

american whitewater

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**Wow... 35 foot high falls on
Tennessee's Bald River.**



american whitewater

Journal of the American Whitewater Affiliation

Volume XXXV, No.4

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Those Darned Kids???

The Extreme Team from Adventure Quest is back in action again! Their mentor, Peter Kennedy, sent these pictures of Adam Boyd, a 17 year old C-1 paddler, and Kyle Marinello, a 15 year old kayaker, running the 35 foot high falls on Tennessee's Bald River.

Last year the youthful members of the Extreme Team paddled Gore Canyon and the North Fork of the Payette at high water. They are headed west again this summer... to paddle God knows what! Kennedy says they plan to run the Narrows of the Green in early June as a "warm up"!



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Did You See That?

by Charlie Walbridge

LISTEN UP!

One month ago, after years of episodes of abject misery, I finally gave up and let a surgeon take a knife to my ear. To be more exact, it wasn't a scalpel that he used, it was a hammer and a chisel; and it wasn't so much my ear he was working on, it was my skull. But, why split hairs... especially when you can split skulls?!

I had put off having my ear/skull surgery for a long time because my ear difficulties were intermittent and because nearly everyone I met who had undergone the operation had a miserable time of it. But a week of scuba diving in Aruba followed by several rolls in the icy, February waters of the Upper Youghiogheny put an end to my procrastination.

The exostoses, or bony overgrowths, in my ear canal had finally gotten big enough to block my external ear almost completely. And any time the skin inside my ear got the least bit swollen, like after a day on the river, or even after a quick shower, I couldn't hear at all. Now, I'll admit there were times when this had its advantages, particularly at work. But, in general, not being able to hear what was being said to (and about) me more than 90% of the time wasn't a wonderful thing.

And my blocked ear didn't feel all that swift either. It continually popped and gurgled and sometimes it hurt like hell. It felt like it was full of crap; crap that gallons of peroxide and thousands of Q tips could never dislodge. (Believe me, I tried.) And so, on May 3, I surrendered to the OR table.

So, you are wondering, why is he disgusting me with this gruesome tale?

The reason is this. Bony exostoses develop and grow when cold water is repeatedly flushed in and out the ear canal. Like



when you are surfing a hole, or plunging over a ledge, or rolling. Exostoses blocking the ears are very rare in the general population, most of whom do not routinely submerge their heads in ice water. But exostoses are distressingly common among whitewater boaters. In fact, I know of at least a dozen canoeists and kayakers who have already had surgery for this. And many of my Eiver companions are starting to have symptoms and are clearly headed in that direction. To be blunt, if you boat a lot, it may be happening to you.

You might want to get your doctor to check your ears. And you might want to start wearing ear plugs or a neoprene skull cap... though I'm not sure whether either of these things will work.

Unfortunately, the surgery to correct this problem does not always go well.

One kayaker I know has had four operations on the same side, and he still boats with duct tape over his ear because of a secondary ear drum perforation. Another acquaintance has had three operations, two on one ear and one on the other.

Sometimes, surgeons have to approach the problem by nearly amputating the external ear — so that they can peel it forward, out of the way. Then they grind out the ear canal with a dental drill. Sometimes, they even have to remove pieces of skin from other parts of the body and graft them into the canal at the end of the operation. Gross, huh?

Several of those I met who underwent the surgery described multi-day hospital stays, excruciating post operative pain requiring large doses of drugs, and weeks of painful packing changes. Worst of all, they all had been forbidden to kayak for months and months — even though they were able to return to work within a few days. Now that's a truly pathetic situation!

To be truthful, it was that absolute prohibition against boating that kept me from having the operation a lot sooner.

That and all of the "encouragement" I received from my river friends. This came to a head the day before the operation when one of my compadres pointed out that an infection in my skull could rapidly spread to my brain. Another told me about the time he woke up in the middle of an operation, howling in pain. He said it took four people to hold him down! (To be honest, in fifteen years of medical practice, I have never seen this happen once.)

I went to the library at the hospital where I work and looked up the exostosis removal procedure in an ear surgery book. That was a big mistake. The pictures were not reassuring. In the accom-

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STAFF

Editor: Bob Gedekoh, Box 228, R.D.#4, Elizabeth, Pa. 15037

Emeritus Editor: Chris Koll

Graphic design: John K. Victor, 396 Church St., Chillicothe, OH 45601

Contributing writers: Pope Barrow, Howard Davidson, carla Garrison, Joe Greiner, Rich Hoffman, Jonathan Katz, John Weld, Mark White

Production Assistant: Teresa Augustin

Advertising Director: Phyllis Horowitz, Box 85, Phoenicia, New York 12464 (914) 688-5569

Safety: Charlie Walbridge

Conservation: Rich Bowers, 1430 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910 Phone (301) 589-9453 Fax (301) 589-6121

Missing Copies and Address Changes: Contact Phyllis Horowitz

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panying text, the author made a big point about how close the facial nerve is to the surgical site. One slip and... you don't really want to know.

I mentioned the facial nerve to my doctor as he was wheeling me into the OR. He is one of the country's most respected head and neck surgeons; he has spent his entire professional career successfully negotiating the vicinity of the facial nerve. I was pretty sure he knew where it was, but I figured, what the hell, a last minute reminder couldn't hurt. He gave me quite an ugly look!

Well, to make a long story short, I think I got off lucky.

From the time I came out of the anesthetic I never had any discomfort. I drove home a few hours later and worked the next day. There were no stitches and no skin grafts. In fact, you couldn't see that any work had been done at all. My surgeon, who is very, very good, had managed to do the procedure through the canal using a microscope and a tiny incision. A tiny incision and, one of the scrub nurses told me later, a great big hammer and chisel!

She said, "He stuck that chisel in your ear, whacked it with that hammer, and pulled out a hell of a chunk of bone." It apparently was a delicate procedure.

Of course, after the operation there was packing in my ear and the surgeon admonished me to keep it absolutely dry. And I was a good, obedient patient... for three whole days!

Then I got wind of a release on the Upper Yough on my day off and I got to thinking. Surely, there had to be some way to keep my ear dry while paddling, if I was careful and didn't flip.

I won't bore you with the details of all the things I tried; I'll just tell you the end result. First, I put more packing and cotton in my ear. Then, I covered it with duct tape. Then I pulled a size eight surgical glove over my head. Next I donned a swimming cap and, finally, my helmet.

This last step was accomplished quickly, right at the put in, since I sensed that I looked a trifle ridiculous with a latex glove on my head. One of my friends pointed out that the fingers sticking up made me look like a chicken. He could have at least used the word "rooster".

On the river that day a number of people looked at me quizzically and asked if I had a condom on my noggin. I explained that I had tried that, but the ones that I use were much too large to fit snugly over my head. (It's amazing what you can get away with when you censor your own material!)

At any rate, when I came off the Upper Yough, my ear was dry. It felt like my head had been in a drill press, but my ear was dry! I told myself that as long as I stuck to easy and familiar rivers at low water, I could continue kayaking.

"He stuck that chisel in your ear, whacked it with that hammer, and pulled out a hell of a chunk of bone." It was apparently a delicate procedure.


A week later my friend Richie called and told me that the Lower Meadow was running at 750 cfs. Admittedly, not an easy river... but at a relatively low level. I was tempted. Would my system withstand that challenge? I decided to press my luck. After all, what were the odds that I would get water in my ear on the class V Lower Meadow?(I imagine that those of you who boat with me on a regular basis are laughing pretty loud now.)

When we got to the put-in we discovered that the Meadow had risen to over 1100 cfs and that our unavoidable paddle out on the Gauley would be at close to 4000 cfs. At this point even my confidence wavered. I knew damned well that somewhere or other, before the day was over, I was a going to get trashed. Probably more than once.

So did I do the prudent thing and stay off the river?

Hell, no! I just pulled a second glove over my head.


It was an interesting day. I carried a few things, but so did everyone else. For the most part I stayed to the back of the group, scrutinizing my companions' routes through each rapid. Then I chose



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the one that looked to be the "driest." In the back of my mind I kept thinking about how foolish I was going to feel if I wound up with an infection and a secondary abscess in my brain. But then I remembered that people with brain abscesses don't feel anything, at least for long, because they wind up dead!

Miraculously, at the end of the day when I stripped off all the paraphernalia, the inner layer was still dry! (Okay, I'll admit it... maybe it was a little damp.) But it wasn't **wet**.

It didn't stay quite that dry a week later on the Shaver's Fork of the Cheat; my head went under briefly at the base of the falls. But after all, that was almost three weeks after the surgery!

Several days ago I went back for my post op checkup. All I can say is that sometimes God takes care of fools. My surgeon said my ear was healing fine, and that I could start to let a little water trickle into it.

I suppose he meant that it was okay to take a shower, or maybe to take a brief walk in the rain. Needless to say I didn't tell him about the Upper Yough or the Lower Meadow or the Great Falls of the Cheat. I don't believe that he'd have dealt

too well with that.

And, my ear seems to be quite a bit better now. There is still some swelling in the canal, but most of the time I can hear just fine.

I'm just wondering how long its going to be before I have to get the other one done.

And I'm also starting to wonder whether my patients listen to me as "well" as I listened to my surgeon.

I certainly hope not!

Bob Gedekoh



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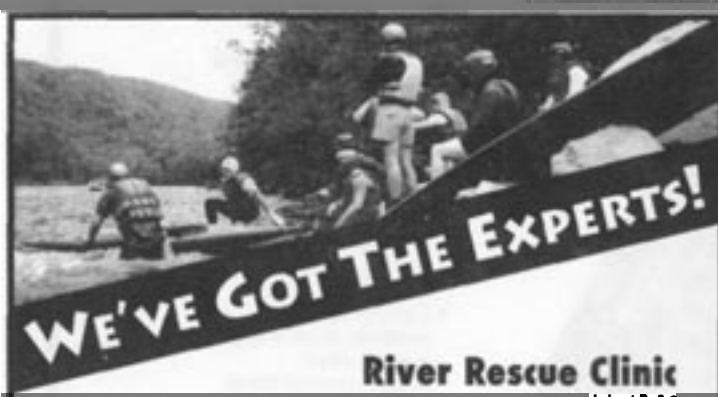
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BABY TAINT?

Dear AWA Editor,

So Carla wants a name for her offspring? Call the little bugger "Taint" cause it taint sasquatch and it taint human.

I really don't want my name associated with Carla, so just call me...

Po' Boy from the Show-Me State

Editor's note: I am providing Carla with a list of all the baby suggested by our readers. Knowing her, I'm sure she will make a discriminating, tasteful choice!

A MASTER CHECKS IN

Yo Bob,

Lotsa good stuff in the Cheat issue. The strong cautions in the Upper B article should be taken seriously, in spite of the fact that Jeff recently ran it standing up in his Thrillseeker -after warming up on Wonder Falls, Big Splat and such. He's really become an "upstanding" member of the whitewater community now. Anyone who runs up there strives to keep a lid on things, and yet there have been many "incidents" where big dogs got bit.

I wanted to add one of my favorite old attainments from my guiding days in the early seventies. There's a perfectly good (5.10) attainment on attainers left of Swimmers - breaking out of the eddy straight up to the rock. The tough (5.12) attainment there starts by surfing the little (6") wave to the right of that eddy and then paddling straight up to the rock from there - it hurts. There's also a famous attainment up the attainer's left of the last pitch of Decision on the Cheat, (around 3'). Attaining is great sport and shouldn't be underestimated for its excellence.

I couldn't resist coming up with a name suggestion for Carla and Patook's fuzzy little bundle of - whatever. Around here the fruit of their loins could become a respected raft guide and might be referred to as "Gnarla Darlin'". With enough discipline from Carla I think Patook could become quite a cunning linguist. But you can't buck Nature and we can only hope Carla learns the refinements Patook brings to their union. Just remember guys, there's no limit to how lucky you can get!

Deep in the hills,
Jim Snyder
Albright, WV

EDITOR'S NOTE: If I have to tell you who Jim Snyder is, you're reading the wrong magazine!

Jim was one of several expert boaters who expressed some concern about my article on the Upper Blackwater river in the March/April issue. While they all seemed to like the article in general- at least they were polite enough to say they did- they asked me to emphasize, once again, that the Upper Blackwater is a very difficult, cutting edge run. Comparable to the Narrows of the Green, it is hard to catch at the right level, and it becomes even more dangerous when it is too high or too low. The Upper Blackwater should be paddled only by teams of expert boaters.

Access to and from the river is not easy... those who do not know the river are strongly advised to make their first trip with someone who does. The state park officials have agreed to allow boaters to enter the Upper Blackwater on river left, below the falls. Do not put in from the tourist viewing area on river right!

RATINGS BY MCEWAN

Dear Editor,

I read with pleasure and appreciation both Joe Greiner's letter in the Jan./Feb. issue, and Bob Gedekoh and Charlie Walbridges' comments in the March/April issue, all on the subject of river classification. Pleasure because it's always fun to follow a controversy. (Especially when you're not in the middle of it.) And appreciation because both sides are dealing intelligently with a difficult issue.

As a respite from all this intelligence, I thought you would like to be let in on the one real rating system, based on the only provably balanced and rational mind in existence, i.e., mine. We'll call it the Jamie McEwan Personal River Classification Scale.

Class I: I didn't notice any whitewater.

Class II: I had to put my skirt on.

Class III: Hard enough to be fun.

Class IV: I am forced to do eddy turns and look over my shoulder in order to scout.

Class V: I have to get out of my boat to scout.

Class VI: I carry.

(Note that The JMPCRS assumes that 1) I am first down, or alone, and 2) I have never run the river before.)

This handy system agrees remarkably well with most guidebooks. Of course, I realize that I can't be taken along on all river trips, so that there is some point in getting such artificial and subjective ratings as the AWA's to agree with the one real system.

In the interests of this agreement, I have to say that I go along with Messrs. Gedekoh and Walbridge. The key words in the AWA code are all subjective - "long," "complex," "unavoidable," "very violent" - and I think have to be interpreted from the point of view of the original writers (1959), partly because so many years of ratings went on following their definitions. To them, Pillow Rock is long, and Iron Ring is extremely long.

Short, to those guys, meant a single drop and its run-out. Sure, there's a ratings problem: the Gauley is regularly run in downriver boats, even by downriver intermediates like me, while you wouldn't catch anyone trying the Toreaue of the Jacques Cartier in a DR boat. The expansion of class V is an excellent solution, long overdue. Let's call Pillow Rock and Iron Ring 5.0's, the harder Gauley rapids 5.1's, the Upper Yough 5.1 and 5.2, and get going from there.

What people can do once they have a river memorized is largely irrelevant. I think that ratings should always be aimed at the first-timer, running first. And river-runners should be careful not to call themselves class V boaters just because they can follow someone down class V rapids. It's largely river-reading ability and judgment that makes the expert.

Of course, the JMPCRS will have to be updated to handle the new ratings. I propose putting "I carry" at about 5.5, and reserving class VI for "I refuse to hold the throw rope or even to watch." But I'm sure it can use some further refining.

I'll work on it.

Jamie McEwan
akeville, CT

EDITOR'S NOTE: If I have to tell you who Jamie McEwan is, you're reading the wrong magazine!

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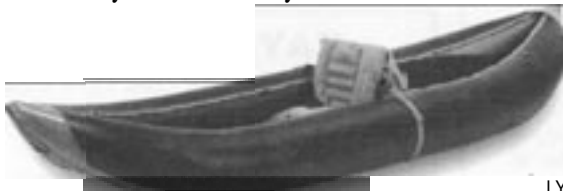
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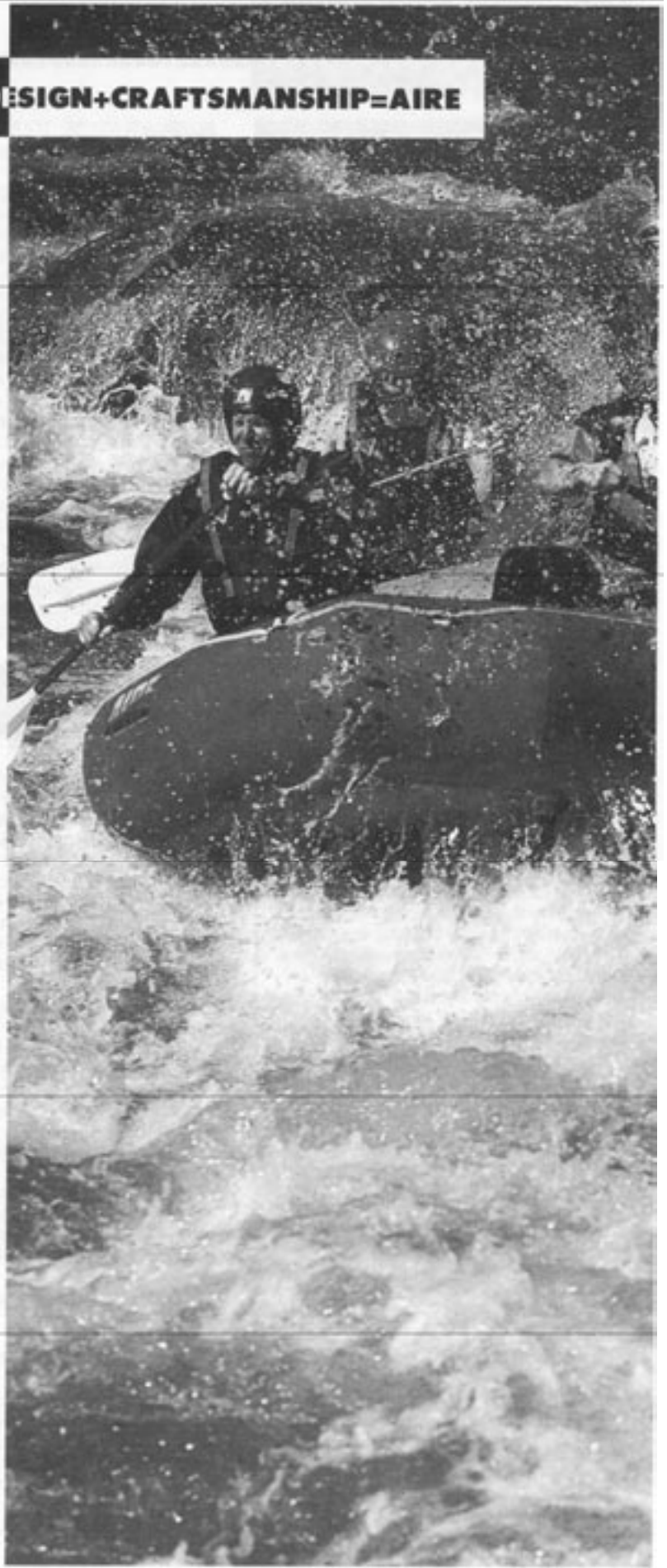
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A Reply to "The Ratings Game"

I agree with all that Bob Gedekoh said about Ratings, Ego, etc. in the March/April Edition of American Whitewater.

The class A-IV rating should stay the same. But for class V-VI water...

There could be a parallel system between V and VI modeled after the climbers' system. Ratings, for example, might be a V.1 or a VI.5. Here, the decimal rating indicates the technical degree of difficulty or precision necessary to "make the moves" (a boat might be TOO WIDE in some extreme instances). No difference between the V or VI here. The difference is that a class VI still indicates risk of life. Lines through rapids (at runnable levels) should be rated separately.

The ratings system might read something like this:

V. Extremely difficult. Scouting Mandatory. Rescue nearly impossible. Special equipment might be necessary to handle rapid. Go to Chart 2 for degree of severity.

VI. All of Class V, plus, absolute risk of life. Go to Chart 2 for degree of severity.

Chart 2

The value indicated below will be located in the decimal place of all class V and VI rapids.

Rating Description

.0 — A line through the rapid is obvious. The right setup is all that is needed to get through the rapid. (A floater).

.1 — Easy, the right setup, plus class 1 paddling skills, are all that is needed to get through the rapid.

.2 etc...

Maybe the technical maneuvering required between class I to IV will be reflected in the first 4 ratings? I don't know. This is where I stop thinking about it and run it!

Later,
Mark Hei,
Beltsville, MD

Decorum and Consideration on the Blackwater

Dear Editor:

On Memorial Day weekend I had a long conversation with a heckuva nice fellow on his doorstep in Hendricks, WV. Hendricks is the take-out for the famed Lower Blackwater. He asked that I spread the following message to my paddling friends.

The residents of Hendricks like paddlers, enjoy watching them come through, but take great offense to people who undress out in the open. They ask that boaters change back in the woods, or in their vehicles, or anywhere else where they can't be seen. That is all they ask.

The land around the Route 72 bridge take-out is entirely private and could easily be closed if we offend the wrong person. It is over two long, mostly flat miles to the park in Parsons, the first available public take-out downstream. This is an access issue that we do not need the AWA to fight. It is in each of our hands.

So, fellow boaters, please comply with this fellow's suggestion and see to it that your friends do to.

Ed Gertler
Silver Spring, MD

Editors's reply: Thanks for this timely reminder. This is not just an issue on the Blackwater, but on rivers all over the country. A lot of "access problems" could be avoided if boaters just used some common sense and considered the sensitivities of the locals.



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Lee Belknap
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Risa Shimoda Callaway
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Easley, SC 29641

Tom Christopher
931 Union Street Rear
Leominster, MA 01453

Brooke Drury
6049 34th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Bob Gedekoh
Box 228, RD 4
Elizabeth, PA 15037

Susan Wilson
14 Norwood Ave.
Asheville, NC 28804

Bob Gianville
66 Deer Run
Glenwood, NY 14069

Joe Greiner
404 Stacy Street
Raleigh, NC 27607

Diana Holloran
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Mac Thornton
228-1/2 12th Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Barry Tuscano
RD 1, Box 32
Bolivar, PA 15923

Charlie Walbridge
230 Penlyn Pike
Penlyn, PA 19422

AWA OFFICERS

President: Risa Shimoda Callaway
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AWA STAFF

Phyllis B. Horowitz, Executive Director
P.O. Box 85
Phoenicia, NY 12464
(914) 688-5569
Rich Bowers, Conservation Program Director
Richard Hoffman, Access Program Director
1430 Fenwick Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910
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RIVER ACCESS: To assure public access to whitewater rivers pursuant to the guidelines published in its official Access Policy, AWA 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, (AWA) provides information and education about whitewater rivers, boating safety, technique and equipment.

SAFETY: AWA 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 AWA Whitewater Safety Code.

