope!

July/August 1987

Pope Barrow is mad...

He’s mad as Hell about small hydro dams.

And he’s not going to take it anymore.
COUNT ME IN
as a member of the American Whitewater Association. As a member I will receive American Whitewater magazine listed in June, September, December and March. Here is my $25.00.

Name:

Address:

Occupation: _______ Type of Boat: _______ Club:

Committee I'd like to volunteer for: _______

Suggested articles: _______

Mail to: Amer. Whitewater Affil., 1925 Hopkins Street, Berkeley, Calif., 94703

Member solicitation

Autumn 1964

Article on the N.F. of the Feather River

January/February 1978

“Golly, That’s Falling Water”

By Charles Wertsinger, Pendleton, Ore.

In the heart of the Appalachian region, in a place called the Gauley River, there lies a small dam that has become a symbol of the American whitewater movement. This dam, known as the Elkins Dam, is located on the lower Gauley River, a river that is famous for its steep, narrow gorges and Class V rapids. The dam was built in 1967 as part of the Power Plant Project, which aimed to harness the river’s power for electricity generation.

Despite the dam’s construction, the river continues to attract whitewater enthusiasts from all over the country. The dam is a popular spot for boaters to launch their rafts and kayaks, and it is also a favorite location for downriver runs. The river below the dam is known for its Class V rapids, including the famous Gauley Allison and the Natural Bridge.

Winter 2017
Don’t they just come in a box?
You mean I have to MAKE it myself?
Lovely. It comes in... Blue.
And it might even keep the water out!
Slightly Before Fashion Followed Form

Utah Rapid-Rider Plans Special Equipment

Don’t they just come in a box?
You mean I have to MAKE it myself?
Lovely. It comes in... Blue.
And it might even keep the water out!
Slightly Before Fashion Followed Form

First helmet cam
May 1955

Article - How to Make Your Own Sprayskirt
September/October 1981

Helmet Strap
March/April 1976

Article - Rubber Raft
are better - Don Hatch
Summer 1957

The Case for Rubber Rafts

A rubber Raft is not only...
Article on short boats
March/April 1976

In a recent issue of American Whitewater, it was suggested that the minimum dimension rule be dropped. Although I still think that it is a good idea, I don’t feel that it is likely to happen anytime soon, and it appears that the development of shorter boats will have to happen outside the racing community.

As a matter of fact, I have seen two different short boats lately. Both are about slamo boats, but that’s where the similarity ends.

The first boat belongs to The Colossus, which is a group of commercial whitewater trips on the Stanislaus River. The boat, called the “Cobra,” is a rigidly aligned Holloform River Chaser. Much more was cut off the stern than the bow, and the ends are now mostly duct tape. But the people at The Colossus crack plenty of jokes about it, and the word is that it’s great for playing in boats.

More interesting to me is my brother John’s kayak, which was a classic boat of modern design, with quite a bit of bow and stern. It has been used a lot in the last year, including being broken in half on the Nantahala. But with expert patching, it has remained a worthy boat.

Now it’s a super boat because John’s cut a foot off each end. It took some courage to actually take the saw to its beloved kayak, but what was there to lose? As John said, “Both ends looked okay.” He then added 2”-shaped bow and stern pieces for a pretty short 12’-8”-inch boat.

There is a little true column boat because the ends were so heavy on the original. The new boat looks more natural and seems to handle better. The difference in handling isn’t as big as you might expect because most of the rowing remains there in the water even though the time away. It seems faster and easier and, of course, it’s

DON’T FORGET TO VOTE!
Ballots due by mail on May 15, 1976.

American Whitewater
50th Anniversary Issue - May/June 2004
A priority from the very beginning...

“One-handing” the line is more difficult. Once you reach shallow water, use the line to steady you as you walk to shore.

AWA SAFETY CODE

Again available to Affiliate Clubs and others wishing to distribute copies of the AWA Safety Code as part of their canoe-and/or kayak-handling seminars, for $8 per hundred, postpaid.

Order from:
DEACON KIEHM
2019 Addison St. Chicago, IL
Later that evening Tom and I return back to the South Fork to see what the latest group is doing. The impasse has happened, but a few miles of water is still available. We decide to try it out. Tom sets out, and I follow behind, but the current is too strong for me to paddle. Tom appears on the horizon and gives me a thumbs up. I have been paddling ever since.

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Senate Vote Limits Fee Demo

The Senate Energy Committee passed S. 1107 on the morning of February 12th to limit Fee Demo to the National Parks. The legislation included NO amendments for other agencies such as the Forest Service or the BLM. This is an enormous victory for America’s taxpayers!

Some Senators on the Committee received hundreds - even upwards of a thousand - calls and faxes over the four days leading up to the vote from across the nation. One office received only FOUR pro-fee faxes saying “recreation fees are maybe OK”. It was clear to our Senators that fees for the Forest Service, BLM and US Fish & Wildlife Service have almost no public support. This enabled them to resist strong pressure from the Department of Interior and Forest Service, which continued even yesterday afternoon to add other agencies to S.1107.

It was also clear that Congress needs to support the agencies through direct funding and appropriations in order to meet maintenance needs.

Our thanks to YOU - and please pass those thanks along to others who you asked to call or fax Congress - for making this happen!

American Whitewater supported passage of S. 1107 and opposed including the other agencies in the Senate Bill due to numerous problems with implementation and management of the program in the Forest Service and BLM. We continue working with all of the agencies to make sure that they exercise their fee authority in a fair and reasonable manner to defray maintenance costs - as the original authorizing language intended. The next legislative step is to make sure that similar language is approved in the House to limit Fee Demo to the National Parks.

More information is available at http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/1098/.
AW Conservation and Access Program Meets Millennium Challenge

Thanks to the hard work of the staff and board of American Whitewater, we have reorganized your conservation and access programs to meet the 2000 Strategic Plan.

So what’s changed?

First, my title has changed to National Policy Director for Conservation and Access. This formalizes a role that I’ve developed over the past 6 years and will officially be representing you in the Halls of Congress and with federal agencies such as the Forest Service and Park Service. I will also continue to represent AW’s members on access issues in Colorado and Maryland where I have strong historic ties.

Second, John Gangemi’s title has changed from Conservation Director to Western Director for Conservation and Access. John will essentially represent boaters in the Rockies and the Sierras extending into the Pacific Northwest.

Third, Kevin Colburn’s title has changed to Eastern Director for Conservation and Access. Kevin will work on issues in the Appalachians.

This reorganization was designed to meet many objectives. The most important of which were clarifying who on staff reports to whom, easing the administrative burden on Executive Director Risa Shimoda so she has more time to secure the long term health of the organization, and to make it clear to you who to contact when reaching out to AW to discuss the issues in your backyard.

John, Kevin, and I are here to serve you and your interests. We look forward to hearing from and working with you.

Rappahannock Blown Free (VA)

Monday, February 23 a pair of blasts rocked the city of Frederick, VA just 60 miles South of Washington, DC. This blast was not the act of any terrorist; instead the Army Corps of Engineers was demolishing the dangerous low head Embry Dam on the Rappahannock for fish passage and, possibly, recreation.

The two blasts were the first step in removing the dam, which is expected to take two years. The deconstruction process will result in a 184 mile free-flowing Rappahannock River for the first time in 150 years.

Following the explosion, the waters dropped, bedrock and mudflats were revealed, and the possibility of a whitewater experience on this section of river was also exposed.

Now boaters will simply play a waiting game for the sediment on the old lake bed to wash downriver to see what features come to light. The river has the gradient for whitewater, but does it have the bones?
Middle Fork Salmon Gauge Threatened (ID)

The USGS warns that the most popular streamgage in Idaho may be cut. This streamgage is on the Middle Fork of the Salmon. While the station is officially identified as USGS 13309220 MF SALMON RIVER AT MF LODGE NR YELLOW PINE ID, boaters simply know it as the Middle Fork Gauge at Middle Fork Lodge.

Even though the streamgage is referenced by thousands of boaters and visitors to Idaho every year, the gauge may be terminated. The USGS has posted an alert on its website at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/uv?13309220 with the terse explanation that “FUNDING MAY BE LOST AND THIS GAGING STATION OPERATION DISCONTINUED Oct. 1, 2004”.

