THE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

BEFORE WILD AND SCENIC WAS LAW

SHARING OUR SECRET PLACES
Where will a Jackson Kayak take you next?

Whitewater | Touring | Fishing  • JACKSONKAYAK.COM
The Gila River (NM) is under threat from a poorly defined dam and diversion proposal against the backdrop of building positive momentum for Wild and Scenic designation for the river.

Photo by Evan Stafford
RIVER STEWARDSHIP: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

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

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

CONSERVATION: AW’s professional staff works closely with volunteers and partner organizations to protect the ecological and scenic values of all whitewater rivers. These goals are accomplished through direct participation in public decision-making processes, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, empowerment of volunteers, public outreach and education, and, when necessary, legal action.

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

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

EDUCATION: AW shares information with the general public and the paddling community regarding whitewater rivers, as well as river recreation, conservation, access, and safety. This is accomplished through our bi-monthly AW Journal, a monthly e-news, americanwhitewater.org, paddling events, educational events, and through direct communication with the press.

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

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at PO Box 1540, Cullowhee, NC 28723; phone 1-866-BOAT-4-AW (1-866-262-8429). AW is tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service.
I’m pleased to announce that Charlie Walbridge, long time AW board member and river safety educator, has made a generous donation to serve as the seed for American Whitewater’s River Safety Endowment. The income will be used for “promoting whitewater safety, responsible on-river behavior, safety education, and outreach, and maintenance of the American Whitewater Safety Code and Whitewater Accident Database.” His generous support of safety education and outreach ensures that, over the long-term, additional staff resources can be allocated to manage and maintain our program.

At American Whitewater, we feel that the best form of safety education is good information about rivers and their difficulty. Safe paddling depends on good judgment, and this depends, in turn, on solid information. Providing accurate information on river conditions is an important component of our website. As an example, our river level pages took a 40% jump in traffic this past month when parts of the southeast got 20 inches of rain in two weeks. Our Safety Code sets widely-recognized guidelines for group management, river signals, and communication on the river. The International River Rating system is the recognized standard for communicating river difficulty. Our Accident Database, by listing most whitewater boating incidents nationwide, is a good place to learn about the actual risks of river running. This is what safety education looks like at American Whitewater: a suite of practical resources, widely shared. Yes, paddlers should take swiftwater rescue and first aid classes, and many fine organizations offer this type of instruction. But, when you need practical information on rivers, flows, and incidents, we are the most comprehensive source.

It is my hope that over the coming years we’ll be successful in growing this endowment with additional donations to support AW’s safety education and outreach. You can expect to hear more about these programs in coming issues of the AW Journal and other communication tools. Of course, anyone wishing to add to the fund can simply make a donation to American Whitewater and include “safety education” in the memo or comment field of the donation. Every little bit helps!

In other news, this issue of the Journal contains our 2017 Annual Report. For some, reading financial statements contained in reports can be as much fun as eating sand. Yet, these reports do tell a story. Our story, told through 2017 financial statements, goes like this: we are a strong organization with one million plus dollars in liquid assets. Our balance of unrestricted and restricted funds is solid and our revenue stream is diverse (no one source contributes more than 27%). An important metric for members and donors is that we are an extremely lean organization administratively with 84 cents on each dollar going to support our stewardship program.

This good news financially means staff can focus on the stewardship work of protecting and restoring rivers by removing dams, expanding boating opportunities at hydro projects, advocating for new Wild and Scenic River designations, defending flows, implementing smart management plans for public lands, sharing accurate information on rivers and flows, and safeguarding access. Be sure to check out the Annual Report for updates on your region.

Your support allows American Whitewater’s River Stewardship Team to work on important projects in their respective regions. Our regional approach allows professional staff to work authentically on local projects supported by board members and volunteers from communities across the country. Last year, volunteer hours totaled 5,316 (the equivalent of three additional full-time staff).

In all this good news, let’s not forget what got us here. There has been a lot of hard work, duct tape, and baling wire holding things together. We are boaters and know what it takes to make things happen. The commitment to do what it takes to get it done is a core cultural component of our organization and can be seen in our lean administrative model and regional approach. When times have been tough, it’s been our membership that pulled us through. Your ongoing support is what makes this whole thing tick. Thank you for believing in American Whitewater and for all the support from our community to make a lasting, positive impact on the rivers we all love.

Executive Director, American Whitewater

Jackson Hole Kayak School

- Kayak
- SUP
- Canoe
- Raft
- Lessons
- Tours
- Sales
- Rentals

Ben Dann @ The Clark’s Fork of the Yellowstone
HAVE YOU EVER had a secret spot? An important place tucked away behind a secret waterfall on a little-known creek, or maybe just a nook under the willow tree on the banks of the river through town where the current splits around an island. Perhaps it was the first place you ever camped with your now husband/wife, or your favorite place to have lunch. What we seek at these “secret spots” is solitude in nature, and it’s an incredibly important quality that wilderness rivers—and often any river—can provide. This concept is even built into the definition of wilderness on public lands in the United States: “An area of wilderness is further defined to mean (Federal lands which have)... (2) outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.” —Wilderness Act 1964

Crowding in outdoor recreation has been researched extensively and is defined as a negative and subjective evaluation of use levels—basically the opposite of solitude. When our “secret spots” become crowded they lose value and the quality of experience we have there is lessened. Crowding is a real threat, and in places like Yosemite National Park in the middle of summer, crowding can not only diminish the quality of our experiences, it can make going there feel not worth it.

However, overcrowding in a universally recognized National Park is not the same as sharing an individual’s favorite spot on a wild river, and it’s possible that at one time or another American Whitewater has highlighted, or will highlight, one of your secret places. Occasionally we receive comments, especially on social media, asking us nicely, and sometimes not so nicely, to take down pictures of a place, or to not post the names and location of places. People really like their secret places and occasionally they say crazy things like, “We still hang backcountry bloggers.”

Usually, though, the comments though are similar in nature to this:

“The primary threat to this place is tourist overcrowding, driven by things like ad campaigns and Instagram photos. Please don’t name these places on the Internet. You’re undermining the very outcome you seek.”

As much as we don’t want to “out” your secret place, if we’re highlighting it, in our opinion, there’s a very good reason. More importantly, it’s likely that crowding is not the primary threat to it—or even a significant threat. Doug Ammons, whitewater author and pioneer of many of the continent’s hardest and most remote rivers, puts it best in the introduction to Idaho the Whitewater State: A Guidebook.
by Grant Amaral, “To me, advertising my favorite spots without being able to personally screen perspective paddlers seemed ridiculous. But, like most of our other paddling buddies, we’ve found within the last few years that some of these places have been threatened and some nearly ruined, and we had no effective way to protect them. We’ve found that our smug secretiveness had begun to backfire on us. Without people from outside knowing what is here, many of the outstanding runs on lesser known rivers have had very few allies.”

Crowding and overuse are issues that American Whitewater has, and can continue to work on, but finding solitude sometimes just requires getting up earlier in the morning, going farther, or discovering additional secret places. Some river sections, such as the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, are so popular that management actions like permits and use limits need to be enacted. With these solutions, the resource can be protected from overuse, and solitude can still be found; but for a place like the Grand Canyon, it just might require a winter trip or a dawn patrol start. The upside is that when there’s a scheme to dam the Colorado River further or to say, build a tramway from the rim to the Little Colorado confluence, there’s a chorus of voices powerful and invested enough to influence decision makers.

Miners, hydropower and other developers don’t pretend our secret places don’t exist, so neither can we. Where they see the perfect gradient and steep-walled canyon for a dam, we find our adventure, escape, and solitude. Where they see a strip mine, we see crystal clear, clean whitewater flowing through an untrammeled landscape. Our society places a higher value on a resource when it is used, and whitewater recreation continues to become more recognized as a valid use of our rivers and as a valuable source of economic stimulus. The more people who view a place the same way as paddlers, the stronger our voice to resist the marring of the landscapes we hold dear.