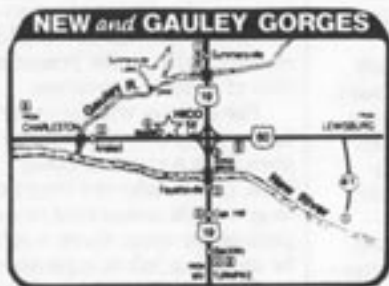
EVENTS: AWA organizes sporting events, contests and festivals to raise funds for river conservation, including the Ocoee Whitewater Rodeo in Tennessee, the Gauley River Festival in West Virginia (the largest gathering of whitewater boaters in the nation), the Arkansas River Festival in Colorado, the Kennebec Festival in Maine and the Deerfield Festival in Massachusetts.

AWA was incorporated under Missouri non-profit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at P.O. Box 85, Phoenicia, NY 12464, (914) 688-5569. AWA is tax exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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River Update in Costa Rica

Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Juliet **Kastoroff** of Endless River Adventures to bring attention to the current state of the rivers in Costa Rica. According to Juliet "...due to the specialty trips we run, Endless River Adventures has economic interest in the rivers of Costa Rica. But our interest far exceeds any economics; it is the bottom line that before we can say 'dam,' we are going to lose some of the greatest rivers in the world." Read on for an update on the situation.

In December of 1993, we stood on a street corner in Turrialba, Costa Rica, reading a copy of a local newspaper. The front page story was about the \$320 Million dollar loan being given to Costa Rica by the International Loan Institutions. The money was to be used to construct a dam on the Upper Reventazon river, above Angostura.

A week later, I stood in the San Jose Airport speaking with a fellow U.S. guide about the dam on the Reventazon. His thought was "Hey, I think it's great, we will have guaranteed water releases on the river."

Another day, I listened to a Costa Rican raft guide rationalize, "There are plenty of rivers up north once the ones around Turrialba are gone."

Whether Americans are looking for that guaranteed water release or Costa Ricans are convinced that there will always be rivers to replace the ones that are disappearing, we are all a step behind. From the scarce information available publicly, the following is the latest status of rivers in Costa Rica:

■ In two years there will no longer be a run on the lower end of the Upper Reventazon and on three

quarters of the Middle Reventazon as a result of the dam being currently constructed.

■ A dam project is presently going on the Rio Balsas and on the Rio Toro.

■ In 1995, a dam is scheduled to begin on the San Lorenzo; the year after that, the Penas Blancas.

The dam on the Lower Pacuare is now being reshuffled high on the priority List for funding. And in the future, they will target a dam for the Lower Reventazon to tie into the dam on the Pacuare, as well as a dam on the Upper Pacuare.

Why a dam on the Upper Reventazon when the river is already controlled by the Cachie Dam Project? Because the Cachie project is already so silted that it has a life expectancy of less than ten years. The cause is over-logging above the Cachie project and the resulting, extensive topsoil runoff. Anyone who has had the pleasure to paddle any of the three great sections of the Reventazon is familiar with the silt-filled waters.

Presently, ninety-five percent of Costa Ricans have electricity. The hydroelectric projects being constructed will be used to sell electricity to the neighboring countries of Nicaragua, Panama and Mexico. An ambitious economic plan for a country struggling with a stifling national debt. Unfortunately, Nicaragua still has a long standing power-generation debt with Costa Rica that has never been repaid. For the countries buying the power from Costa Rica, it is much less expensive to buy electricity from their neighbors than build their own dams and destroy their own natural resources.

The electric company in

Besides the destruction (or planned destruction) of some of the world's most outstanding whitewater rivers by dams (Bio-Bio, Futaleufu, Reventazon) — a recent report by the Utility Data Institute finds that 23 percent of the world's future generating capacity (between 1994 and 2003) will come from hydropower. The report also predicted decreased hydropower growth in North America, indicating that development in other countries will be making up a large part of this growth.

These predictions are an increase of approximately 15 percent from UDI's 10-year forecast released just last year. The energy breakdown is as follows: 31 percent will be generated by coal fired plants, 19 percent gas fired, 23 percent hydropower, 10 percent nuclear, and the rest from other fuels or technologies. For more information, contact AWA Hydro staff at (301) 589-9453.

Costa Rica uses the same line that has become the common rationalization around the world: What are a few recreational whitewater enthusiasts to the future financial potential of hydroelectric projects?

In Costa Rica, the whitewater rafting business sends over 50,000 customers down the rivers a year. The average trip down the Pacuare River, for example, costs \$75. Aside from the company owners, the raft guides, other employees, T-shirt and sandal vendors, hotels and restaurants all share in this business.

International shalom racers have been using Costa Rica, and specifically Turrialba, as a winter training ground for the past three years.

Our company alone took ninety-five kayakers to Costa Rica in 1994. The small town of Turrialba benefited from over \$60,000 worth of business, as did our Costa Rican driver and the other businesses we patronized. Multiply this by the other commercial outfitters and private paddlers that flock to Costa Rica and whitewater is good economics.

What is the whitewater community in Costa Rica doing to try and work against this insatiable appetite for hydroelectric progress? They do not seem to be able to maintain any organized effort to keep on top of the issues.

What is the international paddling community doing?

Little more. And unfortunately, our hands are tied until there is a request made for us to actively participate in a movement against the dams. That request has not been made.

But the international community — particularly any paddler or rafter who has ever shared the unique beauty of a river in Costa Rica, can do something. Letters can be written to the Minister of Tourism of Costa Rica. These Letters will help demonstrate the economic viability of tourism. The idea can be voiced that we are not against the development of Costa Rica, but that we favor positive development that does not destroy some of their most valuable resources — their rivers. Letters can also be sent to environmental groups involved internationally in the preservation of natural resources.

For anyone who has ever taken away a special experience from a river in Costa Rica, please take the time now to give back something in exchange. Or soon, there won't be anything left to experience.

Please write to the following addresses:

Sr. Presidente Jose
Marin Figueres Olsen
Casa Presidencial
Zappotte
San Jose, Costa Rica

Carlos Rosch
Ministro del Turismo
Instituto Costarricense de
Turismo
San Jose, Costa Rica

Hydropower Updates

Forest Service Plans for Hydro Review

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has released proposed changes in its procedures for the handling of hydropower dams within forest boundaries. Currently, there are more than 240 (FERC licensed or exempt) dams on USFS lands. AWA is currently examining proposed changes in dams within forest boundaries on California's Kern and Washington's White Salmon rivers.

Copies of these changes are available by calling J. Kenneth Myers, Lands Staff, USFS at (202) 205-1248. Comments are due by July 21 and should be sent to Director of Lands (2770), 4th Floor, South Wing, Auditors Bldg., Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090.

AWA's preliminary concerns with these changes are:

1) Changes state that hydropower is now an appropriate use of USFS land. And while the Forest Service restates its authority to mandate **instream** flows over FERC recommendations, they now address USFS "obligation to balance resource needs in arriving at decisions related to hydropower development."

Unless changes also address more stringent methodology in balancing non-power decisions (i.e. recreation), this could provide stronger incentives for new dams and less mitigation of relicensed dams on USFS lands.

2) "The proposed policy would recognize that such projects have been part of the environment for 50 years or more and that the Forest Service should not attempt, by virtue of its conditioning authority, to recreate the **pre-license** environment."

This is inconsistent with AWA and other environmental interests' attempts to re-

form **FERC's** definition of a base-line environment. If enacted, this could provide much weaker protection, especially on USFS Rivers where existing dams have been grandfathered into existing Wild and Scenic (**W&S**) legislation (such as the Kern and White Salmon).

On the positive side, these changes better define applicant responsibility for meeting recreational needs, and propose that automatic **W&S** eligibility studies must be completed within 18 months for all rivers not previously considered for protection under this act.

If found suitable under **W&S**, the river would be protected from development for three years while Congress decides whether to include it under permanent **W&S** designation.

Pit River

AWA and the Shasta Paddlers have just begun working on a whitewater study for **PG&E's** Pit No. 1 project in Northern California. **WRC** Environmental of Sacramento is conducting the study, along with boating interests. The first tests were started in late May. Flows to be studied range from approximately 1100 to 3000 cfs.

The Pit 1 Project controls the Pit River from its confluence with the Fall River until the take-out at the Route 299 bridge (some 10 miles of Class IV-V whitewater, including Fall River Falls).

Perhaps more importantly, FERC is requiring that this Pit 1 study address the **cumulative** affects of other **PG&E** dams on the Pit river, downstream to Shasta Lake. Pit 6, 7 and 8 are up for relicensing in



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2011. Pit 3, 4, and 5, as well as two projects on Hat Creek, are also scheduled for relicensing and all contain outstanding whitewater resources.

Cispus River

The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), AWA, Rivers Council of Washington, American Rivers and other river interests were able to defeat a new hydro project proposed for the Cispus River in Washington State.

In April 1995, the state Pollution Control Hearings Board issued an oral ruling which upheld the DOE's establishment of minimum flows for this river. This ruling was based on the earlier "Tacoma" decision, which empowered states to determine minimum flows and the affects of flows on water quality. Previously, this determination could only be decided by FERC. (See Inside-the-

Beltway for more information).

More importantly for whitewater boaters and other river recreationists, this ruling found that "...the federal and state water quality standards adopted pursuant to the United States Clean Water Act and the Washington Water Pollution Control Act allow for and support base flows or minimum flows for recreation." In short, states can refuse to issue 401 certificates if a proposed project would eliminate recreational values.

While recreational benefits were expressly listed in the Tacoma decision, this was the first time that such benefits were upheld.

This ruling is also important because it states that "the Board concludes that navigational values include recreation and specifically recreational boating." This decision officially includes recreation (including boating) under the "all-encompassing meaning of navigation."

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Cumberland Plateau River Conservation Issues

by Chuck Estes

Editors Note: The Cumberland Plateau--a geological province that includes southeast Kentucky, east-central Tennessee and north-eastern Alabama -- has spectacular whitewater rivers, from cutting edge 800 feet/mile creeks to tranquil floats. As described by Chuck Estes, conservation guru of the East Tennessee Whitewater Club, these rivers face an uncertain future.

1. Dams on the Big South Fork and Obed Watersheds

Calls for increased development have increased water demands and -- accordingly -- dam construction on the Plateau. A recent TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) study of the Plateau shows that approximately 1800 reservoirs were constructed in the last six years -- as compared to 1100 in the 45 years prior to that. The most recent concern is a proposed dam and its associated 100 acre reservoir on the upper Clear Creek, a tributary to the Wild and Scenic Obed-Emory river system. While the dam is outside the boundary of the Obed River system, the dam will impact both the water quantity and quality for Clear Creek and the Obed River.

The Rural Economic and Community Development Agency (the federal agency sponsoring the project), has agreed to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with assistance from TVA. The EIS will evaluate alternative methods of water supply (besides new dam/reservoir construction) including: construction of pipelines to existing reservoirs, more efficient use of existing water supplies (e.g. fixing leaks, upgrading distribution grids, improving treatment plants) and creation of a regional water-planning body to coordinate or replace separate utility districts. In order to plan for the long-term future of the plateau, the EIS should be developed with a 30-50 year outlook.

Comments concerning the EIS should be sent to:

Jack L. Davis
Manager, Water Resources Projects
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

2. Caney Fork River Threatened

Scotts Gulf is a 15,000-acre tract of land on the Caney Fork River near Sparta, TN that contains the upper Caney Fork River (Class IV-V). The Caney Fork is not well known because it is remote and has difficult access, but it has many ledges and semi-blind rapids that are reminiscent of the Watauga river. The tract of land features a canyon with spectacular overlooks, numerous waterfalls and caves and a mature hardwood forest.

While local citizens have been trying to protect this area for several years, Doyle Lumber Company of Michigan is trying to buy the tract from Bridgestone Tire and Rubber Company, the current owner. (Bridgestone is asking 12 million dollars for the tract!) Doyle Lumber Company plans to build a hunting lodge and import non-native game species for its exclusive hunting club. Public access would be restricted if the area is managed as a hunting club. Parts of the forest could also be intensively logged.

A group of concerned locals and organizations are supporting an effort to purchase the property and designate it a state Wilderness Recreation Area, which would provide more restrictions on use than a state park but less restrictions than a natural area. Bridgestone should be urged to allow time for the public to preserve the area before closing the deal. All donations are welcome. Please write to:

Mr. Masatoshi Ono, President
Bridgestone Inc.
50 Century Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37214

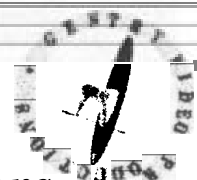
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3. Sequatchie Valley Pump-Storage Project

Armstrong Energy Resources is proposing construction of a pump-storage electrical generating system on both sides of the Sequatchie Valley. One of the streams potentially targeted for the pump-storage reservoirs is Big Brush Creek on the western flank of the Sequatchie Valley. It is a Class V creek which has only been paddled in the last 5 years or so. Big Brush is typical of the steep creeks around the Chattanooga area with many classic drops and tight boulder gardens.

In mid-December 1994, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted Armstrong Energy the preliminary three-year permit for studying the feasibility of the pump-storage project. Large water storage basins, each one several hundreds of acres, would be excavated at the top and bottom of the valley. Gravity flow would generate electricity during high-demand periods; water would be pumped from the bottom to the top reservoir at night when the demand is low, an inefficient way to produce power.

New Generation Procedures For Upper Yough

This summer, probably starting June 1, there will be new procedures for Upper Yough whitewater flows. The Maryland DNR is requiring the power company, PENELEC, to release water at specific times that will theoretically enhance the trout fishery from Hoyes Run (the power plant) to Sang Run (the put-in). During low flows and hot weather, water will be released when temperature readings and forecasts predict the water to go above the lethal temperature for trout at Sang Run. The good news is that during hot, dry summers there will be more two hour generation than in past years, including some releases on weekend days. The bad news is that these releases will be announced only on the day of the release, not during the weekly forecast for normal power generation. Whitewater releases (i.e. three hours of generation) will continue to occur on Friday, Monday and the first Saturday of the month — provided the lake does not get too low from the cooling releases and minimum flow releases.

History Lesson

DNR investigations on keeping the river cooler for trout started in 1987, during the dam relicensing process by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In 1990, FERC decided the project no longer needed a federal license and the State of Maryland moved in. AWA wrote and called the Maryland DNR repeatedly for two years, asking for a consultation meeting. Finally, we were invited to a meeting and presented with a thick document, in which there was no mention of these cooling releases

for trout. At the meeting, AWA was told that the boaters interest had been taken care of, and we were not allowed to ask questions about the proposed trout fishery. Instead, we were told to file comments in an upcoming public information hearing.

AWA filed extensive comments and asked lots of questions. At the time, the DNR still did not have a management plan for the Yough fishery and the cooling releases. AWA made some progress through this information hearing process: in particular, Mondays were added as scheduled whitewater releases.

However, without responding to questions and without a

plan for cooling releases, DNR illegally issued the permit for the power plant. In turn, AWA and the outfitters (represented by Dave Bassage of North American) filed legal papers and asked for a hearing. The hearing officer temporarily put aside our hearing request because AWA was now considered to be "involved in developing a plan" for cooling flows.

Finally, Some Consultation & Negotiations

With money, lawyers and lots of volunteer time from Steve Taylor, Pope Barrow and Dave Bassage, AWA got the consultation it had asked for in the beginning. Later, it took a memorandum of understanding to get DNR to fully communicate with AWA and the outfitters. However, even with this communication, determining a procedure for the cooling flows has not been easy because these flows are a

complex and unique experiment. During dry summers, there is simply not enough water to have releases everyday to keep the trout cool. The procedure for cooling flows determines which days to release water based on a prediction of maximum water temperature at Sang Run. Historical weather and water temperature data were analyzed to predict water temperature. Due to the difficulty of developing such a procedure — understandable since it is technically complex and has never been attempted elsewhere — the DNR consultant recently issued his fourth revised report. In the last revision, AWA consultant Steve Taylor was allowed to work directly with the DNR consultant.

The proposed procedures for cooling flows are as follows: at 7:00 a.m., weather data is forecast for Elkins, West Virginia; water temperature is measured at Sang Run; and river level is measured at Oakland. These data are collected by a computer and used to estimate the maximum stream temperature for the day. If this estimated value is above a certain temperature, a two hour cooling release starts at 11:00 a.m. and the tape recording is updated at

approximately 7:15 a.m. If there is no scheduled release, correspondingly, the process is repeated at 9:00 a.m. If no release is scheduled based on the 9:00 a.m. readings, a corresponding process is repeated at 11:00 a.m. If there is a scheduled release based on the 11:00 a.m. readings, the cooling release starts at 12:30 p.m., instead of 11:00 a.m. With no scheduled cooling releases, the process continues with 12:00, 2 and 3 p.m. readings, but a release from these readings are only one-hour instead of two-hours. Only the 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. readings produce two-hour releases, which can be used for boating. It is estimated that 66 percent of the cooling releases will be two hour releases.

At each prediction time, there is a different equation for predicting maximum water temperature. However, in general, the maximum air temperature from the Elkins Weather Service is the major factor in predicting maximum water temperature at Sang Run for the morning readings (i.e. 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00).

In simple terms, cooling flows are needed when its predicted to get hot with clear skies (i.e. sunlight heats the water and the air). Thus, boaters will be able to somewhat predict cooling releases based on weekly weather forecasts of hot weather.

How hot does it have to be?

When the river is low (2.3 or lower at the Friendsville gauge with no release) and skies are clear, there is a small probability of a two hour cooling release when the forecasted maximum air temperature for Elkins, WV is 77 degrees. With higher forecasted maximum air temperature, the probability increases when the maximum air temperature is forecasted to be 86 or more.

Air temperatures in Morgantown are generally five degrees higher than Elkins. A rule of thumb for the DC area is 10 degrees higher than Elkins.

For the techno-weenies, see sidebar and figure A for more details.

Future considerations

PENELEC has been open to suggestions about how to improve notification of releases and wants to hear our suggestions. PENELEC is planning to look at a fully automated notification system,

but for the time being will continue with the voice recordings. Any comments, suggestions or questions concerning notification and or any other matter can be forwarded to Steve Taylor (11521 Glen Road, Potomac, MD 20854 or 301-299-8426). Let us know your experiences in trying to use cooling releases for boating. There are still some

unresolved issues. At present, the decision to cancel Monday and Saturday whitewater releases when the lake gets low is vague and unjustified. Now that there are estimates of water usage from cooling releases, it is possible to better model lake management, and AWA will examine this issue. In addition, AWA still has a request for a hearing to en-



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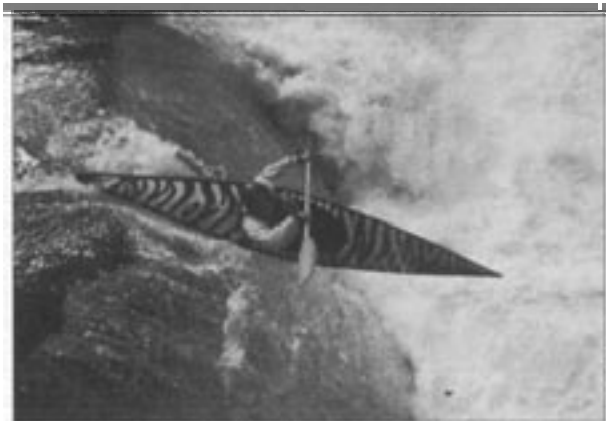
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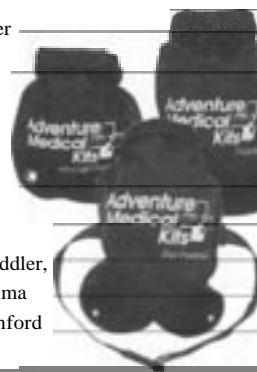
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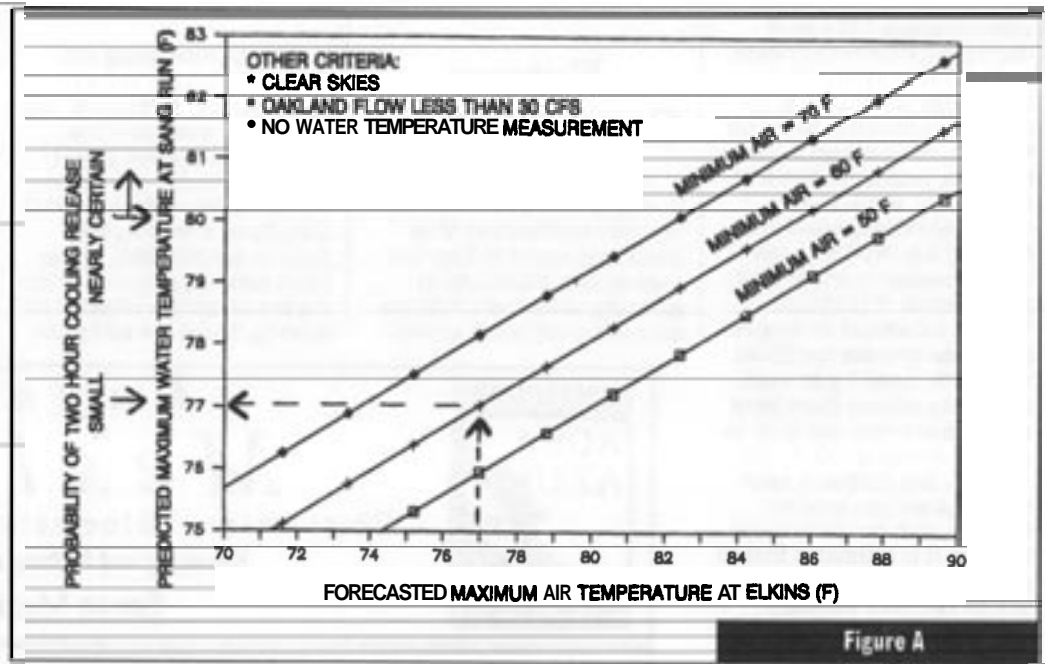
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CONSERVATION

sure that all economic and environmental issues are addressed.

Some of you who know the river between Hoyes and Sang Run might ask why DNR thinks it can establish any sign cant fishery in this very wide and very shallow section of the river. (Since the river is wide and shallow, it heats up to above the lethal temperature for trout and is therefore poor fish habitat.) In its written comments, AWA has pointed out this fact and other environmental issues. We also asked for estimates of expected trout populations and the resulting benefits (i.e. tourism) from such a fishery. DNR has not responded to these questions and, we recently learned, has no intention of formally responding in the future. Unfortunately, the law does not require DNR to respond to all questions and issues raised by the public information process. DNR has repeatedly refused to address certain economic and environmental is-



issues given to DNR per their request for public comments. With such unresponsiveness, should it be any surprise that in certain areas of the state the DNR is hated by the locals?

FOR THE TECHNO-WEENIES

How Hot Does It Have to Be For A 2 Hour Release?

