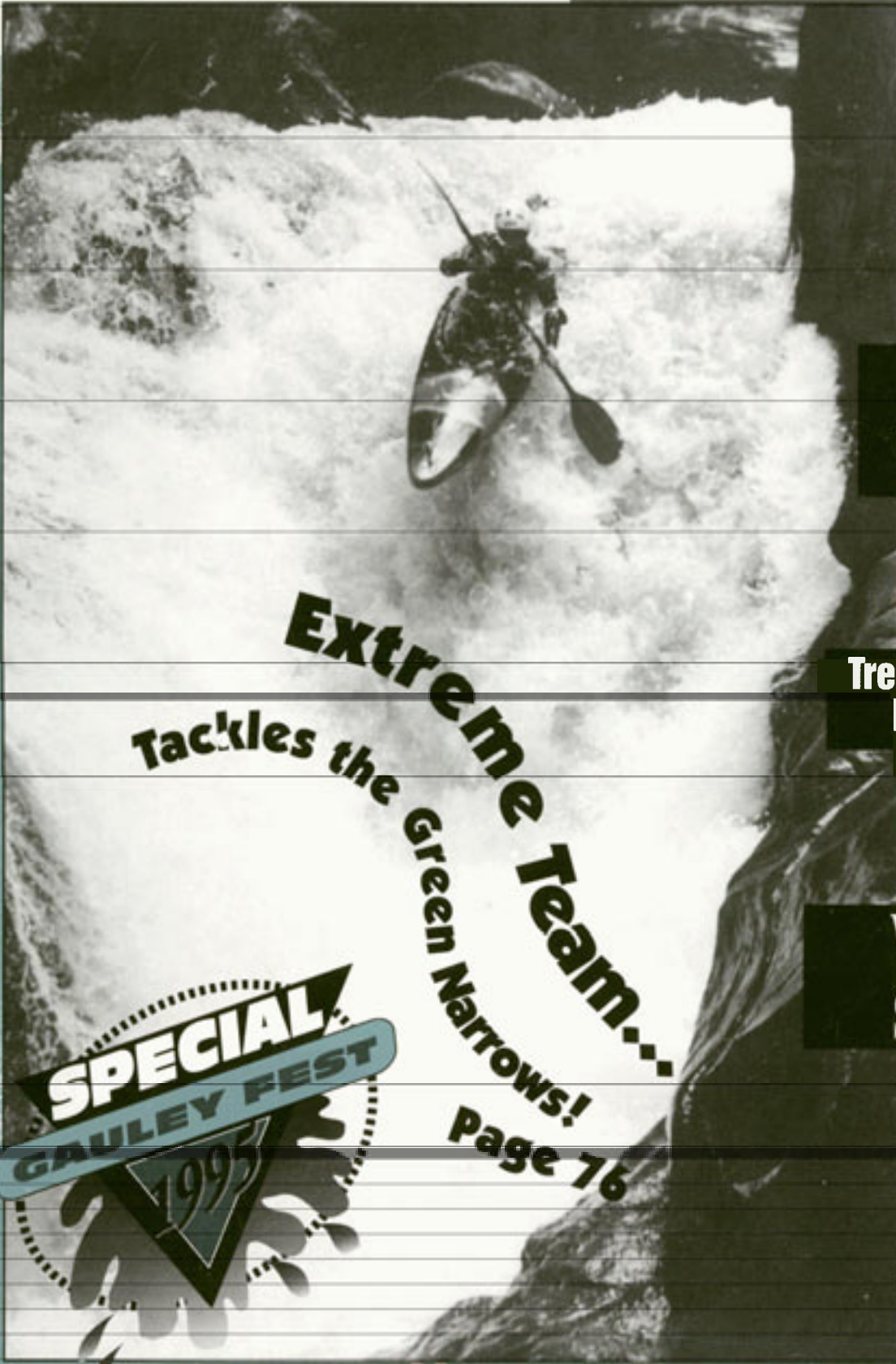


american whitewater



September
October
1995

**Johnny
Wonder**

page 40

**Treasury Bonds and
River Runners**

page 56

**Whitewater
Shangri-La**

page 89

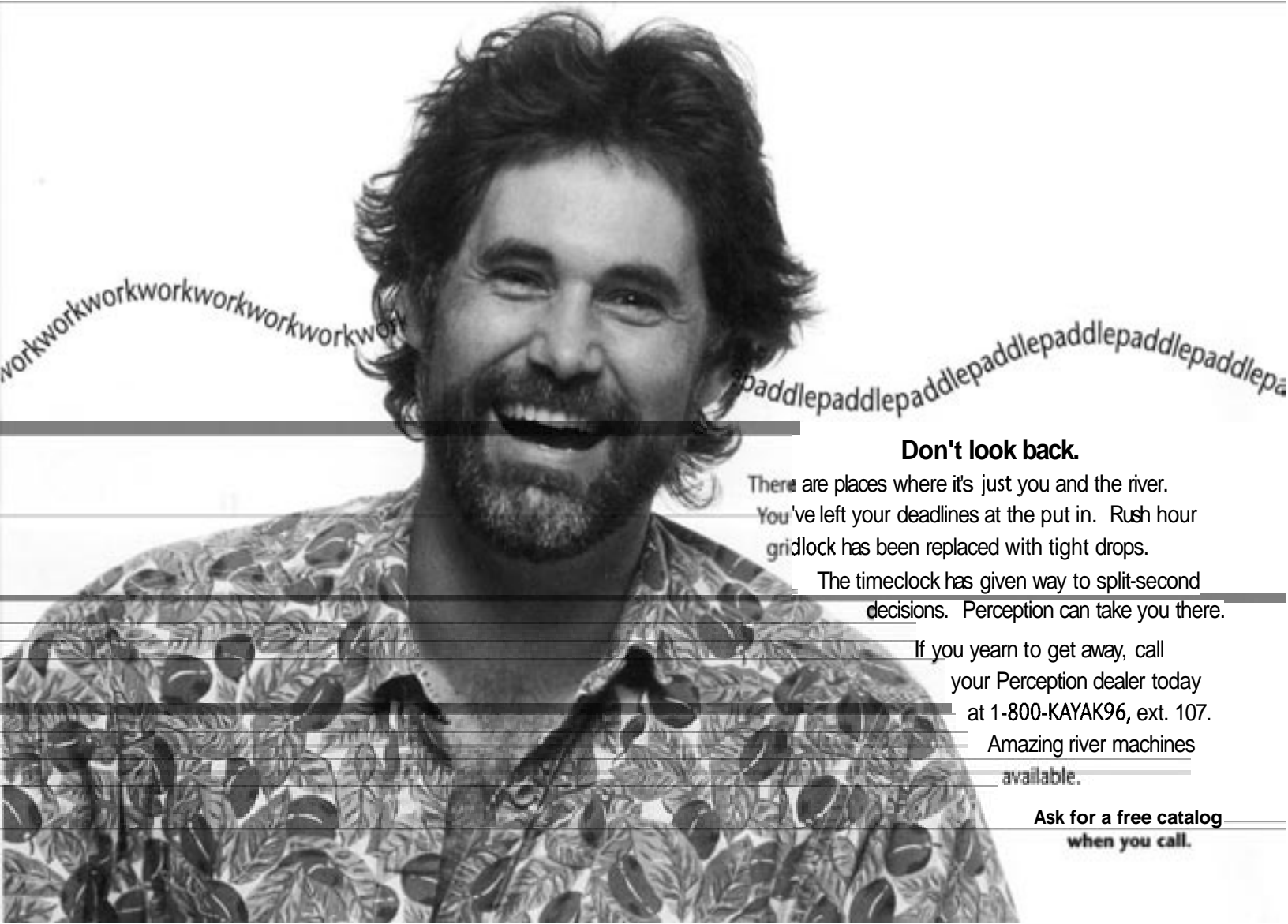
Extreme Team...
Tackles the Green Narrows!
Page 76





perception"

Official Supplier of the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team



Don't look back.

There are places where it's just you and the river. You've left your deadlines at the put in. Rush hour gridlock has been replaced with tight drops. The timeclock has given way to split-second decisions. Perception can take you there.

If you yearn to get away, call your Perception dealer today at 1-800-KAYAK96, ext. 107. Amazing river machines available.

**Ask for a free catalog
when you call.**

Get on Top with NOC

Rig Your Boat

We carry a complete line of boats, paddles, lifejackets, how-to videos, books, clothing, and everything you need to outfit your boat. Call for the free catalog that everyone's talking about.

800/367-3521

FAX 704/488-8039

Explore the World

So you've got the boat, you've got the moves, what next? Why not challenge yourself on exciting rivers like Nepal's Sun Kosi, Costa Rica's Reventazón or Chile's Rio Biobio? We've got trips for all skill levels led by top NOC instructors. Join us for an adventure you'll never forget.

704/488-2175
ext. 333

Hone Your Moves

We help boaters of all skill levels develop the confidence, control and finesse they're looking for—skills that will last a lifetime. Are you ready for the next step? Call today to receive a free NOC Instruction Schedule.

704/488-6737

13077 HWY 19 WEST ■ BRYSON CITY, NC 28713

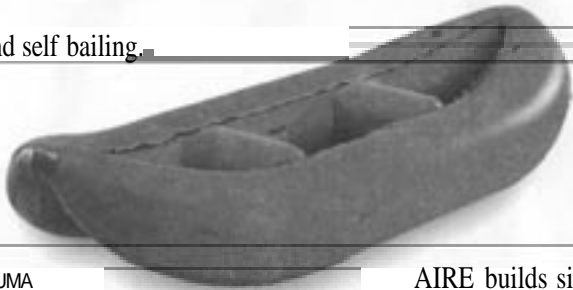
TECHNOLOGY+DESIGN+CRAFTSMANSHIP=AIRE



143R

AIRE uses

the latest technology and innovative design to build high performance craft that are durable, compact, and self bailing.



PUMA

AIRE builds six

models of catarafts, nine rafts, three inflatable kayaks and two sea kayaks in a variety of colors. AIRE leads the way in the industry and so should you.



LYNX

AIRE

P.O. BOX 3412, DEPT. AO, BOISE, ID 83703
(208)344-7506 FAX (800)701-AIRE



american whitewater

Journal of the American Whitewater Affiliation

Volume XXXV, No. 5

40

Letters 8

Forum 6

▼ **Ain't Too Proud To Beg**
by Bob Gedekoh

Briefs 92

▼ **Hair Race Slated for Moose Festival**
▼ **AWA Strategic Plan**
▼ **NEW SECTION - RIVER VOICES**

Conservation

▼ **California Agribusiness Water Pork .. 15**
▼ **Navigability New York..... 18**
▼ **TOP 40 WHITWATER ISSUES 19**

Safety

▼ **River Accident Overview 1995 29**
by Bill Tanger

Access

▼ **Verboten Hairboatin' 16**

Humor

▼ **The Face of Doctor McBride 112**
by Jonathan Katz
▼ **Murphy's Law of Whitewater 112**

Front Cover: Fred Coriell, age 15 at "Gorilla" Green Narrows, Team Adventures

Back Cover: Joe Greiner running Cain Killed Abel, Genesis Gorge, Polochic River



Printed on Recycled Paper

Johnny Wonder

by John Weld

56

Treasury Bonds and River Runners

by Brian J. Whetstone

63

Bathing in a Bucket

by April Holladay

69

Whitewater High in Guatemala

by Joe Greiner

76

Extreme Team

Teenagers Tackle Green Narrows

by Peter Kennedy

80

The Desert in Flood

by Tyler Williams

85

An Equadorian Wahoo

by Enga Lokey

89

Whitewater Shangri-La!

by Jeffrey Parker and Bridget Thomas

AIN'T TOO PROUD TO BEG

At **6,000** cfs the Garfield Slide rapid on Colorado's Animas River is not to be taken lightly. Nearly a quarter of a mile long, it features innumerable exploding waves, ugly pourovers, menacing reversals and, to make matters even more disconcerting, a strainer. There is no pool at the bottom of the rapid. Instead, the Animas turns abruptly to the right, then rages on through several miles of continuous, booming, class IV whitewater.

There are practically no eddies and the current is swift and powerful, commensurate with the flow and gradient of **80 feet/mile**. At **9,000** feet in elevation, this torrent, solely fed by snow melt, is frigid.

At **6,000** cfs the Garfield Slide rapid on the Animas is not a good place for monkey business. That is why it is specifically mentioned in several guidebooks to Colorado, which, incidentally, also suggest that the optimal level to **run** the Animas is **2000** cfs.

We were on shore scouting the Garfield Rapid several weeks ago, plotting our strategy, when we spotted a pair of kayakers and a raft upstream. Without hesitation the raft plunged into the maw of the rapid. One of the kayakers followed, not far behind.

From our vantage point we knew that the line he had chosen would almost certainly lead to what Colorado boaters euphemistically refer to as an "epic." We were not disappointed.



The unfortunate kayaker hit an explosion wave a third of the way through the rapid, backended, and exited his boat, just in time to tumble into the first of several gigantic reversals that he was destined to endure. He flushed from one to another, then was swept around the bend and out of sight, still in the grasp of the icy Animas.

There was nothing we could do; our boats were a quarter mile upstream. So we were relieved to find him, about a mile and a half later, on shore with his kayak. Somehow, perhaps with the help of the raft, he had managed to extract himself from the river. Of course his "epic" had taken a toll, but all things considered, he was lucky... and he knew it.

He **confided** that he had never paddled the Animas before and that his plan was

to "just follow the raft." He had charged into the Garfield Slide, oblivious to the fact that he was entering one of the three biggest rapids on the **run**.

A buddy of mine recently told me that he never likes to read guidebooks before he paddles something new because they "just make him nervous." From what I've seen and heard lately, a lot of boaters feel the same way.

Guidebooks often make me nervous, too. That, in fact, is why I read them. I figure sometimes I ought to be nervous. Nervous enough to ask myself if I, and those I am paddling with, are good enough to attempt a new river. Nervous enough to make sure that the river is running at an appropriate volume. And nervous enough to recognize and scout **difficult** rapids, like the Garfield Slide, before I flush into them.

When I was learning to boat, **Burrell** and Davidson's *Wildwater West Virginia* was my bible. It led me to a number of great adventures and kept me out of a lot of trouble. The margins of my copy are covered with the notes I made over the years. I still take it with me whenever I head for the mountain state.

I carried three guidebooks to Colorado on my recent vacation and I will be taking at least two guidebooks to Idaho when I fly there in two weeks.

When I decide to paddle unfamiliar, **difficult** whitewater, I want to know as much about it as I can.

Of course, guidebooks aren't the only sources of whitewater information. Three years ago, four of us were nervously preparing to put on the Animas, again at about **6,000** cfs. Two of us had paddled the river before, albeit at much lower levels.

We knew how to recognize the "Big

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 the American Whitewater Affiliation or the editors of this publication.

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

STAFF

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

Emeritus Editor: Chris Koll

Art direction/Graphic design/Production: John K. Victor, 396 Church St., Chillicothe, OH 45601

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

Production Assistant: Teresa **Augustin**

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

Safety: Charlie Walbridge

Conservation: Rich Bowers, 1430 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910 Phone (301) 5899453 Fax (301) 589-6121

Missing Copies and Address Changes: Contact Phyllis Horowitz

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

Three," the Garfield Slide, No Name and the Broken Bridge rapids. We also knew that the river was likely to offer us plenty of unexpected surprises.

Just before we launched, a local boater stopped by for a chat. She obviously knew the river, but, although she had a boat on her roof, she declined our offer to come along. I got the impression that she was sizing us up, trying to decide whether this motley crew of Easterners had any business attempting a high water run on the **Animas**. There was the usual posturing and the exhibition of bravado on our parts, no doubt heightened by the fact that our visitor was a woman. She appeared to know and understand this game, and she politely let it run its course.

Satisfied that we had at least some inkling as to what we were getting into, she wished us well. Then, just as she was turning to leave, almost as an afterthought, she said, "Don't forget and stumble into that big hole near the top... it's really awful at this level."

I glanced at my friend Hoppy and he looked back at me. We were both wide eyed. Neither of us had any idea what she was talking about.

