SOME COMPANIES LEAD. SOME COMPANIES FOLLOW.

Some companies
DON'T GIVE A CRAP
WHAT OTHER COMPANIES ARE DOING.

PARDON US IF THAT SEEMS A BIT SMUG. IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE PRETTY DAMN ADAMANT ABOUT DOING THINGS OUR OWN WAY. IT SHOWS IN HOW PEOPLE HERE PADDLE. AND IT SHOWS IN HOW PEOPLE HERE BUILD BOATS. BOATS THAT HAPPEN TO FEATURE WHAT MANY BELIEVE ARE THE MOST AGGRESSIVE, HIGH-PERFORMANCE HULL DESIGNS ON THIS BIG, WET PLANET. AND UNTIL THAT CHANGES, WE'LL JUST KEEP BLOWING OFF WHAT EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING.
Events .................................. 33
- Michael Phelan Intro
- Retentive Bow Piroquette
- Notes from the 2001 Worlds
- Results from World Freestyle Kayaking Championships
- Subaru Gorge Games Showcase
- 2001 Upper Yough Race Results
- NOWR Freestyle Event Results
- 2001 US Senior and Junior Slalom Team Trial Results
- 2001 Schedule of River Events

Safety .................................... 89
- Fatal Whitewater Accident Summary

River Voices .......................... 100
- How to Do Tricky Whitewater
- My Shuttle Bunny?
- Teen Forum Helpless
- Boaters vs. Fishermen
- The Dangers of Boating

Whitewater Love Trouble ............. 108

U.S. Kayak Team Invades Europe
- Crushed
  - by Chris Horbury

Cover: Erica Mitchell, photo by Dan Gavere®
The Old Laughing Lady

"I don't care too much for money, Cause money can't buy me love."
Lennon/McCarihy

"Get it while you can."
Janis Joplin

The little old lady who could wrap herself up in hundred dollar bills lived in a dilapidated shinglebrick shanty along the road that led to our favorite river. We always tried to spot her when we drove by; it was part of our going to the river ritual. This ritual also involved looking for a gigantic Guernsey bull that was pastured in one particular meadow (he would gore you to death for sure if given the chance), three "lucky ducks" that hung out in a certain pond (if you didn't see them you were probably going to get worked... and possibly even swim), and the grave of the Turnpike Killer Johnny Wable... one of the last men to die in Pennsylvania's electric chair (a hundred times more interesting than Fort Necessity, which is less than a mile away).

There were many other remarkable landmarks on our drive as well, but you get the idea. I'm sure that you have identified equally fascinating points of interest on the road that leads to your favorite whitewater run.

But the old lady who could wrap herself up in hundred dollar bills was special. She was almost always outside shuffling about, wearing her garden in the spring and summer, and struggling to carry firewood from her woodpile to the house in the winter and fall. She was stooped over with age and her clothes were shabby. There was never anyone with her. She was pathetically skinny; we figured she didn't have enough to eat. We felt really sorry for her... at least until we heard about the hundred dollar bills. After we found out about that, we took a bit different view of her situation.

We learned of the old lady's wealth one day when we asked about her in the tiny grocery store nearby. The clerk knew right away whom we meant. "Oh my goodness, don't feel sorry for her," the clerk exclaimed. "Why that old bird is so rich she could wrap herself up in hundred dollar bills!"

We must have been visibly astonished because the lady behind the counter launched into a dramatic elaboration. It seemed the old woman was a disagreeable and ruthless miser who had somehow managed to amass quite a fortune, which she kept, stashed away in her house. She had alienated all of her friends and neighbors. She was said to be so nasty and greedy that even her own children wanted nothing to do with her. No one in the community felt sorry for her at all. After hearing the story, we didn't either.

But we still kept looking for her. In fact, knowing about the hundred dollar bills made her all the more intriguing. We continued to see her for several more years. Then she disappeared.

After the third or fourth time we drove to the river without spotting her, we asked after her again at the same grocery store.

She had died not long before, the clerk announced soberly. But the story didn't end there. Not by a long shot.

Lying on her deathbed in her house, the miserly old lady had summoned all of her estranged friends and family... presumably to make peace with them. After many a tearful reconciliation she made her last request. She said she knew she had lived her life badly and that she knew she was dying. Even so, she still wanted to hold all her money just one last time. She told them where it was hidden and asked them to bring it to her. Honoring her last request, they gathered it up and did as she asked.

They heaped the money around her on the bed, piles and piles of it. The old lady smiled, then asked them to leave her alone with her fortune for the last time. "What harm could there be in that?" they thought. Besides, none of them wanted to antagonize her, for fear they would lose their share. So they crept from the room and closed the door.

About a half-hour later they knocked on the door, tentatively at first, then louder. Eventually, when she didn't answer, they opened it cautiously. The old lady was lying there as dead as a mackerel. But she had a big smile on her face, almost like she was laughing.

And every bit of the money was gone! "How could that be?" they gasped.

They were certain the old woman hadn't left the room, and no one had gone into it. They frantically tore off the sheets and ripped open the mattress. They ransacked every chest and drawer. They even tore up the floorboards. All to no avail. The entire fortune had vanished.

There seemed to be no explanation. But, then, one by one they noticed the same unimaginable thing. The old lady looked different. It wasn't just that she was dead. And it wasn't just that she had a smile on her face, something they had rarely seen before.

What was different about her was that in death she somehow looked healthier than she had in life. Somehow she seemed plumper!

Then the terrible truth set in. The little old lady who could wrap herself up in hundred dollar bills had found the perfect way to take her treasure with her. And there was not
a damned thing that any of them could do about it.

Even though the old lady's shinglebrick shanty has long been torn down, I still remember her when I drive to the river. And since I decided to cut back and work part-time, I get to make that drive a lot more often than I used to. Of course I don't make nearly as much money as in the old days, but every time I think about that old lady, I know I made the right decision.

The old lady comes to mind at other times as well. Like when I think about all the boaters I have known over the years who loved running whitewater, but gave it up because they just couldn't refuse an amazingly lucrative job offer in the Midwest. Or because they couldn't pass up the opportunity to double their income by working two jobs. Or because they needed to build (and pay for) an elaborate dream house... or belong to the right golf club... or drive a BMW. Or because they hoped that their wives or husbands could finally be satisfied with just a little more money.

Most of these folks told themselves that they would "get back to boating" in a year or two, once they had reached their goals. But, sadly, that almost never happened. Once a friend starts down that path, you might as well cross his or her name out of your little black book of boaters.

There are two things wrong with delayed gratification. The first is that more often than not the gratification ain't what it was cracked up to be. The second is that sometimes tomorrow never comes.

In the course of our lives we have to dodge so many pitfalls. It is surprisingly easy to lose track of what is important and become addicted... to food or sex or self-importance or alcohol or power or drugs or self-righteousness or ambition. But it has always seemed to me that money and possessions are the silliest of seductions.

My wise friend Steve Miller once defined a greedy man as any guy who goes to work on Monday morning with a five-dollar bill in his pocket. Steve's position might be a bit extreme, but I can tell you that in the course of my professional life I have seen a lot of folks meet their maker... and not a single one of them took any of their money or possessions with them. To my knowledge the old lady who lived along the road that leads to my favorite river is the only one to pull that off.

As for me, when my time comes I want to go out like that old lady... with a big grin on my face. But instead of a belly full of money, I want to have a head full of good memories. And a garage full of beat up kayaks.

And maybe just a little river water in my ears.

Bob Gedekoh
American Whitewater Editor
Open Boat Rolling
Corrections

Hi Bob —

Sorry, but I found what I consider important typos in my recent article about OC-1 rolling (American Whitewater, May/June 2001, p. 80). Is it possible to make a correction in the next American Whitewater issue?

The first is the title. It should be The Low Brace Solo Open Canoe Roll. No emphasis or commas! The name of this roll is analogous to the names screw roll, or C-to-C roll, that kayakers use.

The other, and perhaps more important typo, is that an essential sentence was left out. Under the section headed The Stretch, the following sentence should follow the sentence “When you start, you are under your paddle, facing the surface."

“As you extend out to your off-side, simultaneously roll over on top of your paddle, so that you end up facing downward."

Without that line the sequence is baffling!

Many thanks.

SYOTR,

Don Getzin

Editor's note: Don Getzin’s article on rolling on open canoe appeared in the May-June issue.

Little Boats, Big Mouths

Dear Dr. K,

Your answer to Goldie Digere (“The Long and Short of It”, AW, May/June 2001) on the direct correlation of certain anatomical features with boat size has ruined my life. I too paddle a Tornado and none of the guys will paddle with me now. While a wealth of shuttle bunnies and female paddling companions is handy, they all expect a special favor for their company. When I do see guys on the river, they attack and force me to swim the Class Vs. To add insult to injury, I am invariably rescued by several women who are certain that I need resuscitation and hypothermia treatment (in June!!). Some girls have even taken to blocking paths and roads to exact a certain toll for passage. Despite doing very little actual kayaking, at the end of the day I am completely exhausted.

My wife and three girlfriends are frustrated and furious. One changed my kayak’s Tornado emblem to Rockit, but this only fools a few squirt boaters. Another suggested a less macho kayak and got me a Dominatrix demo, because Riot kayaks are used mainly by attractive women. In addition to being uncomfortably tight, the hump in the middle of the spray skirt had the same effect as paddling my Tornado. Several husbands have offered to remove the problem, but I am not yet ready to paddle a C-1.

I believe the MISFITS research you referenced was the same as published in the Journal of the American Anatomical Measurement Association (JAAMA - October, 2000). While their data is irrefutable, it is unfortunate that you only mentioned half of their work. Their research also found an inverse correlation of boat size and mouth size (i.e., the smaller the boat the bigger the mouth). Anatomical features within the mouth probably reflect the overall size of the mouth, so your inference that paddlers of larger kayaks possess the only satisfactory equipment is misleading if not completely false. Different strokes for different folks.

Your failure to tell Miss Digere of the potential for a blissful relationship through the extraordinary oral capability of her otherwise diminutive friend borders on malpractice. I trust that the omission is an unintentional oversight rather than an attempt to position yourself for unseemly personal gain. I can only hope that you will set the record straight so that Miss Digere finds true love and we Tornado paddlers can get a little peace (not piece) on the river.

See you in the river,

I. F. Gottenuff

Everett, Washington

Dear I. F.,

Dr. Kantgettenuff would not touch this particular topic with a ten foot pole... even if he had one!

Sorry Gree!

During the past year Dale-Marie “Gree” Herrings has spent countless hours volunteering as an Associate Editor for American Whitewater. A professional editor for National Geographic, Gree has been an invaluable resource to American Whitewater. She actually knows what she is doing! Recently I discovered that I failed to add her name to our masthead when she came on board. My apologies to Gree.

Bob Gedekoh
Environmental Controls

- Breathable/waterproof Wave-Tex™ fabric
- Ultra-tight, taped seams eliminate seepage
- Plush neoprene neck and wrist cuffs seal comfortably

Heating and cooling in one unit

NRS™
FIRST ON THE WATER™

Wave-Tex™ Payette Top

CALL FOR A FREE CATALOG, OR TO FIND DEALERS NEAR YOU
800.635.5202 www.nrsweb.com

American Whitewater September • October 2001
Guidelines for Contributors

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

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 patterned to fit into our Features, AW Briefs, River Voices, Conservation Currents, Safety Lines. Humor or End Notes sections. Exceptional photographs and whitewater cartoons are also welcomed.

If possible, articles should be submitted on a 3-12-inch computer disk. (Microsoft Word if possible—others accepted.) Please do not alter the margins or spacing parameters; use the standard default settings. Send a printed copy of the article as well.

Those without access to a word processor may submit their articles typed. Please double space. Photos may be submitted as slides, black or white prints, or color prints. Keep your originals and send the duplicates if possible; we cannot guarantee the safe return of your pictures. If you want us to return your pictures, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission. 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 flat water. The best features have a definite slant... or theme. They are not merely chronological recounts 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. 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 offend our more sensitive members and readers.

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

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

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

Release For Publication

I hereby release my work (literary, graphic or photographic) for publication in American Whitewater magazine.

I understand that my work may be edited or cropped at the editors’ discretion.

I understand that I will not be paid for my work.

I accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information included in my submission. I have not libeled or slandered any individual, corporation or agency in this work.

I understand that all or some of my work may be reprinted at some future date in an American Whitewater publication.

I promise that this material has not been and will not soon be published by another magazine or publication and the rights to this material are clear and unrestricted.

I understand that once this material is printed in American Whitewater it may be reprinted or reproduced in other publications if I wish, providing I notify them that it has already appeared in American Whitewater.

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

Signed Date

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

Send your material to Bob Gedekoh, 8245 Mentor Road, Elizabeth, PA, 15037. Please use regular first class postage. Not certified mail.

You can save a river forever...

... by planning a gift for American Whitewater

Your gift can:

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

You may wish to:

- Bequests
- Real estate
- Insurance
- Stocks
- Trusts
- Other

please direct inquiries to Ken Ransford, attorney and CPA, 970-963-6800, or by e-mail at ransford@csn.net.
Purpose

American Whitewater

Our mission is to conserve and restore America’s whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

The American Whitewater (AW) is a national organization with a membership consisting of thousands of individual whitewater boating enthusiasts, and more than 100 local paddling club affiliates.

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

RIVER ACCESS: To assure public access to whitewater rivers pursuant to the guidelines published in its official Access Policy, AW arranges for river access through private lands by negotiation or purchase, seeks to protect the right of public passage on all rivers and streams navigable by 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 (AW) provides information and education about whitewater rivers, boating safety, technique and equipment.

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

EVENTS: AW organizes sporting events, contests and festivals to raise funds for river conservation, including the 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.

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at 1430 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 589-9455. AW is tax exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

www.americanwhitewater.org

TOLL FREE NUMBER
800-600-4AW

Editor: Bob Gedeboh, 8245 Mentor Road, Elizabeth, PA 15037
Associate Editor: Ambrose Tuscano and Dale-Marie Herring
Art direction/Graphic design/Production: John K. Victor, David Scardena
Contributing writers: Dunbar Hardy, Sam Drew, Lee Belknap, Bobby Miller, Mark White, W. Scott Morris, Joe Greiner, Teresa Gryder, Barry Grimes, Marion Boyer, Charlie Walbridge, Bob Woodward, Matt Terry, Andrew Zimet, Bill Hay, Donnie Hudsputh, Whit Deschner, Tim Kelley, Rip Harwood
Photo contributors: Tanya Shuman, Tom Christopher, Chuck Estes, Steve Olson, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Missing Copies and Address Changes: Contact Phyllis Horowitz, 1430 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 589-9455

The opinions expressed in the features and editorials of American Whitewater are those of the individual authors. They do not necessarily represent those of the Directors of American Whitewater or the editors of this publication.

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

American Whitewater is printed by SPENCER WALKER PRESS, INC., Newark, OH.

American Whitewater
September • October 2001
Once upon a time, paddlers looked to the weather for an indication of where the paddling might be good the next weekend. Based on what they saw themselves or heard from talking to their buds on the phone about last weekend's level, they'd make an educated guess on the likely level and knew a late rain in the east, or a hot day in the Rockies might enhance the levels with a bit more water. As a result, many long drives have been met with disappointment at a wholly unexpected level. Dang. At least the anticipatory process was pretty entertaining.

Today, you're signed up for Gaugebot, sending you an auto-notice of levels for your favorite runs. You can wake up early on a Saturday morning, forecast likely rivers level using USGS graphs of recent levels and the area forecast, and plan your day knowing the likely water level on your destination, before the pot of coffee has brewed and the bagel popped from the toaster.

Alternatively, perhaps you are headed to a river with a set schedule: the water will be running from ten until four. Arrive by eleven and you'll have plenty of water until 5:00, so don't rush. Take your time spreading the cream cheese.

Consider the following:
*This summer, more than one boater has driven to the South Fork of the American to paddle for the weekend, only to arrive and find out the river was turned off, due to the emergency of the need to generate power. Were they perhaps annoyed, or disappointed? Can you spell p.o.'d?*

*Occasionally I'll hear disgruntlement from a paddler not being able to get to the Russell Fork because of a conflict with Gauley and Moose releases during the month of October. Gee, life is tough when you have to spend time carefully arranging 'release season' trips.*

*At the far end of the spectrum of expectation resides the interest of professional freestyle competitors. They are able to prepare events most successfully when water levels and schedules are perfectly predictable. While this is not always possible, it is not uncommon for venues to provide such accommodation.*

The growth in number of rivers on which there is a regular schedule of releases has been a significant contributor to the growth of whitewater paddling, along with better equipment, more schools and teaching aids, etc. Most of us frequent rivers with consistent, prescribed water availability. We are also accustomed to visiting rivers or regions of the country during 'release season,' during which specific rivers run due to agreements with land managers and, in the case of relicensings, power companies.

Paddlers who have joined the sport recently may not realize that rivers don't just run when rain brings them up: there are dozens of people, most of whom are volunteers, that have worked hard for the rivers to flow. They are working today, to keep them flowing, to get others to happen and ... to allow you to get to the river without worrying about getting harassed.

To me, it is perfectly fine to demand more of the system (e.g., more frequent flow in a controlled environment), when 'less' is not right (riverbeds are supposed to have water running through them, after all). It is not perfectly fine to complain about a river being too low or the water arriving late, if you are not willing to help remedy the situation by helping with data collection, water flow measurement, quality, etc.

If you are using the American Whitewater website for Gaugebot notices or simply StreamKeeper updates, you are joining over 10,000 paddlers that visit each day. We hope you love the services. If you have suggestions for improvement, send them on. If you have a friend who finds americanwhitewater.org handy, knows a bit about the work we do, and is not a member, help us by getting them to log in online and join, for the price (for some of us) of a Summer, 2001 tank of gas!

Give a membership as a gift.
Less is More???
Not when it comes to whitewater...

American Whitewater
The Wilder the Better

Since 1955 American Whitewater has been hard at work conserving, restoring and securing access to your favorite rivers. Now it's time to join us and help protect YOUR paddling future. As a member, you'll receive the best in whitewater access, conservation, safety, recreation and events. You'll also receive a free subscription to AMERICAN WHITETWATER magazine—the cutting edge in whitewater information and entertainment.

Call Today to Join! It's the Best $25 You'll Ever Spend.

845-586-2355
whiteh2o@catskill.net

[Check boxes and fill out the form]

Name: ____________________________
Address: ___________________________
City: ___________________ State: _______ Zip: _____________
Home Phone: ________________ Work Phone: ________________
Local Club: ______________________
Method of payment: [ ] Check [ ] Mastercard [ ] Visa
Account Number: __________________
Expiration Date: __________________
Signature: ________________________

You may Fax credit card orders to: (845) 586-3050

E-Mail Address: whiteh2o@catskill.net

Please do not exchange my name with like organizations.
Yes, I would be interested in working as an AW volunteer.

Detach and mail to: American Whitewater, P.O. Box 635, Margaretville, NY 12455

American Whitewater  September • October 2001
AW's Top Conservation and Access Issues of 2001

Conservation Issues
1. Ocoee River, Tennessee
2. Energy Legislation - Nationwide
3. Roadless Initiative - Nationwide
4. White Salmon River, Washington
5. Water Quality - Nationwide
6. Swan River, Montana
7. Cheoah River, North Carolina
8. Pit River, California
9. Housatonic River, Connecticut
10. Bear River, Idaho

Access Issues
1. Entire state of Colorado
2. Grand Canyon of the Colorado
3. Chattooga Headwaters
4. Upper Yoquihgney, Maryland
5. Skykomish River, Washington
6. Savage River, Maryland
7. Chiopyle Falls, Yoquihgney River
8. Entire State of Montana
9. Green River, North Carolina
10. Kern River, California

Top 20 River Issues

Each year American Whitewater lists river issues that most clearly threaten the health of whitewater recreation in the United States. Challenges stem from a variety of quarters, and the manner in which we've listed them reflects the range of work that is going on as you go to work or school, or off to paddle.

Direct Nationwide Impact - Federal legislation and nationwide initiatives are in process that will set the course for rivers across the map. Bills drafted for passage cover reform or revision of guidelines for power producers and the oversight required of FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Roadless Initiative set forth by the Forest Service to protect wilderness land from any, or additional unnecessary roadbuilding, has encountered challenges and has been refined. Challenges to the Clean Water Act aim to threaten the standards by which we have improved the health of our river waters.

Regional Issues, National Precedent – From our pursuit of equitable allocation of commercial/non-commercial use by the National Park Service, to the request for boating access in the headwaters of the Chattooga, the challenges between our interest to recreate on 'public land' and efforts to keep us off or out, continue.

Statewide - Paddling has never been so challenged publicly by laws governing state definition of navigability, water rights and 'public trust' – the tenet that citizens have a right to float a river, regardless of who owns the land on either side. Unfortunately, paddlers have subjected themselves to arrest in order to make a point and prevent debilitating precedent. Access issues abound, perpetuated by both the continued increase of boater discovery and usage and the shift in private ownership of rural lands.

Hydro Issues – Dozens of hydro relicensings and other challenges to utilities management planning are underway. Each involves the consideration of interests other than (including whitewater boating, fishing, habitat restoration, etc.) power generation (i.e., paddling, fishing, habitat restoration). The fantastic economic impact that releases can have in local economies are creating partnerships among local businesses and governing bodies, as well as collaboration among user groups to tackle the challenge of meeting the needs of many.

Return guests to our list reinforce that some projects simply take time to work through, while others have taken paths that have twisted or met roadblocks. Please note: this list is hardly complete. The issues are those we feel are the most important for 1) the precedent they may set and 2) the high quality whitewater reaches they represent.
1. Ocoee River, Tennessee

Issue: Releases on the Upper Ocoee River

Goal: Secure an annual schedule of free releases

Current Status: TVA recently decided to drastically reduce the number of releases available to paddlers on the Upper Ocoee. It is their opinion that they own the water and are therefore entitled to charge paddlers for the use of that water. American Whitewater disagrees; the water is part of the public trust and belongs first and foremost in the river. TVA was created to provide economic development to the Tennessee Valley, however now they are acting as though profit is more important than fulfilling their mission. It has been shown that each release on the Upper Ocoee costs TVA about $6,500 in lost power generation. The same release injects at least $210,000 directly into the local economy. If TVA were acting appropriately they would recognize the economic value of whitewater releases for Polk County and forego power generation from the Ocoee Number 2 powerhouse on a regular basis.

To help bring these issues to the public, American Whitewater organized the Ocoee Symposium in May, 2001. The Symposium received significant media coverage and attendees were far more united and informed than when they arrived. The overriding take-home message emerging from the Symposium was the common interest to restore whitewater flows to the Upper Ocoee among a diverse set of stakeholders. This group of stakeholders is now organizing a coalition focused on restoring the Upper Ocoee. The coalition’s goal is to reform TVA’s practices on the Upper Ocoee.

The coalition needs your help with this issue! We will be attending a TVA Regional Stewardship Council meeting in late August. The more paddlers attending the better. Keep an eye on our web page for an alert about this meeting. We will also likely be calling on you to write letters and call your congressmen.

Precedent: TVA diverts water from the Ocoee as if it were their own private river. The Ocoee is a public resource and TVA technically a public agency. TVA must be reformed. Hydropower operations on the Upper Ocoee must be balanced with other resource uses.

Contact Person: Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater Conservation & Access Associate

2. Energy Crisis / New Hydro

Issue: Current “Energy Crisis” spawning new hydropower dam proposals and legislative reforms of Federal Power Act

Goal: Protect river resources and existing environmental standards

Current Status: The poor architecture of California’s energy restructuring plan coupled with drought in the Pacific Northwest has created a crisis atmosphere. Emerging from this crisis is a plethora of proposed hydropower projects, legislative proposals threatening to undermine environmental safeguards at hydropower projects, a FERC driven proposal to streamline the hydropower licensing process, and a new energy policy drafted by the White House.

The Legislative and Administrative Threats

Primed by the California ‘crisis,’ 2001 has ushered in a rash of federal energy legislation with destructive consequences for the nation’s rivers. Each bill, in its own way, lowers the bar of environmental requirements for utilities that are planning to build new power projects or license existing facilities. Energy producers are exploiting the atmosphere of panic, lobbying hard for the passage of these bills, knowing their passage could equate to billions of dollars...
in additional profit. Because of the recent shift in the Senate, radical legislative proposals have not been introduced. As we go to press, no firm energy proposal has been introduced in the Senate. For a review of previous legislative proposals, the Administration’s energy plan, and FERC’s internal reform efforts see the July-August issue of the American Whitewater Journal.

New Hydro

The FERC has received an unprecedented number of applications for new hydropower projects due to the high energy prices and market predictions coupled with the prospect that the hydropower licensing process itself may look very different when these proposals move from the drawing board to reality. These proposals include adding hydropower capacity at existing dams as well as new projects. In the big picture, adding hydropower capacity at existing dams can be relatively benign, if designed well. On the other hand increasing capacity can undermine efforts to improve flow conditions, or worse yet, plans to remove an obsolete dam. New hydroprojects, primarily sited on creeks with steep gradients, will impact whitewater opportunities and aquatic resources.

Precedent: The Federal Power Act should not be altered in a fashion that streamlines the process for licensing a hydropower project. The nation’s rivers and streams are a vital resource that should not be monopolized for power production alone. Public input and resource agency review are critical components in the licensing process to ensure that non-power values are balanced with power generation. Legislators must focus on developing a long-term energy strategy complete with alternative energy sources and sound conservation measures. Energy policy must work in concert with resource protection.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater Conservation Director

3. U. S. Forest Service Roadless Initiative

Issue: Continued threat to roadless areas
Goal: Implementation of Roadless Area Conservation Rule

Current Status: The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR), championed by President Clinton, remains a phenomenal chance to protect rivers across the country. Lands protected from road-building are not only safe from the direct ecological and aesthetic impacts of the roads, but also from the many impacts of logging and mining. Many of the lands affected by this rule are in the headwaters of the rivers we all enjoy. Protecting these lands results in cleaner and wilder rivers. When the RACR was signed on January 12, 2001, over 58 million acres of Forest Service land, was protected from the building of roads. Or were they? Under the new administration the rule has been attacked on several fronts.

The RACR is currently the subject of eight lawsuits involving seven states. The Forest Service has responded by reopening the issue for additional public comment. Apparently the more than 1.6 million comments, which were overwhelmingly in favor of protecting the roadless lands, were not sufficient. The new public comment period is guided by 10 optional questions that are weighted toward weakening the rule. The public (you) must continue to assert that roadless lands are important and should be protected. Don’t be swayed by the Forest Service’s narrow focus on fire management and local control, let them know that RACR should be fully implemented just like we
Paddling Memorable Rivers

COSTA RICA

New MEXICO

Exploring Cultures

OUTFITTERS

STORE

OUTFITTERS

STORE

Wave Sport

Stohlquist • Snap Dragon Watershed • Sidewinder Salamander • Oke • Thule

Salamander • Oke • Thule

For more Info, contact us at 828/486-6199 or

www.endlessriveradventures.com

YOU are at RISK.

reduce it.

you get up, drink coffee and go boating...

get it.

also from waterworks Productions, inc.

Films, Inc.

"The foundations of advanced boating."

"What the Green really looks like..."

The Adventures of JOHNNY UTAH

$24.95

$29.95

$29.95

To order any of these videos call Nantahala Outdoor Center 1-800-367-3521 (www.noc.com/store.htm)

Nantahala Outdoor Center 1 - 800 - 367 - 352

American Whitewater September October 2001
said last time!

Keep up to date on the roadless issue by checking our web page and the Forest Service's roadless page (http://roadless.fs.fed.us). Send comments by September 10th either by e-mail to roadless_anpr@fs.fed.us or by postal mail to USDA-Forest Service—CAT, Attention: Roadless ANPR Comments, P.O. Box 221090, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84122.

Precedent: Permanent protection of these roadless lands is critical for water quality, wildlife, and recreation.

