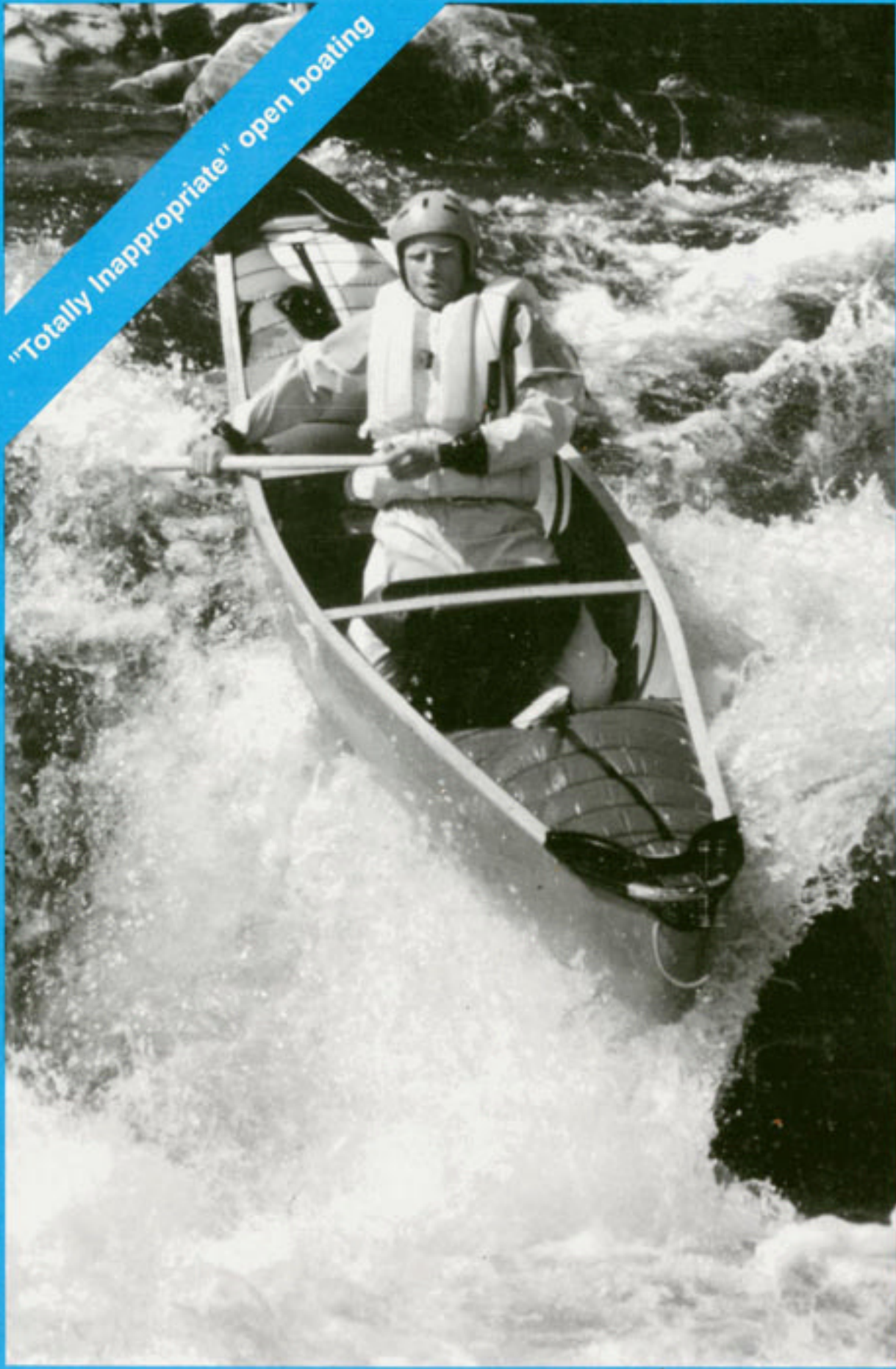


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FORUM

Bad Vibes

Things are a tad cluttered here at the American Whitewater editorial office.

I use the term "office" loosely. Actually, the magazine is produced in a paper-strewn corner of my cramped apartment. A single table occupies an entire wall. Half of its surface is occupied with computer equipment. The remainder is piled high with floppy disks, manilla envelopes, manuscripts, empty bottles of Diet Coke and crumpled packages of Red Man chewing tobacco.

Stacked under the table and around one corner of the room are the official American Whitewater archives--unmarked cardboard boxes overflowing with past issues, old photos, slides, advertisements and the assorted flotsam and jetsam of five years from sitting here at the official editorial desk.

It ain't pretty.

The purpose of this self-styled confession is half an apology and half a plea. Some of you have submitted miscellaneous slides or photos that have yet to be returned. It's not that I've lost them--they're right here...somewhere.

I fully intend to return everything. It just takes a couple of hours to locate anything--and I literally have no time to search or organize. This issue is already two weeks behind schedule. Please be patient.

Also--in the future, please submit photos as a regular sized print that I can use and keep. Please don't send slides or original prints.

Oh--while I'm on the subject, a word about submissions. We beg for them. But recently--I've experienced some negative vibrations.

Once in a while I get a submission that I don't think is quite right. Maybe I don't like the style or content. Maybe there's no room. Whatever. It doesn't get in.

Who knows, maybe the story or photo can get printed elsewhere and even win a Pulitzer. My opinion isn't perfect.

When I get a chance, I try to write or call the contributor. But sometimes I don't. No excuse--except by the time I get done with one of these damn things the next me is already due.

But I wish people wouldn't get PO'd at me. Like other AWA volunteers--I don't get paid for this. I'm doing the best job I can under limited conditions and it's a genuine bummer to get nasty letters.

Hey--we're only semi-professionals here.



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PURPOSE

The American Whitewater Affiliation (AWA) is a national organization with a membership of over 2,000 whitewater boating enthusiasts and more than 100 local canoe club affiliates. The AWA was organized in 1961 to protect and enhance the recreational enjoyment of whitewater sports in America.

EDUCATION: Through publication of a bi-monthly journal, the AWA provides information and education about whitewater rivers, boating safety, technique, and equipment.

CONSERVATION: AWA maintains a national inventory of whitewater rivers, monitors potential threats to whitewater river resources through its "River Watch" system, publishes information on river conservation, works with government agencies to protect and preserve free-flowing whitewater rivers, and provides technical advice to local groups regarding river management and river conservation. AWA also gives annual awards to individuals to recognize exceptional contributions to river conservation and an annual "hydromania" award to recognize the proposed hydroelectric power project which would be most destructive of whitewater.

EVENTS: AWA organizes sporting events, contests and festivals to raise funds for river conservation. Since 1986, AWA has been the principal sponsor of the annual Gauley River Festival in Summersville, West Virginia, the largest gathering of whitewater boaters in the nation, other than at international racing events.

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

ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSES: AWA was incorporated under Missouri non-profit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at PO Box 85, Phoenicia, NY 12464. AWA has been granted tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The charter includes the following purposes: encourage the exploration, enjoyment, and preservation of American recreational waterways or man-powered craft; protect the wilderness character of waterways through conservation of water, forests, parks, wildlife, and related resources; promote appreciation for the recreational value of wilderness cruising and of white-water sports.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF: Except for membership services and the Executive Director position, all AWA operations, including publication of the bi-monthly magazine, are handled by volunteers.

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LETTERS

Upper Yough reply

Dear Editor:

I read with interest Pope Barrow's article in the **January/February** issue of the AWA Journal. Over the years, Pope has used this journal to chastise the State of Maryland for what he believes is our failed management of the Youghiogheny River. In the past, I have not felt a response was necessary, but the most recent article has reached new levels of oversimplification and exaggeration.

The summarization of State designation is slightly over-simplified. There are a number of State programs doing excellent river management work and to summarize all this protection effort in four paragraphs with one bad example doesn't quite seem to represent a fair evaluation. In addition, the Maryland example fails to recognize any of the positive management steps the State has taken on the Upper Youghiogheny River: a River Manager has been hired, a draft management plan has been completed, a corridor boundary has been identified, over 2,000 acres have been acquired along the river, and regulations have been developed to control commercial rafting.

One of the **major** points the article fails to recognize, is that State programs strive to seek a balance between resource protection and resource use. Our goal is to direct use to the appropriate areas and to reduce conflict between competing user groups. State programs do not try to return the rivers within their boundaries to a primitive condition. If we did, even recreational use would probably be prohibited.

The **article's** reference to river abuse is extremely exaggerated. First, there is no factual evidence, to my knowledge, to indicate any landowner guilt. Secondly, the extent of the burning was confined to an area approximately one hundred (100) feet by two hundred (200) feet, within the context of a twenty-two (22) mile long river corridor containing approximately 4,400 acres.

In the future, I would suggest that instead of criticizing State programs, recreational users become part of the solution. On the Youghiogheny River, boaters can help by contacting Karl Christensen, the River Manager, when they

observe questionable activities. He can be reached at (301) 387-4462.

Along the lines of cooperation, I also noticed the article by John Franchella. This article talks about boaters retrieving boat parts by making their way Sack through the woods on mountain bikes. Although I agree with removing trash from the river corridor, I would hope that permission is obtained before private lands are crossed. The issue of trespass has always been a point of conflict between landowners and boaters on the Youghiogheny River. Once again, I would urge people to contact Karl Christensen and allow him to help obtain permission from the private landowner.

In conclusion, you can help develop your State's ability to protect the resource by cooperating and being part of the solution rather than the problem.

Sincerely,
John F. Wilson, Chief
Maryland's Scenic and Wild Rivers Program

Pope clarifies

Dear Chris;

I have been asked by an official at the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources to retract or clarify a statement which appeared in the **January/February** 1991 issue of the Journal in an article entitled "Wild and scenic is not the only solution". Please include this retraction and clarification in the next issue of the Journal.

The article states (on page 10) that one riverside landowner at the Upper Youghiogheny River "thumbed his nose at the State in 1990" and "burned down everything along the river bank". This statement is incorrect in several respects.

First, "everything along the river bank" for 21 miles of wild and scenic river corridor was not affected. Only an area about 40 yards long on one parcel of property on river right was affected. It is a significant parcel, but it does not include the whole river. My apologies for the rhetorical exaggeration.

Secondly, the owner of the land removed most of the trees and vegeta-

LETTERS

tion by hand and by mechanical means, after the area had been burned. The original burning has been blamed on trespassers. At this time, no one is certain who is responsible for the burning.

Thirdly, the landowner did not "thumb his nose at the State". The State actually authorized the landowner to remove trees and vegetation. The State and the landowner agreed that clearing of the area would be an appropriate response to the burning. However, the State did not request or require that the area be revegetated or restored to a natural condition.

This episode should not be confused with an earlier incident in which a landowner did "thumb his nose at the State"...sort of. That incident occurred more than two years ago when different people were responsible for State management. It involved another landowner engaged in timbering within the river corridor. This individual is reported to have suggested that the State could not stop him from doing what he wanted and that the State wild and scenic rivers act was "toothless". (These are not his exact words, of course.) To its credit, the State did try to stop the harmful activity by bringing an injunction. However, the State was unsuccessful. A local court held that the boundaries of the river corridor were not adequately marked on the ground to permit enforcement of State wild and scenic rules. The State feels that this problem has now been corrected, but the issue has yet to be tested in court.

While the State of Maryland may have some distance to go in its management of the Upper Youghiogeny River, great strides in the right direction have been taken in the past two years since John Wilson has assumed responsibility for river management and since Karl Christenson has been hired as an on-site river manager. Both are to be commended for their efforts.

Boaters need to be part of the solution at the Upper Yough, not part of the problem. In particular all boaters should notify Karl at 301-387-4462 of any problems which they encounter or observe in the river corridor. This *especially includes* the loss of a boat or other equipment. Please do not trespass on private property to retrieve your boat or equipment without first obtaining permission through Karl. This is very important to maintain

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Sincerely,
Pope Barrow
Washington, D.C.

Keep Gary, Carla!

Dear Chris,

You asked for response to Dylan Smith's call for the ouster if Carlson/Garrison in the Jan./Feb. issue.

1) If Mr. Smith finds it offensive, why does he read it? Typical "Frank Burns" (movie version) double standard. Most Americans hit the mute for obnoxious commercials, lock out/turn off objectional programming, and are selective in what they read, or at least have the freedom to make these choices.

2) I don't force Mr. Smith to read Endnotes; he and his hypocritical, hyper-moral, hysterical kind are trying to force me NOT to read it.

3) If the detriment of an idea outweighs its benefit, don't subscribe to it. I suggest Mr. Smith, and all the other frustrated, hung-up whiners cancel their subscriptions if they can't control their suppressed prurient interests to read such virulent perverted "scat".

4) I for one, of the silent majority, find humor the sanest way to forget this violent world for the brief few minutes our busy lives permit.

Let's keep things in perspective! Mr. Smith should constructively direct his efforts to solving real problems...perhaps go to Washington.

Very on the Square,
Gary Glick
Anytown, USA

Dear Editor,

I strongly disagree with the letter in the last issue urging that "End Notes" authors Carla Garrison and Gary Carlson be terminated. The letter asserts that Carla and Gary write "mindless and soul-sickening drivel" and display a "scatalogical sense of humor and disrespect for basic traditional values."

There can be no doubt that the writer is exactly correct in describing Carla and Gary's articles. Their writing is complete garbage; however, they are funny as (bleep).

Carla and Gary's self-appointed mission is to explore the recesses of the collective minds of advanced to expert whitewater boaters. What do you expect to find there--Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs?? More likely you will find the Seven Dwarfs on Snow White.

If the letter writer prefers to read drivel which is not funny, he should subscribe to CANOE magazine.

Mac Thornton
Washington, D.C.

Dear Editor,

I couldn't disagree more with Dylan Smith. Gary Carlson's column is an important part of AW. No, that's not strong enough. It's not far from being an important part of the sport! Take the column that appeared last May--the one about the fellow who persuaded his wife to install, in their restaurant, machines that dispense those little envelopes, only to find his restaurant start filling up with strangely-dressed guys who talked about "playing in holes" and "needing a tighter skirt". The guys I paddle with all found that column hysterical, and more to the point, all our wives did too. And our wives are non-paddlers. Female paddlers are not think-skinned--not the ones I've met, anyway. And certainly not Carla Garrison. So keep both her and Gary Carlson.

Sincerely,
Tim Elder
Mansfield Center, CT

Dear Editor,

I would like to voice by strong support for the continuation of "End Notes". I find the work of Gary and Carla to be imaginative, witty and humorous.

Norm Fairhurst
Baltimore, MD

Dear Editor,

I'm proud to be an AWA member and enjoy reading our magazine. Safety, conservation, activism. Oh, yeah, tell Carla and Gary to keep up the good work. Tell Dylan Smith to have someone cut out the "bad" parts if he doesn't like them.

William Montilio
Turners Falls. MA

Be real, Carla!!

Dear AWA Editor,

I couldn't tell if the "End Note" in the Nov-Dec issue by Carla Garrison was a joke or not. If, indeed, it is not a joke, the following response is for publication.

Nastatobi River Queen of Humongous Hogans identifies Big Harpoon Sybdrome!! Of Carla may not have a phallus between her legs, but she shore does have a bad attitude! Let's be real Carla, the quality you hate in the boys you display in yourself before every reader of AWA.

Recreational paddling can be intensely competitive, but it's on a personal level, i.e., "what are my own limits and how far can I push them?" If your paddling mates have a personal vendetta against women paddlers, then find some new ones. But don't go lumping all the men in the sport in one category, as I wouldn't want them to think all women who challenge themselves on difficult water are like you!

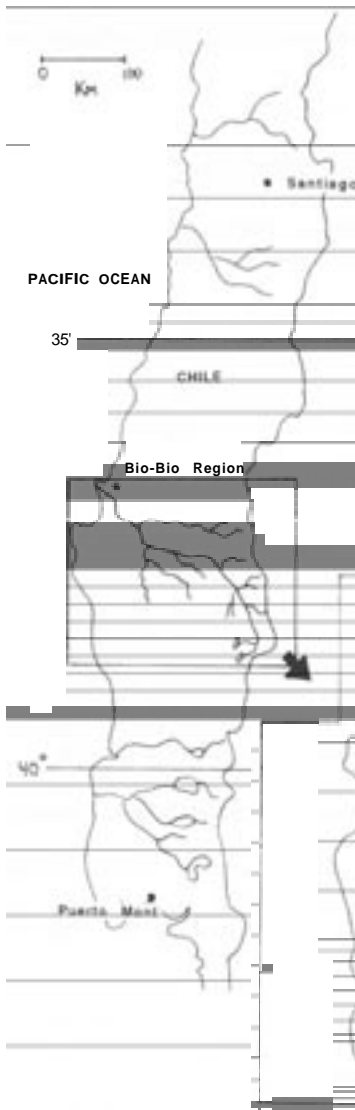
The question doesn't concern gender, and it's not about rating in the top percentile of the paddling community. It has to do with boat control and awareness on the rio. Does someone look out for their buddies, resist jeopardizing the safety of others, grab a throw bag if necessary, and like to have a good time at camp? Carla, if you can answer "yes" to those questions, then also get yourself an attitude fixer and come join us on Bald Rock.