At American Whitewater, every single member of our staff seeks out solitude and finds recreation in wild places renewing and rewarding. We understand your pain at seeing your place in the spotlight, but let’s face it, whitewater recreation has some of the lowest participation numbers of any outdoor sport, and our special places rarely see the kind of overcrowding that really detracts from an experience. People may rally to protect a place just to know that it exists and to keep the door open for them to experience it, even if they’re unlikely to ever make it there. It all adds up to the fact that we can’t protect the places we don’t know and when it comes time to protect your special place let’s hope enough people care about it to make a ruckus and share its true value.
This past May, Duke Energy announced the pending sale of five hydropower dams in western North Carolina and South Carolina to Northbrook Energy. The pending sale includes the Tuxedo Hydropower Project, which regulates flows in the popular Green River below Lake Summit. Water releases from the project are vital for paddling on the Class III/IV Upper Green, the Class V Narrows section, and the Class II Lower Green. Duke Energy plans to finalize the sale in early 2019.

Over the past several months Duke Energy has been reaching out to stakeholders to gather information on the effects the Tuxedo Project has on regional interests, including recreation-related visitors and businesses. American Whitewater shared the incredible value that the current flow releases and online flow information have had for paddlers of all ability levels, and requested that these benefits continue under new ownership. Indeed, the river attracts tens of thousands of visitors to the area each year from around the region and the world, supports summer camps and outfitters, and has attracted several outdoor recreation related businesses to the region.

The Tuxedo Hydroelectric Project is highly unusual in that flow releases and reservoir levels are not currently dictated by state or federal permits. Duke Energy has voluntarily evolved its operation over nearly a century to strike an effective balance of uses for the limited water supply to meet the needs of electric customers, lake neighbors, and reservoir and river recreationists. To ensure flow releases in the Green River will continue to serve the public interest following the sale of the project, a robust recreational flow schedule very similar to the 2018 schedule, an online three-day flow forecast (i.e., same day plus two days ahead), and an annual stakeholder meeting will be required of the new owner through a lease agreement with the Lake Summit Property Owners Association. The lease will take effect and the details will be made public upon the sale of the project, and will run for five years, with two five-year renewals available to the property owners. This arrangement will thus serve as a bridge to future non-regulatory or regulatory management.

American Whitewater would like to thank Duke Energy for listening to concerns expressed by American Whitewater and other paddling leaders, and for respecting the interests of the paddling community. We look forward to working with Northbrook Energy, the Lake Summit Property Owners Association, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and other stakeholders, including the Green River paddling and fishing communities, to ensure this non-regulatory approach is implemented in a way that works for the Green River and all its enthusiasts.
SEPTEMBER 21, 22, 23

FEATHER FEST '18

LIVE MUSIC!

ACA SPONSORED

WHITEWATER EVENTS:

Class V Tobin Race
Class IV Lobin Race
Class II Slalom Race

Film Festival • Food • Camping • PARTY • Silent Auction • Raffle Prizes • Clinics • Equipment Demos • Class III, IV, V Whitewater
AW’s Biggest Fundraiser

THE WORLD’S LARGEST PADDLING FESTIVAL

Sept. 13-16, 2018
Summersville, WV

More info: http://gauleyfest.americanwhitewater.org
Excavators bring down Mill Pond Dam on Sullivan Creek, and Will Long enjoys the canyon downstream. | Photos by Brian Jamieson and Kevin Colburn
Dear Members,

By all counts, 2017 was a very strong year for American Whitewater. While we faced stiff national policy headwinds against wild rivers and public lands and waters, we pulled together to contribute smart and informed data-driven science to the conversation. Our board of directors and staff know those who love rivers are fierce advocates for their protection. This intimate connection to flowing water has made paddlers an important force in river conservation throughout our more than 60-year history.

In the last year, American Whitewater led efforts to remove Sullivan Creek Dam (WA). We restored flows to two rivers, the New River Dries (WV) and North Yuba (CA). We directly participated in management decisions that improved flows and river access associated with dams on at least 32 rivers across the country for a total of 728 river miles. Access is key to enjoying rivers, and we secured new and/or improved access areas on four rivers in West Virginia, California and Oregon, and collaboratively managed access on eight rivers.

Another highlight of 2017, American Whitewater launched a mobile phone app for Android utilized by more than 1,000 people. (Don’t worry, iPhone users. An iOS version is coming!) We also negotiated the installation of a new stream gauge that is available on our website and offered educational volunteer opportunities that resulted in members racking up 5,316 volunteer hours for our organization.

Today, American Whitewater is stronger than ever with 83 cents on every dollar going to support program-related activities. Thanks to an organization-wide effort to provide transparency and operate efficiently, Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator, awarded American Whitewater with our eighth consecutive 4-star rating. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that American Whitewater adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and allow us to consistently execute our mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 2% of the nonprofits Charity Navigator rates have received eight consecutive 4-star evaluations.

The key to our success is the strong backing of our members. It is only through your support that we can continue to take the long view on river stewardship. As we look to the future, we appreciate the importance of rivers and their role in supporting the health and well-being of the paddling community. At American Whitewater, we remain committed to giving back to these special places through our river stewardship program and appreciate your support of this important work.

Courtney Wilton
President, Board of Directors

Mark Singleton
Executive Director
Restoring Flows and Creating Opportunities to Paddle

Across the country we negotiated and advocated for more whitewater releases, more water in rivers, removal of dams, better beta and secure access for generations to come.

Flow Restoration

Agreements Reached:
New (WV), North Yuba (CA)

Collaboratively Managed:
32 Rivers
728.1 Miles

Dams Removed: Sullivan Creek (WA)

Access & Enjoyment

New and Restored River Access:
Susquehanna (WV), South Fork American Slab Creek (CA), North Fork Feather (CA), Clackamas River (OR)

New Stream Gages: New (WV)

Collaboratively Managed Access:
Upper Yough (MD), Lower Yough (PA), Watauga (NC), Elkhorn (KY), Gauley (WV), Shenandoah (WV/MD/VA), Potomac (WV/MD/VA), Johns Creek (VA)

Protecting Public Lands and Rivers

On public land across the country, we worked to protect rivers and the landscapes they inhabit. We helped introduce Wild and Scenic and other conservation designations, worked to protect pristine watersheds from mining, and fought back against bad policy that would negatively affect our watersheds.

Improving River Policy

Delivered 2500+ Comments to Agencies and Representatives:
Through our outreach efforts, our members sent comments to key decision makers about Clean Water protections, bad hydropower legislation, Forest Planning, and reductions in National Monuments. They also successfully supported protecting rivers in SW Oregon from new mining claims.

River Protections

Wild and Scenic Legislation Introduced:
East Rosebud Creek 20 miles (MT); Oregon Wildlands 278.8 miles (Includes: Rogue, Molalla and Chetco); Wild Olympics 464 miles (WA); Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook 62 miles (CT)

Outstanding Resource Waters:
North Fork Smith Watershed (OR)

Whitewater Resources

Website: 937,331 Unique Users, 6,756,690 Unique Page Views

River Safety: Accident Database upgraded, developed mobile app for better access to river info and conditions

Publications We Contributed To: Economic Impact Of Paddling in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests; The Oroville Dam 2017 Spillway Incident: Lessons from the Feather River Basin; A Legal Guide to the Public’s Rights to Access and Use California Navigable Waters; NPS River Access Planning Framework

Your Support Is Our Fuel

Volunteers: 5,316 hours - the equivalent of 3 full-time employees

Pro-Bono Lawyers: 543 hours - Catawba River (SC); Bears Ears (UT); Dolores River (CO); River Navigability (NC)

Members: 5,719

Affiliate Clubs: 113
Northeast
In 2017 American Whitewater worked to restore rivers, remove dams and expand boating opportunities at hydro projects throughout the Northeast. We appealed state restrictions that would have eliminated paddling on the Green River (VT) and expect a ruling later this year. Last year, we worked with the utility, resource agencies, and stakeholder groups involved with the relicensing on the Connecticut River projects (MA/NH/VT) to restore currently dewatered river reaches and provide new whitewater recreation opportunities and economic revitalization to local communities. We also worked to expand and improve on existing boating opportunities on the Deerfield River (MA) and Mongaup River (NY) through FERC relicensing of rivers where we have previously secured boating releases.

Mid-Atlantic
In late 2017, American Whitewater secured new pulse and base flow releases, public access, and flow information on the New River Dries in West Virginia through a new 48-year federal dam license. Leading up to the license, we appealed a state decision that would have limited flows and we tripled the number of scheduled releases through negotiations. Flow restoration will begin in 2019. We also secured a new portage route around Millville Dam on the Shenandoah River (WV) and continued to support river access on Johns Creek (VA), Youghiogheny River (MD), Elkhorn (KY) and other regional streams.
Southern Rockies
For the first time in more than a decade, paddlers enjoyed more than 60 days of releases from McPhee Dam on the Dolores River in Southwest Colorado. American Whitewater worked with the Dolores Water Conservancy District, Bureau of Reclamation and conservation agencies to release water from the dam in a way that benefits paddlers and boosts fish habitat, vegetation and channel connectivity.