Contact Person: Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater Conservation & Access Associate

4. White Salmon River, Washington

Issue: FERC's failure to honor and process the Settlement Agreement

Goal: Dam Removal

Current Status: On September 22, 1999, PacifiCorp signed a voluntary agreement to remove Condit Dam on the White Salmon River in Southwest Washington State. The agreement was the culmination of two years of negotiations between state and federal agencies, American Whitewater, and 13 other environmental groups. The agreement calls for removal of the 125-foot-tall concrete dam that since 1913 has diverted water from the natural channel obstructing downstream navigation and blocking upstream fish passage.

Inaction by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency that oversees hydropower dam relicensing, is jeopardizing a good-faith effort crafted by the hydropower industry, government agencies, tribal government, conservation organizations, and members of the public, which resulted in a historic agreement for the removal of Condit Dam. The agreement was filed with FERC over a year and a half ago and FERC has still not approved it. In May 2001, the FERC disclosed during a site visit to the dam and public hearings in Portland uncertainty regarding their ability to approve the settlement. PacifiCorp's obligations to the Settlement expire in September 2002 if FERC fails to approve it.

Dam removal will allow boaters to paddle a scenic five-mile Class III section from Condit Dam to the Columbia River. This section has never been accessible to the paddling community due to the steep walls of the gorge and obstruction from the dam. In fact, this section of the White Salmon is not even listed in Jeff and Tonya Bennett's

Furthermore, Condit Dam inundated an additional four miles of the White Salmon River under Northwestern Lake. There is no telling what rapids are waiting to be reborn when the dam is removed. Paddlers will now be able to link the upstream BZ Corners run with the lower canyon thereby creating a full day summer run on the White Salmon.

Removing Condit Dam would increase habitat for migratory fish by about 20 miles (8 miles of White Salmon River habitat, and 12 miles of habitat in tributaries including Spring Creek and Rattle-snakcreek). There is only one other dam (Bonneville Dam) between the White Salmon River and the mouth of the Columbia River.

This voluntary agreement signifies an important step in restoring fisheries and recreational opportunities on the White Salmon River. More importantly, this agreement serves as a model for other rivers where dam removal is being considered. After credible scientific study the stakeholders and utility collectively came to the conclusion that dam removal was the best restoration alternative for the White Salmon River. Furthermore, the utility, PacifiCorp, recognizes their financial and societal responsibility for dam removal.

American Whitewater recognized early in the relicensing that dam removal and it's associated recreational and fishery benefits far outweighed the power generation value from the project. As early as 1992, American Whitewater urged FERC to consider dam removal. "As this intervention proceeds, one of the questions considered will be the balancing of power generation against the benefits of restoring the White Salmon to its historic free-flowing condition." (comment by Rich Bowers to FERC, 1992).

Precedent: The FERC should fast track approval of this settlement agreement. The settlement embodies a creative and cooperative solution supported by industry and conservation groups alike. Failure to approve this settlement will undermine efforts to forge river restoration agreements throughout the country.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater Conservation Director

### 5. Water Quality / Clean Water Act

**Issue: Rollbacks of Water Quality Legislation**

**Goal: Prevent Bush Administration from weakening the Clean Water Act**

Current Status: The new EPA Administrator Christie Whitman took action to "improve" the impaired water program by putting a hold on an EPA rule enacted during the Clinton Administration that would have allowed the USGS to monitor cleaner rivers and lakes across the country. The rule would do this by focusing the power of the Clean Water Act on the largest source of pollution in our rivers, non-point source pollution such as agricultural runoff and sedimentation. The goal of Whitman's hold is to review the rule and to make it more "workable."

Workable in this case means greater liberty by industry and other sources of pollution. This weakening of federal control would allow the EPA to return to status quo not applying the CWA to deal with non-point source pollution.

Whitman was quoted as saying "I am asking for this additional time to listen carefully to all parties with a stake in restoring America's waters — states, cities, small towns and rural communities, plus industry, the environmental community, and farmers — to find a better way to treat the important job of cleaning our great rivers, lakes, and streams." That is where we paddlers come in. We have to be ready to submit a large number of comments asking for the most protective measures possible because you can bet that industry will be right there asking for the least protective measures.

Precedent: Our nation's lakes and streams are a valuable public resource. The CWA was passed with the goal of making all our water bodies swimmable and drinkable. We must not lower that standard.

Contact Person: Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater Conservation & Access Associate

### 6. Swan River, Montana

**Issue: Failure to provide adequate river access within hydropower project boundary**

**Goal: Secure permanent river access and protect non-project lands**

Current Status: Access to the Swan River's Wild Mile and site of the annual Bigfork Whitewater Festival was recently threatened by proposed sale of the river corridor lands. Although PacifiCorp has temporarilyscrapped plans to sell these lands, the proposal served as a wake-up call for the boating community and public at large. For years boaters assumed these lands were all part of the hydropower project boundary. After all, PacifiCorp diverts water from this one-mile stretch for power generation downstream. To our dismay we found that the hydropower project boundary does not include the river channel between the dam and powerhouse.

PacifiCorp owns a total of 430 acres of these "non-project" lands adjacent to the Swan River and reservoir and another 130 acres of "project" lands contiguous with the dam, canal, and powerhouse. American Whitewater and others fear the non-project lands will be sold off for home sites thereby severely restricting public access to the reservoir and Swan River. The public has established informal access routes to the river and reservoir throughout these non-project lands. Theoretically, the Federal Power Act requires the licensee to provide unhindered public access to the project waters. PacifiCorp's existing project boundary fails to provide that access. Furthermore, PacifiCorp's dam obstructs downstream navigation. The Swan is a federally navigable waterway. As such, PacifiCorp is required to provide a portage route. The current project infrastructure does not provide a portage route on project lands.

In the current relicensing proceeding for the hydropower project, American Whitewater argued for expansion of the project boundary to include lands adjacent to the river corridor between the dam and powerhouse as well as lands around the project reservoir to protect water quality and public access.

Precedent: Many hydropower projects across the country fail to provide adequate public access to the river. Project works obstruct access to the river and downstream navigation. Utilities are obligated to provide unhindered public access to the waterway. Utility-owned lands adjacent to reservoirs and dewatered river corridors must be included in the hydropower project boundary as mitigation. These lands may not be eligible for sale or development outside that prescribed in the FERC license. The public must be allowed free access to project lands.

Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater Conservation Director

### 7. Cheoah River, North Carolina

**Issue: Abuse of Alternative Licensing Process to obtain new hydropower license**

**Goal: Restore Cheoah River and whitewater opportunities**

Current Status: Tapoco, Inc., a subsidiary of Reynolds Aluminum, is currently relicensing a series of hydropower dams on the Little Tennessee River and Cheoah River. Santeetlah Reservoir on the Cheoah River pipes water around the 8.5 mile Class IV run to a powerhouse on the Little Tennessee. As a result, the Cheoah is rarely paddled. Tapoco elected to utilize the Alternative Licensing Process (ALP). Because the relicensing process can be extremely conflictridden the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved use of the ALP in hopes that it would foster collaboration and cooperation between the utility and stakeholders. Other than requiring consent for the ALP by a limited number of stakeholders the FERC does not require or even provide guidance regarding collaborative protocols. As a result, each ALP forges its own set of protocols.
In the case of the Cheoah relicense, Tapoco unilaterally established a limited set of protocols to their advantage. Those protocols limit the ability of stakeholders to provide input in the process. In effect, Tapoco is using the façade of an ALP to unilaterally craft a new license under the pretense of collaboration.

American Whitewater along with a coalition of groups in the southeast has established a list of protocols necessary in this relicense proceeding. These protocols include a decision-making model including a definition of consensus, dispute resolution protocol, and neutral facilitation to name a few. Establishing these protocols will help level the playing field giving stakeholders the ability to have a voice in decisions and the final outcome for this relicense.

In July 2000, American Whitewater volunteers participated in a recreational flow study designed to identify optimum and minimum acceptable flows for whitewater. Overwhelmingly, participants in the study recognized the Cheoah as an outstanding whitewater resource in the southeast. A must-do run for anyone touring the southeast. American Whitewater will be actively engaged in the development of an annual schedule of whitewater releases.

Precedent: In order to foster successful outcomes in ALPs, the FERC should include specific requirements for collaboration and cooperation prior to granting permission to use this process.

Contact Person: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director and Rod Baird <RodBaird@compuserve.com>

---

8. Pit River, California

**Issue:** Obstruction of hydropower licensing studies and misapplication of Endangered Species Act

**Goal:** Complete the hydropower re-licensing process in a timely manner using sound and defensible study protocols.

**Current Status:** The Pit 3, 4, & 5 hydropower project offers nearly twenty miles of Class III-IV+ whitewater in northeast California. Located in the southern terminus of the Pacific Northwest Cascades, the Pit River is blessed with a pre-diversion instream flow of at least 2,000 cfs throughout the summer months. Due to the volcanic geology of the Pit River drainage, this large base flow is supplied by large cold springs that emit a consistent flow level throughout the year. For the last 50 years, hydropower diversions have reduced the instream flows to approximately 150 cfs - less than 10% of the historic flow level.

American Whitewater first became involved in the re-licensing of Pit 3, 4, & 5 in October 1998. At that time we requested a Controlled Whitewater Flow Study to determine the minimum and optimum flow release levels. In early 1999, stakeholders formed the Pit River Collaborative Team (PRCT) consisting of agencies, PG&E, and the public. The purpose of the PRCT is to review existing data and recommend any additional studies required to create a legally defensible record from which to base future management decisions regarding the allocation of water resources. The PRCT determined that a Controlled Whitewater Flow Study was necessary to make objective decisions about future whitewater flows and simultaneously evaluate potential biological impacts to river resources. A target date of July/
August 2000 was set for completion of the whitewater study. Abruptly, in April of 2000, the planned studies were placed on hold due to concerns related to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Since that date, American Whitewater, and other agencies, have worked to overcome this stalemate.

American Whitewater is struggling with this strict interpretation of the ESA for the Pit. This application of the ESA borders on obstructionism, blocking studies of flow conditions that more closely resemble actual flows in which these endangered species evolved. The stakeholders have been precluded from direct contact with the ESA branch of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service making it impossible to establish constructive dialogue. Without these studies, it is nearly impossible for agencies and groups like American Whitewater to participate in hydropower licensing on a level playing field. We now await the completion of a "biological assessment" by PG&E, to be submitted to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for their consideration in issuing a "biological opinion" as to when and if the needed studies can be completed.

Precedent: The PRCT is now attempting to develop desired future conditions for the Pit River, yet critical study results are missing. PG&E has effectively pit the user groups against agencies through misapplication of the ESA. As a result, the relicensing process is further delayed. PG&E continues to operate the project indefinitely on conditions established in the previous license 30 years ago. The impacts to endangered species continue to accrue and the public is denied recreational opportunities.
Contact: John Gangemi, American Whitewater Conservation Director

9. Housatonic River, Connecticut

Issue: Failure to protect existing beneficial uses

Goal: Protect and restore whitewater boating opportunities

Current Status: The Housatonic made our list of river issues in 2000 due to the state of Connecticut’s failure to protect whitewater recreation opportunities in the relicensing of two hydroelectric projects. Unfortunately these issues remain unresolved threatening the future of the Housatonic River. In 2000, Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) submitted new license applications for two hydropower projects on the Housatonic River in Connecticut, Falls Village, and Bulls Bridge. Flows from both projects effect whitewater boating opportunities in downstream reaches. The Falls Village project diverts water around the Class IV rattlesnake rapid and regulates flows in the Class II Falls Village section. The Bulls Bridge facility diverts water around a Class IV section. In their license application, CL&P did not include an annual schedule of whitewater releases for the Rattlesnake rapid and an insufficient number of releases for the Bulls Bridge reach. Furthermore, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued a water quality certification that severely limits summer boating opportunities on the Falls Village section. Because the water quality certification precludes whitewater use of Falls Village, the DEP is in violation of the state anti-degradation standards. Anti-degradation requires that no action degrade existing beneficial uses. Whitewater recreation is recognized as a beneficial use on the Housatonic.

American Whitewater, along with local paddling clubs and conservation organizations, filed comments with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) calling for seasonal shutdown of the Falls Village powerhouse as well as an annual schedule of releases in the bypass reaches. The groups will continue to be actively engaged in the relicensing process encouraging the FERC to balance power generation, angling, and whitewater opportunities on this river.

Precedent: Relicensing must be used as an opportunity to balance resource uses equitably. The CT DEP fails to protect all beneficial uses in their R101 water quality certification. Whitewater recreation is a beneficial use on the Housatonic. Furthermore, relicensing is an opportunity to truly restore the biological integrity of the river. This relicensing objective must be first and foremost and not used as a ploy to further a single self-interest as is the case on the Housatonic.
Contact Person: John Gangemi, American Whitewater Conservation Director

10. Bear River, Idaho

Issue: FERC’s baseline Interpretation and licensing of storage reservoirs

Goal: Restoration of Bear River and whitewater opportunities

Current Status: The Bear River has been on American Whitewater’s annual list of Endangered Rivers for four years running. The Bear River is an outstanding whitewater resource impacted by hydropower operations. The Bear River’s location in the arid southeast corner of Idaho just north of Salt Lake City elevates the importance of restoring this whitewater resource to the region where whitewater is sparse. The Bear River contains three hydropower projects undergoing the five-year relicensure process. PacifiCorp, the utility that owns and operates the three hydropower projects on the Bear has been uncooperative with stakeholders in the proceeding. PacifiCorp is in effect attempting to get a new license with the same environmental protection, mitigation and enhancement measures as the previous license granted over 30 years ago. Those previous license conditions are out of compliance with many state and federal environmental protection laws passed since issuance of the previous license. As a result, the new license will require significant changes in operations to mitigate for social and environmental impacts. PacifiCorp’s status quo just won’t mitigate the impacts on fish, wildlife, and recreation.

In 2000, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) initiated the environmental review process of the hydropowerprojects. This gives the public an opportunity to identify issues and operational alternatives to mitigate impacts. American Whitewater filed requests for additional studies necessary to evaluate impacts to recreation opportunities as well as fish and wildlife. One study requested the FERC require PacifiCorp to analyze the pre-project unimpaired hydrograph in the Black Canyon of the Bear versus the post-project construction regulated hydrograph. Because of the FERC’s interpretation of environmental baseline conditions, the FERC denied this study request claiming PacifiCorp is only obligated to compare mitigation measures to existing conditions. This limited approach enables the licensee and the FERC to tout mitigation no matter how minute as measurable improvements over existing conditions de-
Access Issues

1. Entire State of Colorado

ISSUE: Private landowner and boater conflicts are increasing steadily

GOAL: Clarify that the public has the right to navigate, float, and recreate on Colorado rivers and streams.

CURRENTSTATUS: This summer, three access issues in Colorado brought the issue of navigability and the public’s recreation rights to a head. The issue has been raised to national attention through featured stories on the front pages of numerous newspapers and magazines.

Lake Fork of the Gunnison Lawsuit – American Whitewater has hired a lawyer and is seeking to intervene as a party defendant joining Jack Nichols and Cannibal Outdoors in defense of the right of passage. We will ask the court to declare that private property owners cannot prevent (by any means) a boater’s right of downstream passage on this or any other creek or river in the state.

Cheesman Gorge – American Whitewater Board Member Tim Kelly’s apparent willingness to go to jail for the rest of his life over access to the Gorge has convinced the DA to back way off on prosecuting boaters. The current directive to the Sheriffs office is to take a report, but not issue any tickets. That’s the good news. The bad news is that the grate over the river is still there and confrontations with the Sportsman’s Paradise landowners remain likely. That means boating this stretch is still an exercise in guerrilla/stealth launch tactics or requires a healthy jaunt/portage.

South Platte – Deckers Run below the Chutes to the confluence with the North Fork Platte. American Whitewater and the Colorado Whitewater Association (CWWA) filed suit to declare a stretch of river here public by virtue of adverse possession following 20 years of open, notorious, and hostile use by the boating community. American Whitewater and the CWWA have hired an attorney to represent the boaters. Our short term goals are to settle the case with a stipulation that explicitly acknowledges the boater’s right to float through unmolested by a particularly recalcitrant landowner. Failing that, we’ll make a decision in the next couple months on the cost and benefits of litigating to finality. Pete Thomas, CWWA’s legal guru is monitoring and advising.

PRECEDENT: The developing and on-going legal cases will likely determine whether private property owners can prevent a boater’s right of downstream passage on creeks and rivers throughout the state.

ADDITIONAL INFO: www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/195/

CONTACT: Jay Kenney, American Whitewater President

2. Grand Canyon of the Colorado

ISSUE: Private Boater Access and Wilderness Recognition

GOAL: Force the Park Service to recommence River and Wilderness management planning, and thereby obtain improved public river access while protecting the Park’s unique backcountry wilderness areas.

STATUS: If you registered for a private boater permit in 2001, you are facing at least a 20-year wait for your permit. On July 6, 2000 American Whitewater joined suit with the Grand Canyon Private
Boaters Association (GCPBA), American Canoe Association, and National Parks and Conservation Association against Grand Canyon National Park. The purpose of the suit is to force the Park Service to reopen the Colorado River Management and Wilderness Planning processes, and address inequities in permit allocation. The suit also accuses the park of failing to adhere to its management directives by allowing non-conforming uses such as helicopter transfers and motorboat access in the proposed wilderness section. In Spring 2001 we successfully blocked the introduction of a bill on Capitol Hill, restricting the scope of our suit. Thanks to all our members who called or wrote their Congressional Representatives on this issue! This summer we began court ordered settlement talks, which are ongoing.

**PRECEDENT:** River managers follow actions in the Grand Canyon and policies or actions here serve as guideposts for management of many other western rivers.

**ADDITIONAL INFO:** www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/6/

**CONTACT:** Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

### 3. Chalooga Headwaters

**ISSUE:** Arbitrary closure of the Chalooga headwaters to boating

**GOAL:** Lifting the ban on boating

**CURRENT STATUS:** Paddling sections 00, 01, and 1 of the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River has been illegal for 25 years under rules that are completely inconsistent with Forest Service policy. So inconsistent, in fact, that this is the only stretch of river in the entire LSDA Forest Service that is closed to boating. This ban simply makes no sense. American Whitewater has decided that now is the time to have the ban lifted since river management regulations are currently being re-considered for the first time in two decades. With the help of Don Kinzer, a motivated regional volunteer, we have begun a campaign to raise public and political support for the lifting of the ban. We refuse to accept that a river can be closed to paddling without any reasonable justification. Keep checking the web page and journal for opportunities to help.

**PRECEDENT:** Inconsistent management of forest units for recreation does nothing for the Forest Service's national image and promotes an adversarial relationship between recreationists and forest managers. Cooperation between managers and boaters on the Chattooga is to the benefit of the Forest Service.

**ADDITIONAL INFO:** www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/208/

**CONTACT:** Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater Eastern Access & Conservation Associate or Don Kinzer, American Whitewater Regional Coordinator

### 4. Upper Youghiogheny, Maryland

**ISSUE:** Logging, parking, access, community relations, and recreational flows

**GOAL:** To continue improving access, flows, and parking while developing community support in Friendsville for boaters.

CURRENT STATUS: Like it or not, tourism is coming to Friendsville and boaters are riding on the front of the wave into town. In recent months American Whitewater's volunteers have built changing rooms outside Mountain Surf and stairs on the river bank take-out. We have adopted the Sang Run put-in from the state and are successfully managing it for public access. We have convinced the power company to post dam release and power production information on their website. We are still working on improving the release schedule and gaining advance notice of unscheduled releases, as well as developing a new public take-out upstream of Friendsville.

Unfortunately, logging permits have been issued for the lower corridor, and logging is expected to commence this Autumn despite the State Wild and Scenic designation. The state-approved logging permit allows clear cutting right to the edge of the river and includes small trees with just 8” diameter breast height. We are working with the state to acquire the land before it is logged out.

**PRECEDENT:** Recent and continuing cooperation with the State and the managers at Deep Creek Lake has established American Whitewater's value as a partner with these public agencies.

**ADDITIONAL INFO:** www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/753/

**CONTACT:** Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

### 5. Skykomish River, Washington

**ISSUE:** Legal access and parking, establishment of Sky Access Fund

**GOAL:** Acquire and improve public river access sites along the Skykomish. Secondary objectives include: (1) leasing or acquiring access sites on regional whitewater rivers in Washington State; (2) developing parking, changing, or toilet facilities at new and existing river access sites on regional whitewater rivers in Washington State; (3) providing appropriate signage regarding river access in Washington State, or (4) providing legal and management fees for maintaining, developing, and acquiring river access sites in the Skykomish region.

**STATUS:** In May 2001, American Whitewater and the Washington Kayak Club established the Skykomish River Access Fund with proceeds from the 2001 Sky Fest. This fund recognizes the fact that legal river access opportunities along the whitewater sections of the

**ADDITIONAL INFO:** www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/208/

**CONTACT:** Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

**CONTACT:** Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director
Skykomish River in Washington State are limited and diminishing. There are few public right-of-ways or easements, and there is little publicly owned land allowing legal access to this popular river.

ADDITIONAL INFO: please read the article by Meg Lee on page 18 of the July-August 2001 American Whitewater or see www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/218/.

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

6. Savage River, Maryland

ISSUE: The site of the 1988 World Championships and potential site of the 2012 Olympics is dewatered and the project managers have consistently failed to make water available for recreation.

GOAL: Obtaining regularly scheduled whitewater releases that would complement releases on the Upper Yough, Gauley, and other regional rivers.

CURRENT STATUS: American Whitewater is working aggressively to obtain regularly scheduled recreational whitewater releases (1,000 cfs) on the Savage River for the second weekend of each month between April and October. Our proposal is contingent upon water availability (water is available during all but the most severe drought conditions). Reliable releases would benefit the boating community, provide a stable tourism base in Garrett County, meet the Upper Potomac River Commission’s (UPRC’s) legal obligations, compliment the Upper Youghiogheny release schedule, facilitate training by Olympic contenders, protect and restore the natural stream channel impacted by the dam, and facilitate Baltimore’s bid for the 2012 Olympics. More that 200 boaters have written letters to the governor and other officials expressing support for American Whitewater’s proposal.

PRECEDENT: We need to show that the UPRC can not hold itself above the law, fail to meet Congressional obligations, and deny the public recreational whitewater releases.

ADDITIONAL INFO: www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/213/

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

7. Ohiopyle Falls, Youghiogheny River, Pennsylvania

ISSUE: Ohiopyle Falls is arbitrarily closed to boating. New regulations are being considered for whitewater boating in PA State Parks.

GOAL: Provide daily access for boaters to Ohiopyle Falls, and improve private boating regulations throughout Pennsylvania’s State Park System

CURRENT STATUS: In April 2001 American Whitewater formally proposed lifting the waterfall boating ban in Ohiopyle State Park. We met with Superintendent Hoehn in July to discuss a permanent arrangement for allowing safe, legal access to the waterfalls year round as well as state proposals for revising the boating regulations for Ohiopyle Falls State Park, the Lehigh, and Slippery Rock.

PRECEDENT: The current revisions to Pennsylvania’s state park whitewater boating regulations will set the stage for river management for the next 20 years. Action now is essential to ensure the best rules for the public and park managers.

ADDITIONAL INFO: www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/174/

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

8. Entire State of Montana

ISSUE: Navigability and river access laws threatened by legislation and lawsuits

GOAL: Preserve Montana’s broad recreational rights on state rivers

CURRENT STATUS: In April 2001, the Mountain States Legal Foundation filed an appeal with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Madison v. Montana. The appeal challenges U.S. District Judge Charles C. Lovell’s January 2001 ruling dismissing a case challenging public recreational rights on Montana’s rivers and streams under a 1985 law allowing recreational access below the high water mark on all rivers and streams. The suit focused on the part of the law allowing public use of non-navigable rivers.

In order to win, the plaintiffs had to show that the state acted irrationally and arbitrarily, and beyond the public interest. However, in his decision, Lowell stated, “It is abundantly clear that the plaintiffs cannot show that the stream access law has no public purpose and, in point of fact, plaintiffs have not made any real effort to do so.” According to The Missoulian, Lowell said the state provided plenty of obvious, rational reasons for the law, including serving the public’s desire to use waterways for recreation, promoting tourism and the economy, and managing Montana’s natural resources and wildlife. In
addition to the suit, there is an on-going threat to river access in Montana’s legislature.

PRECEDENT: Montana’s recreation and navigability laws serve as public trust benchmarks throughout the nation. The result of this suit will have long-term ripple effects in how these laws are interpreted by other states.

ADDITIONAL INFO: www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/132/

CONTACT: Jason Robertson, American Whitewater, Access Director

9. Green River, North Carolina

ISSUE: Public parking and streamside conservation of wild character

GOAL: Long-term solution to access problems

CURRENT STATUS: Parking for the preferred put-in for the popular Class V “Narrows” run and the only take-out for the beautiful Class III run above the Narrows is located on private land. For the last few years, American Whitewater and paddlers have been negotiating with landowners regarding this access area. The use of the access area is in jeopardy once again. The closure of this site would eliminate the option of running the upper stretch without running the Narrows. Discussions with the landowners and the state will continue with the hopes of securing a long-term solution that provides free access to paddlers.

Another issue that has arisen regarding the Green Narrows is a proposal to improve existing dirt roads and trails to make rescue in the gorge easier. The Narrows is currently a remote and spectacular place and American Whitewater would like it to stay that way. We oppose upgrading or building roads in the gorge to accommodate 4-wheeler access.

PRECEDENT: The manner in which boaters work cooperatively with private landowners and the state sets the stage for how future private land access issues will be resolved in the Southeast.

ADDITIONAL INFO: www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1080/

CONTACT: Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater, Eastern Access & Conservation Associate

10. Kern River, California

ISSUE: Hydropower licensing and Forks permits

GOAL: Secure annual schedule of whitewater flows. Amend existing permit system so that it more accurately reflects current use patterns and demand.

CURRENT STATUS: The Kern River offers 85 miles of Class II-V whitewater in the southern Sierra. In total, there are 5 FERC licensed hydropower projects plus an additional multipurpose reservoir regulating flows in the Kern watershed. American Whitewater is actively engaged in each of the relicensings. Two hydropower projects have already received licenses on the Kern River: Kern River No. 1 on the lower river and Kern River No. 3 on the upper river. American Whitewater appealed the final flow recommendations on KR3 because the flows failed to meet the needs for current whitewater use let alone future growth in the sport over the next 30 years. The Sequoia National Forest has failed to act on our appeal remains as required by the U.S. Forest Service Chief in Washington DC.

American Whitewater is actively involved in the relicensing of the Borel hydropower project below Lake Isabella. Borel diverts water from a 6 mile Class III reach of the Kern River. Flows below the powerhouse also affect boating opportunities on the popular Class IV, 14 mile Miracle to Democrat run. Southern California Edison (SCE) ignored American Whitewater’s request to do a Controlled Whitewater Flow Study as part of the Borel relicensing claiming that the project’s withdrawal of 600 cfs from the river channel was insufficient to affect whitewater opportunities. Controlled Whitewater Flow Studies are necessary to identify minimum acceptable and optimum flows for whitewater recreation. An annual schedule of whitewater releases mitigating lost whitewater opportunities is developed using these flow preferences. American Whitewater will petition the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to require a flow study on these reaches.

In 2000, former President Clinton designated parts of the Sequoia National Forest a National Monument. In July 2001, the Sequoia National Forest initiated the environmental analysis for creation and management of the Sequoia National Monument (SNM). The boundary of the SNM would include the Forks of the Kern River. American Whitewater sees this process as an opportunity to amend the permit system on the 18 mile Class V wilderness run known as the Forks of the Kern. The original plan, approved in 1982, assumed that the trip required overnight camping when in reality paddlers are able to run this in 3 hours. The 1982 plan restricts use to 15 boaters per day. The amendment would increase the number of private permits for day use.