This streamgage is of vital importance for purposes of safety, tourism, and recreational fishing and boating; and there is no more important gauge for whitewater in all of Idaho. Loss of access to real-time streamgaging information on the Middle Fork Salmon would negatively impact tourism, visitation, safety and recreation opportunities.

What is the problem? Tom Brenan, Surface Water Unit Chief at the USGS in Idaho, explained to me that the USFS provides $11,340 each year, the Idaho Department of Water Resources $3,970, and USGS provides a matching amount $3,970 under their cooperative program for the Middle Fork gauge. The problem is that the Forest Service is terminating its share of the payment, which has traditionally come from their Boise Adjudication Team. This team works on water rights litigation issues on the Salmon River. The team’s Bob Kenworthy explained to me that the Adjudication Team no longer needs the data for their work and has no more funds available for supporting the site.

However, the river is managed by the Forest Service’s Middle Fork Ranger District, thus the agency continues to have an active interest in access to gauging data. The District’s River Ranger, Sherri Hughes, described how she simply does not have the funds available in her budget for FY ’05, and that her program was also making contingency plans for the termination of Fee Demo funding and loss of some additional discretionary funding in ’05.

Ready access to real-time gauging information in the deadly whitewater spring of 2003 revealed the importance of this gauge to rafters, boaters, fishermen, and other visitors when the Middle Fork Salmon rose first to 6.6 feet on May 25th and to 8 feet on May 30th with an incredible flow of 13000 cubic feet per second (CFS). The sudden increase in stream flow resulted in catastrophe when two men in two different groups drowned upon hitting a submerged log on the Middle Fork Salmon near Marsh Creek. The fact that more people did not run into trouble was due largely to awareness of the sudden increase in water level and widespread access to real-time streamgaging data. Further, the access to this information allowed hundreds of visitors to reschedule their vacations to Idaho and to plan on visiting other regional rivers.

Since the station is operated by the USGS in cooperation with U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Water Resources, it is natural to look to these agencies for help in protecting the streamgage. If you are concerned about the possible loss of this gauge, then you must send an email or call the following individuals. A sample letter is provided below and at www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/1112. Sample LETTER

(please take a few moments to adapt this letter to reflect your experiences and interests).

Office of the Governor
700 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
PO Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0034
Email: http://www2.state.id.us/gov/ourgov/contact.htm

Dear Governor Kempthorne,

I am writing to you on behalf of American Whitewater and the nation’s paddling community.

The USGS has recently announced that it will be terminating the real-time streamgage on Idaho’s Middle Fork Salmon River. This station is officially identified by the USGS as “USGS 13309220 MF SALMON RIVER AT MF LODGE NR YELLOW PINE ID”; boaters simply refer to it as the Middle Fork Gauge at Middle Fork Lodge.

The agency has explained that the gauge is being cut due to a lack of funding from the United States Forest Service. Though the Forest Service provided funding over the past several years through the Boise Adjudication Team, the team’s project is concluding and they no longer need access to the data. In 2004, the USFS provided $11,340, the Idaho Department of Water Resources $3,970, and USGS provided a matching amount $3,970 under their cooperative program.

Continued funding and maintenance of this streamgage is of vital importance for purposes of safety, tourism, and recreational fishing and boating. There is simply no more important gauge for whitewater recreation in all of Idaho. Loss of access to real-time streamgaging information on the Middle Fork Salmon will negatively impact tourism, visitation, commercial outfitting, public safety, and recreational whitewater and fishing opportunities.

All is not lost; please work with the partner agencies, Idaho’s Department of Tourism, and Idaho’s Department of Water Resources to look for creative sources of funding to ensure that the gauge is protected in ’05 and into the future.

Please contact me at American Whitewater, 1424 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Jason@AWA.org or 301-589-9453 if you have any questions or if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

[Signed]

Jason D. Robertson
National Policy Director, American Whitewater
The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued a new year license for the Ear2 River projects in southeast Idaho. ACIL#ORP has requested clarification of several inconsistencies in the license, but the balance of the license provisions has already taken effect as a result of additional FERC license conditions for recreational whitewater releases in the basin. Lack of any section near 'race' will be delayed one year from schedule. Whitewater releases are now expected to begin in the year of the license, with the possibility of opportunistic based on water availability. The one-year delay is a result of additional requirements by the FERC for ACIL#ORP to develop a large number of operating plans, including a release plan from 'race' dam and a biological impact monitoring plan during white-water releases. All of the required operating plans will require FERC approval before their implementation may proceed. The new license will require ACIL#ORP to provide more reliable 'ows in the basin. NEIDA. ARROWS section north of Reston, plus 'ow and scheduled release information for both reaches via 'ow phone and Internet.

Ellicott Licensing Background
In September, ACIL#ORP filed new license applications for the continued operation and maintenance of three projects located on the Ear2 River in Caribou and Franklin Counties, Idaho. These projects currently occupy more than 53 acres of federal all land managed by the Department of the Interior, and ACIL#ORP operates these projects to meet irrigation demands, provide flood control, and generate power.

ACIL#ORP with the virtual certainty of legal challenges from the license application ACIL#ORP initially submitted to the FERC in late ACIL#ORP began settlement negotiations with agencies and organizations, including American Whitewater. In September, ACIL#ORP filed a comprehensive settlement agreement resolving all issues regarding relicensing of the Ear2 River projects. This was signed by all federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over the project and a host of environmental groups and public interest organizations who assert interests affected by the project. After receiving the agreement, the commission issued a draft environmental impact statement analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed project and all reasonable alternatives to the proposed project. After seeking and receiving public comment, the commission issued a final commission on April recommending approval of the agreement. After evaluating the commission's recommendation, the commission signed a licensing order on December approving the agreement with certain modifications. ACIL#ORP had 30 days to accept, reject, or accept the license while requesting a hearing to clarify specific points. They chose the latter option, thus accepting the FERC license and the bulk of its conditions. The license is now in effect and ACIL#ORP expects the FERC to rule on the license clarification during the next months.

ACIL#ORP attempted to limit their potential liability for mitigation on the projects. In issuing the license, the FERC prohibited ACIL#ORP from limiting their liability to the dollars agreed to in the settlement. Additionally, the FERC imposed requirements for ACIL#ORP to prepare some plans subject to the FERC approval prior to implementation. These plans and the need for the FERC to approve future changes to the plans will delay implementation of the license by one year, thus also delaying 'ow scheduled white-water releases by one white-water season.
PacifiCorp Receives Hydro License for their Bear River Projects (ID)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued a new 30-year license for the Bear River Projects in southeast Idaho. PacifiCorp has requested clarification of several inconsistencies in the license, but the balance of the license provisions has already taken effect. As a result of additional FERC license conditions, recreational whitewater releases in the Class IV (V) Black Canyon section near Grace, ID will be delayed one year. “Scheduled” whitewater releases are now expected to begin in year 5 of the license (2008), with the possibility of “opportunistic” (based on water availability) whitewater releases in years 2-4 of the new license (2005-2007). The one year delay is a result of additional requirements by the FERC for PacifiCorp to develop a large number of “operating plans,” including a flow release plan from Grace Dam and a biological impact monitoring plan during whitewater releases. All of the required operating plans will require FERC approval before their implementation may proceed. The new license will require PacifiCorp to provide more reliable flows in the Class II Oneida Narrows section north of Preston, ID: plus river flow and scheduled release information for both reaches via a flow phone and internet.

Relicensing Background

On September 27, 1999, PacifiCorp filed new license applications for the continued operation and maintenance of three projects located on the Bear River in Caribou and Franklin Counties, Idaho. These projects currently occupy more than 500 acres of federal lands managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM). PacifiCorp operates these projects to meet irrigation demands, provide flood control, and generate power.

Faced with the virtual certainty of lawsuits from the license application PacifiCorp initially submitted to the FERC, in late 2001 PacifiCorp began settlement negotiations with agencies and NGOs, including American Whitewater. On September 26, 2002, PacifiCorp filed a comprehensive Settlement Agreement (SA) resolving all issues regarding relicensing of the Bear River Projects. The SA was signed by all federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over the Project and a host of environmental groups and public interest organizations (NGOs) who assert interests affected by the Project. After receiving the SA, the Commission issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed Project and all reasonable alternatives to the proposed Project. After seeking and receiving public comment, the Commission issued a Final EIS on April 11, 2003 recommending approval of the SA. After evaluating the EIS, the Commission signed a Licensing Order on December 22, 2003, approving the SA with certain modifications. PacifiCorp had 30 days to accept, reject, or accept the license while requesting a rehearing to clarify specific points. They chose the latter option, thus accepting the FERC license and the bulk of its conditions. The license is now in effect and PacifiCorp expects the FERC to rule on the license clarifications during the next 3-5 months.

