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WHITEWATER**

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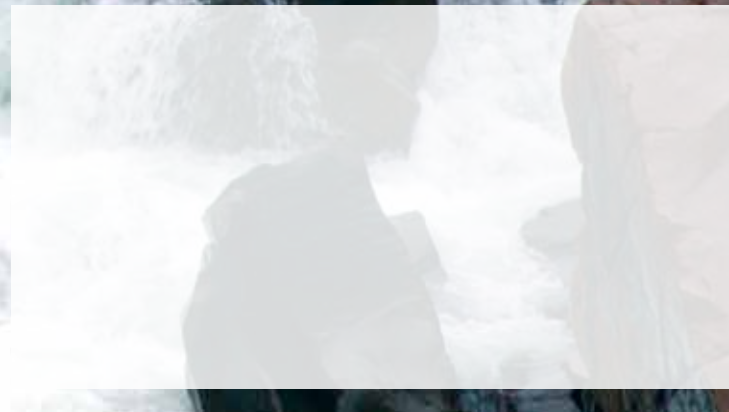
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July/Aug 2015

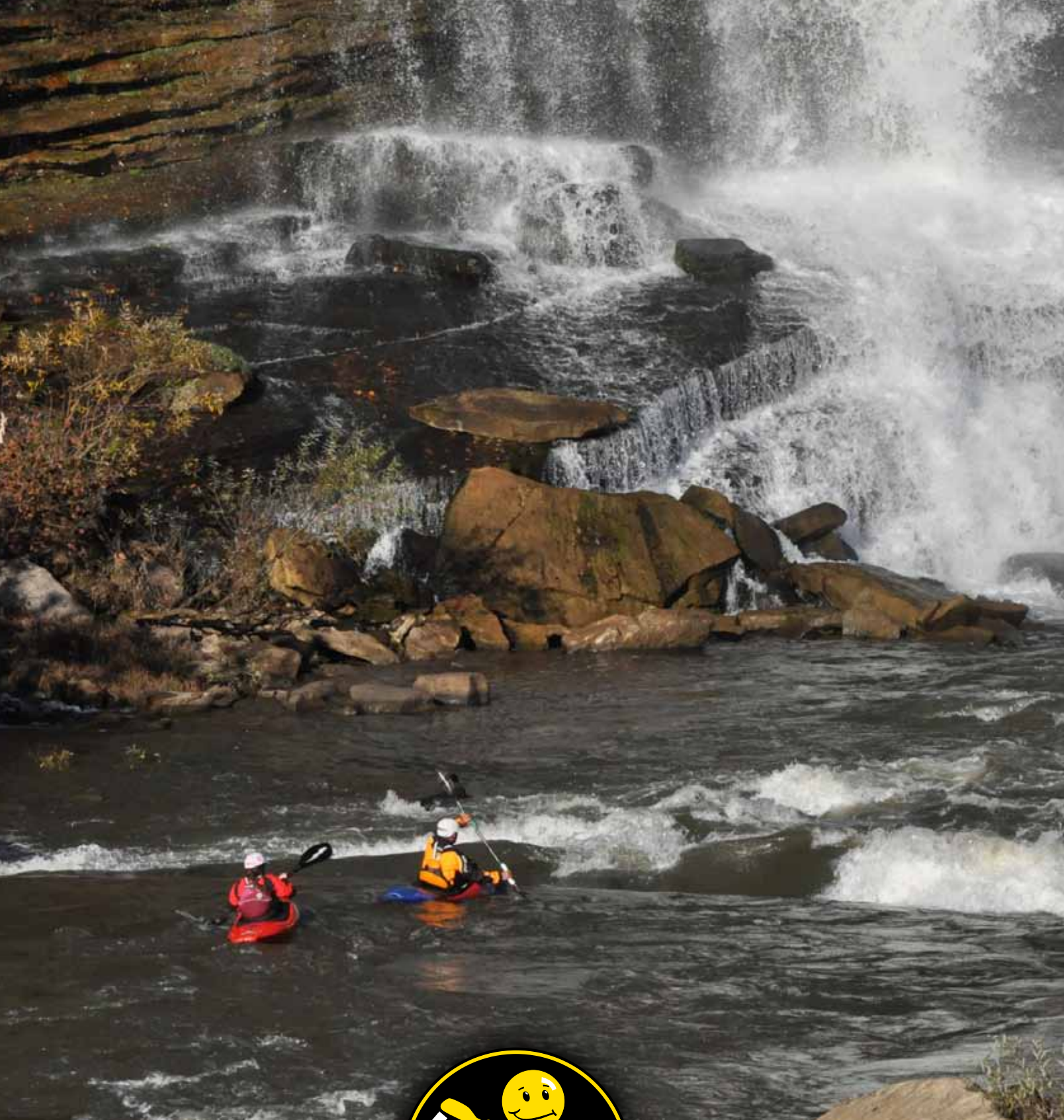
PROTECTING KALMIOPSIS RIVERS FROM MINING

THE 2014 AW ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE WHITEWATER KAYAK TO THE POLYNESIAN CANOE

A QUEBECOIS WHITEWATER FAIRY TALE





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AMERICAN WHITEWATER

A VOLUNTEER PUBLICATION PROMOTING RIVER CONSERVATION, ACCESS AND SAFETY

American Whitewater Journal July/Aug 2015 – Volume 55 – Issue 4

COLUMNS

- 5 The Journey Ahead by **Mark Singleton**
- 11 Annual Report by **AW Staff**

STEWARDSHIP

- 6 Protecting Kalmiopsis Rivers from Mining by **Megan Hooker**

FEATURE ARTICLES

ANTHROPOLOGY OF PADDLING

- 34 Learning to Handle a Polynesian Dugout Canoe by **Rick Feinberg**

RIVER VOICES

- 40 Szahniece, Her Kanu, and the Gatineau by **Reshaud L'Américain**
- 44 Be The Paddler You Want To Be by **Tanya Dias**



Paddlers navigate Rough and Ready Creek (tributary to the Wild and Scenic Illinois River) in Oregon. American Whitewater is working to protect this and other rivers in the Kalmiopsis region from the threats of nickel strip mines.

Photo by Northwest Rafting Company

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PURPOSE

RIVER STEWARDSHIP: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

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

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

CONSERVATION: AW's professional staff works closely with volunteers and partner organizations to protect the ecological and scenic values of all whitewater rivers. These goals are accomplished through direct participation in public decision-making

processes, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, empowerment of volunteers, public outreach and education, and, when necessary, legal action.

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

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

EDUCATION: AW shares information with the general public and the paddling community regarding

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

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

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at PO Box 1540, Cullowhee, NC 28723; phone 1-866-BOAT-4-AW (1-866-262-8429). AW is tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service.



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Founded in 1954, American Whitewater is a national non-profit organization (Non-profit # 23-7083760) with a mission "to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely." American Whitewater is a membership organization representing a broad diversity of individual whitewater enthusiasts, river conservationists, and more than 100 local paddling club affiliates across America. The organization is the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater rivers throughout the United States, and connects the interests of human-powered recreational river users with ecological and science-based data to achieve the goals within its mission. All rights to information contained in this publication are reserved.

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the features and editorials of American Whitewater are those of the individual authors. They do not necessarily represent those of the Directors of American Whitewater or the editors of this publication. On occasion, American Whitewater publishes official organizational policy statements drafted and approved by the Board of Directors. These policy statements will be clearly identified.

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THE JOURNEY AHEAD

THE STAFF AND Board of American Whitewater are using this issue of the American Whitewater Journal to share our 2014 Annual Report with you, beginning on page 11. Our river stewardship program is the heart and soul of American Whitewater, and reinforces the notion that conservation and recreation are mutually dependent pursuits. With access to high quality rivers and paddling, time spent on the water forms the basis for a conservation ethic that values these special places. Paddlers understand that you can't love what you don't know. It's our love of whitewater that makes us fierce defenders of rivers and their flows. This intimate connection between paddlers and flowing water has made American Whitewater a force in river stewardship for over 60 years now.

Our stewardship ethic motivates us to go beyond simply securing access, but also to ensure that what we do brings long-term protections to rivers. We do this through working closely with resource agencies for consistent river management, educating the public, providing tools that river advocates need to protect their home river and, when necessary, we own or lease land for access.

Your membership support allows American Whitewater's River Stewardship Team to work on important projects in their respective regions. Our River Stewardship Team consists of professional staff supported by board members and volunteers from communities across the country. Last year, total volunteer hours totaled 12,580 (the equivalent of 6 additional full-time staff members). American Whitewater's regional approach to stewardship work is focused on our mission, "To conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely."

On both financial and program fronts 2014 was a very solid year for American Whitewater. We advocated for new Wild and Scenic River protections across the

nation, and were successful in designating five new river reaches as Wild and Scenic. They include Middle Fork Snoqualmie (WA), Pratt (WA), Illabot (WA), Missisquoi (VT), and Trout (VT). Our involvement includes playing vital roles in bringing down dams, restoring flows, and protecting some of our nation's last great free-flowing rivers.

Few organizations accomplish the same level of results with the limited resources of American Whitewater. Each membership dollar that AW receives is leveraged to generate \$4 in total funding directed at supporting river stewardship. The 1:4 dollars match is only possible because AW is able to attract support from foundations, private donors, advertising opportunities, events and partnerships. As a result, your AW membership dollar goes four times as far towards protecting whitewater rivers.

We take the financial management of our resources seriously; American Whitewater received our fifth straight 4-Star Rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator for our financial practices and transparency this year. Only 4% of charities rated by Charity Navigator received at least five consecutive 4-star evaluations. This distinction demonstrates our commitment to best management practices and open communication. Charity Navigator's independent assessment of our work confirms that we are on the right track and providing an important service to the whitewater boating community.