PRECEDENT: The future management picture is improving on the Kern due largely to the persistence of local American Whitewater members directing SNF staff toward a positive model for river management.

ADDITIONAL INFO: www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/217/

CONTACT: John Gangemi, American Whitewater, Conservation Director
AIRE uses the latest technology and innovative design to build high performance craft that are durable, compact, and self-bailing.

AIRE builds six models of cataracts, nine rafts, three inflatable kayaks and two sea kayaks in a variety of colors. AIRE leads the way in the industry and so should you.
In 1995 landowners were successful in passing legislation that requires the state to make a declaration of any state interest on navigable rivers. The Division of State Lands must conduct a costly and lengthy process indicating whether, in their opinion, a state waterway section meets the federal test for navigability. Only then can the State Land Board consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer rule on the state’s interest. The state does have an interest with their Public Trust Doctrine responsibility and the need to manage the rivers for fisheries and other management areas. Navigability defines public ownership.

A study can only be initiated after a complex application is made and submitted to the Division of State Lands for approval and initiating a study. There are presently nine rivers where the application and approval have been made. The Sandy River is the first to be studied and the Division of State Lands has concluded that the Sandy River does in their opinion, meet the federal navigability test. The final test is, of course, a matter for federal courts.

Of the four tests for navigability, the most important for boaters, is the Supreme Court decision, “Rivers that are navigable, in fact, are navigable by law.” Boating, even by small recreational boats, often becomes the determinant for navigability where the beds and banks up to mean high water are public. There is ample Oregon law confirming that Oregonians have the floatage easement right to boat, portage obstacles, scout rapids, and carry equipment to safety in the event of an accident. Property owners acknowledge the right to float a river, but want to deny wading, anchoring or use of the banks beneath high water. Property owners want to control or exclude public rights on public rivers.

On April 29, 2001, over thirty kayakers launched from the upper section of the Sandy River being studied for a navigability determination. Ten more kayakers launched at a point downstream and thirteen rafters launched further downstream. The purpose is to confirm what has already been documented in river guide books, that the Sandy River under study is indeed boatable and obviously navigable. Whether the Sandy River is boatable is not a matter for debate. "Who Owns the Waterways" is a rhetorical question. In Oregon and every state in the union, the answer, supported by law, is the people own these rivers. The Sandy River "Boat In" is an indication that Oregonians are not about to be driven from public rivers. Oregonians are proud that their entire coastline is free and open to the public regardless of beach front property ownership. The same is true of boatable Oregon rivers.

**PARRIS N. GLENDENING**

State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Dear Governor Glendening,**

I am writing to you to request your involvement in securing recreational water releases from the Savage River Reservoir, in Garrett County.

I am a resident of Silver Spring, and a whitewater boater with a strong emotional connection to the Savage River. As a young teenager in 1989, just learning to kayak, I was chosen to accompany instructors from my summer camp to the Savage, where they were to compete in the World Championships being held there. One of them, Andy Bridge, won his event, becoming the World Champion for downriver C-1 paddling. During that trip I ran the Savage for the first time, flipping twice and in general scaring myself to death. I loved it, but I have not run it since. This is due to the extreme rarity of scheduled flows for recreation, despite the fact that the U.S. Congress requires such flows in the Water Resources Development Act of 1988.

Now, as a whitewater kayak instructor certified by the American Canoe Association, I lead trips to whitewater rivers in the area. In the past 2 months I have participated in 3 trips to the Lower Youghiogheny River, in Pennsylvania’s Ohiopyle State Park—a river similar in character to the Savage. On each trip, I estimate my students and I spend at least $400 on food, gas, lodging, and local guides. If there were regularly scheduled releases on the Savage, I would lead trips there in a heartbeat. It is an excellent run, and at least a half hour closer to D.C. than the Lower Yough. Furthermore, the number of raft customers I observe during every trip to the Lower Yough is staggering — many hundreds on a busy weekend day, each paying for food, gas, guides, and equipment rentals. Many of these customers come from the D.C. area. A regular release schedule for the Savage would allow such a business environment to thrive in Maryland.

Finally, Maryland is recognized nationwide as ground zero for whitewater kayak racing. Most members of the “A” team of the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team live or have lived in MD, to take advantage of the training opportunities. Here’s a fun fact: the U.S. has only won four Olympic medals in whitewater racing, and three of the winners trained in MD. The fourth was born and grew up in Maryland! The Savage represents a heritage of Maryland whitewater racing. Regular water releases for the purpose of recreation would continue that heritage, and reinforce MD/D.C.’s bid for the Olympic summer games.

The objections raised by the Upper Potomac River Commission (UPRC) to such releases are unfounded, and refuted by the organization American Whitewater. To summarize their position:

Legally required: Downstream recreation, including whitewater boating, is specifically given by Congress as one of the project purposes for the Savage River Reservoir.

Positive economic benefit: A schedule of regular recreational releases would provide economic benefits to the region through tourism, such as those enjoyed by communities like Friendsville, MD, Ohiopyle, PA, and Summersville, WV. The existence of such benefits are proven and supported by these communities.

Negligible environmental impact: Several studies have concluded that recreational releases would have no impact on water availability, quality, or the environment of the Savage River.

Liability is not an issue: There is no legislation or case law to support holding dam operators liable for injuries sustained during recreational releases. This is a non-issue.

I am a resident of Silver Spring, and a whitewater boater with a strong emotional connection to the Savage River. As a young teenager in 1989, just learning to kayak, I was chosen to accompany instructors from my summer camp to the Savage, where they were to compete in the World Championships being held there. One of them, Andy Bridge, won his event, becoming the World Champion for downriver C-1 paddling. During that trip I ran the Savage for the first time, flipping twice and in general scaring myself to death. I loved it, but I have not run it since. This is due to the extreme rarity of scheduled flows for recreation, despite the fact that the U.S. Congress requires such flows in the Water Resources Development Act of 1988.

Now, as a whitewater kayak instructor certified by the American Canoe Association, I lead trips to whitewater rivers in the area. In the past 2 months I have participated in 3 trips to the Lower Youghiogheny River, in Pennsylvania’s Ohiopyle State Park—a river similar in character to the Savage. On each trip, I estimate my students and I spend at least $400 on food, gas, lodging, and local guides. If there were regularly scheduled releases on the Savage, I would lead trips there in a heartbeat. It is an excellent run, and at least a half hour closer to D.C. than the Lower Yough. Furthermore, the number of raft customers I observe during every trip to the Lower Yough is staggering — many hundreds on a busy weekend day, each paying for food, gas, guides, and equipment rentals. Many of these customers come from the D.C. area. A regular release schedule for the Savage would allow such a business environment to thrive in Maryland.

Finally, Maryland is recognized nationwide as ground zero for whitewater kayak racing. Most members of the “A” team of the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team live or have lived in MD, to take advantage of the training opportunities. Here’s a fun fact: the U.S. has only won four Olympic medals in whitewater racing, and three of the winners trained in MD. The fourth was born and grew up in Maryland! The Savage represents a heritage of Maryland whitewater racing. Regular water releases for the purpose of recreation would continue that heritage, and reinforce MD/D.C.’s bid for the Olympic summer games.

The objections raised by the Upper Potomac River Commission (UPRC) to such releases are unfounded, and refuted by the organization American Whitewater. To summarize their position:

Legally required: Downstream recreation, including whitewater boating, is specifically given by Congress as one of the project purposes for the Savage River Reservoir.

Positive economic benefit: A schedule of regular recreational releases would provide economic benefits to the region through tourism, such as those enjoyed by communities like Friendsville, MD, Ohiopyle, PA, and Summersville, WV. The existence of such benefits are proven and supported by these communities.

Negligible environmental impact: Several studies have concluded that recreational releases would have no impact on water availability, quality, or the environment of the Savage River.

Liability is not an issue: There is no legislation or case law to support holding dam operators liable for injuries sustained during recreational releases. This is a non-issue.
The UPRC has refused to meet with American Whitewater to discuss these points. As a professional kayak instructor, I can assure you: American Whitewater speaks with the voice of the boating public. They represent the interests of not only dedicated boaters such as myself, but also every person who has ever taken or wanted to take a whitewater rafting trip. This represents a significant portion of Maryland’s voting populace. I urge you to take action to remedy this situation. Thank you.

Sincerely,
James Sneeringer
Silver Spring, MD 20901

———

Water Predictions for Life Decisions


Riding the swirling waters or navigating around a standing wave are exciting ways to enjoy the great outdoors. Swollen rivers from rain, melting snow, or scheduled dam releases provide exciting whitewater rides. Increased river heights produce a faster, more powerful flow. The character of a river changes depending on the height of the river and the shape of the channel. Deep water moves at a different rate of speed than shallow water.

For the whitewater enthusiast, the big question is, how much water will there be? How much water will there be in the next hour, the next day, the next weekend, the next month? Where is the water coming from? Where will it go? Is a drought looming ahead or are we primed for a flood? How certain is the National Weather Service (NWS) prediction? The Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS) can answer many of these questions.

AHPS is the next generation of hydrologic forecasting. It is revolutionizing many of the ways the NWS does hydrologic business. AHPS is a comprehensive hydrologic forecasting infrastructure sharing resources with many government and private-sector agencies. AHPS relies on a vast streamgaging network, including those of the U.S. Geological Survey, to receive the latest river conditions. The NWS takes advantage of NOAA’s Dopplerweather radar, satellites, and highly evolved observation, processing, and communication systems to produce the most advanced hydrologic forecasts to date. AHPS provides more river and flood information than previously available, giving a heads-up to recreational users allowing them to prepare more efficiently for floods, flash floods and droughts and every hydrologic condition in between.

“To the people of the world, it sounds like witchcraft,” says John Ingram, program manager for AHPS at the NWS Office of Hydrologic Development “But we are going to be providing forecasts days, weeks, months, even a season into the future.”

AHPS results in one critical benefit; better and more timely river
and flood information, which is the single most important factor of critical decisions affecting our economy and our safety. AHPS provides those who use, or live near, rivers the information needed to make wiser decisions. It allows the outdoor enthusiast to take better advantage of a river's flow for maximum enjoyment or avoid danger when a river is expected to be perilously high. This kind of pinpoint river forecasting is no longer wishful thinking. It is happening now. AHPS is being implemented in phases in the Ohio River Valley and north central United States where many are already reaping benefits.

Flooding returned to the upper Midwest in the Spring of 2001 as rainfall combined with melting snow forced rivers out of their banks. While there were damages and evacuations, unlike the Great Flood of 1993, this time, citizens were better prepared because of AHPS. “In many communities, water levels have risen well above flood stage and were headed for the record levels that proved disastrous in 1993. But officials said river towns have had more time to prepare this year.” National Public Radio, 4/19/01.

The amount of water in a river changes with the weather. Hydrologic prediction determines how much water will be delivered and where it will go. This allows for the prediction of floods and droughts, but also for wise management of water resources for recreation.

Perhaps one of the best examples of partnerships and timely reservoir releases for the whitewater community is with the USACE in Huntington, WV. Congressional authorization has been granted to the USACE to release water from Summersville Lake, located in central West Virginia, for whitewater usage based on water availability. Annual planning meetings are held between the USACE and the whitewater community to discuss future requirements and needs.

Reservoir and dam operators are challenged with the difficult task of knowing when to release or retain water. Augmenting river flow is driven by seasonal weather and river quality conditions. Striking a proper balance to satisfy the ecosystem for fish and wildlife, hydroelectric power requirements, transportation, irrigation and recreational usage is no easy task. “There is a thin line for error,” said Timothy Curran, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE), hydraulic engineer located in Huntington, WV.

Today's NWS river forecasts predict the changing river levels over multiple states, with forecasts of up to three days. AHPS long-range forecasts will provide users like the USACE, and other water management agencies, new tools to optimize better reservoir releases and aid in more equitable releases of dam-controlled rivers days and even months in advance.

AHPS provides a range of information for planning whitewater events. AHPS allows for more detailed short-term warnings of smaller river basins to mitigate flash flood hazards. AHPS also provides a better handle on knowing what the river conditions will be like days or weeks in advance to plan for an optimum weekend river run. The result will allow white water events directors to keep abreast of short-range and long-range river conditions for current and upcoming festivals, races and white water rodeos.

“We have an opportunity now to show how well AHPS works with other new technologies being incorporated into our forecast and warning programs. We’re very excited about the benefits all these

---

BOO F Gear®

New Kayak ............................................. $900.00
Kayak Gear ..............................................$1,200.00
Access fees, fines, & tickets for Indecent Exposure .......... $250.00
A warm, dry, hassle-free place to get out of your wet suit .......... *Priceless??

*No... But AFFORDABLE at $98.00
Change in the "Boo" not in the buff!

To order call: (330)405-3306
Or visit us at
BoofgearBexcite.com  www.boofgear.net

BOO F Gear®
8870 Darrow Road  A Suite F106 • #311  A Twinsburg, OH 44087

American Whitewater 27 September • October 2001
technologies bring to our jobs of watching [and predicting] the weather,” said Brenda Brock, Meteorologist-in-Charge, NWS Forecast Office in Des Moines.

A key feature of AHPS is probabilistic forecasting. Each day, the American public makes life decisions based on the local weather forecast. The chance of rain in a weather forecast, expressed in percentages, provides a confidence factor to the public which is used for daily planning. Soon, river heights and crests will be forecasted the same way. Known as probabilistic forecasting, river forecasts will provide the whitewater enthusiast a confidence factor. They will be able to look at the forecast, determine the probability a river will reach a certain level at a specific location and make life decisions accordingly.

And there is more. To integrate technology, the NWS is transitioning from text to a web-based format. The most visible difference of an AHPS forecast is the way information is presented. In place of black-and-white text-only products, AHPS information is presented graphically, using an array of colors, fonts and styles.

"It’s a lot easier to look at a picture sometimes and get the data off it, rather than trying to sift through all the text and the acronyms and everything else...You can look at a picture and figure out what the timing is and what the crest level is, and then go..." (Robert Goldhammer, Emergency Manager, Polk County, Iowa).

Easy to understand and accessible via the Internet, AHPS products are beneficial not only to the local emergency officials but to river enthusiasts and the general public. Maps and other information will be produced in common GIS format and distributed through the Internet and other modern forms of communication. One- to five-day graphical forecasts of river heights will be employed nationwide by 2003. AHPS will become fully functional in the rest of the country as additional resources become available.

Mark Twain said, “The face of the river, in time, became a wonderful book...And it was not a book to be read once and thrown aside, for it had a new story to tell every day.” The NWS is writing new chapters in the way it prepares and disseminates hydrologic predictions.

River recreationists desiring to learn more about AHPS, should visit the NWS at their web site: www.nws.noaa.gov/water. The NWS wants to be customer driven. To voice your comments and suggestions about AHPS send an e-mail to: hsd.ahps@noaa.gov.

Authors:
Glenn Austin
National Weather Service Headquarters
Chief, Hydrologic Services Division
Silver Spring, MD

Larry Wenzel
National Weather Service Headquarters
Hydrologic Services Division
Public Relations Specialist
Silver Spring, MD
IN THE BUG SERIES

A CATA MARAN CANOE-KAYAK

that tracks like a dream

★ Constructed with commercial grade
raft material and
gear bags.
★ Paddles with easy
gentle rivers, lakes
★ Very stable ~ 14'x3'
★ One or two paddlers

ACCESSORY PACKAGE
Includes pump, 2 double
paddles, large gear bag,
and handy carrying bag.

bottom wear patches
on big whitewater,
or ocean
★ Self-Bailing
★ Lots of room for gear

15' SUPER BUG B15-SB

A CATAMARAN RAFT

that rows or paddles like a dream

★ 2200 denier Tube Material
★ 4000 denier Floor material
★ StarTrack Wear Patches
on bottom runners
★ Self-Bailing

14' HURRICANE X14-SB

★ Full Side Wrap
★ 4000 denier Floor material
★ Self-Bailing

STAR INFLATABLES
232 Banks Road
Travelers Rest SC 29690

TOLL FREE
877-900-2628
or 864-836-2800 outside USA

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL MODELS
WWW.STAR-INFLATABLES.COM

American Whitewater  September • October 2001
NEW ENGLAND'S SOURCE FOR WHITEWATER BOATS AND GEAR!

We stock a full line of the hottest white-water boats by:

- Dagger
- Perception
- Prijon
- Necky
- Pyranha
- Mad River

With every boat purchase you receive:

- Expert advice from our staff of experienced whitewater paddlers
- Custom outfitting including hip pads, back band and seat pad
- $50 off a Zoar Outdoor instruction clinic
- 10% off accessories for a year after the purchase date

The Outfitters Shop

On the Deerfield River · Charlemont, Massachusetts
800 532-7483 · www.zoaroutdoor.com
Our Outfitters Store offers a large range of boating and outdoor gear from top names. Visit our booth at Gauley Fest, Sept. 22 and at Bridge Day, Oct. 20.

Heads • Rapidstyle • Kokatat

*Demos — Play Before You Pay! We Do Trade-ins!*

www.beautymountainsports.com • ace@aceraft.com

---

**ACE ADVENTURE CENTER PRESENTS**

**AN EVENT SANCTIONED BY WV MBA & NORBA**

**FALL BIKE FEST 2001**

**OCTOBER 19-21**

at ACE Adventure Center in the New River Gorge

**FRI & SAT: Registration**

**SAT:** ACE Equipment Sale: Great used equipment sales, like helmets, bikes, boats & outdoor clothing. Bridge Day Rafting: Raft the New River and watch BASE jumpers parachute off the World's Longest Single Arch Bridge. Call for reservations!

**SUN: Fall Bike Race:** Circuit Mountain Bike Race - WV MBA & NORBA sanctioned.

FREE T-shirts to the first 100 participants!

1-888-223-7238
Visit: www.aceraft.com/awa.htm
Email: director@aceraft.com

---

**38th ANNUAL GALEY RIVER RODEO**

**SEPT. 21 (PRO) & SEPT. 23 (NOT-PRO)**

Show your moves rolling down the Upper Gauley with ACE's top-notch instructor John Cornwell during Fall dam releases.

**PRO Rodeo Registration:** Limited space, so call for entry form! You may also register at the Upper Gauley put-in on Friday, Sept. 21, 7-30-8:30 am before the race.

**NOT-PRO Rodeo Registration:**
Pre-register, or register at Gauley Fest, Sat. Sept. 22 at the ACE Mountain Sports booth 7-10 pm or before the race, Sunday Sept. 23 at the put-in 7:30-8:30 am.

For a pre-registration form or info, call:
1-888-223-7238
www.aceraft.com/awa.htm
Email: ace@aceraft.com

FREE T-SHIRTS TO THE FIRST 20 BOATERS!
Tuesday (4,000 cfs on Tuesday!)

Gauley Releases Friday thru

September 22, 2001

5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m

Featuring

- Continuous music by Bluehound and Waydon Lowe from 7:00 pm to 1:00 am
- Sumo Wrestling Special - Suit up and bowl your buddies over! The Famous Gauley Fest Marketplace
- Outrageous Silent Auction and Raffle
- Nonstop Whitewater Videos
- Food Vendors
- On-site camping

- Gauley Festival Admission $5
- Camping $5 per person per night
- Dogs discouraged...$5 per dog per night (no kidding)
- No Glass Containers permitted on site

Other Weekend Highlights

Friday night, September 21
- 8:00 p.m. at the Festival Pavilion
  Music by Bluehound
- ACE Whitewater Film Festival
  $5 Admission Free for onsite campers!

Saturday and Sunday mornings
- Breakfast served by the Ruritan Club / 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the On-site Dining Hall

Friday, September 21
- ACE Gauley River Rolling Rodeo (Pros)

Saturday, September 22
- World Rafting Championships-Sprint
  New River Fayette Station Rapid

Sunday, September 23
- World Rafting Championships-Slalom-
  New River Flea Flicker Rapid
- ACE Gauley River Rolling Rodeo (non-pro)

Monday, September 24
- Animal Upper Gauley Race

Tuesday, September 25
- World Rafting Championships-Upper Gauley-4,000 cfs!
- Canyon Doors Whitewater Rodeo-Lower Gauley
  (Note: Boaters welcome on river for this extra day of water, but will be asked to stay out of way of raft race.)

American Whitewater September • October 2001
As we all know, one of the allures of whitewater is that by nature it is a dynamic medium bristling with energy. When that energy is engaged, some amazing things can and will happen. The Events Office is an example of a dynamic environment that is bristling with energy and is poised to do some amazing things. Like any dynamic environment, change is inevitable and represents both endings and beginnings.

As some of you may know, Jayne Abbott has decided to leave her position at American Whitewater, as the first full-time Events Director, and go in search of new and exciting challenges. Jayne's departure represents a tremendous loss to American Whitewater and the greater whitewater community. If you have ever attended a whitewater event anywhere in the country, chances are you have been the benefactor of an incredible amount of work on behalf of Jayne. If you see Jayne, please extend many thanks. Until very recently, Jayne operated the entire Events Office on her own. We wish Jayne the best of luck and happy paddling.

As a testament to the hard work and devotion of Jayne, two new Events Office staff members needed to be hired to fill her shoes. David Knox, the Events Coordinator, was introduced in last month's journal and at this point I would like to introduce myself. My name is Michael Phelan and I was recently selected to serve as the new Events Director. I am a passionate paddler enjoying both thrilling river running and the art of freestyle. I have been a competitor and an organizer at the local level. Before arriving in Asheville, I served as an Assistant Professor of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism at Springfield College. My educational background includes degrees in Marketing and Outdoor Recreation Management.

I am thrilled to work with David, the rest of the staff, the dedicated volunteers, and AW's Board of Directors to pick up and continue the development and enhancement of whitewater events showcasing the American Whitewater message. It is exciting to become professionally involved with whitewater paddling when it is burgeoning with growth and possibilities. I hope to ensure that the Events Office remains an invaluable resource for event organizers and I look forward to NOWR playing a critical role in the ever-developing freestyle arena. Risa, David, and I are looking forward to hosting the annual NOWR meeting in Salt Lake City. Some very interesting possibilities are being discussed regarding the future of whitewater freestyle and American Whitewater. In the near future, I look forward to sharing the details of some of these exciting developments. In the coming months, David and I look forward to meeting and getting to know, and paddling with as many of you possible. I hope all have a safe and exciting fall paddling season.

Retentive Bow Pirouette

By Macy Burnham

A retentive Pirouette is a 360 degree vertical rotation on the long axis of the boat that is landed on the feature it was initiated in. There are three major components to successfully completing this move. The first one is finding the right feature, the second is initiating in the right place on the feature, and the last one is taking a paddle stroke that can quickly and efficiently whip you and your body in the full pirouette without flushing out of the feature.

The best places to do this move are steep pourovers or large holes with substantial backwash, and cartwheel ledges with a strong recirculating eddy. These features provide more time to complete the rotation.
When setting up to try a retentive pirouette, maneuver the kayak as far back in the pile or backwash as possible. This move is most efficiently done initiating all in the foam without hitting any green water. If your boat is engaged in the green water, the speed of that green current inhibits the 360 degree rotation and throws the boat into cartwheels or loops.

Once the boat is in position, there are two types of strokes that can be used to get your spin on. The first is the traditional C-1 cross bow stroke, where you initiate your blade on the opposite side of the bow. This stroke automatically sets your body and boat up to do a quick pirouette. The other stroke would be what I would call a modified cross bow stroke, where you take a normal paddle stroke (a smash or double-pump) to elevate the stern of your boat, then once vertical reach across the deck of the boat in the cross bow position to get your rotation. A word of warning, when taking cross bow strokes a lot of stress can be put on the shoulders, keep your upper elbow bent and have that arm tucked in a safe position. If you do feel pain when taking this stroke drop your paddle. I don’t want people getting hurt trying this move.

So to recap, find a good ledge or playhole, position your boat as far in the backwash as possible, initiate the cross bow or modified cross bow stroke in the pile without hitting any green water and pirouette like mad. Practice hard, paddle safe and have a great time on the water.

Photos page 32 and left: Macy Burnham illustrating retentive pirouette. Photo DEP Drevo/Ensign Photography.
Notes from the 2001 Worlds

The World Freestyle Championships, held in Sort, Spain June 25-July 1, 2001 on the banks of the Noguera Pallaresa River, hosted well over 300 competitors and their respective entourages from 35 countries.

Yes, Team U.S. won every gold medal. And yes, we swept the K1 Men and K1 Junior Class. It was, however, awesome to see teams fielded by Croatia, Israel, Nepal, Togo, and Czechoslovakia! There were a few upsets, a few disappointments, and a few sentimental wins and fairytale endings. Here are a few highlights from this event, now a shining moment in the evolution of freestyle whitewater paddling.

Sort is located in the Pyrenees, three hours northeast of Barcelona and less than an hour from Seu d’Urgell, site of the 1992 Olympic Whitewater slalom races. Sort boasts a population of 1,872 fueled by tourists who ride whitewater rafts or horses in the summer, and ski nearby in the winter. Once you’re in town, the venue, stores, restaurants, and hotels are all just a short walk away. The business owners, particularly retailers and hotel management staff, are delightful hosts and a joy to meet.

Sort is home to several rafting companies, including RocRoi, the organizer of the event. After a late start on the first day of competition, releases (from a hydro dam) were dependable and the levels varied just enough to keep paddlers’ attention: there was ample time for competitive rounds as soon as the first elimination rounds were completed. Night (10 p.m. to 1 a.m.) releases provided practice time for those who were competing the next day.

The Squirt Women Rocked! left to right: Lisa Beckstead (Canada), Brooke Winger (USA), Modico Ishida (Japan)

Squirt Men Victorious! left to right: (Canada), Andy Bedingfield (USA). Tom McKee (USA)
The judging and scoring system followed the model now familiar at freestyle events here in the states. Athletes score big by performing lots of different moves, to accumulate points for technical skill and variety in the performance.

What was different - tried in the U.S, but without rousing success to date - instant score tallying and display for the audience. Judges used handhelds (Palm-type computers) to record points, apply multipliers, etc. When they submitted scores via digital signal: the results were posted on a lighted display within a minute or two and the scores of all paddlers in the heat were repeated to show how he/she scored compared to others. Validation of the stupendous collaboration between the organizers, University of Barcelona and a software developer in the region showed in there being a noticeable absence of controversy, contested scores, etc.

Trends in Moves - The moves that were the greatest crowd pleasers were aerials, and continuous linking of dissimilar elements: Loops and Trickywhu (even a novice spectator gets tired of watching the seventh, linked cartwheel, respectively). Early rounds were a bit tough to watch, as there were occasional stretches of consistent flushing happening. Strong, awesome paddlers were not in short supply, however. K1 Men boasted a dozen or two whose skill and experience could take it all on a good ride: Eric Jackson ruled with evidence of his talent, experience and commitment. 1999 Gold Medallist Eric Southwick showed that he is aging gracefully and relative newcomer Bryan Kirk brought quiet strength to the table and stuck to it in each successive elimination round. Congrats to our men!
Welcome to Sort!

Worlds Venue, Judges Stand, electronic scoreboard (to the right)

The boatyard, behind Hotel Pey, where a few folks stashed gear between turns...

Women are closing in. Very few Men would snooze through a heat shared with 2001 Gold Medallist Erica Mitchell or UK's perennial champ 1999 Champ Deb Pinneger who finished with Silver.

The top C1's were stellar, led by Barry Kenyon and Team USA (with Luke Hopkins and Chris Manderson). OC1 competition was challenging at the sticky site, but Eli Helbert defended his 1999 Worlds title with a bit of grit and a few super smooth moves. Junior K1 men, led by medallists Jesse 'Weasel' Murphy, Dustin Urban and Calef Letorney, and women (top finishers Brenna Kelleher, Kate Townsend and Becky Andersen) started closing the gap on the adults...indicating that someday the class differentiation will need reconsideration. Many of the Junior rides would have challenged the Top 20 seniors!