In the SA, PacifiCorp attempted to limit their potential liability for mitigation on the projects. In issuing the license, the FERC prohibited PacifiCorp from limiting their liability to the dollars agreed to in the SA. Additionally, the FERC imposed requirements for PacifiCorp to prepare some 20+ “plans” that are subject to the FERC approval prior to implementation. These plans and the need for the FERC to approve future changes to the plans will delay implementation of the license by one year, thus also delaying “scheduled” whitewater releases by one whitewater season.

PacifiCorp and an Environmental Coordination Committee (ECC) are responsible for the adaptive management approach to implementation of the license provisions. The ECC is composed of representatives from the organizations who were signatories to the Settlement Agreement, including American Whitewater. AW’s representative on the Bear ECC is Charlie Vincent, AW regional representative from Salt Lake City, Utah.

Questions on this project may be directed to Charlie: charlev@xmission.com, or John Gangemi: jgangemi@centurytel.net
American Whitewater Merchandise

IR Thin Skin with AW logo
Nylon/Spandex Wicking Layer
(Navy) S, M, L, XL
$48

IR Visor with AW logo
(Navy) One size fits all
$15

IR Thick Skin with AW logo
Nylon/Polyester/Spandex Insulating Layer
(Navy) S, M, L, XL
$68

Men’s IR Board shorts with AW logo
New color for 2003!
(Navy) 30-38 even sizes
$50

AW Hooded Sweatshirt
100% Super Thick Cotton
(Navy) M, L, XL, XXL
$36

“River Safety Report”
By Charlie Walbridge
$12

“Get With The Flow” T-Shirt
100% Cotton
(White) M, L, XL
$20

Women’s IR Board shorts with AW logo
(Blue Floral) 4-12 even sizes
$48

For a wider selection, please visit our online store at www.americanwhitewater.org.

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Merchandise Order

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Shipping

Total Price

Send this form to: AW
1424 Fenwick Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910

I have enclosed a check payable to AW

Bill my MasterCard or Visa

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

63
Cascade River, WA Bridge Drop Debris Removal

Designated a Wild and Scenic River in 1978, the Cascade River in Western Washington is one of the region’s most scenic and challenging Class V runs. While the river is an incredible whitewater resource known to paddlers from across the country, there have been at least three fatalities and several close calls in the rapid known as Bridge Drop. This rapid comes early in the run and just downstream from the first major drop known as “Starts with a Bang.” At moderate to high water these rapids come in quick succession and for all practical purposes represent one long and demanding section of Class V whitewater.

For many boaters, one of the scariest features of this section was the debris from an old bridge—the Lookout Creek bridge that washed into the river during a flood and debris slide in 1980. This was actually the second failure for the steel in this bridge because it had been salvaged from the remains of the Tacoma Narrows bridge—“Galloping Gertie”—that failed during a windstorm in 1940. The remains of this bridge were firmly lodged among the boulders, creating a massive and permanent strainer that gave Bridge Drop its name. While we may not know for sure whether this bridge debris was directly responsible for the fatalities, it certainly complicated things and added another dimension to the rapid. Furthermore, leaving the debris in the river directly conflicted with the non-degradation and enhancement policy of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

In 2000, Chris Joosse and Nick Newhall with the Washington Kayak Club worked to educate paddlers and resource agencies on the hazards at Bridge Drop. They produced a comprehensive catalog of images to document this remote site and the associated hazards for the paddling community and educated resource agency staff who have a responsibility for river management. This convinced Jim Chu, Wild and Scenic River manager with the Mount Baker – Snoqualmie National Forest, that removing many tons of bridge debris from the river would clearly be consistent with the language and spirit of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. And if it could be safely accomplished, it was their obligation to do so. The action would enhance aesthetic and scenic attributes of the river and potentially improve safety for members of the public who use and enjoy this river for recreation. Jim has been a great friend of rivers and once again demonstrated an ability to make things happen.

Although the river corridor is managed by the National Forest, the County was responsible for the bridge and Jim contacted Whatcom County, where engineers Janice Marlega and Barb Hathaway tackled the challenges of developing a plan to remove the bridge debris. After several different plans were considered, the County contacted local loggers to see if they could set up a skyline logging operation to hoist the steel beams out after cutting them into smaller sections at river level. Public agencies stepped up to the plate and permits were promptly approved. As water levels dropped to record low levels during the summer of 2003 the stage was set to begin removal. But when a high risk of forest fires resulted in a moratorium on construction activities in the National Forest and difficulties in obtaining a helicopter, which was required to set the cable across the river, it seemed like the removal might be scrapped for the year. However, everything finally came together by mid September and over a couple days the debris was hauled several hundred feet up and out of a river to a landing alongside the road. The next week County crews hauled the steel away to a salvage yard. The County engineers pointed out that while the large steel pieces were removed some smaller debris remains in the river.

A few notes on safety

While the bridge debris has been removed this sequence of rapids remains a challenging Class V section of whitewater that should not be taken lightly. If you do not know the rapid it is essential that you scout the long sequence before committing and be sure to set overlapping safety. Given the removal of the debris at Bridge Drop and record flooding in the Skagit that occurred in October 2003, we can and should expect major changes in this rapid. Proceed with caution as you would on any Class V exploratory. “Starts with a Bang” is a very appropriate name for the first major drop on this run. Make sure you are warmed up and ready for it. Flush drowning remains a real hazard in this section as trouble at the start can mean a swim of up to a quarter mile in length. This is an incredibly beautiful place and an awe-inspiring section of whitewater—be safe and treat it with respect.
Snoqualmie River, WA
Potential Changes in Access at the Powerhouse

In February, members of the Washington Kayak Club reported trouble at the popular Powerhouse run on the Snoqualmie River. This extremely popular training site is only half an hour from downtown Seattle and at the base of the spectacular Snoqualmie Falls (270′)—the second most visited natural attraction in Washington State (Mt. Rainier being first). With approximately half a mile of class II rapids with a particularly high diversity of features, the site is the perfect training venue and the place where most of the region’s boaters first learned to paddle. Two dozen paddlers are typical on spring evenings.

The shoreline, however, is owned by Puget Sound Energy which has been operating a hydropower project that diverts a portion of the flow around the falls under an expired license since 1991. While the utility has a long history of providing public access to this important whitewater resource, new safety and security requirements could mean major changes for how we use the river. One scenario being discussed is to close the current trail directly behind the Powerhouse that leads to the upper training pool. Tourists would still be able to access the boardwalk from a newly configured trail leading from the overlook above the falls, but boaters who park in the lower parking lot closer to the river would no longer be able to access this and would instead be required to launch at a new site downstream of the Powerhouse. While PSE has assured us that the new access will be significantly improved over the current scramble down the rocks, the details of where we will access the river remain unclear.
Middle Fork Snoqualmie Planning and Implementation of River Access Well Underway

In November of 2003, the National Park Service Rivers and Trails program officially agreed to support American Whitewater’s project to protect and improve access on the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. This river is significant because it provides over 40 miles of whitewater serving the greater Seattle area, with easy logistics that make the runs highly accessible for locals and those traveling from around the country. The Rivers and Trails Program works across the country with community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. While the Park Service does not provide direct funding, they provide staff and access to other resources including grant opportunities and design specialists.

Through a series of site visits involving representatives from local affiliate clubs including Washington Kayak Club, The Mountaineers, University Kayak Club, PaddleTrails Canoe Club, and Washington Recreational River Runners, key needs were addressed at a series of sites including Taylor Confluence, River Bend, Pratt River, Concrete Bridge, Island Drop, Tanner Road, Tanner Landing, Blue Hole, and the Three Forks Natural Area. A vision for these sites was needed due to ongoing efforts by agencies and other conservation organizations to close off dozens of sensitive riparian areas and a new road project initiated by Federal Highways to potentially pave the road and designate specific areas for approved parking. By working with these other groups and agencies we will be able to protect existing key access points, institute important resource protection measures, and still preserve and even enhance opportunities for recreation such as kayaking that are clearly consistent with the long-term protection of riparian corridors. Our efforts will also assist local communities in achieving their goals of developing a recreation-based economy given the transition from resource extraction to the ever increasing recreation on public lands in the Snoqualmie Valley.