American Whitewater secured late-season paddling opportunities on the Upper Colorado River through a series of efforts guided by the Wild and Scenic Alternative Management Plan (AMP). Now entering the 10th year of AMP negotiations, we continue to improve river management by working with agencies, utilities, reservoir operators and other partners to send water down the Colorado River, from Gore Canyon through Glenwood Springs, at levels enjoyed by paddlers of all skills and crafts. In 2017 we coordinated efforts with the Bureau of Reclamation to improve flows for the Gore Canyon Festival in August, while boosting critical habitat for native fish recovery. Plan implementation will continue to protect paddling opportunities and river health while new dams and pipelines are proposed in the Colorado River.

American Whitewater also celebrated the official opening of the new boat passage through the Green River Diversion (Tusher Dam) near Green River, Utah. Completion of the boat passage has freed the Green River from its last in-stream obstruction between the Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming and its confluence with the Colorado River in Utah. The result is more than 400 floatable river miles that flow through iconic canyons and historic landmarks. The official opening of the boat passage is a tribute to the efforts of our members and all those involved.

Southeast
The Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests comprise 1.1 million acres of the wildest land left in the eastern United States, and their management plan is under revision. American Whitewater has been working with regional interest groups for several years to inspire new river conservation and recreation improvements in the plan. In 2017 the U.S. Forest Service offered initial support for protecting 10 outstanding streams through new Wild and Scenic “eligible” status, doubling the number of protected streams. We requested protection for these streams and continue to promote them and others. Along with protection of free-flowing streams, we actively worked to protect and improve flows on the Cheoah (NC), Tallulah (GA), Catawba (SC), Ocoee (TN) and other rivers.

American Whitewater is working to double the number of protected streams in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests under the revision of their management plan. | Photo by Joe Keck

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American Whitewater is working through the National Forest planning process to advance likely protections for hundreds of miles of streams in Idaho and Montana. | Photo by Chris Ennis

Northern Rockies
American Whitewater’s coalition work in Montana brought the bipartisan East Rosebud Wild and Scenic River Act to the precipice of passage in 2017. Our hopes are high for passage in 2018. We also worked through the National Forest planning process to advance likely protections for hundreds of miles of streams in Idaho and Montana. When the Flathead National Forest initially determined Upper Twin Creek was not eligible for Wild and Scenic designation we gathered photos and video evidence of the stream and they decided to protect it. A classic example of conservation through adventure, something our members know and do well.

California
Access to California rivers remained a key focus for American Whitewater in 2017. On the South Fork American River below Slab Creek, a coalition of conservation and recreation groups led by American Whitewater reached an agreement with the County of El Dorado to preserve key access at Mosquito Road Bridge. Initial county plans for a new bridge at this site slated the original bridge for demolition, blocked vehicle access to the river, and gated pedestrian access ½ mile up a steep switchback. As outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding, the county will now preserve Mosquito Road Bridge and allow year-round, unencumbered vehicle and pedestrian access to the South Fork American River from dawn to dusk. The agreement also states the county will facilitate informal parking along the road for four to six vehicles.

Elsewhere, American Whitewater started the hydropower relicensing process on the Southern California Edison project located on the Kaweah River. Guided by paddler Darin McQuoid, American Whitewater took a tour of the Kaweah to gather on-the-ground information and pictures of the key access points. We shared this information with Southern California Edison to highlight access issues that we hope can be addressed in the future relicensing.

Closing out 2017, American Whitewater advocacy for the California State Lands Commission Strategic Plan paid off with the release of A Legal Guide to the Public’s Rights to Access and Use California’s Navigable Waters. Authored by the Commission, this guide is a powerful tool for the public to help in determining public access and use rights citing California law. American Whitewater will continue to work with the Commission in 2018 to distribute this guide and its companion brochure to the public and to state and local agencies.

American Whitewater helps save key access to Slab Creek at Mosquito Road Bridge. | Photo by Trevor Croft - Rafting Magazine
Pacific Northwest
In the fall of 2017, excavators brought down the 50-foot-high Mill Pond Dam on Sullivan Creek, the culmination of more than a decade of work by American Whitewater and our partners. With the creek flowing free, native fish will now have access to miles of clear cold river upstream of the dam site.

In the final days of the Obama Administration, American Whitewater secured a 20-year withdrawal from new mining claims and the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service announced a 20-year halt to any new mining activities in the watersheds of the North Fork Smith, Illinois, Pistol River and Hunter Creek. These wild rivers all flow freely from their headwaters to the ocean and are known for their exceptional water quality, rich botanical diversity, wild salmon and steelhead strongholds, and world-class recreation opportunities.

The State of Oregon followed up with protections in July 2017 when the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission unanimously voted to designate the waters of the North Fork Smith River in southwest Oregon as the first Outstanding Resource Water in the Pacific Northwest. Throughout the past several years working with our partners to secure these protections, local communities and paddlers from across the region and country showed overwhelming support for protecting the pristine rivers of the region from the threats of future mining proposals.

On the Clackamas River in Oregon, American Whitewater completed projects with Portland General Electric and the U.S. Forest Service to formalize public access to this Wild and Scenic River. We negotiated these improvements as part of the hydropower license for the Clackamas River through a settlement we signed 11 years ago.
## 2017 Statement of Activities

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<th>Revenue Category</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
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<td>$18,945</td>
<td>$300,431</td>
<td>$237,476</td>
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<td>Sponsorships/Corp Programs</td>
<td>$129,427</td>
<td>$129,427</td>
<td>$136,390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>$119,782</td>
<td>$119,782</td>
<td>$123,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>$84,015</td>
<td>$84,015</td>
<td>$189,594</td>
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<tr>
<td>Products</td>
<td>$22,977</td>
<td>$22,977</td>
<td>$40,569</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>$20,855</td>
<td>$20,885</td>
<td>$36,440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Gains/(losses)</td>
<td>$4,377</td>
<td>$4,377</td>
<td>$2,222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Dividends</td>
<td>$2,317</td>
<td>$2,317</td>
<td>$1,591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Income</td>
<td>$628</td>
<td>$628</td>
<td>$855</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets Released from Restriction</td>
<td>$371,672</td>
<td>$(371,672)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$1,452,820</td>
<td>$46,772</td>
<td>$1,499,592</td>
<td>$1,576,520</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Access &amp; Conservation</td>
<td>$669,392</td>
<td>$669,392</td>
<td>$704,733</td>
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<td>Public Education</td>
<td>$500,159</td>
<td>$500,159</td>
<td>$423,225</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td>$1,169,551</td>
<td>$1,169,551</td>
<td>$1,127,958</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUPPORTING SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>$176,522</td>
<td>$176,522</td>
<td>$165,506</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$49,582</td>
<td>$49,582</td>
<td>$114,277</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
<td>$226,104</td>
<td>$226,104</td>
<td>$279,783</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$1,395,655</td>
<td>$1,395,655</td>
<td>$1,407,741</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets Before Gains/(Losses)</td>
<td>$57,165</td>
<td>$46,772</td>
<td>$103,937</td>
<td>$168,779</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Website Write-down</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>$(20,724)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$103,937</td>
<td>$148,055</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2017 REVENUE SOURCES

- **24% Membership Dues**
- **27% Grants**
- **12% In-Kind Contributions**
- **9% Sponsorships/Corp Programs**
- **8% Events**
- **3% Products**
- **2% Advertising**
- **15% Contributions**
- **> 1% Investment Gains/(Losses)**
- **> 1% Interest & Dividends**
- **> 1% Misc. Income**
### 2017 Assets and Liability

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$683,257</td>
<td>$596,693</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>$8,530</td>
<td>$13,478</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Receivable</td>
<td>$105,926</td>
<td>$60,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$290,206</td>
<td>$238,055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>$12,955</td>
<td>$29,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Deposit Funds Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>$13,209</td>
<td>$17,609</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,114,083</td>
<td>$955,825</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LONG-TERM ASSETS</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lands held for protection</td>
<td>$58,317</td>
<td>$58,317</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer equipment, net</td>
<td>$12,702</td>
<td>$11,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Long-Term Assets</strong></td>
<td>$71,019</td>
<td>$69,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,185,102</td>
<td>$1,025,427</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities & Fund Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$23,327</td>
<td>$27,017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>$511</td>
<td>$867</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenues</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll Liabilities</td>
<td>$63,345</td>
<td>$3,561</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$88,683</td>
<td>$32,945</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>$763,055</td>
<td>$705,890</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted Net Assets</td>
<td>$333,364</td>
<td>$286,592</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,096,419</td>
<td>$992,482</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,185,102</td>
<td>$1,025,427</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2017 FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