Regards,
Beth Rypins
Berkley, CA

LETTER POLICY

American Whitewater welcomes response from its readers. Letters **should be** addressed to Chris Koll, 7987 #5 Rd. W., Fabius, NY 13063. Letters should be reasonably brief, avoid obvious slander, keep profanity to a minimum, be typed (or at least readable) and not depend on this editor to correct misspellings.

No dough for Bio Bio!



The International Finance Corporation of the World Bank (IFC) is considering lending Chile's private electricity company, ENDESA, up to 25% of the funds necessary to build the first dam of a six-dam chain on Chile's internationally acclaimed Bio Bio River and inundate its world-class whitewater.

Approval for the first dam in the series of six was granted prior to Augusto Pinochet's departure from the presidency in 1989. Some initial site work has already commenced, and full construction operations could begin as soon as funding becomes available.

The World Bank has postponed its

decision on funding, pending the completion of an environmental impact assessment. The assessment will be produced by ENDESA, under relatively weak and unenforceable World Bank guidelines, and could be completed in a matter of months. Bank approval of the loan could come thereafter.

Responding to the growing concern for the Bio Bio's survival is the International Rivers Network (IRN). IRN is pressuring the World Bank to reject ENDESA's loan application and save one of the world's last great wild and scenic rivers.

It is important that immediate pressure be placed upon World Bank to reject the loan for ENDESA. Paddlers can write, fax and phone Mr. Martin Riddle, Environmental Officer, International Finance Corporation, World Bank, 1818 H St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20433. (telephone) 202-473-0725. (fax) 202-334-8713.

"Mt. Everest of whitewater" needs protection

In Idaho's western mountains, each year in August, in order to continue watering beans, alfalfa and sugar beets in the lower Payette River Basin, the flood gates are lowered on Cascade Reservoir. The North Fork of the Payette River flows out of this shallow reservoir. The North Fork is warm and carries that green glow associated with mountain pastures. For about twenty miles the river meanders through Round Valley and provides a warm, playful intermediate float

known as the Cabarton run, that attracts local boaters for a fun day in the late afternoon sun.

Soon the river passes under Rainbow Bridge and starts a 1,700 foot descent along fifteen miles of river that is squeezed by a highway and a railroad. This steep, boulder choked stretch of boiling whitewater is the North Fork of the Payette, the "Mount Everest of Kayaking."

I have never been to Mt. Everest, but if

climbers stand around base camp with wide eyes and pumped up chests talking loudly and incoherently about a top to bottom climb, then the North Fork is the Mount Everest of Kayaking. For you quickly discover that the North Fork is one-half bravado and one-half boating.

When the flood gates are lowered at Cascade Dam it signal the start of North Fork season. During my time in Idaho prior to North Fork season many boaters I met would

remark off-handedly that they did run the North Fork. I soon learn to silently question their sanity and their skill.

The legends of the North Fork include the guide book author with nearly 100 trips under his belt and a Big Water boater who did a vertical mile in one day with three Top to Bottom runs. While these stories are impressive, the most often told stories are the ones of the boaters who are in over their heads.

The North Fork at-

tracts second year boaters with no where else to go, who gain bruises and lose gear, or the unprepared tourist boaters who lug their gear all the way to Idaho only to break or lose it quickly. A boater with B.C. plates left behind a sign for a lost paddle; lost when his spray skirt blew off in a relatively easy section and the North Fork bogeyman forced him out of his boat. And a Class V Colorado sneak boaters who in two days broke two paddles and one pair of glasses and gladly spent his last day of vacation boating the tubs at Bonneville Hot Springs.

The North Fork is long, difficult, complicated, steep and fast. With careful scouting and defensive boating, it can be a real treat to start the day all puckered up and end it with a feeling of accomplishment. There are

twenty major rapids connected by fast, exciting, Class IV water in this section of river. While a Top to Bottom run is the standard to measure by, the usual day consists of some combination of the Top, the Middle and the Bottom.

The Bottom is where the "I'll boat the bottom till I'm bored" crew spend their time enjoying big waves, large holes and fast water through Juicer and Crunch.

The Top is an introduction to honest to goodness North Forkkin. In this section the river snatches the bottom out from under your stomach and provides fast fun in rapids called steepness, Disneyland and Nutcracker.

Jacobs Ladder, arguably the most challenging rapid in Idaho and Gold Course, a close second, are

part of the middle. The Middle is a collection of long, steep, complicated drops full of sticky holes. The Middle is the proof of the pudding for North Forkkers.

Unfortunately, the North Fork of the Payette cannot be taken for granted. The same drop that excites paddlers has big time hydro developers drooling. Originally threatened by Potato King, J.R. Simplot, the North Fork is currently coveted by a group of hydro developers bankrolled by Consolidated Hydro of Connecticut. This group holds a preliminary permit for a pump storage project that would make the North Fork most appropriate for bouldering on all but seventeen recreational release days each North Fork season. Fighting this proposal is the group Friends of the Payette. FOP was founded for a single short

fight some three years ago, however the battle for protection has proved to be long and drawn out.

Right now protection is coming one step closer as the state legislature would prohibit hydro-power development on the North Fork and the South Fork (a charming tributary with class II, III and IV sections). If you have been to Idaho and enjoyed the Payette or if you would like to go then you should write by March 20 to Chairman Wayne Sutton, House Resources and Conservation Committee, Statehouse Mall, Boise, ID 83720.

Tell him you are a fat, sassy out-of-state tourist who spends big bucks on vacations in Idaho and the only reason you would even consider going to Idaho is to kayak and float on the Payette. Writing to Wayne will

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CONSERVE

help stop the North Fork hydropower proposal, protect the South Fork and boating Spudheads will thank you.

However, don't think this will be the end of it. The Payette River is like the Klamath River. There are many steps involved in permanent protection for a river and at each step public input is required. This will not be the last time you will be asked to help.

In the middle of October the flood gates rise and the North Fork once again becomes a trickling stream tumbling down a riverbed filled with oversized boulders. But the stories will continue in the evening, around the fire, over beers, for the North Fork is more than just a day of boating, it is a season of tall stories.

West Virginia rivers update

By MAC THORNTON

After John Denver wrote "Country Road" in the early 1970's, the "Almost Heaven" sobriquet became the unofficial state motto of West Virginia. But to whitewater paddlers in the Eastern United States, West Virginia is heaven. There is simply no "Almost" about it!

So, while threats to many rivers in the Middle Atlantic states simmered down in 1990, river conservationists focussed in on No. 1. The Mountain State. Whitewater Heaven.

West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Launched by the American Whitewater Affiliation in 1989, the West

Virginia Rivers Coalition (WVRC) is off the pad. The primary goal is to obtain designation of 13 superlative rivers in the Monongahela National Forest as Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers. Included are 11 whitewater gems, such as the Blackwater, Cranberry and South Branch Potomac's Smoke Hole Canyon.

The political reality requires an intense, person-to-person grass roots campaign in the West Virginia highlands. That costs money. But in August, WVRC was awarded a grant of \$40,000 by the Outdoor Industry Conservation Alliance, a group of progressive companies headed by REI. The AWA and the

Canoe Cruisers Association of Washington, D.C. followed up with contributions of \$2,000 each, and the Coastal Canoeists, the Keelhaulers and the Blue Ridge Voyageurs have sent contributions.

Late in the year, a special appeal was sent to all AWA members to benefit WVRC, and the results were astounding. Over 200 AWA members sent contributions with the grand total over \$8,000!

In September, WVRC hired a full-time executive director and opened a permanent office in Elkins, WV. Brochures have been printed and the political effort is underway. WVRC has also been in

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intense negotiations with the National Park Service as their river eligibility study proceeds. It now appears that the eligibility study will closely parallel WVRC's recommendations. So far, so good!

To join WVRC, please send \$20 or more to WVRC, Box 247, Elkins, WV 26241.

Cheat Basin

Perhaps the greatest threat to the fabulous rivers of the Cheat Basin is the prospect of flood control dams. (Note: WVRC is sponsoring seven Cheat tribs for Wild and Scenic protection). Conservationists have been keeping a close watch on the Army Corps of Engineers, which is known to be looking at a proposal to build five humongous dams in the Basin. Thankfully, in the

summer, the Corps backed off, stating that it would not proceed with further dam studies unless directed to do so by Congress.

Gauley River

While the Gauley National Recreation Area was dedicated in 1989, the Gauley canyon lands remained over 99% in private hands. Road construction and timbering were underway or planned for the Canyon. In late spring, paddlers and the Trust for Public Lands mounted a lobbying effort for an appropriation of \$2,000,000 from Congress, enough to acquire about half the land in the canyon.

Through some fantastic legislative maneuvering by Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) and Congressional staffer Jim Zoia, the money was appropriated.

Fruitbasket Rivers

Two threats emerged in West Virginia's famed "Fruitbasket" region, the first being a mining proposal in the headwaters of the Cranberry and the North Fork Cherry. Again, it was Rahall and Zoia to the rescue. The dynamic duo pushed a \$1,700,000 appropriation through to acquire the threatened tracts.

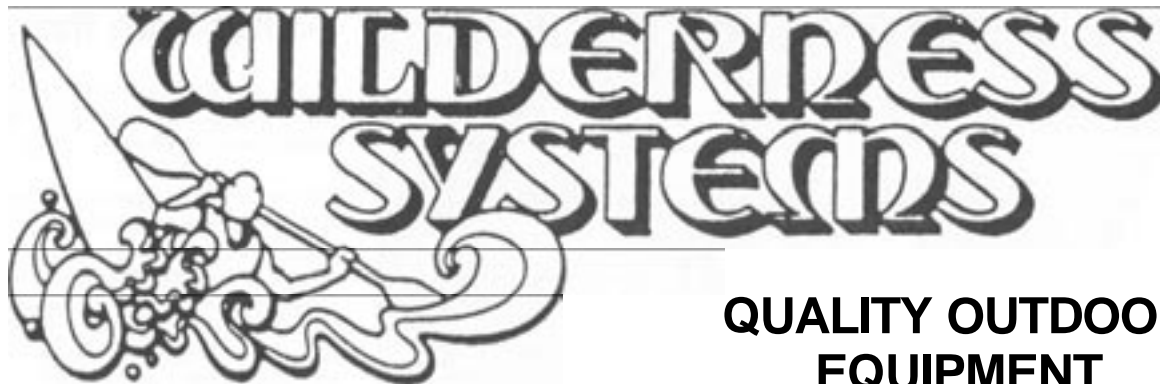
The second threat is a hairbrained hydropower scheme to divert most of the flow of the far upper Gauley (upstream of Summersville Lake) into the Elk River. Led by American Rivers, Inc., paddlers intervened in the legal proceedings before the FERC to fight the project.

Lost River

West Virginia's dubious river project of the year has to be the dam boondoggle planned for

Kinsey Run, an important tributary of the Lost River. A local fat cat is attempting to roll the local populace (which vigorously opposes the dam), in order to get the Federal government to fund a recreational lake on his lands. Once the lake is built, he will sell off profitable parcels. Joined by AWA and other paddling groups, the local communities are challenging the project in U.S. District Court.

Finally, a note about John Denver's "Country Road," a nice song about a wild, wonderful state. The guy did not know where West Virginia is. Part of the song talks about the Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah River. Perhaps it's too bad, but both of those geographical features are in the state of Virginia.



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FERC's decision on NY's Salmon "absurd" AWA mounts strong legal appeal

In early January, AWA made a strong legal appeal to change the mind of FERC who has threatened to remove the two old hydro electric generating plants on the Salmon River near Pulaski, New York from government regulation - permanently. FERC had ruled that this heavily paddled river in the western Adirondacks was not navigable - a patently absurd finding.

If that ruling stands, the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, owners of the Bennetts Bridge and Lighthouse Hill facilities, would have no limitations whatsoever placed on their operations. Neither mini-

mum flows nor episodic flows for whitewater sports and rafting would be required. NIMO could simply thumb their noses at paddlers and other user groups in perpetuity. This on one of the three or four most heavily used whitewater rivers in New York!

In its FERC appeal, ace river lawyer Chuck McGraw on behalf AWA complained that FERC ignored its own earlier well reasoned and supported decisions and "paid no heed to the extensive use of the Salmon River for recreational boating."

FERC's wrong headed decision was even more perplexing since its

staff asked for and received a substantial boating analysis several months earlier from AWA regional coordinator, Jerry Hargrave, of Rochester. Reportedly, even the FERC staffer involved was shocked by the decision which never mentioned boating at all.

AWA could not let this ruling stand. If FERC was allowed to ignore paddling and other recreational boating on a river as a basis for navigability and jurisdiction, projects all over America of the same age might well be dropped as jurisdictional. Weak as FERC is when it comes to demanding recreational resource enhancements at

hydro projects, they are better than nothing at all. Especially on the Salmon, where NIMO has for the last few years switched to nighttime releases, leaving paddlers high and dry on weekends and other popular paddling periods.

Although FERC will be making its decision before this gets to you, further appeals are likely. Jerry Hargrave deserves praise for his Christmastime sacrifices to gather the affidavits and information which served as the foundation for Chuck's papers.



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Wyoming's Clarks Fork named Wild and Scenic

In the closing days of Congress last fall, 20.5 miles of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone in Wyoming was designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System. The Clarks Fork tumbles out of the northeast corner of the greater Yellowstone area through a highly scenic canyon and some of North America's wildest whitewater (see related article on Nov/Dec. 90).

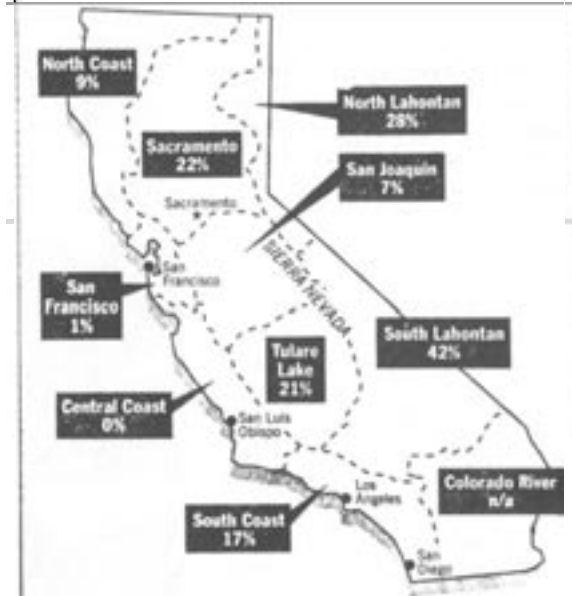
The Federal designation protects the river from just below the Crandell bridge to the canyon mouth just above the Shoshone National Forest boundary.

This ends a decade-long struggle that got hung up for several years over water rights and flow quantification issues. These were resolved in the final days of last year's Congress, and the bill designating the river was signed into law in November.

This accomplishment is evidence that extensive and persistent citizen activities (including efforts by AWA members) can change the course of events in a very conservative political environment with seemingly intractable preservation versus development issues.

CALIFORNIA WATER CONDITIONS

This map of the state's 10 water regions shows the percentage of normal runoff recorded from Oct 1, 1990, to Feb 1, 1991. The Colorado River section is part of a multi-state basin, and runoff this year in California has been negligible.



SOURCE: State Department of Water Resources



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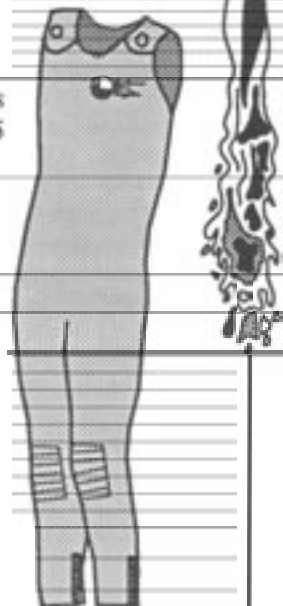
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Bodyboarding for whitewater minimalism

Whitewater minimalists get ready. The whitewater boogie board is here.