Major Accomplishments

Completion of an improved put in at Concrete Bridge

With the closure of spur roads along the river, access has become increasingly challenging for those with larger boats such as rafts and heavy canoes. King County has slowly been acquiring private parcels around the Concrete Bridge to create the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Area. Soon after King County purchased the private parcel downstream of the Concrete Bridge, road crews came in and constructed massive tank traps and berms. These barriers provided much needed protection of aquatic and riparian resources that were being trashed by off-road vehicles, but effectively blocked those who wished to get their boats to the river. Local volunteer Martha Parker raised the issue with King County, noting that she had used this old trail over the past three decades only to watch it become increasingly difficult to get to the river. In response, river access was formally included in the County’s site management plan, and funds were eventually appropriated to restore river access. With funding in hand and through the volunteer efforts of Washington Recreational River Runners – American Whitewater’s newest affiliate club – the old Concrete Bridge access trail was reopened in February for use as a boat launch suitable for all whitewater craft. Eric Myren helped organize a dozen volunteers to assist with site prep which included salvaging all native vegetation that had grown up on the old road bed. These plants will be used in restoration efforts throughout Seattle’s public parks. A few weeks after the initial work was completed, an EarthCorps trail crew finished off the site. Where paddlers once had to scramble over rip rap at the bridge, we now have a restored trail and beach providing access to the water.

Site Concept Designs for Mine Creek and Tanner Landing

Through existing relationships with design professionals and landscape architecture departments, one thing the National Park Service can bring to the table are professional planners who can assist us in translating the abstract ideas of a few boaters to visual concepts that can then be shared with local communities and agency staff. We were able to do just this when
the Rivers and Trails program assisted us by lining up a design studio course at the University of Washington.

Instructor Nancy Rottle and her class of a dozen students were given three tasks—creation of a concept plan for a phased development of the old DNR Mine Creek Campground that would transition the site to a day-use area, development of concept plans for the implementation of a new county park and river access within a recently acquired 50 acre parcel just downstream of the current access off Tanner Road, and recommendations for interpretive themes that could be used throughout the Snoqualmie River and incorporated into ongoing efforts by Mountains to Sound Greenway and others to enhance all visitor experiences.

While American Whitewater was the “client” for these design exercises, the students worked closely with agency staff and members of the community to develop concepts that built on existing work to provide community spaces that would serve not only boaters but also families on an afternoon outing, bicyclists, hikers, fishermen, and others.

For the Mine Creek site (aka Island Drop), we are looking to preserve and improve the existing informal trail from the roadside pullout that leads down to the pool below Island Drop. This will be a challenge given the potential constraints of the new highway project—if you would like to see this access maintained please file comments with Federal Highways (see StreamKeeper page for more details). A second phase of site development may include a picnic area and boater access in the old campground at the upstream edge of Island Drop. The parking would likely be created out by the road due to maintenance and security issues.

The new county property currently referred to as Tanner Landing, after the local timber mill, presents some unique challenges. Although the 50 acre parcel has some excellent beach access, the county currently has very limited access to the property. Whitewater boaters would be best served by an access point at the upstream edge of the property as opposed to the downstream edge down at the Mt. Si Bridge. We will continue working with the county to explore creative solutions and may recommend another key acquisition that could be necessary to realize the full potential of this beautiful site that also runs along the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. The students have prepared several different design alternatives that have served as an incredible visual aide in communicating the issues and potential solutions to community leaders and agency staff. Working together with the community we feel we can help the community of North Bend realize its goal of becoming the key gateway to the recreational opportunities of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie.

Funding: We have applied for a $5000 grant from Tom’s of Maine. So far we have been recommended for funding by the review committee but the board still has to make the final decisions. This funding will allow us to address habitat issues and fund on-the-ground efforts, and a $5000 grant from King County was obtained to assist in planning efforts for the new County Park currently known as Tanner Landing. A $15,000 appropriation from King County allowed us to restore the Concrete Bridge access. In addition to these monetary contributions to river access, kind support has been provided through significant agency staff involvement from National Park Service, King County Parks, Washington DNR, and US Forest Service, along with the efforts of a dozen very dedicated students from the Landscape Design Course at University of Washington and several passionate members of the community.

More Information: Approximately two dozen members of the local paddling community have been actively involved in the development of various plans and a long-term vision for river access along the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. If you have an interest in becoming more involved please contact Tom O’Keefe okeefe@riversandcreeks.com

Additional information and background documents can be found on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie StreamKeeper page http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2220
I fell in love with rivers while riding my school bus. We would cross the Haw River Bridge between Chapel Hill and Pittsboro, NC in the morning and evening, at high water and low, in summer, spring, winter, and fall. The river changed daily, and at the time I thought it was the biggest, most wonderful river in the world.

The Haw had two features that made it stand out in my imagination. The first was a river wide dam, just upstream of the bridge, over which water poured in muddy brown sheets. This waterfall was beautiful and indomitable and was made by man. The second feature was a sign. This sign was made of plywood with white and blue paint. The words cautioned of more than 20 drownings and against canoeing. Why? What happened? My imagination ran wild every time I saw the sign. What was downriver? I dreamed of running the river and prayed for traffic that would stop the bus in the middle of the bridge span so I could watch the river pound the bedrock under the falls and trace the bubbles through the maze of rocks downstream.

As AW celebrates our 50th anniversary I am struck by my memories of the Haw. When I tell this story and then show the river to my friends, few see the river’s magic. The river is dirty, it runs an orange so red and thick that it makes the Colorado, or “Red River”, look drinkable. Bottles, tires, plastic bags, and fishing line are everywhere and are an integral part of the visual landscape. Yet, I felt that it was my river.

Once, after I had turned 16 and started driving, I found a cartoon map of the Haw by William Neally describing play spots on the river. I built the river up so big in my mind that once I actually ran the rapids for the first time, they seemed almost easy. Yet, there was a problem, one of these features that Neally described had disappeared before I ever set out with a paddle; this play spot was drowned by the construction of Jordan Lake which flooded the best ender spot in the East. The loss resonated of a rapid I had never seen, and I learned something about conservation.

A few years later, I spent day after day kayaking on the Haw while I attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I gathered stories of flood and dodging debris, I was threatened by a man with a gun, I saw my favorite parking spaces turn into dirt ruts and party stops, and eventually saw these sites fenced and closed with “no trespassing” signs by landowners.

By the time I moved from Chapel Hill, the Haw had made a transition and turned around; it was recovering. There was less debris, fewer tires, improved parking and even public access provided as mitigation for lost recreation opportunities around Jordan Lake. I began to hope that there was a better way.

I share this story with you though it is incomplete; it tells only part of the picture.

Yes, we’ve made changes as a society, and dams are actually being removed by the men who made them. The rivers are cleaner than at any point in over 100 years, with less sewage and fewer industrial chemicals in the water.

However, the present is not entirely rosy and the future is uncertain.

Plastic bottles have become ubiquitous and populate river banks and ocean shores, there are increasing concerns about endocrine disrupting fertilizers in the water, drinking water supplies are taking precedence over ecological and recreational uses. Further, the construction of second homes and increased development is posing new pressures on riparian ecosystems and causing erosion.

What will happen in the next 50 years, and what will be the major challenges for American Whitewater? Gazing in my crystal ball, I foresee new challenges related to water quality, water quantity, development, public access, and public health.

Water Quality

While there have been vast improvements in water quality over the past 100 years, and particularly in the last 35 years, there is a movement afoot to weaken the regulations and environmental laws that have been so effective for conserving America’s surface and ground water. I know the threat firsthand from my years at the Environmental Protection Agency where I registered new chemicals and pesticides. Chemicals and pesticides are tools that our society uses to drive our economic engine and improve our standard of living, yet these chemicals are not harmless. There is increasing awareness of the health risks from a class of chemicals called endocrine disruptors. These chemicals are relatively long-lived in the environment and are widespread in drinking water around the nation. Sewage treatment and water purification are relatively ineffective in removing these chemicals. The result is that these chemicals move downstream from one town to the next in ever-increasing quantities. The problem is that these chemicals have been linked in the scientific literature at the EPA and elsewhere to hermaphroditism, reproductive development problems, and cancer. The chemicals are introduced to the environment from plastics, fuels, pesticides, and even some types of birth control.