Now we were in a dilemma. Should we maintain our bravado and risk a terrible trashing? Or should we abandon our pride and admit that we wanted her help? I didn't have to think about it very long... I guess I don't have that much pride to swallow.

I inquired how we could recognize the approach to the hole.

She cheerfully provided landmarks... the train tracks would practically be at river level on the left... supported by a cement abutment.

Thank God she did! As we negotiated the reversal on the narrow tongue to the left, we all peeked into the maw of it. It was not a pretty sight and it would not have been a very pleasant way to start the day.

Sure, sometimes it is fun to paddle a new river without a lot of information. This enhances the thrill of discovery and it can sharpen a boater's river reading skills and judgment. But choosing to make a **difficult** run blindly demands the same precautions as any exploratory first descent. The group should be strong, with adequate safety capabilities and equipment. And there must be enough time... and a willingness on the part of the group.... to scout blind rapids.

About a month ago, a number of the well-known "regulars" on the Upper **Yough** expressed concern over the fact that four kayakers had been pinned on Tombstone Rock in Lost and Found Rapid over the course of two weeks. This infamous spot has already claimed one life and there have been countless close

calls over the years. The danger, and the **easy** way to avoid it, is not apparent **from** upstream; but virtually everyone who paddles the Upper knows about it. Nonetheless, four newcomers managed to pin there, on busy days when there were **dozens** of Upper **Yough** veterans on the river. **This** apparently happened because they were too proud to ask and too cocky to scout. Fortunately, none of them were killed.

Every Gauley season I see boats hopelessly jammed into the deadly siphon in **Initiation** Rapid, a well-known spot that has claimed two lives, but is easily avoided. Every year there are close calls at a slot in the ledge above Ship Rock... the site of a fatality three seasons ago. These mantraps **have** been the **topic** of numerous articles and countless discussions, yet first timers continue to stumble into them, unaware of the danger. Why does this keep happening?

I think that a lot of whitewater boaters labor under the impression that it is not cool or macho to read guidebooks or ask locals for information or follow veteran paddlers down **difficult** runs. They think that those who take these precautions are **geeks**.

But most of the truly talented, promi-

nent whitewater boaters that I know find out as much as they can about **difficult** new runs before they attempt them. They know that there is nothing more "geeky" than getting pinned or going for a nasty swim, especially in places where this could easily be avoided.

There is a place for **taking** pride in one's boating ability and self reliance. But there is a place for prudence, as well.

As for me, when it comes to acquiring information that could keep me out of trouble, I ain't too proud to beg!

Bob Gedekoh

STRANGE FLOW
SOAKY BOAT

GET REAL WET

Smokestack Boatworks
164 Wildwood Avenue
East Lansdowne, PA 19050
215-622-0966

Perception LC-1 SpraySkirt

- Premium 3mm neoprene
- Heavy-duty big rand... extends over cockpit for increased abrasion resistance and a dry seal
- Bright webbing grabloop

add water just add water just add water just add water

perception®
KAYAKS & GEAR
Official Supplier of the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team

Call 1-800-KAYAK% ext. 103 and ask your dealer for a free catalog.

Ocoee River Feature:

The article *The Weeping Wall* (May/June 1995) was one of the poorest examples of so-called journalism that I have read in a long time. Mr. Hay is obviously pushing his own personal social agenda by writing a sensationalist article that is full of unsubstantiated statements and half-truths. This article should have appeared under the heading Opinion, not Conservation.

At the outset I should note that I am the co-owner of a commercial rafting company that operates on the Ocoee River. I am also quite interested in and sympathetic to many of the conservation issues mentioned in the article. However, Mr. Hay does not even make a pretense of presenting an objective picture of the Ocoee River region.

In 1994, over 200,000 people rafted or kayaked the Ocoee River. These people were seeking some fun and relaxation and this is exactly what they found. Mr. Hay seems to think that persons from Atlanta, Chattanooga, Knoxville and everywhere else, should not be permitted to enjoy the outdoors.

The statements that "last night's beer cans, carefully hidden from the armed guards... and ...a government employee, arrogant in his power, cruises, collecting note of potential violators," are only some examples of the authors inflammatory and opinionated writing. Lighten up Mr. Hay, the armed guards are only park rangers, not some sort of secret police force.

He also comments about the commercial rafting outfitters with statements like "...poorly run river trips..." I would challenge Mr. Hay to go through the training that is required of guides on the Ocoee River. He would quickly find out that the rafting trips are extremely well operated with safety and fun being the paramount goals of the outfitters.

As to the allegations that the locals are thieves and prostitutes, this is absurd. Most of the rafters on the Ocoee River return year after year - which they certainly would not do if they had been mistreated or victimized by the local citizens. Both American Whitewater and Mr. Hay owe an apology to the residents of the Ocoee River region.

The only weeping that I hear is the author whining that the Ocoee River has not been reserved for his sole use and enjoyment.

-Keith S. Judson
Co-owner, Sunburst Adventures, Inc.

AWA Responds: Thanks for your response to our forum about the Ocoee River.

Our purpose was to present different points of view on this issue and to stimulate discussion about it. As we discussed in the introduction, AWA has not taken an official position on the issue.

DO YOUR PART

Dear AWA:

I loved the "What's in Your Hair" article. It is comforting to know that other people have "no impact" lawns, too. The articles about the proposed dams were disturbing though.

We should realize that it is our energy consumption that makes more dams necessary. Atomic waste, acid rain, and strip-mined mountains are also by-products of our consumption.

A simple act of protest is to sell your clothes dryer. I have not used one in five years. All you need is some rope and a few hooked screws ...presto...instant wash line. My clothes dry naturally in my basement, garage, or living room. The world is cleaner and I have more money. Every little bit helps.

One drop in the bucket,
Brian Lauer
St. Cloud, MN

Bad Behavior Threatens Watauga Access

Dear Editor,

I received a phone call on June 26 from a man whose family owns and uses the land on river left just below the put in on the popular gorge section of the Watauga River. The put in is at a low water bridge that is reached by driving down a narrow, state maintained road (SR 1200). At the moment and in the past, parking has been allowed along the road, even though it does constrict the roadway somewhat. There is a small beach on river left that is on private land. There was a small no trespassing sign on a dirt drive that leads from the gravel road toward the beach. I have seen people go right by that sign and put in from the beach. I understand that the sign is now gone. The people who own and use the land use it for picnicking and swimming. They just like to relax with their families and be outside alongside a pretty stream.

The man who called me was given my name by a boater whom he had stopped and talked with. The man wanted to talk to someone about what he had witnessed that day. It seems that "a group from

Georgia" had put in that Sunday morning. One of the group had pulled down the "no trespassing" sign. Some of the group "changed clothes in public." Some of them crossed the land to put in. At the end of the run, they came back to their cars and had a few drinks as they changed vehicles at the end of the shuttle. It is a little unclear to me whether this group had direct contact with the landowner or if the landowner merely heard "profanity." In any event, he had been there with his family trying to enjoy the nice, sunny Sunday and he and his family heard profanity, saw nudity and drinking, and saw obvious disregard of the "no trespassing" sign.

As this man told me what he had seen, I was struck by his calmness and his reasonable point of view. As I started to apologize on behalf of the boating community, he interrupted to tell me that he is a deer hunter. He told me that he has seen a few deer hunters' inappropriate behavior spoil some good hunting spots for the great majority of the rest. He reckoned that this was probably the case with kayakers also. He told me that he had spoken to several kayakers and had been politely received and listened to by them. He and his family have no desire to make life difficult for us at the put in. He expressed happiness at seeing other people enjoying being outside and on the water.

He is very clear (and very right in my opinion) about asking for common courtesy at the put in.

Life is just so much easier and pleasant if we all just get along and respect each other. In my opinion, this man and his family want to do just that. However, it is very clear that if he and his family wanted, they could cause problems as to trespassing, parking, and other enforcement issues that have been largely ignored in the past. It is my judgment that they do not want to do that. But they will if they see no improvement in our put in etiquette.

It's now up to us to do, what we should have been doing all along... and according to him, what most of us are already doing.

1. If you're going to change at the put in, change inside a vehicle. It is a public road and even if his family is not there, a passing vehicle can get a good (bad??) look.

2. Keep down the profanity. I know that after a good run on the Watauga, the juices are flowing. But let off that verbal steam elsewhere.

3. If you want a beer after the run, be discreet. Many people are offended at the sight of drinking in public. Keep the can in the car, or better yet, have the beer(s) at the takeout where we know that Tex and his patrons do not mind.

4. Do not block that little dirt drive that goes downstream along river left. If they have driven one of their vehicles downstream, you can't see it and you'll block them in **if they** have to get out. You also have no idea when or if they might come by and want to go down their road. **IT IS THEIR LAND** along river left.

I have two further requests. First, please pass the word to people **who** may not read **this** publication **and encourage** them to exhibit good access point **eti-**quette, everywhere, but especially here. Second, if you see a family, along the Watauga on river left, just below the put in, go over to them and thank them for their patience. Confirm that the majority of us are just interested in outside **fun** and have no desire to offend any one. Give them a smile and then go enjoy the river that we are fortunate to have such good access to. Let's keep it that way.

It sure is what I want, and I believe that it is what they want, also.
REMEMBER: 'TIS BETTER TO POLICE OURSELVES, THAN HAVE OURSELVES POLICED.

Thank You,

Joe Greiner
 AWA Director (and frequent Watauga paddler)

Editor's note: The problem of inappropriate behavior at take-out and put-ins is, unfortunately, not limited to the Watauga. As you point out, most boaters are reasonably considerate of the locals, but there are always a few indiscreet individuals out there who apparently just don't give a damn. Unfortunately, their lack of consideration reflects badly on all of us and often leads to serious access problems.

I was discussing this the other day with our erstwhile correspondent, Carla Grotok-Garrison. She, too, is very concerned about boaters misbehaving at access points. I suggested that she relate her concerns to our AWA Access Program Director Rich Hoffman. Carla laughed and said that she knows that Rich is doing a great job, but that she fancies him more a lover than a fighter. And when it comes to boaters acting like jerks, Carla advocates a more direct, disciplinary approach.

So Carla, woman of action that she is, and her new bigfoot husband, Patook,

have decided to start a new program to deal with these offenders. Once they confirm a report of bad behavior at an access point, they intend to "Hunt down the creeps like the dogs that they are and beat the crap out of them!" All of this sounds a little radical to me, but Carla and Patook dance to their own fiddler... God knows I can't control them.


So, if you are one of the boaters who has been acting up at river access points, you'd better change your ways. Unless, of course, you think you can handle a three hundred pound Sasquatch and his even more dangerous, lunatic wife!

BENCHMARKING: THE KEY TO RATINGS?

Dear American Whitewater,
 A lot of concern has been expressed recently about the inadequacies of our whitewater rating system. It is time for someone to take charge.
 As is well known, mountaineers once had a similarly inadequate system, also

FREE CAMPING CATALOG

CAMPING, CLIMBING, BACKPACKING, HIKING, BIKING, OUTDOOR CLOTHING




WRITE OR PHONE FOR OUR FREE DISCOUNT CATALOG

Eureka, Jansport, Sierra Designs, Slumberjack, Cannondale, Peak 1, Chouinard, Cifa, Optirnus, Lowe, Woolrich, Columbia, Camp Trails, MSR, The North Face, Gregory, Kelty.

PHONE 201-445-5000

CAMPOR

P.O. BOX 999-7TH FLOOR
 PARAMUS, N.J. 07653



Perception Wave PFD

- USCC approved
- Specially designed for paddlers
- Huge armholes for unrestricted movement
- Angled zipper for comfortable and secure fit
- Knife patch
- Variety of color combinations

add water just add water just add water just add water

perception®
 KAYAKS & GEAR
 Official Supplier of the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team

Call 1-800-KAYAK96 ext. 102 and ask your dealer for a free catalog.

graded from 1 to 6. The rating "5," or technical free climbing, was later expanded to 5.0 to 5.9 at Taquhitz/Suicide, and soon after in Yosemite Valley, from which it expanded to the rest of North America.

The key to the success of this system is that there existed benchmarks (existing climbs) for each of the grades. Anyone could go to Taquhitz and find out just how hard a 5.8 was supposed to be. A new rating system has recently been introduced for bouldering problems, the VI system, which replaced the old B1 - B1+ - B2 system. It has also found wide acceptance, because benchmarks were established (I believe on the boulder problems of Hueco Tanks).

Let's establish whitewater benchmarks.

Since difficulties change with water levels, these benchmarks should be on rivers with fixed, common levels. And since people will want to check the benchmarks, the rivers should run often and be easily accessible. I propose to use the Gauley River and the Narrows of the Green as benchmark rivers, since these are well known and run often at fixed water levels.

Now, if I had done these rivers, I would immediately rate each of the rapids and thus go down in history as the inventor of the modern whitewater rating system. But alas, I offer that plum task to someone else, or perhaps a small group of knowledgeable someones like the directors of the AWA.

Whitewater is significantly different than technical climbing in that:

a) Difficulty is inextricably intertwined with danger. In climbing, some of the most difficult routes are perfectly safe. Plus, continuous hard rapids can be much more imposing than isolated drops separated by pools. And opinions of relative danger vary considerably over time (e.g. Sweet's Falls).

b) Different water levels change the difficulty.

c) Things such as the ability to portage and scout are also important, particularly in the slot canyons of the Western states.

d) Kayakers are helped rather than hindered by gravity. Often boating a "hard" rapid involves little more than keeping your mind buckled down and your lungs connected to the air while the water does all the work.

With these considerations, we may not be able to subdivide whitewater as precisely as free climbs are subdivided. But we should be able to split existing class V's into at least five or six categories (V.1-V.6?), with more to come as skills improve. In time, we'll be distinguishing a "big water" V.3 from a "waterfall" V.3, from a "boulder garden in flood V.3, just as climbers talk of "thin face" 5.10b, and "finger crack" 5.10b and "overhanging jug-fest" 5.10b.

Climbing and mountaineering have similar unknowns, (runout, snow condi-

tions, weather, length) and they've been able to get by nicely. Let's get this issue done and behind us, and work on codifying our new rating system. Publish it in American Whitewater for all to see, and I bet it will be accepted widely (after some jostling of the ratings, perhaps).

Nathan Lewis
Seattle WA

Editor's reply: AWA safety gurus Lee Belknap and Charlie Walbridge are in the process of establishing such a benchmarking system for class V whitewater. As you suggested, they are looking for examples from well known rivers around the country. They are open to suggestion. Lee can be reached at 1308 Maryland Avenue, Glen Ellen, VA. 23060. Charlie can be reached at 230 Penllyn Pike, Penllyn, PA. 19422.

MELTDOWN MADNESS

THE EPIC ROCKY MOUNTAIN WHITEWATER SUMMER OF 95

"MELTDOWN MADNESS" IS A CUTTING EDGE, HIGH-ACTION WHITEWATER KAYAKING VIDEO WHICH WAS FILMED DURING THE HIGH WATER SUMMER OF 95. PAST PACED WHITEWATER ACTION IS INTERTWINED WITH SUPER SORFING. HILARIOUS STUNTS AND BEAUTIFUL SCENERY TO CREATE A TOP NOTCH WHITEWATER VIDEO.

PRESENTED BY:



A FUNDRAISER FOR THE AMERICAN WHITEWATER AFFILIATION

SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE: GAULEYFEST 95

WATCH THIS VIDEO & SAVE A RIVER

VIVA! CHILE

KAYAK
JOIN OUR
EXPEDITION
OUR 2 & 3
TAKE YOU

CHILE!
PRIVATE
AND SAVE!!
WEEK TRIPS
TO ALL THE
GEMS... CALL FOR OUR 1996
BROCHURE!!
401364-2000

VIVA! CHILE KAYAK EXPEDITIONS
PO BOX 1229 CHARLESTOWN, RI 02813 USA

ERIC JACKSON PRAISED

Dear Editor,

Your article in the **May/June** edition of AWA about Eric Jackson was both informative and interesting. He is undoubtedly one of the top overall kayakers in the world, and I can only idolize his determination to succeed: determination that is surpassed only by his longing to please everyone and to put his family and friends before all. Many of my most enjoyable paddling experiences have been with Eric, and being boaters of our caliber, this usually results in some pretty crazy lines being run on what are already hard rapids. He took me into his house as a complete stranger shortly after my arrival in the USA, and was the first person to welcome me into the slalom arena later when I first began to train; an arena which is unfortunately a closed fraternity to the rest of the kayaking world. With the frequent interviews that I do with various media organizations, one of the questions I am most frequently asked is "who are my favorite people to paddle with? Eric is always one of the first names to come to mind.