For low river flows (less than 30 cfs at Oakland), clear skies and no water temperature measurements, Figure A shows predicted maximum water temperature at Sang Run versus the forecasted maximum and minimum air temperature at Elkins. For example, as designated on Figure A, for a forecasted maximum air temperature of 77 degrees F and forecasted minimum air temperature of 60 degrees F, the predicted maximum water temperature at Sang Run is 77 degrees F. (A maximum water temperature of 77 degrees F is the lethal temperature for trout.) The 77 degree prediction from Figure A means there is a small probability of a cooling release because the complete procedure also involves the measured water temperature at Sang Run and the forecasted cloud cover. With a higher predicted water temperature from Figure A, the higher the probability of a cooling release. With a predicted water temperature of 80 degrees F or more from Figure A, it is nearly certain there will be a cooling release of 2 hours duration. As stated

above, the procedure uses forecasted air temperatures from Elkins. Forecasted maximum and minimum air temperatures in Morgantown are on the average 5 degrees higher than Elkins. Boaters experience over the years suggest Washington, DC is often 10 degrees higher. With flows higher than 30 cfs at Oakland, predicted maximum water temperature is less than the values in Figure A. With flows greater than 30 cfs, predicted maximum water temperature from Figure A is reduced by $0.04 \times (\text{Oakland flow minus } 30)$. With no generation, the flow at Friendsville is generally 2.3 times the flow at Oakland. Thus, 30 cfs at Oakland would be 70 cfs at Friendsville which is reported as 22 feet. (Friendsville gauge reading for 100, 130, 170 and 210 cfs are 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 feet respectively). (For example, with Friendsville gauge reading of 25 feet for natural flow, flow at Oakland is estimated at 74 cfs (i.e. $170/2.3$), and the predicted maximum water temperature is 1.7 degrees less than given by Figure A [$0.04 \times (74 - 30)$].

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Verboten Hairboatin

by Rich Hoffman, River Access Program

This expression has been passed down through generations of boaters living in villages perched in the steep German Alps. Roughly translated, it means forbidden boating. These notes are designed to give an overview of access issues and AWA's efforts from around the country. Please call or write AWA's Access Program if you have information about access to whitewater rivers:

1430 Fenwick Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 589-9453
(301) 589-6121 (fax)
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1. Access to the Numbers, Arkansas River, CO.

As I write this article, snowpack in Colorado is 350% above average and access to the Numbers section of the Arkansas River is forbidden! Basically... we need ACCESS!

The AWA and Colorado White Water Association (CWWA) have been working on securing legal access to the Numbers for the past 10 years. In the past several months, we have been working overtime to resolve this issue because of an opportunity to negotiate a land deal with the local landowners.

The parcel of land in question is a 40 acre mining placer, a long and skinny strip of land that is 200 feet wide on both sides of the river (including the river bottom) and is one mile long. Certainly a unique piece of property for river access and conservation. However, not worth much in terms of traditional development, especially considering that a county ordinance prohibits building a house within 100 feet of the river.

In early May, AWA and Steve Reese, the head of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (a partnership between the BLM and Colorado State Parks Dept.) met with the landowners across the negotiation table to resolve this issue. The result: we found out that the landowners are not interested in a cash sale of

their land, but will consider a land swap (in other words, a trade of land for land). We are working hard to finalize this swap which will trade Forest Service land for the Arkansas River placer.

In the past, the CWWA has obtained permission from the landowner to use a site on the west side of the river (river right) for private boater access. (Access on the east side is closed because of a disagreement over whether county road 371 is public or private.) After our meeting, the landowner — without informing us — decided to post NO TRESPASSING signs along their property and to prosecute all trespassers! They intend to call the sheriff and to write down license plate numbers.

The landowners probably have mixed motives for denying access, including: frustration with boater and commercial use and abuse of their land, liability concerns and a desire to force our hand with the land swap.

At press time, I am hopeful that this information will be old news and that boaters will have permanent access in perpetuity to the Numbers. AWA continues to negotiate with this landowner and with state and federal agencies. As of June 7, however, this section is off-limits to boaters. The put-in at Granite remains open, however, and other less desirable options exist.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions.

2. Big Sandy Creek, West Virginia

In May, the American Whitewater Affiliation (AWA), the West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WVRC) and the Friends of the Cheat were granted a two-year license from the Allegheny Power Service Corporation that in the near future will provide legal parking and public access to the Lower Big Sandy in Rockville, W.V.

The Big Sandy is an out-

standing whitewater run in Preston County, containing class II-V rapids. However, due to the rugged terrain surrounding County Road 14, there is very little room to accommodate vehicles. As a result, several landowners have expressed frustration over visitors parking on their property or congesting the single lane bridge that spans the river.

In December, AWA, WVRC and the Friends of the Cheat met with Allegheny Power — which owns large tracts of land within the Cheat watershed — to discuss public parking and access to the Big Sandy. The result is a two-year license that allows the public to legally park on parcels of land along river right of the Big Sandy in Rockville. The parcel can accommodate about six cars and we ask that boaters treat this area well and pick up all trash. We hope to organize a trash cleanup in the summer to clean up some of the trash that has accumulated at Rockville. Please call AWA at 301-589-9453 if you would like more information about this licensing agreement.

3. Nenana River, Alaska

The Nenana River is a big water (12,000+ cfs in spring), Class IV that has over 25 miles of excellent play. The main put-in is an old public road easement that is adjoined by private property in the town of McKinley Village (right by the entrance of Denali National Park). In May, the adjacent private property owner and ARA (a local rafting company) tried to persuade the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) to vacate this easement and let it revert back to private property. This move would have guaranteed a virtual monopoly for the private landowner and raft company to the Nenana. Fortunately, alert paddlers (especially Kris Capps) discussed this issue with DOT officials, who decided not to vacate the easement.

Inside the Beltway

by Ed E. Lyne

An eight-lane interstate highway (known as the "beltway") encircles the nation's capital like a monstrous snake, separating the noxious inferno of politics from the rest of the nation. The populace peers in with an attitude of bewildered dismay. Meanwhile, politicians, bureaucrats, T.V. newscasters, lobbyists, lawyers, thieves, reporters, muggers, government contractors, drug addicts, and spies form a cacophonous Tower of Babel. At the center, gripping his new Contract with America like the Sword of Genghis Khan, Newt Gingrich, newly enthroned Speaker of the House, announces a grandiose strategy to transform the planet. Undeterred by this horrific scene, alert whitewater boaters, trapped deep inside the beltway, carefully filter the pandemonium to report on anything and everything affecting whitewater rivers.

Fear And Loathing Inside the Beltway

The only way to describe river conservationists inside the beltway these days is "FREAKED OUT." The reason is obvious: electronic bugs.

In June, Attorney General Janet Reno disclosed the results of a covert FBI investigation of computer viruses contained in an e-mail message sent to several DC-based river conservation organizations. The investigation suggested that river conservationists may have been targeted by the Hydro-power Division of the Righteous Enemy Aryan Militia ("REAM").

REAM is a militant anti-river group suspected of conducting drunken co-ed raft trips on rivers throughout the northeast to scout for new hydro-power sites. Their ultimate objective is to build hydroelectric projects on all free flowing rivers in America, ostensibly to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil.

REAM has attracted a wide following by using the Information Superhighway to distribute extremist propaganda. The group now even has a World Wide Web Site, decorated with pornographic material and gigantic graphics depicting the construction of Hoover Dam.

The e-mail bugs are only the tip of the iceberg, according to the FBI. The computer virus investigation led to another even more disturbing discovery: tiny microchips embedded in the bodies of river conservation advocates. Each microchip contains a radio transmitter allowing the victim's movements to be tracked by satellite, like caribou in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

Even more unnerving, the chips are capable of monitoring conversations. As a result, the innermost secrets of some unfortunate inside-the-beltway river conservationists have already been revealed to the world by popular radio talk-show hosts, E. Gordon Liddy and Rush Limbaugh.

Ever since the 1994 elections, some employees of river advocacy groups have been noticing static on their computers and strange buzzing sounds emanating from various parts of their bodies. Until now, however, no one had linked these two symptoms. The discovery by an alert computer nerd of radio transmissions from inside the body of one employee on the AWA conservation staff led to the discovery of the microchips.

Top secret military hardware devised at the National Institutes of Health is being used to extract the microchip implants. About half the size of a grain of rice, the tiny, but sophisticated transmitters have already been removed from one river conservation staff person who asked that his identity not be disclosed.

Efforts to remove the implants are continuing, but the extraction process can be painful, according to the Johns Hopkins proctologist hired by AWA to perform the extraction procedures on its DC-based staff.

Bad News Oozes from Inside the Beltway

Other bad news for outdoor recreation advocates continues to emerge from various places inside the Beltway, especially from Congress. For example, the House Resources Committee recently voted to chop \$220 million from the Clinton administration's budget request for the National Park Service, Forest Service and other land management agencies.

Senate budget cutters proposed similar cuts in early May, together with a total moratorium on new Park Service land acquisition. This means deep cuts in land acquisition and recreation budgets: not good news for boaters since many parcels of land needed for river access are on the forest service acquisition list.

In a related development, Rep. Don Young of Alaska, new chairman of the House Resources Committee, applauded the findings of a right-wing "think tank" in Washington when the thinkers recommended that most federal lands, parks and wildlife refuges included, be sold or transferred to state management. This is a great idea, said Young, because, "Federal land managers are (expletive deleted) poor land managers."

The first step toward down-sizing or eliminating federal land management has already been taken by Young's committee. The committee has adopted a "park closure" bill (H.R. 260). This bill creates a park closure commission, modeled on the military base closure commission. The idea is to identify "unworthy" parks and eliminate them from the inventory of federally managed areas. Presumably, they would be sold off to the highest bidder or transferred to the tender mercies of state governments. Early indications are that some river areas managed by the Park Service, such as the Chattahoochee River in Georgia, are top candidates for closure.

House of Representatives Trashes Tacoma Decision

In other House committee action, the House of Representatives voted in May to reverse the 1995 Supreme Court decision in the "Tacoma" case which allowed state clean water agencies to set higher instream flows at FERC regulated hydro projects.

FERC and the hydropower industry resented the Tacoma decision because it gave states a better handle on federally licensed hydroelectric projects, which could damage water quality through diminished or disrupted flows. The House vote would reverse the victory won just a year ago by states and environmental groups, when the Supreme Court refused to grant FERC a monopoly over water flows at hydro projects. If the bill survives the Senate and a possible White House veto, it will cripple state authority to protect recreational flows at hydro projects.

The Tacoma issue arose in the context of a huge rewrite of the Clean Water Act. Throughout the week of May 9th, the House of Representatives had been frantically passing amendments to the Clean Water Act. The theme was to eliminate federal authority over wetlands and water pollution and turn envi-

ronmental authority over to the states, which are better able to deal with such things. After a week of this, however, when the hydro question came up, about a 100 members suddenly changed their fundamental philosophy. They voted 309 to 100 (with 25 not voting) to deprive states of all but a tiny vestige of their authority to improve instream flows at FERC regulated hydropower sites.

The House vote would not only reverse the Tacoma decision, but push state authority over hydro power back even further than it was prior to the Supreme Court decision. Only Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) stood up to denounce the hypocrisy.

The full text of the House floor debate on the Tacoma issue (as well as anything else in the Congressional record) can now be instantly pulled up and read at home by anyone anywhere in the country with Internet access to the World Wide Web. The Library of Congress now provides a searchable copy of the Congressional Record at its new "Thomas" Home Page. The address for computer nerds with access to the World Wide Web is <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/r104.query.html>. Just go to that location and type "Tacoma" or "hydropower." Look for the May 11, 1995, debate on the Clean Water Act. Check it out. See for yourself just how misinformed your representatives in Congress actually are.

Some Good News, Too

Not all the news emerging from inside the Beltway is bad. Even the frenzy of budget cutting may not all be harmful from the river conservation point of view. One positive development is the plan to cut the U.S. government's \$1.4 billion contribution to the World Bank. This money has often been used to fund huge, environmentally destructive boondoggles such as the Bio Bio dam in Chile. Less money for the bank may mean less zeal for big dams in the Third World.

Domestic water projects are also coming in for big budget cuts. For example, federal water subsidies to western ranchers — such as the Colorado Basin Salinity Control Program — are on the chopping block, according to Senate Budget Chairman Pete V. Domenici.

Vital Program Saved

In the good news category, outdoor recreation advocates were also thrilled to learn that one key program has been saved.

Rep. Sonny Bono and his compatriots may be selling off the national parks, turning over the national forests to the states, and unloading all the old growth timber as fast as they can, but they have promised to not to let the budget cutter's knife anywhere near the \$2.5 million civilian marksmanship program.

The always reliable Washington Post reported on May 7th that the civilian marksmanship program has been given total immunity from all forms of budget cutting. Summer youth employment may go the way of the Dodo Bird, education grants for homeless children are headed for the dumpster, but teenagers can still get free ammo from the government and cut-rate guns.

That's right! Guns and ammo for teenagers. It's the best way to introduce them to the joys of the outdoors.

According to Rep. Paul Gillmor (R-Ohio), the civilian marksmanship program is "one of the most effective youth programs we have in America."

The general consensus among the newly elected members of Congress is that Americans need to spend more quality time with their weapons. And what better way to do it than by providing free ammo to teenagers?

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IN MEMORY OF MIKE

Gray today is my world.

A pale shadow casts its darkness around me.

A sorrow cries from the depths of my soul.

I weep.

Tears are the rivers of my soul

pouring their contents into the sea of sorrow.

**O shadow of death, you bring such misery,
such sadness, such feelings of abrupt end.**

Why must this darkness fall at such an early hour?

Why must my friend meet such a foe, so early in life?

I shall never know

but forever I shall remember.

Dear Sirs:

How does one begin to write to you of a tragedy? I have now sat before my computer for a long time, trying to extrapolate words to express my heartfelt feelings. On April 23, 1995, I lost a dear friend to a tragic accident on the Russell Fork River in Dickenson County, VA. In the mist of the Russell Fork Gorge, at a rapid known as Fist, Michael Richard Munn, 40, lost his life.

The Russell Fork is the home river for many of us, including myself. Many paddlers come here during fall release to enjoy this beautiful river. Many also go back with a sense of new respect for whitewater. But during the winter, spring, and summer, the river calms down at certain flows, to provide the locals a good fun run. When we receive rainfall, the Russell Fork, being of natural flow, picks up volume.

Many people never realize that the Pound River is what is released during the fall draw down from the Flannigan Reservoir. The Pound joins with the Russell Fork at Bartlick, VA. I have paddled the Russell Fork many times at different flow levels and find the river quite enjoyable at anywhere from 125 cfs to 300 cfs. From 300 cfs up to 500 cfs, the river begins to take on another personality. Although from 300 to 500, the difficulty of the run doesn't increase dramatically, it does pick up some of the pushy type characteristics experienced at release. From 500 cfs to 750 cfs, the river is mean. It has fine lines with little room for error. The dangers increase twofold. At this level the river is best paddled by experts with knowledge of the proper lines through the gorge.

The group, that fateful morning, consisted of Mike and three other strong, confident, expert paddlers who knew the Russell Fork River well. Mike, along with the others, had paddled the gorge many times, at many different flows, and knew the lines well for each level. The level on 23 April was somewhere around 415 cfs, according to information received by a friend from the gauge flow reading. The reading is calculated by combining the flows of both the Pound and Russell Fork Rivers at Bartlick, VA.

The group set up shuttle at the Garden Hole put in for the gorge and at the park located at Elkhorn City, KY, the take out for the gorge. Everything went well for the group while they warmed up on the easier rapids that precede the more difficult rapids that lay not far ahead. The group arrived at the first major rapid, known as Towers. The rapid was negotiated with no problems. Towers at this level can only be run on far river right, against the bank. The regular release route, down the middle is too shallow and the chances of a vertical pin are too high.

The group then proceeded through the next section, about 100 yards, to the top of the rapid known as Fist. The typical line for Fist changes at low flows (125-300 cfs), as compared to medium and higher levels (300-1,300 cfs). At lower levels, a paddler's line is to catch an eddy directly above an undercut. The potential for trouble at low levels is minimum, but increases as flows increase. At medium levels, the eddy becomes smaller and the potential for trouble increases. At the higher levels, I have yet to see a boater catch the eddy.

Our first boater to run Fist, ran the rapid at release route, straight through.

Although he was angled river right and paddling hard, he still hit the undercut on the corner with enough force to flip him. One of the other remaining boaters ran the low-water route and caught the eddy above the undercut with no problem. Then it was Mike's turn.

Mike entered the rapid from the set up eddy, located some 75 yards from the main drop of Fist. His line initially looked good, but changed in the main drop. What happened will always be a mystery. Whether it was an unexpected cross current, a rock just under the surface, or just fate, Mike's line changed at the last moment and sent him directly into the upstream side of the massive undercut. There, Mike lost his paddle first, flipped, and then disappeared from sight.

The last boater ran the low water route, catching the eddy above the undercut. He got out and assisted with rescue efforts that had already been initiated. Frantically working with ropes, his friends proceeded to perform drags under the rocks with hopes of retrieving Mike. A valiant effort was made by entering the undercut from the bank side and trying to feel around under the rock. The boat was found, upside down, but no Mike. Still working with ropes they managed to bring Mike out after about 15 minutes

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LETTER

had elapsed from the time the accident occurred. Mike was brought immediately to the bank, where CPR was started. One of the group used to be affiliated with a volunteer rescue squad and was trained to the level of cardiac-tech, so good medical treatment was at hand. One other person in the group elected to stay and help perform CPR. The remaining paddler ran out of the gorge for help. This involved running two major rapids in his boat just to get to where the railroad tracks were accessible, and then running back along the railroad tracks, through a tunnel and then swimming the pool at Garden Hole to get to his truck to go call for help.

On the way out of the Garden Hole, a group of Breaks Park employees were working along the road. They called by radio to the main park headquarters for help. The Haysi Rescue Squad responded. The park service, in the meantime, acquired a boat to escort the squad member across the pool at the Garden Hole.

The park employees were exceptional in their effort to be of assistance in this accident and they should be commended. About two hours had elapsed now, and CPR was still being performed, when the rescue squad members appeared on the scene of the accident. Mike's friends worked faithfully for over two hours doing CPR, until the rescue squad paramedics relieved them. The group did all that was possible to save Mike, but had failed. They were devastated.

The paramedics worked with Mike for quite some time before the decision was made to transport.

At the funeral I had the privilege to meet Mike's relatives. They wondered how Mike's relationship with his friends had evolved and how that paddling had become such an important part of Mike's life. After talking with several of the boaters present, they were well satisfied to learn that Mike was a very important part of everyone's life within the paddling community. They knew from the way Mike had talked about the love he had of the sport that he had died doing something that he wanted to do. All individuals who take up the paddle know the risks inherited doing so.

At the funeral, a comment was made that boating was Mike's way of getting closer to nature, and closer to God. I think that is true of all of us who experience the beauty of the river.

Mike was an expert **kayaker**. He knew the risks involved with the sport, as we all do. Many times, Mike commented on how rewarding the sport was and how much it had helped him with his personal life. Mike loved his wife and his friends, and always enjoyed the common bond that we all experience while in the company of our paddling buddies. Mike always had a happy smile and something good to say to all those he met along life's

path. He enriched our lives in many ways. Mike was present the day I got married last September and has paddled with my wife and me. Mike has spent many nights camping with our group and with groups from other states, always bringing cheer to all those he met. He was a credit to all those he touched, whether it was on the river or off.

Mike is gone now and he is missed by all of us.

I realize that this was an unfortunate accident. The ability of each member of the group was up to the standards necessary for running the gorge at this level. The rescue efforts were beyond reproach. The group was very safety conscious, but still, the accident did occur.

Now, talk of barring paddling on the Russell Fork has surfaced. But I know Mike would disapprove of this. Even with the most stringent safety precautions, and the very best safety equipment available, we can never be sure that accidents won't happen, and that within that number of accidents, another fatality might occur.

In cooperation, the Russell Fork Paddlers, and the APES (Appalachian Paddling Enthusiast Society) have decided to place a memorial to Mike within the gorge. On the undercut at Fist, we plan to

place a bronze plaque which reads:

IN MEMORIAL
MICHAEL RICHARD MUNN
AUGUST 8, 1954—APRIL 23, 1995

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AND LOVED ONES LAST FOREVER

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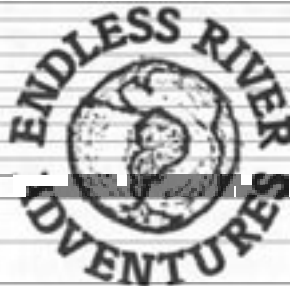
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SAFETY

DANGER AHEAD!

Dear Bob:

Enclosed you will find a Safety Bulletin about Initiation Rapid on the Upper Gauley. This piece was produced by Surf City, a loose-knit group of rafters including members of the Float Fishermen of Virginia, Coastal Canoeists and Friend of the Rivers of Virginia.

Please feel free to print this in your newsletter. The NPS has agreed to let us post it at the Upper Gauley campground

and is working toward locating a bulletin board near the vending machine building at the put-in, where we can also post it. We also intend to get copies to the outfitters in the Gauley River area.

It may be worth noting that the route diagram was based on overhead photos shot from the WV DNR helicopter this past fall ('94) when they were making a trout stocking run. Therefore, it should be quite accurate as far as where things are in relationship to each other. We'd

love to hear the comments of your AWA readers on this bulletin.

Also note that we have upgraded the classification from Class III to Class IV. Our thinking was that any classification is based on experience, and the experiences on this rapid have indicated that it is far more dangerous than we thought.

Yours in safety,
Bill Tanger
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia

SAFETY BULLETIN

UPPER GAULEY RIVER INITIATION
Class IV
Rapid located approximately 1.6 miles from dam out-in:

Initiation Rapid is extremely dangerous to the unaware. Two kayaker fatalities have occurred at Initiation (1982, 1994) in the same spot. The surf wave takes boats to a sieve. Do not surf. Run center or center left.

Produced by: **SURF CITY**
Thanks to: Bill Tanger, Tom, Mark Hall, Jeff Proctor, Mike, Michael Galt, Lenny Feltz, Chris Draper & Len Hager

UPPER GAULEY RIVER INITIATION CLASS IV

Produced by: **SURF CITY**



The Unimag shuttle vehicle which took us up over a 16,000' pass



Right page: Franz Helfenstein

Cotahuasi

Canyon

An Ultimate Peruvian Adventure

Story and photos by Kurt Casey

Any river that features ten days of continuous class four and class five whitewater is bound to be a classic. But throw in cloudless skies, a virgin, unexplored canyon, Quechua speaking locals, hot springs and the ruins of a vanished pre-Inca civilization – and you have the gem of South America – The Rio Cotahuasi.

In 1993 an international expedition of kayakers and rafters arrived in Peru with plans to run the Lunar Canyon of the Colca River, an incredible river journey first tackled by a Polish team in 1981. (Editor's note: See the companion article by John Foss in this issue.) A 1993 article in *National Geographic* stated that the Colca River Canyon was estimated to be the deepest navigable drainage in the world.