Water Quantity and Availability

Study after study questions where the nation will draw its water from in the future. The problem is that many of the great aquifers under the nation are being depleted and take thousands of years to be replenished; also surface water is relatively scarce. However the main reason for the problem is that our nation’s water needs are outpacing the hydrologic cycle. Some communities in California are making plans to process sewage and redistribute the
cleaned water for non-consumptive purposes, and cities around the country already use water that has been passed downstream from one population center to the next. However, other communities are debating whether to even share water with the environment. In one recent example, the Washington Post reported in March that Portland is debating whether it is worth leaving water in the Columbia and Snake Rivers for salmon. The problem is couched in absolute terms, "As penance for their late beloved salmon, residents of the Pacific Northwest have taken about $1 billion out of their pockets in the past decade and flushed it down the Columbia and Snake rivers." The basic assumption is that by leaving water in the rivers Oregon's residents are losing money and that it comes down to a decision of whether to make power and provide drinking water or preserve a floundering species. According to the Post's report, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), "has declared that the spill is 'excessively costly compared to the biological benefit'." The challenge facing us in the next 50 years will be effectively making the argument for protecting flows for recreation and ecological health in the face of dwindling water supplies and cheap power production.

Development

I am building a second home with my wife. I am part of the problem that boaters will face with development pressures over the next 50 years. Housing construction continues to grow to meet the needs of the growing population, and families like my own who have the desire to live near the places they love and also maintain homes near their jobs. Part of the problem is that humans live near water, and like living near water. Property prices reflect the value that we place on living near water. Simply, prices are higher for waterfront or coastal property than for inland sites or even lofty mountain retreats. Development in riparian zones leads to problems related to siltation, erosion, loss of forest cover, and also loss of access opportunities to rivers for fishing, wading, and boating.

Public Health

Americans on average are getting fat. Youth on average are not spending as much time recreating outdoors and have no motivation to do so. These two facts paint an unhappy picture for the future of outdoor recreation. While it might make you happy to imagine that your favorite play spot will not be crowded with grommets in another couple decades, I see this being a real problem for numerous reasons. The most important is that the probable decrease in participation will mean that there are fewer advocates for rivers in the population. As my experience attests, exposure to rivers at an early age creates the environment to love them. Similarly, with fewer advocates, there will be less societal motivation to protect rivers and it will be easier for our existing environmental laws and regulations to be eroded.

A Silver Lining

The silver lining to the challenges I've painted above is that the youth kayak market continues to increase, there are laws on the books that are doing a good job of protecting the nation's waters and it is easier to protect an existing law than passing a new one, the people who are building second homes near the nation's rivers love those waters for scenic and recreational reasons, state and local governments are putting more money into buying and developing river access points, and American Whitewater is working to be around to help you and your grandchildren protect the rivers you love.

American Whitewater

www.americanwhitewater.org

American Whitewater
50th Anniversary Issue - May/June 2004
Making Whitewater Paddlers Safer for 50 Years

“Skill is by far the most important factor for safety on fast water”

American Whitewater Safety Bulletin 1959

Safety has been a major focus for American Whitewater throughout its fifty-year history. In the 1950s paddling knowledge was rare and widely dispersed. A handful of serious whitewater clubs were organizing in the East, Midwest, and West. Several of these geographically-dispersed leaders created the “AWWA” to help groups share their river running knowledge and experience. The American Whitewater Safety Code was developed in those early years to help paddlers stay safe. First printed in 1959, it also contained the first description of the six “classes” of river difficulty. The American Whitewater Safety Code also helped increase awareness of the fluctuations in river levels and how this changes and challenges a paddler’s skills.

“Nobody talks about whitewater paddlers except when they drown or get into trouble.”

John Bombay, AWA Safety Chairman 1965

During the “pioneering decade” of the 1960s, paddlers discovered many of the “classic” whitewater rivers for the first time. Paddling was done in army surplus rafts, aluminum canoes, and for the cutting edge paddler, fiberglass racing kayaks from Europe. Space in the AWA Journal that wasn’t telling readers about finding new rivers or making better gear was laying a foundation of on-water risk management that is still with us today. Safety Chairs Red Fancher and John Bombay wrote a regular column titled “Safety as We See It.” Their short articles discussed the important basics: wearing a life jacket, preparing for cold water, installing extra boat flotation, stowing loose lines, paddling as a part of a self-reliant group, using a throw line, and saving people first, gear last. Thanks to their careful approach no member of their “whitewater community” died running rivers during this time. Many of us believed that the sport was “safe,” that is, that a trained, well-equipped boater could never be killed.

“I want to have the freedom to decide what risk I am willing to undertake.”

OK Goodwin, AW Safety Chairman 1973

I think of the decade of the 1970s as the “pre-school decade” because those of us who started then are too old to be old school. Slalom racers set the pace, and by the end of the decade US paddlers dominated international competition. Their improved gear, techniques, and skills were quickly passed along to the average whitewater paddler in the pages of the AWA Journal. As our numbers grew, the first manufacturers arrived. The first rotomolded kayak, the River Chaser, was built in 1974, followed by Perception’s Quest and Mirage. Royalex canoes appeared at about the same time, and manufacturers like Blue Hole and Mad River created specialized designs that made aluminum canoes obsolete. Wetsuits came into common use, extending the paddling season while improving safety in cold water. Paddlers started to paddle harder runs and even run small waterfalls. The sport was beginning to grow.

But with growth came accidents, especially among untrained people. The movie Deliverance inspired a number of reckless thrill seekers who got in over their heads. The Coast Guard, empowered by the Boating Safety Act of 1971, created the “Approved Type III PFD” and began to show interest in our activities. Our response was “Education, Not Regulation,” a philosophy first discussed in an O.K. Goodwin article in the AWA Journal in 1973. The community of experienced paddlers also saw the first fatalities during this time. From 1975 on there was an average of one such death per year. Each accident, reported and studied in American Whitewater, taught us a hard, cold lesson. We learned about the dangers of foot entrapment, flush-drowning, and being caught inside a pinned kayak. We now knew to our great sorrow that even good paddlers could die if they weren’t careful.

“Each whitewater paddler must take personal responsibility for their own safety when on the water”

Charlie Walbridge, Safety Chairman 1987

The 1980s was the decade of the old school and an era of fast growth for whitewater sport. The Perception Dancer, designed in 1982, dominated the decade. Drysuits, drytops and hard-sole booties came on the market for the first time. Open canoe outfitting changed from makeshift to slick, and river rafts designed especially for whitewater became widely available. Specialized creek boats appeared for the first time. Rafting outfitter and kayak instruction schools multiplied. River rescue training was offered for the first at the Nantahala Outdoor Center under the guidance of Les Bechdel and Slim Ray, and the Ohio DNR developed the first program designed for firefighters. Pete Skinner revitalized American Whitewater and led it to some remarkable successes in river conservation and access protection.

As the number of whitewater paddlers increased, so did the fatalities. An average of 3-4 experienced hardboaters died each year. A significant number of deaths in the mid-80s involved squirt boaters, the innovative precursor of modern playboaters. Charlie Walbridge, who had been Safety Chair for the American Canoe Association, took on this job for AWA. As whitewater accidents increased, we tracked them. Pinning and entrapment scenarios were dissected, and what we learned influenced boat design, instruction procedures, and rescue tactics.
“As paddling exploded in the 1990s, AW became a pioneer in safety education on the then new-fangled world wide web.”

Lee Belknap, Safety Chair 1995

The “new school” of paddling started slowly in the western whitewater rodeo scene of the late ’80s. Soon freestyle competition was driving the sport the same way that slalom racing did in the 70s. As the number of kayak manufacturers grew, these events became a battleground. In 1994, when short boats with planing hulls were first introduced, kayak design had become so innovative that some companies introduced new models several times a year. Whitewater kayaking became the fastest growing outdoor sport in the nation. Thousands of young boaters from the “skateboard-snowboard-surfboard crowd” tried kayaking and got really good really fast! With commercial success came a focus on fashion exposure in the mainstream media. The leaders were the “pro paddlers” they sponsored. Hundreds of whitewater videos appeared. The Web came of age, so finding paddlers and communicating with them became easier than ever. This brought challenge and opportunity to American Whitewater, which responded with one of the first paddling web sites.