Squirtin saw talented fields, primarily from the U.S., Japan and Canada...Andy Bedingfield and Brooke Winger extended their ownership of gold in the K1 and K1W categories, respectively.

Rocking Saturday Night

Perhaps as exciting and more of an experience was the K1 Men's Semifinal competition, held Saturday night. Starting at 10:00 p.m., this literal 'show' featured lights, fireworks, monstrous music, lots of fired up spectators and ... oh yeah,... the paddlers. The bleachers threatened to bust from fans jumping up and down, and locals and visitors alike seemed to have a ball.

Organizer Next Steps

The next World Championships will be held in 2003 Austria and the 2002 PreWorlds will give paddlers a chance to try out the site. For more information on the Worlds and the team, go to the U.S. Freestyle Kayak Association website.
In the off season, the reality of ’overhead’ rings clear, and paddlers with the road on their mind have taken on all sorts of temporary professional guises to prepare. Here are a few jobs paddlers have held or currently pursue year-round to pay for their paddling lifestyle...

- Tanya Schuman: Assembled thousands, upon thousands of Smiley’s noseplugs, washed windows, worked at Anderson Consulting, and worked at a chocolate factory (something about packing fudge...?)

- Melinda Hendershott: Has been contracted to build a house (with boyfriend Heath), for the last two years. Almost done!

- Barry Kennon: Often seen living in his truck...because he’s renting the house that he owns!

- Shannon Carroll: Pizza delivery (can’t you just imagine?) Housekeeping, too.

- Erica Mitchell: Receptionist at Dillard’s Hair Salon

- Christie Dobson: Sold and worked as a graphic designer for Adams Lithography in Chattanooga. Webmaster (webmistress?) for Perception and Harmony and Lids, Field Promotions Manager for Perception.


- Dan Gavere: Started Board of Missoula (snowboard shop), shoots photos for Confluence and promotes Wave Sports products, designs paddles for AT

- Shane Benedict: Instructor at the Nantahala Outdoor Center, Rodeo Coach for the Academy at Adventure Quest, designed boats for Perception and Liquid Logic

- Annie Chamberlain: Cubicle builder at Office World, distribution warehouse worker, kayak instructor

- Anna Levesque: Customer service for Harry & David, clerking at a pharmacy

- Tom McKee: Teaching high school math!

- Denny Kortze: Land surveying in Bayville, NJ

- Ben Coleman, Marlow Long and Jesse Murphy (along with countless others, surely) have at some point been fledgeling (i.e. lowlife) restaurateurs, working at the Cheesecake Factory, in Los Angeles. Nick’s Family Restaurant in Highlands, NC and Edible Art in McCall, Idaho, respectively.

- Hailey Hamilton: Montana State University Weed Research: Set up experiments to determine methods to “better control wild oats.” This job was probably more boring than the titles suggest. Aren’t you supposed to let them be sewn?

---

**Notes from the 2001 Worlds**

**[Worlds extra]**

**National Paddling Film Festival 2002**

**February 22-23, Lexington, Kentucky**

Join us in Lexington in February to support this FUNdraiser for river causes, but start working NOW on videos and photos to enter in the competition!

**Benefactors:**
*Kayak Magazine, Paddler Magazine, Performance Video*

**Major Sponsors:**
*Ace Adventure Center, American Whitewater, Dagger, Ky. Outdoor Center, Mountain Surf, Nantahala Outdoor Center, Nature Outfitters, Perception.*

For more information on entries or attending the Film Festival:

http://www.surfbw.org/npff/
or call David Margavage (859) 281-9362 DMARGAVAOjngray.com

---

**American Whitewater** 38 **September • October 2001**
June 25 July 1, Sort, Spain

**K-1 Men**
1. Eric Jackson S A
2. Eric Southwi S A
3. Bryan Kirk .......... ........... Canada
10. Risa Shimoda .................................. USA

**American White water**
September October 2001

**K-1 Women**
1. Erica Mitchell, UK
2. Tanya Shuman...
3. Anna Levesque, Canada
4. Whitney Lonsdale, USA
5. Whitney Manchester, Canada
7. Brooke Winger, USA
6. Steve Fisher, USA
7. Brooke Winger
8. Julie Dion, USA
9. Lisa Beckstead, Canada
10. Eadaoin Ni Challarain, Ireland

K-1 Junior Men
1. Jesse Murphy, USA
2. Dustin Urban, USA
3. Cael Letorney, Canada
4. Oriol Colome, Spain
5. Andre Syro-Smith, USA
6. Marlow Long, USA
7. Sean Brabant, USA
8. Richard Chimeres, USA
9. Mark Birbeck, UK
10. Johaan Roozenburg, New Zealand

K-1 Junior Women
1. Brenna Kelleher, USA
2. Kate Townsend, Canada
3. Becky Andersen, USA
4. Emily Lustig, Canada
5. Maria Lindgren, Switzerland

**C-1**
1. Barry Kenmon .............................., USA
2. Robin Bell .................................., Australia
3. Luke Hopkins ..............................., USA
4. Chris Marderson ............................, USA
5. Brock Flowers ............................... ,Australia
6. Paul Robertson .............................., UK
7. Cedric Courbis, France
8. Andy Nicholl, UK
9. Kym Malley .................................., Australia
10. Monhiro Gotou .............................., Japan

**OC-1**
1. Eli Hebert ................................., USA
2. Pere Guererro, Spain
3. James Weir, USA
4. Jayon Bowman ........................., USA
5. Paul Eames ................................., New Zealand
6. Gary Finlay, Australia
7. Rob Dixon, UK
8. Simon Westgarth ..........................., Ireland
9. Hacker Markus .............................., Germany
10. Schorsch S chauf, Germany

**Squirt Men**
1. Andy Bedingfield .........................., USA
2. Brendan Mark .............................., Canada
3. Motoko Ishida ........................., Japan
4. Tanya Chipping, Canada
5. Paula Hoyd .............................., UK
6. Valmar Bertrand ......................, Canada
7. Hazel Wilton, Canada
8. Stacy Heer ........................., USA
9. Cindy Jameson ....................... ,Canada
10. Risa Shimoda .................................. USA

**Squirt Women**
1. Brooke Winger ............................, USA
2. Lisa Beckstead, Canada
3. Motoko Ishida ........................., Japan
4. Tanya Chipping, Canada
5. Paula Hoyd .............................., UK
6. Valmar Bertrand ......................, Canada
7. Hazel Wilton, Canada
8. Stacy Heer ........................., USA
9. Cindy Jameson ....................... ,Canada
10. Risa Shimoda .................................. USA
Subaru Gorge Games Showcase
Gorge Whitewater Series Final
(Hood River, Oregon) - Extreme kayaking enjoyed a media heyday from July 18-22 as Hood River transformed its Marina and neighboring recreational venues into a kaleidoscope of outdoor sports specialists. The Subaru Gorge Games, presented by Octagon Marketing, spotlighted the following sports, crowned by the visually excitement of extreme paddling:

- 49er Sailing
- Outrigger Canoe
- Windsurfing
- Kiteboarding
- Trail Running
- Kayaking
- Mountain Biking
- Adventure Racing

Paddlers competed in a Head-to-Head competition on the White Salmon River, a short drive into Washington from the National Geographic Adventure Village, central location for the Games' interactive booths, climbing walls, and demonstration pool. The Head-to-Head competition slimmed the ranks for a final set of timed runs (eight women, eighteen men), determining overall competition victors. Sam Drevo took the honors from last year's winner, Eric Jackson, and Kelly Liles smoothed her way to Number One for the Ladies, slightly ahead of local Raychel Moldover.

In addition, the Gorge Games competition served as the final event in the Gorge Whitewater Series, accumulating points gained at three other American Whitewater/NOWR Ocoee events, the Rodeo (Tennessee), Potomac Whitewater Festival (MD/VA) and Animas River Days (CO). The overall points winner and Gorge Whitewater Series Champions after four events were Eric Jackson for the men and Brooke Winger for the women. Congratulations all!

Organizers of the Gorge Games view the series component a strong venue for the future of this grand-scale event. Rufus Frost, Executive Director of the Gorge Games, noted the possibility of hosting more series finales there in the future.

The Subaru Gorge Games will air on NBC August 26th and September 2nd.
Lunatic

As a river guide on the Chattooga in the late 70's and the Upper-Yough through the 80's, I wished for something besides neoprene, thrift-store sweaters, or polypropylene to ward off hypothermia.

Along came Polartec pile, developed in the 80's, but used mostly for jackets and off-river clothing.

In 1992, now married with a four-year old daughter, I found a source for Polartec fabric, and began making the clothes I wished for as a river guide, starting with a sports bra. Soon other paddlers began requesting items they wanted, such as a pullover vest, tights, and long-sleeve shirts. Thus, Lunatic Apparel was born, named for those who paddle class V+ whitewater in the wintertime.

In 1994, paddle maker and punster, Keith Backlund, coined AquaFur after receiving a lunatic Polar Vest as a gift. He gave the name to me and I began calling my products AquaFur™ Pile Clothing & Accessories.

Now I'm in my 10th year of making pile stuff! I've stayed small by choice, but my clothing's been to Nepal, New Zealand and Norway. Many of the first items I made are still being worn on the river.

Lunatic makes pile that covers you from head to toe; socks that are designed to fit your feet, helmet liners in regular, wind-proof or water resistant pile, and pogies made from water-proof pile to keep your hands warm and dry! Off-river clothes include loose pants, zipper vests, jackets, and pullovers with a hood. And that's not all! I also make a variety of sleeping bags, liners, and blankets from baby to king size. Paddle bags, dog sweaters, nightgowns and bathrobes are some of the other items I've made, all from warm, comfortable easy-care pile.

So that's it: no glossy catalogs or clothes with bells and whistles that cost an arm and a leg. Just functional, comfortable pile products that last!

Come see us... call us... or e-mail us!

Lunatic Apparel
920 Chattooga Ridge Rd • Mountain Rest, SC 29664
(864) 647-9912
E-MAIL mary@lunaticapparel.com
10% OFF RETAIL ORDERS OVER $100 W/COPY OF THIS AD
RETAIL • WHOLESALE • CUSTOM ORDERS • REPAIRS

American Whitewater 42 September • October 2001
...choice of top paddlers for the best in waterproof protection, mobility, dryness, & comfort with innovation found nowhere else.

- **TAO signature drytop**: fully armored with kevlar neoprene padding and "blanks" elbow armor.
- **Bentu 2.0**: has shoulder shingle pads & "strong-pad" neo, articulated elbows.
- **Gripp 2.0 drytop**: the basis of all three, with articulated expansion back out. - Viper™ stretch-Gore-tex® underarm panels... and the list of features goes on...

- more info...get the free color brochure -

Available at fine paddling shops, everywhere.
Sport K-1 Men
1. David Cooper
2. Andy Bedingfield
3. Jesse Shimrock

Sport K-1 Men Junior
1. Jacob Scott
2. Wes Shilliams
3. Mike Kirk

Animas River Days
June 8-10
Pro K-1 Men
1. Andy Bedingfield
2. Wes Shilliams
3. Mike Kirk

Pro Women K-1
1. Brooke Winger
2. Erica Mitchell
3. Jeff Nelson

Pro C-1 Men
1. Ryan Bahn
2. Ted Dennis
3. Luke Hopkins

Expert K-1 Men Junior
1. Jesse Murphy
2. Kellen Bletsch
3. Joe Skala

Expert K-1 Men
1. Keith Yell
2. Fred Coriel
3. Jamie Bach

Expert K-1 Women
1. Courtney Lynch
2. Katie Selby
3. Jessica Marsan

Boise Days
June 11-14
Pro K-1 Men
1. Alan Wray
2. Tad Dennis
3. Ethan Winger

Pro C-1 Men
1. Harry Field
2. Brook Baldwin
3. Maci Bultman

Expert K-1 Men
1. Jaden Mommer
2. Shane Robinson
3. Todd Gillman

Expert K-1 Women
1. Kat Rector
2. Katie Selby
3. Dawn Powell

Expert Pro K-1 Men
1. Pat Keller
2. Joe Skala
3. Mike Rodrigues

Sport/K-1 Men
1. Pete Montoya
2. Tom Boyd
3. Abe Wilson

Sport K-1 Men Juniors
1. Julie Funderburk
2. Mar Marshall Seaver

Sport/K-1 Women
1. Julie Funderburk
2. Mar Marshall Seaver

Sport/K-1 Men - Junior
1. Alex Horne
2. Kevin Domsky
3. Jared Leon

Colorado Creekin Festival
June 23-24
Lime Creek Race
1. Al Gregory
2. Lars Holtek
3. Dave Garringer

South Mineral Creek Race
1. Al Gregory
2. Trip Jennings
3. Dave Garringer

Overall Results
1. Al Gregory
2. Dave Garringer
3. Lars Holtek

Skyfast
July 7-8
Pro K-1 Men
1. Tom McKee
2. Sam Drevo
3. Stuart Munnsey

Legend
K-1
Pro
Sport
Beginner

Three members of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Team – Davey Hearn (C-1), Matt Taylor (C-2) and Becca Red (C-1) – finished first in their respective events at the Senior Slalom Team Trials held on the Ocoee River this spring. Other former Olympians who made this year’s U.S. Team were Cathy Hearn (Women’s K-1), Joe Jacobi and Matt Taylor (C-2), Eric Giddens (Men’s K-1) and Jamie McEwan (C-2).

Final results for this year’s U.S. Senior Slalom Team Trials were as follows:

K-1
1. Scott Shippy
2. Scott Parsons
3. Eric Giddens

C-1
1. Davey Hearn
2. Austin Crane
3. Adam Boyd

C-2
1. Dave Hepp and Scott McClesky
2. Frank Babcock and Jeff Landino
3. Kyle Marinello and Ethan Winger

At the U.S. Junior Slalom Team Trials held on the Animas River in Colorado the results were as follows:

K-1 Juniors
1. Eddie Hake
2. Matt Kurle
3. Craig Allen

C-1 Juniors
1. Taylor Darrow
2. Will Seeley
3. Brooks Baldwin
4. Steve Bohlman
5. Neil Quinn
6. Kurt Palermo

To pre-register or for more info call
Donnie Hudspeth at 304/658-5016

September 24th
Registration at 8am in the parking lot at base of the dam.
2001 SCHEDULE OF RIVER EVENTS
Presented by AMERICAN WHITEWATER

AMERICAN WHITEWATER FESTIVALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gauley Festival</td>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Summersville, WV</td>
<td>Physie Horowitz</td>
<td>536-2355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Fork Rendezvous</td>
<td>October 1-8</td>
<td>Haysi, VA</td>
<td>Brent Austin</td>
<td>859-278-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moose River Festival</td>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Old Forge, NY</td>
<td>Chris Koll</td>
<td>315-632-8397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American Whitewater Cascade Series
A series of premier level races from mild(er) to wilder held across the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal upper Gauley Race</td>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Summersville, WV</td>
<td>Donnie Huapeth</td>
<td>304-638-3016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gauley Falls Race</td>
<td>Sept 22-30</td>
<td>Gauley, PA</td>
<td>American Whitewater</td>
<td>301-589-9453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Fork Race</td>
<td>October 6-7</td>
<td>Haysi, VA</td>
<td>Brent Austin</td>
<td>606-278-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moose River Race</td>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Old Forge, NY</td>
<td>Chris Koll</td>
<td>315-652-8397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RiversLiv 2001 NOWR Series- Presented by American Whitewater

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Annual Freestyle Pro Rodeo</td>
<td>September 8-9</td>
<td>Beachburg, ONT</td>
<td>Wildernessfours</td>
<td>613-646-2241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canyon Doors Rodeo</td>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>Fayetteville, WV</td>
<td>Backcountry Ski &amp; Sports</td>
<td>304-574-4005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gauley River Rolling Rodeo</td>
<td>September 21-23</td>
<td>Summersville, WV</td>
<td>Ace Adventure Center</td>
<td>304-465-3084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kootenay Rodeo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get Yer Boat Sally Surf Contest</td>
<td>October 20-21</td>
<td>Oakland, CA</td>
<td>Elaine Baden</td>
<td>510-893-7833</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2002 schedule is in the works!
This is the sixth collection of whitewater accident reports published since 1974. Most canoe, kayak, and raft enthusiasts will never encounter a fatal accident during their careers, but all can benefit from the experiences of thousands of river runners contained in these reports.

Readers will become increasingly aware of how accidents occur, and will be better able to recognize and avoid dangerous situations. The reports show what works, and what doesn’t.

The sport of whitewater paddling has grown tremendously. Although better equipment and training makes river running safer than ever, more paddlers mean more accidents. The reports in this book involve a variety of boat types, skill levels, and river difficulties. Many accounts are written by the people who were actually there; all feature a detailed analysis by river experts. The reports are gripping, disturbing, and always enlightening.
The SALTO is the new kayak for steep creeks and big water. A perfect hull design for maximum speed and acceleration, outstanding maneuverability and responsiveness.

Total high performance with safe handling, controlled resurfacing, roomy cockpit, stiff COEX-shell and perfect outfitting. Unique advantages you can count on!

spirit of kayaking...
on any adventure,
just be sure to take the right boat!

ESKIMO USA
P.O. Box 854 • Louisville, CO 80027 • Ph: 303-664-1629 • Fx: 303-664-1992
e-mail: eskimo-kayak@juno.com • please visit us at www.eskimo-kayaks.com
Is Cascade a nanometer thicker than some of the Paris-fashion-show, waif-model type hats you’ve been lusting after? You bet. Hey, what are you, a river driver or some g.d. fashion slave? You have the right to help lower the risk of death or serious injury, particularly your own. (It’s right there in the Constitution...somewhere...we think.) Exercise that right with Cascade.

You’ve become a human projectile, inbound for ages-old granite outcropping. Hmmm. Suddenly a Class 5 Helmet sounds very cool.

SPORT HELMETS, INC.
800-537-1702
315-453-3073
EMAIL: HELMETS@SPORTHELMETS.COM
NO HARD PARTS!

- The **SHREDDER** easily rolls up to a compact 18"x28"!
- The cross tubes & raised floor eliminate the need for a bulky frame.

Airtight Inflatables P.O. Box 36, Ohiopyle, PA 15470 • (724) 329 - 8668
Made in Pennsylvania 98% domestic content!
Fate, Chance, Destiny or Luck; whatever it was, I never dreamed I'd go from not being on the U.S. Freestyle Team to World Champion in a little over a week.

Before U.S. Team Trials, it had been over three years since I'd placed below sixth in any competition. That weekend I ended up tying for sixth place, last spot on the team, with Shannon Carroll. The Team trial was a three event series, and to my dismay the tiebreaker was the last event at Rock Island where I took 8th place and Shannon Carroll was 7th. After all was said and done, I ended up first alternate, lucky number seven.
I was heartbroken, but tried not to show it. It was the first time in four years that I didn't make the team. It's so funny when things turn out different than expected. People make up all kinds of reasons why things happened the way they do, reasons that may or may not have any validity. One person thought I paddled poorly because I'd been sick all winter. Another said it was because I didn't train hard. Someone else mentioned burnout and a cold winter in West Virginia. I think it was a combination of things, but when it boiled down to it I just plain choked! Winning prelims at the first Rock Island team trial event proved I could do well; I just caught a bad case of "gone-a-heah (I flushed out), as Dan Gavere would put it, in the finals.

The day after my big disappointment, my mood was elevated when my husband Jimmy Blakeney made the Worlds team for the first time. Suddenly my poor performance didn't matter as much. It was cool to see him accomplish his goal after much hard work, especially considering the depth and strength of the men's field.

Wavesport was very supportive of me despite not making the team. Keith Wallace, Wavesport team manager, reassured me when he said "Erica, we didn't expect all of our athletes to make the team. If everyone made the team, we'd have no Wavesport presence here in the states." Nevertheless, I felt like I had something to prove after such a shoddy performance at trials. I started training really hard in my kayak. My new goal was to win the NOWR overall title. This time a new competition paddler emerged, stronger than my performances at team trials, but still with some self-defeating qualities. Although I did win the Potomac Extreme race and the Ocoee freestyle thru the rapid, my hole riding results were somewhat disappointing. At the Coosa, Ocoee, Animas and Potomac, I got into the habit of winning all of the rounds and then losing in the last head-to-head. It was frustrating to end up second after doing so well every other round. Despite this, my results kept me in contention for the Gorge Whitewater Series, and my motivation was only increasing, so I trained harder.

I stayed in Durango, Colorado to train with Courtney Lynch while Jimmy and her boyfriend, Dan Gavere, went to Spain to prepare for the World Championships. Courtney and I were very lucky because we ran into some of the best Slalom paddlers in the country. Rebecca Giddens and her friend Sara helped us come up with a training program to get in optimal shape for the Gorge Games extreme and head to head races. It included a lot of sprints and lactic workouts. I also went playboating with Rebecca, Sara, Anna and Mary Marshall (all incredible slalom paddlers). They picked up on playboating extremely fast!

While I was in Durango, my thoughts were definitely in Spain. I thought about who could be the next World Champion. Aleta Miller, Tanya Shuman and Brooke Winger were my first picks for the women's class. For the men, I was rooting for my husband Jimmy, but knew Eric Jackson had the best chance at being the new World Champion. I was really missing Jimmy. We exchanged a few e-mails, but hadn't been able to talk since I lost my cell phone a few days after his departure. Every time I checked my voice mail I heard a more and more disappointed Jimmy... "Erica, pick up your phone, I need to talk to you!"

Thursday night I went to bed exhausted from my training regimen. Friday morning I woke up to the faint ringing of my cell phone, which I'd found the day before in the bottom of my purse, of all places! I answered the phone in a groggy half sleep. "Jimmy was on the other end. "Erica, you need to get your ass to Spain... Aleta is out, she tore her peck muscle... You get to compete at the Worlds!!"

Hold on. Was I dreaming? This couldn't be true. "What do you mean?" I asked.

"You need to get on a plane today, the competition starts Monday."

"Hold on Jimmy, I need to speak to Aleta first, or Christie Dobson" (our team manager). I was sure that Aleta would be better in a few days.

"No, Erica, you don't understand, we've already talked to her and Aleta is on her way back home!"

Oh my God... I was speechless. Since the day I missed the team the thought never crossed my mind I'd get to compete at the 2001 Worlds. Poor Aleta, she was one of my favorites to win; she must have been devastated. On the other hand, lucky me! I had just been handed the opportunity of a lifetime.

I drove to my friend Katie Selby's house to search the internet for a plane ticket. Katie helped me find a flight leaving Denver at 8:30 the next morning. This gave me about 24 hours to pack and drive to Denver, which takes about 7 hours.

Everyone in Durango was super helpful and supportive. That morning I stopped at Carvers for breakfast and ran into Katie's brother. Jed Selby. Jed gave me a "high-one" (high-fives are out, didn't you know?), and told me he thought I'd go to Spain and win. The encouragement from everyone added to my confidence.

Courtney agreed to watch Hailey, Jimmy's and my seven-month-old Standard Poodle puppy, for the ten days I'd be away. Hailey travels everywhere with us, so leaving her was very hard for me, but I trusted Courtney more than anybody. She is almost as overprotective with Hailey as I am! I left Courtney's trailer at about 9:45 pm Friday evening.

On my way out she handed me two Red Bull energy drinks just in case I got tired on the long solo drive.

Just as I was heading out, I received a call from Jed and Katie, "Wolf Creek pass is closed! You have to go around through Red Mountain pass." It was this piece of valuable information that allowed me to catch my flight on time. I made it to the airport with an hour and a half to spare, thanks to Jed, Katie and Red Bull, along with my new 'Team Wavesport' Chevy Avalanche, which allowed me to hit the cruise button and relax as I drove.

I called my mom that morning before leaving for Spain. "I have a good feeling about this," she said. "Your dad had a
dream last night that you won the Worlds!" "No way!" I said. "While I was driving last night, wired on Red Bull, I had the same premonition."

I slept on the plane the whole 9 and a half-hour flight. So, when I arrived in Barcelona Saturday morning, I was fully rested and felt little if any jet lag. Jimmy picked me up at the airport and we drove the 3 hours straight back to Sort, the cool little town hosting the Worlds. Being the hydraulic technician he is, he explained everything I needed to know about the hole. I had a game plan and strategy before I even got in the water.

U.S. practice slots were over until the event started. Fortunately Jimmy made arrangements with team UK to let us practice with them (thank you team UK!). In an hour of practice with 30 people I got in about six rides, but I felt really comfortable in the hole. I decided to keep all negative thoughts out of my head, like EJ taught me earlier that spring. I loved the hole! No matter how badly I got trounced or trundled, I convinced myself I would love that hole no matter what. There was open practice at 9 pm every night, so I got in a few more rides before competing on Tuesday. I think I had a total of 12 rides before my first ride in prelims. Visualization was the key to success without hole time. So, I visualized myself having the perfect ride over and over in my head every second I was alone. I also practiced Yoga everyday, and repeated to myself, "You are the best; there's no reason you shouldn't win." Positive thinking was kicking in.

Everything came together the day of preliminaries. I scored a 230, which was the best; there's no reason you shouldn't do it. I decided to go off so you keep the pole position and retain your ability to watch the others. Whitney Lonsdale paddled incredibly the whole competition and ended up fifth. Tanya Shuman, a medal favorite and U.S. National Champion, placed fourth; paddling with plenty of style. Canada's Anna Levesque won the Bronze medal with consistent rides, throwing clean cartwheels almost every ride.

In the final head-to-head it was Deb Pinniger and myself. I had lost pole position, so I had to go first, meaning Deb would know exactly what she needed to do to beat me. This was fine with me, because I knew she would go off. She was consistently throwing the sickest linked cartwheels of the entire event, including the men! I was glad to go first.

I knew all I had to do was throw the ride I was capable of and I could win. I entered the hole and immediately went for my most difficult trick, a vertical splitwheel. I hit it perfectly! After this I relaxed and went into autopilot, spin, clean spin, super clean spin, then cartwheels left until my time ran out. I exited the hole with a big fist pump! I knew I had pulled off one of my best rides. Now it was in Deb's hands.

Like me, Deb tried to start her ride off with a split, but was denied. She then decided to do what she knew she could do consistently well, left cartwheels. Debs threw a twenty-five pointer, then tried a second time for her splitwheel and missed again. She looked like she was getting tired. It takes a lot of energy for a 150 lb lady to throw a Big EZ around as well as she does. She knew she had to make up for her lack of variety, so before the buzzer she quickly threw another flurry of left ends.

I looked up at the score board. It read Erica Mitchell 120 pts. I took a few deep breaths. Then Debs name came up. Deb Pinniger 80 pts. Whoa! I couldn't believe it! I was the new World Champion!

I've been paddling for 12 years and it's been my goal to win the World Championships since 1994. I never would have thought my dream would come true in such a dramatic fashion! It just goes to show that good things happen when you least expect them, and that timing is everything.
so much more than meets the eye

Avito line - the quiet winner
WERNER,
THE PADDLE SPECIALISTS
CREATOR OF
THE NEUTRAL BENDSHAFT

THO BERMAN,
EXTREME KITCHER

THE PLAYER
Have you wondered what it would be like to paddle spring's higher flows in the comfort of tropical temperatures? So did we, but not any more! Fall provides enough rain to keep river levels high enough for fun and excitement. Our instructors provide the experience necessary to keep you out and show you the best spots. If we don't offer a suit your needs, we can create one specifically for you.

From famous beaches, to the mystic Amazon, join this exploratory adventure of Brazil's scenic and cultural wonders. While kayaking the many beautiful streams cascading down the mountains surrounding Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, the richness of the Brazilian culture will come to life.

We offer the best, most experienced instructors in several regions of Chile, including the Futaleufu, "the best kayaking river in the world." Plus, you won't get worn out from camping and paddling. Our programs include sleeping in a bed so you feel fresh for a full day of paddling.