- **Fundraising**: 3%
- **General & Administrative**: 13%
- **Public Education**: 36%
- **Access & Conservation**: 48%
2017 Honor Roll

American Whitewater Enduring Rivers Circle

Leave a lasting legacy to the rivers that made a difference in your life. American Whitewater would like to thank the following individuals for making legacy gift commitments:

Barry Adams
Rich and Stephanie Bowers
Bob Brewer and Jonna Hussey
Thomas J. Christopher
Kent Ford
Jennie Goldberg
Joseph Greiner
Christopher Hest
Chris Hipgrave
Brian and Maria Jacobson
Karl and Jo Ann Koenig
David Mason
Douglas Pino
Peter N. Skinner
Peter Stekel
Laura Wilson

For more information about planned giving opportunities visit:
www.americanwhitewater.org/content/wiki/aw/planned_giving_program

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Class V – $20,000+
KEEN Footwear Inc.
REI

Class IV – $15,000
Kayak Session

Class III – $10,000
Dagger
Kokatat

Class II – $7,500
National Paddling Film Festival
NRS
Salesforce Marketing
Yakima Products
YETI Coolers

Boof – $5,000
Blackfly Canoes
California Canoe & Kayak
Clif
Down River Equipment
French Broad River Festival
Jackson Kayak
Liquid Logic
Northwest Rafting Company
Pyranha US
Watershed
Werner Paddles

Wave – $2,500
Big Agnes
FLOAT Apparel
Get:Outdoors
Jack’s Plastic Welding
Mountain Buzz
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Rendezvous River Sports
Sierra Rescue
Star Inflatables
Sweet Protection

Eddy – $1,000
Alpacka Raft LLC
Astral
Immersion Research

KAYAK ACADEMY
Mind Body Paddle
New Belgium Brewing
Universal Join

IN KIND DONATIONS

$50,000+
Law Offices of Stephan C. Volker

$10,000+
Kayak Session Magazine
KEEN Footwear
Nelson and Galbreath, LLC

$5,000+
AIRE
Clif
Confluence Outdoor
Down River Equipment
Dropbox
Jackson Kayak
Liquid Logic
Pyranha US Inc
Salesforce Marketing
Watershed
Yakima
YETI Coolers

$1,000+
4CRS
Big Agnes
Blackfly Canoes
Colorado Kayak Supply
CPU Software & Consulation
Rendezvous River Sport
Sweet Protection
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

$50,000+
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Walton Family Foundation
Anonymous

$10,000+
Ed Clark
Conservation Alliance
National Philanthropic Trust
Northern Water
Patagonia
Roderick Peterson
US Coast Guard
Stephan C. Volker
Walbridge Family Foundation, Inc.
Wild Hog
Anonymous

$5,000+
Bluegrass Wildwater Association
Firedoll Foundation
French Broad River Festival
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Johnson & Louise H. Clark Charitable Foundation
Northern Water
Outdoor Alliance
Patagonia.com
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Schwab Charitable Fund
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The Cinnabar Foundation
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Anonymous

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ARTA River Trips
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Keith Beck and Heidi Chung
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Kemper Begley
Davis Benfield
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Alan Blado
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Sandra Boynton
Brookfield Renewable Energy Group LLC
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Colorado Whitewater Association
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George & Miriam Martin Foundation
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Lucian Hand
Andy Held
David Hillman
Ann Hopkinson
Ironman Foundation
Trip Kinney
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Brandon Liddell
Kevin W. Lindberg
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Nicholas Martin
Bob McConachie
Scott and Patty Mengel
Scott Murray
Timothy Narron
Mark Neienbach
New Haven Ledges Race
Tim Overland
Pruzan Foundation
Re/Max Cherry Creek
Robert Harris and Jody Schaeffer
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Mark Scantlebury and Audrey Bergsma
Patricia Schifferle and Bob Gilliom
Scott Electric Foundation Inc
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Sierra Nevada Brewing Company
Robert Stanley
Roger L. Starring
Collin Swan
The Hooter Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation
The Kerrirhard Family Fund
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Greg and Maria Whiteaker
Susan E. Wilson
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Bill Allen
Kathrin Allen
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Allison Barth
Ron Barzel
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Julie Berg
Kiran Bhageshpuri
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Blue Moon Fund Inc
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Ed Bourguignon
Jeff Bowman
Anne Brindle
Ian Buckley and Debra Kadner
Jason Carey
Bryan Carrington
Thomas J. Christopher
Jordan Combs

*Giving levels are recorded at dollar levels, Honor Roll includes members, special donations, and organizational giving.*
2017 Honor Roll

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Susan Eckerly and Terry O'Donnell
Michael Elowitz
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Kent Ford
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Jennie Goldberg and Peter Stekel
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Pete Bellande
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Ted Bilek
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Robert (Mike) Brown
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Sydney M. Capitano
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James Deehan
Jim Degen
Jim Dobbins
Dolores River Boating Advocates
James Duesenberg
Jimmy Duncan
Dan Efseaff
Elizabeth Eichner
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Bill Elliott
Sandra Elverud
Paul Englehart
Donna K. Ennis
Elijah Evans
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AW
AMERICAN WHITWATER
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Wesley Johnson  
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Michael Keverline  
Chris Kiehl  
Helge and Laurieann Klockow  
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John A. Kobak  
John Kuhfahl  
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Pete Rainey  
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Kari Sortland  
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Susan Stover  
George Strickland  
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John Trembley  
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Vail Honeywagon  
Suzanne Alice Villegas  
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Howard Wallace  
Michael and Cara Webbsanchez  
Robert Weinberg  
Debbie and Kirk Weir  
Tom and Suzanne Welander  
Josh Wells  
Ellie Wheat  
Brian White  
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Mike Wodzianski  
Thomas and Christina Wood  
Fred Zacherl  
Dave Zinn  
Anonymous  

$125+

828:design  
Russell Adams  
Greg Adkison  
Irene Agostini  
Carl Albright  
Jerry and June Albright  
Jeff Alkema  
John Allen