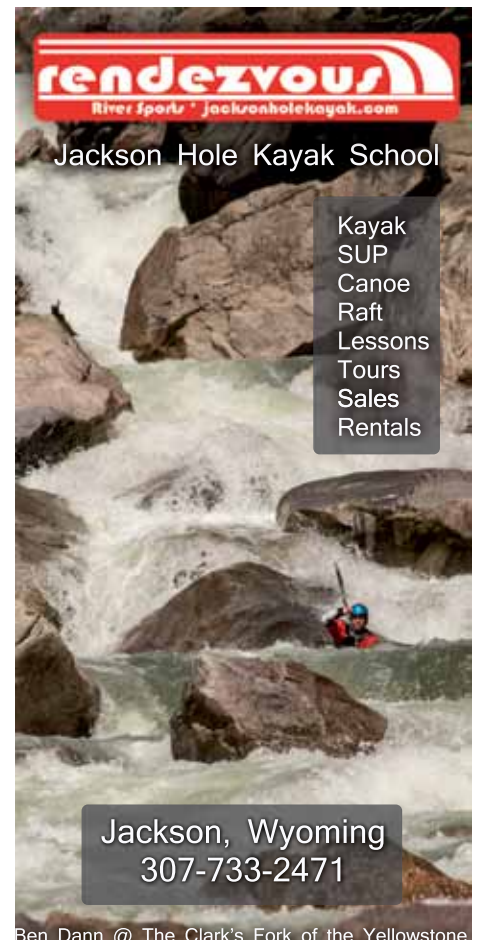
As we look to the future, we continue to appreciate the importance of rivers and their role in supporting the health and well being of the paddling community. We remain committed to giving back to these special places and have a great story to tell right now. Our stewardship projects are making a real difference to rivers and local communities, while providing flows for recreation and habitat. If you are reading this publication and you are not a member, please consider supporting this work. If you are a member, thanks for your support.

Please pass this issue on to a friend and let them know what we are doing.

There has never been a better time to support American Whitewater!



Mark Singleton
Executive Director



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STEWARDSHIP

PROTECTING KALMIOPSIS RIVERS FROM MINING

BY MEGAN HOOKER



*Catacrafts navigate rapids in the Inner Gorge of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River (OR). American Whitewater is working to protect the Illinois and other rivers in the region from mining threats.
Photo by Northwest Rafting Company*

K *NOWN FOR THEIR crystal clear waters, the wild rivers of Southwestern Oregon and Northern California are threatened by nickel strip mine proposals. Paddler's voices are needed to protect these incredible rivers and their watersheds.*

Southwestern Oregon and Northern California contain some of the wildest rivers in the lower 48 states. Oregon's Siskiyou Mountains are remote and rugged, and home to iconic Wild and Scenic Rivers like the Rogue, Illinois, Chetco, and North Fork Smith. While pollution, dams, and a changing climate to have an impact on rivers elsewhere, here salmon and steelhead find a stronghold of clear, cold, free-flowing waters. These wild watersheds also host some of the highest concentrations of rare and unique plants in North America—including ones that eat insects! The rivers of the Siskiyou are a boater's paradise too. Some kayakers say that floating these rivers is like flying because the water is so stunningly clear.

While it would be nearly impossible for me, personally, to pick a good place for a nickel

strip mine, I can tell you this most certainly is not one.

Unfortunately, two mining companies have other ideas, and are actively pursuing proposals to develop three strip mines in southwest Oregon—one in the watershed of Baldface Creek and the Wild and Scenic North Fork Smith, another at Rough and Ready Creek in the headwaters of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River, and a third in the headwaters of Hunter Creek. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the metal mining industry is the largest source of toxic pollution in the country. In addition to the recreational and ecological value that these rivers hold, they also provide drinking water for numerous communities downstream. The damage and pollution caused by strip mining are irreversible. It's no wonder that local residents and river advocates are doing all they can to protect these rivers and their watersheds. If these mines move forward, they'll destroy the very things that make these rivers—and this region—so special.

Through the years, many have recognized the unique value of this region. Congress designated the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in Oregon in 1964, which includes portions of the Wild and Scenic North Fork Smith, Chetco, and Illinois Rivers. The Forest Service recognized the South Kalmiopsis Roadless Area, which is the largest Inventoried Roadless Area in Oregon and encompasses parts of the Wild and Scenic Illinois and North Fork Smith Rivers. In 2004, during the George W. Bush administration, the Forest Service recommended that Congress add more land to the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. These lands included the watersheds of Baldface Creek and the North and South Forks of Rough and Ready Creek, where the agency also found these creeks to be eligible for Wild and Scenic status.

Across the border in California, the Smith River Recreation Area protects the Wild and Scenic Smith River and its tributaries from mining. Unfortunately, the prohibitions on mining in the Recreation Area have no effect in Oregon, and the other protections are not enough to safeguard these wild rivers

and their watersheds in the face of the 1872 Mining Law. This arcane and outdated law allows people to mine federal public lands for free, and because international mining corporations are considered “people,” they’re given the same treatment. The law prioritizes mining activities over all others, making it difficult for public lands agencies to protect drinking water supplies, salmon strongholds, or vibrant recreation economies. Mining companies don’t have to pay for what they take from underneath public land, despite making huge profits from resource extraction. Disappointingly, they also often fail to clean up messes they’ve left behind. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, there are an estimated 500,000 abandoned mines across the country, and it will cost taxpayers about \$50 billion to clean them all up.



Rough and Ready Creek (OR) is a key tributary to the Wild and Scenic Illinois River and is the site of one of three proposed nickel strip mines.

Photo by Northwest Rafting Company

Clearly it’s time for some mining reform. Until that happens a select subset of public lands is excluded from this mining free-for-all, such as National Parks and Wilderness Areas. Others have to be specially “withdrawn” from the mining law—a.k.a. “mineral withdrawal.” (Contrary to how

it may sound, a “mineral withdrawal” is not the act of taking minerals out of the ground, but instead is an action that removes lands from consideration for new mining claims for future mining activities.)

American Whitewater is working with our partners to protect the wild rivers in this region from the threat of mining by advocating that the lands that hold their headwaters be withdrawn from mining activity. Early in 2015, Senators Wyden and



The emerald waters of the Smith River (CA), worthy of protection from pollution from mining activities.
Photo by Northwest Rafting Company

STEWARDSHIP



The confluence of Baldface Creek and the Wild and Scenic North Fork Smith River (OR). An international mining company proposes to develop a nickel strip mine near Baldface Creek.

Photo by Northwest Rafting Company

Merkley of Oregon and Representatives DeFazio of Oregon and Huffman of California introduced legislation that would permanently protect this special

area from future mining through a mineral withdrawal. This summer, the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management followed suit and announced that they

were proposing a temporary mineral withdrawal in order to protect the area from new mining claims while Congress considers legislation.

The agencies are currently considering public comment about the proposed withdrawal, and paddlers' voices are critically important to successfully protecting these rivers, lands, and communities. Please visit americanwhitewater.org for more information about how you can help.

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For more information about making a bequest to American Whitewater
CONTACT Carla Miner: 1.866.262.8429 or carla@americanwhitewater.org

2014 Annual Report



Dear Members,

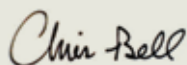
On behalf of the American Whitewater Board of Directors and staff, we are pleased to report that AW achieved another year of solid financial performance and stewardship success for our members in 2014. American Whitewater is the only national non-profit organization exclusively focused on conserving and restoring whitewater rivers. Each day, we work to protect free flowing rivers, restore flows to rivers impacted by hydroelectric projects, secure access, and advocate for new Wild and Scenic rivers throughout the country. Your membership is a key part of what makes our efforts possible.

In 2014 American Whitewater directly participated in management decisions that improved flows and river access associated with dams on 25 rivers across the country. We advocated for new Wild and Scenic River protections across the nation, and successfully lobbied for designation of five new river reaches as Wild and Scenic. They are MF Snoqualmie (WA), Pratt (WA), Illabot (WA), Missisquoi (VT), Trout (VT). We also secured 19 new and/or improved river access areas on streams in PA, CO, CA, and WA, and collaboratively managed river access on at least 17 rivers. This includes sites we own, like the Watauga (NC) and Elkhorn (KY), and land leased for access to the Gauley (WV). All told, these efforts benefited several thousand miles of spectacular rivers, and hundreds of thousands of river enthusiasts.

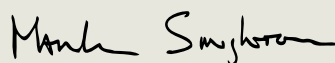
We take organizational transparency seriously. American Whitewater received our fifth straight 4-Star Rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator for our financial management. Only 4% of the charities Charity Navigator rates have received at least five consecutive 4-star evaluations, showing that American Whitewater outperforms most other charities in America. This designation from Charity Navigator differentiates American Whitewater and means that your donation will be put to good use and result in tangible gains for river stewardship!

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

Thanks for your support,



Chris Bell
President, Board of Directors



Mark Singleton
Executive Director

A rafter navigates the rapid at the former Elwha Dam site on the newly opened Elwha River (WA) after the largest dam removal in history. Photo by Thomas O'Keefe



National

American Whitewater's small staff kept a forward lean on well over 100 river stewardship projects in 2014, playing vital roles in bringing down dams, restoring flows, and protecting some of our nation's last great free-flowing rivers. In 2014 we stood up and asked communities across the country to support new Wild and Scenic river protections, and it worked: several outstanding streams were designated and protected in 2014. We fought for more dam removals while witnessing the first salmon migrations up Washington's Elwha River following the removal of two large dams. We tested dewatered rivers like West Virginia's New River Dries for their recreational potential while paddlers across the country enjoyed the fruits of many of our flow restoration efforts. And we met with National Park Service Staff about the future of boating through Yosemite Valley on the Merced River, resulting in a new decision to welcome paddlers to share in that incomparable experience. It was an outstanding year of protecting and restoring rivers side-by-side with many passionate paddlers who support our mission.