Actually, the use of a boogie board in whitewater is not an entirely new idea. Boogie boards have previously been used as a tool in river rescue. Typically, the rescuer, who is rigged up in a thick wetsuit and flippers, jumps on a board and kicks through the water, hole-hopping and eddy-catching his way across current to a victim--then providing a piggy-back ride back to safety.

And a form of the boogie board has been used on European rivers as a recreational craft. French whitewater enthusiasts have used a board equipped with handle bars and plexi-glass spray shield to navigate surprisingly difficult rivers.

So it comes as little surprise that a pair of American whitewater innovators have introduced their own design--a whitewater boogie board they hope will spark the river sport of the future.

Bob Carlson and Jim Cassady have long played a recognized part of the American whitewater industry. Carlson is best known as the designer of the "Carlson pump"--an efficient barrel pump for inflating rafts while Cassady has helped produce several raft designs and operated Pacific River Supply.

Together they perfected the Carlson river bodyboard.

Essentially, the bodyboard is an ethafoam board approximately two feet wide, four feet long and four inches thick with over twice the flotation of an ocean boogie board so it floats high in aerated whitewater. A boarder "rides" the craft by lying flat on his belly holding on to its double handles. His hips fit into a scalloped recess and his flippered feet dangle off the end to provide propulsion. Two models of the board are being produced: a full-sized board and a smaller, high-performance model.

Although the boards are designed to float high on the water (and thereby protect the rider from submerged rocks), body armor is a requirement of the sport. A full wet-suit, helmet, shin guards, knee pads, elbow pads and flippers are standard accessories.

Like low-volume squirt boats, bodyboards are particularly adept at surfing



waves. However, a boarder is totally immersed in the water and the feeling of surfing a wave with the water rushing past just inches from your face is an exhilarating one.

Carlson and Cassady do more with their boards than just play--they have logged successful descents of California's Tuolumne and Cal Salmon and hope to soon add a run down the Grand Canyon.

Additional information concerning the products can be obtained from Pacific River Supply, 3675 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, CA 94803.

AWA members provide record contributions

AWA members came through in a big way last year, donating over \$15,700 to our conservation coffers. These gifts, when added to the \$14,500 netted by the 1990 Gauley Festival, go a long way towards protecting America's whitewater resources.

We don't like to waste graaously donated conservation dollars on numerous fundraising efforts throughout the course of the year. Accordingly, AWA has chosen to limit appeals to one specific year-end drive and a gentle reminder about the Whitewater Defense Project on membership renewal forms. Both of these methods worked very well for us during 1990, as members kicked in \$7,700 toward the Whitewater Defense Project and an additional \$8,100 for the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. Bravo!

Mac Thornton reports that a portion of the money recently raised for AWA's WVRC has been used to purchase much-needed computer equipment. It's good to know that we've been so instrumental in getting WVRC up and running. WDP dollars, however, are spread more thinly because they are used to supplement AWA conservation efforts throughout the United States. In this way

your WDP gifts enable AWA Directors and Regional Coordinators to directly benefit your favorite local rivers.

AWA thanks its contributing members for such a strong showing during 1990 and encourages you to keep up the

\$100 or more

Barry Robinson
Barbara Rottier
James Large, III
Gordon T.E. Taylor
Perception, Inc.
David Cushing
Birmingham Canoe Club
Bruce Kitney
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Gloria Ferrell
Ed Gertler
Stuart Davidson
Tom Tremblay
Peter Sholander
Hat Clauer
George Flinn, II
William Bishop

good work. Every little bit goes a long way toward helping AWA do what it does best--keeping your whitewater at its wildest! We'd like to include at this time a special acknowledgement of major 1990 donors:

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Greater Baltimore Canoe Club
Kayak and Canoe Club of New York
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Merrimack Valley Paddlers
ACA, Dixie Division
Triad River Runners
Carolina Canoe Club
East Tennessee Whitewater Club
Kayak and Canoe Club of Boston
Beartooth Paddlers

Perception names Wendy Wilson as award winner

Bill Masters, CEO of Perception, Inc., announced the selection of Wendy Wilson of Boise, Idaho as the tenth recipient of the company's River Conservationist of the Year Award and the first woman to be recognized for environmental activism under this program. The \$1,000 award is given annually as a stipend to support individual initiative in the fight to preserve America's free-flowing rivers.

This year's award recognizes Ms. Wilson's unceasing efforts to counter the opposition of political, military and special interest development groups to win passage of Idaho's first State Protected Rivers Program; gaining protection for 873 river miles on the Middle and North forks of the Boise, the Priest, the Payette and the Middle Snake Rivers and preventing the ill-considered flooding of 6,600 acres of public and private land in the scenic Round Valley.

Wilson has served as the sparkplug in organizing effective grassroots organization in Idaho. She also serves as an AWA Regional Coordinator and is the third recipient of the prestigious award associated with the AWA. Directors Peter Skinner and Pope Barrow were previous honorees.

Capping a decade of financial support and recognition for grass roots conservation efforts through the River Conservationist of the Year program, Perception Inc.'s focus on environmental concerns is a natural extension of the company's role as one of the world's leading designers and builders of whitewater and touring kayaks.

"The River Conservationist of the Year Award' underscores the company's commitment to improve yearly in fulfilling the role of responsible corporate citizen and environmental advocate," Masters noted.

To contact Wendy regarding Idaho river issues or to volunteer services, write Wendy Wilson, PO Box 633, Boise, ID 83701.

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AWA takes lead in organizing national whitewater rodeo circuit

If you are making paddling plans for the spring and summer, consider going where the action is - one of the many whitewater rodeos planned nationally for this year! If you have attended or participated in any of these events, you know that the only requirement is enthusiasm.

Last summer, the organizers of the events listed (below) formed NOWR - the National Organization of Whitewater Rodeos. The purpose of the organization is to enhance the quality of the individual events by working together to plan, promote and run them more efficiently and effectively. We also hope that by further promoting whitewater awareness, the need for river protection becomes as important as our temporal enjoyment!

Initially supported by AWA and New Wave Kayak Products, NOWR is working towards:

- guidelines/tips for organizers on event planning
- *standardized guidelines for scoring/judging surface and squirt boat freestyle contests
- *joint insurance coverage which is flexible and cost effective
- *publicity of the group of events, to supplement the individual organization efforts
- *solicitation of manufacturer sponsorship, on behalf of the event group

NOWR has received strong support from the paddling industry, with early commitment from companies like Patagonia, Dagger, New Wave, Kokatat, Wildwater Designs, Menasha Ridge Press, P D Designs, Lochsa Connection, and **Canoe Magazine** to support the concept.

AWA looks forward to having all of the leaders in the paddling world join us in promoting skilled whitewater play.

In future issues we will report on our progress, and the results of event competition around the states.

If you have any questions or comments or would like to help, contact Risa Shimoda Callaway at (704) 483-2758.



1991 NOWR Schedule			
Date	Event	Contact	Phone
4/20-21	Northern Idaho WW Festival	Mike Beiser	208-885-6810
4/27	New River Kayak Rodeo	Bill Sgrinia	702-387-6172
5/4-5	Bob's Hole Rodeo	Cindy Scherrer	503-668-3121
5/18-19	S-Turn Rodeo	Mike Sloan	703-528-1900
6/1-2	Blackfoot Whitewater Weekend	Joel Meier	406-243-6459
6/29-30	Animas River Days	Nancy Wiley	303-259-3893
6/29-30	Gallatin Whitewater Festival	Ric Roche	406-587-5913
7/6-7	Ocoee Whitewater Rodeo	Diana Holloran	615-338-4366
7/6-7	Payette Whitewater Roundup	Grant Amaral	208-462-3639
7/6-7	Colorado Cup	Doug Ragan	719-395-2421
8/31-9/1	Bigfoot Whitewater Rodeo	Wayne Marks	916-496-3413
9/2	Tulsa "Dustbowl" WW Rodeo	Randy Jackson	918-834-8622
9/7-8	American River Festival	Susan Debret	916 626-3435

World's largest raft race on Lehigh

Since 1977, thousands of recreational boaters have flocked to the Lehigh River, in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania to take part in the American Cancer Society's "Rafting Against Cancer...The Serious Side of Fun." Each year the race is organized and conducted by an experienced arsenal of volunteers...all fervently dedicated to the Carbon-Tamaqua

branch of the American Cancer Society,

This knock-out combination of having a good time and donating to a worthy cause has made this race popular with not only local residents but with people across the country. So popular, in fact, that the race's organizing committee has discovered that this is the largest raft race of its kind anywhere! The or-

BRIEFS

ganizing committee is currently seeking to have the race listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest whitewater raft race in the world.

Based on the overwhelming success of this one day recreation event, the race is being expanded to include a second day of professional level competition. On Saturday, July 9, professionals can compete in a 16-mile downriver raft race (open to both rafts and canoes) and a challenging 25 gate slalom (open to

both canoes and kayaks). Cash and prizes will be awarded. Entry fees are \$20 per person.

Registration forms can be obtained by **contacting** the Carbon-Tamaqua unit of the American Cancer Society, 33 West Ridge Street, Lansford, PA 18232 or by calling (717)645-2161.

Located midway between Wilkes-Barre and Allentown in eastern Pennsylvania, the Lehigh Gorge is a particularly scenic class II/III run.

Potomac Rodeo set

The Bethesda Center of Excellence is seeking volunteers to help plan and staff the Potomac River Rodeo slated for May 18. The rodeo will feature a squirt boat competition. Volunteers should call Mike Sloan at (202) 966-5373 or Steve Elder at (301) 320-2643. T shirt designs for the even are also being solicited. Design ideas should be mailed to the Bethesda Center for Excellence, 6211 Ridge Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20816.

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The Viper decked canoe

The evolution of a custom boat

(Editor's note: The process of developing the design of a custom boat is often complicated and labor intensive. In the following article, John Frachella outlines the procedures involved in finalizing a custom decked canoe of his design--the Viper. Although Frachella was the author of last month's "Big Swim" feature--it should be noted he was not paddling a Viper at that time.)

By JOHN FRACHELLA

The prototype of the Viper was fabricated using the hull of an old Cudamax (the only part worth salvaging from an old wreck). I cut 1 3/4" from the depth of the stern third of the hull and 3/4" from the depth of the bow third. The depth of the center third was left uncut to allow for a deep cockpit with comfort to accommodate larger paddlers. The deck was fashioned to squirt appropriateness

out of pieces from old busted-up boats. Humble beginnings. The end pours were done on the unfinished prototype using a hot batch of resin that melted a gentle curved rocker into the whole thing. The end result was a hull that semi-resembled that of a Vampire (a respectable surfing machine, even if it is a kayak).

This prototype was rough, but we paddled it, refined it, broke it, repaired it, re-refined it, paddled it some more. . . for a full season. When we were satisfied, a plug was made with diligent additions and subtractions of resin, body putty and hours and hours of wet sanding.

The final plug and mold is full volume but with a sharp chine in the bow and in the stern for easy squirts. The length is 11'6" and the width is a stable 28" (just like the good 'ole Cuda). Out of the mold, we've made full volume Vipers plus 1/2", 1" and 1 1/4" chops. Very basically, the heavier the paddler, the

larger the boat and the lighter the paddler, the smaller the boat. Custom chops are suggested.

So, how does the Viper perform? Well, the hull speed is somewhat decreased over that of the original Cuda due to the decreased length and the increased rocker. But it's not a dog by any means. The more time you spend in the boat, the more you learn to use the sharpness of the chine to your up and downstream advantage. Even novice and beginner-intermediate C-1 paddlers begin to pick this up right away.

In surfing, the Viper excels. It surfs far better than any C-1 I've ever been in. It simply doesn't pearl due to the extra bow rocker and the boat's shortness. The widest part of the hull is just behind your hips. This, and the sharp stern chine keep the stern implanted deep in a wave face with the hull horizontal, bow out of the face. At the trough you



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can easily lift and redirect the front half of the boat using a strong back lean to prevent the deck from loading. In this position, the chine acts like the rail of a surfboard in directing slices across the wave face in either direction at the top, mid-face, or in the trough.

The big water stability of the Viper is incredible. It's predictable, not squirrely like other squirt C-1's (Aerobat, Acrobat and Edge). It won't automatically stern squirt going downstream into big holes, nonetheless, if you want to squirt downstream into holes, the move can be executed with stability and control because the Viper is so wide.

Squirting in the Viper can be very easy. I'd suggest studying Jim Snyder's *The Squirt Book* (A Manual of Squirt Kayaking Techniques). In squirting, kayak and C-1 hip/boat angles are the same. C-1'ers need only transpose paddle moves from a double to a single bladed coordinate system. If you get a chance to take a squirt clinic from the likes of Jim or Jeff Snyder, do it. They helped me a lot in designing the Viper and eventually in squirting it.

Actually, the Viper performs a simple stern squirt so easily that it's almost obscene. If you get anywhere near a squeeze in strong current and if you lean upstream, the boat goes vertical and over backwards, unless you activate a spin to stabilize the thrust. Upstream Mush Moves and Wave Moves and downstream Rocket Moves in big or small water are a cinch to learn. Bow squirts are more difficult, a stronger current and/or pourovers are helpful. I could have designed the bow with lower volume to make bow squirts automatic, but, in my opinion, that sacrifices a C-1's big water stability too much. Uncontrollable bow squirts with a single blade in a big rapid is a bit unnerving not to mention the potential for bow pinning. I hate that, so I left the bow volume full.

The Viper blasts pretty well but it must be a fairly steep pourover. Small pourovers won't allow the stern to pull down far enough (high cockpit volume being the limiting factor here). Narrower boats with lower cockpit volumes blast better (but they also have the nasty habit of cartwheeling uncontrollably in big rap-

ids).

I've paddled the Viper all over the Northeast: New England, Quebec, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia. C-1'ers of various ability levels have paddled Vipers and the feedback can be condensed into one word—FUN.

I brought a Viper to Quebec with me last summer when I ran the Tewkesbury Section of the Jacques Cartier River with some top Canadian paddlers. No one was surfing the waves I was surfing unless they were in my boat.

We donated a Viper to the Gauley Festival Auction this fall and it attracted considerable attention during the bidding. We just got a call from the winner of the auction and he wants to order another Viper because his friends keep borrowing his. Folks that saw it in action on the New and on the Gauley were impressed and we picked up a lot of new orders.

Even Nolan Whitesell said he wanted to try one because it "looked like such a fun boat" . . . we may have an open boat convert there.

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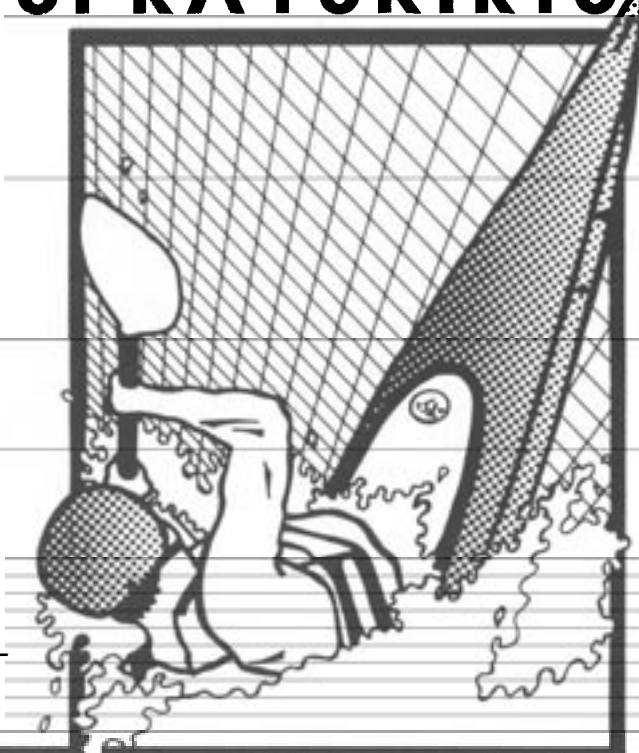


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What? Again?

Zbel triumphs at U. Yough race

By JOE GREINER

Roger Zbel won the tenth annual Upper Yough Downriver Race for the ninth time on August 30. The river level was about 2.1 on the Sang Run bridge and Roger's time of 27:14 was quite fast.

Brian Homberg edged Jeff Snyder for second place by ten seconds but they were both about two full minutes behind Roger's time. This marked the first time in the history of the event that Roger and Jeff didn't finish one-two or two-one. All three boaters used a downriver boat.

Andy Bridge, also in a downriver boat, won the C-1 class in a time of 31:31. Also in C-1, Billy Hearn and Dean Tomko finished about three minutes behind Andy. They were separated by only two seconds with the edge going to Billy.