*Giving levels are recorded at dollar levels, Honor Roll includes members, special donations, and organizational giving.
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Russell Bailey  
Gordon Bare  
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Ian Barrett  
Jim Barrett  
Jocelyn Barrett  
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Dave Bassage  
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Yvonne Bealer  
Jim Beall  
Benjamin Beasley  
Craig Beasley  
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Dan Becker  
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Crom Carey  
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Sean Caron  
Daniel Carroll  
Jason Carter  
Nick Casamatta  
Dan Centofanti  
Marsh Chamberlain  
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Brian Chisholm  
Matthew Chrestman  
Derek Churchill  
Mike Cimoniatti  
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Dominick Clark  
James Clark  
Jim Clarke  
Keith Clausen  
Jeff Clement  
Cloud Mountain Foundation  
Stephen Coate  
Heath Coffman  
Sean Cook  
Ted Cookson  
Bob and Linda Cooley  
Duncan Cottrell  
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Dan Cramer  
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James Cross  
Vance Cross  
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Samuel Dorsi  
Michael Doyle  
Brooke Drury  
Kristie Dunham  
Larry and Christine Dunn  
East Tennessee Whitewater Club  
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Paul Egbert and Jean Towns  
Karen Egbert  
Elkhorn Paddlers  
Bernard Engelman  
Curtis England  
Jared Espley  
Byron Eubanks  
Dave Evans  
Kenny Evans  
Vann and Laura Evans  
Dirk Fabian  
Mike Farrell  
Ryan and Jennifer Farris  
Charles Ferguson  
FiBark Festival  
Joseph Fitzgerald  
Troy Fleisher  
Jim Foresman  
Cindy and Stacey Fornstrom  
Michael Frampton  
Kevin Frankosky  
Andrew Franzen  
Lars Freeman-Wood  
David Frierson  
Debbie Frye and James Fore  
Kevin Fuhr  
Robert Fuino
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Evan Garcia
David Garner
Ken Garrison
Timothy Garvin
LeeAnne Gelletly
Ozge Can Gencler
Ken Gersten
Mike Gilchrist
Pete A. Giordano
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Christopher Gragtmans
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Barry Grimes
Bryan Grosshans
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James Gunnoe
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Richard and Julie Haick
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Alan Hall
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Hansel Halverson
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Edward and Ann Hanrahan
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Nat and Frances Hansford
Luke and Kimi Hanson
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Jason Harris
Paul Harrison
Caryl Hart
Eric Hartman
Alex Harvey
Eric Harvey
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David Holzer
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Christopher Kovaly
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John Kulka and Betsy Hobkirk
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Zachary Mildon
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David Millrod
Mark Mills-Thysen
Brad Milner
Brad Milner
Carla Miner
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| Roberta A. Scull                   | Team Colorado Whitewater Racing Club | John D. Wolken |
| Leaf Seabrook                      | Tennessee Valley Canoe Club |            |
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Carter and Wendy Wray
Brad Xanthopoulos
Mark Zakutansky
Art Zemach
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*contributions in memory of friends during this Honor Roll year
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John Huisjen
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Nathan Labrecque
Brandon Owens
Jason Powell
Gary Rempe
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Anita Dunne Schelp
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In Honor Of
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Btandt-Ennis family
Jennifer E. Davis
Dolores River release
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Jeff and Ramona
Abby Kohlman and Troy Zieman
Jon Lee
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American Endowment
America’s Charities
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James Warren
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Hewlett Packard Matching Gifts Program
IBM Charitable Contribution Campaign
Independent Charities of America
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JK Group
J.M. Huber Corporation
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Johnson, Mirmiran & Thomson Inc.
JP Morgan Chase & Co
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Medtronic
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Network for Good
NRG Energy
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Dolores River Boating Advocates
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Foothills Paddling Club
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Gold Country Paddlers
KCCNY
Keelhauers Canoe Club
Paddle Trails Canoe Club
Palmetto Paddlers
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club
Washington Kayak Club

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AMC Boston Chapter Paddlers
AMC Delaware Valley Chapter
AMC New Hampshire Paddlers
American Packrafting Association
Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts
Arkansas Canoe Club
Atlanta Whitewater Club
Auburn River Festival Club
Baltimore Canoe & Kayak Club
Beartooth Paddlers Society
Benscreek Canoe Club
BEWET - Boeing Employees
Beaverhead Paddlers
Blue Ridge River Runners
Blue Ridge Voyageurs
Blue River Watershed Group
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FLOW Paddlers’ Club
Friends of the Crooked River
Friends of the Yampa
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Gold Country Paddlers
Guelph Kayak Club
High Country River Rafters
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Hoosier Canoe Club
Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq
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Huntsville Canoe Club
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Keelhauer Canoe Club
Landmark Learning
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2017 Honor Roll

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San Miguel Whitewater Asso
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Sierra Club Loma Prieta Paddlers
Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club
Southern Arizona Paddlers Club
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Team Colorado
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The Mountaineers
Three Rivers Paddling Club
Thunderbeard Outdoor Restoration Organization
University Kayak Club
Upper Colorado Private Boaters Asso
Venture 8 / Troop 8
Vermont Paddlers Club
Viking Canoe Club
Washington Recreational River Runners
West VA Wildwater Assn
Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters Inc
Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club
Wilmington Trail Club
Zoar Outdoor
Zoar Valley Paddling Club

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Outdoor Alliance
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Catawba River (SC/NC)
Chattooga River (NC, SC, GA)
Cheoah River (NC)
Green River (NC)
Hiwassee River (TN)
Nantahala River (NC)
Ocoee (TN)
Potential Tennessee Scenic Rivers (TN)
Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers (NC)
Tallulah River (GA)
Tuckasegee River (NC)
Watauga River (NC)
West Fork Tuckasegee (NC)

Mid Atlantic
Gauley River (WV)
Johns Creek (VA)
New River Dries (WV)
Savage and NB Potomac Rivers (MD)
Shenandoah and Potomac Access (WV/MO/VA)
Susquehanna River (PA)
Upper Yough (MD)
Virginia Access (VA)
West Brandywine Creek (PA)

Northeast
Connecticut River Relicensing (MA/NH/VT)
Contoocook River Access (NH)
Deerfield River Relicensing (MA)
Farmington River W&S (CT)
Green River Appeal (VT)
Hoosic River Access (NY)
Little Androscoggin Relicensing (ME)
Missisquoi River Releases (VT)
Monguap River Relicensing (NY)
Presumpscot River Dam Removal (ME)
Schoharie Creek (NY)
Winnipesaukee River Access (NH)

Potential Wild & Scenic Rivers (ID & MT)
South Fork Salmon (ID)
Sullivan Creek (WA)
Weber River (UT)
Wild and Scenic Rivers Campaign (MT)

Southern Rockies
Arkansas River (CO)
Blue River (CO)
Clear Creek (CO)
Colorado River (CO)
Dam Removal & Rehabilitation (UT/CO)
Dolores River (CO)
Dolores River (UT)
Flood Recovery (CO)
Fossil Creek (AZ)
Gila River (NM)
Green River (UT)
Recreational In-Channel Diversions (CO)
Rio Grande River (CO/NM)
River Access in Colorado
San Francisco Creek (NM)
San Juan River (UT)
San Miguel River (CO)
St. Vrain River (CO)
Verde River (AZ)
White River (CO/UT)
Yampa River (CO)

Pacific Northwest
Chehalis River (WA)
Chelan River (WA)
Cispus River (WA)
Clackamas River (WA)
Crooked River (OR)
Elwha River (WA)
Green River (WA)
Hood River (OR)
Klamath River (OR)
Methow River (WA)
Molalla River (OR)
Nisqually River (WA)
Nooksack River (WA)
North Cascades Wild and Scenic (WA)
Olympic Peninsula Wild and Scenic (WA)
Owyhee River (OR)
Puyallup River (WA)
Rogue River (OR)
Similkameen River (WA)
Kalmiopsis Wildlands (OR)

*Giving levels are recorded at dollar levels, Honor Roll includes members, special donations, and organizational giving.

Events and Festivals
CKS Paddlefest
Deerfield Festival
Feather Festival
FIBArk
French Broad River Festival
Gauley Festival
Gore Canyon Festival
Gunisson River Festival
Lyons Outdoor Games
National Paddling Film Festival
Opening Day South Fork American
Ridgway River Festival
Yampa River Festival

STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

National Policy
Clean Water Act
Federal Agency Partnerships
Hydropower Policy and Legislation
Hydropower Reform Coalition

Northwest
Bear River (ID)
East Rosebud Creek (MT)

American Whitewater
2017 ANNUAL REPORT
2017 Honor Roll

Skagit River (WA)
Skykomish River (WA)
Snake River (WA)
Snoqualmie River (WA)
Spokane River (WA)
Sullivan Creek (WA)
Sultan River (WA)
White Salmon River (WA)

California
Butte Creek (CA)
California Hydropower Reform Coalition (CA)
Eel River (CA)
Feather River / Oroville (CA)
Feather River / Rock Creek-Cresta (CA)
Feather River/ South Fork (CA)
Feather River / Upper North Fork (CA)
Kaweah River (CA)
McCloud River (CA)
Merced River (CA)
Mokelumne River (CA)
National Forest Planning
North Fork Smith River (CA)
Piru Creek (CA)
Pit River (CA)
Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers (CA)
San Joaquin River (CA)
Smith River (CA)
South Fork American River (CA)
Stanislaus River (CA)
Tuolumne River (CA)
Yuba/Bear Rivers (CA)
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He led us through the highest mountains, the lowest rivers. A giver of great adventure.
--Clara Rempe

The end of the great life of Gary Rempe (July 22, 1964 to September 24, 2017) will be felt by the kayak community here in southwestern Colorado and northern New Mexico. Gary deeply enjoyed paddling whitewater and constantly taught his family and friends on the river. He had a good balance of safety and fun, playing every possible spot. I can still picture the Rempe family on the Brown’s Canyon stretch of the Arkansas at high water, Gary in the lead with his strong wife Susan and a gaggle of kids following. They practiced rolls and peel outs in the eddies along the way.