Be looking in the mail for our fall catalog. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please call for our free catalog! These offers are good till Oct. 25, 2001:

- **20% off** ALL Silver Creek Paddles, ALL Patagonia water shorts and ALL Kokatat Drysuits!
- **Save 30% w/our Comfy Camping Packages!**
- **Recreational Kayak Packages only $415!**
  - Includes kayak, paddle and PFD.
  - No other discounts apply. No back orders on sale items. Not all colors, sizes, and styles available. Please visit the web or call for details!

So you've seen the latest kayaks, canoes and playboats. You've studied the specs and eyed the edges, but you really want to paddle it before you buy it. Nantahala Outdoor Center's staff of paddling professionals understands this urge to "try before you buy," which is why at NOC's store in Wesser, we've got an unbeatable selection of this year's hottest models for you to test paddle!

**FREE AWA Membership!**

And when you buy a boat from NOC, you'll get a free one-year membership in American Whitewater, a national advocate for whitewater preservation (a $25 value). As part of your membership, you'll get six issues of this magazine! Does not include used or sale boats. New memberships only.
getting worked on a river that you don’t feel the water or hear anything? I figure this is your subconscious brain, your critter brain, taking the controls from your cumbersome conscious human brain that got you in the mess in the first place. It was my critter brain that watched my bow climb higher and higher as my micro shot out of the West Fork of the Tuckasegee in Western North Carolina. If I could have thought, I would have declared my stupidity in forgetting I wasn’t in my free-fall anymore and needed to lean forward to land a 240. Maybe I would have thought about the impending hole thrashing or thought “Yee haw, now this is creekin!” Instead my critter brain pirouetted my bow back under me and ferried me nara away from the log sieve that it somehow remembered was there. But alas, the physics surpassed all I had and I awoke from this trance precariously wedged above a very dark place into which much water went.

The morning had begun with, well I can’t remember much before my too late cup of coffee bought at daybreak in Sylva. Danny Mongo was driving and we were heading up the West Fork of the Tuck, or to be more accurate, the dry creek-bed that was once the West Fork of the Tuck. We met the sheriff and Leland Davis at the trailhead almost immediately and I thought, “OK Kev, let the first flow study you are helping to run begin!” After some tense moments I realized through my early morning haze that he was worried about some fishermen that were camped out down near the creek. After many more moments I realized he was waiting for me to volunteer to go warn them about the water that would soon be rushing past their tent.
They had no reason to expect water in this stream. Water had flowed past their tent site 5 times in the sixty-odd years since dam construction upstream, and it hadn’t rained in awhile. But water was going to flow today. American Whitewater had spent the past few months making sure of that. John Gangemi (American Whitewater’s Conservation Director), Bunny Johns (Consultant for Duke Energy and Renowned boater) and I had been working to secure releases and devise a plan for a whitewater flow study on the West Fork of the Tuck, as well as the main stem of the Tuckasegee and Upper Nantahala rivers. My first task in the east as American Whitewater’s new Eastern Conservation and Access Associate was to carry out this study with Bunny and a handful of regional creek boaters.

Flows, birch trees had encroached into the channel and grew on even the smallest of islands. Virtually every piece of wood that had fallen into the river for a very long time was right where it had fallen, although some wood did begin to move with the rising water. The rapids were a mix of class III-IV slides and boulder rapids in the section below the falls. There was enough water to paddle this stretch but we scraped our way down the slides and got stuck a lot in the boulder rapids. There was a lot of wood in the stream and we used every possible technique of getting around, over, and under it. Even with the brown stinky water and overhanging vegetation, the scenery was great. Sometime before we met the landowner, James hiked out.

The West Fork Gorge is currently a wild and beautiful place, and will soon be full of houses. Several new houses were already there and there was a new clearcut down to the river that will provide someone a nice view. Feeling responsible for the frown on her face, I thought I should go talk with the landowner standing on her deck on the shore. She didn’t seem to like the idea of a healthy river flowing past her house, and thought we were trespassing, but we talked for a while and I paddled off pretty pleased with how it had gone. I have no poker face on a river, I smile, which might have helped. I also told her it would not stink like that for long. There were a few fun rapids before the shrieking began.

I ran through my memory of every sound I have ever heard in the forest, and then in my life. "Butchy" I thought. Butchy was our annoyingly loud parrot that died during the...
New Gem Discovered in Western North Carolina

blizzard of 93 and is still buried in our freezer. Hey, the ground was frozen, what are you going to do! Anyway, sure enough as we rounded the corner there was the guard parrot sounding the alarm on the deck of a house. The owner came out and waved and the bird immediately shut-up. More fun rapids and slides took us to the first bridge where the Duke folks stood with some lakeside homeowners that were smiling while they documented our descent.

Below the bridge the run changed significantly. The rapids became more distinct and less boney. We entered a small but beautiful canyon of polished granite. This section was a hoot. The wood continued but was less frequent. One rapid in particular made life interesting. A 5 foot drop into a riverwide log sieve which was followed by a zippy little turn into another hole.

We took out tired and feeling a little abused, as creekering will sometimes leave one feeling. We had lunch and filled out surveys to describe our runs at 250 cfs, followed by a focus group discussion. We got to choose the flow for our second run. How cool is that? It was like ordering from a menu! We decided that 250 cfs was possibly a minimum acceptable flow, but far below optimal. We picked 350 cfs for our afternoon flow. We were all worried about the wood at higher flows but knew that higher flows would one day flush the wood and that we were choosing flows that could be released for all of the 30-50 year license of the dam. That was a big responsibility, and somewhat tired and reluctant, 6 of us decided to return. Bunny, who consistently had better lines than the rest of us on the first run, opted not to do the second run.

Due to time and energy constraints we had to video less, and move quickly on the second run. As we slid our boats back in the water at the put-in and peeled out we knew this was going to be a totally different experience. The big drop was smoother for most of us, and the slides that followed were fun and not scrapey. The rapids that had been slow bang-fests in the morning were just nice fun Class IIIIs. We were all smiling immediately. We got into a groove, the serene and focused dance of a group of experienced creek boaters eddy hopping. I have always marveled over that seamless rhythm. The rhythm was occasionally interrupted by the realization that much of the wood was eerily just below the surface and some was mobile.

On the morning run my thoughts were of nothing but the ecology of severely impaired rivers, the safety of the group, and logistics. On the second run I paddled. The run was pushier but was more fun, easier, and safer. There were even some great holes to play in. We all exchanged surprised smiles and nods of appreciation as we eddy hopped down the run.

We crossed under the bridge in anticipation of the canyon below. We got to the log sieve rapid and Ken paddled over the first drop. Rodeo ensued. Ken had an impressive surf as Leland jumped out of his boat to help. Ken made it out on his own though. I was pretty comfortable with the move so I paddled off the drop next without worrying too much, or enough. I know Danny and maybe someone else walked it and Leland ran it without incident while I sat in the log sieve in a defensive and tenuously stable position.

John Miller came out of nowhere and performed one of those great hand-of-god rescues that would make most folks cringe but just makes creekers smile. He threw my paddle directly into Leland’s hand and carefully helped me up on to the bottom log. My heart rate had yet to go up a beat. It is that critter brain again. Leland threw my paddle 20-30 feet and it landed firmly in my outstretched right hand. It vibrated from the shock and I smiled as I negotiated the remainder of the rapid. Any other rescue technique would have shown me that dark place I had mentioned. I was with the right group of folks. Ken finished the rapid by punching into the bottom hole. Rodeo ensued, again.
Danny entered the rodeo too. We named the rapid "high turnover" because of the rocketing backenders and percentage of flips it provided. Without the log sieve, high turnover would be a straightforward Class IV. With the log sieve it was V.

The rest of the canyon drops were all fun and had cleaned up. We paddled them fast with big smiles. We all looked up at the stunning side waterfall as we floated past. Then Shane had a bit of a problem with some tree branches. They stretched horizontally into the river to make a mission impossible laser beam kind of configuration. You had to paddle hard, duck the first one low, ramp over the second and duck some more. Somehow through all this Shane ended up about 2 or 3 feet above the river, upside down, hanging across two branches. Show off. Again John was in just the right place and was there with that hand of god business again. He threw Shane's paddle into the bushes, pulled Shane down out of the trees, grabbed the paddle from the bushes, dove, grabbed onto Shane's stern, pulled him into an eddy, and gave him his paddle back. Where did Bunny find this guy?

We came off the creek glowing and smil-ing and re-energized. We filled out surveys again and talked about our run with James, Bunny, and the Duke folks. We were pretty confident in saying we hit the optimal level right on the nose. Any less would be scrapey, and very much more would take on floodwater characteristics.

I think I was ranting some eco-babble about how we had just brushed the streams teeth but we needed a big release to take it to the dentist. The excess sediment, overhanging vegetation, trees in the stream channel, and abundant randomly distributed wood were all classic signs that this stream was seriously screwed up by the elimination of flows for so long. I wanted to know if it was possible to really get some water through there so I asked the dam operator how much water they could release. He said, "we opened the gate 10 inches for that release, and it is a 20 foot gate." "Oh I said, "that might do it...""

With the removal of a couple pieces of wood and the natural redistribution of the rest with a pulse flow, this run could be a very well loved stream. It would offer a big drop and five miles of high quality and very unique Class III+/IV creeking. There is only one undercut on the whole run, and it is in a safe place. Everything can be walked, although we ran everything. We characterized the run as somewhere between Spring Creek and the North Fork of the French Broad in difficulty. Releases on this run would offer a great training ground for intermediate paddlers that wanted creeking experience and would offer jaded creek boaters a fun and reliable new stream to do their thing on. I agree with Shane's comment, "At 350 cfs, I would do this on my day off, definitely." It really is a gem.

As the 5 1/2 year process of dam relicensing continues on the West Fork of the Tuck, American Whitewater will work hard to secure recreational releases for you to enjoy and to help the river act like a river. Duke Energy has been very cooperative, the parrot didn’t scream at us on the second run, and we didn’t wash that landowner’s deck away, so the possibilities look really good!

For more information contact Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater Conservation and Access Associate, phone 828-645-5299; E-mail: <Kevin@AMWhitewater.org>
Inflatable Boats for Everyone

"Splash" is the official raft of the 2001 World Championships - New & Gauley Rivers, Sept. 22-25, 2001

Hard Core Steep Creekers do it in a THRILLSEEKER™

Big performance for experts and beginners who will become experts. The one boat in your quiver that will not need replaced every other month/year. After a decade this design still floats above the rest.
Retail $1249. See Reward Offer.

Fun Loving River Runners

The ThrillKat™ an ultra light weight catamaran which is very stable and easy to paddle,
Retail $649. See Reward Offer.

Kids - Kids & More Kids

The ThrillKitty™ weighs just 10 lbs. great for kids up to 90 lbs.
Retail $399. See Reward Offer.

Fishing & Touring

The SEASEEKER™ is 16' long, weighs just 25 lbs. and is big enough to carry lots of gear.
Retail $799. See Reward Offer.

Rafts & Rafters

We make a full line of hypalon rafts any shape, any size - We Are "Custom Inflatables".

CUSTOM INFLATABLES INC.
P.O. Box 800, Reedsville, WV 26547
1-800-673-3537 • www.tseeker.com
VISA and MasterCard accepted

REWARD: Mention the World Class Splash and we'll give you $100 off any boat ordered before 11/1/01.
Guided rafting trips available

- The Gauley, New, Cheat, and Potomac Rivers in West Virginia
- The Ocoee, Pigeon, and Nolichucky Rivers in Tennessee
- The Nantahala and French Broad Rivers in North Carolina

P.O. Box 277, Rowlesburg, WV 26425

Offering premium whitewater adventures on the Gauley River.
Trips are also available on the New, Cheat, and Tygart Rivers in West Virginia
and the Upper Yough in Western Maryland

P.O. Box 100, Rowlesburg, WV 26425
Mom and Dad's twenty-fifth anniversary dinner went on
even though one chair
was conspicuously empty.
It was no one's fault really.
Twenty-five years ago,
how could Mom and Dad
predict their love
would be so impressive today?

WHEN THE RIVER CALLS, IT DOESN'T LEAVE A MESSAGE ON YOUR MACHINE. NO ONE KNOWS THIS BETTER THAN PERCEPTION. BECAUSE NO ONE HAS BEEN PADDLING FOR AS LONG AS PERCEPTION, FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. BUILDING GREAT KAYAKS HAS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE THINK ABOUT. SOME MIGHT SAY IT'S THE ONLY THING WE THINK ABOUT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: 1-800-59-KAYAK OR VISIT: WWW.KAYAKER.COM

American Whitewater September • October 2001
Disclaimer: The Smack was laid down. The ZoneDogg laid it. These are the facts and they are undisputed. Now, the opposition will try a little misdirection using fancy words like "sexist narcissist," "egotistical," "obnoxious," "vain," and "annoying." In the end, all the immature personal attacks in the world will not distract you from the reality that the Smack was laid down and the ZoneDogg laid it. These are the facts and they are undisputed.
Fact: A large cross sampling of shotput throwers, hippies, cab drivers, and prison inmates prefer ZoneDogg Articles to drinking rancid milk 6 to 1!
As May of 2001 was coming to an end, heavy rains were hitting all over the state of WV. I made plans to head to Dolly Sods to run Red Creek with a group of friends. It was a perfect way to forget the troubles that had befallen me during the past few months. I had just gotten out of jail after serving a 3 month prison sentence for beating up Cookie Monster after he refused to get in a picture with my 4 year old daughter. I renewed my membership to the HeMan Woman Haters Club and headed out bar hopping to celebrate with my good friends: Johnny Walker, Jack Daniels, and Jim Beam. I showed up at the take-out in Laneville smelling of expensive liquor and cheap women.

Our party included Jim Starrett, Rich Grape, Andy Maser, Kris Haines, and a few lovelies who were hanging out at the take-out and were quite taken aback by the buff appearance of the Dogg (aka Big Bad Booty Daddy). Hell, just about everyone was out there.

We began the two mile hike across the beautiful plateau of Dolly Sods. I was enjoying the scenery and warned the rest of the crew that any complaints about sore shoulders or tired legs would be met with a quick but effective ear cuffing.

Occasionally we would break for a quick game of Pitch and Toss before shouldering our boats again. One might ask what the motivation for hiking two miles with a boat on my shoulder would be. Well, somewhere out there is a guy waiting for his Kung Pow Chicken and there is $1.57 with my name on it! So I tried to keep the group moving because Red Creek was ripe for a visit to the ZoneDogg Wood Shed.

Red Creek starts with a few miles of pretty slides and small rock gardens through a dense and gorgeous forest. Unfortunately, although fun, these miles were running low and scrappy. I had paddled this creek several times before and found this always to be the case. It is the price you pay to get to the good section. I mean, you can’t have your urinal cake and eat it too. Eventually, a sizeable tributary comes in on the right and it is time to put the women and children to bed, because Red Creek is getting SIK!

For the next 3-4 miles Red Creek drops at a frightening rate of 280 feet/mile. It should be considered an expedition for teams of experts. The thought of injury in here is too horrible to contemplate. Those who don’t know their limits are going to get hurt. OK, enough guide book drama. Many drops are Class V+ and beyond, so be careful. Sorry.

The good section starts with a long series of slides leading into a 100 yard Super Slide dropping about 25 feet. It is kinda’ like Swallow Falls on the Top Yough. It is a ton of fun to fly down this slide at tremendous speeds. This leads right into the Clapper, a 15 foot falls onto rocks.

This drop is run down the left with a launch into a rocky hard landing. Andy, Kris, and I all had nice launches into hard claps. Jim followed, but didn’t launch as hard and ended up pitoning on the rock! Nothing like a good piton to take the slack out of your bag!

Right after this drop lies the Double Clapper, a cascade of about ten feet onto a slide that drops another five. The line of choice is to run left of center and land two claps onto the slide. It is quite a SIK maneuver and can result in a stern piton if done incorrectly.

Red Creek continues through some boulder drops, including one with a nice tree to do a rail slide. There are...
exciting slides for the next half mile leading to a 15 foot falls. This falls is best run down the middle to where the shelf forms a point. I came flying into it and laid a wicked boof stroke down, landing flat at the bottom. Some would say that I launched a schweeeeeeet one, while others would argue that it was a SILK! Everyone else followed with nice runs as well.

The next drop is a good 6 foot boof drop into a small slide. Andy decided to freewheel off this, which resulted in a stiff piton and a good surf into a windowshade. Just below lies a 300-400 yard long twisting mega-slide. It is not steep but it continues on forever, before ending in a 5 foot boof ledge. It is a unique slide on a run that features more slides than any other run I have done.

The next slide cascades down into an ugly boulder sieve that blocks the whole stream and is nasty. If you are feeling really bold, you can run the slide and eddy above the sieve. Jim, Andy, and I did. However, the conservative line is to walk the whole shooting match on the left.

After a few trees that could use an extended session with BowHack (my bowsaw) and a good 5 foot boof, the creek comes to a second boulder sieve portage. This could be scraped around on the far right, but there are several trees and a lot of water entering the sieve, so it is not worth it. The creek continues off a 5 foot ledge, onto a 75 yard slide, and into 2 neat cascades of 6 feet each. The next mile alternates between boulder drops and neat slides. One rapid heads left and falls off a 6 foot diagonal ledge next to an undercut. It is similar to Hammer Factor on the Green Narrows. Another long slide ends in a double drop of 5 feet each with a Schweeeet boof on the bottom drop.

Soon, the creek splits with most of the water heading right over a decently steep boulder drop. At the bottom, there is a tree that you need to cut left to duck. I warned the group and Grape took heed and snuck down the left channel. The rest of the group got bottlenecked at the tree. This turned into a mess! Jim and Andy went out and portaged, while Kris headed into the strainer backwards. Luckily, he was able to duck under it.

The next rapid is called the Devils Cauldron. A 25 yard twisty slide ending in a 15 foot falls with a stiff hole at the bottom. This is my favorite on the run, but it requires precision to avoid a surf at the bottom. I decided that I wanted to video 4 different camera angles here, so I laid the smackdown 1, 2, 3, 4 (and the Zone1 means 1, 2, 3, 4!). I would have to say that I spanked drop like a red-headed college girl! There is nothing like flying down this slide with great speed and launching a SILK, landing flat in a picturesque pool below (Ohye! It was SCHWEEEEEET!).

Andy decided to run over the middle and clap

Below the Devils Cauldron, Red Creek continues through a few steep boulder drops and a couple good slide drops before starting to mellow. But just when you think you're done, you reach the Semifinale... a nice slide into a 5 foot drop. About a half mile later you reach Finale Gorge, a series of 4 drops. The first drop (Finale Falls) is a Schweeeet 10 foot clapper with a slide entrance. This is followed quickly by two 6 foot drops and a 3 footer.

For the next 2-3 miles the creek slows its pace through long wide rock gardens. There is enough action and good scenery to keep it interesting. Along the way, some hikers were cheering us on. They were impressed that we were kayaking down the creek at all.

After awhile Big Stone Coal Creek comes in, adding a whopping 30 cfs! This brings the water level to frightening proportions and, although the gradient was only 50-60 feet/mile, the volume was enough to scare me into walking a bit. The hard walk out caused a severe blood blister in my pinky toe.

One last cool boulder drop carried us to the bridge...
at Laneville and ended a spectacular day.

Red Creek is one of the most beautiful and pristine runs in West Virginia. It features all kinds of rapids, tons of slides, waterfalls and boulder drops. We shot miles of fantastic video footage of this creek and you can see all of my lines on the upcoming Fox Channel 5 Special, “When Animals Attack.”

To top it all off, I was with a great group of friends. What more could you possibly want!

Editor's note: Coming in the next issue! Win A Date with Bobby Miller Contest. Stay tuned for details.
Celebrating 120 Years of Serving Paddlers

To subscribe contact Brandon Hardie at (703) 451-0141 or circulation@paddlermagazine.com
Idaho’s River of No Return

By Jeremy R. Deem
Wilderness advocates were rare in the United States before World War II. But from the political upheavals, social reformations, and anti-war sentiments of the 1960s, came forth those who began to restructure the way in which Americans viewed their unique treasures of vast unspoiled territory.

The post-war "baby boom" had erupted, spilling populations beyond the confines of cities creating, for the first time, suburban sprawl. Mining, power, and timber operations had become highly efficacious during the war, and were seeking new domains in which to demonstrate their prowess. Fortunately, a few people had the foresight to see where our prosperity was headed – into our monumental, irreplaceable regions, which had until then been largely ignored.

Among this new breed of patrons of unspoiled lands was a man also renowned for his opposition to the burgeoning conflict in Southeast Asia. Frank Church was a senator from Idaho, first elected to office in 1957. An outspoken and fervent advocate of conservation, Church was the floor manager for the 1964 Wilderness Act, and author of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which was decreed in 1968 to "...preserve outstanding stretches of rivers from incompatible water resource development, pollution or commercialization."

In addition to these accomplishments, Senator Church is also largely responsible for ensuring that 19 friends and I would be empowered to travel to Idaho this spring, equipped to undertake a 100-mile journey through the wilderness area bearing his name – The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

The River of No Return Wilderness was Frank’s colossal effort, a primitive area encompassing 2.2 million-acres in north central Idaho, the largest area of its kind in the contiguous 48 states. A preserve of this magnitude was not an easy one to pass through Congress; Church and his supporters were able to push it through only with the support of thousands of sportsmen and women, ranchers, forest-service workers, and private landowners. The final product was an unprecedented reserve which incorporated 24 gravel airstrips and several historic ranches that operate within the reserve today. Congress added “Frank Church” onto the title of the domain in 1984, as the champion of wilderness conservation lay on his deathbed.

I received notice in March that I was "successful" in the annual lottery drawing held to determine permit distribution for floats down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, the crown jewel of Frank’s Wilderness. In this drawing one pays $6 to have one’s name thrown in with thousands of other applicants for a 1 in 14 chance at obtaining the "successful" notification. I had a handful of friends who had applied as well, and began making calls to see who would be available for the June 5 launch date. The USFS is the con-
trolling agency for the Middle Fork, and through them, I was able to receive information from outfitters in Idaho who would be able to provide services we’d need such as meals, shuttles, and rentals.

Two and a half months later, we pulled into a USFS campground just outside of Ketchum, Idaho after a 15-hour drive through some howling Utah winds. We sat in the truck for a few minutes and watched as the early morning light rain turned heavy, then watched in incredulity as the heavy rain turned white. My brother Young Boy and I looked at one another, and then at Melanie, who was attempting to sleep in the middle seat of the cab. We needed to unleash the rear of the ’89 Chevy which was occupied, in addition to groovers, 10 large ammo cans, cat framework, tables, chairs, coolers, and personal gear, by the owner of said vehicle, Blaine, and his sleeping partner for the night, CJ.

CJ is thought to be an American Dingo/Mountain Cur breed, but was found alongside the road in West Virginia, so she could be anything. For sure, she is orange and wild. Blaine’s roof rack is of the free variety, and so needed to be cam-strapped to sturdy fixtures on the underside of the truck to ensure that it wouldn’t fly off. We trusted the eight small screws holding the rack to the topper, but wanted to be extra careful, since we were carrying plenty of crucial raft framework, water containers, dry bags, and cataraft tubes atop.

Throughout the day our party of twenty rolled in. I was given considerable grief because the directions to the campground had been altered between my receiving them as “Sun Valley Road” and my recounting of them to everyone else as “Tuscon Valley Road.” Several of us went to meet the friendly folks at Rapid Gourmet, who had prepared our meals for the trip. After getting fishing bait and licenses, last minute gear, and stocking up on river beers, we were just about ready. Our last minute arrival presented himself at 10:00 p.m., having dealt with no less than one water pump failure, one towing, one exhaust come-a-crashing to the pavement, and one failed starter. This entire melee was better than usual luck for Jake, so he was blithe upon arrival.

Already facing a fresh inch of snow, we were glad to be heading up the hill where if odds held, it would be colder. After a quick stop at River Rat Express in Stanley, who agreed to drive our vehicles from Boundary Creek to Cache Bar for the lowest price going, we were on our way to Frank Church’s woods at last.

Famed explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark dubbed the Salmon the "River of No Return" upon their initial exploration in 1805. The legendary duo was not erroneous in their description of the wild river, dauntless boatmen could travel down the river, but could never hope to negotiate an upstream passage.
That night a few of us took a short after-dinner hike down from the campsite out a trail leading upstream to Dagger Falls, aptly named for the razor-sharp rocks in the area. The rapid was impressive in the nearly full moon.

Dagger Falls is navigable, but with the customary chaos of the put-in day on top of the lower water level, none of our boaters opted to run it. Archeologists believe that Native Americans from the Snake River drainage frequented this site between 3300 years and 1200 years ago, establishing temporary camps from which they would come to the falls to fish during the summer and fall. Drying the meat on the spot, they would take as much as they could back to their homes on the Snake.

Early the next morning (2 p.m.), we launched our flotilla of 5 rafts, 1 large catamaran, 8 kayaks, 45 cases of beer, 20 people, and 1 mad dingo. Our first swim occurred as Chad tumbled off his raft during rigging. He was wearing only his dry bibs without a top, so the whole matter was enjoyable for almost everyone. The river level was 2.63 feet (about 1200 cfs) at Middle Fork Lodge, 33.3 miles downstream. This was a fairly low level, particularly for June 5, but a less-than-stellar snow pack followed by an early spring period of unseasonable warmth had decimated a large majority of the runoff.
Day 1 was a continuous and cold day. Rafts got stuck here and there. At one point nearly all the kayakers were out of their boats helping the Young Boy dislodge from a rock in The Chutes. Some of those on board the 18-foot cat swear that upon entering the rapid, the oarsman pointed to a boulder far downstream, declaring "we're going to get stuck on that rock." Camp was welcomed by all that first evening, as a light rain fell and the air temperature was certainly not excessive for 5200 feet. We had traveled 13 river miles and 600 vertical feet, arriving at the Sheepeater Hot Springs camp a little chilly, but in good spirits and still intact. Gracious for our safe arrival, we geared up for a visit to the springs.

The Sheepeaters (Tukuika in Shoshoni) were the native people who lived in the canyon of the Middle Fork when the first white explorers arrived. They were an offshoot of the Shoshoni Nation and named for their expertise at hunting bighorn sheep with bow and arrow from stone blinds. Tukuika were as elusive as the game which rendered their namesake, with small populations (possibly less than 200), and customs and habits which neighboring tribes in later years would call backward.

After living in peace and near isolation for approximately 8000 years, a request was made by intimidated white settlers to rid the area of the Sheepeaters. In May 1879, the U.S. Army began a 5-month pursuit of the aborigines, beginning the opprobrious Sheepeater Campaign. On October 1, the 51 surviving members of the tribe surrendered, including 15 warriors and 8 guns, most of those archaic. Our party spotted pictographs left by the Tukuika during our journey. I felt humbled by the ghostly legacy of these formidable people.

As we moved downriver the days became warmer and drier, the water deeper and dark, and the thick forestation gave way to grasses and shrubs, notably sage. We floated lackadaisically downstream, kayakers playing in the increasingly deep eddy lines. We watched planes and helicopters fly in and out of Pistol Creek and Simplot Ranch and feasted on decadent 3-squares-a-day. At Marble Creek, Cow Creek, Johnnie Walker and Little Pine we pitched horseshoes, read aloud stories from Carrey and Conleys' *The Middle Fork*, partook in games of chubby bunny and hiked. We soaked in hot springs and yarnd the
evenings away. It was also during this portion of the expedition that a very significant multi-day event took place: some of the most incredible trout fishing this world has to offer.

The first settlers of the Middle Fork described the fishing as remarkable. Three and four pound trout were common. The salmon in side streams were said to be 'thick as blackberries in July.' As late as 1955 it was easy to catch more than a hundred fish a day, ranging up to sixteen inches. Since that time, the fishery has experienced an unfortunate skid.