However, I read with disdain the complaints and judgmental comments that people have made about Eric, and some of his actions over the past years. He has shown nothing but concern for the sport and the people within. People will not always agree on everything, but that does not give one the right to pass judgment on someone who takes the initiative to try something new, whether it's a training program, or financial aid. While I was aware of the controversy following Eric's attempt to raise funds to attend the '93 slalom team trials, I had no idea about the intent to "punish Eric. It is a sad turn of events when organizations that supposedly represent the athletes have the audacity to make decisions contrary to their primary purpose. It is for this reason that I, along with the principal organizers from many of the other international countries, truly hope that Rodeo never becomes a member of these organizations, and that it remains at all times an event run and organized by the actual competitors, who are more concerned with getting to the worlds than saving public face.

Had the various organizations that govern the slalom events not reacted negatively as they had, but taken a supportive role in Eric's bid to save his home

and compete in the world championships, the mass media would have followed this initiative, and desperate, embracing face saving would never have become necessary. To quote Eric; "Winners talk about ideas, the average person talks about events, and losers talk about people."

All in all, I thought the article to be great, and unbiased in opinion, even though it contained some very controversial material, and encourage you to do more features such as this on interesting personalities in the kayaking field.

Sincerely,
Corran Addison
President
Savage Designs
Ashville. NC


KAYAK - RAFT

CHILE: The best International Class IV - V kayak trip for experts.

OR: Intermediate combination raft/kayak tour - a whitewater & scenic tour of Chile.

YUKON, CANADA: Raft the famous Tatshenshini/Aisek, the rivers of glaciers and grizzlies.

SPORT INTERNATIONAL
1602 Alder Street, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 3W8
Ph: (403) 633-2742 Fax: (403) 633-6184
Toll Free: 800-779-1784
Send \$15.00 for the new video KAYAK CHILE




Perception Horizon Line Craphite Paddle

- Craphite dihedral blade for a stiffer blade with a lower swing weight
- Redesigned backface and tip pulls smoothly through the water
- Custom options available at no charge:*
 - Blade offset
 - Asymmetrical blade
 - Hiflex™ shaft

* Allow extra time

add water just add water just add water just add water



perception^B
KAYAKS & GEAR
Official Supplier of the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team

Call 1-800-KAYAK96 ext. 101 and ask your dealer for a free catalog.

DIRECTORS

Anita Adams

Star Route 1, Box 46
Edmond, WV 25837

Ric Alesch

14262 West Warren Place
Lakewood, CO 80228

Bill Baker

2953 Birch Street
Denver, CO 80207

Pope Barrow

136 13th Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Lee Bellamy

1308 Maryland Avenue
Glen Ellen, VA 23060

Risa Shimoda Callaway

P.O. Box 5212
Easley, SC 29641

Tom Christopher

931 Union Street Rear
Leominster, MA 01453

Brooke Drug

6049 34th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 981115

Bob Gedekoh

Box 228, RD 4
Elizabeth, PA 15037

Susan Wilson

14 Norwood Ave.
Asheville, NC 28804

Bob Gianville

66 Deer Run
Glenwood, NY 14069

Joe Greiner

404 Stacy Street
Raleigh, NC 27607

Diana Holloran

Route 1, Box 90
Fairview Mountain Road
Reliance, TN 37369

Joe Pulliam

P.O. Box 1500
Harriman, TN 37748

Jim Scott

3715 Jocelyn Street NW
Washington, DC 20015

Susan Scheutele

2121 Ocean Street Ext.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Pete Skinner

Box 272, Snyder Road
West Sand Lake, NY 12196

Ron Stewart

P.O. Box 1337
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Mac Thornton

228-1/2 12th Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Barry Tuscano

RD 1, Box 32
Bolivar, PA 15923

Charlie Walbridge

230 Penllyn Pike
Penllyn, PA 19422

AWA OFFICERS

President: Risa Shimoda Callaway

Vice President: Rick Alesch

Secretary: Charlie Walbridge

Treasurer: Jim Scott

AWA STAFF

Phyllis B. Horowitz, Executive Director

P.O. Box 85

Phoenicia, NY 12464

(914) 688-5569

Rich Bowers, Conservation Program Director

Richard Hoffman, Access Program Director

1430 Fenwick Lane

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone (301) 589-9453 Fax (301) 589-6121

AWA Home Page-<http://www.rahul.net/fallside/awa.html>

Email-Main office-

74663.2401@compuserve.com

Email-Conservation and Access-

72732.401@compuserve.com

HOTTEST NEW SHORTIE!

Descender

The Rapid Solution to your
shortboat dilemma Shorter,
Lighter & Quicker

CUSTOM OUTFITTED

**READY-TO-PLAY**

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

Call today or Try a Test Drive at our
Nantahala Outpost

404-325-5330 Atlanta weekdays

704-488-2386 Nantahala River



2362-Cb Dresden Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341

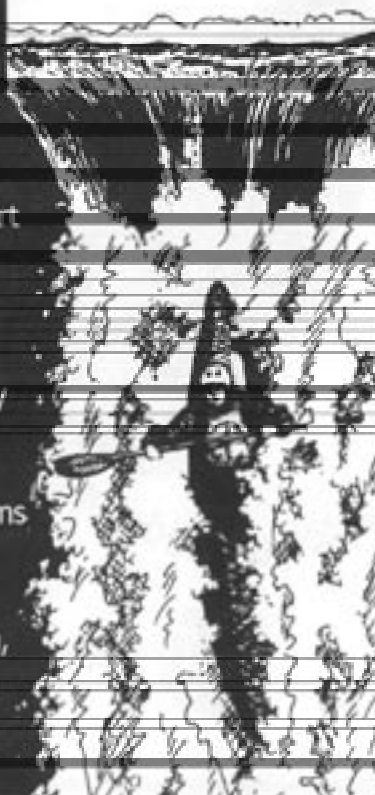
NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CENTER

Discover Nepal's Mystique

Journey into the heart
of Nepal's natural
beauty and cultural
splendor. Challenge
yourself on Sun Kosi
and Karnali class II - IV
whitewater. Nepal
adventurer & NOC
instructor Nick Williams
leads the way.

For more information,
call Adventure Travel

(704) 488-2175
ext. 333

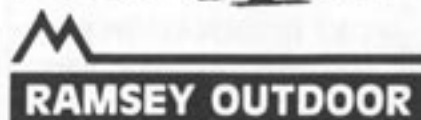


Ramsey Outdoor

" Paddlesport Headquarters"

Kayaks by: Valley Canoe,
Necky, Dragonworks,
Aquaterra, Prijon, Dagger,
Ocean Kayak and more..

Paddles & Accessories by:
Werner, Lendal, Henderson,
Palm, Voyaguer, Extrasport
Kokatat, Patagonia & lots
more!



Rt. 17 Paramus, NJ 201-261-5000

Rt. 17 Ramsey, NJ 201-327-8141

Rt. 46 Ledgewood, NJ 201-584-7799

PURPOSE.....

The American Whitewater Affiliation

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

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

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

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

EDUCATION: Through publication of the bi-monthly magazine, and by other means, American Whitewater, (AWA) provides information and education about whitewater rivers, boating safety, technique and equipment.

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

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

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



"Slick and Stable!"
—Jim Snyder, Inventor of the Squirt Boat™

Only **\$45** Includes Fins with Pads & Straps

\$79 With Gauntlets

See Your Paddle Dealer Or Call
205-882-2227

SURFINS
PATENTED

Livecalk Technologies 2227 Drake Ave. SW, #4 Huntsville, AL 35805

Photo of Jason Beakes appears with permission of the U.S. Coast Guard/Kayak Team

HARDCORE!

Whitewater Videos

from

Gentry Video Productions



Vertical Addiction - NEW! A look at the addiction to whitewater through the eyes of expert creek boaters. Features three creeks falling at between **600** and **800** feet per mile. Kayaks and canoes. **45** minutes..... **\$26.95.**

PLUNGE! - Fantastic paddling on some of the South's most extreme steep creeks. Features Little River Canyon, Bear Creek, **Cullasaja**, and Horsepasture. Also, **50** foot Little River Canyon Falls. Kayaks. **45** minutes..... **\$26.95.**

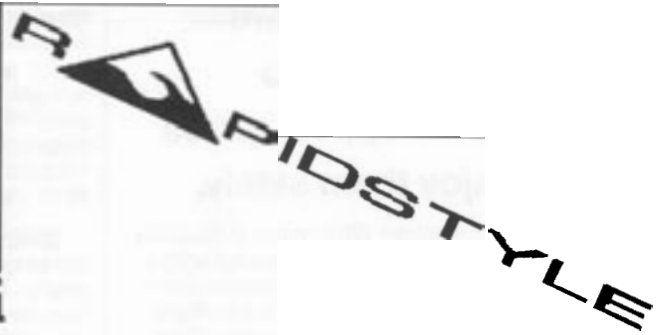
Southern Fried Creekin' - A classic. Explore some of the wildest **creekin'** in the South with some of the country's best paddlers. Features Watauga, Horsepasture, Overflow, and Mystery Creek with **50-ft** Coon Dog Falls. **45** minutes. **\$26.95**

Green Summer - Steep **creekin'** on the Narrows of the Green. **500 fpm!** **20** minutes..... **\$21.95.**

Send the price indicated plus **\$3** shipping to: Gentry Video Productions, **646** Deer Creek Trail. Hoschton, GA **30548.** Call or fax orders to **(706) 654-2725.**



North American River Runners, Inc. 1-800-950-2585



Check out our Gauley Fest Booth
❖ Special Prices ❖



**touch
the
water™**



- Hey Paddlers!!!
Call us for more information about:
- Kayak guide service on the Gauley River
 - Kayak, C-1, open boat instruction
 - Raft-supported kayak overnights on the Gauley
 - Used kayak school equipment



H.R. 1906 - California Agribusiness Water Pork

Central Valley Congressmen have introduced a bill to repeal portions of the progressive 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) that have made strides to improve California's economy and environment. The bill (H.R. 1906) was drafted by the Central Valley Water Association, which represents contractors who receive highly subsidized water from the Central Valley Project (CVP). The bill's backers consist of a radical hinge of wealthy agricultural interests in the San Joaquin Valley who have never accepted the 1992 law's modest limitations on their traditional water subsidies and privileges. This subset of federal water contractors seeks to delete many of the critical features of the CVPIA, causing a renewal of California's water wars:

1. Water contracts

H.R. 1906 seeks to maintain agriculture's domination of long-term water contracts. CVP water has been disproportionately allocated to subsidize irrigation for 40 years. The CVPIA recognized that many other interests, such as cities, commercial fishing, recreation, environmental protection and fish and wildlife management also have legitimate claims to CVP water. The CVPIA ended the fixed, 40-year contracts granted to irrigators and set shorter renewal periods. All contractors were guaranteed at least one 25-year extension after their current contracts expire. Now, irrigators want to resurrect the old fixed-length, automatically renewable water contracts. Thus, water policies conceived in the 1940s will dominate the allocation of water well into the next century. Does this make sense in a state with limited water resources and a population predicted to double in the next 30 years?

2. Water subsidies

H.R. 1906 would repeal water subsidy reforms (called the tiered pricing reforms), a provision of the CVPIA. The irrigators have been the beneficiaries of hundreds of millions of dollars in water subsidies annually for decades, yet another blatant example of pork barrel politics. Even with the modest increases mandated by tiered pricing, most CVP water will still be delivered at prices substantially below actual cost, and well below the prices for water from the State Water Project. Congress included the pricing reforms in the CVPIA to lessen the taxpayer burden of subsidizing the CVP water and to encourage water conservation.

3. Voluntary water transfers

H.R. 1906 would give water districts the direct authority to deny landowners the right to sell their water to other entities, blocking voluntary water transfers from agriculture to urban users. This provision would undermine a central goal of the CVPIA, that of allowing farmers to voluntarily sell water to cities and realize a profit on the re-sale of the CVP water. The concept of water banks, which act to facilitate voluntary water resales from existing water rights holders (i.e., agriculture), was promoted by Marc Reisner in Cadillac Desert as a reasonable way to allow for continued urban growth. Indeed, the State Water Bank was set up during the drought to assist with this type of water sale. However, big agribusiness would prefer to outlaw the resale of agricultural water, forcing cities to build multi-million dollar dams or desalination plants instead.

4. Environmental provisions

H.R. 1906 would repeal all of the environmental provisions of the CVPIA, including: repealing the guaranteed minimum flows for the Trinity River; curtailing the restoration of the Central Valley River and fisheries and ending water deliveries to life refuges.

5. Summary

According to George Miller (D-7-CA), author of the 1992 CVPIA, The agribusiness legislation introduced today is not a serious effort to correct alleged flaws in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. It is a bald-faced effort by the subsidized, corporate irrigators to recapture their control of 85 percent of the project's water. What's wrong with the CVPIA, in their view, is that the environment won, the California economy won, the taxpayers won — and the subsidized irrigators lost. The Doolittle bill is nothing more than their effort to reverse history, at great expense to the taxpayers of America and the environment of California.

Perhaps the saddest environmental irony of the original Central Valley Project is that most of this so-called farming is actually more akin to mining, as much of the soil in the Central Valley is unsuitable for long-term irrigation, and is slowly turning into a salty wasteland.

For more information, contact Share the Water: A Coalition for Federal Water Reform (1736 Franklin Street, Suite 300. Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 452-9261, FAX: (510) 452-9266).

Presents



Whitewater Dancer II

This video has it all! Underwater rolls, the 89 Worlds, Rodeos, Hot wave and hole surfing, Class V wipeouts, Tunes by World Famous Fiddle Master Papa John Creech! HI-FI stereo 55 Min.

How to Organize a Successful River/Outdoor Cleanup
Entertaining and informative. Of special interest to clubs. Get involved. CLEAN UP A RIVER. HI-FI stereo 18 Min.

Highlights of the Grand Canyon '90
Get into The Grand Canyon. See the big drops and an innertube run of Lava Falls. With wild tunes. HI-FI stereo 43 Min.

Highlights of the Upper Yough, Gauley, Russell Fork and Big Sandy
See all these runs on one tape, with hot tunes. HI-FI stereo 43 Min.

How to Modify a Sabre
All you need to know to turn a Sabre into the hottest plastic playboat in the world! With action footage and outrageous tunes. HI-FI stereo 49 Min.