Gary told me once while we were backcountry skiing that he was always a beginner. A good attitude to have,
indicating an open learning mind. He learned kayaking skills as an early member of the Columbia Kayak Club, where he wore wool sweaters, jeans, and running shoes on river trips. There at college he gave Susan a card he drew on their first Valentine’s Day that showed both paddling and said, “Susan and Gary being a little merry.” He learned more advanced paddling skills from Doug Ammons in Northern Montana, where Susan grew up. Paddling big whitewater up there gave Gary a lot of confidence and precise skills.

Susan and Gary were drawn to the gorgeous Pacific Northwest, mainly for her graduate studies at the University of Washington. They started their family there, yet somehow Gary found time to paddle the numerous rivers and creeks in the Cascades. Gary wisely brought the family to Riverside where the kids played on the beach. Gary taught Susan there on a nice rapid to begin her paddling career. I first met this fun young couple after they moved to New Mexico, when we paddled together on the big, beautiful Westwater Canyon of the Colorado. These warm September Westwater campouts became the late summer focus of our gang. Twenty of us would paddle or row for a few days on the warm river through the spectacular canyon. We played hard in the hot, fun-filled rapid section, especially Gary, the surf machine in his short kayak. The big but forgiving Colorado River was a great classroom for the kids. They learned about river running, first in small rafts and duckies, then kayaks. Right alongside the technical skills, they also learned to work together and care for their environment. The Rempe family even had a marriage proposal—by the oldest son Phillip—on a river trip several years ago. The wedding was this summer and it was awesome—with cowbells.

When the four Rempe children were little, and too young to paddle, Susan’s mother insisted the kids stay in northern Montana for the summer for many years. This enabled the paddling pair to come up to the Arkansas River frequently in the summers. They enjoyed the Numbers, Browns, and the Royal Gorge on three-day thrilling weekends. Although they lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico, they paddled the Arkansas more than us Colorado locals. This drew them closer as they traveled the awesome Rockies in their Honda van, a honeymoon B&B. They were in love and having fun.

The kids grew up and enjoyed the world-class adventures on the mountains and rivers of the southern Rockies. I have seen six or more family members pop out of that van more than a few times. They were happy and cozy together, travelling to their kayak or ski trip. A family that plays together stays together.

Unfortunately, Gary was recently diagnosed with cancer. He was a trooper through his nine-month battle with the disease. He kept a game face and played after chemo treatments almost to the end. I never saw Gary get angry or swim out of his kayak in 20 years or knowing him. Miss you buddy!
Editor’s Note: The following is reprinted from the spring 1967 issue of this magazine. The occasion is the 50th anniversary, this fall, of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act being signed into law. In researching this topic in our archives, it was hard not to be impressed by both the reason and passion of those American Whitewater members writing 50 years ago. They understood the value and urgency of what they tended to call the “Wild Rivers Bill,” and reading their writing on the topic today reveals many interesting historical and present-day lessons. While most paddlers know something about the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, few probably know or remember that it did not make a trouble-free journey to the president’s desk, nor that a single congressman from Colorado had so much to do with the bill’s failure to pass its first time through the House. This article also references the importance of rivers protected at the state level, and makes some prescient predictions about the future value of wild rivers. We will return to our vaults for the final issue of 2018 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this landmark legislation. We hope you enjoy this journey down wild rivers memory lane.

“ALL THE RIVERS run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.” Thus the Bible describes the hydrological cycle, which says that the total supply of water has always been and always will be constant. We are told that a soaring population, growing industrialization, and greater irrigation threaten a water shortage, but it ain’t so. Even the dirtiest water can be made clean, at a cost, and as soon as the many (the taxpayers of the 50 states) stop subsidizing the water usage of the few (predominantly the Southwest), this problem will disappear forever. Per capita consumption in the Colorado River basin is close to one hundred times as great as in the Delaware River basin due to irrigation, and the irrigators think nothing of using $10 worth of water to grow $5 worth of cotton because the water may only cost them $0.50.
You may ask what has this got to do with the wild rivers bill? Plenty! The only real opposition to the bill comes from the cattle, ranching, and farming interests of the West and Southwest. I quote from The New York Times Magazine of January 22, 1967: “A definitive instance of a committee chairman’s arbitrary use of his prerogatives occurred in the legislative history of the ‘Wild Rivers’ bill. The Senate passed it early in 1966. On reaching the House, the measure was referred to the Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs, in conformity with the prevailing procedure. Whereupon Representative Wayne Aspinall of Colorado, the Chairman, announced he would hold no hearings, or consider the legislation at all in the 89th Congress. The bill died in the committee’s pigeonhole, and that was that.” Aspinall, who sees the growing independence of the House adding to his own importance, accuses Secretary of the Interior Udall of “Hiding behind Lady Bird’s skirts.”

One of the great problems as I see it is the idea that conservation was invented by westerners for westerners and that there is nothing left in the East worth saving. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Kayak and Canoe Club of New York paddles some 50 wild rivers within 100 miles of New York City, and many other areas of the country are similarly endowed. A sense of urgency pervades eastern conservationists and their calls for help are widely listened to by politicians. Conservation wins votes in the East. In the West, on the other hand, the conservationists are opposed to the power groups who have the politicians’ ears and votes. Representative John Saylor of Pennsylvania will surely fight for the Wild Rivers bill, but what of Representative Aspinall of Colorado, a state second to none in terms of mighty rivers and enthusiastic paddlers and conservationists?

Recreation, like conservation, means many things to many people. The theory of the greatest good for the greatest number emphasizes mass-recreation values to the detriment of individual recreation. Personally, I do not think that the Army Engineers are well suited to studying the recreational value of a reservoir versus a river. Most of the rivers discussed for possible inclusion in this bill are truly wild rivers and, as such, they are relatively far removed from the main centers of population. However, I don’t think that we should confuse the quality of a river with its size, wilderness, or remoteness. Earlier in this article I mentioned 50 wild rivers within 100 miles of New York City, and I mean it. There are at least this number with unspoiled stretches of 15 or more miles which might be suitable for preservation as a local recreation area. I hope that the Wild Rivers Act is just the beginning, and that some day we will have many local, state, and federal scenic waterways, just as we now have numerous local, state, and national parks. I believe that bills to preserve the St. Croix River in Wisconsin and the Buffalo River in Arkansas are perhaps the first step in this direction. Finally, my training as a security analyst won’t let me stop without making a forecast. I predict that the designation of a river as a “wild river” will raise local land values, increase the attraction of the surrounding area for new industry, and improve the life of all Americans. The cost to benefit ratio is infinite since it costs nothing to leave a river alone, and the benefits accrue forever. It looks as if conservationists are finally winning the battle to preserve the Grand Canyon, now let’s help President Johnson ease his budget problems by cutting back on the dam building funds of the Army Engineers.

The Wild Rivers bill will surely be passed by the Senate this spring as easily as it was last year. Its prospects in the House are not so certain and depend predominantly on one man, Wayne Aspinall of Colorado. I urge conservation groups elsewhere to communicate with Representative Aspinall at the House Office Building in Washington, D.C.
Some bits of advice that we pass along to others is learned the hard way. My story is directed to seasoned paddlers. Every day on the river is a new day, full of new joy and fulfillment. But do take time, every time, to make sure details are attended to regarding safety and equipment.

It was mid-November and a heavy rain had given us an unusual gift: high water in the fall on Montana’s Yaak River.

As we loaded our boats in the back of my pickup, I heard a cracking sound. “Oh, no,” I thought. One of the canopy windows must have been broken. On further inspection, I could find no damage, so we shrugged our shoulders and drove to the put-in.

In retrospect, that kind of a cracking noise should have been investigated further. Sometimes it takes several errors to add up to trouble, and this was one of those times. I had done a questionable job of gluing together two paddle halves in order to change the feather of the blades. Had I tested the blade before paddling away that day, it would have broken in half with little effort. Apparently, one of the boats had landed on the weak part of the joint.

As it was, it held together for about two miles of easy Class III. We were just above the crux rapid, Stonechess. A ledge drop just before the scouting eddy required a couple of strong strokes and a hard brace. I lined up and made the move.

That’s when I heard that cracking noise again. This time, the paddle broke in half and I rolled under. I immediately dropped the left half and tried several rolls with the other half. (Next time you have a chance, I suggest that you practice rolling with one half of a breakdown paddle. It’s easy, just a little different.)

I didn’t want to drift upside down past the scouting eddy, so I threw away the paddle half and reached for the grab loop to bail out. I don’t often swim on any kind of water, but I didn’t want to swim the big rapid below just because I bailed too late.