Nine of our group had purchased fishing licenses in Ketchum, and at least 4 of our group really knew how to fish. Win is a fly-fishing guide in Colorado during the summers, and Matt and Shannon are a master fly-fishing couple, often using flies they create themselves. It was a joy watching them in action. I was glad to have purchased a three-day privilege to try my luck at the famed Middle Fork cutthroat.

Part of the reason for the "skid" in fish population, improper handling of the trout, has led to regulations for fishermen and women on the Middle Fork. We used only artificial flies and lures with barbless hooks, and released the fish using wet hands at water level. Fishing was a highlight of our trip.

Night six was spent at Cliffside, where we lived it up as river dwellers one last time, taking in the indescribable beauty of a sunset within the Impassable Canyon. A hungry marmot dined at the perimeter of our camp; CJ was kept occupied elsewhere. The last miles of the canyon hold some of the finest rapids of the trip, with big waves, smooth surfs, and powerful eddy lines.

At mile 96.3 the Main Salmon comes in from the northeast and the river doubles in volume. The water is also considerably warmer. Late morning of day seven, our party of 20 and one furious dingo reached the take-out at mile 99.7, Cache Bar (3000 feet in elevation). In short time we unloaded, de-rigged, and were on our way. I silently thanked Mr. Church as we drove from the canyon, winding along the North Fork back toward civilization.

As we drove away I contemplated the final entry to my river journal: "June 10, Last camp on the Middle Fork, the Salmon River, Idaho – Cliffside. It is sad that our journey is nearly completed. Yet, it is also joyful. This is a place so full of energy, so full of life, history, and unfathomable beauty, that it is good that we limit ourselves. We could easily live here forever without hesitation, and with that, the experience, the loveliness, would be lost. I have, once again, found true love. To the River of No Return, I shall return, if only in another life."

Join American Whitewater Today and Earn a Chance to Win a Prijon Kayak!

Prijon has generously offered to donate a kayak to help our membership building efforts. And we hope you win! All new members joining between April 1 and September 16 of the year will be automatically entered in Raffle. (This offer does not apply to membership renewals.) Drawing will be held at the Gauley Festival, September 22, 2001. You need not be present to win!

American Whitewater Annual Membership $25
Join online at americanwhitewater.org
or Call Toll Free 1-866 BOAT4AW

American Whitewater September October 2001
Europe. The very word has intimidated even U.S. kayak or canoe racer ever to leave these shores searching for world recognition. It represents the pinnacle of achievement in every racing discipline (slalom, whitewater, sprint) to go to Europe and win. So U.S. wildwater racers Steve Kaufman, Chris Norbury and Andrew McEwan, who traveled to the World Cup and Pre-World Championships, knew they would have their work cut out for them. But they were determined to try.
The U.S. Wildwater Team is always fighting an uphill battle. European paddles and boats are better constructed and available at about half the price of those in the U.S. The best European paddlers receive their boats for free, while no U.S. paddler is sponsored by a boat manufacturer. The Europeans stay in the finest hotels and are driven everywhere in minibuses with trailers, without worrying about money. The Yanks are entirely self-funded, staying in cheap apartments or camping out in the pouring rain, and driving rental cars with makeshift roof racks.

The Europeans can practice and be coached on the rivers they will race on, normally less than a day’s drive from their homes. We were to race on the River Soca in Slovenia, and the Sesia in Northern Italy, rivers none of us, and probably less than 20 people in the U.S., had ever raced wildwater on.

If this sounds like whining, well, I guess it is. But this is the essence of wildwater racing in the U.S. Americans who race in Europe often find it a chastening experience, but those who return are determined to fight the odds, and usually make their way up the world rankings. Members of the U.S. Wildwater Team train year round, often alone, knowing they are fighting the odds, but enjoying the challenge.

And so we found ourselves in Slovenia for the first World Cup race. For those who don’t know, Slovenia (not to be confused with Slovakia) is just east of Italy. Slovenia is a part of the former Yugoslavia that retains a character derived from Austria and Italy, its neighbors to the north and east respectively. In the First World War well over a million men died in the fighting in the Julian Alps, which tower over the race course on the River Soca. Monuments to those who died were everywhere in the mountains, adding a foreboding aura to the wonder we felt at the beautiful countryside.

We all agreed that the Soca was the most beautiful river any of us had ever paddled. The frigid bright turquoise water, offset by huge boulders that make some of those on the Cheat look small, were counter pointed by the Alps, rising sharply 4,000 to 5,000 feet straight off of the river. The scenery made learning the lines a little difficult; all you wanted to do was look around and appreciate the beauty.

We soon learned how pushy the Soca could be, even in seemingly innocuous spots. The fastest lines often involved taking narrow slots not much wider than the boat. The potential for pitting rocks at full pace if you were pushed off line by a boil was huge. The course was short, ensuring that you hit the hardest rapids trying to go as fast as possible. And the course culminated with the hardest rapids, just where you needed all your strength to put your boat where it needed to be.

Above left: Czech 6-2 completely out of sight on the Soca. Photo by Chris Norbury.

Bottom left: Steve Kauffman on the Soca. Photo by Chris Norbury.

Top right: Steve Kauffman on the Soca. Photo by Chris Norbury.
If you were off line there loomed a significant possibility of being pinned across a slot. In fact on race day, a Czech C1 paddler was pushed about a foot off line. Within seconds he had pinned and his boat folded completely in half between two rocks. He soon washed through the slot and paddled to the bank — the bow and stern of his wrecked boat above his head as he tried to get the boat to the shore before it sank.

Against this backdrop we worked hard to learn the river and its pace. Andrew struggled with the outfitting of his new boat, and we spent hours agonizing over lines and videoing the top paddlers running the difficult rapids. Then the sun disappeared behind the clouds, and it rained solid for 2 days. The Soca rose to a level 3 feet above that raced at the European Championship two years ago. EVERYONE started to have a hard time. Seeing five time world Champions Markus Gickler and Vladi Panato eddying out unintentionally and pinning rocks was amusing, but it didn’t make it any easier for us.

By the race day the water had dropped a little. But home course advantage played a huge role, with Slovenians performing above expectations. In Men’s Kayak we saw Robert Knebel of the Czech Republic take both the classic and sprint races in a display of raw power that was inspiring.

All the members of the U.S. Team were pushed around by the river all week, race day was no exception. Andrew spun out in the first rapid, Steve flipped, and Chris was stuffed into an undercut, before finding their way to the finish. Our times were uninspiring, but we consolled ourselves with the knowledge that this was not a river that was easy for us.

By the time the race day came the water had dropped a little. But home course advantage played a huge role, with Slovenians performing above expectations. In Men's Kayak we saw Robert Knebel of the Czech Republic take both the classic and sprint races in a display of raw power that was inspiring.

All the members of the U.S. Team were pushed around by the river all week, race day was no exception. Andrew spun out in the first rapid, Steve flipped, and Chris was stuffed into an undercut, before finding their way to the finish. Our times were uninspiring, but we consoled ourselves with the knowledge that this was not a river that suited our paddling styles. We hoped that the Pre-Worlds the following week would provide a much better opportunity for us.

By the time the river was up a bit again and Frenchman Boris Saunier capitalized, winning the European Championship as well as the Pre-World Championships.

In kayaking, Andrew McEwan rebounded from a disappointing performance in Slovenia with his best performance at the international level to date, and the best by an American man for nearly 10 years. He improved from 7% off the winner's time at the Worlds in 2000 to a shade over 5%. That had been his target for the year. Andrew beat the entire teams from much better funded countries, including Britain.

Further back the competition between the American men was fierce, with Chris Hipgrave beating out Middy Tilghman by 0.2 seconds. Steve Kaufman was less than 5 seconds behind them.

In the sprint competition the next day, with the river level a few feet higher and the sprint course a train of large standing waves, Steve got his revenge, taking 34th overall, an excellent result for his first time in Europe. Such tight competition promises some exciting racing in the U.S. in years to come.

In C1, 18-year-old Russell Johnson beat the older more experienced hands in the sprint in his first time at a senior competition. He should be an excellent prospect in his discipline.

So, the U.S. Team did not win anything, but they did learn a lot. Most of us will be back next year, funding ourselves, fighting the odds, and climbing the World rankings. Next year there will again be races on the Soca and the Sesia. But in 2003 the World Cup is to be on the Kern in California, organized by the Kern River Alliance. This will provide the U.S. Team with an opportunity to compete at the highest level in our own country. So 2003 will be the focus of many of those training for wildwater competition.

Left: Andrew McEwan on the Soca.

Photo by Steve Kauffman.
Subscribe to: LUNCH VIDEO MAG

The World's First Whitewater Video Magazine
Only the Freshest whitewater footage delivered to your door quarterly for one low price

Special Gauley Festival Subscription Deal!!!
CVM is distributed by: Normal subscription price: $42.50 for 3 issues (shipping incl.)
The Deal: $35, receive the first two issues at Gauley to order CVM call 814.395.9191 issue 3 comes to your mailbox winter 2001 or Visit immersionresearch.com (redeem at ir booth)

Visit LUNCHMAG.TV for more details
EXPAND YOUR COMFORT ZONE with Performance Paddling Clothing

Waterproof & breathable water sportswear with unmatched comfort and durability

Kokatat
5350 Ericson Way • Arcata, CA 95521 • (707) 822-7621 • Toll-free (800) 225-9749

Live to Play
www.livetoplay.com

Daily auctions.

THE BEST PRICES on new outdoor gear.

www.livetoplay.com
Come by the GAIA booth at Gauley Fest for great close-out deals!!!!

Fest specials on Hydration Units starting at $10 while they last!!

See our booth at Gauley Fest
Finally... a fun kayak for everyone!

By now, you've figured out you're getting twice as much boat!

It is commonly known that Riot has largely been responsible for the technology revolution in playboating. In fact, we invented many of the common design features used in most of today's playboats.

Now we're doing the same for entry level and river running kayaks. The NEW Riot BOOSTER. Boost a wave. Boost an eddy. Boost a line. Boost the limelight from your friends. Booster - Stolen moments!

Booster Specs:
Length: 7'2"
Width: 24.5"
Volume: 50, 55 & 60 gal
Weight: 35 lbs

Built by people who dream about kayaking

For people who dream about kayaking
liquidlogic.

backed by a century of experience

[liquidlogickayaks.com]
It was just another day on the world-renowned Little White Salmon. For those of us geographically fortunate enough be able to paddle this creek regularly, the Little White Salmon is second to none. The creek was low, but it was a record low-water year, so we didn't mind. There was still plenty of action, culminating in a series of waterfalls. The grand finale was Spirit Falls, one of the most spectacular runnable waterfalls in the world.

We had a pretty big group. Phil Donofrio, 'Fireman Dave' Mcneil, Brian Littleand Joules out of Corvallis, Gabe Flock, Steve Stuckmeyer, and John Whaley.

When we got to Spirit the usual happened. A few folks automatically shouldered their boats and walked it, and a few others stood at the lip and thought: "I feel good today. Really good. I feel good enough to run this huge waterfall and pull it off..."

Today was a little different, though, because I had just published photos on the site taken the week before of a boater getting beaten nearly to death against the right wall at the bottom of Spirit. Everyone had seen the pictures, and everyone was paranoid about getting against that wall.

Nevertheless, Joules went first. Joules is from Ireland and is a very good boater (the way he paddles, you'd better believe they've got some hard stuff over there!). Anyway, Joules paddled up to the lip and was way left. As he went over the bow of his boat caught on the lip and he tumbled upside down in mid-air, dropping 33 feet onto his head! (This photo is in the gallery of my website, Oregon Kayaking, entitled 'the ultimate header'). We all held our breath as he rolled up and shook it off. Gabe Flock went next and had no problems, then Brian Little. I had already run Spirit a couple of times, but after seeing my buddy get pounded the week before I didn't feel good about running it, so I decided to portage. I was all alone, as everyone had either run the drop or was in the process of portaging it. I walked back up to my boat. But instead of picking it up to portage I climbed into it and pulled my skirt on.

Now, I have one cardinal rule for paddling Class V and it goes something like this: Don't take long to scout a drop. Look at the darned thing, and if it doesn't look good or feel right, then walk it. Once I make that decision, I never, ever change my mind, even if I see 14 tandem canoes loaded with Cub Scouts clean the thing while I'm hiking down the river. I don't know why I got back into my boat, but I broke my number one rule. I changed my mind and decided to run Spirit. That decision changed my life forever.

I peeled out into the current and got on the left side of the river. As I dropped over the lip the last thing I saw was Gabe, Joules, and Brian look up in surprise, because I had said I was walking it.

Then I dropped into hell. It takes a long time to fall 33 feet in a kayak, and at this flow the total drop was probably closer to 35. As I sailed through the air my bow planed towards the horizontal and I began to boof out. Ordinarily landing flat off of this drop is okay, if you hit the 4-5 foot high aerated pile at the base of the falls. But I missed the pile.

At the last second I knew I was going to land totally flat and I was too far left and too far out with too much speed. I started to tuck to protect my back, but it was too late. I hit the green water going over 30 miles per hour and stopped cold. There was a boom like a rifle shot as my boat hit and there was an explosion of pain in the middle of my back. I slumped over for a second in shock. The tremendous impact had knocked the wind out of me and my body wasn't working right. I gasped for air and I paddled feebly over to the side of the punchbowl, trying not to flip because I knew I couldn't roll. The evil ledge-drop known as Chaos was waiting just downstream, ready to finish me off.

Gabe, Brian, and Joules knew.

They swarmed all over me and stabilized my boat so I wouldn't flip. Gabe was saying something but I was in shock and I don't remember what. They got me out of my boat and I was cursing as Gabe began his examination, calmly firing questions at me: "Can you feel your feet? Jason can you feel your feet? Jason move your feet for me. Good. Do you have any numbness anywhere? Jason, do you have any numbness anywhere? Don't move. DON'T MOVE. SOMEBODY GET DAVE DOWN HERE NOW!!!"

I know this sounds strange, but my guts hurt. I later learned that this is called coup-counter-coup and is common in car accidents. Basically, you stop moving suddenly and your internal organs collide with your ribcage, pelvis, and abdominal muscles. It
hurts like hell, but I digress.

Dave, the paramedic in the group, was already coming. He fired a throw rope off the edge of the cliff and rappelled down in seconds and traversed across the wall of the punchbowl. When he arrived he shifted into paramedic mode and took charge. After he had examined me, he said: “First, we gotta get him around Chaos. I’ll rig up a harness. We need more rope. I’ll go get the rigging out of my boat and get everything set up above. We’ll leave him here in the meantime. Is he stable? Okay. Don’t move him. Gabe, you stay here until we are ready to move him so he doesn’t fall in the water. We don’t have much time, it’ll be dark soon...”

“I’ll Paddle OUT,” somebody said, and that somebody was me.

Silence, except for the eternal thunder of Spirit. Dave was speechless for a second, and then he said sternly: “Jason, you are NOT paddling out. You are NOT getting back in your boat. Jason, there is a very good chance your back is broken, and if it is you could have bone splinters loose in there. If you get back into your boat, you could sever your spine and be paralyzed for the rest of your life.”

“Get me in my BOAT!” I commanded. I struggled painfully to sit up, and I reached over and grabbed my boat. “I’ll paddle out. I can make it.”

Dave was angry now. "Jason, you're being a stupid, stubborn, jackass. What if you end up in the hole below Chaos? You can't roll, you can barely paddle!!"

His face darkened as I struggled to get into my boat. "Don't let him get back in his boat!” he commanded, and with that traversed back along the rock wall to organize the rescue.

“Get me in my boat.” I said to Gabe as soon as Dave was gone.

“Jason, you're being a reeeally bad patient,” Gabe replied as he helped me into my boat...

Soon Brian, Gabe, Joules and I were sitting in the punchbowl with Spirit behind us and the horizon line marking Chaos just below us.

I was feebly splashing the water with my paddle, which was suddenly incredibly heavy. Every movement required tremendous effort, and everything felt wrong. It was like I had never boated before.

“Jason, listen to me,” Brian said as I looked downstream. He was all business now and...
the kayak instructor in him surfaced. "The first six inches of a stroke is the most important. That is where most of the power comes from. You can do it. Concentrate, stay focused. Look where you want to go, and then go there. Don't look at Chaos."

Somewhere I made the 'easy move' into the right side eddy above Chaos, but it felt like the hardest thing in the world. Then it got easier. The ferry above Chaos was next. I screwed up. I couldn't begin to imagine what was going to happen. Suddenly I was on and I dug deep and made the ferry. I turned and waited while Gabe, Brian, and Joules ran Chaos, then I went next. I hit a rock about halfway down and boofed, landing flat from about four feet up. The pain was unbelievable. I gasped and struggled over to the right, then I was swept downstream, more or less out of control.

Everytime I hit a rock my back screamed at me to STOP, but I kept going for about two hundred yards until we got to a small ledge above Master Blaster. I couldn't take it anymore and I gave up and let Dave take over.

"Are you ready to stop being a dumbass and start letting us help you?" he said, shaking his head in frustration. "You're a bad patient, you know that?"

We were now out of the gorge below Spirit, so Dave got me out of my boat and swam me across the pool above Master Blaster. From there Steve and Dave helped me climb over the boulder jumble on the right side of the rapid. Then Dave swam me across the pool above the lowhead dam. I walked the final quarter mile, while everyone else finished the run and got my gear off the creek.

Twenty minutes later I was sitting in a wheelchair at Hood River Memorial hospital in agony, while a bored nurse droned: "Could I get Your Name? Your Address? Your Social Security Number? Your Date Of Birth? Do you have insurance? Who is your provider? Oh, do you need a painkiller?"

Later the doctor came back with my X-rays and said bluntly: "Well, I don't have any good news for you, Jason. You broke your back. Specifically, you crushed L1 and L2 down to about 60% of their original size. You have a couple of pretty large bone fragments loose in there too, so we might have to do surgery. You're lucky you're still walking..."

That night I stayed in Hood River with my girlfriend. I called my girlfriend, who was understandably upset. I didn’t even want to think about how I was going to tell my parents.

The next morning Dave showed up with his mother's car, a very nice late model Honda sedan. Dave had driven three and a half hours to Eugene the night before to get a comfortable vehicle to drive me home. Then he got up early with very little sleep and drove another three and a half hours back up to Hood River to pick me up. When he ar-

rived, red-eyed and grinning, I said: "Dave, you're my hero!"

"I gotta be somebody's hero!" he quipped, but he was too modest. Dave saves peoples lives on a regular basis in his work as a Eugene Paramedic. He really is a hero in my book.

I spent the next two and a half months in a metal torso brace that cinched down tight and effectively splinted my spine. The first week I was confined to the couch on painkillers, stoned and oblivious. Then I got tired of being drugged, so I tossed the pills. I wanted to remember every second of the pain for the next time I think about breaking my number one rule when I'm paddling Class V.

After a week I was able to walk up the stairs and sleep in my bed. The pain was severe, but it grew less intense as the days flew by. Showering was very difficult; I don't think I washed my feet for a month. (And I never was able to trick my girlfriend into doing it for me either.) By mid-April the Orthopedic Surgeon X-rayed my back and had great news: The two thumbnail-sized pieces of bone that had broken off when I landed had reattached to my vertebrae, and I wouldn't need surgery. My vertebrae were permanently deformed, but my prognosis was good.

The outpouring of support from the paddling community was overwhelming. I got e-mails, cards, boxes of food, books, you name it. Wow. We are family....

It was May when I went to the doctor's office. After a quick examination he said I didn't have to wear the brace anymore.

"I have a question. I didn't have to wear the brace anymore."

"I got a question," I replied. "I was feeling my spine the other day, and I have these lumps in the middle of my back that weren't there before. Is this because of the injury?"

"I showed him the spot.

He felt my back and after a moment he said: "No, those lumps are there because you have no muscle left in your lower back, so your vertebrae are sticking out. You have a lot of physical therapy to do..."

So I went paddling, and life was good.

It is now July and I am boating Class III pretty regularly, with no difficulties. I have also taken my kayak to the ocean to surf a few times, but I have to be very careful when I roll because I don't want to reinjure myself.

My big waterfall days are over, but that is really a very small part of boating. I can't wait to go creeking again this winter....

See you on the river!

Editor's note:
Several months after Jason Rackley's accident another boater broke his back at Spirit Falls. That boater is currently in recovery.

Jason Rackley maintains a website, Oregon Kayaking, that contains additional articles and photos from the Pacific Northwest.
It’s been a bad year for whitewater kayaking accidents, especially on the East Coast. American Whitewater has received reports of 15 kayaking fatalities; 3 outside the U.S., for a total of 12 in country. If this trend continues, the year 2001 will break records. But there is a possible explanation. The majority of kayaking accidents in previous years have involved skilled whitewater boaters, but this year 4 of the 12 kayak accident victims were inexperienced. Without them, the count would be close to what we’ve seen over the last five years.

Only five canoeing deaths were reported, reflecting a decline in the sport’s popularity relative to kayaking. Most of these victims were novices. The six rafting fatalities reported here are also less than usual. I believe it’s a result of low water out West, where rafts are most popular. Nonetheless, there are some disturbing stories among them.

The reports are based on a variety of sources, including newspaper clippings and personal accounts. Most were posted to rec.boats.paddle, boattalk.com, mountainbuzz.com, and various canoe club bulletin boards. Paddlers involved in accidents have come to understand that the best way to deal with a fatality is to cut the gossip short by publishing a full and complete account of what happened on line. Because there is no way for me to check all these forums for useful material, I am in debt to Kathy Streletzky, Slim Ray, Aida Parkinson, Bud Chavez, Vince Thompson, Darren Albright, Rich Kulawiec, Tim Bromelkamp, Matt Muir, and the board and staff of American Whitewater for forwarding this material when they encountered it. Kevin Suweski, a Canadian who has corresponded with me for many years, was forced to resign from his information gathering activities this past spring. He is badly missed, and I encourage everyone reading this report to help me out by forwarding anything you can find on the net relative to accidents and river safety.

Kayaking Accidents

There were three accidents resulting from small losses of boat control on Class V whitewater. The first occurred last winter, while repairs were being made to the flume at the Waterville, N.C. power plant on the Big Pigeon River. This forced the power company to release water into the Dry Gorge for the first time in decades. This short Class V run is located along 1-40 beside the northern border of the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. The take-out is right on the Tennessee border. During the past 30 years “The Dries” has been just that, and it was seldom run until this past season. A rare dry Southeastern winter combined with these releases allowed hundreds of boaters to check it out.

On February 15th, with the water level at a moderate 750 cfs, Ed Owens made his first run on this section with two friends. Owens, 25, was a veteran Class V boater. At “Chinese Arithmetic,” a brutal Class V drop, he was ferrying towards a large eddy when he hit a submerged rock on the eddy line and flipped. Jason Keith and Larry Norman saw what happened next. Owens missed two rolls, dropped into the top hole, and recirculated for 3-5 minutes. Owens’s two companions set up a tethered swimmer rescue and were within an arm’s length of grabbing him when he washed over a second, twisting drop into a large eddy. This is a pretty serious swim, but Keith did it to keep Owens from washing into a third dropping containing several known undercut and sieves. Keith pulled Owens ashore and began CPR. While one boater remained to assist him, the others climbed the steep bank to the Interstate and flagged a passing trucker who in turn called for help. The Haywood County Fire department carried Owens up the steep bank and transported him to Haywood Regional Medical Center. Despite fine rescue efforts from everyone concerned he was pronounced dead there.

Owens was a skilled boater who had been running hard whitewater for a while. It’s unclear why he chose to paddle out in front and run this drop blind. When I ran this section with Lee Belknap in June I wasn’t going over any of those blind, obstructed drops without scouting or getting a briefing from Lee first. Keith credits his full wet suit for allowing him to keep functioning despite the cold. He also would also like to thank the two Dagger reps who were paddling behind Owens’s party. They continued downstream, contacted the authorities separately, then returned to the scene. While the Owens and Keith groups were being interviewed by police they pulled everyone’s boats up to the road. A very classy thing to do!

Lower Mill Creek, which flows into the New River Gorge below Anstead, West Virginia, is one of the most difficult runs in the state. It has many Class V rapids complicated by undercuts and boulder sieves. Jon Nickolas, 31, a strong kayaker who worked for the National Park Service, encountered trouble here on February 17th. Near the end of the run there is a sharp vertical drop followed by a fast turn to avoid the undercut left bank. Nickolas flipped, his bow became stuck in the overhanging rockwall, and the water pushed his
stern over to create a pinch pin. His front wall folded over and his deck collapsed, making escape impossible. His two paddling partners, assisted by a three-boat party just upstream, set up a Z-drag and released the boat in just 8 minutes! They began CPR and sent for help. Nickolas was quickly transported to a hospital in Charleston, and friends were hopeful that the fast rescue and very cold water would be enough to save him. This was not to be. After clinging to life for three days, he died in intensive care on February 20th.

Brennan Guth, an internationally know kayaker, video star, and instructor, died on the Palguin River near Pucon, Chile on March 15th. Guth, 32, who had run this river several times, was accompanied by Eric Neiss, a veteran NOC instructor who he had met on the Futaleufu River the week before. That day Guth ran several drops that are normally portaged with great skill and confidence. Then the pair arrived at a series of falls above the take-out. There is a deep cave in the runout of the last eight-foot drop. Guth was trashed in a hole and forced to swim. Neiss said in his account that he saw what happened, carried the drop, and approached the cave. Guth was OK, floating about 30 feet back of the cave entrance with his partially submerged boat bobbing to one side. He was holding the roof and sides with his hands.

Both paddlers had lost their throw ropes on a “first descent mini-epic” the previous week. After Guth tried and failed to climb out of the cave, Neiss attempted to reach him by lashing together several 20 foot lengths of bamboo. When this fell short, the pair discussed their options, including the possibility that Guth could remove his PFD and swim down to a possible cave exit. They agreed that Neiss should leave to find help.

Twenty minutes later Neiss returned, followed five minutes later by two local men carrying several hundred feet of 1/2” polypropylene. By now Guth was getting quite cold, and he had removed his PFD and helmet. After the locals attempted to throw the rope into the cave from a point 100 feet upstream, Neiss clipped the middle of the rope to his kayak security bar and maneuvered the free end of rope, with a hand-loop tied in, right to Guth. He did this several times, but Guth was probably too weak and cold to hold on. Neiss called to him and got a weak response. He then tied the rope to his PFD rescue harness, paddled into position, and bailed out. By the time he reached the back of the cave, Guth had disappeared. His body was recovered the next day roughly 40 feet below the surface by a SCUBA diver from Temuco, assisted by regional police and guides from the Trellin Outdoor Center. It turns out there was no underwater exit to the cave.

Neiss concluded his report by saying, “I know that if I had done things differently, Brennan would likely be alive now. This is a hard truth, and I will make my peace with it.” I would change his harsh “would likely” to a more realistic “might possibly.” For the benefit of future paddlers, I’ll discuss a few of the “might have beens.” Much discussion has focused on the missing throw rope, but everyone familiar with the area has emphasized that a single throw rope would not have been long enough. Neiss was smart to attach a dry bag to the loop at the end of the rope to provide extra flotation and visibility. Given the unknown nature of the cave, Guth’s decision to remove his PFD was not a good one. If worn, the PFD would have kept him on the surface until help arrived. If a rescue vest lower had been done when the rope first arrived, they might have reached him. But it’s also clear from the description that getting a tethered swimmer into position was not easy. It also made sense to attempt less dangerous options before lowering a tethered swimmer into the cave. Aggressive underwater swimming in the cave, though limited by the PFD, might or might not have found an exit. A third paddler could certainly have helped out by pooling gear, muscle, and brainpower. But none of these options guarantee success.
The next two accidents involved novice paddlers who encountered strainers while running moderate white water. On March 31st, Nancy Roberts, 38, drowned when her sit-on-top kayak washed into a strainer on the South Fork, a tributary of the Trinity River in Northern California. Slim Ray reported that she and her partner were practicing search procedures with the Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department when they both hit a logjam in Class III water. Her partner fought his way through the obstacle in time to see Roberts hit the pile of wood and fall off her boat. He retrieved the kayak, but could not find her. Ten minutes later her PFD popped to the surface, zipped and fastened. Her partner ran out of the canyon to a call box and dialed 911. Firefighters searched the area without success. The next day, after the water level had dropped 1-1/2 feet, a helicopter spotted her body beneath the water. Bulldozer reopened an existing road to the site, and a backhoe was used to dismantle the strainer. When the last log was pulled out, Robert’s body floated to the surface with her kayak paddle wrapped completely around her.