To get your copy(s) in VHS just send a check or money order for \$19.95 each plus \$4.00 postage and handling to:

SURF DOG PRODUCTIONS
12 Freedom Drive, Collinsville, CT 06022, 203-1693-8750

ACCESS

Verboten Hairboatin'

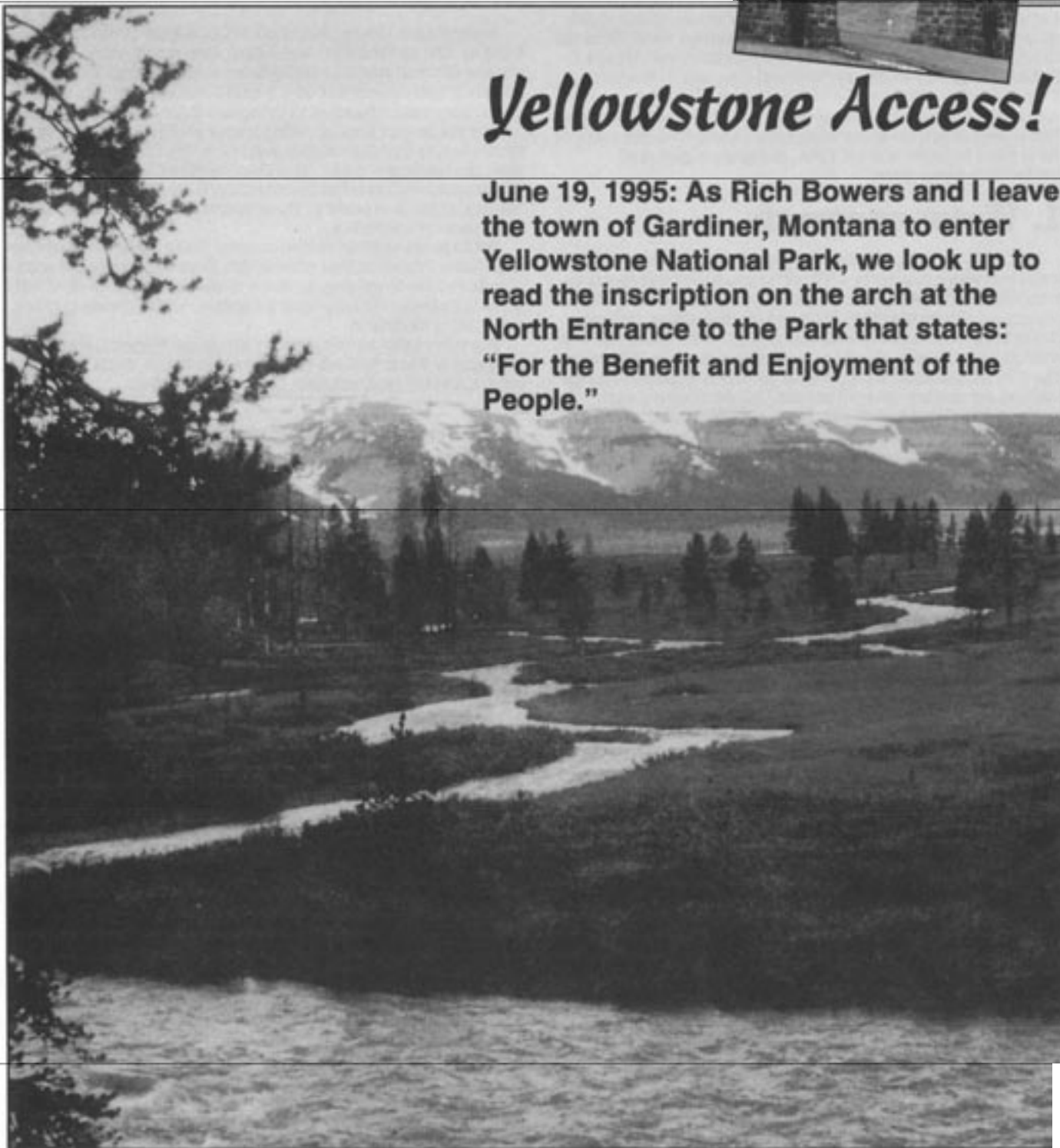
These notes are designed to give an overview of access issues and AWA's efforts from around the country. Please call or write AWA if you have information about access to whitewater rivers:

1430 Fenwick Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 589-9453
(301) 589-6121 (fax)
e.mail: 76435.731@compuserve.com



Yellowstone Access!

June 19, 1995: As Rich Bowers and I leave the town of Gardiner, Montana to enter Yellowstone National Park, we look up to read the inscription on the arch at the North Entrance to the Park that states: "For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People."



This phrase strikes me as slightly ironic, considering our mission here today. In an hour, we will be sitting down with Michael Finley, the new Superintendent of Yellowstone, and his staff to discuss the Park rules that prohibit whitewater boating within the Park.

In Yellowstone, whitewater recreation is one use that is not allowed for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.

And Yellowstone has some truly outstanding whitewater. This fact was clear enough as we drove through the park the previous day, passing by the Gardner River, the Lewis River Canyon, and of course, the **powerful** Yellowstone River.

AWA has published stories in the past of **runs** down both the Grand Canyon and Black Canyon of the Yellowstone. In these accounts were descriptions of incredible Class IV and V whitewater within a remote backcountry canyon – a truly unique experience. Joining us for the meeting is Triel Culver, a local boater and lawyer from Billings, Montana, who is fluent in local boating conditions and sentiments. He notes that the Yellowstone is unique not only for its scenery and whitewater, but also because, in general, the Yellowstone is a late season run, after the peak runoff.

The goal of our meeting on June 19 was to open discussions with the National Park Service regarding whitewater boating in Yellowstone. **AWA's** basic position on this issue is that boaters have not been given equitable treatment among other activities in the park. For example, there are currently few limitations on hiking, fishing, horseback riding or cross country skiing in Yellowstone – uses that also bring people into the backcountry.

In addition, the park allows many forms of motorized travel, which have much greater impact on the Yellowstone ecosystem than whitewater boating. For example, Yellowstone is swarmed by snowmobiles in the winter, an activity that costs the park millions of dollars to manage. Motorboat use on Yellowstone Lake is also extremely popular. Not to mention the hundreds of thousands of automobiles and **RVs** on Yellowstone's paved roads.

In light of the already high level of human activity in Yellowstone, Park Service management staff has stated that they are more inclined to cut back on use, rather than to introduce a new activity such as whitewater boating. However, the AWA believes that limitations on use should be shared among all **non-consumptive**, low-impact activities, rather than have a complete exclusion of an activity.

From our meeting, Superintendent **Finley** has asked that AWA develop a



Page 16 top: Entrance to Yellowstone national Park: "For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People."; Page 16 : Gardner River, Yellowstone: access denied; Above: Spring runoff; Below: Madison River, Yellowstone



proposal on how and where whitewater boating may be introduced in the park. To accomplish this, AWA will need the help and input of all of our members (we believe Yellowstone is a national boating issue), especially the local boating **community**. Please call us at (301)5849453. The proposal will address the following questions posed to us by Park Service **staff**:

- . Which rivers or river segments should be **opened**?
- . How should decisions about appropriate activities allowed in Yellowstone be made? How does whitewater boating fit this criteria?
- . Would whitewater boating degrade resource use? What rules or regulations would protect the resource while being fair to whitewater boaters?
- . What might be some unintended consequences of whitewater boating?
- . How would whitewater boating be managed in an efficient and cost-effective way (should there be permits, etc.?).
- . In addition, we will need data on specific stretches of whitewater in Yellowstone and information about **put-ins** and takeouts.

In addition, AWA requests that **boaters** write to Michael Finley, Park Superintendent, voicing your support for whitewater boating in Yellowstone. **Finley's** address is: P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, 82190. If possible, send a copy to the AWA River Access Office at 1430 **Fenwick** Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Contact Triel Culver for more information about local club activity (32 Avenue B, Billings, MT., 59101, (406) 254-1614).

Navigability in New York

On June 30, 1995, a New York State Court handed down a decision on *Douglaston Manor v. Bahrakis*, a case involving a party of anglers who floated down the Salmon River, a navigable stream, and to fish, anchored their boats to the river bed, which is owned by a private property owner. The property owner (the plaintiff) claimed the anglers (defendants) were trespassing on his property.

The court rejected the defendant's position that the incidental use of the privately owned bottom of a navigable river is not a trespass. The court distinguished the recent *Moose River case (Adirondack League v. Sierra)* and held that a property owner who owns both sides of a navigable river and the underlying bed has the right to control and prohibit anchoring upon its property for the purpose of fishing, and that such right is a property right secured to the property owner and not relinquished by a determination that the river is, in fact, navigable.

The defendants have not yet indicated whether they intend to appeal. What does this mean for whitewater boaters? This recent decision does not change the decision reached by the courts in *Adirondack League v. Sierra*. In *Adirondack League v. Sierra*, the courts ruled that the public has the right to travel downstream on a navigable waterway, including the right to portage. (For a more complete discussion about navigability, please see the upcoming 1995 Nov/Dec edition of the *American Whitewater*.)

Don't Let
Your Mother
Watch This Video!



WHITewater GROOVE

To explore North Carolina's
Cullasaja, Thompson, and
Nest Fork French Broad Rivers,
send \$26.95 + \$3.00s&h

U.S. funds to:

WILDSIDE PRODUCTIONS

3718 Whitehorse Road,
Suite 103-M
Greenville, SC 29611

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

KEEL-HAULERS OUTFITTERS

-PERCEPTION-HYDRA-PRIJON-HARMONY-MOHAWK-
-YAKIMA-BODY GLOVE-BERMUDES-HELLY HANSEN-
-KOKATAT-SILVER CREEK-EXTRASPORT-SEDA-

-DISCOUNT PRICES - FAST MAIL ORDER SERVICE-

-CALL OR WRITE FOR A FREE CATALOG-

30940 LORAIN RD. NORTH OLMSTEAD, OH 44070
(216) 779-4545

EXPEDICIONES



K a y a k
Mexico
Whitewater • Bluewater • Warmwater
Kayaking and Rafting Adventures
Santa Maria

208/462-3361
Expediciones Agua Azul
Box 111
Garden Valley, Id. 83622
e-mail CIS: 72773,3106

Waterfalls • Travertine rapids • Mayan ruins
Expert and Intermediate adventures
Instruction for all abilities
January - April • Affordable prices
Mexico has it all!

Top 40 Whitewater Issues for 1995

by Rich Bowers and Rich Hoffman with help from Pope Barrow and AWA friends, Regional Coordinators and Directors around the country.



AWA's focus for 1994-95 was to improve access to rivers, as well as to continue our crucial programs and grassroots efforts to conserve and protect whitewater rivers. Our thinking was that in order to develop a constituency interested in conserving rivers, we needed to allow people to enjoy them.

During the past two years, AWA encountered many people who did not seem to understand this philosophy. 'You're just a group of elite thrill-seekers,' we were told, or, 'there are plenty of other rivers - go boat on those.' We heard even more often that we would be sued.

In the upcoming year, the AWA will work to change this perception. How? By getting more people involved with rivers.

While this is not a new angle for AWA, our focus will change in 1996. We will be actively looking to grow our membership, to increase and improve our regional coordinator program, and to continue to combine our efforts with others who enjoy rivers. We'll start by targeting our affiliated clubs, state groups, whitewater schools, and those already involved with local rivers.

This strategy had a good start during the last year. Coalitions were formed all over the country. Forest coalitions, river coalitions (such as the Hydropower Reform Coalition), state river coalitions in Wisconsin, Georgia and Colorado, agency coalitions with non-profits; even coalitions are forming coalitions, as witnessed by joint efforts between the forest and river organizations to address watershed planning.

It worked well too. 1994-95 were pretty good years for rivers, and plenty of issues on our last Top 40 are history today. For example, the Clavey (CA) was saved from the Turlock Irrigation dam; the Klamath (OR) was permanently protected under the

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; the Nahanni (BC) escaped a dam threat, as did the Cispus (WA); the Air Force surrendered its attempt to build a bombing range on the Owyhee (ID); and access to the Lower Yough (PA) seems to be resolved.

Rivers also won out over existing dams all around the country. For instance, settlements were reached on the Salmon and on the Black River's Watertown Project (NY). Those settlements improved both whitewater and the fishery. And preliminary decisions look to improve river conditions on the Nisqually (WA) and Tallulah (GA) (although these remain on our TOP 40 list) and on the St. Louis (MN) and the Pemigewasset (NH).

Increasing a constituency for rivers is timely. With the new Congress in town, AWA, along with every other conservation group, will be looking to support rivers from the local and state levels. Protection of rivers at the federal level is gone in the foreseeable future. In fact, the new Congress is poised to effectively kill the wild and scenic rivers program, to strip rivers of protection under the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and to dispense with funding targeted for river access and river protection (Land and Water Conservation Fund).

So, as usual, there is plenty to do. Old threats, like Auburn Dam, the irrigation project on the North Fork of the Payette, and the Animas-La Plata Project on the Animas seem almost immortal.

We hope you'll come along for the ride. And when we call, we hope you will help us with issues affecting your favorite rivers and creeks.

[Note: This year the TOP 5 rivers are in order of priority (at least for staff), the other 35 issues are not, but are listed to make our map look good!]

1. Rivers in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming/Montana/Idaho

Issue: Access

Current Status: Yellowstone harbors the largest collection of unexplored rivers in the lower 48 states. There are eleven major rivers in the park, accounting for over 400 miles of **boatable** water. Of special note is the spectacular Class IV-V whitewater in the Grand Canyon and Black Canyon of the Yellowstone River. At present, however, these rivers are strictly off limits to whitewater boaters.

In 1986, in response to regional interest in the boating opportunities in Yellowstone Park, the Park Service completed a study entitled *Boating on Yellowstone's Rivers: An Analysis and Assessment*. Based on the study and public comment, the recommendation to continue the restriction on river boating was approved by the Park Superintendent on May 18, 1988.

In June, AWA and local boating representatives met with park staff and the new superintendent to discuss changes in regulations regarding whitewater boating. As a result of this meeting, AWA was invited to develop a proposal which would examine changing this system. Included in this proposal will be a listing of the whitewater rivers within the park, outstanding and unique features on each of these, potential impacts from whitewater boating and possible mitigation for any adverse affects. (For more information, see separate article in this issue.)

While AWA believes opening these rivers will be a long process, we are optimistic. Whitewater boating is a very non-consumptive and compatible use of the park, there would be very little impact from boating and these impacts could easily be reduced or eliminated by effective management. For more information contact Rich Hoffman at (301) 589-9453 or Triel Culver at (406) 254-1614.

2. Numbers Section of the Arkansas, Colorado

Issue: Access!

Current Status: The AWA and Colorado White Water Association (CWWA) have been working on securing legal access to the Numbers for the past 10 years. Two factors contribute to prevent access to the Numbers – a county road (on the east side) that was closed by a landowner who claims that it is a private road; and a 40 acre parcel of private land that boaters had permission to use last year but was posted "No Trespassing" this season.

In early May, AWA made an offer to buy the 40 acre parcel, but the landowners are not interested in a cash sale, and will only consider a land swap with the Forest Service. Unfortunately, the land swap process will take time, and the landowner has already shown an inclination to a torpid pace. With respect to the east side county road, AWA and the CWWA have convinced federal agencies to pursue reopening this road.

For more information, contact Rich Hoffman or AWA Director Ric Alesch at (303) 985-8620.

3. Cheat River, West Virginia

Issue: Proposed dams, water quality, wild and scenic status

Current Status: In April, AWA joined West Virginia Rivers Coalition and the Friends of the Cheat to announce American Rivers recognition of the Cheat as one of its Top 10 Most Endangered Rivers. In a press release, AWA Journal Editor Bob Gedekoh called the Cheat one of the most magnificent whitewater river systems in the United States.

Last year, the Cheat made the TOP 40 because of an acid

mine blowout in April 94, and from other pollution along Greens Run. The effects: Muddy Creek has a pH level of 3 (about 10,000 times more acidic than normal), and the floor of Cheat Canyon now hosts over twelve miles of rust colored silt, more than an inch deep. Almost a year later, in March of '95, another blow-out occurred from mines owned by the same company.

In the meantime, the Army Corps of Engineers has developed a proposal to dam the Cheat upstream of Rowlesburg, WV, and two dry dams on the Shavers and Dry Forks for flood control.

In June, the Forest Service released a **draft** EIS on Wild and Scenic designation for 13 streams in Monongahela National Forest. For more information contact Roger Harrison of the W.V. Rivers Coalition at (304) 472-0025 or Dave Bassage (Friends of the Cheat) (304) 3743141.

4. Animas River, Colorado

Issue: Water project

Current Status: Referred to as the last of the "Big Water Projects," the \$710 million **Animas-LaPlata** dam and irrigation project just won't die. After 27 years since it was first authorized by Congress, and even in this atmosphere of budget cuts and reduced federal intervention, this project rolls on. The purpose of this project is to provide water for Durango and several New Mexico communities, for Colorado's Ute Indian Tribe and for agricultural irrigation.

Almost 75 percent of the project cost would **fund** irrigation water for farmers, who in turn would repay only 3% of the cost. The Interior Department's Inspector General has called the project economically unfeasible, at best returning only 40 cents for every dollar invested. But it seems that no matter who is in power, pork rules supreme.

For more information, contact Nancy Jacques at Colorado Rivers Alliance at (303) 259-3209.

5. Canyon Creek, Washington

Issue: Proposed dam

Current Status: Canyon Creek made our TOP 5 because it embodies AWA's worst nightmare – new, small and uneconomical dams on critical headwater streams.