That is when another failure to attend to the details reared its ugly head. I could not find that damned grab loop. I ran my fingers back and forth along the spray skirt rim to no avail. I was beginning to run out of air.

It has to be there, I thought, and tried again to locate it with my eyes open in the muddy water. No luck.
I grabbed a handful of the skirt in front of me and gave a hard pull. It didn’t work. I then grabbed it with both hands but still could not get it free from the cockpit rim. While it was a great testament to the airtight quality of the skirt, praise was not what came to my mind at that moment. I was getting desperate for air.

A sprayskirt grab loop is such a small thing, but its positioning can be huge.
Photos by Gary Barker

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I then attempted to pull out of the boat, so as to leave the skirt attached to the cockpit rim. That attempt was not successful, either. The skirt was too tight on my waist. I was beginning to see little stars, and my lungs were screaming for air. But all I could do was hang upside down, staring at the light above.

Would this be my last kayak adventure? Was my life insurance adequate for my family to go on without me? I thought of my wife getting the news that I had drowned... how much my dog would miss me...all because I had let the grab loop drop into the boat at the launch.

I didn’t know it, but above the surface, my paddling buds were right there with me, probably getting ready to do that “hand of God” maneuver.

I believe I passed out about then, but whatever happened next, I do not remember to this day.

The next thing I recall, I was out of the boat and swimming to the surface. My friend Dave pulled me into the eddy where I did a lot of heavy breathing. It was a humiliating experience, but I was happy to be alive.

My boat ran Stonechess by itself, taking a bit of damage in the process. After a small hike down to the boat, I got the breakdown paddle out of it, and the rest of the run was again full of joy and fulfillment.

My lesson here was that the devil is in the details. Stay in the moment and pay attention. There is a good reason that pilots go through a pre-flight checklist. We paddlers need to do that, too. Every time.

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Above: A recipe for a bad swim (top) vs. an easy swim (middle). Photos by Gary Barker

Below: The author at Stonechess. Photo by David Friedman
Sunlight stream giggle
sings. Breathe deeply
snowmelt spiced air.
Now release from shore,

blue duckie afloat,
air mattress with pointy ends,
almost unsinkable

sit-on-top kayak.
Stroke double bladed paddle,
feel current’s caress.

Watch out for strainers,
topped once-glorious oaks,
half-drowned skeletons.

Frozen waterfalls
sing on snow muted gorge walls,
cradled trees asleep.

Ice highlights soft shales,
cracked when continents collide.
Exposed cliffs crumble.

Pinball erratics,
glacial aliens swirled in
birth pain pink feldspar,

boulders to bounce off.
Joy paddle forgiving waves,
savor splashes, smile.

Feels good to be back.
Surf ledges, stress relief joints
blessed with playful waves.

Eddy hop. Pop drops.
Soak in self-satisfied sun.
Flirt with risky holes.

Look, last year’s cattails,
adamantine icicles,
flash startle surprise?

Boat shudders, dream-caught,
stuck. Lean out cocky, tip, tilt
gulp! Swim with Elvis!

Caught in a keeper,
bedrock notch concentrates flow,
backwash forced upstream.

Maytagged! Brown maelstrom
cold water no air now what?
Become buoyant, breathe,

recirculate down,
cycle up, clutch a thrown rope,
stagger to the boat.

Don’t you realize where
you are? Edge of paradise.
Stare back at that hole.

Fast water falls in,
smooth supercritical flow
dives, jumps, explodes, wave
curls, crunches upstream,
submerges swimmers again,
repeats endlessly.
Where’s the escape route?
Ball up, bottom current, crawl downstream past mayhem.

Or, stay in the boat,
ride momentum through the wave
across the boil line,
where flow breaks downstream.
Placid waters await
beyond the boil line.

Thanks for the rope, Mar’.

Slide off sneaky rock.
Lost your glasses? Read the light.
Listen. Watch shadows.

Beneath soft water,
battle scarred monsters may lurk.
Look for downstream Vees.

Subtle arrows light
the way. Ride the tongue between.
Stay centered, balanced.

Horizon line looms,
hides healthy tributary,
squirrelly eddy lines,
engulfed in queer mist.
Three pound snowflakes splat your face,
Where did the sun go?

Catch an eddy, breathe.
Slow your heart, settle quiet,
simply sit. Wait.

Squall subsides. Sunlight clears mist,
illuminates stream.

Crystal paths appear.
Waves weave bright webs everywhere,
so dance along, Fool!

River, rocks and rhythms,
boogie down the gusto line!
If you swim, we laugh.

Flash over a ledge,
wave after wave washes clean.
Sense the confluence.

Float a quiet pool.
Brilliant sunlight still feels warm
within a cold wind.

Whisper, “Thank you, Lord,
thank you so much, oh, baby…”
Scoop up empty cans.

Peel into current,
giddy with adrenaline
intoxication.

Where’d the big dogs go?
Narrow notch, double curlers?
Piece of cake, Snake. Watch...

Jeez, pushy surges,
oops, oh shoot, now what? Paddle!
Please God, get me through.

Duckie disappears.
Nasty wave slaps you back
and takes your hat.

Flatten, flounder, fly
out somehow flop back in your
boat, paddle in hand.

Hear cheers and laughter.
“Good show, Moe. Keep practicing.”
Cough out water, laugh.

Float a quiet pool,
snort out ice cream sinuses.
Sunlight soothes ego.

What should I have done?
Why did I freak out? How did-

Stop. It’s no big deal.

Nobody died. Breathe.
Keep your eyes open, that’s all,
and don’t miss the line.

Whisper, “Thank you, Lord,
thank you so much, oh, baby…”
Scoop up soggy hat.

Shivery whispers
chilly shimmy up your spine,
time to replenish.

Eddy out. Stretch. Drink.
Enter hemlock cathedral,
choir tranquility.

Lunchtime, oranges,
simple, delicious, quenches.
Focus in each stroke.

Shotgun sleet stings eyes,
accumulated ice drags,
eddy line snags you,
teeter toward root balls,
entangled, damned choked channel.
Breathe, relax, let go.

Rivers simply flow,
carry their own loads, or not,
follow hidden laws.

If tomorrow’s storm
flushes the system, so what?
What do you do now?

Knock off paddle ice.
Jagged needles flash wan light,
flutter, disappear.

What good is anger?
Systematically detach.
Float into current.

Comfortable fog,
sluggish subcritical flow,
ordinary, slow.

Ahead, river splits,
a blurry island, which way?
Familiar? No, new.

Will weird waves eat me?
Should I paddle? Walk around?
Or maybe…float by?

That drop was nothing.
Simply overreacted,
didn’t have to fight.

Floods create islands,
carve channels, subside. Paddlers
seek today’s true line.
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American Whitewater has been extraordinarily fortunate in our ability to leverage a strong grassroots base—members and other volunteers—to assist our limited staff with many whitewater river conservation and restoration efforts.

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

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

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

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

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Breathe snowmelt spiced air.
Lungs fill, eyes tear, enlivened
breeze arouses trees.

Red-lined young dogwoods
whisper, shed clear ice tinkles
on tomorrow’s grass.

Gunmetal waves wink
opalescent dollop eyes
while light fairies flit.

Suddenly sunlight
pulsates across frequencies,
radiating waves

overlappingly
harmonically symphonic,
applauded by geese.

Diamond-kissed ripples
dance in unfocussed focus
wind water light stones

so many strange rhythms
perfectly, purely attuned.
Sweet sunshine still warms.

Now sing, “Thank you, Lord,
thank you so much, oh, baby…”
and wipe away tears.

Pristine solitude,
drift away in reverie,
look how far you’ve come.

Momentary lapse,
missed signs for safe passage. Oops,
unbalanced maelstrom!

Where’s your lost center?
Discordant frequencies seethe,
too much energy!

Worst in memory,
forgotten injuries scream,
exploit fatigue. Help!

Atop frothy peaks,
down the deepest deep, deep holes
see Her sweet, sweet smile.

Humiliated,
raw eyes released, surrender.
She whispers “Paddle.

Listen, learn, let go.”
Current carries you skyward.
Now bury those blades.

Brown walls fade away.
Chuck strong headwinds, mind sharp
chop, breathe, focus, paddle.

Climb up a wave train,
critical flow, unity,
roller coaster bliss.

Limitless power
spirits your tiny boat up
then down again up

while the canyon roars,
uncaring roils bubble cold.
Breathe. Focus. Paddle.