KEY METRICS FOR 2014

Total volunteer hours: (the equivalent of 6 additional full-time staff)	12,580
Members at year end	5,730
Affiliate Clubs	107
New designated Wild and Scenic river reaches: MF Snoqualmie (WA), Pratt (WA), Illabot (WA), Missisquoi (VT), Trout (VT).	5 rivers
New "eligible" Wild and Scenic river reaches secured	14
New and/or improved river access areas secured	19
Improved downstream flows and river access on rivers with hydropower dams	25
New stream gages negotiated and installed	5
Collaboratively managed river access	17 rivers
Website: unique users per month and over 8 million page views per year	82,500
Number of consecutive years Charity Navigator has provided a top-level rating	5
Percentage of non-profit organizations that received at least five consecutive 4-star evaluations from Charity Navigator	4%



Boaters enjoy the new access on the Skykomish River (WA).
Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

PNW

American Whitewater reached several critical milestones in our efforts to enhance public access and protect free-flowing rivers in the Pacific Northwest in 2014. The final chunks of concrete came down from Glines Canyon Dam, freeing the Elwha River (WA). On both the Elwha and White Salmon Rivers, we continued to work to enhance river-based recreation and protect fishery resources. We were honored to have our work featured in the Patagonia film *DamNation* and participate in community screenings and panel discussions across the country. In 2014 we also succeeded in adding the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt Rivers, and Illabot Creek to the Wild and Scenic system – all of which have faced past threats from hydropower development. Our most ambitious conservation effort in the region – Wild Olympics – reached a critical milestone when freshman Congressman Derek Kilmer joined Senator Patty Murray in introducing legislation, which would protect over 450 miles of rivers on the Olympic Peninsula. Finally, in 2014 we completed access improvements to several rivers throughout the region, including the Sauk, Skykomish and North Fork Nooksack Rivers in Washington and Clackamas River in Oregon. We also continued planning and construction on several additional projects that will be completed in the coming year.

California

In California, American Whitewater achieved a number of successes in 2014 after years of work. Most notably, after years of engaging in Yosemite National Park's Wild and Scenic planning process, the Park released the final Merced and Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Management Plans, opening opportunities for paddlers to enjoy the length of the Merced River and the coveted Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne. Also, after years of educating the California Energy Commission about the impacts of hydropower, the Commission declared that hydropower in British Columbia did not meet the state's Renewable Portfolio Standards criteria for importing power. The decision ensures that the economic incentive to develop B.C.'s rivers will not come from California. Finally, we also saw the fruits of many years of hard work to restore whitewater flows on rivers impacted by hydropower through the FERC relicensing process. We negotiated these releases to ensure that water for downstream cities and farms are met and that ecological resources are protected. As a result, in the midst of the third year of extreme drought in the state, there were 27 days of whitewater opportunities during the summer of 2014.

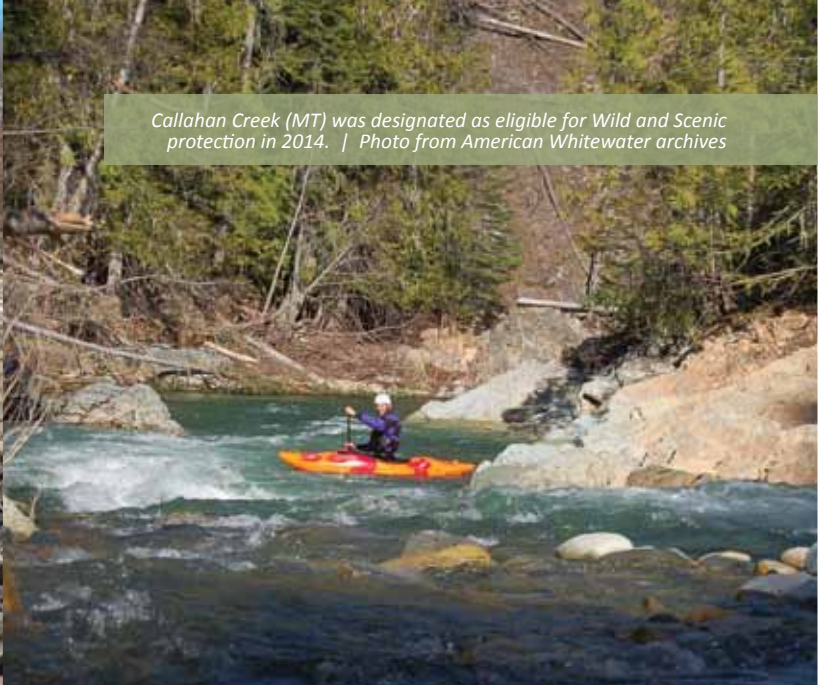


After years of participating in the Wild and Scenic Merced River Planning process, Yosemite National Park released its final plan in 2014, opening the length of the Merced River (CA) in the Park to boating. | Photo by Dave Steindorf

American Whitewater is working to restore flows to Turners Falls (MA) (shown here, dewatered) through the FERC relicensing process. Photo by Bob Nasdor



Callahan Creek (MT) was designated as eligible for Wild and Scenic protection in 2014. | Photo from American Whitewater archives



Northeast

The northeast program had a busy year in 2014 working on hydropower relicensing and Wild and Scenic Rivers. American Whitewater worked to restore flows and secure access to rivers throughout the region impacted by hydropower, including the Green River and Little River (VT), Schoharie River (NY) and the Little Androscoggin (ME). On the Connecticut River, we conducted controlled flow studies at hydropower projects at Sumner Falls and Turners Falls (MA, NH, VT). We also worked to support efforts to designate the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (VT) and the Farmington River (CT) as new Wild and Scenic Rivers. We initiated a regional effort to support additional designations by creating the Northeast Wild and Scenic River Caucus, which focuses on creating a movement in support of Wild and Scenic River designation in the Green Mountains of Vermont and the White Mountains in New Hampshire.

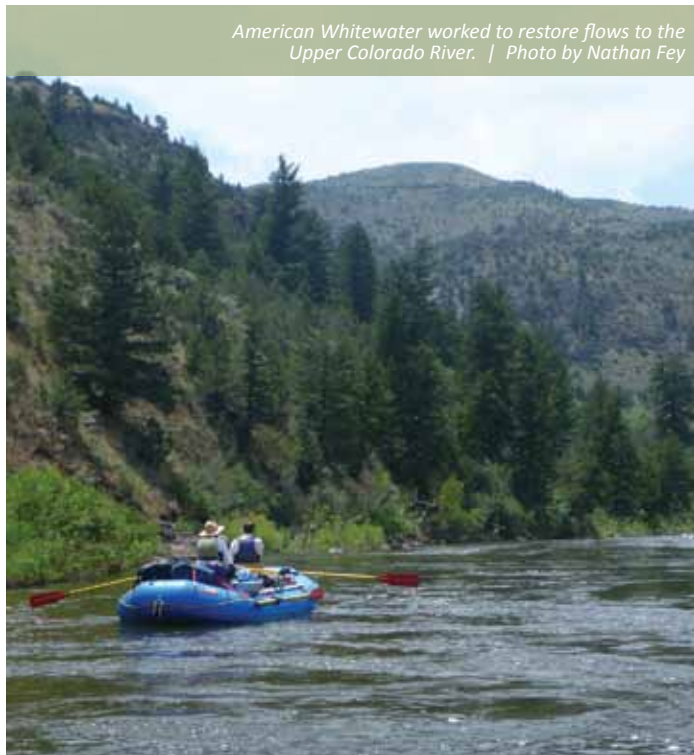
Southern Rockies

Even in the dry Colorado River Basin, and on rivers of the Southern Rockies, we had a big year! American Whitewater secured optimal recreational releases on the Upper Colorado to support late season paddling in Gore Canyon and Glenwood Springs, and after several years of work, a new whitewater park has been created that will help us permanently protect flows for recreation. On Utah's Green River, we worked with the State and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to rehabilitate the Tusher Canyon Dam – the last barrier to safe navigation in the entire reach of the river from Wyoming to the Colorado River – and have ensured that paddlers can safely run the river at all flows. In Colorado, we worked with Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, the BLM and USFS, and the White House to establish the Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River National Monument. In Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, we've worked with hundreds of volunteers to protect streamflows on rivers and creeks that provide high-value paddling opportunities, and to identify tools to keep water in our rivers. We've successfully protected streamflows on some of our highest priority rivers in the region, conserved critical landscapes that surround the most popular paddling reaches in the country, and eliminated threats to public safety from out-dated dams.

Northern Rockies

American Whitewater was involved in a strategic initiative to protect the Northern Rockies' best whitewater streams from dams and other impacts throughout 2014. These efforts added Callahan and Ross Creeks in Montana to the roster of streams protected by the Forest Service as eligible for Wild and Scenic designation in 2014. We proposed many more streams for protection across Montana and Idaho that remain under consideration. Our biggest focus in the region was as a steering committee member of Montanans for Healthy Rivers, a coalition pursuing the largest Wild and Scenic Rivers bill the region has ever seen. As part of this group, we built place-based business and individual support for river protection throughout 2014, and actively supported the passage of the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act and the North Fork Watershed Protection Act, which permanently protected iconic Montana landscapes.

American Whitewater worked to restore flows to the Upper Colorado River. | Photo by Nathan Fey



In 2014, American Whitewater worked to designate rivers like Big Laurel Creek in North Carolina as eligible for Wild and Scenic status. | Photo by Kevin Colburn



Southeast

American Whitewater launched an exciting new river conservation initiative in 2014 aimed at protecting Western North Carolina's finest rivers and creeks. Through the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest planning process we proposed that the Forest Service protect new streams as "eligible" for Wild and Scenic designation. At the same time we started building support for future congressional designation of Wild and Scenic Rivers. In Tennessee we began exploring opportunities to use the State Scenic Rivers Act to protect several creeks tumbling off of the Cumberland Plateau. In addition to these conservation initiatives, our efforts to secure a strong court decision regarding public river access heated up on the South Fork of the Saluda, and we continued to implement the relatively new dam releases on the Upper Nantahala and West Fork Tuckasegee.