But while studying topographic maps our attention was drawn to the Cotahuasi Canyon, which lies immediately to the north of the Colca. Comparing the elevations of peaks on both sides of each canyons, we wondered if the Colca **was** really deeper than its neighbor. The Peruvian government mapping agency in Lima, Geographica Militar, told us that initial observations on their part, utilizing 1 to 25,000 scale maps, suggested that the Cotahuasi had a depth 163 meters greater than the Colca.

One of our expedition members, Fredy Revilla, a Peruvian doctor, advised us that he had recently visited the upper Cotahuasi canyon to study the unusually high concentration of Huntington's disease in the local people. He described a magnificent river, born in the snow capped peaks of the Andean Cordillera, that flowed west to the Pacific. Our curiosity was further excited by a video Dr. Revilla had made during his trip.

The video showed the colonial town of Cotahuasi, with its white adobe buildings, a verdant agricultural valley and emerald green waters. There were plenty of frothing rapids on the Cotahuasi river. And this was just the beginning of its 7500-foot vertical descent to the Pacific Ocean. Dr. Revilla's video ended with the Cotahuasi plunging into a chasm called the "Cataracta de Sipia," a 150-meter waterfall whose entrance was less than two meters wide.

"What's the river and the canyon like below the waterfall?" We all wanted to know.

"I don't know," answered Dr. Revilla. "My father comes from the town of Cotahuasi, and as far as he knows, no one has ever entered the canyon below the falls."

Right there and then we vowed to return in 1994 to run the Cotahuasi

Canyon. Before leaving Peru we purchased detailed ~~topo~~ maps from the Instituto Geographica Militar. I returned home and hung the maps in my "junk room," the walls of which are plastered with similar maps from trips taken throughout the world.

Over the next ten months the rudimentary details of our journey were worked out. Actually, all we figured out was who was going and when we would start. The nitty gritty questions – such as how to get to the river, where we would launch, how much food to carry, how many days the trip would take – were still





Fico Gallese and Pepe Lopez Shreddin'

unanswered.

We decided to "wing it." Just show up, be optimistic and let everything fall into place.

Fortunately, three weeks prior to departure things started to come together. Dagger provided **Freefall** kayaks, which proved to be perfect expedition boats. The Freefalls provided plenty of volume for carrying tens days of food and a blunt front end which minimized the dangers of running class five whitewater. Airtight **Inflatables** of Pennsylvania provided a custom built "SHREDDER." This frameless cataraft was for two of our Peruvian friends who work as raft guides and were joining the trip. Upon arrival in Lima, we found that the Peruvian team members had secured sponsorship from Americana Airlines; as well as a film crew, food, and other types of support.

The overland portion of the trip began in Arequipa, at the childhood

home of team members Duilio and Gian Marco Velutino, two of Peru's best whitewater kayakers. Their picturesque home sits alongside a lake at the base of the Volcanoes Misti, Pichu Pichu, and Chachani, all between 17,000 and 21,000 feet high. Their father, Antonio Velutino, ran the Colca River with the Polish expedition in the early eighties and was enthusiastically helping to organize our trip.

Antonio obtained a four wheel drive behemoth truck from the Peruvian military to haul us to the town of Cotahuasi. The 48 hour drive took us up to the altiplano at 16,000 feet and through the massive peaks of Corupuna and Solimana. In transit, we were lucky enough to witness an eruption of Sabancaya, one of Peru's

two active volcanoes.

Our arrival at the rim of the upper Cotahuasi canyon presented us with our first glimpse of the town of Cotahuasi, 8000 feet below. On the switchback descent the silent, stark, frozen terrain of the altiplano yielded to lush green vegetation, inhabited by screeching parrots. Local Indians led us to Umahuarco, or "The Place of Execution." This "room" was hand carved into the face of a granite cliff. Centuries ago, Inca prisoners were left bound there to be eaten by condors. We were surprised that after so much time the floor was still littered with **sun-**bleached human skulls and bones.

Cotahuasi is a beautiful Andean pueblo with stone streets, cathedrals built by the Spanish and white adobe buildings. The only car in town belongs to the mayor. There is one truck to haul the potato and wheat harvest. The residents move about

on foot or on mule or horseback. The facade of the local police station is littered with bullet holes, reflecting Peru's recent history of guerilla activity.

The next morning, food for the expedition was **stuffed** into our kayaks and loaded onto mules for the descent to the river, 1000 feet below town. We entered the river at a place called Piro and paddled class five whitewater nonstop for the next two and a half days. We finally reached Sipia and the 500 foot waterfall seen in Dr. Revilla's video.

As we peered down into the abyss, a native fortuitously arrived and explained how to portage up and over the mountains to the base of the falls. He agreed to guide us and to provide eighteen mules to carry our gear.

It was the portage of a lifetime. At one point we were on a one meter wide trail, traversing a cliff face thousands of feet above the canyon, staring into the waterfall. Condors were soaring in thermals at eye



level. It almost seemed like we could reach out and touch them.

Approaching the base of the falls we entered a deep gorge and passed through the village of Chauco. Although only several kilometers away, the vegetation in the canyon was completely different than in Cotahuasi. We foraged on tropical fruit such as figs, guava, chirimoya and oranges. An old lady in the vil-

lage prepared a giant pot of soup made of the local grain, quino, and toasted corn.

We inquired if anyone knew what the river was like in the canyon below. The villagers said they had seen it from a lookout high on the canyon rim and assured us it was flatwater. But the **topo** maps indicated a severe gradient, so we were skeptical of their description when

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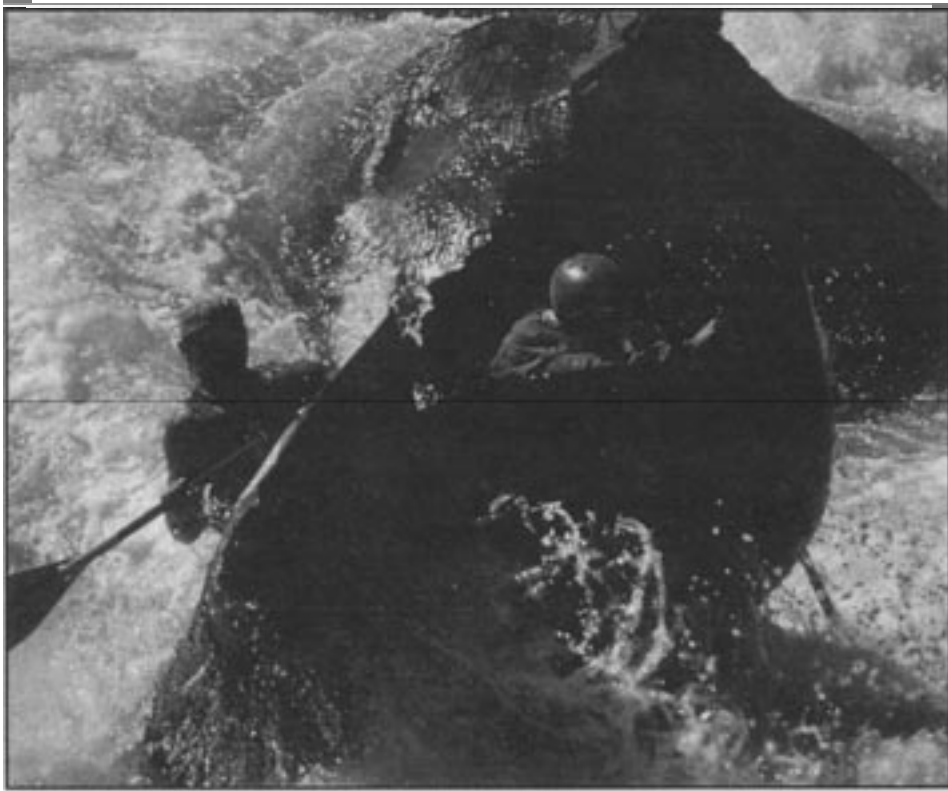
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we hit the water. At first, the river was relatively calm. Maybe the locals were correct.

But around the first curve another river drainage, called the Quebrado Andamayo, entered from the right. This tributary had deposited millions of tons of mud and house size boulders into the river, forming one, day-long, continuous, class V rapid. In honor of the locals, we named it "Flatwater Canyon."

The town of Velinga awaited our exit of "Flatwater Canyon." Velinga is situated on a pampa about 500 meters above the river floor. Tragically, Velinga was almost completely depopulated a few years ago by Chagas disease, a debilitating parasitic infection transmitted by the bite and excrement of a beetle which lives in adobe walls. The mayor of Velinga met us at the river with bottles of local wine and organized a big fiesta. Two sheep were slaughtered in our honor and their blood mixed with the wine.

Day five took us through "Broken Neck Canyon," another class V, limestone gorge, which ended 500 vertical meters below the pueblo of Quechualla. The film crew was waiting in Quechualla, having spent five days hiking over the mountains with local guides. Quechua speaking shepherds came down from the mountains to meet "Los Gringos," bringing gifts of fresh honey, yams, fruit and another big pot of soup.

That night we stared at the topos with trepidation. The gradient downstream appeared to be severe. The walls seemed nearly vertical. No trails paralleled the canyon. Once we entered, there would be no way out but down the river. One local insisted that his grandfather had been in the canyon once and seen a waterfall with vertical walls so close

that a man could spread his arms and touch both sides. Everybody slept with nervous energy.

The next day on the river went beyond anyone's expectations. Soon after entering the box canyon we began to see ruins on the cliffs above the river... incredible, terraced cities with stone dwellings, sophisticated irrigation systems and remnants of pre-Incan trails paved in stone.

What had caused this civilization to vanish? We wanted to stay and explore, but our diminishing supply of food and the unknown canyon below compelled us to push on.

The geology of the canyon changed from limestone and shale to metamorphic, then granite. The class IV/V whitewater continued unabated and culminated in "Meter Canyon," a class five rapid leading to a one meter wide entrance to a vertical walled canyon. The walls of the entrance were lined with the ruins of the lost city of Marpa, which we stopped to explore.

We had good runs through "Meter Canyon." Our confidence was high. We believed that the scary stuff was over.

Then we came to the first of several unexpected class V mini-canyons. We named the first one "Centimeter Canyon." Like its predecessor, it had a class V rapid leading into a three foot wide entrance to a vertical walled mini-gorge. We made it through and by afternoon, reached a sandy beach and made camp. We were exhausted by the day's efforts.

Day eight brought us to the confluence of the Rio Maron. Here, the name of the Cotahuasi river changed to the Rio Ocona. The river nearly doubled in volume and the canyon widened dramatically into a broad valley. We stopped at the village of Chaucalla for food. Sitting on the steps of the dilapidated church and looking up, we could see a small dust cloud on the side of the mountain. The locals said it was a descending mule train.

Within two hours, the mules arrived carrying our lost film crew.

We assumed the crew had given up and turned back days earlier. We eagerly exchanged adventure stories and found that the trek of the film crew had been equally exciting. They had crossed a mountain pass at 17,000 feet, where they came upon an open air graveyard of mummified corpses... all dressed in colorful clothing and perfectly preserved by the arid mountain climate.

We had more than 100 kilometers remaining to reach the ocean. The Velutino family would be waiting there in two days with a bus. We had to hurry. We again said farewell to the film crew and left Chaucalla in the late afternoon. We paddled the big volume class three river in the moonlight, until clouds and shrimp traps made the kayaking too dangerous.

Days nine and ten were an exhausting marathon, but we completed the remaining distance on schedule. The Rio Chicas joined the Ocona and turned the river into a continuous roller coaster ride through the flood plains and gravel bar rapids of the lower canyon. On the afternoon of day ten we reached the Pacific ocean and celebrated with cold beer at an establishment appropriately named "El Triunfo" (The Triumph).

The Cotahuasi was a dream come true, featuring intense white water, geological and archaeological surprises, and fascinating culture. And so, in 1995 we will return to run the Cotahuasi, this time starting nearer to the source at Cerro Huana (17,960 feet). This time our expedition trip will include the foreboding class VI Amana Gorge. It should be quite an adventure!

Editor's note: Several days after submitting this story, whitewater adventurer Kurt Casey departed Pittsburgh for Peru.

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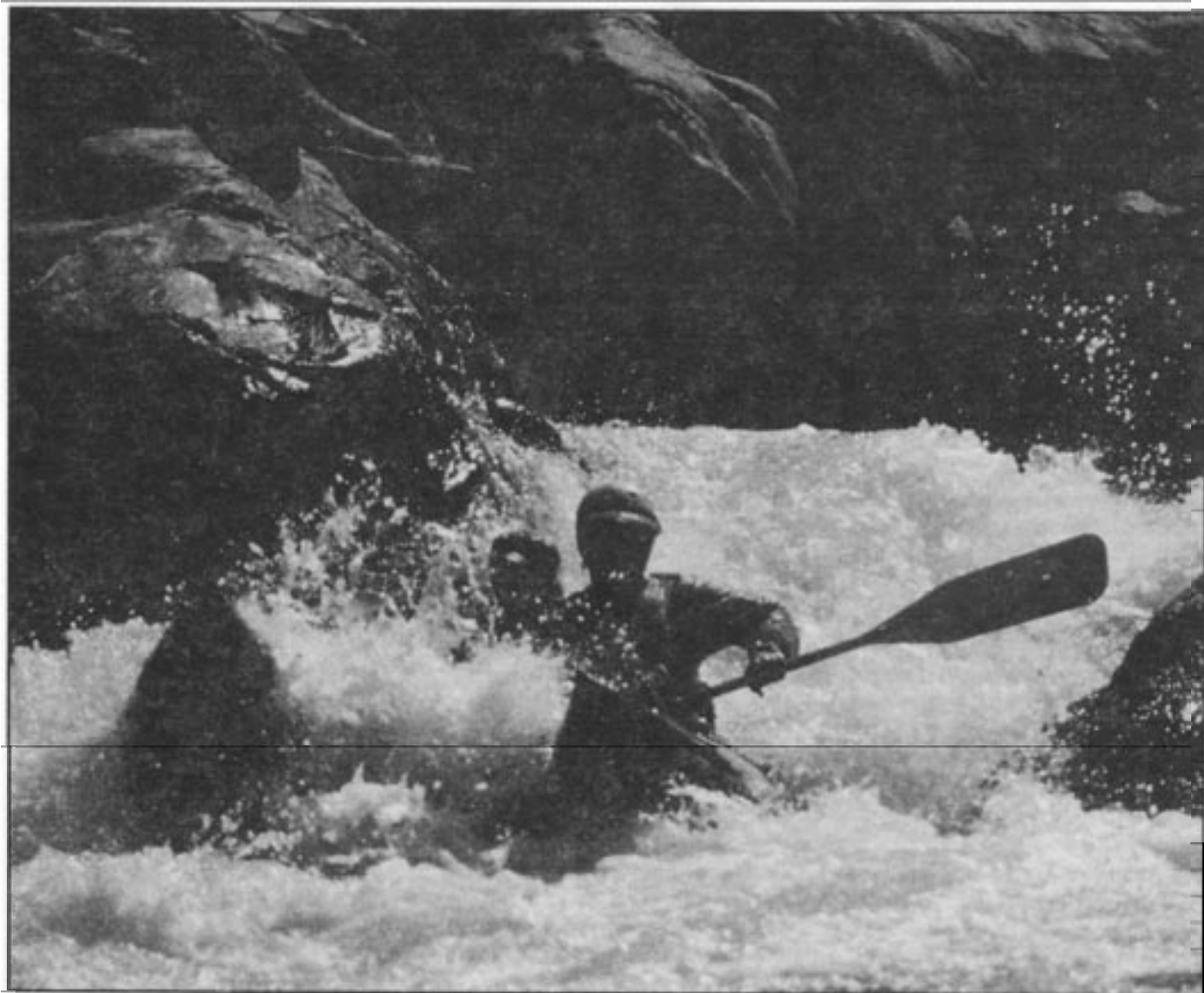
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Cotahuasi River

The First Descent

reviewed by Bob Gedekoh

*Photos: Fico Gallese and Pepe Lopez Shreddin'
Franz Helfenstein kayaking*

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If your curiosity about Peru's spectacular Cotahuasi Canyon has been piqued by Kurt Casey's account of the first descent, accomplished in 1994, you may well enjoy Jon Barker's video, filmed during the same expedition. Certainly, anyone contemplating attempting the Cotahuasi, or any other watershed within the netherlands of Peru, will find the video useful.

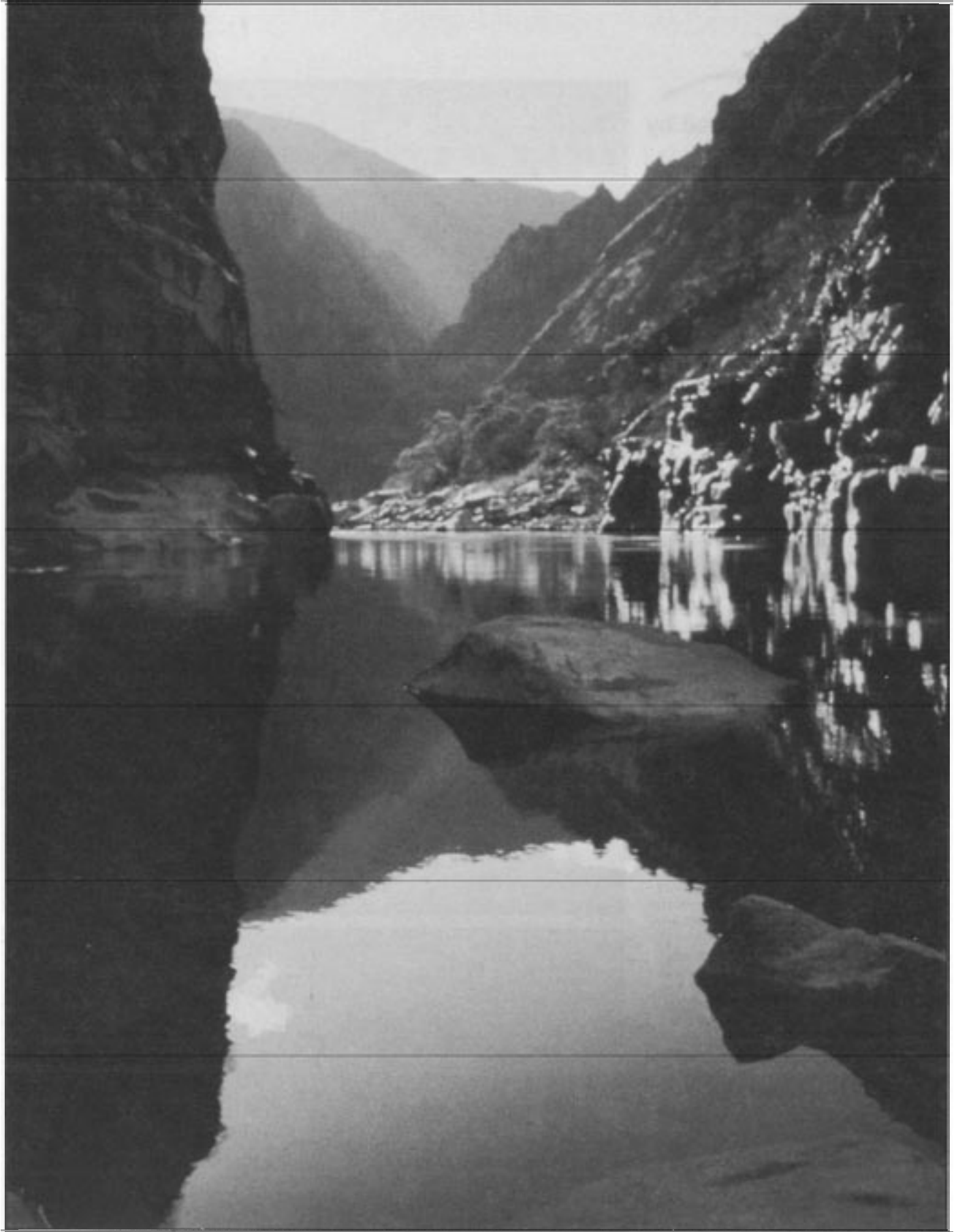
Jon Barker's production emphasizes the remote location of the Cotahuasi and the tactical difficulties in mounting such an expedition. Just getting to the put-in, high in the Peruvian Andes, proved to be quite an adventure, or ordeal, depending on your point of view. The 1994 expedition had the advantage of having extensive support from native Peruvians. And a number of Peruvian boaters participated in the expedition.

Extensive footage of the villages and people who live in the area captures the flavor of traveling in this exotic part of the world, while footage of Incan ruins gives the viewer a sense of the region's history. The Cotahuasi is clearly a stunning place and the people who live in the region seem quite hardy... and quite hospitable. I wished the narration, which is kept to a minimum in this production, would have included more information about the geography and history of Peru.

Extensive whitewater footage is included in this video and it is solidly filmed, leaving no doubt that the Cotahuasi offers plenty of difficult class V, technical action. The team that paddled the Cotahuasi in 1994 certainly seemed to be up to the challenge. In a number of instances, each individual's run through a rapid is shown several times, and in most cases a number of individuals are shown running each drop. While this allows the viewer to scrutinize the difficulties of each drop in detail, it renders the video a trifle long.

Completing a difficult and dangerous first descent in such a distant and remote part of the world is quite a challenge. Filming a video at the same time must have been a difficult undertaking, indeed. Jon Barker has done an admirable job in portraying the agonies and ecstasies of such an expedition.





Sunrise on the Rio Apurimac

PADDLING THE
IN



TRAIL

by John Foss

EXPLORING
THE
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TREASURES
OF PERU

"Going to Peru, huh? Sounds pretty crazy to me," my friend muttered. "Oh no, I've got friends there, no hay problema, si?" I replied. Of course it is safe.

So what if there was an attempted bombing of the US embassy two days before our arrival. So what if our taxi cab driver in Lima said the Sendero Luminoso was everywhere? So what if we happened to find a dead guy, naked below the waist, hands bound behind his back, washed up on the banks of the Rio Apurimac?

Such is life in Peru.

In case you haven't heard, the Sendero Luminoso (ie. 'Shining Path'), a Maoist guerrilla movement, have been hell bent on overthrowing the Peruvian government during their thirteen year reign of terror. Over twenty thousand Peruvians have died at the hands of these thugs, who have maintained a maniacal grip on the country. Fortunately for the locals and gringo tourists, the situation has mellowed considerably. Although one always has to remain alert to the ubiquitous ripoffs, Peru is relatively safe, especially when your friends are there to greet you at the airport.