Slippery Rock Creek, a popular destination for intermediate kayakers in Western Pennsylvania, was the scene of a tragic triple fatality on April 8th. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that Neil Balcer, 23, met his death while running the Class II lower stretch of Slippery Rock below Eckart Bridge. Balcer, a novice paddler, spotted a downed tree just above the Harris Bridge take-out. He flipped while taking evasive action and made several roll attempts before washing into the strainer. He became solidly pinned about 20 feet from shore. His PFD and helmet washed off and were recovered in an eddy below. Boaters in the vicinity rushed to the scene, but there was nothing they could do.

When firefighters arrived, paddlers told them that Balcer had been underwater for 45 minutes and was clearly dead. They suggested that they use a chain saw to cut the downed tree loose from shore. But the dive team from the Unionville Volunteer Fire Department had another plan. They elected to have two men approach the strainer from upstream. Lines from shore were tied to static harnesses (which have no quick release), a procedure which has resulted in many firefighter deaths nationwide. In addition, the two men were connected by an additional line, which created a serious snag hazard. Minutes later something went terribly wrong. It’s not clear if the pair lost their footing or something became snagged, but the ropes pulled Anthony Murdick, 25, and Scott Wilson, 25, underwater. A few minutes later the ropes were ordered cut, but by then it was too late. Both men, married with young children, were killed. The pair was dead when they washed ashore below Harris Bridge. The next day firefighters cut the downed tree at the shoreline, allowing Balcer and his kayak to float free. This incident teaches us the importance of swiftwater rescue training, and that we shouldn’t take unnecessary risks to recover a person who is already dead.

In late June there were two more fatalities involving inexperienced paddlers and strainers. On June 25th Laurel Walker, 21, was paddling the Diamond Fork River in Utah with her husband. According to an article from the Salt Lake City Tribune forwarded by Rob Heineman they were attempting to get out and portage a strainer when she flipped and washed beneath it. Local firefighters and search and rescue personnel were able to pull her free 40 minutes later.

The next day Gretchen Nyce, 59, was paddling the Class I-II Lower Loyalsock Creek near Barbour, Pennsylvania when she and her husband flipped their K-2. According to articles in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette forwarded by Russ Cowles, she was swept under a strainer and disappeared. The water level was 5.6 feet at Loyalsockville, Pa., which is medium-high. Her husband thought he saw her go...
under a log as he was carried downriver. He made it to shore, searched the area, and notified authorities when he was unsuccessful. Her body was located after a five-hour search by shore-based rescuers, boats, and dive units.

But strainers are not just dangerous to inexperienced people, in the two accounts that follow, they claimed the lives of expert paddlers on opposite ends of the country:

With a record snowpack piled high in the mountains, New England experienced its longest sustained period of high water in many years. On April 20th air temperatures were moderate and Vermont’s Middlebury River, a tiny, steep Class V run, was at an ideal water level. That afternoon Chris Wolski, 23, a strong Class V kayaker, was making his third run of the day with four experienced friends. According to a brief report posted by Justin Beckwith, a member of his party, the accident happened at “Rebirth,” a medium-sized ledge. Wolski, running fourth, disappeared at the lip (as expected) but did not reappear. Although he was under only a few feet of water he was completely hidden. With very little daylight left the group mobilized for a rescue and sent for help. After 20 minutes the force of the river pulled off Wolski’s life vest and helmet, suggesting a severe pin. The group now hypothesizes that Wolski entered the rapid further to the right and with less speed than the others. His bow hit the boof rock, spinning him right into a large corner rock that had collected considerable debris. His bow then folded over a log, breaking his lower legs and holding him in place. The accident occurred in a constricted, sheer walled gorge, overhung in places and covered with snow and ice. There was no way to reach Wolski until the water dropped. His body was recovered weeks later still trapped in the kayak.

California’s North Fork of the Yuba was the scene of a second fatal encounter with a hidden strainer. On May David Ranson, described as a “solid Class V paddler” by those who knew him, was paddling the Union Flat to Goodyear’s Bar section with four other boaters. John Jerger, who was in his group, reported what happened: Soon after putting in, they reached a steep Class III gravel bar rapid. As he paddled down, Jerger noticed what he thought was a pointy, barely submerged rock in a wave train. As he looked back upstream he saw that Ranson, 34, was caught on something mid-stream. Everyone pushed back upstream to help. Ranson was pinned perpendicular to the current on a hidden obstacle, with the bottom of the boat facing upriver. He’d lost his paddle, but seemed to be alert and relatively stable. The group got a line to him, and tried pulling from several different directions without success. They sent someone up to Highway 49 to get help. Then they tried wading out to him, but the water was too deep and fast. By now, Ranson’s strength was failing. The relentless force of the icy water was pivoting his kayak downstream. As the boat pivoted, it sank. Ranson let go of the first rope. A second one was thrown to him, but he could not hold on and slumped under water.

The group set up a snag line and worked it until rescuers arrived on the scene. A large, well-trained crew set up a 5:1 mechanical advantage, but the snag line couldn’t budge the boat. They pulled from several directions before quitting for the night. The next day more men and gear arrived. They set up a raft lower using a small shredder-style cataract and were able to place the boat right above Ranson. Photos sent as a part of the police report by David’s wife, Susan, show the men working in a powerful Class III wave train. They determined that Ranson’s kayak was pinned on a protruding branch on a log. The limb went through his sprayskirt, across his right hip, and punctured his left thigh. Recovery took...
several hours. Given the unusual nature of the pin and the forces involved it’s doubtful that any known rescue technique would have saved him.

These latter two strainers fall under the heading of "objective danger" - a term used by mountaineers to describe unseen or unpredictable hazards like avalanches or rockfall. These are always a factor in outdoor sports. There is also the element of good or bad luck, as is shown by the next report.

The North Fork of the Sauk in Washington State is a steep, technical creek run with an impressive 187 fpm gradient. On June 26th, with the river running at a low 500 cfs, a three-person group attempted the run. Among them was Kay Denfeld, 57, a very experienced local kayaker. She was having a great day. There are a series of steep drops at the beginning of the run, followed by a fast, technical section. A posting to the Washington Kayak Club bulletin board by one of her companions described what happened: Denfeld flipped on a wave and washed into a bad boulder sieve on river left. Here she became trapped underwater between the rocks and her back deck. Her friends quickly scrambled upstream to help her. One man, trying to leap onto her boat, hit the water and washed under a rock. The pair then crawled out onto a log jam where one man delayed the other into position so that a rope could be attached to Denfeld’s grab loop. When they pulled the boat free, Denfeld fell out and floated downriver, unconscious. The pair chased her down, pulled her ashore, and began CPR. The Snohomish County Rescue team arrived with a defibrillator, but they were unsuccessful.

In the next three incidents, health problems may have caused a manageable situation to get out of control. Garland Reece, former president of the Coastal Canoeists and the good friend of many Mid-States paddlers, drowned on the James River "breaks" through Richmond, Virginia. Reece, 48, was a solid paddler who was very familiar with this stretch. Although it was running high at 10 feet (20,000 cfs+), he had made the run often at this and significantly higher flows. He’d been battling Hepatitis C for some time, and the drug regimen left him depleted. He had good days and bad days, depending on how the drugs were affecting him. On March 25th he felt better, so he joined a large group of 10-15 paddlers at the put-in. Bernie Farmer, the current president of the Coastal Canoeists, joined several others in describing what happened next.

Reece flipped in the first turn below First Break, and uncharacteristically exited after four or five roll attempts. A boater tried to tow him and his boat to shore, and some observers believe that they could have gotten Reece to safety if he had let go of his gear. But this did not happen until the pair was at the lip of Hollywood Rapids. Here Reece released his hold on his boat, then let go of his rescuer. He flushed through Hollywood Rapid and towards the shore of Belie Island where he washed under a debris pile. He was held under for a minute or so before flushing out. Boaters downstream grabbed him, pulled his head up, and paddled him towards shore. They were met by a human chain that lifted him from the river and began CPR. Soon afterwards a fire captain arrived and took over the resuscitation efforts. An ambulance arrived ten minutes later and took Reece to a nearby hospital. He never revived and was pronounced dead.

It’s clear that Reece’s physical condition contributed to this accident, and this is something that could happen to any of us. We all want to be on the river with our friends, and remember all too well what we could do easily when we are well. When you are thinking of paddling but are feeling sub-par, remember what happened here.

On May 26th a kayaker drowned on the popular "Numbers" section of Colorado’s Arkansas River. This section was running at
2.350 cfs, a level local paddlers describe as high and pushy. Peter James, 35, was running the river with another paddler. In rapid #5, he got caught in a hole and bailed out. Posting to Mountainbuzz.com said that James’s buddy got him safely into an eddy, then chased after his gear. This was no easy job at this water level! When he returned, James was unconscious. He began CPR, and soon afterwards a man panning for gold used his cell phone to dial 911. Two other kayakers arrived and assisted with CPR until rescue squads arrived. They remarked that James was equipped with a drysuit and other relevant safety gear. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful. There is a rumor that James, who had recently moved to the area from Ohio, may have suffered a heart attack, but I have no confirmation of this.

Rick “Purple” Hayes, a popular British Columbia kayak instructor, died on the Chiliwack River on May 31. Not much is known about what happened to this man, known for his purple paddling gear and a love of Jimmy Hendrix’s music. The Vancouver Sun reported that Hayes, 46, left his home at about 2:30 p.m. Just before 5 p.m. his body, wearing all the correct gear, was spotted floating in the river downstream of Surprise Rapid, a popular park n’ play spot. Local boaters speculate that there were others at the site initially, but that he was probably alone when the incident occurred. He was diabetic, but it’s unclear if this played a role in the accident.

The following two reports both center on two marginally experienced solo paddlers who were way out of their depth on high water rivers. On April 10th on Ontario’s Grand River a strange scene unfolded. Kevin Suweski and John O’Leary forwarded material describing what happened. With the river flooding (It was running more than 18,000 cfs; a normal run is about 600 cfs) Samuel Gillis, 35, launched his kayak into the current and flipped on the eddyline. He was not wearing any cold water gear, and he had tied himself to the kayak with a PFD tow harness. He floated downriver until the harness became snagged in a tree. Firefighters responded, but could not reach him easily. By the time they got him to shore he was dead of hypothermia.

On June 15th at 4:40 p.m. a motorist reported that he’d seen a kayak floating down the Indian Head River near Marshfield, Massachusetts upside down. The water was very high, and the boat eventually washed up on the side of the river. Rescue squads were called, and they retrieved the home-made kayak with some difficulty. Matthew Hiller, 18, was found trapped inside, his foot caught inside the boat. He’d apparently been boating alone. They began CPR, and at the hospital they tried extended resuscitation because the water was cold. They were not successful, and Hiller was pronounced dead at 11:00 p.m.

Canoeing Accidents

All but one of the accidents in this section involved inexperienced people. On April 11th David Golley, 19, disappeared on Chittenango Creek in Central New York State after a boat he was paddling with a friend capsized. Local kayakers joined the search of this Class III river as the water dropped from its previous high level. Pieces of the victim’s canoe were found. An (unidentified) article I received mentioned that the search had just finished its ninth day. I have no further details, and anyone who knows what happened is urged to contact AW.

Tragedy struck Tennessee’s Big South Fork of the Cumberland on April 15th. Bob Wheeley, a former area outfitter, told AW Safety Chair Lee Belknap that Donald Hunt, 9, was on an overnight trip with his father, sister, and a second adult in two canoes. Water levels were medium-high. The group missed the portage for Angel Falls, a nasty women’s paddles, lifejackets, gloves, water wear, helmets and much more.
Class IV drop that was created when state fisheries personnel dynamited a 12-foot ledge in the 1920s to create a fish ladder. Three of the paddlers flushed through the right channel unharmed. All were wearing PFDs but still had trouble getting to shore. Young Hunt became caught by a bad undercut in the left channel. An interagency rescue team consisting of National Park Service and local EMS personnel used an underwater camera to locate the body, and made a successful recovery four days later.

April 22nd was a warm spring day in New Hampshire, with temperatures rising into the mid-80s. The Contoocook River was flowing at near-flood levels when Glen Greenhalgh, 50, and his 17-year-old son arrived at the Ramsdell Road Bridge just outside Henniker, NH. The Greenhalghs had lived in town for years, had never run the river, and now planned to paddle the Class II section just upstream. They had life vests, no wetsuits, and a lake canoe with a keel and low freeboard. They discussed the run briefly with Tom McIntyre, a paddler very familiar with the river. Greenhalgh said he had run whitewater before in Northern Maine. Although Greenhalgh had talked about paddling along with McIntyre, he and his son headed off downstream ahead of him. According to area paddler Roger Belson, witnesses said that the canoe flipped just above a wing dam in Class II+ water near the end of the run. The son made it to shore, but his father washed into the hydraulic behind the “wing,” recirculated for about five minutes, then floated downstream unconscious. Firefighters were called and after a quick search they located and recovered his body a half mile downstream.

The Delaware River is a popular Class I-II run located along the eastern Pennsylvania border. The National Park Service morning report reported two canoeing accidents here this past June. On June 4th a woman “fell into the water” while paddling in Stairway Rapids (Class I). She was not wearing a PFD. Her friend administered CPR on the Pennsylvania side without success. On June 21st two men rented a canoe in Barryville, NY to repeat a trip they had made together for the past 18 years. At Shohola Rapid (Class II) they hit a rock and flipped. The men could stand here, so one man wrestled with the canoe while the other man, 70, headed for shore. The man holding the canoe was swept downstream, so he let go of the boat and also swam for shore. He didn’t see what happened to his friend; when he couldn’t find him he hiked out 45 minutes to a phone and called 911. Park Service personnel arrived and soon retrieved the boat and the body of his friend. The survivor was wearing his life vest; the victim’s PFD was found tied to the boat.

Sometime in late June Richard Cook, 70, flipped a motorized canoe on Alaska’s Tatonduk River. Cook was far from inexperienced. He had been living a subsistence lifestyle in a rustic riverside cabin about 23 miles upriver from Eagle, Alaska. The canoe was his primary mode of summer travel. When residents reported him missing the National Park Service began an intensive search. According to the NPS Morning Report his canoe was found swamped and overturned several miles below the cabin. It’s not clear what caused the accident. His body was recovered on June 25th.

Rafting Accidents

In the first two reports, cheap rafts and the absence of life vests combined to take a toll on inexperienced floaters. On March 28th a man took his son and stepson, both 11 years old, fishing on Colorado’s South Platte River. He bought a cheap vinyl raft, which carried warnings against use on moving water. As they were loading the boat it got loose and was swept downstream with the two boys aboard. Neither one was wearing a life vest. One boy made it to shore, but...
Keith Gallegos, who was wearing heavy boots, did not. His father ran into the creek to catch them and broke his leg while attempting a rescue. Articles in the Rocky Mountain News and Denver Post reported that a group of kayakers, alerted to the unfolding events by a fisherman, found Gallegos pinned against a mid-stream rock. They pulled him out of the river and began CPR. One of them drove several miles down the road to find a phone and notified authorities. Deputies publicly praised their efforts.

Paul Gallegos, the boy's father, was indicted for felony child abuse following the incident. The indictment reads that he "recklessly put the children in danger" by allowing them to get in the raft without PFDs. While this is a violation of common safety practices, I feel that pressing criminal charges, which carry up to 52 years in prison, is truly excessive. The man meant his son no harm and is no danger to society. According to his ex-wife he loved his son and always treated him well. He injured himself severely while attempting a rescue. His loss is punishment enough.

On May 16 a man and his 19 year old stepdaughter attempted to run South Boulder Creek between Rollinsville and Pinecliffe, Colorado. Aaron Weinsheimer, an AW member who assisted with the search, reports that this serious Class IV creek was carrying 600 cfs. The pair was using a cheap vinyl raft and did not wear life vests. Their boat flipped in a rapid and both passengers were carried downstream. The man made it to shore safely but the woman, Margaret Murphy, was swept into a strainer at a bridge pier several miles downstream.

In three other instances, long swims in cold water resulted in flush-drownings. Two occurred on one boat trip, so they had no back-up. On May 19 a single four-man raft was running the South Fork of the Boise River in Southern Idaho. This 16 mile long Class III run below Anderson Ranch Dam was running at 1,600 cfs, a moderate flow. The raft hit a rock and flipped about halfway through the run. Everyone clung to the raft as it washed downstream. Eventually two people made it ashore. But Robert Campbell, 58, and Amy Gerver, 41 perished even though they were wearing wet suits, life vests, and helmets. Another party found Campbell's body, reached the take-out, and sounded the alarm. A massive search involving Elmore County SAR, the Civil Air Patrol, the Army National Guard, and Mountain Home Air Force Base's Outdoor Adventure program...
began immediately. Gerver’s body was spotted by a Black Hawk helicopter early the next morning, wedged under a log.

On the morning of May 28th a lone four-man raft flipped on the Pilar section of New Mexico’s Rio Grande river at high water (2,500 cfs). Abe Jacobson, who spoke to raft outfitters and BLM personnel, said that the raft hit a large hole mid-river at “The Eye Of The Needle.” The hole is not very retentive and can be easily avoided on either side. All four occupants went swimming. A commercial raft picked up two stranded swimmers, then paddled downriver where they found a third swimmer giving CPR to a fourth. Margaret Coyne, 57, swam the entire length of "The Narrows" and flush-drowned. Guides continued CPR until EMTs made their way down from the highway above. Despite these intense efforts the woman did not recover.

Lastly, a local Maine man fell out of his raft while paddling the Kennebec River Gorge in early July. This is one of the premier big-water runs in the Northeast. The New England Paddler’s Message Board had these facts: The river was flowing at a moderate 6,800 cfs. The man fell out in “Big Mama” and floated until he was pulled to shore in the pool above “Magic Falls.” He suffered a heart attack during the swim, and died despite aggressive efforts by commercial and private boaters on the scene to save him. Some of my most strenuous river experiences have been swims. If you have a hidden heart problem I guarantee that a long big-water swim is likely to uncover it!

Sometimes having several boats along on a trip is not enough. The National Park Service reported that George Zeiter drowned on Alaska’s Charley River on June 11th. Zeiter, 41, was part of a group of six men in 2 canoes and 2 inflatable kayaks that ran a long set of heavy rapids with large standing waves. The group was clearly overmatched. Three of the four boats flipped, putting five people into the water. All but Zeiter made it safely to shore; he was last seen floating passively downstream. In this case, the presence of a backup boat made no difference because only one person was available for rescue and he was probably fully engaged with the river. The group was stranded until June 11th, when the survivors were able to catch the attention of a passing aircraft with a signal mirror. The body was recovered a mile downriver, and all signs suggest a flush-drowning resulting from the high, cold water.

I’d like once again to offer thanks to everyone who sends me e-mails, news clippings, and internet postings to make this twice-yearly summary possible. AW needs all the help it can get with this project! Don’t worry, I don’t mind getting duplicate submissions. Be sure to let me know if your name or any other information in a report should be kept confidential. The address: Charlie Walbridge, AW Safety Editor, Rt. 1, Box A 43B, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525; Phone 304-379-9002; E-mail: ccwalbridge@cs.com.

Remembering Brennan Guth

Brennan Guth was one of those people who had contagious enthusiasm, a strong sense of ethics, and willingness to share with other people. Brennan contributed a lot to the world around him, and specifically to the paddling community. He did not really die doing what he loved, but he lived his life doing what he loved. Something for all of us to hold on to.

In March memorial services were held in Brennan’s hometown in Missoula, Montana. On Saturday afternoon a celebration of Brennan’s life occurred in a large auditorium at the University. This was the same room in which Brennan had entertained many folks with slideshows and stories from his paddling trips around the world. The capacity of the room was 500 people, and the room was full.

Following the service, a gathering took place at the Iron Horse - a local bar/restaurant that was part of Brennan’s circuit. The place was packed and stories of Brennan filled the night.

On Sunday morning a more private service was held down at Tarkio - the place by the Clarks Fork River where Brennan and his dad had been constructing an amazing river house. This was a place Brennan had dreamed about, and one of his spots. Close friends and family gathered next to the river on a rocky beach just upstream of the entrance to Tarkio Gorge. Bagpipes played in the light misty rain. After Brennan’s ashes were spread we formed a circle, and each shared a word or a thought to Brennan, or about Brennan.

Sunday afternoon a motivated gang of paddlers paddled the Alberton Gorge, Brennan’s backyard run. Under a cold misty rain the paddlers surfed, played and floated. We were on the river with Brennan.

The weekend was powerful, as we all gathered to celebrate the full, but all too brief, life that Brennan lived. His passion, his ethic, his sharing with others, his smile and his willingness to explore the unknown are qualities that we will hold on to when we remember this sparkplug from Montana.

In memory of Brennan, Tarkio Kayak Adventures will remain alive throughout this season. We believe we can offer the highest quality instruction on some of the finest rivers in the West. It will be a way for all of us to paddle the rivers Brennan loved, and to continue sharing those places with other people.

We want to thank each of you for your love, support, and good stories/memories that you have shared with us. Keep in touch. If any of you are ever in Montana come see us. Take care of yourselves out there. Hold on to what Brennan gave you - we will.

Johnnie Kern, Land Heflin, Dunbar Hardy, and Laura Wackman

www.teamtarkio.com
Every so often I would read the accident reports involving kayakers. At times I would worry that my husband's name might be printed there someday. But I always pushed that thought aside. There wasn't any way that I could tell my husband to stop kayaking because he was so happy paddling through whitewater. I didn't want to take that away from him.

My husband, David Ranson, was an awesome boater. Over the past nine years, he kayaked many Class IV and V rivers in Canada and the United States. He paddled the Gauley, Yough, Ottawa, Yuba, Lower Green, Big Sandy, Meadow, and many other difficult rivers. Every weekend, David would either kayak on rivers or pray to the rain gods so he could kayak on rivers.

David's love for kayaking gave him a deep respect for whitewater. He completed courses on whitewater safety, read books on river rescue strategies, and studied the rivers before going on them. But none of this could have prevented the accident.

There is no way I can describe how I felt when I found out my husband was trapped under the water. David was paddling the Union Flat to the Goodyear's Bar section on the North Yuba with four other kayakers. A tree limb, mostly hidden under the water, pierced through the cockpit of David's kayak. The tree limb went across David's right hip and punctured his left thigh. He was pinned and there was no way out. The other boaters threw him a line. Though David held on, he was unable to pull himself out of the boat. Eventually, he slumped into the water where he remained pinned in his kayak. Thirty rescue workers struggled for two days to free David from the river.

I am so very grateful to everyone involved in the rescue effort including the Downieville Fire Department, Sierra City Fire Department, Yuba County Sheriffs Office Swift River Rescue Team, Nevada County Sheriffs Office Swift River Rescue Team, El Dorado Country Sheriffs Office Swift River Rescue Team, and the Sierra County Sheriffs Office. Thank you for giving me a chance to say goodbye.

Suzanne Ranson

I was asleep when Suzanne called and told me about the boating accident. I was expecting her to say that he was in the hospital or a little beaten up. My heart sank when she told me that Dave had drowned. We talked for awhile about what might have been going on in Dave's head during his struggle. The whole thing really didn't hit me until the next morning when I started to cry.

I first paddled with Dave about six years ago. I ran into him on the Slippery Rock in Pennsylvania. When I found out that he lived about 20 minutes from me we started to boat together often. Over the course of the next four and a half years, until Dave moved to San Francisco, Dave, Rick Burchfield and I traveled a lot together. Dave was a good kayaker, we ran a lot of rivers together, mainly in West Virginia; the Big Sandy, Upper Yough, North Fork of the Blackwater, and even the Narrows of the Green at 200%. I could always count on Dave to go paddling in the cold, since a lot of our local stuff mostly runs in the wintertime. After Dave moved to California about two years ago I had planned on going to San Francisco to visit, but he was very busy with his work. I wish now that I could have gone to see him one last time, but I never thought that this could have happened to him.

Dave had said before they put on the river that he wasn't feeling 100%. maybe he had a bad feeling, but he went anyway. It wasn't a bad rapid that got Dave, it was a tree in a Class III wave train. It always seems that the bad stuff happens in the easier rapids, not the big ones, where you're totally focused. I've had a few close calls in my nine years of paddling, but you never think it will end like this. I think about Dave a lot, and I know that where he is now, there is always good water and no trees lurking under the surface. I miss you Dave and so do many others.
KAYAK ECUADOR
As good as it gets!

WHY KAYAK WITH US?

• SWA’s own riverside cabins
• Over 50 kayaks to choose from
• Trips in Ecuador since 1994
• US guides and local staff
• 7-day beginner to expert trips
• Small groups and group discounts

www.smallworldadventures.com • E-mail: info@smallworldadventures.com

What Are You Doing This Winter?
With improvements in technology boat designs are becoming more radical and new freestyle moves are being developed. Some of these new moves were first discovered while getting chundered. Now, with a little work and study these new moves can be perfected and performed purposely to stun the crowds.

A move now known as the Tricky-Whu is being performed at play spots everywhere. In this article we want to show you how this move looks and how it is performed.

This fancy new maneuver takes place on only one paddle blade and requires good balance (stomach muscles) and edge control (upper/lower body separation). Tricky-Whu starts with the initiation of a cartwheel on the bow. Once the stern becomes vertical, it is time to split it up (split-wheel) and initiate the stern end in the opposite direction.

Up until this point the move has been fairly easy, since it has only been a split-wheel. But now the second half of the trick must be added on. It is critical to completely initiate the stern until the bow is vertical. Once the bow has achieved this position, three things need to happen: The same blade used to initiate the stern turns into an open face draw, your head must turn in the direction you want the boat to go, and a change of edge must take place.

You want the boat to stern pirouette (180-degree rotation) around your planted paddle blade. Once your bow comes around to face upstream again, roll your paddle over and slam the bow of your kayak back into an end. Keeping your weight forward during the pivot will allow you to stay over your boat instead of falling over vertically on your head. It also makes it easier to role your blade over to create the smash (back stroke) needed to continue cartwheeling.

Remember that this entire sequence is performed on only one paddle blade. The Tricky-Whu is broken down into a change in direction (split-wheel) and stern pirouette.

A common mistake is letting your stern flatten out on the split, which causes you to back ender instead of stern pirouette around your planted blade. The Tricky-Whu is most easily performed after getting comfortable in the hole and near the end of your ride, when flushing out of the hole is less frustrating.

Editor’s note: I do not believe that I have ever done Tricky-Whu (Wu, Woo, Whew, or Wuu??), at least intentionally. But over the past several months I have received a number of articles about it. In every case it has been spelled differently! So, I give up. Can someone please tell me how to spell Tricky Whateverthehellitis?!? As always... Dazed and Confused!
This tale begins like many kayaking tales. It ends similarly too, but it
does twist in the middle. It was a sunny day when "the plan" to paddle a
well known Californian creek crept into the agenda. "The plan" wavered
on the brink of destruction for the better part of the morning as other
possibilities were entertained. Finally, "the plan" won out.

By afternoon, after returning home to retrieve forgotten and trade the playboat for
a leaky creekboat, a loaded down green pick-up truck filled with three hopeful passengers
drove down the highway. Sunset blanketed flatlands near Marysville with a golden brill-
liance. Sadly, none of the logistics were nearly as confident as "the plan." The plan
was to run the Bald Rock section of the Middle Fork of the Feather. We spent that
night camped on the side of the road, then next morning we began to search through
the labyrinth of logging roads and private driveways that might lead to the put-in and
take-out.