Mid Atlantic

River access in the Mid-Atlantic region remained a priority for American Whitewater in 2014. We celebrated the completion of the Holtwood Whitewater Park on the Susquehanna River (PA), which we negotiated to help mitigate the impacts of the expanded Holtwood Hydroelectric Project. We transferred our Blackwater River Access Area to the town of Hendricks, WV to ensure the site is maintained into the future for high-quality stream access. In Virginia, we continued to pursue improvements to the stream access laws, but did not secure legislation. We also kicked off a collaborative effort with the National Park Service to develop and implement a river access plan for the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry, WV. Last but not least, we continued to support Upper Yough access (MD), Savage River flows (MD), and Gauley River access where we lease the take-out field for public use.



American Whitewater worked to protect flows throughout the Southwest, including Fossil Creek in Arizona. | Photo by Dave Garrity

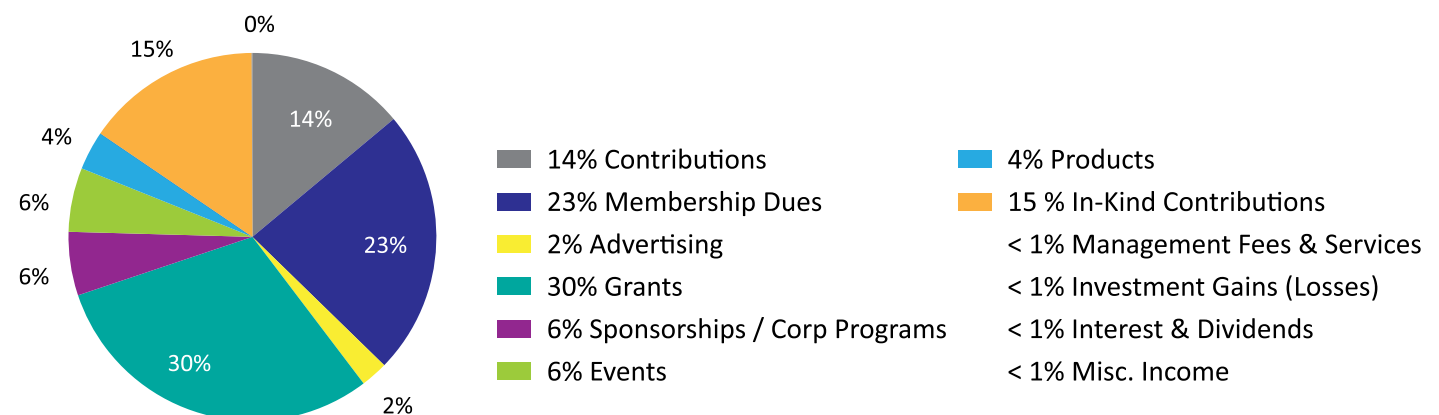
American Whitewater celebrated the completion of the Holtwood Whitewater Park on the Susquehanna River (PA) in 2014. Photo by Steve Maounis



2014 Statement of Activities

Revenue	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total 2014	Total 2013
PUBLIC SUPPORT				
Contributions	\$173,521	\$40,326	\$213,847	\$164,712
OTHER REVENUE				
Membership dues	\$358,508		\$358,508	\$354,834
Advertising	\$36,584		\$36,584	\$54,424
Grants	\$8,000	\$455,272	\$463,272	\$403,885
Events	\$86,440		\$86,440	\$65,160
Sponsorships/Corp Programs	\$83,120		\$83,120	\$139,730
Products	\$52,667		\$52,667	\$39,006
Investment Gains/(losses)	\$2,648		\$2,648	\$2,903
Management Fees & Services	\$-		\$-	\$17,600
In-Kind Contributions	\$235,847		\$235,847	\$195,039
Interest & Dividends	\$973		\$973	\$872
Misc. Income	\$1,022		\$1,022	\$624
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$539,197	\$(539,197)	\$-	\$-
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,578,527	\$(43,599)	\$1,534,928	\$1,438,789
EXPENSES				
Program Services:				
Access & Conservation	\$860,774	\$-	\$860,774	\$710,922
Public Education	\$410,164	\$-	\$410,164	\$416,293
Total Program Services	\$1,270,938	\$-	\$1,270,938	\$1,127,215
SUPPORTING SERVICES				
General & Administrative	\$134,603	\$-	\$134,603	\$119,611
Fundraising	\$122,939	\$-	\$122,939	\$115,789
Total Supporting Services	\$257,542	\$-	\$257,542	\$235,400
Total Expenses	\$1,528,480	\$-	\$1,528,480	\$1,362,615
Change in Net Assets	\$50,047	\$(43,599)	\$6,448	\$76,174

2014 REVENUE SOURCES

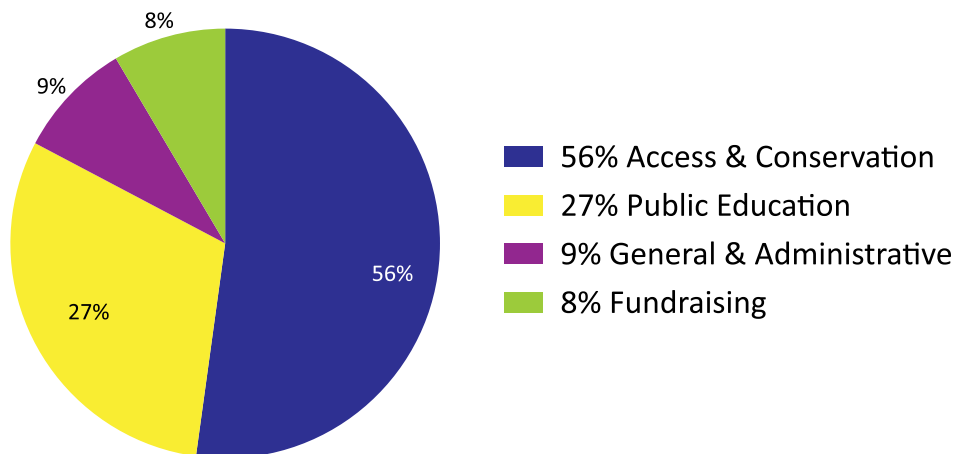


2014 Assets and Liability

Assets	2014	2013
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$547,192	\$511,776
Accounts Receivable	\$11,211	\$10,773
Grants Receivable	\$43,652	\$43,722
Investments	\$151,668	\$199,004
Prepaid Expenses	\$14,005	\$18,698
Direct Deposit Funds Advanced		
Inventory	\$13,433	\$32,061
	Total Current Assets	\$781,161
LONG-TERM ASSETS		
Lands held for protection	\$58,317	\$61,056
Computer equipment, net	\$159,704	\$119,133
	Total Long-Term Assets	\$218,021
	Total Assets	\$999,182

Liabilities & Fund Balances	2014	2013
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$22,626	\$31,365
Other liabilities	\$9,425	\$2,350
Deferred Revenues	\$1,641	\$1,485
Payroll Liabilities	\$22,561	\$24,542
	Total Current Liabilities	\$56,253
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$619,227	\$569,180
Restricted Net Assets	\$323,702	\$367,301
	Total Net Assets	\$942,929
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$999,182

2014 FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



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American Whitewater Enduring Rivers Circle



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

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Rich and Stephanie Bowers	Chris Hipgrave
Bob Brewer and Jonna Hussey	Karl and Jo Ann Koenig
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Jennie Goldberg	Peter N. Skinner
	Peter Stekel

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

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Collin Whitehead
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Greg Widroe
Kurt Williams
Lisa Williams
John R. Wilson
Julianna Wilson
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Brandon Woerth
John D. Wolken
Brandon Woods
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Carter Wray
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Art Zemach
Craig Ziegler

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**in memory of friends that passed
in the reported Honor Roll year*

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Shelbi Arno
Alan Baldwin
Patrick Bilodeau
Nelson Dean Buck
Kathy Lawler
Jon Lord
Ken McKowen
Jamie McEwan
Beth McVay
Ellis Merritt
Steve Rossberg
John Wilburn

In Honor Of

Daryl Arbesman
Butch Beverlin
The Fielding
Jeff Harris
Jordan Jones
Don Krupka
Andrew Lyburn and Sarah Talamantez
Carson Lyness
Noah Molling
Claire and Kurt Morehouse
Michael G. Strickland
Claudia and Dirk Van Wijk
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Carlson Family Foundation
George & Miriam Martin Foundation
Ironman Foundation Inc
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American Express Philanthropy Employee Giving Program Gateway
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ADK Schenectady
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AMC– Connecticut Chapter
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AMC Delaware Valley Chapter
AMC NY–NJ Chapter
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Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts
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Avid4 Adventure Inc.
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Carolina Canoe Club
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Chico Paddleheads
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Colgate University
Colorado Whitewater Assn
Columbus Outdoor Pursuits
Conewago Canoe Club
Coosa River Paddling Club
Creek Freak Paddlers of Franklin County
VA
Davidson Outdoors
Dbl Z! Whitewater Club
Dolores River Boating Advocates
East Tennessee Whitewater Club
Elkhorn Paddlers
EPIC Adventures
Eugene Kayaker
Fairbanks Paddlers
Float Fishermen of Virginia
Flow Paddlers' Club
Foothills Paddling Club
Friends of the Arkansas River