Short boats and safer, more effective outfitting pushed back the limits of the sport. It was inevitable that the new generation of paddlers would probe the edges of the envelope, surfing bigger holes and running steeper creeks than anyone ever thought possible. But with more “extreme” and just plain tough rivers being paddled by more people, the number of accidents increased. In the mid-90s, five of the nation’s best known kayakers were killed. But thanks to the Internet, more accidents than ever were being reported to AW. Lee Belknap became AW Safety Chair and his spreadsheets sought out patterns in our data. This laid the groundwork for further studies by Jennifer Plyler and Laura Whitman which compared whitewater paddling to other active outdoor sports for the first time. The results: while not without risk, our sport compares quite favorably to activities like bicycling, rock climbing, and scuba diving.

“We seek to maximize the enjoyment and safety of whitewater paddlers by promoting the skills, attitudes, and precautions they need”

Tim Kelly, Safety Chair 2002

Tim Kelly took over the AW Safety Chair in 2002. He mixes leadership and expertise in risk management from his career as an army officer with solid Class V boating skills. He’s already improved AW’s safety procedures for running freestyle contests, extreme races, and flow studies. We can’t tell what the future holds for whitewater sport and what challenges await us in the safety area. But we do know that AW will be out there, taking the lessons learned from the field to our members, government officials, and the general paddling public.
Three Decades of Whitewater Accidents  
Reported to American Whitewater 1971-2003

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As of February 16, 2004

NB: American Whitewater has never been able to track all moving water accidents, but we do hear about most experienced kayakers who die. We think that the “kayak” numbers are pretty accurate. The total number of whitewater paddlers has probably doubled three times since the early 1980s, accounting for much of the increase in accidents. According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics, paddlesport deaths have not increased much since the mid-70s. The increase in other types of accidents reported to AWA since 1994 is due to Internet-based reporting.
Whitewater Pioneer
Dr. Andrew Embick
by Jerry Meral

I never met Andrew Embick, although I did talk to him on the phone once. He had suggested we run Alaska’s Alsek River, and wanted to come along if he could run Turnback Canyon while we did the helicopter shuttle! We made the run, but it turned out he did not make it down the river with us.

Andrew was the author of *Fast and Cold, A Guide to Alaska Whitewater*. In his book notes, he confesses to not running Class VI whitewater much any more. But his book makes it clear that he had no problems with Class VI, or any other whitewater in Alaska. His guide is indispensable for anyone seeking anything from a mild to wild river trip in Alaska. It is impeccably documented, including not only access information (vital for Alaska), but also cultural and natural history, lots of great boating stories, and terrific photos.

Jack Hession, one of Alaska’s premiere conservationists for many years, has stated, “Andy made a major contribution to Alaska river conservation with his guidebook, which documents the history, values, and public use of free-flowing rivers. When conservationists ask Congress to add more Alaska rivers to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and the State to expand its Recreational Rivers System, his accounts will serve as the foundation for many of our proposals.”

First runs? Andrew and his companions (or quite often, just Andrew!) made dozens, often under the most adverse of conditions. Andrew also boated in the Himalayas, was a major ice climber, and developed cross country ski trails near his home in Valdez.

My latest trip based on Andrew’s book was last summer on the Charley and Yukon Rivers in the Yukon-Charley National Preserve. Sadly, I learned that Andrew had passed away while we were on the trip.

He will be remembered as a true whitewater pioneer, generous enough to share his experience and knowledge with those who seek to run the cold and beautiful rivers of the 49th State.
The 50th Anniversary Gala Event, hosted by Teva, is only a few short weeks away. Have you purchased your tickets yet?

Well if not you better hurry up and get one of the few remaining tickets for the Gala Weekend.

The Gala will be a celebration not only of the work that American Whitewater has accomplished in the last 50 years but also of the sport itself. AW board members, supporters, volunteers, and staff will gather to commemorate 50 years of protecting and restoring America’s Rivers.

Joining American Whitewater as a guest speaker will be Wade Davis. A professional speaker for nearly twenty years, Wade Davis has lectured at over 70 universities, numerous corporate groups, and professional associations. Wade Davis is an Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society. Named by Geographic as one of the “Explorers for the Millennium”, Wade Davis is an anthropologist and plant explorer who received his Ph.D. in ethnobotany from Harvard University. He has worked as a river guide, park ranger, and forestry engineer.

Described by ABC 20/20 as a real life Indiana Jones, Davis spent three years in the Amazon and Andes searching for new medicinal drugs before heading to Haiti to investigate folk poisons used to create zombies. Davis will be speaking on his work documenting and preserving the world’s ecosystems and the effect river restoration has on that process. He is author of five other books, including One River (1996), Shadows in the Sun (1998) and Light at the Edge of the World (2001). For additional information on Wade Davis please check his personal webpage (www.wade-davis.com) and the National Geographic Website (www.nationalgeographic.com).

In addition to the competitions, expositions, and entertainment provided by the Teva Mountain Games, springtime in the Colorado Rocky Mountains provides the perfect opportunity for a variety of mountain sports, including rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking, and whitewater activities. As if you needed more reasons to attend this great event here they are:

**Whitewater Opportunities**

Gore Creek - If this town doesn’t scream whitewater I don’t know what does, Gore Creek (Class III-IV) runs right through the heart of Vail. The run is 9 miles long.

Eagle River - The Eagle provides a little something for everyone with a 17 mile Class II – III run and 15 mile Class III – IV section (Dowd’s Chute) and a nine mile IV-V section though Gilman Gorge.

Arkansas River - The Arkansas also provides rafting and boating pleasure for all groups with a variety of sections ranging from Class II to Class V.

For more information about any of these runs or other rivers in the Vail area check out the nation’s largest online resource for paddling beta www.americanwhitewater.org!

**Mountain Biking**

It only makes sense that where there is a region full of mountains there will be some awesome mountain biking. The Vail area is full of great rides including a few of these classics:

Benchmark Trail 10 Mi. Advanced / Fire Roads

Buffer Creek Trail 6-8 Mi. Advanced / Single Track

Son of Middle Creek 2.8 Mi. Intermediate / Fire Road and Single Track

Meadow Mountain Loop 12 Mi. Intermediate / Fire Road and Single Track

**Hiking**

If you want to keep your two feet planted firmly on the ground then sample some of Vail’s hiking trails. The hiking trails range from casual walks to strenuous climbs. Here are a few you might want to try.

Eagle’s Loop (easy)
1 mile (1.6 km) 15-20 min. Short ridge top loop with great views of Mount of the Holy Cross and the Gore Range.

Lower Fireweed (easy)
2.2 miles (3.5 km) 1-1.5 hours This is a beautiful wooded hiking route between Eagle’s Nest and Mid-Vail facilities.

Upper Fireweed (easy)
1.2 miles (1.9 km) 30-40 min. A beautiful beginner hiking trail from Eagle’s Nest to Mid Vail.