Such was the case on our paddling adventure. We were invited for the First International 1993 Rio Colca Festival. The hospitality bestowed upon us by our friends, the Vellutinos, relieved any of our latent anxieties upon arrival. We were thirteen adventurers from all over the world: Massimo, the Lombok-sponsored Brazilian slalom racer; Eyal, an ex-Israeli artillery officer turned hippie; Juanfe and Gian Carlo, our paddling buddies from Santiago, Chile; Mike, the head honcho of the New Zealand kayak club; the Peruvians: Pepe, paddle raft captain extraordinaire from Cuzco; Fredy, our trip doctor and videographer from Lima; Duilio and Gian Marco, sons of our wonderful hosts in Arequipa, Ani and Antonio Vellutino; and four gringos from the States along for some fun: Kurt Casey, Franz, Dave, and myself.

The world renowned Colca is one of the deepest canyons on the planet, first explored by the Poles in 1981. It is the definitive "Big Ditch", three times as deep as the Grand Canyon. Located at the northern terminus of the Atacama Desert of southern Peru and northern Chile, this parched canyon is



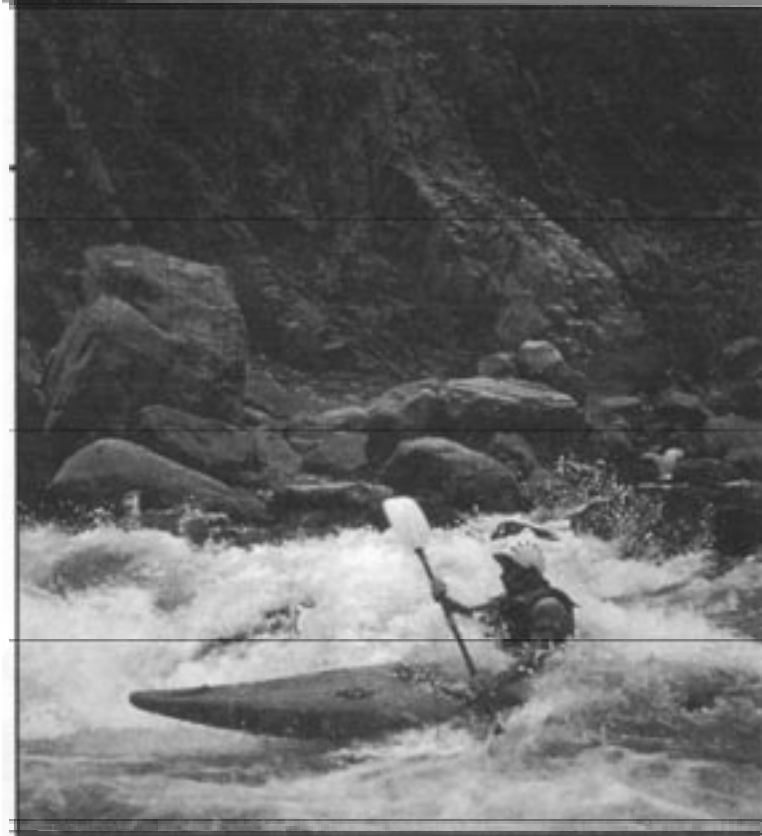
Kurt Casey coaxing his mule down trail

located in one of the most arid regions on earth. The lack of water is due to the watershed's position on the **dry** side of the Andean Cordillera, with the bleak, high altitude Altiplano separating it from the verdant Amazon basin to the east.

After three days of preparation and pre-trip training (ie. imbibing too many pisco sours and eating our fill of ceviche at the Vellutino's El Lago resort) we were anxious to leave. Departing from Arequipa, we spent all day in a rented bus staring at a lunar landscape, **enroute** to the adobe village of Huambo. Numerous pit stops allowed us to experience the breathless altitude of the Altiplano. The only sign of life on the shuttle, a few llamas running in the distance, added to the stark feeling of the area.

Fortunately, after a midnight arrival, we were able to get a hot meal and place to crash. Accommodations consisted of an old stable with concrete floors that reeked of mule piss. What little sleep we got was interrupted midway through the night, when we were awakened by ringing church bells. At breakfast we learned that someone from the village had died.

A celebrity farewell from the locals (many of whom spoke only Quechua, the local Indian dialect) awaited us in the plaza the next morning. After passing out used clothing to the kids, we made our passage through Huambo's narrow side streets out of town. The main access to the river, a trail down the Rio Huambo, was a challenge for man and beast alike - with kayakers, a paddle raft and food lashed to the backs of mules for the grueling ten hour hike to the river. Disaster was narrowly averted when a mule loaded with Mike's kayak slipped on the trail, tumbling head first down the talus slope. Fortunately the mule came to a safe stop with the load intact, just shy of the abyss.



John Foss running a boulder slot on the Rio Colca



During the hike we marveled at the surroundings. Geologically, the Colca Canyon displays some of the wildest folding and faulting imaginable. The plastic oceanic sediments characteristic of the western Andean Cordillera offer a spectacular mélange of anticlines, synclines, and recumbent folds in the grandest dimensions. Poorly cemented mudstones, sandstones, siltstones and shales blend together and are reminiscent of a deformed chocolate layer cake. We were awed by the grandeur all the way to the bottom.

A nice hot spring awaited us at the put-in across the river from the little village of Hacienda Canco. Due to irrigation diversions upstream the Colca was marginally navigable until the confluence with the Rio Mamacocha, four kilometers downstream. At the Mamacocha confluence the river more than doubled in volume to a flow of approximately 1200-1500 cfs. The warm, azure water of the Mamacocha was a visual delight as it mixed with the verdant flow of the Colca. After the trip, we learned that there are more diversions planned in

the future, further dewatering this world class treasure.

There has been much hype about the Colca's difficulty, but in reality it is just great class IV-V fun. Granted, a wipeout would be disastrous due to the arduous, if not impossible, bailout possibilities. High water runs might be suicidal, as evidenced by the driftwood lodged high above the river. Virtually **all** the rapids are **runnable** during the dry season (**June-October**) at low to medium flows. Every drop can be scouted and/or portaged. Whitewater high-

lights include Cano Andes I and II, Reparaz Canyon, and the Pole's Canyon, all featuring technical, class V pool-drop rapids.

Due to the precipitous relief and frequent land slides, the rapids frequently change character. Rock falls are commonplace on the talus slopes above the narrow inner gorge. Duilio, who has been down the Colca three times, noted that the rapids have changed every trip. Wearing a helmet at all times is a good idea. While waiting in an eddy, Kurt got hammered by a condor egg-sized rock that landed on the bow of his kayak! At La Ducha del Condor camp (site of a magnificent waterfall and condor roost), we had to sleep under an overhang to avoid getting pummeled by rock fall.

A self-supported kayak trip down the Colca is best due to the difficulty in negotiating a paddle raft through the maze of rock gardens. On our trip, the paddle raft carried the food, while the kayakers were left with the burden of their own personal gear. The raft came in handy when Gian Carlo suffered a dislocated shoulder and was forced to lash his kayak on the boat. We spent eight days in the bowels of the earth, but the river could easily be paddled in four. However, a leisurely pace is recommended. The canyon is awesome; excellent hikes abound in the side canyons, but suitable camps are few and far between.

We had a week left in Peru after the Colca trip and made the most of it. After recovering from the pleasure's of Yolanda's Cantina, we flew to Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire. Fortunately, we had clear skies during the flight, and were rewarded with spectacular views of the Cordillera Vilcanota, the last reputed stronghold of the Incas. After a day playing tourist in Cuzco, Duilio procured a shuttle vehicle and we were off to run the upper Rio Apurimac. The highlight of the shuttle was the annual Pisco Festival parade in Anta. After enduring an all-day, bone-jarring ride we were greeted by out of tune, traditional melodies performed by an enthusiastic, drunken quartet at our put-in, Puente Pillpinto.

Our three day, self-supported trip on the Rio Apurimac was marred only by the merciless attack of gnats that left hundreds of welts on our bodies and itched incessantly. The beautiful canyon featured chaparral vegetation clinging to the sheer walls that towered over house-sized granite boulders in the river bed below. The pool-drop rapids were primarily class IV, with a few Vs. Unfortunately, we were unable to paddle the real prize on the Apurimac, the difficult, class V Acobamba Abyss downstream in the Ayachuco region, below our take-out at Puente Cunyac. The area is in the hands of the Sendero Luminoso, so for the prudent, it is off limits.

After the Apurimac, we headed back to Cuzco for the obliga-

tory trek to Machu Picchu. Instead of travelling the traditional route, we decided to paddle our way there via the awesome Machu Picchu gorge of the Rio Urubamba. Getting to the river was an adventure in itself. Duilio bribed, threatened, and cajoled the conductors into lashing our kayaks on top the train. An old steam powered locomotive drove a train complete with pigs, chickens, vendors hawking everything imaginable, and, a standing room only

Kurt Casey entering one of the big drops on the Rio Colca



crowd of locals. Our plan was to scout the river along the way for a descent the next morning. It looked good, maybe too good, with ancient Inca terraces on river left, train tracks and the Cordillera Vilcanota on the right, and outrageous, frothing whitewater in the gorge down below.

Our night arrival at Aguas Calientes resulted in an olfactory overload due to our sudden descent from the highlands into the smells and sounds of the "alta selva," the uppermost jungle habitat of the Amazon basin. The contrast between the dry, semi-barren hills around Cuzco and the lush jungle at the base of Machu Picchu was stunning. We were in the middle of the dry season,

but nonetheless, rain fell in buckets as we enjoyed our dinner at a local cantina. Reports of a deadly avalanche on the Inca Trail filtered through the trekking guides who were gathered for dinner.

The next morning we got up early to catch the train heading up the Rio Urubamba to Chilca, our put-in. Close by is Ollantaytambo, site of the ancient Inca fortress that withstood the onslaught of the Spanish conquistadors. After securing our kayaks, we persuaded the engineer (who was amazed at what we were going to do) into letting us ride up front.

It was shades of, "..... riding that train, high on..." as we tooted the horn in the cabin. After reaching Chilca, we quickly put-in on what

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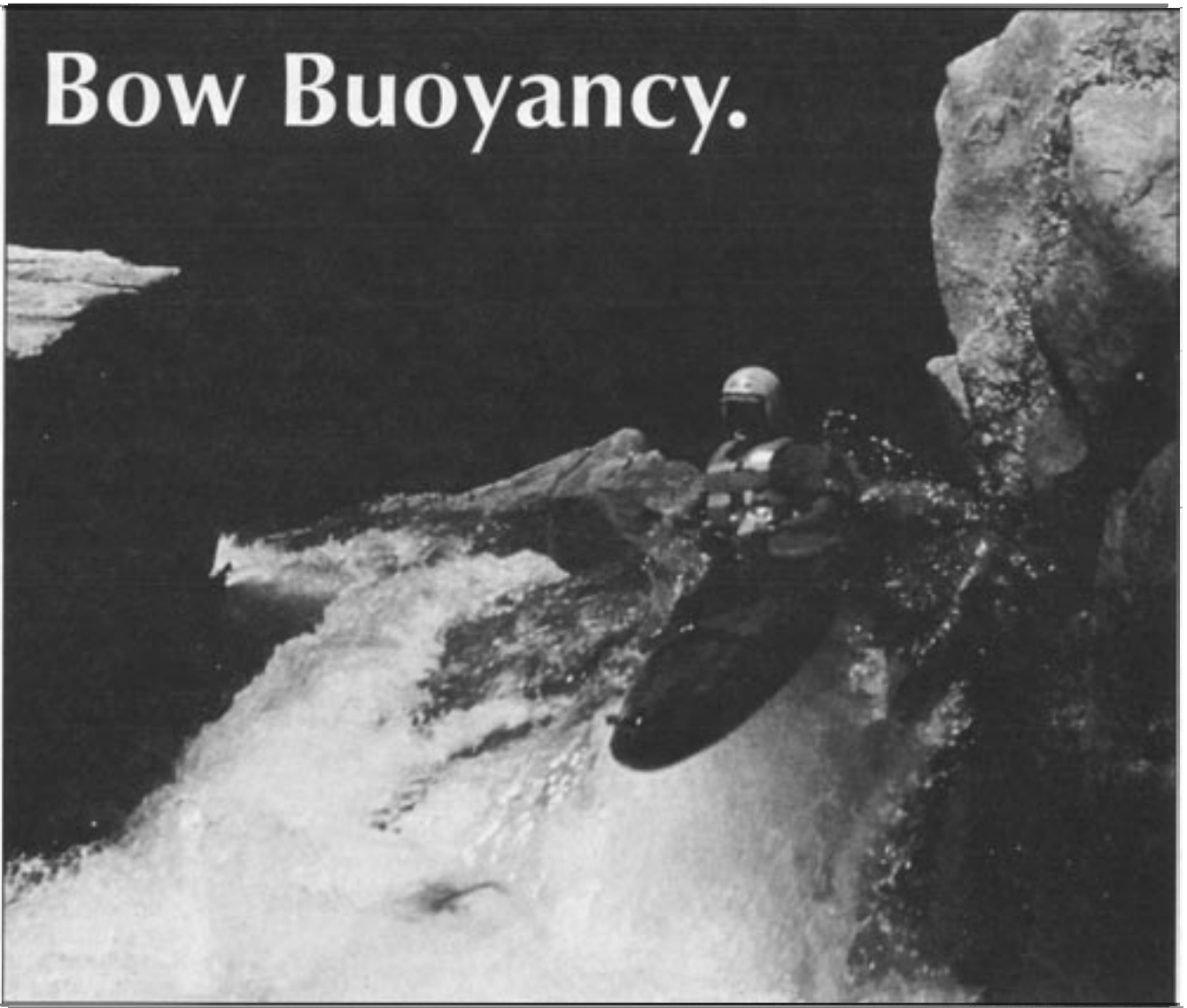


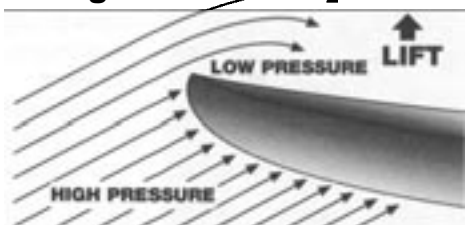
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turned out to be one the best whitewater runs we had ever paddled.

The Urubamba was very challenging and rivaled any of the great runs in California. The water quality was dubious due to local sewage problems, but the whitewater was outstanding. Non-stop, class V action, technical maneuvers, waterfalls, explosive ramps, and a continuous gradient of over 100 feet/mile left us totally drained by the end of the day. Local guides thought it may have been the first complete descent of the Machu Picchu gorge.

However, the highlight of this wet, cold, dreary day occurred off the river, while hiking out along the tracks. With the river becoming increasing class VI-ish, and fearful of missing the shuttle train back to Aguas Calientes, we hurried along the tracks for the last kilometer to the take-out at the train station. Approaching the station with kayaks in tow, we were amazed to be greeted by a crowd of beautiful wanna-be shamans singing in the rain. These seekers from Europe and South America were on spiritual quest to Machu Picchu via the Inca Trail and got rained out. The party was on as we enthusiastically traded stories about the day's adventures.

Chaos reigned the next morning on our return train trip to Cuzco. In the five minute spans allotted for the stop at the station, Franz and I frantically pushed the kayaks on top of the train while Mike and Kurt lashed them to the top of the railroad car in a torrential downpour. With the train leaving the station, and the conductor screaming up at Kurt and Mike about the illegal load, I sprinted along the cobblestone walkway, hurling packs and paddles to Franz before jumping aboard. With our few remaining soles, we paid off all the principle characters, ensuring a secure ride for our cargo back to Cuzco.

Don't let negative media and State Department reports deter your travel plans to Peru. A majority of Peru is safe, especially the Arequipa and Cuzco regions. Most Peruvians are very friendly and welcome the return of tourism to revitalize their dismal economy. With some of the most stunning landscapes in the Western Hemisphere, adventure beckons for those willing to take on Peru.

References:

In **Kayak Through Peru—Whitewater Guides** by CanoAndes
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Editor's Note: AWA Regional Coordinator John Foss resides in Banks, Idaho, when he is not off kayaking in exotic places.

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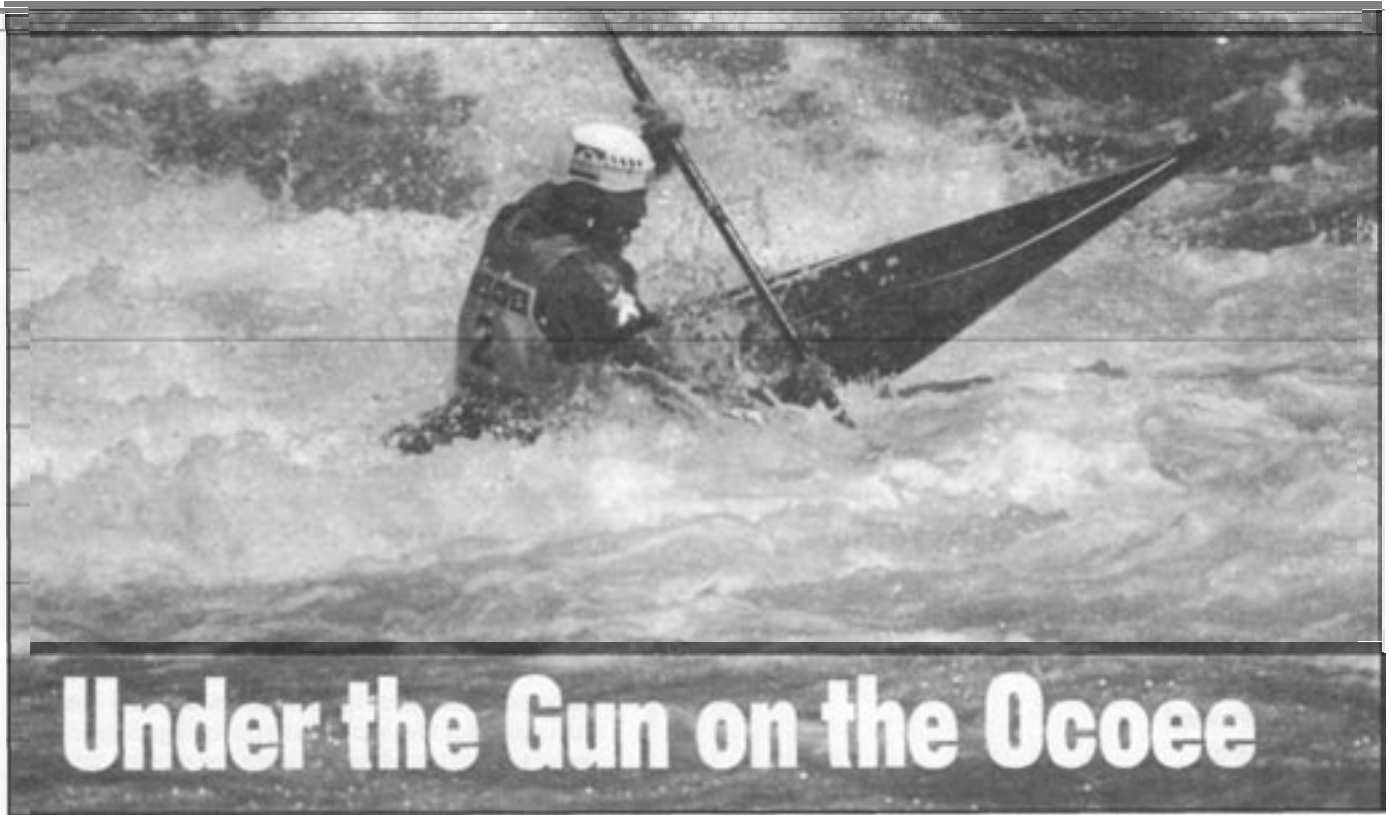
Until last year, only a handful of boaters had ever experienced Ecuador's magnificent whitewater, but some things are just too good to be kept secret, and that is the case with Ecuador's rivers. If you can envision warm-weather, world-class, winter boating in a remote tropical forest environment, at an altitude that is high enough and cool enough to feel like summertime in Colorado (no bugs), then you have an idea of what to expect of the boating in Ecuador.

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Under the Gun on the Ocoee

Eric Giodens

The 1995 slalom team is selected in the shadow of next year's Olympics

Story and Photos by John Weld



The course at Grumpy's Rapid

On Thursday, May 11th at 1:21 p.m., Eric Jackson received his cue from the automatic starter at the top of Grumpy's rapid and began his race run on the Ocoee slalom course. From where I was standing, about halfway down the course, 200 yards down from the start gate, I could see Jackson approaching in an explosion of paddle strokes. Anything that Jackson lacks in technique he makes up for by paddling like he being chased by something vicious. Each stroke is applied to the water with a furious haste as he zig-zags down the river, moving from one gate to the next.

Jackson is not favored to win this race; the confidential predictions of his fellow competitors put the smart money on Scott Shipley (who is due to leave the start exactly two minutes after Jackson). But Jackson knows as he works over the first half of the course in what is his first race run out of four, anyone can win today. For Eric, like the dozens of other career kayakers who have shown up to race this week, it's essential to his livelihood that he perform well.

The race is the 1995 United States Slalom Team Trials, held this year on Thursday and Friday, May 11 and 12 at the first rapid of the Ocoee River in Western Tennessee. It's arguably the most important race of the year, with the top four boats in each class (men's kayak, women's kayak, men's C-1, men's C-2) selected as the official U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team for the upcoming year. As team members, they will be rewarded not only with financial assistance and health insurance, but also will be permitted to race in the World Cup races across Europe and the U.S., and, because it's an odd-numbered year, the World Championships (this year held in England).

The financial assistance the team members receive will help them to consider slalom racing as a full time occupation, and the races in Europe will give them priceless exposure to international competition and additional prize money. All of these benefits have one all-important, resounding implication: the racers that make the cut this year are going to be harder beat in the 1996 Team Trials. And the 1996 Team, along with the rest of the benefits, will be able to participate in the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

It's a tough two days both physically and psychologically for Jackson and the other athletes, but the personal hell that the slalom racers endure during the selection process is just a part of the tension that surrounds the Ocoee course this Spring.

In just over a year the 1996 Olympic Summer Games in Atlanta will be under way. However, the \$25 million slalom course for the whitewater event, is not yet finished — it is still under construction five miles upstream from the site of this year's race. Not only is it a big project for the various agencies building the facility, it's an enormous amount of money for the financially depressed area, so a good return on the investment is paramount.

Once the course is finished, the talented few that will make the U.S. Olympic Team next spring have their work cut out for them. Despite the American paddlers having Olympic home-court advantage on the Ocoee, many people involved with the sport are concerned, if not downright pessimistic, about the U.S.'s ability in the future to compete against the European slalom teams, whose depth of competition and overall organization is almost inconceivable to American paddlers.