Friends of the Yampa
Georgia Canoeing Asso
Gold Country Paddlers
Guelph Kayak Club
Hamilton College
High Jim and the A.S.K.
Hollins Outdoor Program
Holtwood Hooligans
Hoofers Outing Club
Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq.
Huntsville Canoe Club
I.R.I.E. Rafting Company Inc
Idaho Whitewater Association
Iowa Whitewater Coalition
Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers
KCCNY
Keelhaulers Canoe Club
Landmark Learning
Lehigh Valley Whitewater Inc.
Lower Columbia Canoe Club
Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers
Mecklenburg Regional Paddlers
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Monocacy Canoe Club
Next Adventure
Nor Cal River Runners
North East Wisconsin Paddlers, Inc.
North Idaho Whitewater Boating
Northwest Rafters Association
Northwest Whitewater Association
Nova River Runners Inc.
Ohio Valley Paddlers
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club
Oregon Whitewater Association
Outdoors Unlimited
Ozark Mountain Paddlers
Ozark Wilderness Waterways
Paddle Trails Canoe Club
Paddlers4Christ
Palmetto Paddlers
PDXKayaker
Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society
Philadelphia Canoe Club
Pikes Peak Whitewater Club
Plateau Eco-Sports
PNWKayakers.com
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Rockin 'R' River Rides
RTS Sierra Club Angeles Chapter
San Miguel Whitewater Asso
SCSU Outdoor Endeavors
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Paddlers
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter
Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club

Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club
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West VA Wildwater Assn
Western Association to Enjoy Rivers
Western Carolina Paddlers
Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club
Wilmington Trail Club
WVU Whitewater Club
Zoar Outdoor
Zoar Valley Paddling Club

Events and Festivals

Opening Day on the South Fork American
Deerfield Festival
Feather Festival
French Broad River Festival
Gauley Festival
National Paddling Film Festival
Wenatchee River Festival

STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

National Policy

Clean Water Act
Federal Agency Partnerships
Hydropower Policy and Legislation
Hydropower Reform Coalition
Land and Water Conservation Fund
National Forest Planning
Outdoor Alliance
River Management Society
Roads and Transportation on Federal
Land
Wild and Scenic River Management

2014 Honor Roll

Southeast

Chattooga River (NC, SC, GA)
Cheoah River (NC)
Nantahala River (NC)
Potential Tennessee Scenic Rivers (TN)
Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers (NC)
South Fork Saluda River (SC)
Tallulah River (GA)
Tennessee Wilderness (TN)
Tuckasegee River (NC)
Watauga River (NC)
West Fork Tuckasegee (NC)

Mid Atlantic

Gauley River (WV)
Johns Creek (VA)
New River Dries (WV)
Ohiopyle Falls (PA)
Savage and NB Potomac Rivers (MD)
Shenandoah and Potomac Access (WV/MD/VA)
Susquehanna River (PA)
Upper Yough (MD)
Virginia Access (VA)

Northeast

Connecticut River (MA, VT, NH)
Deerfield River (MA)
Green River (VT)
Little Androscoggin River (ME)
Little River (VT)
Missisquoi River (VT)
Potential Wild & Scenic Rivers (CT, VT)
Schoharie Creek (NY)

Midwest

Elkhorn Creek (KY)
Red River (WI)
West Fork Montreal (WI)

Northern Rockies

Bear River (ID)
East Rosebud Creek (MT)
Fish Creek (MT)
Potential Wild & Scenic Rivers (ID)
Snake River Headwaters (WY)
Sullivan Creek (WA)
West Rosebud Creek (MT)
Wild & Scenic Rivers Campaign (MT)

Southern Rockies

Arkansas River (CO)
Bill Williams River (AZ)
Cache la Poudre River (CO)
Colorado River (CO/UT/AZ)
Colorado Basin Supply Study (WY/CO/UT/NM/AZ/NV/CA)
Colorado Water Plan
Dolores River (CO/UT)
Escalante River (UT)
Fossil Creek (AZ)
Gila River (AZ)
Green River (WY/UT/CO)
Potential W&S Rivers (CO, UT)
River Access in Colorado
River Access in New Mexico
River Access in Utah
Salt River (AZ)
San Miguel River (CO)
San Juan (CO/UT)
San Rafael River (UT)
St. Vrain River (CO)
Verde River (AZ)
Virgin River (UT/AZ)
Yampa River (CO)

Pacific Northwest

Chehalis (WA)
Chelan (WA)
Chetco River (OR)
Clackamas River (OR)
Crooked River (OR)
Elwha River (WA)
Green River (WA)
Hood River (OR)
Hunter Creek (OR)
Illabot Creek (WA)
Illinois River (OR)
Klamath River (OR/CA)
Middle Fork Snoqualmie River (WA)
Molalla River (OR)
Nooksack River (WA)
North Fork Snoqualmie River (WA)
Owyhee River (OR)
Pistol River (OR)
Rivers of the Olympic Peninsula (WA)
Rogue River (OR)
Rough and Ready Creek (OR)
Sauk River (WA)
Similkameen River (WA)
Skykomish River (WA)

Snake River (WA)
Snoqualmie River (WA)
Sultan River (WA)
Susitna River (AK)
Talkeetna River (AK)
White Salmon River (WA)

California

Bucks Creek
California Bridge Access
California Hydropower Reform Coalition
Feather River / Oroville
Feather River / Poe
Feather River / Rock Creek-Cresta
Feather River/ South Fork
Feather River / Upper North Fork
Kern River
McCloud River
Merced River
Middle Fork American/Rubicon
Mokelumne River
North Fork Smith River
Pit River
San Joaquin River
South Fork American River
Stanislaus
Tuolumne River
Piru Creek
Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers
Yuba/Bear Rivers

American Whitewater

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ANTHROPOLOGY OF PADDLING

LEARNING TO HANDLE A POLYNESIAN DUGOUT CANOE

BY RICK FEINBERG



Poling a large dugout canoe on Taumako's reef flat.
Photo by Rick Feinberg

SITTING IN A wooden dugout in the South Pacific, I pondered the chain of events that had led me to Taumako Island. Before I reached the age of five, my dad taught me to swim at Jones Beach and Long Island Sound. My first whitewater experience was in 1959, at age 11, when I dove into Yellowstone Park's Firehole River and traversed what seemed like thunderous cascades. The next week, my family enjoyed a guided raft trip on the Snake River as it wound through the Grand Tetons.

Two years later, at Boy Scout Camp, I earned my canoeing merit badge. I was rewarded with an expedition on the Upper Delaware in a Grumman Aluminum canoe—without a PFD or float bags. I promptly swam down Class II Skinner's Falls and learned an important lesson about the power of moving water.

In 1976, I met an irresistible young woman at a May Day picnic. She loved to paddle; one thing led to another; and soon we found ourselves on Pennsylvania's Class

III Lower Youghiogheny in a borrowed aluminum canoe filled with camping gear. We survived the challenge, returned the canoe without a dent, and liked each other well enough to make a life together. Nancy and I have now been married for 36 years. We still paddle, mostly in kayaks, and typically on Class II- to IV rivers. Our special favorites are Slippery Rock Creek in western PA, the Lower Yough, and West Virginia's New River. Our second child, now 32 years old, was conceived during a spring outing on the Upper Delaware. In short,



water has been a big part of my life for as long as I can remember.

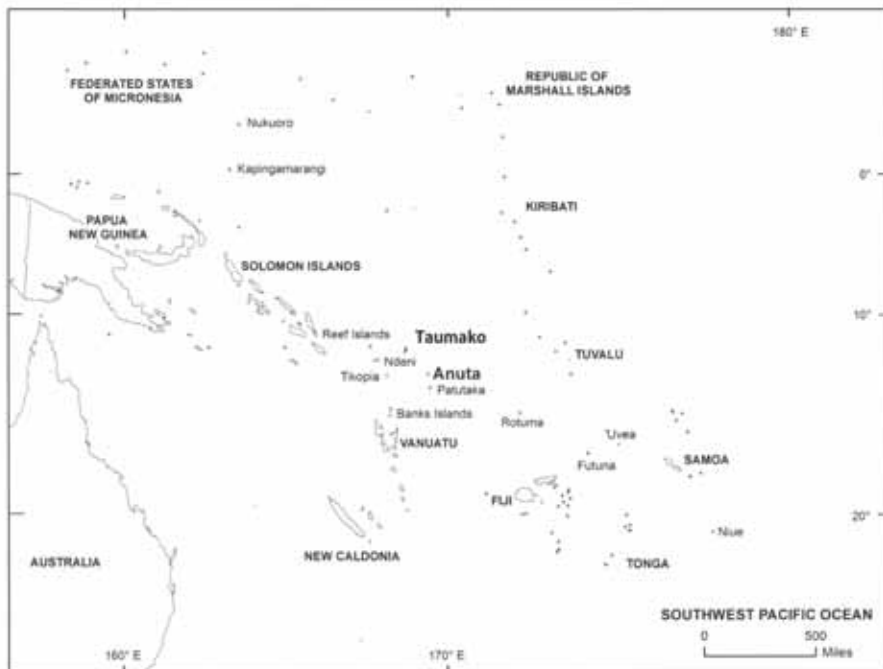
A second thread that led to Taumako was my decision to major in anthropology, the study of diverse lifeways distributed around the globe. I hoped to find creative solutions to our multitude of social problems and wished to learn about communities that differed radically from anything with which I was familiar. Anthropologists collect their information through "fieldwork." We live with the folks we study for extended periods and take part in their daily activities in order to experience the world the way they do.

My doctoral studies eventually took me to Anuta, a tiny, isolated Polynesian island in the Solomons. I lived there for a year and got to spend time sailing, paddling, and fishing in outrigger canoes. One highlight was a four-day voyage to an uninhabited monolith, thirty miles away. I've returned to Anuta several times and have done

additional research on Nukumanu Atoll in Papua New Guinea. I published books and articles on the seafaring practices of both communities and, in 2007 and 2008, was invited to conduct a nine-month study of Taumako voyaging.

As it turned out, no voyaging canoes were operative while I was on Taumako. Instead, I spent a good deal of time learning to handle local dugouts. Some of the skills I had developed on North American rivers proved transferrable. However, Taumako canoes handle very differently from the aluminum, fiberglass, and plastic vessels to which I was accustomed, and the islanders' techniques differ a great deal from those taught by paddling clubs, the Boy Scouts, and Red Cross.