Kara Ruppel won the women's K-1 in a time of 34:22. This was not fast enough however to prevent her from being beaten by Atilla Szylagyi in an inflatable kayak. Atilla finished in 34:17 to take top honors in the three-duck field.

Paul Joffrion became the second open boater to run the race but his time was far off the mark of 45 minutes that Jesse Whittemore set in 1988.

There were 59 boats entered this year and 50 of them finished in under 40 minutes over the five mile race course. Unlike last year when the water was higher and three boats did not finish, all the boaters passed the finish line this year.

The party was held at the local watering hole. The top three in each class got an award. Kara was a good sport when she went up to get her prize and was showered with duck calls in "honor" of her five second loss to Atilla and his "super-duck".

For 1991, the race should be the last Thursday in August. There were four classes raced in 1990. Where are the open boaters for 1991?

Men K-1

- 1. Roger Zbel 27:14
- 2. Brian Homberg 29:08
- 3. Jeff Snyder 29:18
- 4. *Marty McCormick* 30:36
- 5. Phil Coleman 31:16
- 6. John Weld 32:38
- 7. Bob Vernon 32:45
- 8. Chris *Huffman* 33:08
- 9. Rick *Gusic* 33:14
- 10. Dave *Bassage* 33:21

Men C-1

- 1. Andy Bridge 31:31
- 2. Billy Hearn 34:42
- 3. Dean Tomko 34:44

Women K-1


- 1. Kara *Ruppel* 34:22
- 2. Chara *O'Brien* 36:27
- 3. Karen Koehnlein 38:53

Ducks

- 1. Atilla Szylagyi 34:17
- 2. Jake *Nill* 43:11
- 3. Tim Greene 47:06

C-1-OPEN

- 1. Paul *Joffrion* longtime



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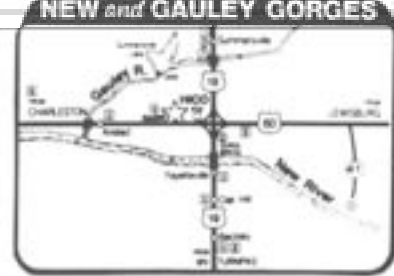
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Low-head rescue technique

Developed and written by
WAYNE SUNDMACHER

In the past few years, there have been a number of drownings of experienced paddlers in low head dams. While some of these man-made drops are unquestionably runnable, most are more dangerous than they look. In areas with little available whitewater, the excitement of challenging these drowning machines can overcome a paddler's good sense. Although I run drops like this from time to time, it is always with the utmost respect.

Judging the *safety* of these drops requires considerable experience. The difficulty of rescuing a paddler caught in a hydraulics must always be considered. Hydraulics are dangerous not only because of their power, but also because of their width. In many cases, paddlers witnessing a dam-related drowning are unable to reach the victim because of the distances involved.

Unfortunately, few paddlers are trained for dam rescue. And most techniques used by rescue squads are too equipment and manpower intensive to be used by recreational paddlers. Any method which can be deployed using the equipment available to recreational paddling groups can possibly save lives. For this reason, I offer the following technique to add to those you may already be familiar with.

I came across this idea several years ago while caught in a rather possessive hydraulic. I hung on to the end of my boat and was ferried smoothly to the edge of the hole and safety. The dynamics at work on my kayak, although purely accidental, stuck in my mind. Later, while participating in a river rescue course in Ohio, I began to wonder if this could be the basis of a technique for paddlers, similar to the fire hose rescued by fire departments. Of course, paddlers don't carry fire hoses which can be inflated into a rigid floating device to extend into the hydraulic to the victim. But perhaps a kayak could somehow substitute.

Remembering how I had moved across the face of the hydraulic, while hanging on to one end of a kayak, I decided to try to harness these forces to carry a line to a victim. The line is at-

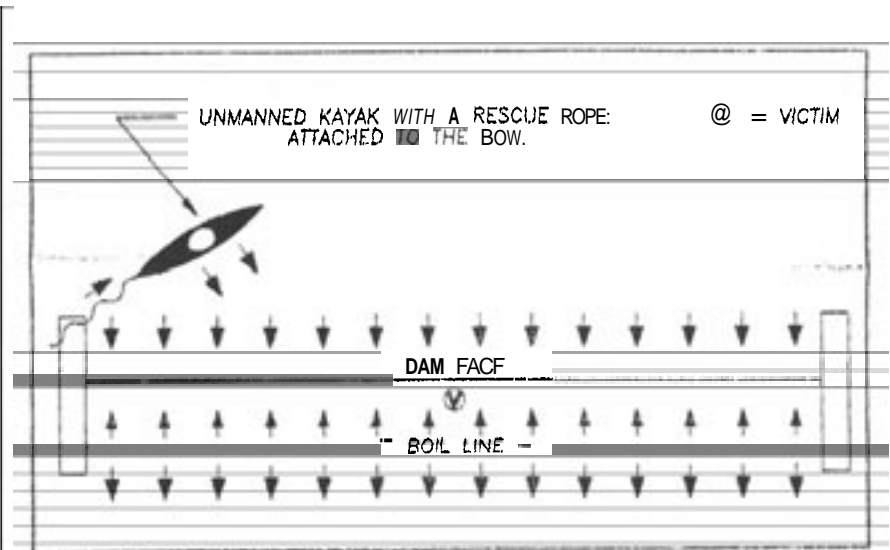


Fig. 1 - Launching

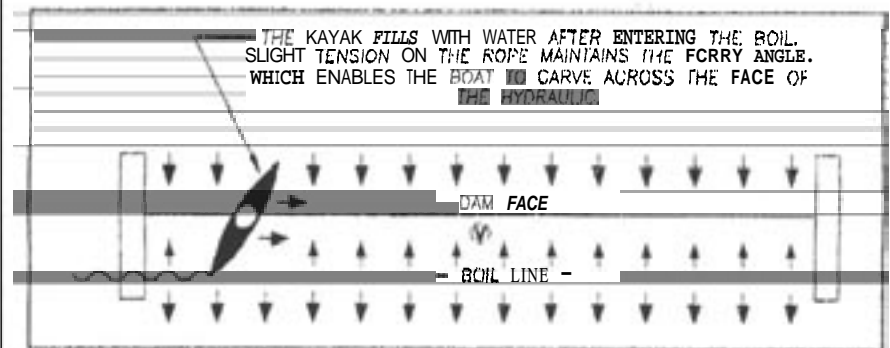


Fig. 2 - Ferry angle

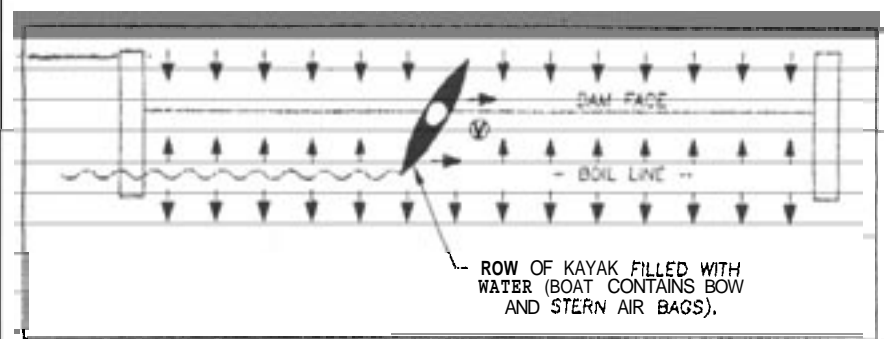


Fig. 3 - Carves across face.

tached to the bow of the kayak, which is fully outfitted with flotation. When a kayak is caught in a hole the bow fills with water, becoming heavier and less buoyant than the stern. This weight imbalance creates a ferrying action, similar to that used to move back and forth across the face of a hole while hand surfing, or to carve across the face of a hole when blasting a squirt boat. Several

SAFETY

throw lines tied together serve as a long control rope, allowing the kayak to carry them hundreds of feet across a hydraulic to a victim.

Once the basic procedure was worked out and tested in one hydraulic, I enlisted Charlie Walbridge to help evaluate the usefulness of this technique. The ferrying effect is most pronounced in wide, completely regular hydraulics, in which the swamped kayak moves with incredible speed. The major problems occurred when the boat encountered breaks in the hydraulic where the current washes through, which carried the kayak out of the hole and downstream. We also had problems when the kayak hung up on shallow obstructions in the backwash, and debris in the hydraulic. Breaks and shallow obstructions are less common in strong hydraulics, where this technique is most effective and most likely to be needed. Debris in the hydraulic will be a problem with any rescue technique.

This technique will easily pull two or more 70' lengths of rescue rope across the face of a hydraulic, depending on the force of the hole. The pull of the



current on the line becomes stronger as the distances increase; I'm not sure what the maximum controllable reach is yet.

We tested the technique in four low head dams, of different designs. While not suitable for all rescues, in a large

majority of situations it will work quite well. It can be used in some instances where logistics prohibit other rescue techniques, and in other instances may be a better option due to the speed with which it can be deployed. As with any of



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AWA Close Calls and Paddling Attitudes Surveys

An introduction

AWA is currently assessing the safety needs of the whitewater boating community. The information gained from this study will be used to establish safety programs and priorities for the 1990s. As part of this study, the Safety Committee is presently looking for answers to two key questions: 1) where are the most risks encountered and why? and 2) what are the present safety practices and attitudes among paddlers.

To answer the first question, AWA prepared and distributed the Close Calls and Serious Injuries Survey. Members and affiliated clubs were sent copies of this survey in early January and are presently sending in some very useful information. The information that we get will be analysed by several of us including David Wallace, a researcher and paddler who spends his other life doing this sort of analysis for the CDC in Atlanta. We thank David for stepping forward to join us in this critical task.

As of this writing, we are encouraged by the quality of responses that we have received, but are a long way from having enough information to show us the whole picture. Among those who responded to this appeal are some of the best known and most accomplished paddlers in the sport today. At the same time, however, we are receiving equally valuable information from paddlers of other skill levels, covering rivers in all regions of the country. We thank you for the information and hope that those who have not sent in their surveys will do so soon. We will need many more responses before we will be able to see significant trends. If you haven't received a copy of the form or have misplaced it, we have included a copy on the back side of this page.

To answer the second question, (what are the present safety practices and attitudes among paddlers) we find that we must ask you for some additional help. We all have our own ideas about what safety gear to carry and when and how to practice safety on the river. To understand the safety situation nationwide better, however, we need to aggregate everyone's views on this important subject. To formulate an effective safety program, AWA needs to learn how these ideas affect your equipment choices and practices.

We ask that every one of you, no matter how radical or conservative a paddler you consider yourself, set aside the couple of minutes it takes to fill out the questionnaire on the next pages. Please, tell us what you actually practice - not what you think you should practice. Your responses to this survey will be completely anonymous so that you can be free to respond accurately.

We hope that the answers to the two questions will be found in our analyses of your responses to these two appeals. These answers will guide AWA safety programs into the 1990s which we hope will be much safer and more challenging decade.

Thank you for your support and don't forget to mail them promptly. We would appreciate a response from you before May of 1991.

Thanks,

AWA Safety Committee
Lee Belknap
Peter Skinner
Charlie Walbridge

AWA

WHITEWATER SAFETY AND EQUIPMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

PAGE I

Dear Paddler, Your opinions about safety can give AWA some guidance about where additional efforts are needed to help assure the safety of whitewater boaters. Please be brutally honest - don't answer what you think you should be answering. We want to know

what is actually being practiced. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

I. TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT:	WHITEWATER BOAT TYPE:				
	Kayak	Open Canoe	Decked Canoe	Raft	Furyak
1 Number of years you've paddled:					
2 You own how many of which boats:					
3 Your skill level for each is? (Class I-VI)					
4 Professional courses taken, skill level?*					

* Course level codes: B: Beginner I: Intermediate A: Advanced E: Expert

When you first learned to paddle whitewater, did you learn...

5 With a club?.....	A: Yes	B: No
6 On your own?.....	A: Yes	B: No
7 Have you ever participated in paddling club safety clinics?.....	A: Yes	B: No
8 Have you ever participated in commercial safety clinics?.....	A: Yes	B: No
9 Have you ever seen any rescue or safety videos?.....	A: Yes	B: No
10 My favorite reason to paddle is:.....	A: Scenery	B: Achieving
	C: Friends	D: Adrenaline

II. LEVEL OF MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS:	CPR	STANDARD FIRST AID COURSES			EMT	WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER
		BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED		
11 MEDICAL TRAINING						
12 Approx. last expiration date?						
13 FIRST AID KIT LEVEL						

III GENERAL INFORMATION:

14 Do you stay fit for paddling?.....	A: Yes	B: No
15 If so, how?.....		
16 Do you curtail your paddling activity when you feel ill, or are injured?.....	A: Yes	B: No
17 Do you have friends who frequently paddle after using alcohol or marijuana?.....	A: Yes	B: No
18 Do you maintain a bombproof roll?.....	A: Yes	B: No
19 About how many times in the previous year did you participate in a roll session?.....		
20 Have you ever recommended that someone you know reconsider attempting a particular run because of their lack of experience, equipment, fitness, skills, attentiveness, safety attitude, etc?.....	A: Yes	B: No
21 Have you ever had a "close call", or serious injury while paddling?.....	A: Yes	B: No
22 If so, have you filled out an AWA Close Calls Survey form?..... (If you haven't, and the accident was recent, please provide us with a folded (to remain anonymous) name and address card with your response. We will gladly send you a form.)	A: Yes	B: No
23 Are you an AWA member?.....	A: Yes	B: No
24 If so, how long?.....		
25 Are you married?.....	A: Yes	B: No
26 Do you have any children?.....	A: Yes	B: No
27 What is your profession?.....		
28 What is your age?.....		

AWA

WHITEWATER SAFETY AND EQUIPMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

PAGE II

EQUIPMENT AND PREPARATION

IV .BOAT PREFERENCES:	STEEP TECHNICAL RUNS	BIG WATER OR HIGH FLOWS	EVERYDAY RUNS	EXPLORATORY OR EXTREME RUNS
29 Estim. # of days/yr spent in a KAYAK:				
30 Estim. # of days/yr spent in SQUIRT BOAT:				
31 Estim. # of days/yr spent in OPEN CANOE:				
32 Estim. # of days/yr spent in a C-1:				
33 Estim. # of days/yr spent in a RAFT:				

V. EQUIPMENT PREFERENCES:

Please circle the appropriate code to indicate your normal choices:

A=ALWAYS S=SOMETIMES N=NEVER C=COLD DAYS ONLY H=HIGH WATER

34 Take apart paddle	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
35 Front float bags	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
36 Rear float bags	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
37 High float PFD	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
38 Regular float PFD	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
39 Low float PFD	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
40 Rescue harness on PFD	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
41 River knife	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
42 Carabineer(s)	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
43 Throwrope (more than 60 feet)	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
44 Throwrope (less than 60 feet)	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
45 Short rope or webbing around waist	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
46 Stern line	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
47 Whistle	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
48 First aid kit	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
49 Matches, firestarter, other survival stuff	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
50 Always wear shoes/booties	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
51 Wetsuit	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
52 Drysuit	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
53 Breakaway deck	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
54 Keyhole (large) cockpit	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
55 Always have minimum of 3 paddlers	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H
56 Use the Buddy System on the river	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H	A S N C H

VI. PLEASE RETURN BY APRIL 15, 1990 TO:
AWA SAFETY SURVEY, P.O. Box 85, Phoenicia, NY 12464

Thank you for your help!

AWA "CLOSE CALLS" AND SERIOUS INJURIES SURVEY

B

Dear Paddler, the data that this survey generates will be used to better define riversport accident patterns for the purpose of refocusing AWA's Safety Program. As the number of fatalities per year continue to mount, we need as much nonfatal data as we can get--from both experts and novices alike. Please be accurate in your response. If applicable, xerox this form and fill out separately for each experience you've been involved in. Your responses will be treated in confidence; no name will be used in the analysis or published in any way. If you feel ill at ease naming names, please make your reports specific enough so that we don't count the same accident twice. If you can, please attach a written narrative of the accident on the back so we can better understand what happened. Thankyou so much & happy paddling.