Berrypicker (moderate)
4.6 miles (7.4 km) 2-3 hours The intermediate trail starts off Lower Fireweed. Wildlife and wildflowers are plentiful on this shaded hiking trail from mid-mountain to the bottom.

continued on p.76
2004 IR Big Gun Show
The World Championships of Aerial Kayaking
World Premiere 08.14.04 SLC UT
Encore 09.25.04 AW Gauley River Fest
Art by Rob Berong
www.lunchmag.tv
2004 American Whitewater Supporting Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>Cheat River Race</td>
<td>Albright, WV*</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cheat.org">www.cheat.org</a></td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>Wenatchee River Festival</td>
<td>Cashmere, WA*</td>
<td>Darren Albright (253) 549-3945</td>
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<td>May 28-30</td>
<td>Potomac Whitewater Festival</td>
<td>Great Falls, MD</td>
<td><a href="http://www.potomacfest.com">www.potomacfest.com</a></td>
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<td>June 4-6</td>
<td>Coosa River Whitewater Festival</td>
<td>Wetumpka, AL</td>
<td>Southern Trails (334) 272-0952</td>
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<td>June 5-6</td>
<td>Big Fork Whitewater Festival</td>
<td>Big Fork, MT</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bigfork.org">www.bigfork.org</a> (406) 837-5888</td>
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<td>June 11-13</td>
<td>Wyoming WW Championships</td>
<td>Jackson, WY*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jacksonholekayak@wyoming.com">jacksonholekayak@wyoming.com</a></td>
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<td>July 24</td>
<td>N. Fork Feather Member Booth</td>
<td>Caribou, CA*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kdweis@snowcrest.net">kdweis@snowcrest.net</a></td>
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<td>August 1-2</td>
<td>AW Deerfield River Fest</td>
<td>Charlemon, MA*</td>
<td><a href="http://www.americanwhitewater.org">www.americanwhitewater.org</a></td>
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<td>Ohiopyle Falls Race</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:BJ2Aadams@juno.com">BJ2Aadams@juno.com</a></td>
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<td>AW Gauley River Festival</td>
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<td>West River Releases</td>
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<td>Russell Fork Rendezvous</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:John_foy@alltel.net">John_foy@alltel.net</a></td>
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<td>Oct 16-17</td>
<td>Moose River Festival</td>
<td>Old Forge, NY*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Ckoll234@aol.com">Ckoll234@aol.com</a> (315) 673-3837</td>
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<td>Oct 22-24</td>
<td>Whitewater Symposium</td>
<td>Bryson City</td>
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<td>Oct 29-31</td>
<td>NOC’s GAF</td>
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<td>November 20th</td>
<td>&quot;The Thing&quot; at Tallulah</td>
<td>Tallulah Falls, GA*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sutton@suttonbacon.com">sutton@suttonbacon.com</a></td>
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* 2004 AW Membership Appreciation Booths

Gala Update: continued from p.75

Ridge Route (moderate)
2.8 miles (4.5 km) 1.5-2 hours
Eagle’s Nest to Wildwood and back. Climb the intermediate ridge through meadows and take in views of Game Creek Bowl, the Sawatch Range and Mount of the Holy Cross.

Ptarmigan Loop (moderate)
1.2 miles (1.9 km) 30-40 min

Loop with Ridge Route
4 miles (4.2 km) 2.5-3 hours
This intermediate route connects with Ridge Route at Wildwood, takes you to Ptarmigan Point and then back. Easy trail passing through wildflower-filled meadows and shaded woods.

Kinnickinnick (moderate)
2 miles (3.2 km) 2 hours
with Ridge Route 3.4 miles (5.5 km)
3.5-4 hours
This intermediate route connects with Ridge Route at Wildwood and takes you to Mid-Vail. Wooded trail with wildflowers and mushrooms in abundance.

Sunlight (moderate)
1.5 miles (2.4 km) 1 hour
with connecting trails 3.5-4.5 miles
(5.6-7.2 km) 2.5-3 hours
This connects with Ridge Route and Kinnickinnick at the Wildwood Shelter and takes you to Patrol Headquarters. Hike to the summit of Vail Mountain at an elevation of 11,250 feet (3,429 km) for beautiful views.

The amazing thing is that this is only a sampling of the activities that are available in the Vail area. So if you haven’t reserved your tickets already call Ben VanCamp (828) 252-0728 or email ben@amwhitewater.org to save your spot. Don’t miss out on the most memorable night in American Whitewater’s fifty years of history.
Ticket to Ride.

Admit One.
[Member of American Whitewater]

Sweethearts on the Truckee
Sunday, May 16, 2004

Ticket to Ride.

Admit One.
[Member of American Whitewater]

Sirens in Salida
Saturday, June 19, 2004

The watery women of Lotus Designs will be hostessing these gatherings of the ladies as a gift to the good folks at American Whitewater. Any woman who is comfortable rolling in class 3+ whitewater is encouraged to sign up for tips, tricks, and take-out talk.

Registration is free to Members of American Whitewater!

Donations to American Whitewater are greatly appreciated to help keep up their work of protecting and restoring whitewater rivers across the country.

Sweethearts on the Truckee / Reno NV - May 16, 2004
Sirens in Salida / Salida, CO - June 19, 2004

For more information call the AW Outreach Office at: 828-252-0728 OR visit www.americanwhitewater.org
Affiliate Clubs

AW’s Original Purpose by Michael Phelan

The Affiliate Club Program lies at the very heart of AW’s existence. AW’s original purpose since 1957 has been to distribute information among its Affiliate Clubs. AW’s relationships with local clubs have provided the backbone for the river conservation and access work it accomplishes. Over eighty-five clubs are now AW Club Affiliates and they are all doing great work on your behalf. If you don’t belong to a club consider joining one.

For 2004, AW is excited to announce several programs for AW Affiliate Clubs.

2nd Flowing Rivers Grant Program, sponsored by Clif Bar

BRAND NEW Affiliate Club section of the AW Journal dedicated to promoting your club and its events with the whitewater community at large. If your Affiliate Club would like to be one of the first to begin listing your club’s major events in the Journal, please email ben@amwhitewater.org for more details.

The AW Journal Club Affiliates by State:

Colorado
Arkansas Headwaters Recreations Area, Salida
Pueblo Paddlers, Pueblo West
Colorado White Water Association, Englewood
Gunnison Valley Paddle Club, Almont
WATER, Grant Junction

Georgia
Atlanta Whitewater Club, Atlanta
Georgia Canoeing Association, Atlanta
Georgia Tech Outdoor Recreation, Atlanta

Idaho
Idaho Rivers Sports, Boise
Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise

Illinois
Chicago Whitewater Association, Cary

Iowa
Iowa Whitewater Coalition, Des Moines

Indiana
Hoosier Canoe Club, Indianapolis

Kentucky
Viking Canoe Club, Louisville
Bluegrass Whitewater Association, Lexington

Maine
AMC Maine Chapter, Hallowell

Massachusetts
AMC Boston Chapter, Boston

Maryland
Greater Baltimore Canoe Club, Kingsville
Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers, Boonsboro
Calleva Paddling, Germantown

Minnesota
Boat Busters Anonymous, Stillwater

Missouri
Kansas City Whitewater Club, Raymore
Missouri Whitewater Association, St. Louis
Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Springfield
Ozark Wilderness Waterways, Kansas City
Streamtech, St. Louis

Montana
Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings

Nevada
Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

New Hampshire
Ledyard Canoe Club, Hanover
Merrimack Valley Paddlers, Merrimack
Mt. Washington Valley Paddlers, Franconia
Waterline, Manchester

New Jersey
Garden State Canoe Club, Millington
Hunterdon Canoe Club, Flemington
The Paddling Bares, Milltown

New Mexico
Adobe Whitewater Club, Albuquerque

New York
FLOW Paddlers Club, Rochester
Housatonic Canoe & Kayak Squad, Ossining
KCCNY, S. Hackensack
Town Tinker Tube Rentals, Phoenicia
Whitewater Challengers, Old Forge
Zoar Valley Paddling Club, Dunkirk

N. Carolina
Camp Carolina, Brevard
Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh
Triad River Runners, Winston-Salem
Western Carolina Paddlers, Asheville

Ohio
Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, Columbus
Keel Haulers Canoe Club, Westlake
Outdoor Adventure Club, Dayton
Toledo River Gang, Waterville

Oregon
Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club, Corvallis

Pennsylvania
AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Sugarloaf
Benscreek Canoe Club, Johnstown
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, Mechanicsburg
Holtwood Hooligans, Lititz
Philadelphia Canoe Club, Philadelphia
Three Rivers Paddling Club, Pittsburgh
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Lehigh Valley

South Carolina
Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

Tennessee
America Outdoors, Knoxville
Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts, Elizabethton
Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville
E. Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge
Eastman Hiking and Canoeing, Kingsport
McCallie School Outdoor Program, Chattanooga

Alaska
Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks

Alabama
Coosa Paddling Club, Montgomery
Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

Arizona
Desert Paddlers Club, Tempe
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Assoc, Flagstaff

Arkansas
Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

California
Gold Country Paddlers, Lotus
River Skills Center, Mt. Shasta
Sequoya Paddling Club, Windsor
Shasta Paddlers, Redding
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, San Jose
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Granada Hills

American Whitewater
May/June 2004 - 50th Anniversary Issue

www.americanwhitewater.org
Join American Whitewater as a Club Affiliate!