Over my first months, I went on many local outings with my hosts. To become truly competent, however, I needed my own vessel. When my friend, Basil Mekau, offered me the use of his spare dugout, it

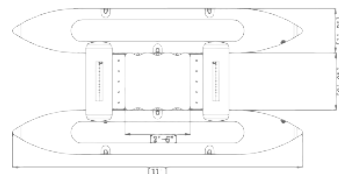


Map of the Southwestern Pacific Ocean showing Taumako in relation to Australia, New Guinea, and several island nations (shown in capital letters).



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ANTHROPOLOGY OF PADDLING

seemed a perfect opportunity. The next day, I was on the water in control of my own boat and destiny.

Even compared to a kayak, Basil's little dugout was remarkably unstable: I almost capsized it just climbing aboard in chest-deep water. To maximize stability, I sat in the bilge rather than on the seat, which was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way toward the stern and three inches below the gunwale.

The canoe's long, narrow contours and round bottom meant it tracked well. Unlike a modern Western canoe, which is designed for a solo paddler to do a J-stroke, on Basil's canoe I could do three or four simple forward strokes on the same side and keep the vessel going straight. However, my training soon kicked in, and I found myself doing a lot of J-stroking, which was just about as efficient but not necessary.



The author side surfing at ledge above Entrance Rapid on Lower Yough in 2005.

When I did switch sides, my strokes were shorter, and I had less inclination to keep my lower arm straight or to worry about feathering. And I found, when paddling on

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Taumako voyaging canoe of the type the author had gone there to study in 2007-08.
Photo by Rick Feinberg

the windward side, that I'd get in four or five strokes without switching, while on the leeward side I'd only manage about three. My kayaking experience, which taught me to keep my waist flexible with my torso more or less vertical, also proved useful. And sometimes braces came in handy, although they didn't work as well in an open canoe with little freeboard as in a decked kayak.

I soon grew comfortable enough to sit up on the seat, which was less stable but provided better leverage. Eventually, I decided to try poling. This was a new skill for me. Every time I pushed off on the bottom I'd lose my balance and, even from a sitting position, come close to capsizing. After a while, my balance improved, but still I found it hard to keep the vessel going straight.

My next project was canoe surfing. I got close to the surf line and briefly felt I was going to get sucked out into the meat of the breakers. That's when I discovered another basic difference between Taumako dugouts and the boats I was accustomed to paddling. A whitewater kayak turns almost instantaneously, and new paddlers find the challenge is to keep it going straight. Taumako canoes' tracking capabilities make them difficult to turn. As I was pivoting, a

breaker caught me broadside and put three inches of water in the bilge. Once a canoe has that much water, it's likely to swamp with the next wave. So I felt pressure to bail quickly. But I couldn't bail and paddle at the same time. To keep from shipping water, I had to meet the breaking waves straight on. However, without paddling, the canoe tended to drift broadside to the breakers. Locals solve the problem by kicking out bilge water with one foot while continuing to paddle. I proved an abject failure at bailing with my leg.

Somehow, I managed not to swamp and moved closer to shore. When the waves subsided, I resumed poling—but with mixed results. At one point I tried to stand up in the stern and almost immediately fell out of the canoe. The second time I stood a little farther forward and got upright, but when I picked up my pole I lost my balance and fell out again. After one day on the water, my paddling seemed satisfactory, but I realized that my poling skills would need a lot of work.

The next day, I did better but still spent a lot of time bailing. At one point, I hit a rock, came close to capsizing, and fell out of the canoe. I surprised myself by doing a complete flip, landing on my feet with one

hand still in contact with the gunwale, and shipping almost no water. Nonetheless, I was reminded of the danger of submerged rocks which, on the reef flat, don't produce waves or holes and can be hard to spot.

The following day, Basil lent me a larger canoe, whose greater stability and freeboard made poling easier. The trick to going straight, I found, was proper placement of the pole in relation to the hull. That, however, wasn't easy since the vessel was moving, usually both forward and sideways. The bottom constantly changed depth and texture. And there was the ever-present wind and current.

A few days later Basil made me a sail, and I set to work on yet another set of skills. The trick in sailing, I discovered, was to control the sheet, steering paddle, and bailer and balance the canoe, all single-handed. The

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Taumako boys canoe surfing through the mangroves.
Photo by Rick Feinberg

bow wanted to swing around to windward, so I used the paddle on the lee side. I had to control the paddle with one hand, since I was using the other to hold the sheet. Fortunately, the force of the water pushed the blade toward the hull, so I could brace the paddle on the gunwale. Still, steering was tricky. Sometimes, I had to lift the paddle completely out of the water, or the canoe would turn to leeward and lose the wind. But I couldn't leave it out for long, or I'd turn too far into the wind.

Turning around was also an interesting process. Since I had my paddle on the lee side, I couldn't rudder to turn into the wind and come about. Rather, I had to stroke. But paddling requires two hands even if steering with the paddle doesn't. So I had to find a way to hold the sheet while turning the canoe.

On the opposite tack, I struggled to beat into a headwind and at length was forced ashore. Basil advised me that it's OK to paddle back against the wind while keeping the sail in place, although that means holding the sheet with one hand while paddling with two. He also said to: start farther from shore; turn the blade horizontal rather than lift it from the water to reduce its turning force; always keep the sail taut; and, even when I wasn't handling the sheet, use only one hand on

the steering paddle. I made agonizingly slow progress on all fronts.

After countless hours, I concluded that my skills were transferable, but to a limited degree. I became a fairly competent paddler, and over a time frame comparable to that of Taumako children I'm confident that I would have gained a level of proficiency similar to locals. Sailing was more difficult, and it would have taken me some time to master techniques that I found counterintuitive. But, I believe, I could have overcome these obstacles. However, poling, the most common means of propulsion in shallow water, was for me an unfamiliar skill, and I'm not sure I could have developed anything approaching local expertise.

In the end, I had an inflatable, self-bailing kayak shipped to me; once it arrived, I only occasionally went back to dugouts. Still, for certain purposes like fishing—where hooks might puncture an inflatable—dugouts have a clear advantage and, for people on Taumako, will remain the boat of choice for years to come.

Rick Feinberg is Professor of Anthropology at Kent State University. He has been a member of the Keel Haulers Canoe Club for over thirty years and enjoys paddling in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio.

A vertical advertisement for PaddleVa. At the top is the Appomattox River Company logo, which features a circular emblem with a river and trees, surrounded by the text 'APPOMATTOX RIVER COMPANY'. Below the logo is the word 'PADDLEVA' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath that, 'APPOMATTOX RIVER COMPANY' and 'EST. 1977' are written in a white, serif font. The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a person in a blue and black kayak gear, including a white helmet and sunglasses, carrying a bright green kayak on their shoulder. The person is walking on a gravel path. At the bottom of the advertisement, the website 'PADDLEVA.COM' and the phone number '800.442.4837' are displayed in a white, sans-serif font.

RIVER VOICES

THE SHORT WET STORY OF SZAHNIECE, HER KANU, AND THE GATINEAU

BY RESHAUD L'AMÉRICAIN



Alas, the gunnels of the kanu were low...

Photo by Simon Cousineau

THERE IS A festival held every year in August, in a town called Maniwaki in the Province of Quebec, Canada that is called “Festival d’eau vive de la Haute Gatineau,” where paddlers convene to brave the whitewaters of the Gatineau River. This is the spirit from which true Fairy Tales are made.

Szahniece was a winsome Canadian lass with a tandem kanu and a penchant for adventure. The kanu was fitted out for running rivers, complete with float bags secured front and back, and knee padding for intimate contact with her boat. She was learned and worldly in a sense, having lived in New Brunswick, and was fluent in Newfie.

Szahniece came to the Gatineau River ready for excitement and new experiences. But she was an ingénue in the ways of big water. To make matters worse, she had been abandoned by the friend who was to accompany her in her kanu, and was in dire need of a companion to paddle with her.

Through good fortune or random chance, she found herself camped next to a group of stout-hearted beer-drinking Americans,

the kind that are not afraid to venture forth into the land of the Francophone tongue. This band of intrepid kayakers had spent time with Curtis L’Ontarian, who enthralled them with “Tales of Ribaldry in Quebec.” Thus primed, they were eager to explore what the province had to offer.

Szahniece introduced herself and explained her predicament. The Americans were wedded to their kayaks, and most were wedded anyway. But being the chivalrous sort and remembering the Ontarian’s tales, they took pity on her and agreed to assist Szahniece in running the river, but under one condition. Each was to take a turn with her in her kanu to run a drop. In that way, she could avoid the arduous portages, and all could enjoy paddling one rapid with her.

The first drop, “Tête des Six,” was easy, and Szahniece ran that one alone. But the next rapid was “De Lucifer’s” and upon seeing the formidable “Lucifer’s Anus” hole as it swallowed a kanu, she shuddered and wanted to carry her boat. However, the Americans would have none of that.

The brave Alexen stepped forth to assist and accompany her in running the rapid.

After scouting the line, they put onto the river. With Alexen in her stern, Szahniece was reassured that they could succeed. Alexen warned her not to look directly into the anus, or all would be lost. Szahniece agreed, but it was to no avail. The approach was good, but after they passed left of the namesake hole and then the surf hole, they tried to turn back to the right and the kanu overturned, which gave them a refreshing and long swim down the rocky left shore.

Szahniece became discouraged, but the Americans would have none of that. Alexay, who was experienced in the ways of both kayak and kanu, stepped forth to assuage her. With her blouse now wet, tattered, and clinging to her, Szahniece breathed deeply, agreed to try the rapid one more time, and carried her kanu back up to the top of the rapid. Like Alexen, Alexay’s approach was good, passing to the left of the hole, and this time they succeeded in making the right turn to traverse the wave train below the holes. But alas, the gunnels of the kanu were low and there was no floatation bag in the middle of the boat, so it quickly swamped with the surging water. And what do kanus do once they are swamped but roll over?