Multiple wave trains
converge compete compound now

drums pound within you

thrum up through your seat.
Primal rhythms awaken
your own spiral beat.

Ferocious waves lash,
flushes splash through your duckie’s
holey buoyant floor.

Hear the bad Cat laugh.
River’s end awaits. Who cares?
Enjoy sweet sunshine.

So when will it end?
There’s a whole lot of water
between now and then.

Delusive shadows
disrupt sparkly displays, real
threat or imagined?

Just purple faced clouds.
Rhythms remain strong beneath
puffy nothingness.

Hear a deeper roar?
Few pass through Grand Finale,
been known to break bones.

You’ve failed here before,
spectacularly, often,
still carry scars. Scout.

Start at the bottom,
work back up to here. Got it?
Line threads through white waves,

spiked wall river left,
rocky garden river right.
Head straight through the Hole.

Now release from shore,
wear your boat, a second skin,
feel current’s caress.

Breathe. Focus. Line opens, go!
Supercritical

flow pulls you inside,
indigo beckons beyond.
Paddle! Penetrate

shimmering sweet spot,
become Her Song Ecstatic,
dance through meaty joy

across the boil line!
Now quiet, peace the norm. Soft
waters rock your soul.

Mentors re-appear,
happy to see you listened.
Welcome home, brother.
GET YOUR GREEN CARD TODAY!

SUBSCRIBE TO KAYAK SESSION MAGAZINE, CONTRIBUTE TO AW EFFORTS EVEN FURTHER AND SAVE MONEY!

Here’s how: As an AW member, you save money when subscribing to Kayak Session. If that’s not enough, your purchase awards another 5 bucks back to AW’s effort to change the world. If that doesn’t change the world, it can at least make it a little sweeter…

50% discount on Kayak Session Subscriptions!
30 USD for one year subscriptions
5 dollars back to AW for every subscription purchased

Save, Support, Enjoy

SINCE 2001 KAYAK SESSION HAS GIVEN AW OVER $160,000 TO SUPPORT IT’S TREMENDOUS EFFORT. LET’S MAKE IT EVEN MORE THIS YEAR!
AW’S ORIGINAL PURPOSE
BY CARLA MINER

American Whitewater’s original purpose since 1954 has included distribution of information among its Affiliate Clubs. We have over 100 current AW Club Affiliates and they are all doing great work on your behalf; if you don’t belong to a club, consider joining one.

American Whitewater has two levels of Affiliate Clubs - a Supporting Affiliate Club or an Affiliate Club. Affiliate Clubs that choose AW’s $100 annual level are recognized in the AW Journal, on our website club page, and in our annually published Honor Roll. In order to be recognized at this level, a Club needs to maintain an annual $100 contribution.

Affiliate Clubs that choose AW’s $400 Supporting Affiliate Club annual level are recognized in the AW Journal, on our website club page, and in our annually published Honor Roll as well as being listed as sponsors of an AW stewardship presentation each year. In order to be recognized at this level, a Club needs to maintain an annual $400 contribution. A Supporting Affiliate Club can revert to the $100 Affiliate Club annual level at any time.

An Affiliate Club that is already being recognized as an AW Lifetime member is recognized in the annual Honor Roll as a Lifetime member. They do need to contribute either at the $100 or the $400 level annually to be recognized an as Affiliate Club in the AW Journal and under the Affiliate Club heading of the published Honor Roll.

Supporting Affiliate Clubs

Alaska
Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks

Colorado
Dolores River Boating Advocates, Dolores

Kentucky
Bluegrass Wildwater Asso, Lexington

New Jersey
KCCNY, Flanders

North Carolina
Mind Body Play, Asheville

Ohio
Keelhaulens, Cleveland

South Carolina
Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville

Tennessee
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Chattanooga

Washington
Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle

Affiliate Club by State

Alaska
Nova River Runners Inc., Chickaloon

Alabama
Coosa River Paddling Club, Wetumpka

Arkansas
Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

Arizona
Southern Arizona Paddlers Club, Tucson

California
Auburn River Festival Club, Auburn

Colorado
Colorado Whitewater Assn, Denver

Connecticut
Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq, Lakeville

Delaware
AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oak

Georgia
Georgia Canoeing Asso, Atlanta

Idaho
Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise

Indiana
Hoosier Canoe Club, Brownsburg

Kentucky
Elkhorn Paddlers, Lexington

Maine
Penobsot Paddle & Chowder Society, Freeport

Maryland
Baltimore Canoe & Kayak Club, Baltimore

Massachusetts
AMC Boston Chapter, Boston

Michigan
Rapids Riders, Eagan

Missouri
Missouri Whitewater Assn, St. Louis

Montana
Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings

Nevada
Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

New Hampshire
AMC New Hampshire Paddlers, Raymond

New Jersey
AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks

New York
ADK Schenectady, Schenectady

North Carolina
Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh

North Dakota
Landmark Learning, Cullowhee

Ohio
Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, Columbus

Oregon
Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Portland

Rhode Island
Friends of the Crooked River, Akron

Oregon
Oregon Kayak Club, Portland

South Carolina
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

Virginia
Virginia Whitewater Association, Richmond

Washington
Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle

West Virginia
West Virginia Canoe Club, Charleston

Wisconsin
River Runners of Wisconsin, Madison

Wyoming
Bighorn Outdoor Adventures, Sheridan

Wyoming Canoe Club, Laramie

Wyoming Outdoor Council, Laramie

Wyoming Whitewater Association, Laramie
DISCOUNTED AW MEMBERSHIP FOR AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERS

By Carla Miner, Membership Manager

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

A list of AW Affiliate Clubs can be found on our website at http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/. If you do not see your Club listed here please encourage them to renew their Club membership or to join AW as a new Affiliate Club. Your Club’s membership and your personal membership enable our staff to be active and engaged in the process of river stewardship. When you join or renew your membership your support is helping to meet the many challenges whitewater rivers face. If you have any questions about the Affiliate Club membership, please contact me. I can be reached at 866_Boat-4AW or membership@americanwhitewater.org.

JOIN AMERICAN WHITEWATER AS A CLUB AFFILIATE!

10 REASONS TO JOIN AW AS AN AFFILIATE CLUB

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

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

Pennsylvania
AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oak Benscrew Canoe Club, Johnstown Bradford County Canoe and Kayak Club, Sayre Canoe Club of Centre County, Lemont Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, Harrisburg Conewago Canoe Club, York Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Lehigh Valley Mach One Slalom Team, State College Philadelphia Canoe Club, Philadelphia Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters, Ohioopyle

Tennessee

Texas
Houston Canoe Club, Houston Team River Runner, San Antonio

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

Vermont
Vermont Paddlers Club, Montpelier

Virginia
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Sandy Hook

Washington
BEWET, Bellevue Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club, Spokane The Mountaineers, Seattle Washington Recreational River Runners, Renton

West Virginia
Dbi Z! Whitewater Club, Martinsville WV Wildwater Assn, S. Charleston

Wisconsin
North East Wisconsin Paddlers, Inc., Neenah Rapids Riders, Eagan Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter, Madison

Wyoming
American Packrafting Association, Wilson Jackson Hole Kayak Club, Jackson

Ontario
Guelph Kayak Club, Elora Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers, The Kawarths

Quebec
Montreal Kayak Club, Montreal
Contribute your text and photos to American Whitewater

American Whitewater is a member-driven publication. If you enjoy reading it, please consider letting its pages tell your story. We are looking for articles about whitewater rivers of any variety, so let your imagination flow free!

We're always accepting submissions and we hope you'll consider contributing. For complete submission details, story topics, deadlines, and guidelines, go to:

americanwhitewater.org > Library > AW Journal
$35 Cheaper than anything in your gear bag, twice as important.
americanwhitewater.org/join
BETTER WHITETWATER TAKES PROTECTING RIVERS

CALL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL TO SUPPORT WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

TAKE ACTION, CALL 202-224-3121

“MY NAME IS [YOUR NAME] AND I AM CALLING FROM [YOUR TOWN AND ZIP CODE]

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and I am calling to request your leadership in advancing legislation to establish new Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Expanding our system of Wild and Scenic Rivers is increasingly important as many of our most iconic fish and wildlife species are dependent on rivers, and opportunities to enjoy healthy rivers directly support the $887 billion outdoor recreation economy.

Please support the protection of our nation’s most treasured free-flowing rivers.

Thank you!”

#BETTERTAKESACTION