1 YOURNAME: _____	MAIL TO:	SURVEY # _____
2 VICTIMS NAME: _____	AWA Safety Committee	CODER #: _____
3 VICTIM'S AGE: _____	P.O. Box 85	
4 OCCURRENCE DATE: _____	Phoenicia, NY 12464	
5 RIVER NAME AND SECTION: _____		
6 COUNTY AND STATE : _____		
7 LOCATION ON RIVER: _____		
8 RIVER GAGE READING: _____ CFS? FEET? OTHER? _____		
9 APPROXIMATE GAGE LOCATION: _____		
10 RELATIVE RIVER FLOW:.....	A: Very Low	B: Low C: Medium D: High E: Flood
11 RIVER DIFFICULTY AT ACCIDENT SITE:....	A: II	B: III C: IV D: V E: VI
12 RESCUE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED:.....	A: None	B: Paddlers C: Non-Paddlers
13 EVACUATION METHOD:.....	A: Paddle Out	B: Walk Out C: Comercial Raft D: Priv.Canoe Ride E: Rescu squad
14 WAS HOSPITALIZATIONREQUIRED?.....	A: Yes	B: No C: Not Injured D: Don't Know
15 VICTIM'S BOAT TYPE:.....	A: Squirt	B: race K-1,C-1 C: Reg. K-1,C-1 D: Open Canoe E: Raft, Etc.
16 VICTIM'S PFD TYPE:.....	A: High Float	B: Normal Float C: Low Float (for squirting, etc...)
17 WAS VICTIM CARRYING THROWROPE?...	A: Yes	B: No C: Don't Know
18 RESCUER CARRYING THROWROPE?.....	A: Yes	B: No C: Don't Know
19 WAS VICTIM USING FLOATBAGS?.....	A: Rear Only	B: Front & Rear C: None D: Don't Know
20 WATER TEMPERATURE:.....	A: Above 55 f	B: Cold C: Very Cold D: Almost Ice
21 WEATHER CONDITIONS:.....	A: Warm or Hot	B: Air Below 50 f C: Snow On Ground
22 VICTIM'S COLD WATER PROTECTION:.....	A: Wetsuit	B: Drysuit C: Pile D: None or N/A
23 VICTIM'S PRIOR PHYSICAL CONDITION:..	A: Very Poor	B: Poor C: Average D: Very Good
24 VICTIM'S SKILL LEVEL:.....	A: Low	B: Medium C: High D: Unsure
25 WHAT WAS THE INJURY? (if any): _____		

ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION: Please circle all applicable factors that help describe the occurrence:

Accident Type:	Contributing Factors:	B13 Low Head Dam
A1 Vertical Pin	B1 Inappropriate Boat Type	B14 Cold Water
A2 Side Pin (middle)	B2 Weather	B15 Class V-VI Difficulty
A3 Side Pin (ends)	B3 Lack of Health/Fitness	B16 Collision with Commercial Raft
A4 Bottom Splat	B4 Drugs or Alcohol	B17 Collision With Private Boat
A5 Undercut Trap	B5 Equipment Choice	B18 Inexperience
A6 Other Type of Boat Entrapment	B6 Equipment Failure	B19 Other: _____
A7 Recirculation	B7 Very High Flow	Basic Initiating Factors:
A8 Long Swim	B8 Bad Hydraulic	C1 Bad Judgement
A9 Foot Entrapment	B9 Unseen Obstacle	C2 Lack of Experience
A10 Rock Sieve	B10 Group Too Small	C3 Inattention
A11 Log/Debris Obstacle	B11 Group Too Big	C4 Act of God
A12 Other: _____	B12 Unsuccessful Rescue	C5 Other: _____

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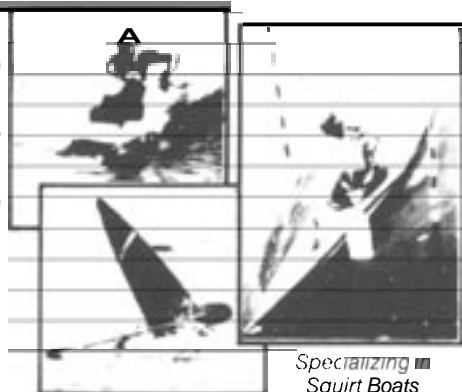
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SAFETY

the other techniques available, I suggest this be practiced to get a feel for it.

To summarize, the basic technique works like this;

Connect a rescue rope to the bow end of a medium to high volume kayak. You'll need stern air bags held in securely; removing the bow bags may increase the ferrying effect. The stern will actually act as the bow for the purpose of this rescue. Launch the empty boat into the hydraulic, either from the shore or, if necessary, from a point downstream of the victim. The boat will fill with water once it reaches the face of the dam.

Once the boat has taken on water, the heavy bow end will sit lower and down stream of the stern, which has more floatation. This sets up the ferry angle which can be controlled by applying slight tension to the rope. The force of the ferry will overcome both the weight of the rope and the tension applied for control. As a matter of fact, in strong hydraulics it takes a great deal of strength to keep the boat from moving across the face.

The "kick" of the hydraulic should be taken into consideration, too. If the current tends to "kick" trapped objects from one side to the other (perhaps caused by the angle of the dam in relation to the down stream flow) these forces should be put to work. A quick look should tell the experienced paddler which side of the dam will make best use of the natural kick.

Once the boat has reached the victim, it can be grabbed and used for flotation. The victim can then be pulled to safety across the face of the hydraulic to shore, or the rope can be worked downstream so you can pull the victim through the boil.

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SAFETY

SHOCK: *Not always an obvious symptom... but often a serious condition*

By Stanley B. Burbank

One of the most common mistakes a first aider makes is to treat the obvious. Nothing gets faster attention than a good wound with lots of blood. And if you've just finished a first aid course on bandaging techniques, you can't wait to try out a few of your favorite knots.

What each of us quickly learns is that the obvious isn't always the most serious aspect.

Some months ago I was called to an accident scene to find the patient surrounded by people. As I pulled up, I noticed the face of the person on the ground was completely obscured from all the blood.

A bystander had stopped the bleeding by placing his mitten on the wound and applying only light pres-

sure.

A few years earlier it would have been easy for me to concentrate on the picturesque, obvious injury to the face which was only a simple laceration above the nose. Fortunately, experience and training made me continue my secondary evaluation to include:

- the spine: no irregularities found
- * rib cage: difficulty breathing, broken ribs, lacerated liver
- * pelvis: abdominal pain, broken pelvis
- * pulse: rapid and weak, shock

Needless to say, this person was in serious condition, not because of the obvious cut but because of the hidden internal injuries and the resulting shock. Mishandled, or overlooked, the unseen injuries could have easily killed her.

Shock is the one unseen condition which you should always assume is present. No matter what the situation, always treat for shock.

Shock is simply a depressed state of many vital body functions. It is the result of loss of blood volume, or a reduced rate of blood flow, or an insufficient supply of oxygen.

The severity of shock is increased by changes in body warmth, pain, rough handling and transportation and delay in treatment.

Common causes of shock include bleeding, vomiting, heart attack, stroke, perforation of a stomach ulcer or poison.

Signs and symptoms of shock include:

- * restlessness and anxiety

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*rapid pulse which becomes weak and thready

*cold, clammy, pale skin

*profuse sweating

*abnormal respirations

•dull eyes, dilated pupils

•thirst

•nausea

*weakness

*falling blood pressure

*confusion

Emergency care for shock should include the following:

(1) Maintain an open airway

(2) Control bleeding

(3) Elevate the lower extremities about 12 inches except in cases of cardiogenic shock (heart attack) or when contradicted due to breathing problems

(4) Maintain body warmth

(5) Splint fractures

(6) Give nothing to eat or drink

(7) Transport to emergency care facility immediately

Special types of shock include simple fainting and anaphylactic shock.

In fainting the causes are usually momentary and the patient will regain

consciousness as soon as he is put in the shock position which allows cerebral blood flow to increase. The patient should rest before returning to a normal level of activity.

Anaphylactic shock is an immediate, life-threatening allergic response, usually to a bee sting, drug or food.

The usual signs and symptoms include:

•hives

*massive swelling of the face or

tongue

*wheezing

*nausea

*vomiting

•cramps

•diarrhea

These signs can rapidly progress into convulsions, coma and death.

The emergency antidote for anaphylactic shock is Epinephrine by injection. Most persons with known allergic conditions will carry a kit containing the necessary pre-loaded syringes with directions for use.

Persons not properly trained and licensed cannot legally give injections.

However, you can assist the patient who will know exactly what to do. Every minute counts. The patient will need a second injection five to ten minutes later if he or she does not improve quickly.

The patient should be immediately transported to the closest emergency care facility and may require oxygen, or CPR on the way.

Remember, in the case of shock, what you can't see can kill you.

See you on the river.

AWA surveys to be distributed

In an effort to quantify conditions leading up to recent whitewater accidents, the AWA is circulating its paddlers' attitude and close-calls surveys. Copies of both are included in this magazine.

Paddlers are encouraged to complete and forward the surveys. Your participation is vital if the AWA is to compile a valid data base.



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Kayak Classics

Introduction

American Whitewater is ever conscious of criticism that its editorial content is devoid of cultural or artistic value. Therefore, it is with considerable pride that we print the following epic poem, "Christmas on the Meadow."

Recently discovered in a musty pile of mouldy documents, "Christmas on the Meadow" is an American whitewater myth. Its author is unknown other than the sobriquet "Erbie."

As with much mythic poetry, the anonymous author has woven a deeply textured story with meanings on many levels. American Whitewater has enlisted its resident literary critic, Gary Carlson, to provide scholarly annotations.

Christmas on the Meadow

by "Erbie"

with scholarly annotations by Gary Carlson

'Twas three days before Christmas and all through the house
~~Not a~~ creature was stirrin but my Cookie-Makin Spouse.

An interesting paddling phenomenon. Wives who are "creatures" prior to paddling trips are lovingly referred to as "Honey-bun" after two weeks in the Grand Canyon.

My booties were hung by my kayak with care
My paddle and spray skirt also were there.
I had visions of paddling in 60 degrees

Literary hyperbole. There has never in the recorded history of the world been a set of parents pleased ~~that~~ their their daughter married a kayaker.

Knowing ~~this weather could leave in a~~ sneeze.
But, lo and behold I was forced to re-think,
'Cause Cookie-Maker told Dad I'd re-plumb his sink.
With my knowledge of things related to water
I knew my in-laws were pleased with their daughter
For marrying a guy that could do such repairs
For only some tea and chocolate eclairs.
I thought I'd be done by ten in the morning
But, problems broke out without any warning.
One leak after another caused really loud shouts
As I saw my paddling fade into doubts.

At first interpreted as an allusion to kayaker's animal mentality. However, the word "cage" might simply indicate that many of author's paddling partners were in jail.

An indication that the author is a "mature" paddler. Younger boaters work for Budweiser and any food that boasts more chemicals than natural ingredients.

In spite of this set-back I just thought I'd rattle
The cage of some friends who might want to paddle.
The weather next day was going to turn worse,
But hard-cores figure, that's not really a curse.
I dialed and I dialed to find most them out,
My list of die-hards, I was beginning to doubt.
Then all of a sudden with a gleam in my eye
I thought to call Wade, he just hates to be dry.
He's been a good friend and paddling mentor,
To many new runs he's been my presenter.
Paddling ~~with him puts me right on the edge~~
Where I have to dig deep for ability to dredge.

West Virginia class IV/V run whose shuttle is littered with the remains of punctured oil pans. Glenn Miller alleviates the problem by stacking boats and paddlers in the back of an old stakerack truck and hauling them out of the ~~run~~. Before starting his ~~shuttle~~ service, Miller used the truck for transporting logs to his mill. So, in a sense, he's still hauling dead wood.

The water was high, we expected more rains,
Streams would be truckin like run-away trains.
We thought of Big Sandy and good old Glenn Miller
But, the shuttle in his truck would be a real killer.
With water this high there would be lots of places
We could dip our paddles and freeze our faces.
We thought we could paddle some shorter runs
Sipping hot chocolate to unfreeze our buns.

Kayak Classics

The plan was to wait until the next day
To see what the gages had to say.
So I went upstairs and nestled in bed
While visions of pour-overs danced in ^{my head.} my head.
Suddenly I awoke to a tremendous clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
A cold front slammed through like an elephant stampede
Dumping rainfall in sheets which we really didn't need.
The garbage cans flew, the bird feeder spun,
The aluminum siding made the weirdest hum.
I went back to bed for a whole lot more sleep,
Aside from my cat I **didn't** hear a peep.

Paddlers from this part of the country typically rely upon a recorded telephone list of whitewater gage readings offered by the National Weather Service in Pittsburgh. The report is usually not available until after 9 a.m. Although local paddlers have a pretty good **idea** of what's running--"waiting for the gage" is an excellent excuse for sleeping in. Obviously, the number is **commonly dialed**. In fact, local lore tells of a newly-married paddler who was **confronted** by his wife who angrily waved an itemized long-distance bill under his nose. She thought the frequently appearing number to be proof of an affair. Of course, in a way, she was **correct**.

At a more reasonable hour I left my warm bed
To give Wade a call to see what's ahead.
Before I could call, a call came for me
Some guy from Chicago, was shakin my tree.
He was on his way to "Capitol Town"
And phoned from the turnpike to see who's around.
Headed for Mom's in Old Washington
He thought he would stop for some H2O fun.
Not knowing this "dude" I tested his metal
Describing our run as far from rose petal.
No place at all for paddlers who doubt
To **what** degree **their** skill is about.
He said he's paddled both of the "Uppers",
The **Yough** and the Gauley without loosing suppers.
I gave Wade a call and Kevin called back,
Our decision to paddle was in Santa's sack.
The place to meet was the Lower **Yough**
The time we picked was eleven o'clock.
We'd check out some levels and decide what to run
Regardless of where, we were in for some fun.

Chicago paddlers often appear as the butt of whitewater epics. Authors find a certain irony in **characters** who cheerfully travel eight hours one way to endure frightful trashings.

The gage at the Lower was five and 9 inches,
With Cucumber and Meadow you'd add a few pinches,
Top that off with a little from Heaven
And all of a sudden It's well over seven.
With the Lower at seven the take-out comes soon,
In an hour or so we'd be "Throwin a Moon".
So the run we decided to add for some fun
Is one that few paddlers actually have done.
Along Dinner Bell Road it runs off the ridge,
And dumps in the Yough just past the bridge.
Most will know it because of the "Slides"
But, few discover more treasures it hides.
If you're not up to paddling this tiny stream
The trails along it are "peaches and cream".
At a leisurely pace, your two hour "hoof"
Reveals most of the drops where we frolic and "boof".
Come summer and dreaded low water readings
There's great spots for picnics and such kind of meetings.

Evidence of the epic's antiquity. The **Upper Yough** and **Upper Gauley** were once thought to be the outer limits of Eastern expert paddling. Now, "I've paddled the Upper Yough" are often famous last words before an ambitious aspiring expert experiences a royal trashing.

Typical summer levels on the Lower **Yough** average about two feet and are suitable for intermediate boaters. Novices start to quiver when the river rises over three feet. At a level of nearly seven feet, as reported in the epic, the Lower **Yough** is an **advanced** to expert run.

----- Tributaries that enter the **Yough** just after the put-in.

The **Yough** take-out does not feature changing rooms.

Meadow Run, a steep-creek run that empties into the Lower **Yough** from the south just after the put-in, is best known for "the Slides." A long, narrow sluice, in times of low water the rapid **attracts crowds** of rafters who slid down the slick muck on their butts. Surprisingly, brain damage is seldom reported.

----- To hip back while launching off a steep drop thus keeping the nose of a boat up. The subsequent flat landing avoids pinning situations and aids in "skipping" across hydraulics.

Kayak Classics

I'm amazed at paddlers who think Meadow Run
Is too tight and too steep and can not be done.
I put it right there on the top of my list
Of really tight, technical runs that exist.

Since Kevin was new to our technical equation
We stared above our normal location.
At the little white church where our car came to rest
Was where we put in to start Kevin's test.
With critical eye we watched how he moved
And for him on this run, so far we approved.
As we paddled beneath Dinner Bell Bridge
We were soon to drop off this very sharp ridge.
Where the volume picks up and the stream gets tight,
We checked to see if his knuckles got whiter,
Our confidence built in his paddling style
And we felt he would make it on down to the Pyle.

A few drops later the "Cascades" appeared,
A drop that's respected and rightfully feared.
To run this slide of fifty yards
To many paddlers is not in the cards.
At degree 45 it probably slopes,
It's been run by some who are not really dopes.
At low water levels it's "a bump and a grind"
To the right there's undercuts you don't want to find.
In high water it's smoother, but don't tell a soul
That at the bottom there's a helluva hole!
No matter the level the one thing to fight,
Is to make sure your boat is always upright.
A flip in this slide would be a disaster,
Your entire body could end up in plaster.