Upon seeing Lucifer's Anus swallowing another kanu, she shuddered and wanted to carry her boat.

Photo by Simon Cousineau

Capsized it did, leaving Szahniece and Alexay to swim the remaining part of the rapid.

Two attempts were enough for poor Szahniece, so she paddled downstream with Reshaud and the American flotilla to the next rapid, "Du Corbeau." From a rocky island piled with logs, they scouted the various channels. Szahniece wanted to carry this one, but the Americans would have none of that.

Reshaud stepped forth and suggested to her the best line for her boat. Watching other kanus run the right channel, he spoke of a magnificent boof at the bottom ledge that would send them clear of the trashy



water. Intent on being able to see and steer their way through the drop, he took the bow position, and they put onto the river. Aligned at the right location at the top of

the drop, they pulled forward. Szahniece could not see the tongue and desperately called out for directions, but Reshaud made a deft cross-bow draw that placed the boat



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RIVER VOICES



And what do kanus do once they are swamped?

Photo by Simon Cousineau

Szahniece and Reshaud to swim out of the wave train.

Szahniece was bruised in the hip and abdomen from the sudden halt. The pain was a sharp reminder of the collateral damage that oftentimes accompanies attempts at chivalry. If the intrepid Americans offered to assist her again, she would have none of them. Then Oppy LeSage revealed to her secret sneak routes that she could maneuver by herself, and she carried the rest, which made it a happy (or should we say “Oppy”?) ending. For her. But the Americans, they saw none of the wonders of ribaldry, although all agreed, as the Quebecois say, “ils ont trouvent le Bonheur.”

squarely in line for the tongue. With what should have been a mighty boof stroke, he pulled hard to send the bow out and over the wave below. But alas, the kanu was long and boofing was impossible. The bow

plummeted into the waves and the boat lurched to a halt, sending Szahniece into the wooden yoke at the center of the boat. And what do kanus do when they stall in a drop but roll over? Capsize it did, leaving

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RIVER VOICES

BE THE PADDLER YOU WANT TO BE

BY TANYA DIAS



Mark Zakutansky on Mud Run, April 2011.

Photo by Mark Zakutansky

INITIALLY I STARTED to write this as an, “It’s okay to be a Class III paddler” article. But as I continued to write I thought to myself, “This isn’t for me”; it’s okay for *me* to be a Class III paddler, but for anyone else, it’s okay to be any class paddler he or she wants to be. It’s more than just the difficulty of rivers you run, it’s about living a lifestyle that incorporates nature and a community of the most wonderful people you can imagine. Of course, within the community there are those few who take it too far, but we love them anyway! There will always be those in the paddling community who are doing the most daring things, pushing the limits of the sport forward.

We hear names such as Steve Fisher, Nicole Mansfield, Rafa Ortiz, Ben Marr, Ben Brown, EJ, Dane, and Emily Jackson, Rush

Sturges, and the list goes on and on and on. Along with these paddlers we hear of their journeys all over the world, throughout the United States and in Uganda, Zambia, the DRC, Canada, México, Chile, Norway, and, well, that list goes on and on too.

As paddlers we all have dreams of having certain experiences; it doesn’t mean it has to be some stout Class V run; maybe it’s enough just to be in those places experiencing what the world’s rivers have to offer us. These elite kayakers have charged past the boundaries of the sport that were defined by many of those who also pushed past earlier boundaries, those who ran Great Falls for the first time, who named the rapids of the Upper Yough, who explored the wild rivers of the West, and who tested the limits without knowing

what the limits really were. These guys, the McEwan Brothers, Bill Bickham, John Sweet, Charlie Walbridge, Tao Berman, Walt Blackadar, and guys like Jon Lugbill, Milo Duffek, Walter Kirschbaum, John Berry, and Barb Wright, to name a few, were some of the pioneers of their time. These people may just be names to you, but if you take some time to learn their stories, you learn not only about the athletes they are/were but you get a sense of how it all started and the progression that this sport has made.

So, what do these people who have made names for themselves have to do with, “It’s okay to be any class paddler”? I don’t know these men and women personally, but most of them became famous in the process of having fun, pushing the boundaries of



Friends and me on the Cheat Narrows, May 2011.

Photo by Mark Zakutansky

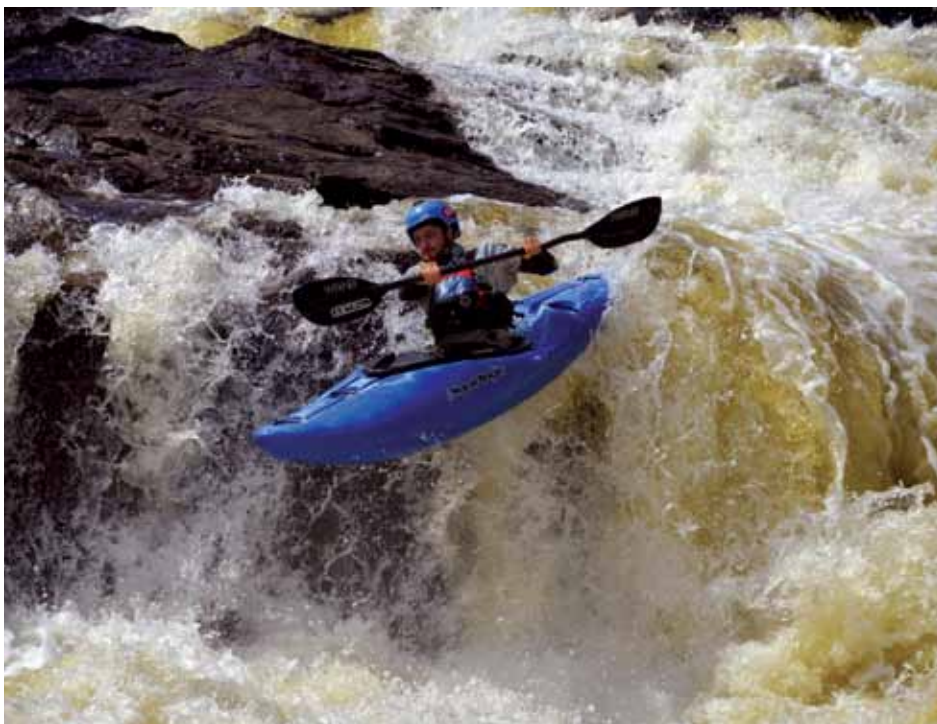
today,” but in reality I know my limitations and can just sit back and admire the runs they are paddling.

I dream constantly, but in reality I am only someone who paddles up to Class III. I don't need to be a Class V paddler to have the same joys in boating as those who do paddle Class V, even though I must admit, it looks pretty darn fun!

Be the paddler you want to be, any kind of paddler, run any class river/creek that you want. Of course it takes time, skill, and perseverance to achieve your goals.

the sport, and being able to share great experiences with other like-minded people. So, just go out and have fun! Don't be stuck in the mindset that you have to be this kind of paddler or you have to paddle

these rivers, etc. Yeah, there are days when I look at my friends' plans to head out to the Upper Yough or get on some beautiful stouts here in Northeast PA, and I think to myself, "I wish I were a part of that group



Chris Butler on the Raquette River, 2014.

Photo by Mark Zakutansky

When I first starting kayaking, I primarily paddled a sit-on-top, but eventually I realized my boat was limiting the rivers

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American Whitewater and KEEN have been proud partners since 2006 – paddling next to each other through things like the Condit Dam removal and Wild and Scenic Rogue River floats.

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RIVER VOICES



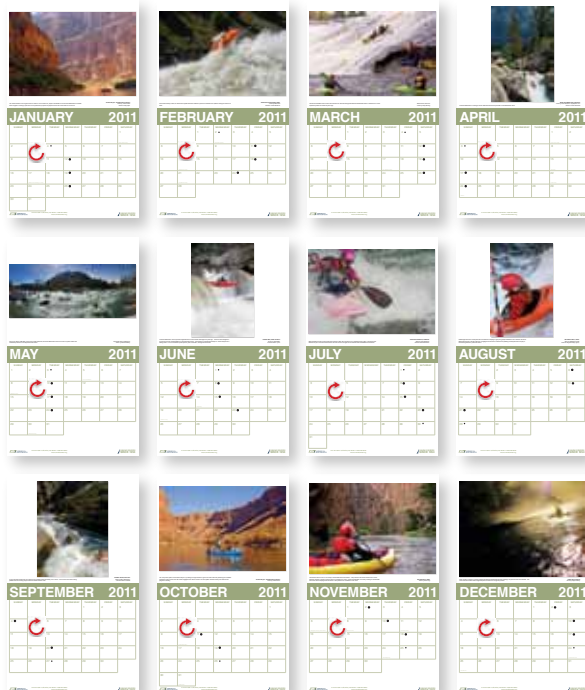
Tanya Ann Dias (standing) and Kendell Kocher (kayak) learning to roll on the Lehigh River behind Francis E. Walter Dam. Photo by Kumrie Zuberi

I could paddle. I wanted to get my own boat but was advised to try everything and anything before purchasing one. At that time I wasn't sure what kind of paddler I wanted to be or could see myself being.

This question, "What kind of paddler do I want to be?" was probably the most difficult for me to answer. To be honest, I had no idea. I was still learning what river features were, how to self-rescue, swim through rapids, and how to ferry across the river without flipping or getting pushed downstream.

Playboating looked fun but with just learning to surf in the sit-on-top and having

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1-866-262-8429



difficulty there, I knew that wasn't for me, at least not yet (it still isn't!). Creeking, on the other hand, was out of the question. It looked like to me the ultimate challenge, the whole enchilada!