To add to the insult it is a boomer of a run (see **May/June** issue). Canyon Creek may also serve as a grim harbinger of other headwater streams in the Northwest, long thought to be the bastion of free-flowing rivers and creeks. Dam builder's have also sought preliminary permits for Iron, Summit and Johnson Creeks, the Clear Fork of the Cowlitz, Butter, Silver and Carlon Creeks. In addition, there are seven new dams proposed for the **Nooksack** basin, nine in the Cowlitz watershed and another five along the Skagit River. The AWA recently joined local boating groups and intervened in the Canyon Creek proceeding before the **FERC**.

For more information contact AWA Director Brooke Drury (206) 633-1661 or Andrew Wulfers (503) 285-0464.

6. Upper and Lower Kern River, California

Issue: Relicensing

Current Status: Early in 1995, FERC determined that recreational releases should be expanded on weekends through early August on the Upper Kern. While this is a big win for recreation, AWA feels that this addresses only the tip of the iceberg regarding recreation potential. Led by AWA, a coalition of river interests are looking to expand releases to weekdays, establish optimum flows, and to conduct a thorough investigation of the recreational potential on the Kern.

More recently, this coalition has requested, and FERC has agreed, that the power company (Southern California Edison) must conduct whitewater studies on the Lower Cataracts section of the Kern. Water levels may dictate that these studies begin in August of this year. For more information, contact Rich Bowers.

7. Elwha River, Washington

Issue: Dam removal.

Current Status: Efforts to implement the 1992 Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act continue.

Late last year, the U.S. Department of the Interior determined in a draft environmental impact statement that removal of two outdated hydroelectric dams on the Elwha River is the only way to fully restore over 70 miles of anadromous fish habitat in the Olympic National Park. Removal of the dams will likewise reopen miles of prime wilderness whitewater which has been flooded since the dams were built in the early part of the century. Current efforts are centered on trying to fund dam acquisition and removal. For more information, contact Friends of the Earth at 206-633-1661 or AWA Regional Coordinator Carol Volk at 206-876-6780.

8. North and Middle Forks, American River, California

Issue: Dam proposal

Current Status: For the last decade, various old water dinosaurs have tried to resurrect the Auburn Dam project at both the federal and state levels and the California river group, Friends of the River, has had to spend most of its time and resources fighting off these legislative efforts. If the dam is eventually built, the big winners will be the local developers in Placer County and adjacent counties who will get a free new source of water. While these counties can develop relatively inexpensive sources for new water, they believe that free water was promised to them two decades ago as part of the original Central Valley Project. The losers will be the state and federal taxpayers, who will subsidize a water supply that the local counties are unwilling to pay for, and boaters, who will lose the



SUMMER OF 1996

GUEST HOUSING AGENCY FOR THE ROWING AND SPRINT CANOE/KAYAK EVENTS on Lake Lanier, Gainesville, Georgia

Rental Homes, Apartments or Single Rooms in Bed and Breakfast Style Arrangements.

6, 12, 18 or 30 Multiple Stays.

Rates from \$100.00 per Room Night. Some with Lake Views, Lake Access or Privileges.

Quality Housing at Reasonable Rates.

LANIER HOUSING INC.

1-404-718-5279

FAX 1-404-287-3114

Class IV North Fork and the Class II Middle Fork runs.

The draft EIR for the latest version — yet another flood control dam (with multi-purpose reservoir) that would cost \$950 million and would drown 42 to 48 miles of river — will be released by the Army Corps of Engineers in late July. Ironically, this dam would not have affected last winter's flooding in the Roseville and Rio Linda areas of Sacramento, which came from minor tributaries to the American River.

Once the study is released in late July, river conservationists must mobilize a massive grassroots response in support of the best non-Auburn dam alternative by encouraging people to write letters to the Corps, elected officials and newspaper editors, as well as attend the public meetings and hearings. For more information on how you can help this grassroots effort, contact Charles Casey at Friends of the River, at (916)442-3155.

9. Cispus River, Washington

Issue: Hydropower prevention!

Current Status: Last year we told you about a developer's attempts to build Cispus 4, a major new hydro facility on the lower reaches of the Cispus River in Southwestern Washington. In addition to threatening a major salmon restoration effort going on in the watershed, Cispus 4 would have destroyed whitewater recreation opportunities on a popular Class III run known as the Lower Cispus. Cispus 4 was dealt a likely fatal blow last May when the Washington Department of Ecology and a coalition of groups, including the AWA, successfully blocked the developer's third attempt to gain a water quality certificate which is required for licensing by the FERC. Whitewater recreation played a major role in the outcome of the case. Look for details of the case in an upcoming *American Whitewater* article, contact AWA Director Brooke Drury at 206-528-7458 or the Rivers Council of Washington at 206-283-4988.

Issue: Access.

Current Status: Vehicular access to an established takeout on the lower three miles of the Cispus River is prohibited by a private corporation. The takeout, established as mitigation for lost recreation opportunities by a dam downstream, is now inaccessible. At the request of the FERC, the Rivers Council of Washington and local boating groups are working with the property owners and with the dam owner to negotiate a solution. For more information contact AWA Director Brooke Drury at 206-528-7458 or the Rivers Council of Washington at 206-283-4988.

10. Kennebec River and Moxie Stream, Maine

Issue: Relicensing

Current Status: AWA, along with other river and conservation interests, are negotiating with several hydropower companies over the future of several rivers in Maine, including improvements on the Kennebec, Dead and Rapid Rivers. Also being discussed is a solution to the Indian Pond access fee on the Kennebec and recreational releases on the Class V Moxie Stream. For more information contact Rich Bowers or AWA Director Tom Christopher at (508) 534-9447.

11. Bear Creek, Georgia

Issue: Access

Current Status: In April, AWA and the Georgia Canoeing Association met with the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources regarding whitewater access to Bear Creek through Cloudland Canyon State Park,

one of the best steep creek runs in the country (Class V+).

This meeting was productive. The DNR was scheduled to post the river off-limits to boaters because of liability and safety concerns, despite the fact that the Bear has over five years of boating history with no significant accidents. DNR agreed to refrain from posting until after the meeting and has yet to do so. While a final verdict is still out, DNR seems willing to address whitewater and to work with boaters on keeping this resource open. Both put-in and take-out are outside the park, boaters have been accessing the river by permission on private land, and there is widespread support from citizens living in the area for continued boating on Bear Creek. For more information contact Rich Bowers, Dave Cox (GCA) at (404)522-7447 or AWA Director Ron Stewart at (615)756-3170.

12. West Branch Penobscot, Maine

Issue: Relicensing and access

Current Status: Earlier this year, Great Northern Power settled with a local hunting and fishing club (the Fin and Feather Club), and agreed to provide free access to the Penobscot for residents of Maine. AWA recognizes this as a great access victory, and applauds the efforts of this club. AWA hopes to take this victory and expand it to include all river users on the **mainstem** Penobscot. Political maneuvering continues, and a settlement of this project appears to be a long-term process. However, preliminary discussions hint at outstanding benefits to whitewater, including increased flow and scheduled releases on the Upper Gorge.

For more information contact Rich Bowers.

13. North Fork Payette, Idaho

Issue: Dam

Current Status: Last year's effort to pass federal legislation (under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act) that would ban new dam construction on this outstanding Class V run is dead. Currently, the Gem Irrigation District has revised their plans for hydropower on this stretch and is investigating the feasibility of a run-of-river project which would divert up to 100 cfs near Smiths Ferry (the put-in) and dump it back near Otter Run rapid. The removal of 100 cfs from the river will have a less dramatic impact on the awesome whitewater than the previous plan to divert up to 2,200 cfs, but at normal summer flows, removal of 100 cfs can be significant. The project could also screw up Otter Run rapid and placement of a 48-inch pipe in the railroad right-of-way on the steep east side of the river could cause rockfall and erosion. The last thing the North Fork needs is more rocks or pollution. Gem Irrigation hopes to persuade the Idaho Water Resource Board to amend the Payette Plan to allow hydropower. Idaho Rivers United will fight to preserve the state protection. And while Gem Irrigation District plans to study the impact of this project on boating, they state that boating...pays nothing, but rides free on someone else's water.

For more information, contact Liz Paul at Idaho Rivers United at (208)343-7481.

14. North Fork Boise River, Idaho

Issue: Salvage logging, access

Current status: Huge wildfires burned through the North Fork Boise River watershed in 1994. The Forest Service lost no time in selling enormous tracts of burned timber for harvest.

Timber along three eligible wild and scenic rivers, including the North Fork Boise, is slated for harvest. Idaho Rivers United appealed the massive timber sale because it included entry into **roadless** areas, logging and helicopter landing pad construction in the North Fork Boise river corridor, and logging in sensitive riparian areas. After losing the appeal, Idaho Rivers United took the Forest Service to court to resolve the problems. Arguments were heard on July 17.

As a result of this logging, the North Fork Boise River was closed to boating until the logging is completed in 1997. In short, boaters have been booted from one of southern Idaho's greatest **roadless** Class III-IV whitewater runs during the first year in memory when adequate flows remain in the river in July. The Forest Service cites safety as the reason for the closure because log-loaded helicopters will be constantly flying over the river. The road to the customary put-in is also closed because of heavy logging truck traffic - one every four to five minutes!

The logging will add sediment to the watershed of the North Fork Boise River and will impair the survival of bull trout. The construction of helicopter landing pads on the river banks will mar the scenery, one of the values recognized in the Wild and Scenic eligibility study.

For more information, contact Liz Paul at Idaho Rivers United at (208)343-7481.

15. Yampa River, Colorado

Issue: Access

Current Status: AWA is closely following a litigation effort near Steamboat Springs, CO. where a man was charged with criminal trespass for floating the **Yampa** River through private property. The big issue in the case is the definition of navigability, in other words, whether the public has the right of passage down certain streams. A preliminary ruling by the county judge declared all rivers and streams in Colorado to be non-navigable and stated that for the recreational users of public waters, Colorado may not be the state to be. We hope to reverse this decision on appeal.

The **Yampa** case is the tip of the iceberg for a confusing and at times contradictory body of law and interpretation about the public's right of passage down Colorado rivers vs. the rights of private landowners. There have been recent problems with landowners on Boulder Creek and the North Fork of the S. Platte (Bailey Canyon). Until this issue is resolved, watch out for barbed wire and low fences.

For more information, contact Rich Hoffman.

16. Sacandaga River, New York

Issue: Hydropower relicensing

Current Status: In consultation with New York Rivers United (NYRU), AWA and commercial rafters are working hard to mesh their goals (continuation of daily episodic recreational releases at 4,000 cfs) with the demands of other stakeholders. Residents around the Great Sacandaga lake would like higher lake elevations, resource agencies and fishing groups have new proposals that improve fishery habitat and flows — not to mention those interested in seasonal flood and water quality protection for the Hudson River and, of course, power production. Like they did during the Salmon River negotiations, AWA and NYRU are taking the initiative to create a unique water management computer model which will serve all parties as a foundation for testing alternative water use strategies. Starting in this fall, intense multi-lateral negotiations will begin in earnest among all the stockholder groups — negotiations which promise to be New York's most difficult and protracted. Since tens of thousands of rafters and paddlers, especially families, flock to

the new Sacandaga Whitewater Recreation Area, with its shuttle service and whitewater lodge, to enjoy the consistent summer flows in the Sacandaga, significant reduction in the recreational flows would cause substantial damage to this important regional resource.

For more information, contact AWA Director Pete Skinner at (518) 674-5519 or Bruce Carpenter (NYRU) at (315) 339-2097.

17. Middle Fork Snoqualmie River, Washington

Issue: Access.

Current Status: Escalating boater traffic on the popular Middle Middle (Class III-IV) and Club Stretch (Class II) runs of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River is causing increased concern for residents around the current Tanner Road access. King County Roads, owner of the right of way, has already placed a gate at the entrance making access difficult for rafters. The AWA and local boating groups are working together with King County lawmakers to acquire an alternate access point a ways downstream, guaranteeing problem-free access for boaters and other instream recreationists in the fast-growing North Bend, WA area. For more information, contact Washington Recreation River Runners Director Bob Bartlett at 206-888-1531 or the Rivers Council of Washington at 206-283-4988.

18. Pit River, California

Issue: Relicensing

Current Status: AWA is working with the Shasta Paddlers and Pacific Gas & Electric to study whitewater recreation on the Pit River in Northern California. Studies started in May, but then the water levels dropped out of sight. In June, FERC wrote to PG&E, requiring them to augment (release) flows if natural flows remained too low. FERC determined in April that the scope of whitewater studies should include the entire Pit River from the Pit 1 project to Lake Isabella, and that a succession of dams affect whitewater boating on this river. This is a big boost to a long held goal of the AWA, addressing how multiple dams cumulatively affect other river use.

There are seven dams on the Pit, all seeking new licenses before 2011. There are also two additional dams on the McCloud River, in the same watershed. If done correctly, these studies could effectively coordinate whitewater releases on all sections, transforming the Pit into a fantastic whitewater destination.

For more information, contact Rich Bowers or Carter Haisch at (916) 378-6800.

19. Upper Youghiogeny River, Maryland

Issue: Flows

Current Status: In order to continue hydroelectric generation at the Deep Creek project, the State of Maryland is requiring the Pennelec Company to provide releases of cold water during times of hot weather and low water. The State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is trying to improve the survival of brown trout stocked in the river downstream of the project. Under natural conditions, trout do not survive in the shallow warm water areas upstream of Sang Run and downstream of the project. Large amounts of water will have to be released to keep fish alive if natural flows are low in warm weather. The cooling releases are not predictable enough for anyone other than local boaters and will reduce the amount of water available for scheduled whitewater releases.

The amount of water which will have to be sacrificed by whitewater interests in future years to chill down fish is still completely unknown. AWA has demanded, and been granted, a

hearing to challenge the legality of the fishery flows since the State DNR provided no evidence that the cooling flows would actually work and made no effort to determine how much damage would be done to whitewater recreation interests. The hearing was stayed in 1994 in order to allow the State and AWA to attempt to reach a negotiated settlement. The stay was extended through the 1995 whitewater season. For more information contact Pope Barrow, AWA Conservation/Access Chairperson at 202-546-3766

20. Russell Fork, Kentucky

Issue: Proposed dam

Current Status: For the last ten years the AWA has tried to improve whitewater boating on the Russell Fork through increased releases and improved flow levels. Now, the Army Corps of Engineers has answered our prayers, but with a twist!

The Corps has proposed to build a whole new dam upstream of the town of Haysi, for a measly \$700 million dollars. Ironically, one purpose of the project is to enhance whitewater boating. AWA's answer WE DONT WANT IT. If you would like to do us a favor, provide safe, reliable flows over an expanded season from the existing Flannagan Dam. For more information, contact Rich Bowers.

21. Green River, Washington

Issue: Water supply project

Current Status: Tacoma City Water continues its plans to divert an additional 100 cfs from the Green River through the proposed Pipeline 5 project.

The City also plans to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to double the amount of water stored behind Howard Hanson dam upstream. These projects will have a huge effect on instream flows in the Green-Duwamish river, making the river increasingly less natural and threatening water quality and fish habitat values. It will also have a major negative impact on recreational boating by eliminating spring flows. A local group, Friends of the Green, filed suit in June 1995 in an attempt to kill the project. For more information, contact Friends of the Green President Pat Sumption at 206-525-1708 or Jay Cohen, President of the Washington Recreational River Runners, at 206-432-6131.

Issue: Access.

Current Status: The owners of the Green River Resort have traditionally allowed boaters to use a trail down to the river as a take-out from the popular Class III-IV Green River Gorge and as a put in for a Class II-III stretch downstream. A litigation threat stemming from an accident (unrelated to boating) has prompted the owners to place a locked gate at the entrance to the trail. While boaters can still exit from the river, use of the trail as a put in for the stretch downstream is now threatened. The Washington Kayak Club and the Rivers Council of Washington are looking toward agreeable solutions with the land owner. For more information, contact AWA Director Brooke Drury at 206-528-7458 or the Rivers Council of Washington at 206-283-4988.