There ain't much happening in these neck of the woods. The locals either don't know
about the Yosemite-like paradise in their backyards, or they ain't tellin'. We managed
to glean a few clues from random sources.
Our scavenger hunt prizes included a bad Xerox copy of a TOPO map, a rumor about a certain Mr. Jon Johnson whose property was a good take-out, a compass, that up until this point had seemed useless, and a bit of an understanding about mountains, rivers, roads and how they intertwined with each other.

Finding the put-in turned out to be as easy as a five and under jigsaw puzzle, but locating the take-out was as complicated as a Japanese electronics device manual. The options seemed to be a thirteen mile paddle across a lake, a 2.3 mile hike straight up switch backs, or finding among the haystack of no trespassing locked gates the golden residence of Mr. Jon Johnson. We searched for the illusive man to no avail.

Finally we decided that the hike out would be better than the flatwater paddle. This is where the story twists. The adventure becomes solo. I am the shuttle-bunny, not to be confused with tag-along. Without a shuttle, this trip would be more of a hassle than it would be worth. After dropping the boys off, I retraced my way through the back country maze with my radio blasting Hank Williams Jr. I was hoping that I could again spot the twisted tree that marks the take-out road.

I got a flat tire and could not figure out how to detach the spare from the truck bed. After all, I am the shuttle bunny, not a car wiz. After dealing with that issue, I hiked down to the river to see if the Trail to the take-out was reasonable. This resulted in a bad case of poison oak. I ate boiled eggs and tuna.

When the guys arrived I helped carry wet gear up the hill to make the load a tad bit easier.

Next morning I was up at the crack of dawn, as excited as they were about another creek, possibly a first descent. I spent that day in the truck writing this article, while hail threatened to shatter the windshield. I am writing this on behalf of all shuttle bunnies. We sit and listen to you debate your options and only point out obvious idiocies. We think about all the details that you overlook. We trudge up the river to see you run some knarly drops, and just for the challenge of seeing how far upstream we can get before the cliffs become sheer.

Shuttle bunnies are the first to hear your stories as you come off the river, cold and excited, eyes adrenaline filled and hearts pumping. We are the last ones to look around to make sure you didn’t leave your pogies on the ground.

The jokes about shuttle bunnies are endless, but one thing is for sure. Without that girlfriend or brother or long lost cousin to drive you around, you might be stuck running the same easy roadside stretch over and over again. Or you could spend an entire day setting your own Class V shuttle...instead of running a Class V waterfall!

I shuttle because it is fun. Even without going down the river, the excitement is contagious, the stories are hilarious, and the food is awful. Sleeping outside is better than a warm bed, and cowboy coffee beats out Starbucks any morning. The biggest pay-off to spending a day driving around some desolate canyon is that the next day you bad-ass paddlers sometimes demean yourselves by spending time on Class III runs going over proper forward strokes and braces with those of us who are beginners.

The jokes about shuttle bunnies are endless, but one thing is for sure. Without that girlfriend or brother or long lost cousin to drive you around, you might be stuck running the same easy roadside stretch over and over again. Or you could spend an entire day setting your own Class V shuttle...instead of running a Class V waterfall!

So you’ve seen the latest kayaks, canoes and playboats. You’ve studied the specs and eyed the edges, but you really want to paddle it before you buy it. NOC’s staff of paddling professionals understands this urge to “try before you buy,” which is why at NOC’s stores in Wesser and in Asheville, we’ve got an unbeatable selection of this year’s hottest models for you to test paddle!

And when you buy a boat from NOC, you’ll get a free one-year membership in American Whitewater, a national advocate for whitewater preservation (a $25 value). As part of your membership, you’ll get six issues of American Whitewater’s magazine! Does not include used or sale boats. New memberships only.
Boaters vs. Fishermen, 

*a different perspective.*

By Peter Engel

I’ve long since ceased to keep count of how many boaters in New England have said “IT” as we scouted some eye-opener of a drop, or as we were getting dressed at a put-in, or as we sat around discussing what dry creek bed we’d hike next to determine if it might one day merit a first descent when the water came up.

What is this “IT” that I refer to? It’s the expression, “I used to fish this when I was a kid.”

More and more, previously ignored blue lines on topo maps are being seriously looked at by whitewater boaters, particularly in the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts and the Green Mountains of Eastern New York and Vermont.

When things dry up late spring, I find myself increasingly in the company of folks who are recalling some stream they once dropped a fishing line into. Next thing we know, we’re taking out our hiking boots rather than our paddles to see what prospects await us next snowmelt, or after a heavy rain. Happily, the recollections don’t often disappear, and discoveries have been plentiful.

I wrote an article for American Whitewater magazine back in the 1998 Gauley issue about a 400 feet-per-mile steep creek called Big Branch in Vermont. I remember thinking, “This is it, this creek is going to be the gold standard for New England steep-creeking for my lifetime.” Two years later a bunch of boaters were running the thing routinely.

I suppose the first boaters to run Hubbard Brook were thinking the same about Hubbard as I did about Big Branch. Now when Hubbard is up, boaters fill up the take-out parking area, then network among themselves about whether something more challenging is high enough to try.

For example, the Potash Brook in Russell, MA, which had only been known to fishermen for years. Well, some of those fishermen’s kids grew up to become Class V boaters. At first glance you would think nobody in their right minds would set a kayak on it; you’d wondered why a fisherman would get close to it. One slip on the shore and ADIOS! Yet, there was Jim O’Brien doing a first descent of the lower section this spring.

That same week Marcus Crane had a first descent of the upper Icebox section. Word got out, and, next thing you know, the road alongside this Class-V-VI, multi-death trapped run had trucks all along it with creekboats sticking out their back ends. The vehicles’ occupants were on the other side of the guardrail drawing up their running lines in their minds.

Another example: the Upper Gorge of the Middle Branch of the Westfield River in Worthington, MA. Therewere, Jim O’Brien (yes, the O’Brien for whom O’Brien’s Corkscrew on Connecticut’s Roaring Brook is named) and I, driving back from a successful run on the West Branch of the Westfield. All of a sudden Jim has a flashback to this secluded spot he used to fish. We pulled over immediately to consult our Delorme. And wouldn’t you know it: we found a totally isolated 1.2 miles with a gradient exceeding 300 feet per mile - a consistent gradient with one spectacular drop. It needed some chainsaw work and more water; but, soon enough, we had another first descent!

Northeast boaters have a unique appreciation of chainsaws; it’s an appreciation that’s been nurtured by what ice storms do to our favorite rivers. I’m just waiting to hear the trout clubs complaining about how the noise...
of the chainsaws are scaring off their prey. Unfortunately, Northeast boaters also have different opinions about certain rivers than fishermen do. Prominent amongst those rivers being the Housatonic River. Fishermen lobbying groups assert that recreational water releases on the Housatonic are traumatic to the fish that are stocked there. You heard that right. The endemic species to the river can't migrate past its man-made dams, so a different species of fish is stocked there for anglers' sport.

So naturally, the anglers want these releases stopped. Having attended a few of the meetings in which this issue was discussed, it's amazing to me how this group of fishermen can go on public record with the sort of scientific charlatanism. I initially thought it was just propaganda until I came to realize that the speakers actually believed what they were saying. For instance, this group of fishermen, in Onvellian newspeak they call "Run of the River," purport to be pursuing the river's "health" by supporting a proposition for a multi-decade license for two dams. These dams would maintain a steady flow of water insufficient to put boats on, regardless of what nature dishes out in the way of rain.

The river's centuries-old natural course through the Bull's Bridge section of the river is (I kid you not) being referred to as the "bypass," while as much of the river as the dam operators can muster gets diverted to a powerhouse.

Okay, so the Housatonic is my so-called backyard river; maybe I'm not completely objective about it. But I see these fishermen out there with their sons and daughters, and I'm curious if those dads (the fishermen are primarily male, after all) are telling their kids the same ludicrous, self-interested stuff they crank out at the podium at Housatonic reviews. Corollary to that, I wonder if the kids are buying what they're being told, hook-line-and-sinker, so to speak.

But before I go writing those kids off as the next generation of river chokers, I look back at Jim and Marcus and Dave and Steve and Carl, etc., (the list is LONG), without whose childhood fishing experience we'd never have found all those fabulous creeks. Just maybe that little guy having all that trouble getting that worm on that hook will one day be throwing me a rope he's pulled out from the hatch of his Big Gun.

---

**The Dangers of Boating with others**

By R. Moldover

A beginner died this year while paddling solo. There was the usual outcry: "Never boat alone!" "Never boat alone!"

An expert died while paddling with friends. But where was the outcry: "Never boat with friends!"?

I think the time has come for people to recognize the dangers of boating with other people.

Have you ever run a blind drop based on your friend's instructions and then, realized that your dyslexic guide said RIGHT when he meant LEFT?

Have you ever realized too late that when Joe said "a little left angle" what he MEANT was that you need to be driving hard left at top speed?

Have you ever worked in a hole along with your buddy?

Along with your buddy's boat?

Have you ever approached a horizon line and found that the last micro eddy was full of boats?

Have you ever jockeyed with your friends for the lead?

On a run that you didn't know?

Have you ever had your friend paddle over a ledge and land on top of you?

Ever been pitioned in the ribs? Whacked in the elbow? I'll tell you what's dangerous. Have you been to Skookumchuck lately?

Did someone ever talk you into running something you were unsure about? "Hey man, don't worry, it's not as bad as it looks. You don't want to do that portage, man, trust me."

Ever get yourself in trouble while chasing a swimmer or gear?

Try to rescue someone from a hole and end up in it?

Ever run a drop because someone is below with a rope... then find out he can't throw it?

Ever had a boat dropped on your head?

While you were standing on a cliff?

Ended up paddling in the dark because someone was slow or late?

Been T"rescued while you were trying to roll?

Have you ever taken that sketchy left side line instead of the tried and true right side line because the camera angle was better?

Ever flashed a little rail grab or wave wheel for that Kodak moment? (Followed by a thrashing in the hole below)

Have you ever, ah, ahem... done something stupid in an effort to impress a member of the opposite sex?

Have you ever seen someone taken on a run that was above their skill level?

"Um, sure, yeah, Joey can handle this run. I'm sure he'll be, just, uh, fine."

"Anyway, dibs on his boat."

"Sure, my girlfriend can handle it."

Wounded ego? Embarrassed? Teased mercilessly? Never happens when solo boating...

Ever been so busy chatting with a friend as you drifted along that you failed to notice what was coming up?

Been so worried about the newbie that you forgot to pay attention to your own line?

Oh sure, now theoretically none of this ever happens. You only take advice from people you know and trust. Even when you're traveling.

But honestly, when I think back on the times that I have gotten into trouble:

I was trying to show off and look nonchalant.

I figured that with TWO expert boaters below me, this was a good day to run this waterfall. Next thing I knew, I was standing on shore and there were two expert boaters swimming in the cave...

I broke a guy's finger as we were trying to rescue a boat on a continuous little river.

I knew the guys would get impatient if I got out to scout.

I ran the line I had been told to run... but the guy didn't mention the pition rock that is exposed at lower water.

I was going to portage, but someone told me, "Oh, this rapid is not so bad at this water level; not so pushy." And I believed him.

I was worried about the newbie and forgot...
to pay attention to my own line!

I had the guy ready with a rope. Er, anyone can make a ten foot toss, right?

Ironically, the guys that call me crazy for solo boating are usually the same ones that would never invite me along. (They don’t like the fact that I do things differently.) People tend to be hypocritical about risk. I know a guy who broke his back while ski jumping. Now a paraplegic, he paddles Class V. It’s very impressive. But when he questions my judgment for solo boating....

“Never solo boat” is an important rule for beginners who are unaware of the risks. But for an expert boater, it is a personal choice. Of course, when you choose to take any risk, you should consider your family and friends. I try to respect everyone’s choice, whether it is to stay on Class II, or drop hundred footers.

Risk aside, it’s usually more fun to boat with other people. And there are some rapids I won’t run without setting safety.

Feel free to give me a ring. But before you call someone crazy for solo boating, take a look at yourself. And remember that boating with other people is dangerous!

Whitewater Rafting Book Hits Shelves

Whitewater Rafting, Graeme Addison, Stackpole Books - 800.732.3669 - sales@stackpolebooks.com

For those of you who do not hobnob with superstar kayakers (or spend the bulk of your days reading Internet newsgroups), Graeme Addison is the father of the infamous Corran Addison. Unlike Corran, however, Graeme doesn’t seem to have as great a capacity for outraging people while talking about his passion for whitewater. However, like Corran, Graeme Addison explores each facet of the sport with enthusiasm and meticulous detail.

I am, in honesty, not a huge fan of rafting. It seems to me that rafts are just big, floating undercuts with a propensity to target me while I’m innocently celebrating a perfect boof. However, for those who enjoy participating in a whitewater activity that doesn’t include encasement in plastic or fiberglass, rafting is a fine way to get the same thrill. In fact, many rivers were pioneered by rafts.

This book provides a great introduction to rafting that describes equipment and safety and tells how to find paddling opportunities. It also, thanks to Mr. Addison's global perspective, describes rafting in many exotic locations; like Nepal, New Zealand and Arizona. There seems to be little bias towards a specific style of rafting. Addison describes paddle boats, oar rigs and even motorized rafts with an eye towards education. Technique, safety and trip planning are covered, as well.

Whitewater Rafting provides unique insight. Whether the reader is evaluating locations for a commercial trip or is interested in joining a club to enjoy rafting as a personal pursuit, this book provides much value. Even a kayaker interested in understanding a rafter’s perspective might enjoy this book.
WHEN YOU'RE SET TO GO OFF!
www.bombergear.com

With River Runners like the Machine, Big Move boats like the new Delirious & LUV, & the Ultimate Creek & Play Tool, the Kaituna; Prijon has a boat for every paddling style.

Got Quiver?

PRIJON
The Power of Experience

Call or visit our website for a free catalog and the name of a Prijon dealer near you.
303-644-2336
www.wildnet.com

American Whitewater  September • October 2001
extrasport®
challenge
invitational

Oct. 20-21, 2001
Russell Fork - Breaks Interstate Park

Top 36 Paddlers based on IR Triple Crown standings

All-River Competition/Exhibition featuring (1) Pro Freestyle at Take Out Hole + (2) Freestyle El Horrendo Rapid + (3) Big Air Contest at El Hydraulico + (4) Triple Drop to El Horrendo Time Trial Sprint + (5) El Horrendo Head-to-Head

check it out online at www.extrasport.com
Whitewater Love Trouble
The Doctor is In!!!
Tell Your Whitewater Love Troubles to
Dr. Juste Kantgettenuff, American Whitewater's exclusive expert on affairs of
the heart. If you've got the fever, he's got the cure!!!

A Little Simple Subterfuge

Dear Doctor Kantgettenuff,
Last year about this time some piddlesprung wretch who wanted to go to
the Gauley Festival wrote to you looking for an alibi that would get him out of att-
tending one of his wife's relative's weddings. Well, you certainly came up with a
dilly! I thought it was pretty funny at the
time, but I guess it worked. Well, I am em-
barrassed to admit it, but now I find myself
in the same pathetic situation.

This year my wife is insistent that I
should skip the Gauley Festival and take
her to our thirtieth high school reunion. I
really don't want to; it will be depressing as
hell. All the guys will be bald and fat and
all the girls will look like they have been
embalmed and jammed into dresses two
sizes too small.

Besides, our son, Dade, who is a junior
at West Virginia University, wants me to
join him for the weekend, partying with his
buddies on the Gauley. That's where I
want to be!

Can you help me out with this? I need
something to tell my wife. Just remember
that it had better be real good. If the
Missus finds out that I pulled one over on
her, there sure will be hell to pay!

Desperate to play,
Bob Drummond
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Drummond,
The Good Doctor advises his clients that
when it comes to the marital relationship
honesty is almost always the best policy.
Indeed, lying to one's beloved is almost al-
ways a bad idea. Of course, the key word
here is "almost." Sometimes, under the most
exceptional circumstances, engaging in a little subterfuge might not be such a
bad thing. And, luckily for you, Dr. Kantgettenuff believes that your need to
attend the Gauley Festival is just such a
situation.

So here is the plan. You will need your
son's assistance to pull this off. I'm sure
Dade will be more than willing to help,
particularly if you are paying his tuition.
Especially since, to the Good Doctor's
knowledge, no kayaking student has ever
managed to graduate from WVU in less
than five and a half years.

First, you must convince your wife that
you are really looking forward to your high
school reunion. You must whistler your
high school Alma Mater around the house
and eagerly leaf through your old year-
books, all the while speculating about how
everyone will look. Next, get a haircut and
go on a crash diet. Start combing your
hair in a manner that will cover that bald
spot... you know the one I mean.

This is where your son comes in. On
Saturday morning at precisely 2:30 AM,
Dade must call your home. You and your
wife will no doubt be in bed. Allow your
wife to answer the phone. Dade must
sound desperate and upset. And perhaps
a little drunk. (This should not be a prob-
lem, since knowing WVU he probably will be.) He must ask to speak with you. When
your mother asks why, and she will, Dade
must hesitate, then say, "Mom, I love
you... but I really need to talk to Dad
right now!!" Your wife will then no doubt
take the phone to you and Dade's part in
all of this will be over. He can go back to
his studies! Or whatever!

Now this is the half of the subsequent
father-son "conversation" that your good
wife will hear next. Learn these lines by
heart and make sure your performance is
convincing.

"Dade... Do you know what time it is?
It's nearly three AM! (Exasperation in your
voice.)

What kind of emergency? (Now a little
fear.)

You've got to be sh**ing me! You got
into some kind of a... (Anger creeps in.)

That's not like you... Self defense?...
(A bit of relief.)

What the hell were you doing in a place
like that anyway???(Anger and astonish-
ment.)

Someone called the police??? (Con-
cern.)

Are you okay?.. It's almost swollen
shut... but you can see out of it, can't you?
(Real serious concern.)

Thank God for that... And the other
guy... I know you said he hit you first...
(Quizzical.)

But he's still in the hospital!... Just his
nose?... And some stitches in his... And
maybe a couple of ribs?... You did all that!
(Worried, incredulous and a bit proud.)

Where are you now? What did you
say?... Jesus, not so loud, do you want
your mother to hear? (Chagrin.)

In some kind of holding... And they
won't let you out until... Only one call...
How much to get out? (Astonishment.)

Jeez,... But they'll drop all the charges
I'm pay... (Somewhat relieved.)

Well, of course I'll get there as soon as I
can... Are you sure you are going to be
okay? (Concern again.)

Just don't talk to any of those other
creeps in there... And stay out in the open
where the cop at the desk can keep an eye
on you. (Genuine concern.)

Hell, yes I'm mad! But we'll talk about
that later. (Angry, but a bit proud... After
all, he's your boy!)

Just hang on for a while. I'm on my
way. (Resolve.)

I knew we should have made you go to
Pitt!!!

That should just about do it. When
your wife asks what is wrong, and she will,
just give her hand a loving squeeze and tell
her not to worry and that you can handle
it. Tell her it is a father-son thing, just be-
tween you and Dade. Say something like,
"Boys will be boys," and reassure her that
everything will turn out fine. (You don't
want to worry your poor wife inordinately."
Tell her that you need to go to the
Gauley. (Under no circumstances let your
wife see the kayak on the roof.)

Now, as for that thousand in "bail
money"... You know that rodeo boat
you've been wanting? Bet you can find a
sweet deal on one at the Festival Silent
Auction.

And you can donate the change to the
AWA! Why? Because you're such a nice
guy, that's why!

Now I ask you Mr. Drummond, is Dr.
Kantgettenuff not a master of the game...
a veritable genius?

Dr. Kantgettenuff To
Join Montana Misfits!

Dear Juste,
Thanks for your kind words about MIS-
FITS, the Montana Institute for Serious
Fluid Interaction, Training, and Study.
Since the publicity in your fine magazine,
we have had many new applicants. I apolo-
gize for not writing sooner. I was com-
pletely tied up with the important business
of running finals here at MISFITS, and
what a mess that was. My secretary forgot
to order enough crayons for everyone, so
we had to take the exam in shifts.

I know you had expressed an interest in
getting a picture of the beautiful Dr. P.
Cee, and I really meant to get you one, but
I let one of my students borrow the cam-
era, and he accidentally dropped it while doing some reverse cartwheels.

I know that Dr. Cee thinks quite highly of you, and I really feel you two kids should be on a first name basis. Her full name is Pricilla Prudish Cee, or Prissy to her friends. She is a direct descendent of the famous paddling Prudish family, on her mothers side. I am sure you are familiar with the story of Sir Miles Prudish, who inadventently made the first descent of the Great Falls of the Potomac while looking for the lost colony back in 1604.

Dr. Cee was quite surprised and flattered that you would give her full credit for the important research on the relative sizes of kayakers and their equipment. In truth, she cannot take full credit for this important study, although she did take part in the fieldwork to verify the original theories. The original theory that size matters was first developed by Dr. P. Hallick, who was Dr. Cee's first mentor, and I know she studied under him for several years. He was said to be hard, but fair, and although normally soft spoken and mild mannered, he could be quite uncontrollable when his passions were aroused.

In truth, Dr. Cee thinks that while size may matter to some, she feels it is really a matter of personal preference. Somewhere there is a right size for everyone. Some will know just by checking the spec sheet on the model they are looking for, and some will need to demo before they buy. But with a little luck, all will find the exact model they want. At any rate, Dr. Cee was excited to find out you boated the Tornado, as she is not impressed by those pretty boy playboaters and their teeny little plastic toys. Knowing your reputation, when you get here I'm sure you will be able to give her a full demonstration of your skills.

The last we heard, you had moved on to Katmandu, I asked Dr. P Cee to contact you. She called and said she would get here I'm sure you will be able to give her a full demonstration of your skills. Fortunately for American Whitewater, most people don't actually read the articles. They scan the ads to see if there are any really buff boaters (or models) that they can salivate over. Then they use the magazine to prop up the end table. Unfortunately, a few paddlers can actually read, and some of those are offended by the word choices that some of your authors make. Fear not, for I have put the best minds here at MISFITS to work developing a writers course that we will soon make available to all of your potential authors. Dr. P. Cee will be in charge of this project, which we undertake as a service to the paddling community, because we know that this important and meaningful work is desperately needed, not for a brilliant writer like you Juste, but for some of the other contributors. As I am sure your grandmother Connie Kantgettenuff would tell you, if you really want to be a great writer, you can offend some of the people some of the time, and some of the people none of the time, but you can't offend none of the people all of the time.

As always, your friend, Ben Boatin Missoula. Montana

Dear Ben,

By the time you read this I should be on my way to Missoula to join you and the other MISFITS at the Institute. As you mentioned, life in the Himalayas is not always as idyllic as one might hope, especially for a man with cultivated tastes like mine! The water is full of parasites, the food is dreadful, there are bugs in the beds, and all of the attractive women are forced to marry terrible thugs at a tender age.

Being the feminist that I am, during my brief stay here I have done my best to liberate these unfortunate young ladies from their repressive social bonds. But, alas, the local authorities have misconstrued my intentions. And now, even as I write, an unruly mob has surrounded my quarters! Such are the perils of scientific investigation and social activism in the Third World!

Tell Dr. Prissy Cee that I am on my way!

Heartbroken in Boise

Dear Dr. Kantgettenuff,

God, how I hate men!

That river ranger I told you about last time... the one with great big boat that paddles the North Fork of the Payette... well, he turned out to be even more horrible than you predicted. Not only was he a anti-environmental, conniving, puny mutahaled, conservative Republican, he was a no good bubble snapping gorby as well!!! Needless to say I have dumped his sorry ass!

I give up. To hell with men. Who needs them?

I've made my decision. I'm going to become a Carmelite nun.

Do you know of any convents located near class V rivers?

Forever in your debt,
Goldie Digere
Boise. Idaho

My Dearest Goldie,

Oh, how it pains the Good Doctor to know that you are in such distress. What did that worthless river ranger do to you? He should be caned! And he shall be, when I get back to the States!

But in the meantime you must get a hold of yourself. Please don't do anything rash. Take heart! I shall be ensconced at the MISFIT Institute in Montana within a fortnight. Then you must come to Missoula for some intense interpersonal counseling. I will prove to you that all men are not bad!

Until then, your servant,
Dr. Juste Kantgettenuff
What do you need to keep ZipDry?
clothes · food · camera · sleeping bag · safety/first aid

www.drybags.com
800.841.8607

SURF THE EARTH
FREE CATALOG
BOARDSHORTS
RASHGUARDS
T-SHIRTS
FLEECE
LIDS
STICKERS
1-800-864-6752
FULL ON LINE CATALOG
THE BEST BOARDSHORTS ON THE PLANET!

WWW.SURF-THE-EARTH.COM
Sometimes... It's not how you paddle, but how you look.

For just a few bucks you can show your colors and get some great stuff. All of our products are of the highest quality and guaranteed to improve your image.

Item Prices include postage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warm Up Jacket: $60 / M-XL/ Slate Blue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vest: $50 / M-XL/ Navy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logo T-shirts: $18.50 M-XXL White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitewater Design T-shirts: $18.50 L-XXL Grey Ash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logo embroidered Kavu Cap: $19.50 L- XXL Colors Gold or Black</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW License Plate Frames: $6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW Embroidered Patches: $2.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW Waterproof Decals: $.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulated Travel Mugs with lid: $7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caney Fork Poster $9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW Mouse Pads $8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mall to AWA, P.O. Box 636, Margaretville, NY 12455
Credit Card orders:
Call 845-586-2355 or Fax 845-586-3050
Otter Bar Lodge - Kayak School

Nestled on a bend of the California Salmon River between the Marble Mountains and the Trinity Alps in Northern California, you will find kayak paradise.

Our amenities are unmatched. Deluxe lodging; gourmet meals; hot tub; sauna; masseuse; mountain bikes; warm rolling ponds and gorgeous rivers for all levels—beginning to advanced. We provide state-of-the-art equipment. Our instructors are the best you can find. We can tailor your week to be as challenging (or relaxing) as you would like!

Adult & Kids Classes - Grand Canyon Mps

American Whitewater 113 September • October 2001
Boat & Bike Racks
Custom Built

304-457-5674
www.tygartriver.com

- No Topper Stress
- Carefree "Jungle-Gym" Loading
- Bomber Steel Construction

Jeeps & Trucks RACKS
Vans Sport Utility

PO Box 192 • Moatsville, WV 26405

Custom squirt, surf &
whitewater kayaks
created as
individually as
you are

PS Composites, Inc.
2535 Roundtop Rd.
Middletown PA 17057
717-944-1752
www.customkayak.com
Because We Listen...

We wed input from the world’s most dominant female paddlers and designed the Siren around the ergonomic needs of women. This boat is narrower and weighs less allowing for easier rolls, greater control and more power. Outfitted with our improved Fit Adjustment Technology for 2002 (F.A.T. 2.0), we give you a custom, no hassle fit before you even leave the showroom floor.

LADIES, THE PLAYING FIELD IS NOW EQUAL!

2001 Women’s World Freestyle Champion!!

The Siren has increased my confidence to try new moves on the river. This boat weighs less and plays great especially for someone my size.”

— Erica Mitchell

u.s. 800.311.7245
Canada 613.382.2531
www.wavesport.com

LADIES, THE PLAYING FIELD IS NOW EQUAL!

Official Vehicle Sponsor of Team Wave Sport
freestyle (freestyle)
1. in which any style can be used
2. fresh, innovative ways to playboat including combinations of wheels and spins of all types
3. creativity which defies conventional methods

www.dagger.com
865-882-0404
- kayaks
- canoes
- sit-on-tops
- racing boats

PO Box 636
Margaretville, NY 12455
U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #127 NEWARK OHIO

Change Service Requested