Approaching the lip of this challenging slide
Into the eddy I failed to glide.
Missing the eddy spurred rapid decision
As I did a 180 to improve my vision.
To my delight although much too far right,
Avoiding the rocks was a winnable fight.
I must admit, I was a bit scared
Of a line, to our knowledge, that's not been dared.
I stroked and I stroked past pine and willow
To find near the undercut a friendly pillow
Which moved me more left than I thought I would be,
And now on a line much more pleasing to me.
This show of talent was not part of my plan
But, if filmed, it could have "gone in the can".
Wade's run was good and Kevin's still better,
We decided this kid was a real go getter.

The blood and guts of Meadow Run lie below the meeting place for commercial rafting outfitters.

Short for Ohiopyle. Name has an Indian derivation, not (as commonly believed) from the propensity of paddlers from the Ohio-based Keelhaulers Club.



This second drop of "the Slides" pictured at low water. The rapid is often shallow and a flip would result in uncomfortable abrasions.

This section suggests the author never meant for the epic to be publicly viewed. Kayakers seldom admit that spontaneously executed routes were not intended from the start.

Kayak Classics

From the pool at the bottom we clearly could see
The stream blocked below by quite a large tree.
Wade thought his "limbo" just slightly distracting
While Kevin and I did a little bush-whacking.
From there on down was quite a good ride
As tight as it is, there are places to hide.
Although this run seems very complex
Tight eddies allow you to see what comes next.
The tough drop we knew was coming up later,
"One Rock, Two Rock, Three Rock, Terminator".

Approaching "One Rock" we clearly could see
The left side of "Terminator" had some debris.
To scout this drop we left-eddied out
To see what this junk was all about.
To run it far left was our usual way,
With the tree on that side we'd change it today.
The middle approach holds a short obelisk,
And clearing it takes considerable risk.
If you get by that with skill and some luck
And paddle real hard you will not get stuck.
A goof on this line can be a boat bender,
And the hole at the bottom can cause you to ender.
With the level this high it's a serious game
To keep "Terminator" from earning its name.

Wade's run was good, we could see in his face
That he guided his boat down just the right place.
And now it was our turn as I can recall
To "boof" real hard over this vicious maw.
Before I could cast off and leave my dock
Kevin was up and around "One Rock".
I couldn't see him approaching the lip,
But I knew he got endered in a violent flip.
Thoroughly thrashed in the hole below
Inability to get out was starting to show.
Problems with pogies and lost concentration,
Wade on the rock seemed his only salvation.
Around and around in the hole that was "boss",
He missed, two times, the rope Wade did toss.
The third toss he snatched with a life saving grip
And wondered, I'm sure, why he'd made this trip.
When I finally reached him there wasn't a smile,
He really felt he would drown for a while.
Wade got his boat, and recovered one shoe,
But his paddle was gone, a loss we knew.



Wade Zinter doing limbo under Meadow Run tight spot.

Some of the more significant named drops of Meadow Run.

"Pogies" are an essential item of cold-weather equipment during half the year for northern paddlers. Fitting around the blade of the paddle, the paddler slides his hand inside. While "pogies" sometimes interfere with the feel of the paddle, the alternative of frost-bitten digits makes for an easy choice.

Kayak Classics

While leaving his boat with an un-planned twist
His knee was not strong enough to resist
The force of the boat being pummeled around
By a hole that grinds paddlers into "ground round".
Although we had brought our "break-down sticks",
This "lefty", now wounded, was all out of tricks.
Both our break-downs were right hand control
So up, out of ravine he decided to stroll.
Not actually a stroll at this particular spot,
But up a steep cliff with rhododendron a lot.
As I pulled his boat, Wade pushed from behind
And sooner than expected the road we did find.
Somehow with crutch he was already there
Before Wade and I could replenish our air.
With secret instructions to locate Wade's key
He could find some Motrin for the pain in his knee.
We were not far from the "change house" lot,
So the trip to his car was an easy shot.
His boat in the bushes quite secure,
He felt he could handle the rest for sure.

Note to vegetarian paddlers: reference to form of real food.

"Stick" is an eastern colloquialism for paddle--derived from the preference of eastern paddlers for custom wood paddles. "Break-down sticks" refer to take-apart paddles--or to any paddle used by a boater with less than one year experience.

Parking area for Lower Yough put-in.

So down the Meadow returned Wade and I
Around, up and over rocks we did fly.
Three drops later the time had come
To seek out the eddy that's missed by some.
Lurking ahead is a skinny, steep slide
Through which I have no desire to glide.
Not wanting to copy my performance before,
I chose an eddy a bit further up-shore.
Because if you goof at this critical point
Your limbs might get to m right from their joint.
On a previous trip at a level this high
My paddling partner left out a sigh,
"That scene is something you'd expect to discover
On next month's National Geographic Cover!"

Although "the Slides" have been run, the rapid is not recommended. Less than a boat length in width and stretching for nearly fifty yards, a broach is a distinct possibility.

Most male kayakers would expect (or at least hope) to find a more exotic National Geographic cover subject.

The portage around being quite easy,
My stomach no longer felt at all queasy.
But, the next drop below did not look too clean
As Wade thrashed about, I could see it was mean.
With he changing rules in Ohiopyle Park
To know what they are leaves one in the dark.
When one set is working, and "they" think "we" have won
They suddenly change them to limit our fun.
Wade had so much fun in that drop, I knew,
He'd used up the quota for probably two.
So I put in below to avoid that drop
Because up on the bridge might lurk a Fun Cop.

Reference to conflicts between whitewater paddlers and the administration of Ohiopyle State Park which surrounds the Lower Yough. Park rangers claim they are beleaguered by the sheer numbers of paddlers and rafters. Paddlers feel that the rangers suffer from a Brown Shirt mentality. Personally, this annotator believes that any park with regulations forbidding alcohol consumption within park limits needs to have its policies seriously analyzed.

Kayak Classics

A few more drops and things are real rosy,
We're out in the Yough and feeling quite cozy.
The Yough at this level has big water feeling,
Exiting eddies gives jet-propelled peeling.
It's not real hard if you can read the river,
But avoiding big holes can still make you quiver.

There are very few spots you would recognize,
Huge boulders seem to be cut down in size.
When "Piddley" and "Dimple" have no rocks in sight,
Suing large waves is a challenging fight.
When "Schoolhouse Rock" looks two feet high
One can certain not deny
This river's undoubtedly no place for most,
But, that is perfectly OK with your host.
Others can sit by their fire watching games
While I'm out here making boisterous claims.
No one will know if I really was here
While sitting home drinking their "shot and a beer".

Piddley and Dimple are rock-strewn class 3 rapids at normal levels while Schoolhouse rises eight feet out of the middle of the river.

As opposed to paddlers who typically order "shots and beers."

I've heard from Kevin like I wanted to,
We didn't find his paddle nor his other shoe.
His knee is not right, but not totally wrecked,
Carefully, with x-rays he had it checked.
He called from Mom's to express his thanks
Although he screwed up one of his shanks.
His spirits were high and he said he had fun
On Meadow, to date, his steepest creek run.
If you're hiking along Meadow, maybe looking for a Troll,
Keep an eye out for a Harmony with left hand control.
It's spatched on both ends with clear fiberglass,
But no name inscribed. Alas! Alas!

Unfortunately, the number of paddles lost along the Lower Yough and its tributaries are legion.

I get carried away in these creative times,
I started with one of those Christmas Rhymes.
So, it seems only fair for me to mention
That was merely a way to get your attention.
But, back on that track, I'd just like to say
This Christmas thing is probably here to stay.
Although to many I'm a "Scrooge" from Dickens
When given a present, my heartbeat, it quickens.
The boots and pile pull-over I really do treasure
I'll wear them both with a great deal of pleasure.
But, one of my presents I'll remember the most
Is our run on Meadow of which I can boast.
Were we really there??? You'll never know
Unless next Christmas you decide to show.
To end this dribble seems hardly in sight,
When my brain is in gear it's a heckuva fight
To bring it to rest and back from its flight.
So I'll end it all with this seasonal trite,
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!



A long-forgotten photo of the author caught in the middle of the Cascades.

Padding in a mystical land *where the pigs have horns*



By POPE BARROW



GRINGO TOURISTS IN CHILE

*It was early last September
As near as I remember
While strolling down a lane in Riverside*

*Not a soul was I disturbing
While I lay there on the curbing
When a pig up and lay down by my side*

*Not a word did we utter
As we laid there in the gutter
When this high-toned lady stopped and
I heard her say*

*You can tell a man who boozes
By the company he chooses
And the pig got up and slowly walked away...*

Verse provided by Rich Smith, Crested Butte, Colorado

It was only my third night camping out in Chile. As I drifted off to sleep, the southern cross lit up the cloudless sky. It was a quiet night. I began to dream of clear Andean streams with 30 foot runnable waterfalls—3 gringo kayakers flashing smoothly through some of most magical whitewater in the world.

Suddenly I was startled by a huffing sound outside my tent. I heard a guttural noise. Something knocked a pot off the rocks near the campfire embers. Almost against my will, I forced open my eyes and peeked out from my raggedy little tent. I spotted a hulking form in the moonlight. It looked like a pig. But this was no normal pig. It had two large pointy things protruding ominously from its head. "Jeeze", I muttered, "they have pigs with antlers down here. I'm going to get gored to death by a porker and my poor kids will never believe how I died."

Slowly the realization sank in. This could be worse than last night upon the Rio Maipo where a nest of hairy baseball-sized spiders attempted to evict us from our campsite.

After a bottle of cheap (I'm talking less than \$1 U.S.) Chilean wine, a few glasses of some horrible stuff call Pisco, topped off with some even more disgusting coffee liqueur, I did not feel much like dealing with a pig, an overgrown spider, or anything else. I craved sleep.

On the other hand, a large and peculiar creature was busily looting our precious food supplies. "If that bastard gets my peanut butter", I thought, "this trip is over. No way can a red-blooded

norteamericano kayakista survive for three and a half weeks in the Andes without peanut butter."

Screwing up all my courage and summoning the all energy I could—I dragged myself wearily out of the tent and lurched unsteadily towards the hulking monster. "This could be an uneven match", I thought, "Those horns are huge." I needed a weapon. I searched

abundance of relaxing hot springs, almost unlimited wilderness, and exquisite high country camping. You may know that the people are friendly and that the government is—at present—relatively stable and democratic. Someone may have told you that there are no snakes or poison ivy in Chile.

I'm here to tell you that it's all true! On a scale of 1 to 10, for a whitewa-



Paddlers say good-bye to normalcy as they pack for tour in Chilean outback.

around for something...anything. Finding a good-sized rock, I cranked up my battle cry (actually sort of a drunken squawk) and stumbled forward in a savage attack.

The bizarre horned creature stared at me sullenly, almost insolently. When the rock caught him between the eyes, he uttered a squeal of indignation and sauntered nonchalantly off into the darkness. Quickly I verified that my secret stash of imported Skippy was still intact. Victory!

Chile may be a whitewater paradise in winter, but it is a paradise that lacks a few of the comforts of home.

You have probably heard about Chile's wonderfully mild climate. By now you may even have heard about Chile's incredible variety of whitewater rivers, some with spectacular runnable waterfalls. Maybe you also heard about the magnificent national parks, awesome volcanoes, beautiful dark-eyed girls,

ter vacation, Chile is close to 10.

But did anyone tell you about cooliewatchas?

That's right...cooliewatchas. My spelling may be a bit off the mark, but I know a cooliewatcha when I see one. A cooliewatcha is an indigenous Chilean flying insect, something like a horsefly but about the same size as a hummingbird. Take it from me, they have voracious appetites. Although cooliewatchas can probably be found almost anywhere in central or south central Chile, they hang out in large numbers on the Rio Fuy in Chile's lake district. These guys are big enough to remove a piece of meat from your arm or leg and fly off with it to their own personal picnic site. One boater on our trip observed a flock of cooliewatchas flying in formation behind his boat carrying forks, knives, and spoons. Napkins were already in place around their necks.

GRINGO TOURISTS IN CHILE



Along with scenic beauty and unbelievable whitewater, frequent hot springs enliven any Chilean paddling trip.

You may also not have heard about the polvo in Chile. Polvo is fine volcanic dust. Every whitewater river in Chile involves taking a left turn off the Pan American Highway and driving up miles and miles of dusty unpaved road into the Andes through impenetrable clouds of polvo. The stuff gets into your car, your food, your lungs, your hair, your boating gear, your camera...**everything**. Some Chileans wear dust masks whenever they are driving on dirt roads. After running the river you have to run the dust. This has a bad effect on personal hygiene and appearance. Emerging from the vehicle after one particularly dusty shuttle, my companions remarked that I had looked a lot like Hunter Thompson in dreadlocks.

And then there is the question of Chilean food. Santiago is reported to have some world class restaurants. The same is true of other large cities in Chile. Unfortunately, I only sampled the restaurant fare in small towns up in the mountains. It's a different story in there. Small town restaurants in the Chilean countryside mostly serve meat pies or hot dogs covered by at least 12 oz of mayonnaise. You can't get the hot dog without mayonnaise unless your **spanish** is at least graduate school level. Once you get out of town, the meat pies and hot dogs disappear and the menu changes to goat meat cooked over an open fire

(known locally as an "asado"). Eating goat meat is a lot like eating a ball of twine, except that twine tastes better. That is why I take peanut butter with me when I go boating in South American countries. When all else fails, pb & j on tacos can really take the edge off your hunger.

After 3 weeks as a footloose gringo wandering around Chile with two friends, on a wild goose chase in search of whitewater, I realized that there are certain unalterable facts of life which the foreign kayaker must face in that particular part of the world. The good news is that Chile is beautiful, its people are friendly, and its whitewater is fabulous... unsurpassed by anything anywhere else... especially if you like your gradient steep. The bad news is that you could have a few problems getting to the river, getting off the river, getting a good night's rest, and getting to another river.

It's not just a question of a few coolie watches, dusty roads, fat hairy spiders, and pigs with antlers. Depending on how inept a foreign traveller you are, your logistical problems can be really serious in Chile.

For example, you could easily wreck your rental car (that is, of course, if you manage to find a car to rent in the first place). We wrecked our car about once a week on average. Once we even

wrecked the entire lighting system for a hotel parking lot at the same time as we wrecked the car—in a **single** classic move—utilizing reverse gear without the utilizing our rear view mirrors.

One feature of the Chilean road system makes it especially easy to wreck your car—the bridges. Every bridge in Chile is unique. Each one even has its own name, Puente This or Puente That. With so many rivers there are naturally a lot of bridges for the road crews to either maintain or... to pretty much forget about. The general rule is that the higher up you get in the Andes, the more courage it takes to cross the bridges. If you get anywhere near the Argentine border on most roads you will inevitably meet your match.

If automotive adventures are not painful enough for you, you can injure yourself **cooking** dinner. One camper in our contingent managed this the first night out...second degree burns. It's easy, you just spill **boiling** water on your feet while trying to make **spagetti** over an open fire in the dark and then watch the infection develop. Locally available medicines will be exorbitant but will have no curative effect.

Or you could accidentally drop your boat and all your boating equipment in the river from a sheer 150 foot cliff just upstream of a totally out-of-the-question waterfall. One elderly kayaker (an AWA director from Alaska who will go nameless) in our party tried this at Siete Tazas on the Rio Claro. **All** the locals enjoyed it immensely. You get to watch helplessly as the boat crashes into the clear blue pool above the falls and then drifts slowly towards the horizon line. The whole event provides a great photo opportunity as well as a chance to try 3 hours of rock climbing on slippery vertical volcanic rock with unsafe ropes.

Then you could get lost. You could get lost for most of the day and half the night. This works **best** in larger towns, especially if you don't speak much Spanish and you don't have a map of the town you are in. We did this several times.

Maybe you could lose your passport and all your money. This too was on our agenda (albeit only for one night).

Then again, you could get sick from rural cuisine. This is pretty likely unless goat meat agrees with you. Goat meat is just about all you can find to eat

GRINGO TOURISTS IN CHILE



Chilean secondary bridges are an adventure in traveling



Dinner at Chef Victorino's—how do you like your goat?

in the high Andes. I recommend a native Indian chef named Victorino. He has a nice (?) outdoor restaurant with a hot springs in the valley of the Rio Bio Bio just upstream of the so called "Sex Canyon".

In the morning before your feast at Victorino's, Chef Victorino will introduce you to the very same goat which he will prepare for your evening meal. Meeting your meal in person immensely

enhances your enjoyment of the culinary experience... unless, of course, you are a vegetarian.

If you don't get sick from the goatmeat on the Bio Bio, you can try dragging your boat on foot for 4 hours up a precipitous mountain road to get to the put-in on the Rio Ancoa.