22. Upper Ocoee, Tennessee

Issue: Stream bed modification

Current Status: Love it or hate it (see May/June issue), the 1996 Olympics will forever change the Upper Ocoee River. Will it also change the future of whitewater sports? Only time will tell.

As race course construction continues, the Ocoee will receive national attention in the upcoming years. For more information contact Rich Bowers or Rich Hoffman.

23. Gauley River, West Virginia

Issue: Access, damage to scenic values

Current Status: The magnificent scenery of the Gauley River gorge is increasingly threatened by streamside development. The most scenic areas of the Gauley are inside the boundaries of the Gauley River National Recreation Area, but, for political reasons, the National Park Service has not been able to acquire a single one of those areas. Almost the entire gorge is now owned by timber and mining companies or by commercial river outfitters. Outfitters have cut new private roads in numerous areas downstream of Sweets Falls. In addition, a land development company has announced plans to build a lodge near Canyon Doors. Meanwhile, the plans of the National Park Service to protect the scenery and natural values of the Gauley have been attacked by commercial interests. These groups are advocating more intensive development and opposing the Park Service's resource protection concept for the Gauley. The private ownership of land at critical points on both banks of the Gauley also threatens private boater access to the river. Currently, most private boaters must cross private lands in order to take out from an Upper Gauley trip or put in for a Lower Gauley trip.

For more information, contact Rich Hoffman.

24. Clear Creek, Tennessee

Issue: Dam

Current Status: The Catoosa Utility District continues to plan construction of a water supply dam on Clear Creek, a tributary of the Wild and Scenic Obed River. Fortunately, the Rural Economic and Community Development Service (RECD, formerly the Farmers Home Administration) decided to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the RECD and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will also conduct a water supply study of the upper Cumberland Plateau in conjunction with the EIS. Public meetings on the scope of these studies were recently completed.

The AWA, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, and other groups are urging decision makers to pursue more efficient and inexpensive methods of water supply, such as water conservation and pipelines to existing reservoirs. It is critical that the Park Service upholds its mandate to preserve the Wild and Scenic Obed/Emory as unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

For more information, contact Rich Hoffman or Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning at (615) 482-2153.

25. Savage River, Maryland

Issue: Flood control dam and recreational releases

Current Status: Whitewater Recreation is a project purpose of the Army Corps Savage River Dam. However, whitewater releases have occurred only once since the 1989 World Championships were held on this river. The reason - the Corps has never produced an adequate water budget analysis, necessary to figure out how much water is available for multiple use.

AWA is negotiating with the Maryland DNR and the Corps to provide scheduled and useable flow releases in June and September of each year. If possible, release will be coordinated with releases on Maryland's Upper Yough, West Virginia's fall Gauley drawdown, and Kentucky's Russell Fork season. For more information contact Rich Bowers.

26. White Salmon, Washington

Issue: Dam relicensing/removal?

Current Status: The Lower White Salmon is a Class III-IV whitewater gem and is one of Washington's two federal Wild &

Scenic river stretches. Condit Dam, a hydro dam near the river's confluence with the mighty Columbia River, has blocked most of the river to anadromous fish passage since 1912 and leaves five miles of whitewater flooded or inaccessible. The project is now up for relicensing and a variety of groups, including the AWA, are attempting to restore the river's health. A draft study of the alternatives, including dam removal, is expected out any day. For more information, contact AWA Director Brooke Drury at 206-528-7458 or Friends of the Earth at 206-633-1661.

Issue: Access.

Current Status: The owner of the only viable put-in for the Class III-IV Lower White Salmon (and take-out for the Class V Upper) is interested in selling his property. Unfortunately, the landowner is looking to sell the property at a price that the U.S. Forest Service cannot pay and/or afford. The AWA, River Network and local boating groups are working with the Forest Service to make sure that public access to the river is maintained. For more information, contact AWA Access Coordinator Rich Hoffman at (301) 589-9453 or AWA Director Brooke Drury at 206-528-7458.

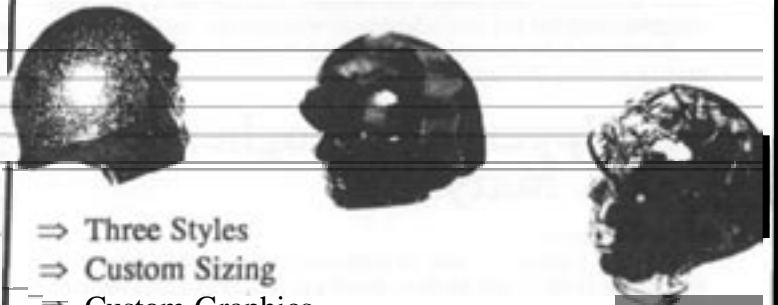
27. Housatonic River, Connecticut

Issue: Hydro relicensing, over-heated fish

Current Status: Just downstream of the Falls Village Hydro Dam is a 22-mile Class II-III stretch of water that is a popular summertime run and hosts a popular training site for whitewater slalom. Boaters may lose whitewater releases because of a Department of Fisheries desire to turn this warm river into a stocked, cold water trout fishery. All of the hydro dams on the Housatonic will be up for relicensing in the next

Earth Lidz

high-tech composite laminate helmets
for adventure sports
hand-crafted for the individual



- ⇒ Three Styles
- ⇒ Custom Sizing
- ⇒ Custom Graphics

design your own lid... Starting at \$60

For More Info, Call or Write:

Earth Lidz

c/o Secret Creek Endeavors, Lt
617 Standard Avenue

Morgantown, West Virginia 26
(304) 296-5052 or (304) 291-8:

Email: JDKIII@WVNVN.VVNET.EDU

five years, and AWA and local boaters promise to work to ensure that there is balanced use of the river for recreationists.

For more information, contact Rich Hoffman or Clarke Outdoors at (203)672-6365.

28. Chattooga River, North and South Carolina, Georgia

Issue: Access, management

Current Status: There are about as many opinions about the Forest Service's management of the Chattooga River watershed as there are people who use it. This past year, the Forest Service came under scrutiny for its timber harvesting practices and its policy regarding private and commercial use on the river. The AWA has been working with the Forest Service and Trout Unlimited to discuss boating access to Sections 0 and 1 of the Chattooga, sections that are currently off limits to boating. The AWA will be involved in the forest management plan that will be revised in the upcoming years.

For more information, contact Rich Hoffman or AWA Regional Coordinator Kent Wigginton.

29. Secesh River, Idaho

Issue: Road building

Current Status: Habitat for the Secesh Rivers wild chinook salmon is threatened by road building and development. Secesh Meadow subdivision is located upstream from the challenging Class V wilderness day trip. The river provides excellent spawning habitat for Idaho's last run of wild non-hatchery influenced Snake River chinook salmon. (That means no hatchery raised chinook have ever been released in the Secesh River.) Chinook salmon are an endangered species. The developer has requested special permission from the Forest Service to build four short roads to access lots in the subdivision, and the Forest Service has proposed granting permission. The Secesh River is eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system in part because of the presence of chinook salmon.

The road building and consequent development will have deleterious effects on the salmon and needs to be prevented. Idaho Rivers United has opposed the roads. A final decision by the Forest Service is due shortly.

For more information, contact Liz Paul at Idaho Rivers United at (208) 343-7481.

30. Black Canyon of the Bear, Idaho

Issue: Dam relicensing

Current Status: Utah Power and Light's existing license expires in 2001, but the process is beginning now. The Black Canyon, a six mile Class IV-V run, offers the closest whitewater to the Salt Lake City area.

Rumors hold that the applicant is seeking to combine this dam relicensing with others on the Bear. For more information, contact Rich Bowers or Mark White (801)582-3445.

31. Price River, Utah

Issue: Proposed dam

Current Status: The Sanpete Water Conservancy District has proposed the Narrows Project on Gooseberry Creek, a headwater tributary of the Price River. If completed, the project would divert the Price river flow into another drainage.

The Price offers four sections of whitewater rapids, over 39 miles of accessible and canyon rapids rated Class III, IV, V. If completed, local boaters shouldn't expect to paddle this more

than twice every ten years! For more information contact Rich Bowers or Zach Frankel (URCC) (801) 486-4776.

32. Clarks Fork of Yellowstone River, Wyoming/Montana

Issue: Proposed mining operation

Current Status: The Clarks Fork—Wyoming's only Wild and Scenic River—is a beautiful and remote river that has Class IV-V day runs and a 26 mile Class V-VI wilderness run in a spectacular canyon. Crown Buttes Mines, a subsidiary of Canadian mining giant, Noranda, proposes to mine half a billion pounds of gold, silver and copper two and a half miles from the Yellowstone Park boundary. Plan includes a 72-acre tailings impoundment to hold five and a half million tons of mining waste. Failure of the structure would send acidic runoff directly into the headwaters of the Clarks Fork. Groups that are fighting to stop the mine include the Beartooth Alliance, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, American Rivers and Headwaters Paddling Association. American Rivers named the Clarks Fork the most endangered river in America in both 1994 and 1995. The draft EIS is currently being prepared.

For more information, contact Judy Theodorson at 406-587-2519.

33. North Chickamauga Creek, Tennessee

Issue: Access, watershed protection

Current Status: This Class IV-V run has become a benchmark for Southeastern whitewater. A conservation film, funded by AWA, received recognition at this year's Bluegrass Film Festival. A Strategic Management Plan for the watershed, in partnership with the Friends of North Chickamauga Creek, Inc., the National Park Service, the Conservation Fund and AWA is due for completion by year's end. Efforts are turning to fund-raising for the river right portion of the gorge. The river left corridor has kindly been designated as a pocket wilderness and a parking lot for a trail system has become the standard takeout for boaters. Access on the North Chick Creek side as well as the Cain Creek put in has been a touchy issue with landowners, especially as development has continued in the wilderness areas, so boaters are urged to show respect and courtesy.

For more information contact AWA Director Ron Stewart at (615) 756-3170 or Rock Creek Outfitter in Chattanooga.

34. Mokelumne, California

Issue: New dams, access, hydro relicensing

Current Status: AWA, working with the Foothill Conservancy and Friends of the River, recently intervened in the newly proposed Middle Bar Dam. If constructed, this project would create a reservoir that would completely submerge the upstream Class II Electra Run, often described as the best beginner river in the state.

In addition, river interests have been negotiating with the downstream East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to open access to the bottom five miles of the Electra Run now off limits to boaters. EBMUD has prevented boating and fishing access to this stretch of the river for years and is reluctant to let boating get a serious foothold on this run (despite unanimous support from the Amador County Board of Supervisors to open this run) since they want to keep the option open of raising Pardee Dam to bring more water to Oakland.

In December of '94, AWA filed for late intervention on PG&Es Mokelumne River Project which regulates flow to five separate

whitewater segments. (Whitewaterflow tests were conducted on the Class IV-V Devils Nose and Tiger Creek Dam runs, the Class III Ponderosa run and the Class II Electra run in the summer of '93.) FERC is still ruling on the relicensing of these PG&E dams; the Draft Environmental Impact Report is due out this year.

For more information contact Rich Bowers, AWA Director Susan Scheufele at (408) 459-7978 or Pete Bell of the Foothill Conservancy at (209) 296-5734.

35. Nisqually River, Washington

Issue: Relicensing and access

Current Status: The results are in for last year's first whitewater descent of the La Grande Canyon, a two mile stretch of outstanding Class IV-V rapids on the Nisqually River. The FERC, in a draft Environmental Impact Statement, has recommended that the dam owner, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), provide at least four whitewater releases per year — two in June and two in November.

The AWA and other groups are working hard to make sure these recommendations are finalized in the Nisqually Project license. For more information, contact Rich Bowers or AWA Director Brooke Drury at 206-528-7458.

36. Tallulah River, Georgia

Issue: Relicensing and recreation flows

Current Status: The fate of Tallulah so far has been hopelessly mired in the bureaucratic relicensing process. AWA has proposed a settlement agreement with Georgia Power, which has been accepted but not yet signed. The FERC was scheduled to release a draft EIS in the Spring of this year. As we go to press, the most recent schedule for this was September 1995. AWA is still hopeful that this agreement can be drafted into the EIS as the scenario of choice, and will allow boating releases prior to the '96 Olympics on the nearby Ocoee.

For more information, contact Rich Bowers.

37. American, Kern, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Trinity Rivers, California

Issue: Bad legislation; corporate welfare

Current Status: A group of Central Valley Congressmen (Doolittle, Fazio, Pombo, Radanovich, Thomas, Dooley and Condit) have introduced H.R. 1906, a bill drafted by the Central Valley Project Water Association (which represents the contractors who receive highly subsidized water from the federal Central Valley Project). This bill would gut the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), a far-reaching water reform bill that received strong bi-partisan support and benefited California's environment and economy.

Essentially, H.R. 1906 will take away water that was previously allocated for river and wildlife restoration and will increase subsidies to the already highly subsidized agribusiness water users. This begs the question: why would taxpayers want to continue to subsidize large scale corporate agriculture that turns the land into salty wasteland, while at the same time paying farmers not to grow crops in the half of the United States which gets natural rainfall? Please ask your Congressional representatives to vote against this bill, wherever you live. For further information, contact Barry Nelson at Share the Water, (510) 452-9261. (Also, see separate article in Conserve section of this issue!)

38. Stanislaus River, California

Issue: Water projects

Current Status: The Calaveras County Water District has recently filed a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board to divert water from the Stanislaus, North Fork Stanislaus, the Calaveras River, Highland Creek and Angels Creek, and build new reservoirs on the North Fork. The popular Boards Crossing to Calaveras Big Trees (three miles of Class III-V) reach is considered runnable as low as 400 cfs, and so, could potentially be affected by the proposed diversions.

In addition, the Stockton East water district has built a \$70 million tunnel and plans to remove up to 160,000 acre feet of so called surplus water from the New Melones Reservoir. However, because of a small watershed and an abundance of senior water rights upstream, it is unlikely that Stockton East will get any Stanislaus water in their tunnel. Stockton East and the Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District have also filed an injunction to prevent the water from the New Melones reservoir from being used for fish and water quality purposes as mandated under the CVPIA (see # 37 above).

Below the proposed diversion is the Class IV Goodwin Dam run (the mitigation for losing the Camp 9 run when New Melones dam was built), and the Class II Knights Ferry run, used by over a million people a year. The Stanislaus River Council (a coalition of river interests) is working to keep water from being diverted out of the river.

For further information, contact John Murphy of Cal Trout at (209) 527 6242, Patty McCleary of the Sierra Club at (415) 923-5638, Steve Evans at Friends of the River at (916) 442-3155, or Richard Roos Collins of the Natural Heritage Institute at (415) 288-0550.

39. North Fork Skokomish River, Washington

Issue: Relicensing.

Current Status: Tacoma City Light's on-going effort to legalize its illegal expansion of two hydro dams on the North Fork Skokomish River. Built without fish passage facilities, the dams have flooded or dewatered miles of salmon (not to mention boater) habitat. Channeling almost the entire river into a pipe for electric generation likewise wreaks continual havoc on ecologically-valuable wetlands on the Hood Canal. Increased spills back into the river will benefit area fish and wildlife and lead to a rebirth of an intermediate kayak run.

For more information, contact Lori Bodi, Co-Director of American Rivers Northwest Regional Office at 206-323-8186, or AWA Regional Coordinator Carol Volk at 206-876-6780.

40. Esopus River, New York

Issue: Whitewater releases

Current Status: As part of an agreement between the Department of Environmental Conservation, New York City Water Supply and whitewater boaters, there have been four whitewater releases (in June, July, August and September) on the Class II-III Esopus River for the past 17 years. Recently, these releases have been threatened because of pressure from powerful trout fishermen who are concerned that these whitewater releases will deplete the cold water reserves in Schoharie Reservoir. This past season, the July release was cancelled and the August release date was rescheduled for September. AWA is pushing for an objective study of temperature, trout and reservoir levels that will guide future decisions on this resource.

For more information, contact Rich Hoffman or AWA Executive Director Phyllis Horowitz at (914) 688-5569.

GAULEY FESTIVAL 1995

'Tis the season! Plan to join the American Whitewater Affiliation on Saturday evening, September 23, for the 1995 Gauley River Festival. You'll find the action once again at the Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park on Route 19 in Summersville. Come on over when you're finished paddling; come for dinner or come late. We'll be looking for you from 5:00 p.m. until mid-

night. Admission is still only \$5.