You can't just show up and race at the United States slalom team trials. The 97 paddlers that competed qualified either by placing well in earlier Spring selection races, or by virtue of their national ranking from last year. Upon registration, the athletes are assigned a bib number which indicates not only their starting order, but also approximates their national ranking. Highest numbers race first, lowest numbers race last. Races on two days comprise the team trials. The course is changed overnight and everybody is allowed one practice run and two qualifying runs on each course. The best of the two race runs is used for placement each day.

The selection of the team is then a convoluted process, based on the athletes' place in both races. The first place boat on the first day is the first boat on the team. The second place boat on the first day is the third boat on the team, unless that same person wins on the second day. The first place boat on the second day (excluding the winner from the previous day) is second boat on the team. And, finally, the second place boat on the second day is fourth boat on the team. This complex system of team selection is new this year, modified slightly from the procedure in years past in preparation for a more competitive and streamlined Olympic team trials. But the basic idea of slalom remains the same: be fast on the water and clean in the gates.

The implications of this new system in terms of racing strategies is dizzying, and to some degree, it allows for an "anything can happen" atmosphere. But secretly, among the competitors, it's understood that in each of the four classes there is a definite strata in the levels of competition. Along with a large number of people who come to race just to see how they fare, each class also has serious contenders who usually have been on the team for a few years and have the advantage of team funding and team coaching to keep them winning.

This elite group includes familiar names in the slalom circuit. In men's kayak it's Scott Shipley, Eric Jackson and Rich Weiss. In Men's C-1 David Hearn is almost a certainty to make the team. In C-2 the Haller brothers, Lecky and Fritz, are a good bet. In Women's K-1 Dana Chladek and Kathy Hearn always place well. It's this group, along with the dozen or so other up-and-coming athletes, that have turned their entire life over to training for whitewater slalom. To be an elite paddler these days is a full time commitment. Work, school and relationships must come second. The elite gather at the trials to have all of their sacrifices legitimized.

I arrived at the trials' site a few days before the race and got a chance to witness the pre-Trials Experience first hand as racers from all over the country converged on the Ocoee. The truth is that there is not a lot for the athletes to do during the week before the race besides hang out in the parking lot above the race site or go back to hotel



rooms and watch cable. Access to the course and practice runs are very regulated, and no one wants to paddle the rest of the river for fear of getting fatigued.

People gather in groups around the parking lot to engage in nervous conversation about the merits of the course and to gossip about other racers. This goes on more or less all day, with occasional breaks to walk down the hill to stare at the race rapid or take the occasional practice run. Predictions about who will make the team are usually vague, but everybody who hopes to receive funding knows that if you don't place in the top four, you might as well be last.

Billy Hearn is a 30 year old C-1 paddler from Bethesda, MD who has a shot at making the top four or "A-Team," as it's called. Billy has been on the team once before, in C-2, and has raced in 10 team trials.

"My goal," Billy said on the Monday before the race, "is to make A-Team. After that, it really doesn't matter." Brian Homberg, a 31 year old kayaker from Atlanta, also could make the men's team with a good race. Brian is hank about what will happen if he doesn't perform.

"If I'm not in the top four, I gonna end up spending a lot of time on flatwater gates this summer on the Chattahoochee. Oh, and the other thing is that I'll have to work."

The elite racers, perhaps from bitter lessons from previous races, tactfully decline any opportunity to make exact predictions. Kathy Hearn, who has been on the women's kayak team 19 out of the past 20 years (at 37, she one of the oldest members on the team), is, by most racer's reckoning, almost a certainty to make the cut. However, she claims to be anxious.

"I am still nervous about the trials," she said. "I really have only the same chances as everyone else. Honestly, I don't like making predictions about the team."

Scott Shipley, also a good pick for the kayak team, would only say: "There really

Cathy Hearn

are a lot of good paddlers available for a couple of spots."

Eric Jackson, however, will not hear of such modesty. Jackson announces boldly that he plans not only to earn one of the four spots, but to place first, showing a hubris that many other racers shun as bad luck. In Jackson's case, the pressures of this two day race are aggravated by his circumstances. For one, he's married and has two kids, so the money and health insurance he would receive as a team member could be an essential addition to his income. Moreover, the men's kayak division is a tough class. The depth of competition is such that according to one estimate "about nine of the racers are good enough that, in the right conditions, any of them could win one of the four spots."

Jackson responded to the challengers

Eric Jackson- the Olympic look





Above: Jon Rose and Dana Henry, Below right: Lugbill Making his grab loops legal

true to form: he shaved his head the day before the race and then in practice he paddled as if his life depended on it. Spectators on the bank rose to watch him pass. They know his reputation and he's interesting to watch. If nothing else, he at least looked like he was going fast.

Jackson had two big obstacles between him and first place: Scott Shipley and Rich Weiss. Shipley, in particular, has become the young star of the slalom team. In 1993, at age 22, he became the first American men's kayaker to win the World Cup.

Shipley's technique is legendary; he is considered by many to be America's prime candidate to earn a Gold Medal in the Olympics. Rich Weiss, who won America's first ever medal in men's kayak in the 1993 World Championships, can also be blazingly fast on a good day.

Davey Hearn, the country's top C-1 in 1994, without making any boasts to how he might do, was having problems of his own in the days before the race. He was expected to almost certainly win the C-1 race on both days, until Monday, when rumors started to circulate that Jon Lugbill was making a Michael Jordan-esque comeback. From the late 70's to 1992, Lugbill reigned as the world's best C-1 paddler and has since been hailed the best slalom boater in history. In Europe, during the peak of his career, Lugbill was simply known as "God." During those golden years of American slalom, Lugbill pushed the country's C-1 team to be the best in the world with Davey, the crown prince of the class, following a close second.

In 1992, after a disappointing fourth place finish in the Barcelona Olympics, Lugbill retired, allowing Davey to slip into

the top boat position, for a little while at least. On Tuesday I spotted Lugbill casually outfitting his old Olympic boat in the parking lot, and I assumed that the rumor about his return was true.

But when I walked over and asked about his plans for the summer race season, he sounded certain about other priorities. Lugbill is married, has two kids and has been living in Richmond, Va. for the past few years, working for a nonprofit sports promotion agency.

"I miss training and paddling," he said, "but I work a lot and I like to see my wife and kids. I came to trials only to see how good I am."

In most cases, an athlete who hadn't trained in two or so years would not be expected to be anywhere near the top pack. But Lugbill was immediately assumed to be a contender — not only make the team, but perhaps to place first.

Davey, sounding a little like a nervous politician, prepared a response for Lugbill's return: "We'll be glad to welcome Jon back to the team if he performs up to expectations."

Probably, one of the reasons Lugbill is coming back is to ensure that the U.S. C-1 team places well in the World Championships. The International Olympic Committee now requires that nations "earn" Olympic spots by doing well in world competition. The U.S. C-1 team, for example, may be able to send as many as three, or as few as one, competitor to Atlanta in 1996, based on how well the C-1 team performs in the 1995 World Championships. Lugbill, by competing, would help create a very strong U.S. C-1 team with the potential to earn three spots in the Olympics.

On Wednesday, I left the put-in parking lot, which was full of clusters of nervous competitors, to go on a tour of the new Olympic course. The new site is at a place where the river valley is wide enough to

accommodate the 15,000 daily spectators that will pour in on Olympic race days, plus an 8,000 square foot administration building.

Through numerous press releases, I learned that officials predict that the \$25 million investment is going to create a \$93 million dollar spending spree in the area by tourists coming to see the Olympics, almost a three to one return on the investment.

This influx of cash to the area would be very welcome to Polk county and the towns of Cleveland and Copperhill. Copper was the staple of the area's economy until 1987, when the mines shut down. Despite the quarter million people who raft the Ocoee river every year, Polk county's unemployment rate floats at around 15%, and 22% of the county's income is from welfare payments. Leslie Christian, vice president of the Cleveland-Bradley County Chamber of Commerce is hoping that the new course will help turn things around. "The Olympics," Christian says, "are going to open the world to us. We have to be ready to say, 'Hey, take a look at what we have to offer. Come and stay a while.'"

At the Olympic race site I was given a hard hat and led down the boulder-lined access road to the course. After hearing that the project was 90% completed, I was expecting to get a good idea of what the course is going to look like, but the site just looks like a dry river bed littered with cranes and bulldozers. On the banks, where one day there will be bleachers and the administration building, there are giant piles of car sized boulders evidently destined to be at the bottom of waves and hydraulics on race day. The Forest Service tour guide explained that the whole river bed is being made narrower and steeper to create a "world class" race location.

If you look carefully you can kind of see where the drops are going to be, but it is impossible to tell what the course is going to look like with water in it. My guess is that it's going to be a long, easy class II-III rapid with a couple of small ledges and a couple of big pools. In short, it looks like a course that's going to favor someone who is in great shape, rather than a great whitewater boater. Probably the most remarkable thing about the course is that it is





Chad and Kenneth Long

being built at all. It seemed incongruous to me that the site is being constructed, not by volunteers from the local canoe club, but rather by hundreds of non-boating workers in heavy machinery. The Olympics has given this sport a validation even a little intimidating.

An older man on the tour whispered to his wife: "Jesus, this sure is a lot of brouhaha for a sport I didn't even know existed."

Wednesday night, twelve hours before the first race, is a tense time. The athletes who expect to do well are hoping that Thursday they will get the whole thing over with by placing first (and therefore not have to race on Friday). There are many other important races during the year: World Cup Races (five races on two continents, usually Europe and America), World Championships, the Champion Race Series, but the team trials are the most nerve racking. If you don't make the A-Team, you can't race in the World Cup or the World Championships, and you going to have to pay out of your own pocket to race in the Champion Series. Next year, with the Olympics thrown in to the national team itinerary, the trials are going to be a lot worse.

Since whitewater slalom re-emerged as an event in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics after a 20 year hiatus, the dream of an Olympic Gold Medal has become the alpha and the omega of the sport. "Five Ring Fever" it's called, and the allure of an Olympic medal has become the motivation behind thousands of early morning gate workouts across the country.

Kara Ruppel, who has been on the women's team for six years, is intent on making it to the '96 Summer games.

"In reality," Ruppel says, "The Olympics is the same race as the World Championships. I mean it's the same countries and the same group of people. The personal satisfaction you'll get from racing well in either will be about the same. The difference is that if you win the World Championships you will be a big deal in the sport, but if you win the Olympics, you will be a big deal all over the world."

The credentials of our current top athletes suggest that we might be able to hold our own in the '96 Olympics: Scott Shipley with his '93 World Cup victory, Rich Weiss earned a Silver Medal in the '93 World Championships, Dana Chladek won a Bronze medal in the '92 Olympics, and Davey Hearn medaled at the Augsburg World Cup race. And certainly if Lugbill hangs in for another Olympics, our current team has the potential win medals on the Ocoee. But what's going to happen after the next four or five years when our top athletes retire?

On Thursday morning, as the competitors were preparing for their first run, I had a conversation with ex-team coach Bill Endicott, who shed some light on this dilemma. Just a few years ago Endicott would

Rich Weiss



have been right in the middle of the action, busily coaching from the banks the river, talking strategies with one of the strongest whitewater teams in the world. Today, however, Bill was casually watching the race with a pair of binoculars from the top of the 60 foot dam at the head of the course, while munching a ham sandwich.

"In short," Bill said, "the problem is that all of our top athletes, with the exception of Scott (Shipley), are over 30. That certainly makes us one of the oldest teams in the world, and there is no one coming up and pushing them out. What I am studying right now indicates that the ones who are going to be the best in the world are going to probably do it at a young age. If we want to be one of the top nations in the world, we need to give young kids incentives to race. Free boats, cash, lots of coaching. And preferably get the kids from somewhere south of the Mason-Dixon line, where they can train all year."

With the Olympics next year in America and with it looking like whitewater slalom is going to be in the 2000 Sydney Olympics, it's not clear why whitewater slalom is not more popular. The problem seems to be that "five ring fever" is just making the older athletes hang in longer rather than the younger athletes train harder.

"For some reason our country is not reacting to the Olympics like some other countries are," Bill continued. "We have world class athletes like Jed Prentice and Adam Claussen (both C-1 paddlers) who at the peak of their career either quit entirely or rarely train with the opportunity of a



Davey Hearn

lifetime right in their way. It's inconceivable to me... I think that people are looking at the Olympics and they're saying, 'Well that's a lot of work, and I probably won't make it and all of that work is not going to pay off.'

We need to prepare for the huge numbers of young slalom boaters that are being cultivated for competition all across Europe.

Fritz Haller, an ex-national team coach turned C-2 paddler (with his brother Lecky), described the problem after a recent racing trip to Europe: "When my brother and I got back from Germany I called Joe Jacobi and told him that I've got some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that we got smoked. The good news is that they [Germany] can only send four boats to the World Championships."

"You know, a lot of American racers don't realize this, but they'll go over to Europe and race and place 12th or 13th in the World's, and they'll say they are 12th or 13th in the world. No, no. They can go over to the local race in France and they'd only be 14th or 15th. The thing is that France can only send four boats to the worlds. The French women in particular. They have seven women competing in their trials that have all medaled in the world cup. The depth of field over there is so much stronger that it's not even funny."

Holler continued: "Honestly, I don't think that we are ever going to have the depth that France has, for instance. You know, France is a socialist nation, and all of their paddling clubs are subsidized by the state. And England has thousands and thousands of registered racers. I think Americans are more into whitewater... running drops and creeking, that kind of thing. I wish I could my finger on why we don't have that depth, but I would guess that it has something to do with their government

and lifestyle. Here, I see more of the rugged individualist in the sport, rather than "clubiness" that Europe has in their racing community."

The thought of a European paddling blitzkrieg at next year's Olympics did not reduce the drama of the two race days at the Ocoee trials. It's a time where, for the serious athletes, years and years of doing two to three workouts everyday all year long either are going to pay off or lead to another long, self-financed training year. The American athletes may not have the European infrastructure for competition, but they train just as hard and have the same fundamental love of negotiating rapids.

The course at Grumpy's is steep and technical. At first glance the gate placement looks impossible; it looks as though you would get in at the top and rush right down to the bottom, before you knew it. But on closer inspection, you can see a little eddy for the upstream gate in one spot, and then a steep wave to facilitate a river wide ferry between another two gates. If you then read the water very carefully you can see how it might be possible to negotiate a boat down the course. But remember, you have to run the course without touching any poles. In the 25 gate slalom, every touch on any one of the gates adds five seconds on to your time. At the elite level, one touch can be enough to knock you from first to fifteenth place.

The more inexperienced competitors start first and they understandably have a hard time; they hit eddies too low for an upstream move and occasionally slip past a gate. As the bib numbers decrease, the crowd starts to pay more attention. The aura of the race shifts to more of a ballet, than a battle, against whitewater. The top paddlers in every class make it seem easy, as if they were paddling the same course in

flatwater. Shipley for example, appears to be paddling slowly, like he is testing each eddy line and wave to get the feel of them. But a quick look at a watch reveals that he is actually five seconds faster than everyone else. Each class seems to have its own intrigue. In women's kayak, it's who is going to score the third and fourth spots, behind the likely top place candidates, Cathy Hearn and Dana Chladek? There are a number of excellent women paddlers, like Kara Ruppel, Jana Freeburn, Kirsten Brown and Renata Altman, who with a good performance could snag the third and fourth place slots. Maybe even win.

In men's C-1, the big question is how will Lugbill perform against Davey. I got the impression that many people are not sure if they are going to see an old, washed-up Lugbill, or Lugbill the legend. In men's kayak, Eric Jackson's prediction that he will win first place piqued my curiosity, along with the possibility that one of the newcomers might paddle onto the team and dethrone one of the older team members. And Lecky Haller, the stern paddler in the dominating C-2 team (with his brother Fritz), tore his triceps free of his skeleton in December. Although they are expected to win the trials, the quality of Lecky's recovery and the loss of training time could put those expectations in jeopardy.

After two days and two races, it's all over. Each competitor, who spent God knows how many hours in training to prepare for this, made four runs, amounting to a total time of about 10 minutes. Now, most of the participants were ready to purge leftover adrenaline with unathletic amounts of beer.

The town of Cleveland, in anticipation of the financial explosion they hope whitewater slalom will bring to their pleasant, but worn-out town, closed off a few blocks around the town square to host a dinner and the awards ceremony. Shortly after the awards and a photo opportunity, many paddlers drifted off toward bars and hotel room drinking games. There is a saying that floats around every post-trials party, after it's all over and everyone has digested the implications of the results: "It's never surprising who makes the team." This is an expression, according to those aware of the high turnover on European

teams, that is strictly American.

This year is no exception; 16 out of 20 team members are the same as last year. In women's kayak, **Kara Ruppel** made fourth boat, **Renata Altman** was third and **Cathy Hearn** was second. In C-2, **Steve Isenburg** and **Matt Taylor** were fourth, **Horace Holden** and **Steve Holmes** were third and **Barry Kennon** and **David Kemp** were second. In C-1, **Kent Ford** was fourth, **Joe Jacobi** was third, and **Davey Hearn** was second, once again. In men's kayak, **Eric Giddens** placed fourth. **Eric Jackson**, despite his prediction, had to settle for third. **Scott Shipley** was second.

The first place winners in each class represent some of the finest paddlers in the world, competitors who are going to represent our country well, probably not only this year, but at the 1996 Summer Games. But at the same time, **Bill Endicott's** observation that our top team members are all over 30 proves to be true again. **Dana Chladek**, at 31, won the women's class; **Rich Weiss**, 31, won men's kayak. **Fritz Haller**, 36, and **Lecky Haller**, 37, took the C-2 class. And **Jon Lugbill**, 32, won C-1.

Back in the parking lot after the race, those who didn't make the cut were packing to drive back to whatever training site they call home. The new team couldn't leave until after Saturday's "team processing," where they would review the athlete agreement and receive their bag full of official team paddling gear.

Hearn took the defeat by **Lugbill** like good sport: "As somebody who is totally committed to the sport, it's tough to get beat by someone who isn't totally committed. But he is a legend."

Lugbill, for his part, seemed to be more interested in racing now that he had earned top billing.

"Maybe I'll race a little," he told me with a smile on the way back to his car. **Eric Jackson** seemed a bit disappointed, but otherwise unfazed, by his defeat by **Weiss** and **Shipley**. When I reminded **Eric** about his prediction, he just smiled, shrugged his shoulders and said, "Yeah, I know."

In the aftermath of the race, people are discussing racing and training for the summer and the year to come. Racers are deciding who is going to travel with who in Europe, and who is taking their car to Colorado for the Champion Series. And most of the athletes seem to be pretty optimistic about the huge amount of work that lies ahead. You couldn't train this hard without thinking you have a chance. The question of the age of the U.S. team and the threat of the European racing squads don't seem to be an issue... right now. The mistakes made at this race are history. The new team, and the competitors who were so close to making it they could taste it, seem to know what they have to do, and how much time they have left to do it.

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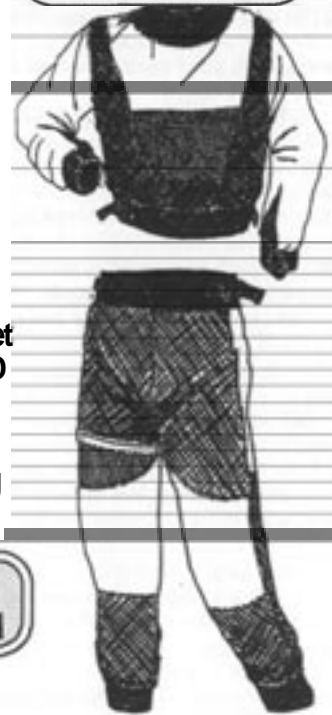
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Did You See That?

by Charlie Walbridge

Just when you thought you'd seen everything, imagine eating lunch at Big Splat on West Virginia's Big Sandy River and watching someone run the Splat—Standing Up! He might even climb back up the cliff face and do it again and again!

Don't touch the dial: there's nothing wrong with your eyes. It's just Jeff Snyder at it again!

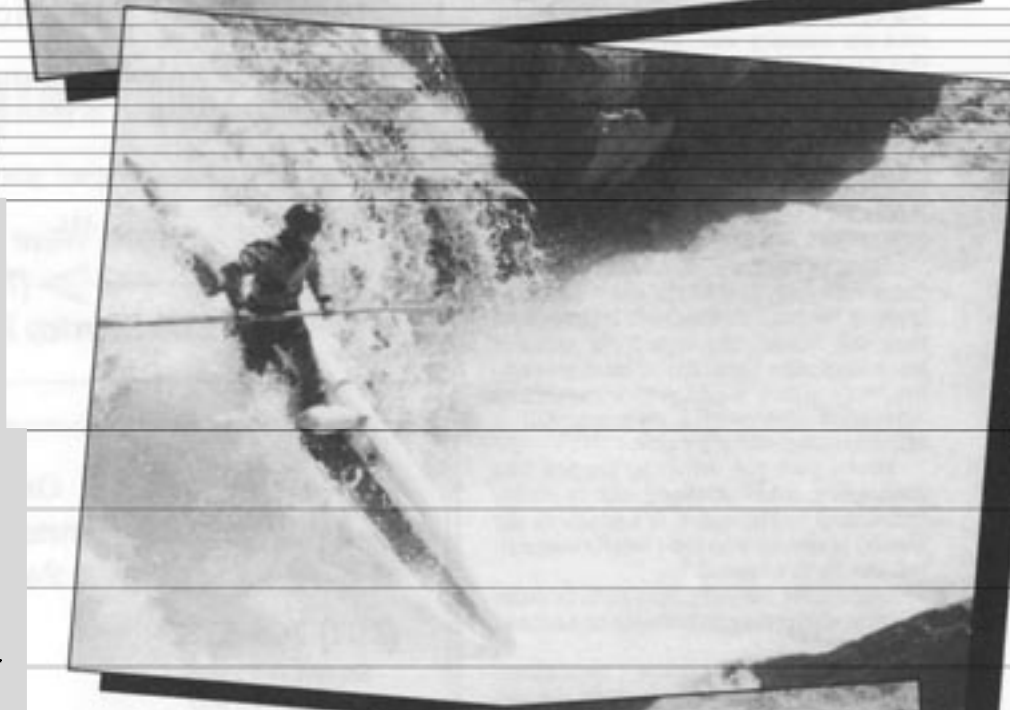
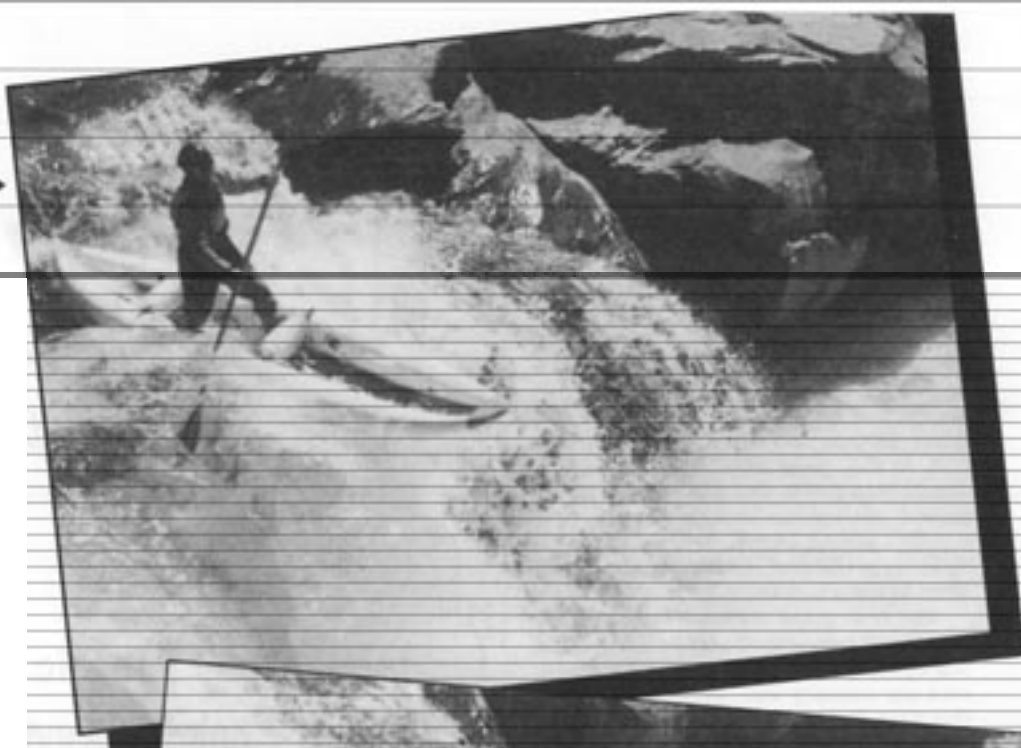
Jeff, one of the most talented whitewater athletes in the nation, periodically reinvents the sport for himself. A pioneer squirtist and winner of many whitewater rodeos, he moved on to swimming rapids in rivers like the Gauley and Upper Yough in a padded wetsuit, swim fins and knee and elbow pads. He later started running extremely steep creeks in his Thrillseeker and was featured in the video, *A Token of My Extreme*. In each case he pushed the limits, then moved on.