“10” Reasons to Join AW as an Affiliate Club

1. Receive the American Whitewater Journal, the oldest continually published whitewater magazine.
2. Join the list of Affiliate Clubs noted in each bi-monthly AW Journal.
4. Your Club’s members can become AW members for $25. A $10 savings!
5. Have technical expertise for your Club conservation and access committees ‘on tap.’
6. Have access to technical and onsite assistance for your Club’s event planning.
7. Enjoy VIP benefits for “Joint Members” at AW events.
8. Participate in exclusive AW Affiliate Club promotions.
9. Post Club information on the AW Website to help paddlers find you.
10. Eligible to apply for a spot in the AW 2004 River Stewardship Institute.

Our newest clubs...

- Idaho Watershed Association, Boise, ID
- Tennessee Scenic Watershed Association, Grimsley, TN
- Western Association To Enjoy Rivers, Grand Junction, CO
- Vancouver Kayak Club, Vancouver, BC (Canada)
- Northern Paddle and Trail, Rhinelander, WI

For more information, contact Michael Phelan at michael@amwhitewater.org

AW Outreach Office at 828-252-0728 or sign-up on-line at:
www.americanwhitewater.org/membership

Membership Notes

One of our top goals is to take better care of our existing members, which means making it easier for you to renew, find out what projects we’re working on, and better yet - get involved. As part of this effort, we’ll be using the journal more often to communicate with you. Below is a list of frequently asked questions regarding membership. Please take a look at the list and if you have anything further, check out our website or e-mail us! Correct contact information can be found below.

Question: I am moving, how do I notify American Whitewater of my new address?

Answer: You can sumit your address change three ways: 1) On our website (look under the ‘membership’ section), 2) By sending us an e-mail to membership@amwhitewater.org with the words ‘address change’ in the subject field or by 3) calling our office and letting us know of the change.

Question: I did notify American Whitewater of my address change, but haven’t received my journal, why?

Answer: Address changes must be made at lest two weeks before the issue is delivered. For example, for the September/August journal, we need your address change by August 20th.

Question: I’ve noticed a code on the label of my journal that reads ‘20030105’ next to my name - what does it mean?

Answer: That code is actually your expiration date. The ‘2003’ is the year you expire. The following ‘05’ is the journal issue you expire on and the final ‘01’ is the year you first became a member. We run 6 issues every year, so the number 05 correlates with the Sept/Oct issue (06 would be Nov/Dec and so on).

Question: I renewed my membership, but received another renewal notice in the mail!

Answer: I think this is the most frequently asked question. The main reason is your renewal wasn’t processed before the next round of renewals was sent. We go to great lengths to minimize this problem as much as possible, as it’s a waste of paper, time and money. Unfortunately, our printer needs time to prepare the renewal forms and we have to send him the names several weeks in advance. One way to solve this problem is to sign-up for e-renewals. Call or e-mail our office, or go to our website for more details on the program. If you have a suggestion, comment or question not covered here, please send it to:

Nick Lipkowski
Office Manager / American Whitewater
301-589-9453
nick@amwhitewater.org

www.americanwhitewater.org

Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Chattanooga
University of Tennessee Outing Club, Knoxville
Tennessee Scenic River Association, Grimsley

Texas
Bayou Whitewater Club, Houston

Utah
University of Utah, Salt Lake City
USU Kayak Club, Logan

Virginia
Blue Ridge River Runners, Lynch Station
Blue Ridge Voyager, McLean
Canoe Cruisers Association, Arlington
Coastal Canoists, Richmond
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Roanoke
Richmond Whitewater Club, Mechanicsville

Vermont
Vermont Paddlers Club, Jericho

Washington
W.W.U. Associated Students, Bellingham
The Mountaineers, Seattle
Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle
Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club, Spokane
Washington Kayak Club, Seattle

West Virginia
West Virginia Wildwater Association, Charleston

Wisconsin
Hoofers Outing Club, Madison
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter, La Crosse
Northern Paddle and Trail, Rhinelander

Wyoming
Jackson Hole Kayak Club, Jackson

Canada, British Columbia
Vancouver Kayak Club, Vancouver

AW Affiliate Club Events

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club
Reno River Festival / Reno, Nevada
May 14-16th
www.renoriverfestival.com

Truckee River Slalom and Wildwater Races
Reno, Nevada
May 22nd-23rd
775-324-5102 or 775-825-2855

American Whitewater 50th Anniversary Issue - May/June 2004
Guidelines for Contributors

Please read this carefully before sending us your articles and photos! This is a volunteer publication, please cooperate and help us out. Do not send us your material without a release—signed by all authors and photographers (attached).

If possible, articles should be submitted on a 3-1/2-inch computer disk. (Microsoft Word if possible—others accepted.) Please do not alter the margins or spacing parameters; use the standard default settings. Send a printed copy of the article as well.

Those without access to a word processor may submit their articles typed. Please double space.

Photos may be submitted as slides, black or white prints, or color prints or electronic, digital photos, 300 dpi tiffs or high res jpeg minimum 7x5”. Keep your originals and send us duplicates if possible; we cannot guarantee the safe return of your pictures. If you want us to return your pictures, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission.

The better the photos the better the reproduction. American Whitewater feature articles should relate to some aspect of whitewater boating. Please do not submit articles pertaining to sea kayaking or flat water.

If you are writing about a commonly paddled river, your story should be told from a unique perspective. Articles about difficult, infrequently paddled, or exotic rivers are given special consideration. But we are also interested in well written, unusual articles pertaining to Class II, III & IV rivers as well. Feature stories do not have to be about a specific river. Articles about paddling techniques, the river environment and river personalities are also accepted. Pieces that incorporate humor are especially welcome. Open boating and rafting stories are welcome.

Profanity should be used only when it is absolutely necessary to effectively tell a story; it is not our intent to offend our more sensitive members and readers.

Please check all facts carefully, particularly those regarding individuals, government agencies, and corporations involved in river access and environmental matters. You are legally responsible for the accuracy of such material. Make sure names are spelled correctly and river gradients and distances are correctly calculated.

Articles will be edited at the discretion of the editors to fit our format, length, and style. Expect to see changes in your article. If you don’t want us to edit your article, please don’t send it in! Because of our deadlines you will not be able to review the editorial changes made prior to publication.

American Whitewater is a nonprofit; the editors and contributors to American Whitewater are not reimbursed. On rare occasions, by prearrangement, professional writers receive a small honorarium when they submit stories at our request. Generally, our contributors do not expect payment, since most are members of AW, which is a volunteer conservation and safety organization.

Release For Publication

- I hereby release my work (literary, graphic or photographic) for publication in American Whitewater magazine.
- I understand that my work may be edited or cropped at the editors’ discretion.
- I understand that I will not be paid for my work.
- I accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information included in my submission. I have not libeled or slandered any individual, corporation or agency in this work.
- I understand that all or some of my work may be reprinted at some future date in an American Whitewater publication.
- I promise that this material has not been and will not soon be published by another magazine or publication and the rights to this material are clear and unrestricted.
- I understand that once this material is printed in American Whitewater it may be reprinted or reproduced in other publications if I wish, providing I notify them that it has already appeared in American Whitewater.

- I understand that the contents of American Whitewater Magazine, including my contribution, will be archived on the American Whitewater web site.

Signed ____________________________
Date ___________________________

This release must be signed by all the contributing author(s), photographer(s) and graphic artist(s).

Send your material to:
Journal Editor, 1434 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910

You can save a river forever... ...by planning a gift for American Whitewater

Your gift can:
- Secure permanent access to rivers for generations to come
- Protect and/or restore an endangered whitewater river
- Promote whitewater safety
- Support the world’s leading whitewater organization

Consider the following in your will:
- bequests
- insurance
- stocks
- trust
- real estate

Please direct inquiries to Ken Ransford, attorney and CPA, 970-963-6800, or by e-mail at ransford@vanion.com.
American Whitewater
50th Anniversary Issue - May/June 2004
The ‘D’ is for Dominance


Photo by Jed Selby, Paddler: Dee. Visit Dagger and Team D online at www.Dagger.com

AW Journal
1424 Fenwick Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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