In order to experience this, you first have to rent a car which has such poor clearance that it would probably

have trouble clearing the bumps on the Autobahn. When you work this hard to get to the put-in, it results in your being too exhausted to paddle anything, much less the solid class V water (which is all that the Ancoa has to offer).

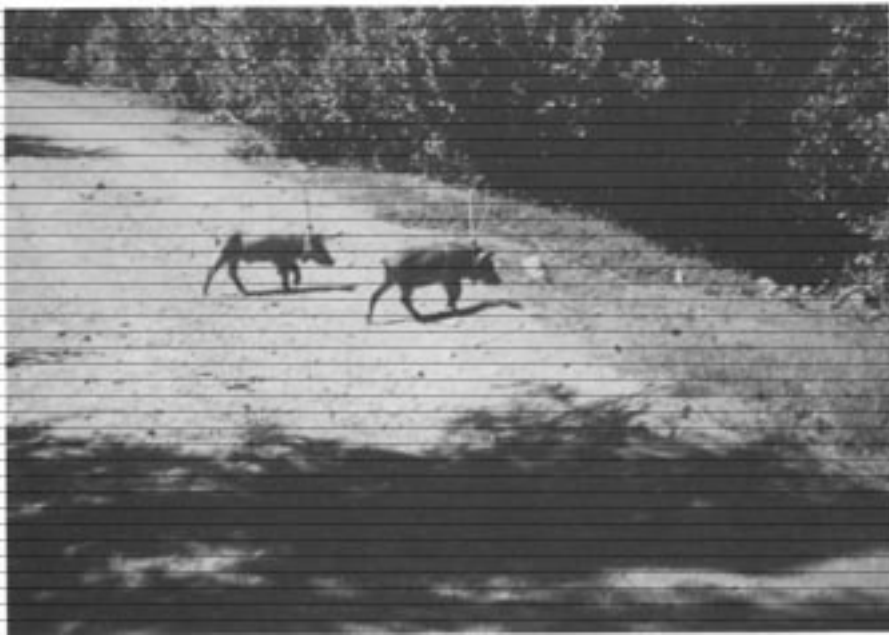
You will feel especially pooped if you forget to take your water bottle, the midday temperature is hovering around 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and the altitude is around 9,000 feet above sea level. It helps if there are bulls blocking the road on your way up, dragging their paws in the ground in some obscure territorial signal. This was another fun experience. Chalk it up to the rigors of foreign travel.

And then there's Chilean parties and Chilean alcohol. Arriving in the country on New Years eve, we got to experience the full force of this. I won't go into details, but suffice it to say that, after several bottles of the deadly Pisco stuff, some wine and no end of champagne, Chilean ladies look especially nice... with their dark flashing eyes, their floss bikinis and all that. Unfortunately the most beautiful ones have large unpleasant husbands who do not care much for gringos. My advice is: Take good running shoes if you plan to do much partying in Chile.

You don't need to go to Chile to enjoy most of these fine experiences. I have had similar fun times in West Virginia all my boating life. But where else can you do battle with pigs with horns? Truthfully I have never seen a pig with horns anywhere but Chile.

(Editors Note: An investigation by the AWA Journal editorial Board, ever vigilant to assure the veracity of all articles, suggests revealed that the pigs encountered by the author probably did not have horns. What the inebriated kayaker may have taken to be a set of horns was probably a crude wooden device secured on the pigs head by its owner in an effort to keep the pig from escaping under the fence. This curious device is common in Chile, although not always successful in achieving its intended purpose. The author continues to insist that his campsite was violated by a porcine creature with antlers.)

And where else but Chile can you meet—up front and in person—the bodyguards of a real life South American dictator (or former dictator)?



Where pigs have horns--caught in daylight.

Meeting former dictator Pinochet's goon squad was a real highlight of my trip in 1991. They were very nice men actually. They just chased me off with several semiautomatic carbines and one machine gun. It would not be hard for any other gringo tourist with a kayaks to duplicate this experience. There are three easy steps. All you have to do is (1) lose some equipment on the Maipo River just upstream of a rapid called "Pinochet's Hole". (2) Go back to retrieve it, but lose track of where you are on the river. (3) Climb up the canyon wall looking for a

road and hike about a mile or so through farmland and orchard carrying your boat in the scorching midday heat. Eventually you reach a hacienda. The hacienda belongs to General Pinochet. It is well-guarded. There you will encounter a group of nice soldiers who point large impressive weapons at you and ask things in Spanish which you will fail to understand. If you follow this path, the nice soldiers will, hopefully, escort you out the front gate like they did me, but you never know.....



Bio Bio:

Most endangered river in Chile

Hydroelectric power projects sponsored by the giant Chilean electric company, Endessa LTD, are in evidence throughout Chile. Some projects are already in place, some are still on the drawing boards, and some are now being built.

The Bio Bio, regarded by many experts as the best whitewater river in the world, is Chile's most endangered river. No less than 6 projects are planned for that river alone. One is already underway. When the author ran the Bio in Janaury, construction workers were working day and night on the Pangué Project to be built at One-Eyed Jack Rapid. This project would destroy one of the most scenic and exciting whitewater runs anywhere in the world and wreck the Bio Bio as an international tourist destination. (Currently the Bio Bio is Chile's second most important international tourist attraction. Only Easter Island attracts more foreign visitors.)

All is not lost, however. Apparently Endessa does not yet have sufficient funds to complete the project. An additional 25% of the construction costs are still needed. A request for those funds is now pending at the World Bank, but environmental groups have demanded that an environmental assessment be performed before the loan is made. The Bank has agreed, but, unfortunately, the Bank designated Endessa to perform the environmental assessment.

Groups opposing the dams on the Bio need help from AWA members. Letters, contributions, and expert assistance, especially from engineers or economists will be welcomed. If you can help out, please contact Jack Hession, AWA's International Rivers Conservation Delegate, at 4500 Riverton Ave, Anchorage, Alaska 99516. In addition, you should join the International Rivers Network. (Send name and address and \$15 to International Rivers Network, 301 Broadway, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94118.)

Gary Steinberg caught in the middle of a steep rapid on the Rio Fuy.



The author pictured in the middle of a steep Chilean put-in route.

Final advice on visiting Chile

The author of the article on page has generously offered to provide advice and assistance to any AWA members who plan to visit Chile in the future. Please send your questions to Pope Barrow at 136-13th St., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

Since the language barrier is a major obstacle for English speaking boaters, Mr. Barrow has provided the following glossary of useful Spanish phrases. According to Mr. Barrow, the average north American kayaker can get by in Chile with these phrases — unless she plans to date local girls — in which case a few more words may be necessary.

Useful phrases for American kayakers visiting Chile (Listed in order of importance):

"na *cerveza* mas, por favor" means one more beer, please.

"Donde esta el *bano*?" means where's the bathroom ?

"Estoy *perdido*" means I'm lost.

"Ayudame, por favor" means please help.

"Esta *malo* el camino?" means is the road bad?

"Donde esta el *rio*?" means where's the river ?

"No me gusta *carne de cabrito*" means I don't like goat meat.

"Polvo" means dust.

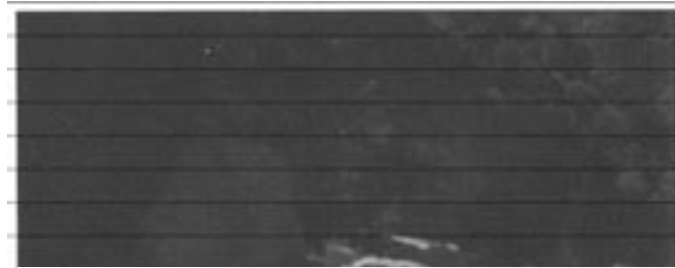
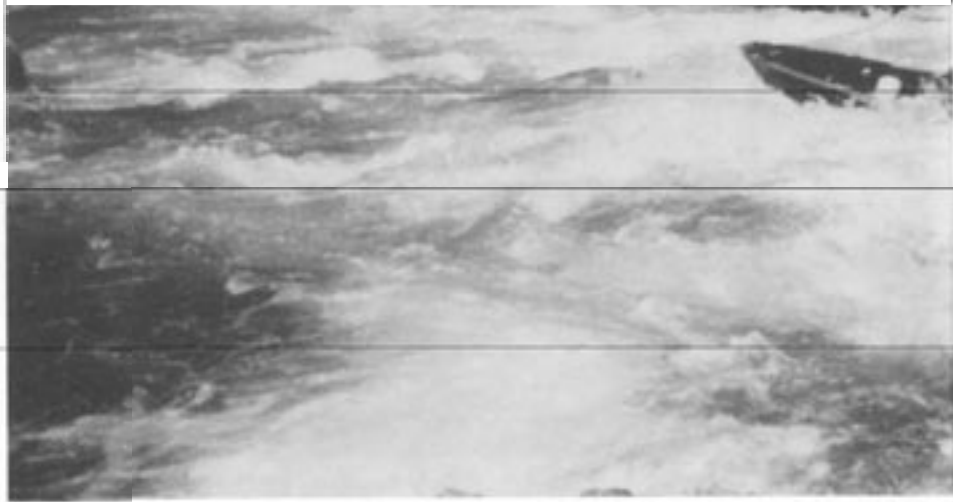
"Hot dog" means 12 oz of mayonaise on top of a sausage.

"Cafe" means instant nescafe.

Totally Inappropriate

Open canoeing California's Kings Canyon

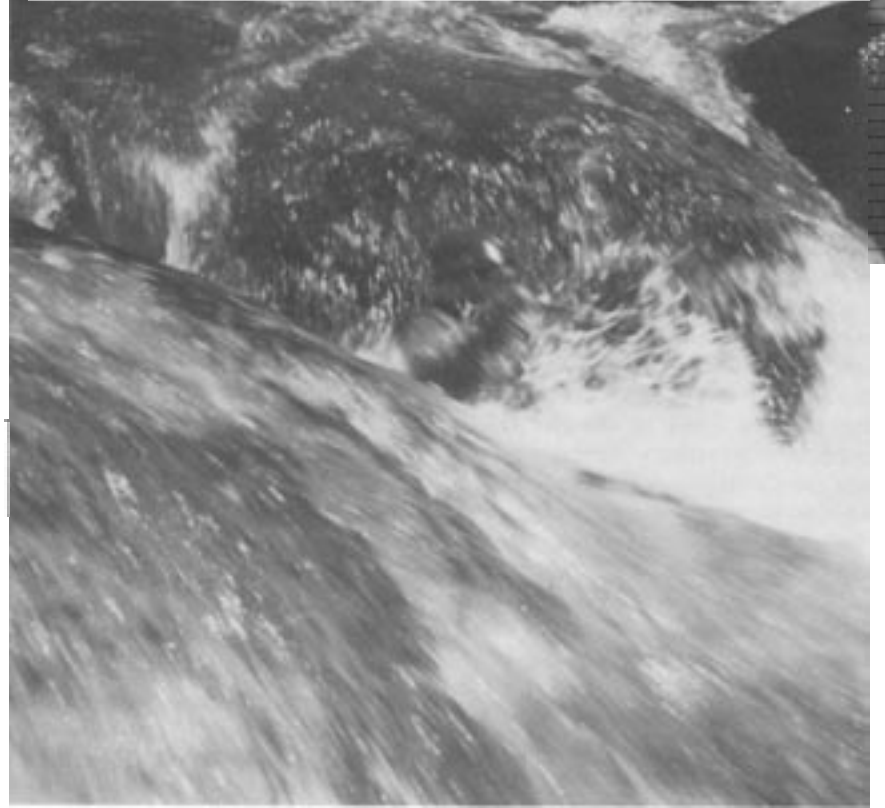
by LARRY WADE



Rivers that California guidebooks describe as "Totally Inappropriate" or "No Way" for canoes are now regularly paddled.

Photos: (Clockwise from top) Open canoeist negotiates Kings Canyon as Rough Creek tumbles into the river, photo by Bill Laird; Dale Murphy in "Wimpwater", photo by Larry Wade; Ken Loy in the palm of "Hand-of-God", photo by Pat Murphy; Walt Audry faces Cassidy's Falls, photo by Larry Wade





Open canoeing

is now undergoing the transition kayaking did in the 1970's. This is out rime of firstdescentsand new play moves. Boats that are explicitly designed for recreational paddling and which roll well have opened up a lot of fun runs in the past few years. Rivers that California guide-books describe as "Totally Inappropriate" or "No Way" for canoes are now being regularly paddled. These are runs that, until recently, only animals like Nolan Whitesell or Bob Constantini would even consider. All that was missing was a bad attitude among the general open boat population. Judge the new situation for yourself as you read this description of our July 7-8 open canoe descent of the KingsCanyon run on the Kings River in California:

The Kings Canyon run is perhaps the toughest of the California runs to have been open canoed so far; but the "next steps," like the Golden Gate run of the South Fork American, are sure to follow soon. And dozens of canoeists are now ready for classic runs like Burnt Ranch Gorge and the Forks of the Kern. This may be news to the readers of American Whitewater, who mostly appear to be East Coast pointy boaters; but there IS a West Coast and there are a few of us who prefer paddling moby's to minnows.

I know pointy boaters are kind of stuck on themselves, when they're not stuck on rocks, but open canoes probably outperform all other watercraft in steep, low flow runs and self-support trips. Looked at from the broader perspective afforded open canoeists it is evident that techno-weenies and pig-boaters are like sheep: they all look fluffy and you can't tell them apart. To maintain a balanced stance I must also admit to some schisms in the open boat community. Why else would someone paddle an ME on class V water when they could be in a Whitesell? Clearly, this is nature's way of weeding out genetic defects. Don't get me wrong, I'm not going to let a little prejudice get in the way of friendships. This was a fully integrated group of white male Neanderthals. In the face of baloney boating scum, all hard boaters stand united. Ah...the serenity of the river.

The Kings Canyon run is a ten-mile long, solid class V run which starts at the confluence of the Kings' south and middle forks. The gorge section of the river is completely inaccessible except by boat. Its prime features are thousand foot granite cliffs, gem quality water and house-



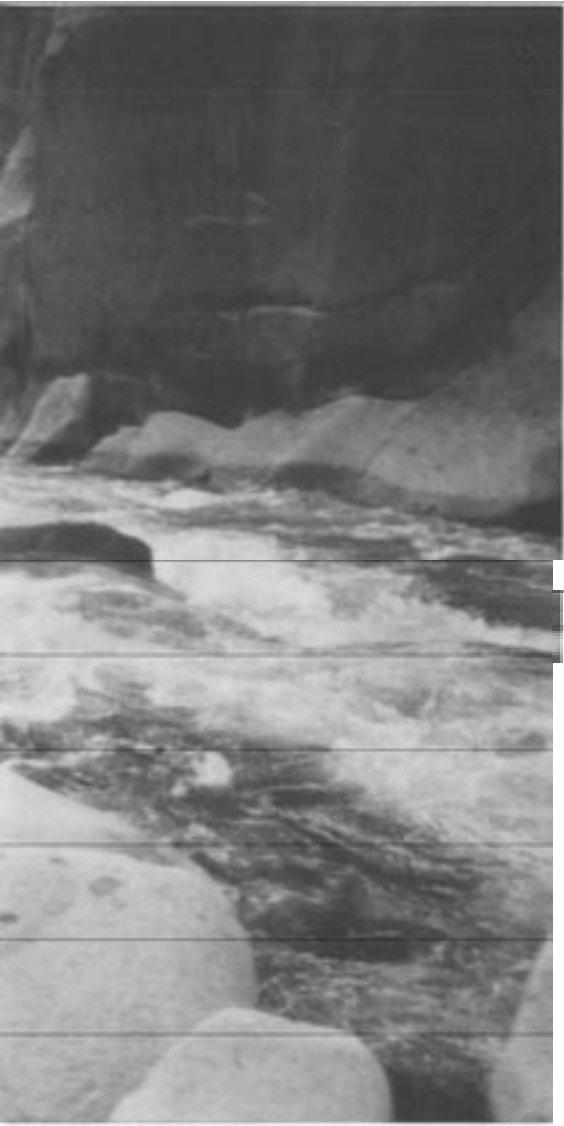
Above: Chasing the remains of a damaged boat through increasingly difficult rapids. Right: "Warp 2" was dubbed "the Breakfast Drop." (photos by Dale Murphy) Far right: "The Breakfast drop prepares to eat Pat." (photo by Walt Andry)

sized undercut boulders. Although this run was near the cutting edge of boating for many years it's now run, at low water, fairly regularly by kayakers. First run by kayak in 1960 (thirty years and 4 days before our run) and by raft in 1981; no open boater had attempted it before.