That was when I saw big water for the first time: the Ottawa River at what was probably negative one foot (obviously nothing compared to the river at higher flows). Yet, this was a whole other kind of enchilada, and for someone who had never seen big water before it was a scary enchilada! (Is anyone hungry for some enchiladas now? I am.)

Overall, when it comes to paddling, let us remember, it's about more than just what kind of river you paddle, more than just an adrenaline rush, more than just being one with nature, and it's even more than just the stories you share with friends and the family who think you're a little nuts. Everyone paddles for different reasons; for me, it's all for myself; I don't do it for anyone else. Each time I sit in that cockpit and shove off of the bank of the river, it's all on me, trusting myself, pushing myself, experiencing a world beyond technology, without cars driving by, and people hurrying to reach their destinations. There is no time on the river, there are no worries. There is just you and the water, surrounded by the best of people and the best of what nature can offer.

No matter what kind of rivers we love to paddle, they will be magical places that test us mentally, emotionally, and physically. But they keep us coming back for more, and before we know it the rivers begin to flow through our veins and we become a part of them.

So, get in that boat and be the paddler you want to be!

It's Easy to Support AW!

American Whitewater is proud of the work we have accomplished in our stewardship program but we need your help to sustain our success. Your support through membership and donations enables our staff to be active and engaged in the process of river stewardship. Donations don't have to be large; each person doing a small part makes a noticeable difference. Many donors fail to take full advantage of federal tax incentives specifically intended to encourage charitable contributions. Such incentives often enable a donor to make a larger gift to AW at little or no additional cost. For more information about maximizing your gift visit the IRS website dedicated to charitable organizations.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, EIN# 23-7083760. To learn more about the Giving Options below, contact us at 866-BOAT4AW or visit the "Donate" link under "Support AW" on our website at www.americanwhitewater.org

- Donate online today!
- Monthly Giving: Contribute a minimum of \$10 via credit card or electronic transfer from your bank account.
- Bequests: Include AW in your will or living trust. Bequests to AW are generally exempt from federal or state inheritance taxes, and subject to an unlimited deduction.
- Combined Federal Campaign: Federal employees including federal civilians, military personnel and U.S. Postal Workers can donate to AW through the CFC a once a year charitable fund raising program. Look for AW (Agency #11351) in the official CFC listing of eligible donors.
- Charitable Remainder Trusts: Convert a highly appreciated asset (such as real estate or stocks) into a lifetime income while minimizing income and estate taxes.
- Employer Matching: Many employers will match your donations to non-profit organizations. This includes membership payments, as well as additional contributions. Check to see if your employer has a matching program.
- MissionFish: Sell your items through the MissionFish program on eBay and the proceeds come directly to AW.
- Other Assets: A gift of real estate to AW qualifies you for a tax deduction based on the property's fair market value. If it is not a river access point, AW will sell the property and use the proceeds to protect access and restore rivers. Acceptance of property is subject to certain conditions. You may also be eligible to receive tax benefits for gifts of real property. Art and jewelry are examples of personal property items that may be eligible. Interested donors should check with your financial and tax advisors and AW on the feasibility and tax considerations of such gifts.
- Securities: Donating appreciated stock to AW benefits both the donor and whitewater rivers. The donor receives two tax-related benefits. First, the gain on the stock is not subject to capital gains taxes. Second, the donor can deduct the value of the stock as a charitable contribution.
- United Way: All federal campaigns, and a few of the local campaigns will allow you to donate to AW. AW's UNITED WAY member # is 2302.
- Vehicle Donations: Turn that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax deductible donation benefiting AW.

AFFILIATE CLUBS

AW'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE

BY CARLA MINER

The Affiliate Club Program lies at the very heart of American Whitewater's existence. American Whitewater's original purpose since 1954 has been to distribute information among its Affiliate Clubs. Our relationships with local clubs have provided the backbone for the river conservation and access work we accomplish. We have over 100 current AW Club Affiliates and they are all doing great work on your behalf. If you don't belong to a club, consider joining one.

Our Affiliate Club Spotlight this issue is on the Beartooth Paddlers, an outstanding Affiliate Club and longtime supporter of our mission to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

The Beartooth Paddlers are a fun-loving community of paddlers devoted to the respect, safety, promotion, and protection of the whitewater of the Beartooth Mountains in Montana. They are a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, protect, and celebrate whitewater recreation in the Beartooth Mountains. The snow-capped peaks and glaciers of the Beartooth range form the headwaters for the rivers they call home. These rivers include the Stillwater, East and West Rosebud, Rock Creek, Boulder, Yellowstone, and Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone.

Joining Beartooth Paddlers is easy. . .and free. . .check out their website for additional information <http://www.beartoothpaddlers.org/index.html>. Join and enjoy receiving updates on current events and happenings within the Beartooth Whitewater Community.

A big thank you to the Beartooth Paddlers for their continued support of American Whitewater and our mission to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely!

The AW Journal Club Affiliates by state:

Alaska

Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks
Nova River Runners Inc., Chickaloon

Alabama

Coosa River Paddling Club, Montgomery
Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

Arizona

Outdoors Unlimited, Flagstaff

Arkansas

Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

California

Chico Paddleheads, Chico
Gold Country Paddlers, Lotus
IRIE Rafting Co, Truckee
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Paddlers, San Jose

Colorado

Colorado Whitewater Assn, Denver
Dolores River Boating Advocates, Dolores
Friends of the Yampa, Steamboat Springs
Pikes Peak Whitewater Club, Colorado Springs
San Miguel Whitewater Asso, Telluride
Upper Colorado Private Boater Asso, Glenwood

Connecticut

AMC - Connecticut Chapter, Waterbury

Delaware

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks
Wilmington Trail Club, Newark

Georgia

Atlanta Whitewater, Atlanta
Georgia Canoeing Asso, Atlanta
Paddlers4Christ, Ellijay

Idaho

Backwoods Mountain Sports, Ketchum

Illinois

Chicago Whitewater Assn, Chicago

Indiana

Ohio Valley Paddlers, Evansville

Iowa

Iowa Whitewater Coalition, W. Des Moines

Kentucky

Bluegrass Wildwater Asso, Lexington
Elkhorn Paddlers, Lexington
Viking Canoe Club, Louisville

Maine

Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society, Troy

Maryland

Baltimore Canoe & Kayak Club, Baltimore
Blue Ridge Voyageurs, Silver Spring

Massachusetts

AMC Boston Chapter, Boston

Michigan

Venture 8 / Troop 8, East Lansing

Minnesota

Rapids Riders, Minneapolis
SCSU Outdoor Endeavors, Saint Cloud

Missouri

Missouri Whitewater Assn
Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Springfield
Ozark Wilderness Waterways, Kansas City

Montana

Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings

Nevada

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

New Hampshire

AMC New Hampshire Paddlers, Raymond
Merrimack Valley Paddlers, Nashua

New Jersey

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks
KCCNY, Flanders

New York

ADK Schenectady, Schenectady
Colgate University, Hamilton
FLOW Paddlers' Club, Rochester
Hamilton College, Clinton
Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq., Ossining
KCCNY, Flanders
Zoar Valley Paddling Club, Buffalo

North Carolina

Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh
Davidson Outdoors, Davidson
Landmark Learning, Cullowhee
Mecklenburg Regional Paddlers, Charlotte
Western Carolina Paddlers, Asheville

Ohio

Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, Columbus
Friends of the Crooked River, Akron
Keelhauler Canoe Club, Cleveland

Oregon

Eugene Kayaker, Eugene
Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Portland
Next Adventure, Portland
Northwest Rafters Association, Roseburg
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Portland
Oregon Whitewater Asso, Portland
Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club, Corvallis

Pennsylvania

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks
Bradford County Canoe and Kayak Club, Sayre
Canoe Club of Centre County, Lemont
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, Harrisburg
Conewago Canoe Club, York
Holtwood Hooligans, Paradise
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Lehigh Valley
Three Rivers Paddling Club, Pittsburgh

South Carolina

Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

Tennessee

Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts, Limestone
Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville
East Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge
Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, Kingsport
Tennessee Scenic River Assn, Nashville
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Chattanooga

Utah

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

Vermont

Vermont Paddlers Club, Montpelier

Virginia

Blue Ridge River Runners, Lynchburg
Coastal Canoeists Inc, Richmond
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Roanoke

Washington

BEWET- Boeie Employees Whitewater & Touring Club, Bellevue
Northwest Whitewater Asso, Spokane
Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle
University Kayak Club, Seattle
Washington Kayak Club, Seattle
Washington Recreational River Runners, Renton

West Virginia

DbI Z! Whitewater Club, Fayetteville
Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers, Berkeley Springs
WV Wildwater Assn, S. Charleston

Wisconsin

Hoofers Outing Club, Madison
North East Wisconsin Paddlers, Inc., Neenah
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter, Madison

Wyoming

American Packrafting Association, Wilson

British Columbia

Thompson Rivers Univ Adventure Studies,
Kamloops

Ontario

Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers, The Kawarthas

Quebec

Montreal Kayak Club

DISCOUNTED AW MEMBERSHIP FOR AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERS

By Carla Miner, Membership Manager

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

A list of AW Affiliate Clubs can be found on our website at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/>. If you do not see your Club listed here please encourage them to renew their Club membership or to join AW as a new Affiliate Club. Your Club's membership and your personal membership enable our staff to be active and engaged in the process of river stewardship. When you join or renew your membership your support is helping to meet the many challenges whitewater rivers face.

If you have any questions about the Affiliate Club membership, please contact me. I can be reached at 866_BOAT-4AW or membership@americanwhitewater.org.

JOIN AMERICAN WHITEWATER AS A CLUB AFFILIATE!

10 REASONS TO JOIN AW AS AN AFFILIATE CLUB

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

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

AW AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Contribute your text and photos to *American Whitewater*

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

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

americanwhitewater.org > Library > AW Journal



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Rok Sribar and friends, East Fork Kaweah, CA. © Darin McQuoid

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