Enjoy all the usual Festival highlights — the Marketplace, Silent Auction, raffle, non-stop award-winning videos from the 1995 National Paddling Film Festival, carnival games, food and rocking river music from Kentucky's own Utterly Rudderless.

Camping with full bathhouse facilities will be available at the

Festival site both Friday and Saturday nights for \$3 per person per night.

Please note that no cans or bottles will be admitted to the Gauley Festival. So bring your beverages in cups.

See you there!

GAULEY FESTIVAL MARKETPLACE

While cruising the Festival, be sure to catch up on all the latest gear and happenings. Our fine lineup of exhibitors will be happy to spend time answering your questions - whether you're just window shopping or completely reoutfitting. Here's a partial list of who'll be on hand to display their wares and services:

Adventure Quest
Aire
Airtight Inflatables
American Whitewater Affiliation
AWA Home Page Display
Appomattox River Company
Backcountry Outfitters
Backlund Paddles
Boechwood Print & Graphics
Big Dog Publications
Blue Ridge Outdoors
Central PA Kayak School
Clinch Paddles
Cool Ridge Company
Dagger Canoe Company
G.H. Enterprises
Gale Force
Gentry Video
Gorilla Whitewater
Harmony Batiks
Impex International
Kirkwood Winery
Lotus
Lunatic Designs
Mad River Canoes
Man of Rubber
Mohawk Canoes
Mountain State
Mountain Surf
Nantahala Outdoor Center
New Wave Kayaks
New Wave Waterworks
North American River Runners
Nova
Ohiopyle Prints
Patagonia
Perception
Possum Creek Productions
Possum Point Productions
Rapidstyle
Rivers
Riversport
Soar Inflatables
Starrk Moon
Tectonic Outdoor Clothing
Teva
Waterline
Wave Sports
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
White Tree Pottery
Wildwasser Sports

GAULEY FESTIVAL VIDEOS — BETTER THAN EVER!

As always, the Gauley Festival's non-stop video action will be presented by the Bluegrass Wildwater Association and will include a selection of the their Annual Paddling Film Festival's finest. Join our BWA cinematographer in the pavilion to get an eyeful of the following (and maybe even a newly released surprise or two):

River Gauley
Wild Americans
X-Stream Green
Whitewater Groove

The Wilder the Better
Faultline
Up Hard & Behind
Vertical Addiction

1995 GAULEY FESTIVAL AUCTION

The Gauley Festival's Silent Auction has earned a reputation for its wide selection of top-of-the-line equipment and incredible bargains. Check it out and place your bids.

The American Whitewater Affiliation thanks these loyal, generous supporters for providing the Silent Auction and Raffle with brand new, quality merchandise:

Aire
Airtight Inflatables
Appomattox River Company
Backcountry Outfitters
Canoes by Whitesell
Canoe Magazine
Central PA Kayak School
Chattooga River Adventures
Chattooga White water Shop
Clarke Outdoors
Colorado Kayak Supply
Cool Ridge Company
Dagger Canoe Company
Earth Lidz
Endless River Adventures
Extrasport
Kent Ford
Four Corners River Sports
Gentry Video
Gorilla Whitewater
Green Walrus Screenworks
JAG Manufacturing
Keel Haulers
Kokatat
L'Eau Vive
Lightning Paddles
Lunatic Designs
Menasha Ridge Press
Millbrook Boats
Mohawk Canoes
Mountain Gear
Mountain Surf

Mountain State
Nantahala Outdoor Center
New Wave Kayaks
New Wave Waterworks
Norse
North American River Runners
Northwest River Supplies
OS Systems
PD Designs
Patagonia
Perception
Possum Creek Productions
Possum Point Productions
RGP Paddles
Ramsey Outdoor
Rapid Designs
Rapidstyle
River and Sea Watersports
Riversport
Riversport Products
Salamander
Shiels Productions
Sidewinder
Silver Creek
Sport Helmets
Starrk Moon
Surflins
Swiftwater Publishing
Tectonic Outdoor Clothing
Teva
Waterline
Wave Sports
White Tree Pottery
Wiggly Stick Paddles
Wildside Images
Wildside Productions
Wildwasser Sports



Complete your whitewater library with an AWA publication



AWA Nationwide Whitewater Inventory

Edited by Pope Barrow, \$15 book/\$7 disk (\$2.90 postage)

- *Revised listing of every whitewater river nationwide
- *River maps for **all U.S.** rivers
- *Includes mileage, access points, ratings

The Rivers of Chile

By Lars Holbek, \$5 (\$1 postage)

- A guide to more than 20 Chilean rivers

Rivers at Risk—The Concerned Citizens Guide to Hydropower

By John D. Escheverria, Pope Barrow and Richard Roos-Collins; cloth \$29.95/paper \$17.95 (\$2.90 postage)

- A study of whitewater's most serious threat

AWA Safety Codes

1-99 \$.25; 100-199 \$.20; over 200 \$.15

- The original criteria of boating safety

Send payment to AWA, PO Box 85, Phoenicia, NY 12464

It's not how good you paddle... it's how good you look!



SHIRTS
HATS
PATCHES
DECALS
POSTERS
LICENSES



item	size	total
AWA T-shirts available in M,L,XL unless noted (postage \$2.90 up to 2 shirts)		
AWA Logo: \$10 SS; \$12.50 LS (SS in M & L only)		
■ The Wilder the Better: \$10 SS; \$12.50 LS		
■ Bold Look: Closeout LS Medium only \$8		
Super Heavy, Super Sized T-shirts (M,L,XL)..		
New Logo, SS only, Grape or Forest \$15		
AWA River Caps: \$10 (postage \$1)		
AWA License Plate Frames: \$5 (postage \$1)		
AWA Embroidered Patches: \$2		
AWA Waterproof Decals: \$1.50		
Rodeo World Championship Posters \$6 (postage \$1)		
	POSTAGE	

Mail to AWA, P.O. Box 85, Phoenicia, NY 12464

RIVER ACCIDENT OVERVIEW 1995

by Charlie Walbridge

The 1995 paddling season will be remembered for a spectacular snowpack and long paddling season in the West. Regrettably, it will also be recalled as a horrific year for accidents. A quick look through AWA files reveals a total of 33 fatalities through the end of June, including four canoeists, seven kayakers and 22(!) rafters. The number of users of inflatables who met death is particularly disturbing. Some accidents, as always, are the result of inexperience, ignorance or both. Others occurred when strong, well prepared parties proved unequal to unusually high water. Many of these tragedies involved pinning in strainers or other types of high-water debris.



Whitewater Clothing and Accessories

by Olympic Medalist Dana Chladek

NEW

* High quality, bombproof bungi cord
sprayskirts!

* Paddling jackets&pants... racing float
vests... pogies... neoprene tops, shorts
and pants...and more.

..We make custom gear for
individuals and groups !

5302 Flanders Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895
Tel/Fax: (301) 946-9686

This year a great deal of information was taken from the Internet's **Usenet** group **Rec.Boats.Paddle** and other computer forums and bulletin boards. Our directors scan these locations on a regular basis. This might account for some of the large increase in accidents being reported this year. I'm sure some incidents were missed, and that more fatalities will occur before the year ends. Many of the descriptions I'm presenting are less complete than I would like, but still give a good picture of the problems paddlers are encountering.

The first fatality dates back to December 1, 1994 when Dave Edspeth of Portland died on Washington's Class IV Wind River. This account, taken from a posting on the Compuserve Outdoor Forum by Jim Daley, states that the river was being attempted by a group of six paddlers at unusually high water. At this level the river is a serious class V+ run.

Edspeth, an expert kayaker who had lost both feet in a mountaineering accident, was a strong proponent of the "right to risk" for handicapped people. He was caught in a hole at the top of Initiation Rapid and forced to exit. The group gave chase, but were unable to help him. At some point the chase boaters reported that he lost consciousness. His boat washed into an eddy, but when Dave himself reached the eddy line, he was sucked underwater. He emerged briefly downstream, then disappeared. At this point the group split up: one boater hiked back upstream to the put-in, two continued to search downstream, and two more hiked out of the gorge to find help. That evening his body was located by a search and rescue helicopter near the eddy where he was last seen. The group theorized that he became snagged underwater and later became visible as the water dropped.

On the East Coast, an unseasonable mid-January warm spell extended far to the north, creating some unusual mid-winter boating opportunities. AWA member Bob Glanville reports the death of solo kayaker Justin Van Ness on the West Branch of Cazenovia Creek, near **Colden**, New York, on January 15th. This run is popular with locals, but the victim was unknown to other paddlers living in the area. Van Ness was paddling an old Fiberglass boat of 1970's vintage and wore no life vest, helmet, or cold water protection. He was found recirculating in a hole at the bottom of a 6' high ledge; possibly an old dam site. Although there

We're Setting the Standards for Kayak Instruction

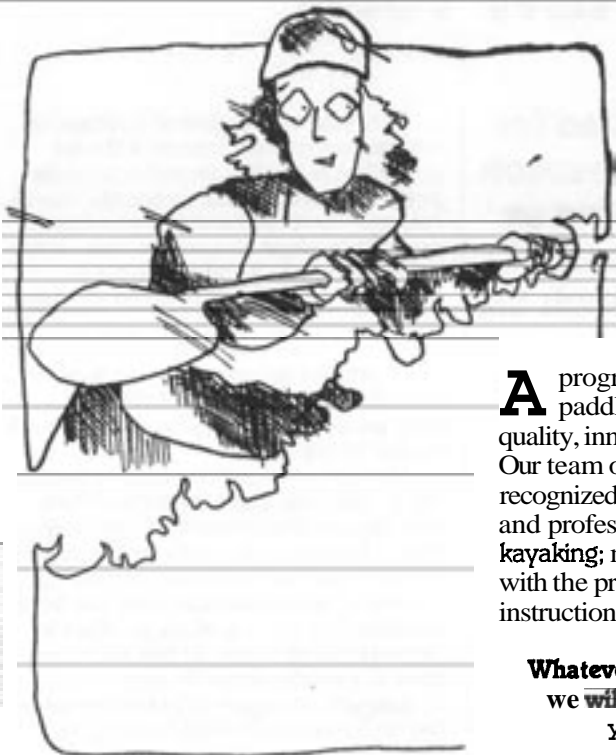


PHOTO: ENDLESS RIVER ADVENTURES

A program designed for paddlers who insist on quality, innovation and results. Our team of instructors are recognized for their experience and professional dedication to **kayaking**; names synonymous with the principles underlying instruction today.

**Whatever your skill level,
we will help you reach
your goals.**

We are based in the hub of southeastern whitewater: with rivers ranging from the **beginning** level through expert. Our instruction season extends from March into October.

Travel with us this **fall** and winter to international rivers! Costa Rica is our specialty, with intermediate, advanced and expert levels.

**Quality kayak instruction
and specialty kayak trips.**

Call or write today for our color brochure on how you can excel at **kayaking**. Endless River Adventures invites you to share a lifetime's worth of paddling opportunities!



PO Box 246, Bryson City, NC, USA 28713 • Phone/Fax 7041488-6199
Worldwide E-Mail, CompuServe 71604.1240

were no witnesses to the event, it's possible that a river-wide strainer just **up-**stream may have started a chain of events that led to his demise.

On March 12 eastern Pennsylvania was shocked by a double drowning on the Lehigh River. The class **II-III** section **from** White Haven to **Rockport** is popular with commercial and private paddlers; the flow was slightly higher than a normal release. The party consisted of a group of nine people who had purchased some cheap, "toy" vinyl rafts and horse collar life vests earlier in the day. Despite the icy **34-degree** water, no cold weather protection was used. A number of experienced paddlers advised them not to put in, but English was not the party's native language and communication was difficult. The rafters flipped just downstream of the put-in on a wave just below the **1-80** bridge. Kayakers on the river rescued seven of the nine people, but two children, aged **12** and **14**, were washed away. A massive search began the following day, and they were located less than a mile downstream.

In a similar incident on March 18, the San Joaquin River near Fresno, California was running high at 3,000 cfs. **AWA's** Richard Penny reports that this is a class I stream and that a local canoe livery will not rent boats at levels over 700 cfs. A canoe carrying four people collided with the Highway **41** bridge abutment and wrapped. Everyone was wearing life vests, and three paddlers, two boys and one man, washed downstream.

A seven-year-old girl was pinned against the abutment under several feet of water. Paramedics and divers were called to the scene and lowered from the bridge. Traffic on the highway was stopped for two hours in both directions. The girl was found and transported to a hospital, where she died soon afterwards. Three weeks later two paddlers in short, "kiwi-style" kayaks were rescued after a capsizing; they were found clinging to trees nearby.

On April 23 the Russell Fork Gorge on the **Virginia/Kentucky** border was **run-**ning at **415** cfs. This is less than half the normal fall release level; more technical, but less pushy. A group of four experienced local kayakers arrived at Fist Rapid, the site of previous near-misses. Mike Munn, **40**, missed his line and slammed into a huge undercut at Fist Rock. It took **fifteen** minutes for the group to get him out from under it with ropes. CPR began and was continued for over two hours. A paddler ran up the tracks for help and encountered employees of Breaks Interstate Park, who radioed for a rescue squad. They came down and continued CPR, but Munn died despite everyone's best efforts.

OVER 80 DIFFERENT MODELS IN STOCK

Canoes & Kayaks

for Virginia & West Virginia

Old Town Dagger Stowe
Prijon Perception New Wave Pyranha
Wilderness Systems Aqua Terra Ocean Kayaks

Most stores carry a few good lines.
We have ALL the top brands of canoes & kayaks.



*18 years
of serving
Virginia &
West Virginia*

6932 Bent Mountain Road
Roanoke, Virginia
(703) 776-0707

614 North Main Street
Farmville, Virginia
(804) 392-6645

PHONE ORDERS WELCOME
CALL 1-800-442-4837

Delivery to New River Gorge within 10 days
in the spring, summer, and fall.

Two-day UPS delivery on accessories.

The Five Falls of the Chatooga in Northern Georgia are a series Class IV-V drops noted for the presence of undercut rocks. The water level on April 30 was at 1.6 feet when a party of three rafts lead by a former Chatooga guide, arrived at Jawbone rapid. Safety ropes were set before the rapid was attempted. Allison Guy, 30, was one of five people in a raft that broached and pinned on Hydro-Electric Rock, throwing her into the water. She was immediately hit with two throw ropes, but did not grab hold.

She apparently tried to stand up near a big flat rock at the top of Sock-Em-Dog and was sucked underneath it. Her body was not recovered until May 19, when the river had dropped to 1.3 feet. Guides from various Chatooga outfitters lead by Dennis Kerrigan found her after a two-day search, nearly 10 feet back under the huge slab of rock.

Slim Ray forwarded reports of a double drowning on Alaska's Six Mile River on the weekend of May 20-21. This is a class IV-V stretch of big-water, yet the victims did not wear life vests and attempted the run in a Coleman canoe. The two men were new to the area and clearly had no idea what they were getting into.

Internet postings reported the death of several Northwest rafters over Memorial Day weekend. Rhonda Schmidt died on the Duckabush River. This is not a popular run because it is full of logs. Gary Korb's guide to Washington's Olympic Peninsula rates the river as class IV+. The group was using a cheap vinyl raft and wore no PFD's. The river was high from recent snowmelt. The raft apparently flipped on a logjam, but more information is needed.

A similar incident on Montana's North Fork of the Flathead claimed the life of Rhonda Peterson. Her raft apparently flipped and pinned after hitting a tree 2.5 miles above Camas Creek. The victim had a throw bag and a dry bag clipped into the back of her life vest and was also clipped into the chicken line. She was held underneath the raft after it capsized. Her two companions swam to an island where they remained overnight. They were able to hail a passing raft the next morning.

In the Midwest, Ron Hufiineyer reports an accident on the Whitewater River on May 27th. Pat Fisse was paddling with his brother in touring kayaks near Metamora, Indiana. Both were class II river paddlers. They entered the river below a seven-foot high dam with their PFD's stowed in their boats. Pat was sucked into an "innocent looking" hydraulic below the dam, just upstream from their launch site. He flipped instantly, and although he was a strong swimmer, he could not escape. After several unsuccessful rescue attempts by his brother, Fisse disappeared beneath the water for the last time.