Guides to west coast rivers tend not to overwhelm the reader with detail. Instead, their descriptions run along the lines of: "turn left at Modesto. You can't miss it!" As a result, getting a good idea of what's ahead isn't always easy. But who cares what's ahead when the option is to go elsewhere and imagine water flowing in the bare streambed?

The Kings Canyon run is in the middle of the California class V scale. In California, class V covers as much ground as classes I-IV. Confusing one class V





with another can lead to unpleasantness. This was pointed out to me by some of the state's better boaters when I responded to their stated concerns with "But we've run class V's before." Their advice didn't slow us down much except for one of the guys being chased down the street by his wife who was shouting "Have you read this thing?!" while brandishing a copy of a guidebook. And he thought he'd hidden it so well. Ah...the joys of combining marriage and paddling.

The Kings Canyon run starts with a two-plus hour (one way) excuse for buying a four-wheel drive. After this is a two-mile hike down to the confluence. The trailhead is an unmarked turnout on Highway 180 distinguished primarily by a lovely stand of poison oak.

You weeny boaters don't know what you're missing until you've carried, in July, a 14-foot-long boat, that weighs with gear over 110 pounds, through two miles of the last healthy vegetation (you guess) left in drought-struck California. We, with the exception of Pat Murphy who manfully carried his boat the entire way, wound up dragging our boats the last mile. The trail wasn't as bad as we were told; only three of us wound up with poison oak.

After the shuttle, the hike, washing off poison oak, apologizing to the river gods for dragging our boats and trying to work up courage, we (Larry Wade, Walt Andry, Pat Murphy and Howard Schultz in open canoes and Dale Murphy and Bill Laird in kayaks—all first

timers to this run) didn't put on until nearly 3 p.m. Good thing we brought food for three days even though we planned to take two days for the run.

The water was pretty low at 600 cfs. However, for a first descent it was a really good level as the eddies were plentiful, fat and unfenced, and because vertical pins aren't normally an open canoeer's concern. At higher flows the rapids run together, and eddies get fenced which would make it much tougher to run in an open canoe. We had hoped, that first day, to flash the first three miles, which were reported to be easy class III-IV, and then to work through the drop and pool class V's of increasing frequency and camp at mile 4.7.

Best laid or not, this plan looked pretty shaky when we peeled out at the confluence to find ourselves in a really solid 1/3 mile long class IV which exhibited interesting features and resulted in a nasty swim for one of the kayakers. Shortly after this, a nice, long, easy class V led to two of the canoeists taking a bath. Three team members had never been on a run of this difficulty and were spending a lot of mental energy trying to find an honorable way out. ("This is wimpwater? But I've got a family!") The rest of us, being brain dead, were determined to finish although I admit to thinking about how long three days food could be stretched. At least we weren't bored with the certainty of it all.

Soon after this (about mile two?) came a long, class IV+ approach to a



short class VI drop where the entire river poured towards river right, through a six foot wide slot, then under the rock defining the slot's right side. Several of us ran the class IV stuff and caught a small eddy just above the class VI. I got out there to see what was on the other side of the horizon line. Just as I'd made up my mind to carry, Howard, whose canoe (aME) filled with water in the class IV section, missed the last eddy before the nasty stuff. He shouted for a rope and bailed out. A good throw by



Walt allowed Howard to be pendulummed to safety (thereby saving Charlie Walbridge some work). His boat momentarily bridged the slot open side upstream about four feet under the surface (a truly unpleasant undercut there), and was shoved through in several barely connected pieces. The rest of us carried. We started chasing the remains of Howard's boat only to run into more and bigger class V's.

At first we all felt disheartened by the group's difficulties. But the V's we were faced with quickly brought our thoughts from the group's problems back to our own individual survival. Soon the rush of carving turns through the incredibly clear blue-green water and crashing through monstrous holes combined with the beauty of the towering granite walls served to pump us up. At mile three we caught what was left of Howard's boat. He salvaged what he could and then started hiking back upstream and we were back to being bummed out again. Now with five people, two of whom were pretty intimidated, we resumed our paddle to the BIG STUFF. A little while later we saw a patch of sand and the setting sun and called it a night a mile short of our original goal.

The rest did us all good. That night we all thought about the day, and what still lay ahead, while watching the light of a full moon reflect off the water and granite. By morning everyone was determined to complete the run. After we'd all made a solid mental commitment, things fell into a good rhythm. Taking extra food allowed us the time required to scout every blind drop. When approaching a horizon line the lead person would hit the last eddy and see if there was a visible route. If not, he'd get out and look, signaling to us the class and preferred chute. If it was a class IV we'd leap-frog him. If it was a class V, we'd usually run for shore, ropes in hand, and

scout/set safety as we each took turns working through the drops. Time was also saved as those who carried got on with it and helped with safety.

We woke up to Breakfast Drop (our name, it's really called Warp 2): a six-foot vertical into an eight-foot slide into a house-sized undercut boulder. Scouting this drop was easy: you poked your head out of the sleeping bag. After many, many cups of coffee (open canoes are great for self support trips) we had enough of a caffeine high to put on. The first two through the drop lived up to our name for it when the third guy offered it an opportunity. It took about 45 minutes to convince the house-sized boulder to disgorge the open canoe it had swallowed whole for "breakfast". Throw rope practice is such a lovely way to start the morning.

Breakfast Drop (Warp 2) is the entrance to a series of class IV drops culminating in the biggest vertical drop of the run which we think is called Casady's Falls. It was obvious that we had found the BIG STUFF. One glance persuaded Walt to carry. He had started walking back to carry his boat when he noticed I was looking pretty hard at the falls. He asked "You're not serious about that thing, are you?" After some banter we were making mature statements like: "I'll run it if you will." I had a camera, so Walt got the probe position. All clear as it turned out.

We rejoiced in our survival...for a while. The next section was more exhilarating than frightening. The sun was shining and the gorge was growing more spectacular as it deepened. But then there was a long pool. A long pool in a mile which drops 160 feet. Our unease was not reduced by the roar which built as we paddled towards this new horizon line.

The Rough Creek section, a continuous set of class V's which drop a long way quickly, is probably the toughest

part of the run. I base that judgment on the pressure my heavily retracted scrotum was exerting upon my vocal cords. I prefer to use the pitch of my voice rather than my bladder's urgency to evaluate drops. My voice resembled Minnie Mouse's at that point. Despite more survival boating than is usually healthy, we made it down to the last set of drops without incident. Suddenly a swarm of French spud-boaters descended upon us. Due to language difficulties our conversation was limited to "Howdy" and "Big boat very hard."

Just before they blew past us, Walt and I took our only swims of the trip. I'm sure they were very impressed.

After Rough Creek there is a set of nondescript class IV and V drops and a lovely lunch spot with a first rate view of Garlic Falls (mile 4.9) which drops a thousand windblown feet into the river. We peeled out from lunch and into another V and continued working our way down the river. Before long the gorge started opening up. What a lovely sight the blue sky was.

At about mile six a group of kayakers led by Phil Martin and Ken Loy caught us. Phil told us that after the next drop, a straight-forward 45-degree slide into a large rock, there was only Hand-of-God and then it was class III-IV down to the take out. We cheered and grinned until our cheek muscles started cramping. As we approached Hand-of-Gun (so named when a kayaker ran it upside down and attributed his miraculous survival to the assistance of an unseen hand), I made the mistake of listening to Phil. He proceeded to describe a class VI drop tougher than Lumdsen Falls (a class VI on Cherry Creek that I've chickened out on). Without looking at what was ahead, we ran like hell for river left and started carrying. Then we walked back to watch Phil and Ken cleanly run the pleasant class V that was actually there.

After Hand-of-God, Phil and company put their heads down and cranked downstream leaving us buried by their roostertail. From then on we were back to five paddlers. Ever get the idea that we're slow? Laughing at the wimpwater that remained (and loving it on the inside), we paddled down to the cars. No one drank much of the champagne I'd left...until we ran out of beer. For me, after two days, four carries, one roll and one swim, it felt great to just sit back and start planning the next week-end's trip.

The Legend of Aquaman Another AWA "Big Swim" Epic

by MAC THORNTON

Foreword: On November 4-5, 1985, a catastrophic flood swept down the rivers of Northern West Virginia, making radical changes in many rapids. At the Cheat's "Big Nasty" rapid, a formerly big, but forgiving play wave was converted into a massive hole, capable of swallowing twelve-man rafts.

As the flood waters receded on November 10, a small group ventured down the Cheat. Among them was Steve Garrison, a former president of the Canoe Cruisers Association and one of the best-known and best-liked paddlers in the Washington, D.C. area. Garrison was at the peak of his C-1 form, a strong, highly skilled, and very confident paddler. This Homeric-style epic poem describes the incident which led Steve's paddling friends henceforth to refer to him as "Aquaman".

*"Twas the tenth of November of '85,
And n a y a man who was then alive
Would forget West Virginia's greatest storm.
That's when the legend of Aquaman was born.*

*As the raging flood receded on the mighty Cheat,
All stood in awe of Nature's powerful feat.
The changes in the rapids were many and dastardly,
But the worst change of all occurred at Big Nasty.*



Steve Garrison--AKA, "Aquaman"



The hole at **Big Nasty**--after the flood.

*The bottom play wave, huge but quite friendly,
Was transformed overnight into a paddler's enemy.
A yawning hole lurked where paddlers once played;
Once trapped in the hole, most everything stayed.*

*Steve Garrison was a man of paddling renown;
There wasn't a river he hadn't been down.
Three friends embarked with him that November mom,
To paddle the "new" Cheat which had just been born.*

*Above Big Nasty rapid, Steve's friends peered ahead,
"Let's scout it--it's changed," one of them said.
The three of them parked and walked down to see.
Steve stayed in his boat, a hero he would be!*

*While his friends had sensed that something was amiss,
Steve paddled on down, brimming with hubris.
A picture of confidence, as the bottom he neared,
But when he reached the last wave, he simply disappeared!*

*Steve's friends on the bank strained to see their king--
For some sign, for some clue, as to what was happening.
A boat tip whisked up, and the truth was revealed,
Our hero was being continuously cartwheeled!*

*A styrofoam seat popped high in the air.
Then the boat came out without Steve in there.
Swallowing water and seeing no light,
Steve was recirculated, totally out of sight!*

*Finally released, Steve crawled up the bank gasping.
He had barely survived his terrible trashing.
Physically OK; wounds to his pride he nursed.
Of the hundreds to swim here, he was the first!*

*A humbler paddler, he went on to greater renown.
Big Nasty would not keep this good man down.
While we still paddle with him anytime we can,
To us he will be known always as "Aquaman"!*

Be a hero--send your epic swim story to Mac Thornton, Big Swim Editor, 322 Tenth St. SE, Washington, D.C. If possible send on a 5 1/4 inch disc, wordperfect 4.2 and include photos.

Hang 'em High!

by CARLA GARRISON

I'm tired of paddling with geeks and I'm tired of paddling with nerds. I'm sick of running shuttle for jokers who never do. I'm disgusted with polluted rivers, I'm fed up with littered scenery and I've had it with stolen boats and ransacked cars.

I've had all I can stand and I can't stand no more!

I'll bet a lot of you feel the same way.

Well the time has come for decisive action. The time has come to take the bull by the horns. The time has come to join Carla's Whitewater Vigilance Committee (CWVC).

I'm recruiting a few hard-core class VI boaters who think the way I do and are willing to take definitive action to save our sport. Only the stout-hearted need apply. My cousin, Gary Carlson, has volunteered to be my First Lieutenant. Our justice shall be swift, sure and terrible.

We'll warm up by policing our own. Boaters who fail to live up to our standards. Those who need discipline.

Boaters who swim at the slightest provocation, for instance. The Mark Spitzes of the whitewater world. You know who I mean; there is at least one in every crowd. These are the turkeys who turn to the Safety Section as soon as they get this magazine, even before they read the End Notes. These are people who don't want to die with their boats on.

Take it from me, reasoning with these geeks gets you no where. It's like trying to teach a pig to sing. It wastes your time and it bores the pig.

So what's the cure?

Manacles! After the first swim of the day we'll chain their ankles to their foot pegs. The next time they flip we'll see how many times they try to roll.

What's that you say? "But Carla, that's not safe!"

Of course it's not safe. Who ever said running whitewater was supposed to be safe?

Hell, if these sissies want to do something safe, let them take up golf. Or bowling. Or barrier methods.

If you're like me, you've probably had some experience with cowboys who cop out at the last minute on whitewater trips planned weeks in advance. The temperature drops below zero and a few inches of snow hits the ground and, all of a sudden, they've been given an unexpected work assignment or their great aunt Ethel dies and they have to go to the funeral.

From now on we'll tell them politely that we understand. Then we'll check out their alibis. If they don't hold water as well as the Summersville Dam, CWVC will hunt them down and shoot them like the dogs that they are. Or, better still, lash them into their boats and shove them over Yellowstone Falls.

Now what about shuttle moochers? I'm not talking about poor college kids or out of work raft guides. I'm talking about \$75,000 a year yuppies who have been boating for ten years and still don't have roof racks on their Honda Accords. You can bet they've never tom open an oil pan on a rough mountain shuttle. There aren't any dents on the hoods of their cars.

Drag them! We'll trap them at some God forsaken take-out and then tell them there is no room for their \$1100 custom fitted squirt boat with the original Andy Warhol graphics on our roof. We'll tie that sucker onto the rear bumper and take off. Make them sit in it. Hit every rock and pothole.

Perhaps the most despicable whitewater offenders we need to deal with are those pompous, holier than thou, goodie two shoes who write letters to the editors of this magazine complaining about Gary's or my material. The question is, should not having a sense of humor be a capital crime? Much as it pains me to admit it, I suppose not.

In fact, I believe it might be possible to rehabilitate these individuals. And Gary and I are just the ones to do it. It won't be easy on us, but we're willing to make the sacrifice for the common good.

If the culprit is a female, she shall be sentenced to a night in a tent with Gary, who can be very convincing. If it is a male, he shall spend a night in a tent with me. The man hasn't been born that I can't straighten out.

Now let's turn our attention to non-boaters. Consider those pigs that dump their old, worn-out appliances over the riverbanks. Trying to convince these clowns to haul their garbage to a landfill is like trying to convince a dead groundhog that a pickup truck has four tires. How will CWVC punish them?

Simple. First we'll get the serial number off the offending object so my friend in the appliance business can feed it into his computer and identify the owner. Next we'll go to their houses in the middle of the night and make a citizen's arrest.

Then we'll take them out into the woods and stuff them into their old refrigerators or stoves or freezers and lock the doors.

Sounds a bit harsh? Hey, this is Carla's Whitewater Vigilance Committee, not Amnesty International. No one has ever mistaken me for Joan Baez.

Okay... if you insist we'll drill air holes in the sides so they don't suffocate. And we'll let them out after a week or two. This is a classic case of making the punishment fit the crime. These creeps expect the rest of us to wallow in their filth. Spending a week locked in a refrigerator should give them a taste of their own medicine. (Though I doubt that they'll come out smelling any worse than Gary's polypro.)

Sometimes whole communities need to be punished. We all know of towns that dump their raw sewage into the river. It shouldn't be too hard to sneak in at night and run a secret water line from their outlet pipes right back into their water supply.

With the right recruits, CWVC will make those Earth Firsters look like a bunch of pansies.

And now let's talk about the worst element of all.

The SOB's that break into cars and steal boats.

Here's my plan. We'll park a vehicle with two new Dancers on the roof at some remote take-out and then we'll hide in the woods with Gary's shotguns and wait. We won't jump out and surround them til they take the bait...that way there can be no mistake. We won't even have to bother with a trial.

What are we going to do with them? Oh, I know that some of you out there are bleeding heart liberals. You'll want to turn them over to the proper authorities. No way! The locals will let them off too easy.

Now, Gary has a little better idea. He wants to beat the crap out of them.

But I say we should carry it even further.

I say we hang 'em.

Hey, it worked with rustlers in the old West, didn't it? We'll leave them swinging with signs around their necks that say "Kayak Thief". Make an example out of them.

We can use my throwrope. I always figured the damned thing would come in handy for something.

Once we string a bunch of them up and word gets out, I bet stealing kayaks for fun and profit will lose its appeal.

Well, I'm sure you can see that Carla's Whitewater Vigilante Committee has the potential to do a lot of good. So if you have any more ideas or if you want to join, contact me through this publication.

All applicants will be carefully screened and soon, if you make the grade, you can be part of my crusade to rid the whitewater scene of all that is unclean, unholy or, even worse, annoying. It will be a tough job, but when we're through, we'll have the satisfaction of knowing that we helped make the world a better place to paddle.

Editors Note: The AWA does not sanction the activities of CWVC or anything else that Carla Garrison does.



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