Jeff got his latest idea from snowboarding, a favorite winter sport. He had the folks at Thrillseeker make him an extra short duckie, but he kept falling off. So now he uses a Double Duck.

It's a lot like canoe poling, Snyder says. The visibility is incredible and if you fall down you usually land inside the boat. The balance is a lot like that in snowboarding or skateboarding.

Jeff uses a ten foot custom made kayak paddle for propulsion. He did have one bad run on Splat (out of six or eight). He fell forward but managed to hang on. If he had been a hard boat he would really have been abused.

So Jeff, what's next???



SOUTHWESTERN CANOE RENDEZVOUS: OCTOBER 6-9

The **HOUSTON CANOE CLUB** has announced that the seventh annual SOUTHWESTERN CANOE RENDEZVOUS will be held **October 6-9, 1995**. A fourth day has been added to accommodate additional programs and to take advantage of the Columbus Day holiday. The symposium will be held on Lake Raven at the **Huntsville State Park**, 60 miles north of Houston, Texas.

The public is invited to participate in the many activities that include: clinics, workshops, on the water boat demonstrations, exhibitors, family entertainment, races, competitions, **raffles** and an auction benefiting river conservation efforts.

Over **fifty clinics** will be taught by leading instructors from across North America. Clinics will be available for beginners to advanced paddlers. Specific instruction will

be given in all types of paddle craft including: flat water canoes, whitewater canoes, sea kayaks, and whitewater kayaks. Major manufacturers of canoes, kayaks and paddlesports accessories will be on hand to display their products. This event allows the public to "test drive" any of the hundreds of boats that will be displayed. Many manufacturers use the Rendezvous to unveil their latest designs to the paddling community.

Several new events are planned this year, including an attempt to establish new **Guinness World Record** for largest canoe star. The current record stands at 568 boats.

The Houston Canoe Club is a non-profit organization whose purpose is the promotion of Canoesport, and is active in conservation, recreation, racing and instruction. The club cel-

ebrated its 30th anniversary in 1994. It is the largest canoe club in the State of Texas, with over 300 members.

Additional information and registration packets can be obtained by calling the Houston Canoe Club at (713) 467-8857, or by mail, PO Box 925516, Houston, Texas 77292-5516.

Free Kayaking Newsletter for Kids

Kayaking Kids, a quarterly newsletter for young watersports enthusiasts, is being offered free by Perception. The publication will feature informative articles targeted at kids who are novices or just curious about kayaking.

It will include information on kayak touring, recreational whitewater kayaking and competitive boating.

Contact **Kayaking Kids**, Perception Inc., 111 Kayaker Way, P.O. Box 8002, Easley, SC 29641-8002 for a free subscription.



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GAULEY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The AWA Gauley Festival will be held on Saturday, September 23 in **Summersville WV**. This festival is a **major** fund raiser for the AWA, the premier volunteer whitewater conservation organization in the world. The festival needs volunteers for publicity, **raffle** tickets, T-shirt booth, the gate and parking. Please call **Joe Greiner** at **919-834-1633** to volunteer two hours of your time.

This is a great way to combine the fun of the festival and a contribution of your time to the AWA. The AWA will provide a token of appreciation to each volunteer that will let everybody know that you cared enough to volunteer.

We need twelve people starting at **8 AM** for publicity. This job will last one or two hours. I will assign these people **ONE outfitter** or **ONE put-in** or **ONE take-out**. The job will be to take flyers to that location and put one on each windshield in the parking lot. There should be plenty of time to run the river **after** this job is done.

Three individuals will be needed to sell **raffle** tickets and one to man the T shirt booth throughout the evening. These will be two hour shifts starting at 5 p.m.

The volunteer parking and gate crew will work with AWA board members to take money, hand out magazines and direct parking. Eight volunteers will be needed between **4 p.m. and 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.** Twelve will be needed between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Get a friend and give two hours to the AWA!!! **Call Joe Greiner** collect, at **919-834-1633**, to volunteer.

AWA Moose River Festival "Grand Finale" to Fall Boating Season

With whitewater ranging **from** class II to class V on the Moose River, the 1st annual Moose River Festival figures to attract paddlers of all skill levels.

Scheduled for Saturday, October **21** at North Street Park in Old Forge, NY, the festival will cap the October paddling season on the Moose River,

located in the Adirondack mountains of central New York.

The festival will be modeled after the **AWA's** other successful river events with live entertainment, whitewater videos, equipment displays and demonstrations, a silent auction and **raffles** planned for the evening's activities.

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According to festival director Chris Koll, the festival has already considerable support including Northern **Outfitters/New Wave Waterworks** and **Harza Engineers Northeast**— both of Utica, NY—who have signed on as festival sponsors.

"Harza is the owner of the hydro project on the Bottom Moose and they are enthusiastic about the event," Koll said. "It's encouraging to see that two diverse groups can share a common resource and work toward promoting its use.

"Northern **Outfitters/New Wave Waterworks** also came on board early and will sponsor the official festival shirt," Koll said. "We're looking to create a unique design and sell the shirts at **cost**— just to publicize Moose River paddling."

The Moose River in October provides paddlers with a unique paddling opportunity because of the availability of dependable water levels and three separate whitewater runs ranging from class 2 to class 5.

Starting on Columbus Day weekend, drawdowns from upstream reservoirs create a natural flow on the Moose ranging **from 3'-5'** on the **McKeever** gauge. At those levels, the 7-mile Middle Moose run provides class **2-3** water while the Lower Moose boasts class 3-4 rapids.

Of course, the jewel of Moose River whitewater is the **5-mile** Bottom Moose section—a class 4-5 series of **waterfalls** and rapids included as one the east's "Top 10" expert runs.

An agreement with Harza allows access to the Bottom Moose during 20 days of the year including the final four weekends of October.

"The Bottom Moose will definitely be the big attraction of the festival," Koll said, "but we expect to see just as many people come to the Adirondacks for the other two sections. Many groups include paddlers who just don't feel comfortable on class 5 **water**— but the Moose really has something for everyone all within a **25-mile** stretch of river."

The festival will commence at approximately 5 p.m. following the day of paddling. The event will be held in a large pavilion at Old Forge's

North Street Park so the festivities won't be effected by inclement weather.

"Old Forge hosts a snowmobile trade show in the winter at the pavilion so there should be plenty of room and parking," Koll said. "It's a great

site for the festival."

Exhibitors interested in participating in the Moose River Festival and clubs or individuals interested in attending should contact Koll at **(315)475-7499** (days) or **(315)652-8397** (evenings).

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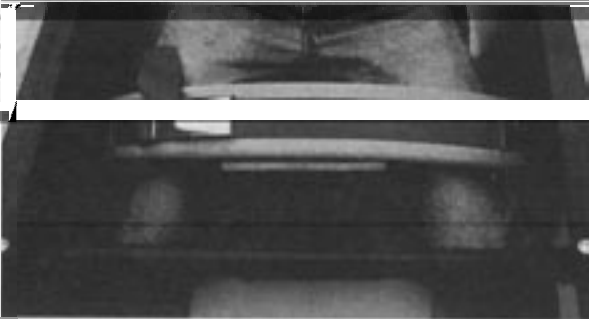
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"Mohawk's new thigh retainer is great! Really holds you in the boat, yet so quirk and easy to get in and out of. It quickly adjusts to fit all sizes of our students. The pull-one-strap release for both legs is the easiest release I've seen and it sure is comfortabk.. (Bob Latham - Longtime ACA Trainer).



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1995 New England Cup Results

by Jamie McEwan

Though many slalom racers missed two of the cup races because of a conflict with the national training camp, the final of the New England Cup, held at Snyder's Mill, New Hampshire, was very well attended. Most of the classes in the slalom series were undecided until the end of the day.

The men's wildwater kayak class was also decided by the final wildwater race, held at **Tariffville**, Connecticut.

There were only two repeat winners; Adam Boyd in junior C1

and Sarah Leith, in junior K1-W. Worthy of special note is the stalwart Mike Campbell, who won in two classes: in C1 and in C2, with partner Mark Cyborowski.

Wildwater Rankings

K1-M

Ian Stewart
Mike Beck
Bruce Weik

K1-W

Mary Hawkes
Peggy Mitchell
Leslie Moses

Slalom Rankings

K1-M

Jonathan Altman
Marc Sinotte
David Su

K1-W

Renata Altman
Anne Mitchell
Leslie Moses

C1-M

Mike Campbell
John Kazimierzcyk
Kevin Michaelson

C2-M

Campbell/ Cyborowski
Taylor/ Eisenberg
Coriell/ Moore

K1-Junior-Men

Silas Treadway
Kyle Marinello
Fred Coriell

K1-Junior-Women

Sarah Leith
Anna Jorgenson
Hannah Larson

C1-Men-Junior

Adam Boyd
Luke Moore
Brendan Moore

GREAT NEWS FOR AWA AFFILIATES!!!

YOUR OWN INTERNET HOME PAGE — FREE!!!

Earlier this year AWA initiated an exciting new way to provide information about whitewater events, safety, conservation and river access to boaters worldwide. We opened the first World Wide Web site on the Internet exclusively devoted to whitewater boating. The AWA Web site is a cornucopia of whitewater information. Boaters surfing cyberspace (when it is too dark to be out on the river) can find everything and anything they want on our amazing, new Homey Page.

Some boaters want information about whitewater accidents. Some want gauge readings. Some want to read stories about a particular river. Some want to check out the schedule for the next race, festival or rodeo. Some want the latest news about river conservation. Some want to see hot whitewater graphics. Some want news on the latest first descents. All this and more is available at the click of a mouse on the AWA Homey Page.

Several clubs have their own Home Pages on the Internet and have asked AWA to provide "links" to their pages. We are happy to do this so that boaters around the country can find the clubs in their region and join up with local boaters they may not know.

Other clubs are not so high tech as to have their own Internet locations but would like information about their club, their trip schedules, meetings, membership and events to be posted somewhere on the Internet. AWA CAN NOW PROVIDE THIS AS A FREE SERVICE FOR OUR AFFILIATE CLUBS!!!

To have your very own place on the Internet, all your club has to do is be a current AWA Affiliate and provide us with the material you want posted (and revisions from time to time). All text material must be in ASCII format. All graphics (such as your club logo) should be in GIF format. It is best if text is sent via E-mail, but a computer disk in the mail will do. (Most big copy centers can scan your club logo and other graphics into GIF format in color for about \$9).

For more information on this incredible new service, just give Phyllis Horowitz a call at (914) 688-5569. It's time to hitch a ride on the information super-highway!

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BRIEFS

Whitewater Video Producer Anne Ford-Kearns Dies

Contributed by Peter G. Williams



Anne Ford Kearns, the producer of River Rescue: The Video, died April 10 after a two year baffle with cancer. She passed away at her home in Swan Valley at the age of 33.

Well known and respected in the northern Rockies, Anne was an avid whitewater kayaker. She boated throughout North America, Central America and New Zealand. She was also a skilled sea kayaker, alpine mountaineer, backcountry telemark

skier and a talented writer and photographer.

Anne was born February 25, 1962 in Loveland, Colorado, where she was active in women's athletics while growing up. She graduated from the University of Idaho in 1986 with a degree in landscape

architecture.

A skilled video producer, she worked with the late Rocky Rossi of Gravity Sports Films, Inc. in the mid 1980s. She later established her own business, Swan Valley Landscaping, working in western Wyoming and Idaho.

Anne was an extremely energetic and conscientious outdoor enthusiast. She was a welcome companion to all who had the

good fortune to adventure with her. A creative individual who was gifted with a tremendous sense of humor, she once commented in a letter, "If I melt dry ice, can I swim without getting wet?"

She is survived by her parents; her husband, Chip; her stepchildren, Jamie and Corby; and her constant canine companion, Oscar de Pluto.

Contributions may be made in her memory to the Institute for Limb Preservation, Research and Scholarship, 1721 East 19th Ave, Suite 102, Denver, Colorado 80218.



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BRIEFS

FIRST ANNUAL WOLFMAN TRIATHLON SLATED

Whitewater paddlers will tell you about the great paddling in Wisconsin's Wolf River Territory. Mountain bikers will tell you the same about the area's great trail riding. Each year there are more people who enjoy both whitewater paddling and mountain biking. So members of the Wolf River Territory, a local business group, have organized the first annual **Wolfman Triathlon**, an event for men and women that combines whitewater paddling, mountain biking and an off-road run. The **Wolfman Triathlon** will be held Saturday, August 19, 1995 on and around the Wolf River near White Lake, Wisconsin.

"In a regular triathlon participants generally swim a distance, hop on a bicycle for a road race, and finish up the event with a running race on a paved surface. Those are challenging events that test the skills and endurance of the competitors. The

Wolfman Triathlon will multiply the challenges competitors face by taking the race off-road," says **Wolfman** race director Patrick McCabe.

First competitors will paddle a **three-mile** section of the Wolf River, negotiating their way as quickly as possible through technical **boulder-garden** rapids in whitewater kayaks, canoes or inflatables. At the end of the whitewater leg, competitors will trade their paddling equipment for mountain bikes and set out on logging roads for a 12-mile trail ride that includes one planned river crossing. The final leg of the race will be a challenging off-road trail run.

"This is not a relay or a teams race," McCabe says. "Each competitor must complete **all** three legs of the event. It will be interesting to see how the competitors' individual strengths and weaknesses in the three events balance out. It should

be a great event with lots of excitement for the spectators as well as the competitors."

Spectators will be able to watch the excitement at locations on each leg of the race.

Entry fees for the **Wolfman Triathlon** are \$20 per person before July 31 and \$30 per person after August 1. To receive registration forms, write to **Wolfman Triathlon**, PO Box 265, White Lake, WI 54491, or phone (715) 882-5771.

The **Wolfman Triathlon** is sponsored by the Wolf River Territory, an association of businesses and individuals whose mission includes responsible economic development in the Wolf River area as well as preservation of the area's outstanding natural resources, history and culture. Additional sponsors include the Bear Paw Inn, Patrick McCabe Construction and Whitewater Specialty.

For more information about the **Wolfman Triathlon**, contact race directors Patrick and Jamee McCabe at (715) 882-5771.



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CWA/AWA Announce Colorado Whitewater Festival

The Second **Annual** Colorado Whitewater Festival will be held **July 8**. Come enjoy the Festival (formerly known as the Arkansas River Festival) and help raise funds to benefit whitewater rivers in Colorado. The festival name was changed this year to emphasize that it is a regional event, and to better reflect how proceeds are being used—to benefit all rivers in Colorado, according to **AWA/CWWA** Board Member Ric Alesch.

The gala party, sponsored by the American Whitewater Affiliation (**AWA**) and the Colorado White Water Association (**CWWA**) was a big hit in its first year; it was attended by about **400** people and raised over **\$3,000** to benefit river access and conservation in the state. The Festival is a partnership effort between **AWA** and **CWWA**, with **AWA** providing financial backing and national publicity, and **CWWA** providing most of the volunteers to put on the event. This year the Colorado Rivers Alliance (**CRA**) has been added to the list of sponsors and will help organize activities at the Festival.

The Festival will be held on Saturday **July 8** in the same location as last year, Riverside Park in Salida, Colorado. The Arkansas River provides over **100** miles of whitewater, including some world class sections; it is the most popular whitewater river in the nation. It tumbles off the continental divide in one of the most beautiful valleys in the state. There are many other recreational opportunities available in the Arkansas River Valley in summer; this should contribute to a good turnout and make a special trip to the area worthwhile. The Colorado Cup race will be held on the river that weekend and a major boat manufacturer is considering sponsoring a whitewater rodeo on Sunday. **CWWA** will hold its annual Arkansas River weekend on **July & 9**, which last year drew over **100** people to a camping area about **15** miles from Salida.

The Colorado Whitewater Festival will once again be a late **afternoon/early** evening event, allowing time to enjoy a good run in on the river that day. It will last from about **4-10 P.M.** and feature a wide range of activities such as music, a silent auction, whitewater videos, boat demos, a swap meet, vendor booths, and food and beverage stands. No beer is sold on site, but Festival goers may carry in their own (cans only). This year Festival organizers are also adding some activities for kids. An **admission/donation** is

collected, but all the proceeds after expenses go to assuring access to our rivers and to protecting them from dams and other threats. This year the donation will be reduced to **\$3** for adults and **\$1** for children to encourage greater attendance. Last year's proceeds are being used to document threats to the rivers of Colorado, to support a legal project aimed at assuring river runner's rights to float through private land, and to help acquire river access.

The American Whitewater Affiliation, Colorado White Water Association, Colorado Rivers Alliance, and the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club all had booths to provide organization information last year. These and other groups are expected to have booths again this year. Many **CWWA** board members attended last year, and several **AWA** board members and staff were also there, so it was a good chance for **CWWA** members to meet their board and for some key **AWA** people to get more exposure in the west. **CRA** hopes to gain greater recognition and sign up new members at the Festival, according to **CRA** board member Lucy Ghoda.

While flow conditions were low last year, minimum recreation releases of **700** cfs from the Bureau of Reclamation assure that the Arkansas is **runable** through the weekend. If the river is low not much else in the area normally has water so the Ark will draw boaters from around the region for the weekend. If there is higher water this year, there are numerous good runs within a day's ride of the Festival site.

The swap meet is a very popular activity, and there will be more items for the silent auction this year, including several boats and numerous accessories. This provides an excellent chance to get a great deal on equipment while providing a donation for a good cause, according to event coordinator Jim Martin. Colorado boater, photographer, and artist Scott Reuman has also updated the festival logo and is developing a new T-shirt design for this year's event.

Jim says he once again expects to see a broad array of river folks at this celebration and benefit for Colorado rivers, including canoers, kayakers, rafters, river guides, their customers, equipment manufacturers and dealers, and many others who share an interest in protecting and using our whitewater streams. If you enjoy rivers and river people you are likely to enjoy this festival. If last year is

any indication, **AWA**, **CWWA**, and **CRA** anticipate an expanding event that over time will become the premier whitewater festival for the Rocky Mountain West.

For more information, to volunteer at the Festival, or to make a donation for the silent auction, contact festival coordinator Jim Martin at **303-440-9359**, or call Ric Alesch at **303-985-8620**.

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reviewed by Ed Grove

Even the gnarliest river rat will enjoy Monte Smith's hot new guide book, *Southeastern Whitewater*. This book showcases 50 of the finest whitewater runs which cascade down the spine of the Central and Southern Appalachians. Included are premier whitewater runs in West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.

Monte knows whitewater. As a child he grew up in Westminster, South Carolina and played on the beaches and banks of the nearby Chauga and Chattooga Rivers. He has many years of hard core experience on southeastern whitewater rivers, particularly on such gems as Wilson's Creek in North Carolina and Section IV of Chattooga, and has written *A Paddler's Guide to the Obed/Emory Watershed* — an outstanding tribute to the pristine rivers on the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee.

Southeastern Whitewater is user friendly and informative. All rivers are listed alphabetically on the back

cover with a map showing their location. Inside, rivers are listed alphabetically. The book is filled with a rich variety of steep creeks (such as the tiny Piney and wild Watagua) and heavy water (such as the gargantuan Gauley and New River Gorge). Popular runs such as the Ocoee and Nantahala are described as well as gentler trips, such as Hopeville Canyon and the mellow Middle Meadow River in West Virginia.

Numerous pictures jump out at the reader as well as informative tables showing concise itineraries pinpointing major rapids and significant landmarks, gauge levels, and distances from major cities. The maps are computer generated or enhanced, which gives crisp views of nearby camping opportunities and other close alternative river trips.

Perhaps the most intriguing as-

pect of the book is that Monte has created a river rating scale which evaluates and compares whitewater rivers on ten important dimensions to complement the Class I-VI rating system. Using a new TRIP scale with input from 40 seasoned paddlers, any of the 50 trips in the book can be instantly compared with any other in table form — by either overall TRIP difficulty or any one of the ten elements comprising this difficulty (including volume and gradient interaction, average gradient, difficulty of rapids, continuous of rapids, entrapment hazards, accessibility, and reputation among paddlers).

So, you can make a thousand comparisons at a glance. For example, is the Ocoee in Tennessee less difficult than the New River Gorge in West Virginia? Or, how do Chattooga Section IV rapids compare in difficulty with those on the Upper Gauley? Or, is the reputation of Daddy's Creek Canyon in Tennessee tougher than the Nolichucky Gorge in North Carolina?

In summary, Smith has created a classic that should be in every serious river runner's library.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reviewer Ed Grove is a co-author of *Appalachian Whitewater: Volume II*.

PADDLING & ENGINEERING

by Sara Wermiel

Why are so many paddlers engineers? While there are no statistics on the occupations of paddlers (why would there be?), my own informal surveys suggest that many paddlers are engineers. Perhaps this should come as no surprise, since "engineer" is supposed to be the largest single occupation of men. As paddlers are disproportionately male, it follows that many would be engineers.

Still, I think the large number of paddling engineers is not merely a matter of odds. We wouldn't, and don't, find every occupation proportionally represented. Rather, it is the intellectual aspect of paddling — the opportunity to acquire and apply knowledge — that attracts engineers, and people who think like engineers, to the sport.

Before continuing, I should say what I mean by engineering. A classic definition of engineering is the practical application of scientific knowledge. Since engineers apply scientific knowledge and employ scientific methods to solve problems, engineering could be defined more generally as the application of scientific knowledge to solve practical problems.

Now, let's consider paddling in relation to engineering. First, does paddling involve scientific knowledge? It does, in

the sense that systematic knowledge about the natural world, specifically rivers, is scientific knowledge. Moreover, paddling involves the application of this knowledge to problem-solving: how to run drops. Paddlers use their knowledge of river features — hydrotopography as William Nealy calls it — to predict what will happen if they take one or another course down a rapid.

It is the river reading feature that makes paddling so satisfying to people who think like engineers. Different lines through a drop present different opportunities: for having fun, challenging oneself, impressing one's friends, and avoiding trouble. You get to figure out how to do what you want to do. Thus, a good paddler is not merely a skillful boater. A good paddler is also someone who builds up river reading knowledge and applies this knowledge to accomplish something.



THE PHYSIOLOGY OF BOATING "HAIR"

by Brik Miller

Not all paddlers have engineering inclinations, of course. Many have enough fun taking the standard routes, or following the advice or boats of others. And I do not mean to imply that good paddlers never miscalculate, because, of course, they do. Whenever you try new things, you open yourself up to failure. But it is precisely the inclination to try new things, to use what you've learned to solve new problems, that drives many boaters to paddle ever more difficult rivers.

So, I had to laugh at a statement in an article about the history of attempts to run Niagara Falls in the last issue of *Invention & Technology* (Spring 1995): "Few people who challenge the falls give the problem the serious engineering attention it demands, because the stunt rarely attracts the sort of person who would be capable of doing so."

I think the author would be surprised to know how many paddlers—engineers and people who think like engineers—have stood on the shore and scouted, not Niagara Falls, perhaps, but other formidable-looking drops, trying to find that "perfect" line.

I don't know why you go boating. Everyone has their reasons. Maybe it's the adrenaline rush of running a real tough drop; or the surfer's thrill of finding the perfect hole... one that'll thrash the beejeesuz out of you, like *Toilet Terror*...but without the ice cubes and sticks; then let you go before you swim.

Who knows? Perhaps you're one of those idealistic fools that wants a way to explore the "wilderness" that doesn't rely on the internal combustion engine.

I go so I won't think.

About the rest of my life that is. Boating transports me into the eternal present, into the land of the otter and the smallmouth bass. Boating leaves me feeling small and humble, yet happy to be alive. Boating makes me focus on where I'm going, not on where I've been. It makes me feel glad to just breathe.

My love of boating led me to work as a raft guide for almost fifteen years. This

was long after the extremely exploitative nature of that enterprise should have given me a serious reality check about art and life.

My hubris even led me to seek river adventures in far off New Zealand. This was the place where my current troubles began. Not that they haven't been compounded by my present folly. But to put things in perspective, you need to know the beginnings.

My "hair" problems started when I almost got shoved into this thing called the "Toaster" [that's Toasta', eh mate] on the Wairoa River, about 90 km. south of Auckland. The Toasta' is a crack in the last ledge of Waterfall Rapids. Two and a half feet wide and deep enough to stick at least half of a fully loaded sixteen foot Avon raft full of squealing Japanese tourists into. That's where the water goes.

You've got to drive left across the face of the four meter drop to avoid it. The in-

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Lee Daulton kayaking Shogakukan Falls, Wind River, W.V. Dave Slawer photo.

BRIEFS

side of the **Toasta'** is scalloped basalt, like a big cheese grater.

I had gotten through the huge hole just above the ledge. Somehow, in the Alpha I was commanding, I'd managed to hit the sweet spot and go through. I saw other people who didn't manage this feat.

So, when I got to the top of the drop, I relaxed. ~~Me~~ little brain thought, "Ho! You're home free! I'll just go up to the edge and go over." Poor brain! Thinking a little fuzzy in the provinces, it was.

I did manage to miss the **Toasta'** with world class scrambling. It was, however, touch and go for a bit. Funny how these things seem to take forever. Yeah, I know, how to get hammered on both continents.

Scared myself good on that one.

The next day was when my "problem" started.

My hair started turning gray.

A white patch appeared in my beard on the lower left side of my jaw. Since then, it has only grown bigger. We're talking major whiteness here. Initially it was only a few centimeters in diameter. But think of it as running the Horsepasture; once you start the big slide, one way or the other, you are going to the bottom.

This was several years ago. Gradually, the flame red hair I once sported has gotten lighter and lighter. It still has some color, but it's just not as fiery as before.

My daughter fortunately has my hair. I guess the genes won't die out. Her mother once said that women who have hair that red don't need black lace underwear. Frightening thought, that.

In any case, in early March I did the Lower Meadow. I probably shouldn't have, but I was in one of those moods. It was only 570 **cfs**, but after all, it was the Lower Meadow.

Didn't Teresa **Gryder's** old **boyfriend** die down there somewhere?

I'd been having this misunderstanding with my lover. Between her two huge, drunken **redneck** brothers, her fundamentalist mother, who considers me the devil incarnate, and the way she squeezed me like I have not been squeezed since I was nineteen years old - I was an emotional wreck. Not to bore the reader, but the blues will make a man [or a woman, for that matter] do strange things.

What to do?

Oh, I'll go boating and not think about it.

I carried Coming Home Sweet Jesus. I also swam three times. I didn't even swim once on the **Wairoa**. But, what the hell! For five hours or so I didn't think of anything else. And I still have my boat and paddle, and my facial structure is grossly intact.

Not a bad day, all in all. Bloody brilliant river too. Quite soul stirring.

I don't think I would have even tried it at all, but I've got one of those **Thrillseek-**

ers, you know, the Lotus Elan of inflatables. I can't roll it like the two kayaks I own. But danger of entrapment is so much less. If things get real ticklish, I just stand up and jump. Time for a Jeff Snyder impersonation anyone?

I was following my friend Fred, too. I would have probably done better if we would have gotten out and scouted. It's harsh using a probe unit that is constantly disappearing over 8 to 10 foot ledges.

So even though I survived my Lower Meadow river trip, I'm still dead meat. I don't think my hair will last the summer. I'll be totally white by Gauley Fest.

Flash! Gone ethereal... I can see my hair changing. Nope, it's not age, it's adrenaline overdose. The pattern has been noted. Cumulative insults to the body over time. Or something.

I can only hope that in the future, when my **friends** in the hospital where I work discover I'm about to get in over my head, they'll beat me with wet newspapers.

"Some people say that there's a woman to blame, but I know it's my own damn fault."

When you're boating "hair", you need to know the score.

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First Cheat Festival "Smashing Success"

Over 1,500 people attended the first annual Cheat River Festival held Saturday, May 6 in Albright, West Virginia, according to Roger Harrison, Executive Director of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WVRC). The attendance, and the \$15,000 that was raised for watershed conservation and restoration, far exceeded the expectations of the Festival's hosts: the Friends of the Cheat, the WVRC and the American Whitewater Affiliation.

"It was a smashing success," said Dave Bassage, President of the Friends of the Cheat. "The success of the Festival demonstrated an interest on the part of many people in watershed clean up. I'm especially pleased with the turnout of local people."

"The Festival will definitely become an annual event," Bassage continued. Next year's Cheat Festival has already been slated for May 4.

One of the highlights of the Festival was the announcement and signing of a "Shared Commitment" by representatives of federal and state agencies, private businesses and environmental groups. Officials from the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, Anker Energy, the WV D.E.P., the WV D.N.R., the WVRC and the

Above left: VIP Cheat River Festival Rafters (left to right): Courtney Black, National Mine Labor Relation; Bob Uram, Director Federal Office of Surface Mining; Dave Bassage, President of Friend of the Cheat; Shawn McMahon, Office of Surface mining; AWA's Conservation director Rich bowers served as safety boater

Above right: Director of OSM Robert Uram recognizes Dave Bassage, President of Friends of the Cheat for all this hard work. Below: Bluegrass music



Friends of the Cheat all pledged to work together restore the Cheat watershed, which was recently designated one of the most endangered rivers in the United States by American Rivers.

Robert Uram, director of the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining, announced that Muddy Creek will be added to the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative List. Acid mine leakage into Muddy Creek during the past two years has resulted in a significant degradation of the Cheat Canyon, the most popular whitewater run in the watershed. It was this recent mine acid leakage which stimulated the formation of the WVRC, and, secondarily, the Cheat Festival.

"We are going to start cleaning up Muddy Creek," Uram said, "and we'll work at it as long as it takes to get it done."

The Commitment was also signed by Anker Energy Corporation President John Faltis, who subsequently pledged \$250,000 to deal with acid mine drainage on Green's Run, another badly polluted Cheat tributary. A number of local conservationists have recently praised Anker's sense of commitment and environmental responsibility.

"I'm really excited to be involved in this," Faltis said. "For several years we've been thinking about doing a project like this so we started looking for a stream we could have a positive impact on. My desire is to become part of the solution and not the problem."

"I hoping this will be an example to other (mining) companies. I think they will see the good will this creates and how important it is," Faltis continued.

Thirty-five sponsors ranging from whitewater boat manufacturers to local artisans displayed their wares for the crowd and several informational booths were manned by representatives of various river conservation organizations.

"Many local companies, agencies and individuals donated time and money to make the Festival a success," according to Bassage. In particular he cited Anker Energy, Sanders Brothers Mill, Whitewater Adventures, Laurel Highlands Rafting, Mylan Pharmaceuticals, the WV Brewing Company, Bruceton Ag., Scott's Run Center, Twila's Old Mill Restaurant and a fraternity from WVU for their generosity.

The Albright Fire Department donated the use of tables while nearby U.S. Army Reserve Camp Dawson donated tents and chairs for the event, which was held on several grassy acres owned by Jeff Milne at the junction of the Cheat and Muddy Creek.

Much of the wiring and set up was credited to AWA Director Barry Tuscano, Neil Dana and Pat Norton, who perform the same challenging function each fall at the Gauley Festival.

Music was provided by Robert H. and the Short Brothers, Joan and Keith Pitzer, the Wildwater Band and the Joint Chiefs.

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The **A m u**

D a r y a I n c i d e n t

PART IV of III

Soviet Porn Today



by Jonathan Katz

[Author's note:

In the summer of 1994 Dr. Theodore "Barn Bam" McBride shut down the McBride-Omaha chemical factory on the banks of the Deerfield and took a group of his closest associates on a RaftFriends paddling vacation to Russia, to run Asian whitewater with the legendary Soviet boater, Dimitri Vasilevitch Ubenko.

What follows is the story of that trip, pieced together from the shattered memories of the survivors.]

Due to an error, this three part series was turned into a cliffhanger. So now, what you have been waiting for, the climax to the adventures of Barn-Bam and friends...

P.S. Sorry for the wait.

Dimitri Ubenko's student lackeys were lashing bundles of assault rifles and cases of ammunition into their remaining raft when the mujaheddin cavalry invaded the camp. Nobody heard the hoofbeats over the sound of the river and suddenly the stony beach was overrun with heavily armed men on horseback. There was no question of resistance: not even Omaha reached for a piece. The river runners stopped what they were doing, and stared and waited. McBride was scared, and when he saw how frightened Dimitri looked, he grew terrified. If the little creep was that shook, they were really in trouble.

The guerrilla leader wore a black turban and a red sash, and carried an AK-47. He spoke from his horse in a loud voice, in a language that McBride barely recognized as speech. He got no answer. Then, in heavily accented English, he repeated himself.

"Ubenko. Give Ubenko, we no kill."

McBride was pouring sweat. Should they bargain with the mujaheddin? Try to save the Russian? McBride thought about the theft of their equipment, the bad food, the porn and drugs he'd been forced to smuggle, Ubenko's gun pointed at that poor scared Russian boy, McBride's terrifying, near-death run through Stalingrad, the stinging hole in Omaha's left thigh. The he smiled. At last. Payback. "That's him over there."

Dimitri bolted, sprinting up the loose, rocky trail as fast as he could run. Amazingly, none of the horsemen fired. One made to give chase, but the leader held up his hand. "He'll be back," he said.

"What do you want him for?" asked Omaha.

The horseman met McBride's eyes for a long moment, then looked down at his crotch and made a chopping motion with his hand.

The Amu Darya Incident

HUMOR



"Koranic law," said McBride. "No bones about it."

"They're going to shorten his paddle!" Omaha exclaimed.

"He'll never surf the hole again," observed Chopper.

"Serves him right, the little creep," said Arden.

"Yeah. Bobbitt," Yvonne grinned.

Suddenly another horseman rode up. A man, gagged and bleeding, was tied across the back of his horse. It was Dimitri. His eyes were huge with fear.

"Rear guard," said the lead horseman. "Guns stay. You go. Take raft. Ten miles down river is road. Wait there. Tomorrow truck come. Take you Kabul. Get plane, go home. No come back. Ever."

Dimitri's eyes rolled, fear-crazed. He stared at McBride, **making** unintelligible noises, begging. McBride was moved. Should he reach out to the Russian? Put his life, his friends lives on the line? Hell no. Get while the getting was good.

Make hay while the sun shines. 23 **skidoo** and exit, stage left. He looked at the guerrilla leader. "Yes sir. We go. Right now. See ya, Dimitri."

McBride's party unloaded the guns and ammo **from** the raft as fast as they could and made ready to leave. Just as they pushed off, the mujaheddin noticed the aluminum boxes holding Chopper's A-Bombs. "What that?" he asked.

Chopper spoke quickly. "Video equipment," he said. "We are **making** an **Amu Darya** movie, for American television."

The chieftain grinned. "Open box. Put me on TV."

Chopper made no move toward the metal cases. Instead, he zipped open his **drybag** and pulled out his eight millimeter mini-cam. He pointed it at the chief. "Smile," he said, and pushed the button. The red light came on. The chief fired his rifle, galloped his horse down the beach and returned. "You send tape. To me. No Beta. **VHS.**"

Chopper thought, this is crazy, he

has no VCR, he doesn't even have electricity. But humor him, anything to keep his mind off those boxes. "What's your address?" he asked.

"**Ikhmad Ben Zitzitz**. AWA. Box 2552, Kabul."

"**AWA?**" Chopper asked.

"Afghan Whitewater Affiliation. Now paddle, or I shoot you."

"We're out of here," said Chopper, shoving the loaded raft into the current and leaping in, on top of a Bomb. As the raft gained speed in the current he glanced back at the shore, where he had abandoned his beloved kayak with the rest of the expedition's hard boats. The guerrilla chief was in his boat, doing practice rolls. Nearby was Dimitri, on his feet. He had one arm free and was pointing at the raft, then gesturing at the mujaheddin. They stood around him, some with hands on the hilts of their knives, others tugging their beards, eyes narrow with greed.

Dimitri was cutting a deal.

Guidelines for Contributors

The editorial staff of American Whitewater carefully reviews all material submitted for publication. We are particularly interested in receiving full length feature articles, conservation and club news, special event announcements, articles pertaining to whitewater safety and short, humorous pieces.

Articles should fit our established format; that is, they should be stylistically pattered to fit into our Features, AWA Briefs, Conservation Currents, Safety Lines, Humor or End Notes sections. Exceptional photographs and whitewater cartoons are also welcomed.

If possible articles should be submitted using Wordperfect on a 5 1/4" single sided flexible disc. Please use the standard Wordperfect default settings; do not alter the margin or spacing parameters. If you use a different word processing program **and/** or smaller disks, send us one anyway... we may be able to transfer it to our files. 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. Keep your originals and send us duplicates if possible; we can not guarantee the safe return of your pictures. If you

want us to return your pictures, include a self addressed stamped envelope with your submission. Because we publish in black and white, photos with a lot of contrast work best.

American Whitewater Feature articles should relate to some aspect of whitewater boating. Please do not submit articles pertaining to sea kayaking or flatwater. The best features have a definite slant... or theme. They are not merely chronological recountings of river trips.

Open the story with an eye catching lead, perhaps by telling an interesting anecdote. Dialogue should be used to heighten the reader's interest. Don't just tell us about the river... tell us about the people on the river... develop them as characters. Feature articles should not be written in the style of a local club newsletter.

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 III and 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.

Don't be **afraid** to let your personality shine through and don't be **afraid** to poke a little fun at yourself... and your paddling partners.

Profanity should be used only when it is absolutely necessary to effectively tell a story; it is not our intent to intentionally 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.

The American Whitewater Affiliation is non-profit; 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 the AWA, which is a volunteer conservation and safety organization.

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River Rating Quandary and Lawyer Surplus Resolved

Dear Editor:

I have been following the recent *american whitewater* debate regarding river classification with great interest. Charlie Walbridge and Joe Greiner make some excellent points; our present system is not perfect and it opens the door to misinterpretation and resulting accidents. It is clear that the whitewater community needs a consistent and universal classification system that will be useful to boaters everywhere.

As I see it, the greatest problem with the International Scale of River Difficulty seems to be the level of subjectivity that has gone into the current ratings. It occurred to me that a truly useful system would eliminate differences of opinion and iron out regional differences as well. Initially, I thought devising such a system was a real mind-bender and I didn't think it could be done. Then, whilst sitting in an eddy this past weekend, I had an inspiration. Please allow me to submit my draft version of The Whitewater Lawyer Class cation System (WLCS).

The Whitewater Lawyer system gauges the difficulty of rapids by determining how many lawyers are *unable* to successfully negotiate a drop. Using agreed upon percentages, a statistically significant number of lawyers could be placed on inner tubes and launched above any drop in question. At the bottom of the drop the percentage of dead or missing lawyers could easily be calculated. Working backwards from the percentages in the table, a definitive class rating could be established. With an empirical system like the one I propose, actual, 'real life' measurements could be taken and recorded; setting a definitive and incontrovertible scale.

I know that this classification system is likely to generate a lot of controversy. After all, let's say that a lawyer is held under by a squirt boater as opposed to drowning from a more natural *cause*-like an undercut rock. Should that lawyer be included in the calculations?

But before we have any knee-jerk reactions, let's consider the advantages carefully. First, I believe it is less subjective than our current system. Second, each test would produce two numbers, a traditional Class I through VI number and an actual WLCS percentage number, thus simplifying the transition from the old system to the new. Third, since the WLCS scale is based on 100, not 6, it can be tuned 16.67 times finer than our traditional scale (Go ahead, check it on your calculator). Finally, I also believe a newer, hipper system would be more readily digestible by the *MTV* generation. And since I am a mindless member of that generation, I find that prospect particularly appealing. . . as I've been repeatedly told, the public school system has left me nearly retarded and I don't work well with difficult, abstract concepts . . . what's a *big wave*?

Let's examine how my system would crack some tough, real life dilemmas in our current system. Although Iron Ring on the Upper Gauley is commonly considered a Class V drop, it is in clear violation of a significant Class V criterium, notably that a Class V rapid should be 'extremely long. A number of expert boaters have also suggested that it is a mere Class III/IV drop with Class V consequences.

Rather than argue about details, the whole matter could be put to rest with 50

lawyers and a few inner tubes (please be sure to remove the inner tubes after testing). If we launch 50 lawyers and 40 of them are "missing" we can extrapolate the results to the 80th percentile. That would produce an 80 on the WLCS scale. Working backwards on the table we would find that the 80th percentile is most closely aligned with Class V. End of argument.

Of course it should be noted that large samples will produce better results; 50 lawyers will produce more accurate results than 10, and 100 would be better still.

I would also like to point out that this system will help to iron out the regional differences that have surfaced in our present system. It is widely recognized that lawyers in the Southeast, for example, are as despicable as lawyers in the Northwest or Northeast. We can safely assume that they swim the same as well (Please see my previously published work, "On the Inverse Relationship Between Bald Face Lying and Swimming", April 1994 issue of *Scientize* magazine). This would provide for the much desired regional consistency lacking in our current system.

I sure hope that you find my proposal useful. I am real eager to make a significant contribution to the paddling community and I think this might be it. With such a large supply available, I think there are enough lawyers around to begin an immediate, large-scale, reclassification project. In the unlikely event that we were to run out of lawyers, say while splitting hairs in an extensive testing environment like the Narrows of the Green, we might turn to surplus politicians. But then again, all the hot air might give them extra buoyancy and make them categorically unfit for such testing. What do you think?

Sincerely,

Ernest Ezis

Pittsburgh, PA

PS The only other classification system I can think of is that each boater would take the time to learn enough about rivers and *her/his* own ability that, by standing on the shore and determining the level of skill necessary to successfully negotiate a drop (this might be called "scouting" or something), *she/he* might actually be able to determine whether *she/he* should paddle or walk each rapid encountered. But that seems crazy.

PPS Don't use Pope Barrow, hell goof up the curve.

Editor's note: *After months of being tormented by the O.J. trial, I'm sure a lot of boaters would be happy to throw Marcia, Johnnie and F. Lee into the soup.*

The Whitewater Lawyer Classification System

Class	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
% of missing lawyers	*2%	'10%	30%	*51%	*75% 100%**	greater than
The lawyer would..	cry and sue	and cry and cry and sue,	cry and whine	probably be dead	most most certainly be dead	definitely be dead

* Note: these mortality rates are much higher than the normal human population would suffer. This is because other people on the river, upon discovering that the swimmer was a lawyer, might push him or her them away from the shore or perhaps hold them under for a sustained period of time.

** Shore-bound lawyers are often accidentally knocked into Class VI rapids by excited spectators, paradoxically raising the score above 100%.

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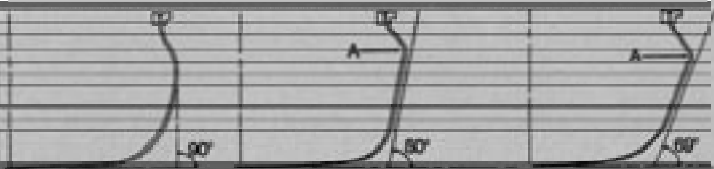
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PROBE 14	14'2"	36.5"	15.5"	59 LBS	ROYALEX	\$850	\$595.00
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