There are rumors of a drowning in Colorado's Cataract Canyon during May on a training trip for commercial river guides. The accident occurred in Big Drop #2. With the river running at ten-year highs, a flip here could lead to a long, unpleasant swim. There are also rumors of a drowning on the Main Salmon following a raft capsize. Any info our readers may have on these accidents will be much appreciated.

California experienced four rafting deaths resulting from the unusually high water this year. This information comes from The "K-Flow" River Gauge Hotline and conversations with area paddlers. A record snowpack will probably keep some larger rivers there running dangerously high until late fall.

On May 29 a group of four off-duty guides launched their raft at the Chevron Station on the Merced River for a late afternoon run. The river was running at 8,000 cfs; this made the class IV+ rapids downstream extremely dangerous. The raft flipped. Three of the paddlers made it to shore, but a fourth was pinned in the willows and brush that line the shore. That same day a commercial group was running Maytag Rapid on the North Fork of the Yuba at 4,000 cfs, a very high level. One member of the group dove into the

water to assist a passenger who was caught on the oarlocks of a flipped raft. She survived, he did not.

On June 11th the North Fork of the American was running high at 2,900 cfs. A commercial rafting guest fell out of a raft above Chamberlain Falls after hitting a rock. The safety kayaker got him back to the boat quickly, but the raft was off-line for the drop below. All but one of the passengers fell out at the bottom of Chamberlain. This same guest was now completely unresponsive. He was recovered by a safety kayaker after a moderately lengthy swim, but intensive CPR failed to revive him.

On July 2 there was a rafting fatality on the North Fork of the Yuba. Four rafts in a commercial party flipped in Rossaco Canyon. It took some time to reassemble the group. When heads were counted, one person was missing. A search party found the life vest and helmet, suggestive of a body pin, late that afternoon. The body was located the next day.

There was an Internet posting referring to a rafting death on the Gallatin River in Montana in June. The victim apparently got caught in the "chicken line" of a raft after capsizing. More information is needed.

The Denver Post reported the death on

RIVERSPORT

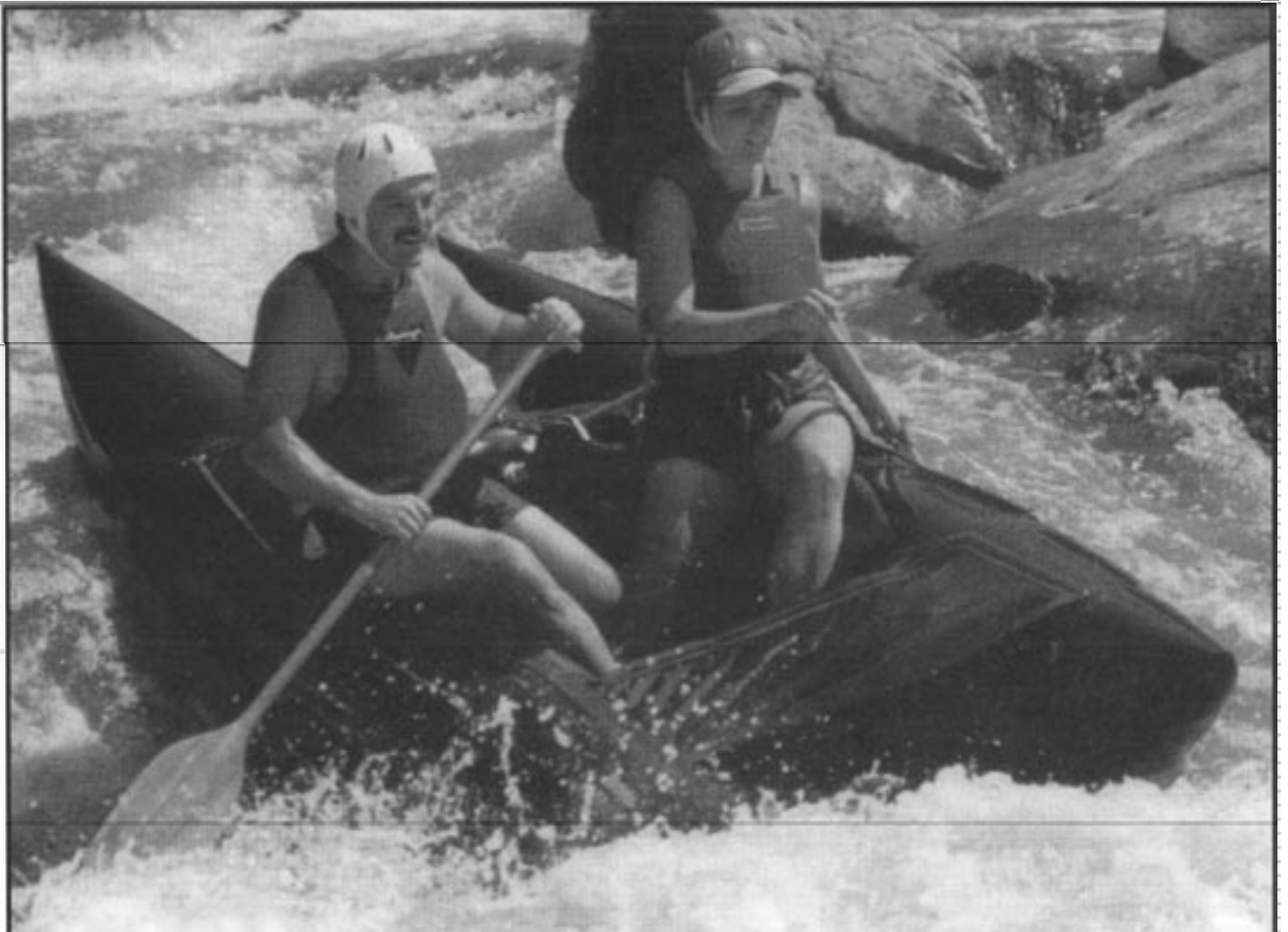
School of Paddling

213 Yough St., Confluence PA 15424

Fully stocked outdoor store featuring products from Patagonia, Perception, Dagger, Prijan, Teva, Ace, Kokatat and Rapidstyle

Highly acclaimed Paddling School with special Kid's Programs and Slalom Clinics

VISIT OUR BOOTH AT GAULEY FEST



SHREDDER

The first SELF-BAILING all inflatable cataraft!

NO HARD PARTS!

The **SHREDDER** easily rolls up to a compact 18"x28"!

- The cross tubes & raised floor eliminate the need for a bulky frame.

Airtight Inflatables P.O. Box 36, Ohiopyle, PA 15470 • (412) 329 - 8668

Made in Pennsylvania 98% domestic content!

June 1 of a temporary employee of the Colorado Wildlife Service on the Colorado River near Rifle, Colorado. He was doing a fish survey in a raft with two other men when their outboard motor hit a sandbar, sucked up some sand, and died. The group got paddles out, but despite their efforts, the boat was swept into the I-70 bridge abutment and pinned. The other men were thrown clear and swam to safety; the victim was caught under water between the raft and the bridge pier. He was found when the raft was extricated some time later.

The *Jackson Hole Daily* reported a fatality on the Hoback River in Wyoming on June 1. A pair of kayakers began the run together. One of the men capsized, lost his paddle, and was forced to take out. The victim, Kyle Martin, 24, continued on. When he did not appear at the takeout a search began. Helicopter pilots discovered a floating paddle and life jacket. The body, along with a badly damaged kayak, was found in a strainer about one mile upstream of the take-out, at the base of a 100-foot high cliff. Personnel from the chopper pulled back some trees from the creek, revealing the body. This material, along with many other articles and Internet postings, was forwarded by AWA Safety Chair Lee Belknap.

AWA member Mark White forwarded clippings from the Idaho *State Journal* describing the death of Bob Clayton, who was attempting to make the first raft descent of the big rapids a mile below the Milner Dam on the Snake on June 8. These class V+ big-water drops, run occasionally by kayakers, were "really booming" according to locals. Clayton, paddling with another cataraft from Boise, lost control of his boat and dropped sideways into a huge hole in a rapid called "Just Say No."

There he recirculated for some time in full view of friends, TV cameras and search and rescue personnel who assembled to witness his run. Someone threw him a line, but he could not hold on. He was pulled from the river by a safety raft stationed a half mile downstream. CPR was administered for over an hour without success.

On June 16 Mary McGavock was part of a Mormon Church group that rented rafts for a class II-III section of the Snake River near Afion, Wyoming. Newspaper clippings sent by AWA member Ron Waters describe the accident:

"A raft, overloaded with people picked up from a previous spill, flipped and pinned on a rock. McGavock was initially tangled in a rope, but was later swept downstream after a struggle. Her life vest, which may have been too big for her, came off. It was recovered downstream fully zipped and buckled. Searchers using dogs and jet boats were still looking for the body late that evening."

A wild near-miss occurred on Boulder Creek June 5 and was reported to the Internet by Colorado Whitewater Association (CWWA) Safety Chair Roger Lynn. Kayaker Greg Norris became trapped following an end-to-end pin in two trees. After a brief struggle he flipped upstream. His companion, Fred Donaghy, waded out and freed the pinned boat. He could not hold on, and both boat and victim were swept away. Donaghy then returned to his kayak, gave chase, and was able to push Norris and his boat into shore. By this time Norris had been under water for about three minutes. Rescue breathing was begun by Donaghy, assisted by passersby and rescue squad personnel. The victim regained consciousness after about eight breaths and was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Mose Pacheco of Farmington, New Mexico was killed on June 17 during a high water (4.5 feet) run on the Numbers section of the Arkansas in Colorado. The trouble began when his ducky flipped in a large hole and he was swept downstream. Kayakers witnessing the accident gave chase in a pickup truck, launched a kayak, and pulled him to shore. By then it was too late for CPR to do my good.

As the high water continued Jim Giulianelli, a commercial rafting guest, drowned in Brown's Canyon on the Arkansas on July 2. He apparently washed downstream some distance after being thrown from his boat on this high, fast-moving river. These two accounts were posted on the Internet by the CWWA's Roger Lynn.

Rocky Mountain News clippings sent by the AWA's Rick Alesch mentioned two other Colorado rafting fatalities in the middle of June - one on Clear Creek near Golden, and one on the Colorado near Kremmling. More information is badly needed. There was also a reported commercial rafting fatality on the Eagle River in early July when a 78-year-old man fell out of his boat and suffered a heart attack.

Tennessee's Ocoee River was the scene of a commercial fatality on June 25th. There are many rumors circulating, but here's the story from Polk County Rescue Squad leader and former river guide Randall Bates, who was at the scene. According to Bates, Robert Wilkes was thrown from a raft with three other large men by the diagonal wave in Tablesaw. As they were carried downstream a guide's rope reached them. The thrower could not hold the weight of

Resin Head Head Covers



- * Kevlar Composite Layups
- * 17 Models Available
- * Head sizes extra small to extra large
- * Minicell Outfitting
- * Metallic Flake & Pigment
- * Solids, Spatters, Runs, Drips, Blotches, Blends
- * Graphics
- * Outfitting Kits

Distributed by

**Central PA Kayak
School**

P.O. Box 263
2535 Roundtop Road
Middletown, PA 17057
Phone (717) 944-6904
Fax (717) 944-0422

MOOSE RIVER FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 21
North St. Park, Old Forge, NY

Day events:

- Hair Race down the Bottom Moose
- Class 2-3 Middle Moose for novices
- Class 3-4 Lower Moose for Intermediates
- Class 4-5 Bottom Moose for experts
- Dependable water levels for whitewater

Evening Activities:

- Live Entertainment
- Equipment Displays
- Whitewater Videos
- Auction and Raffle

For information, call Chris Koll at (315) 652-8397

Free Admission

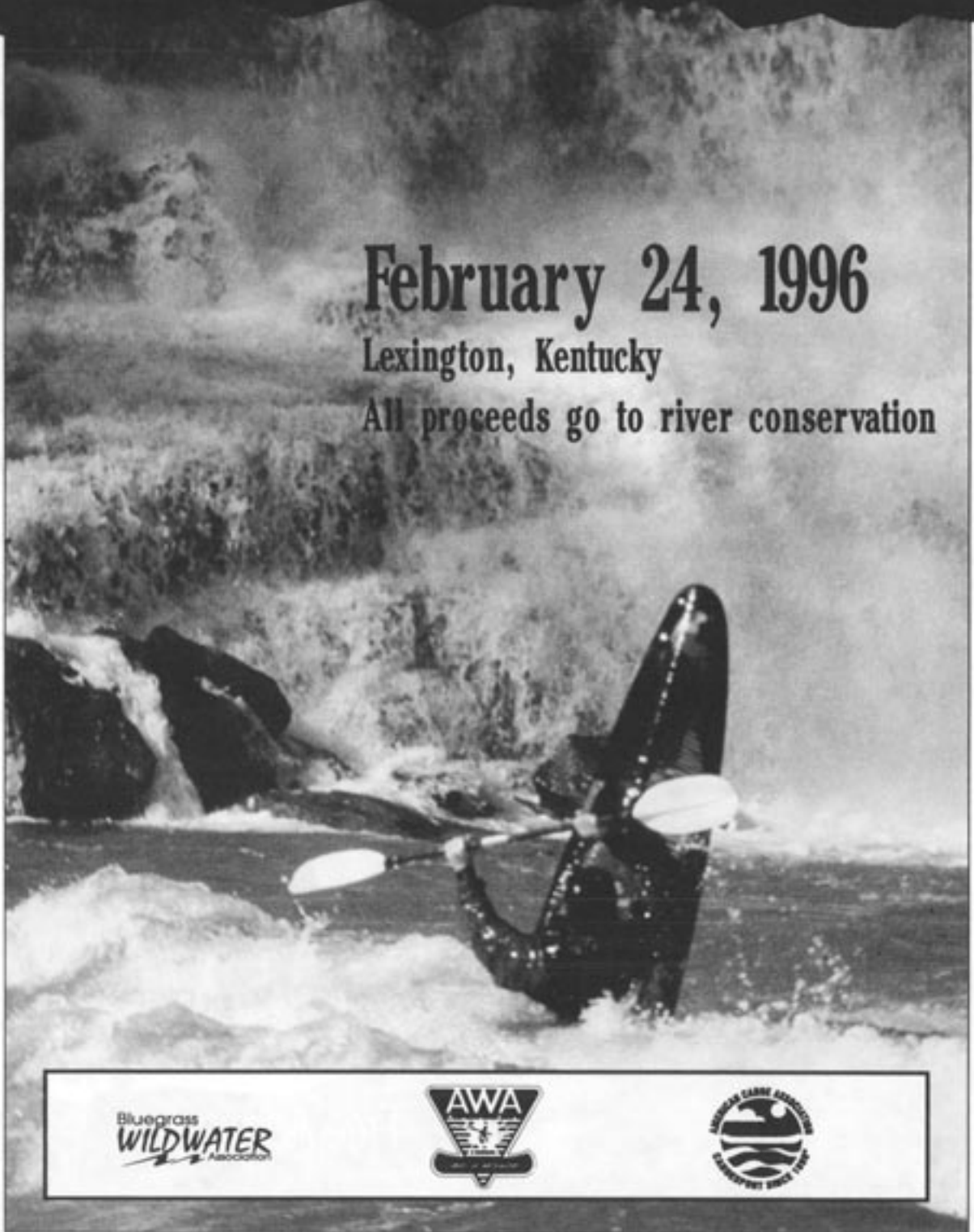
13th Annual
National Paddling Film Festival

February 24, 1996

Lexington, Kentucky

All proceeds go to river conservation

Winner of the 1995 National Paddling Film Festival Slide Competition.



Bluegrass
WILDWATER
Association



P.O. Box 4231
Lexington, Kentucky 40544

Tim Williams on the Caney Fork, by Scott Shoupe

three men, so they let go. Two men swam right to safety, but Wilkes was carried left of Diamond Splitter Rock where he became entangled in a 60-foot length of 3/8-inch rope.

Bates was teaching a river rescue course just upstream and arrived at the site six minutes later. He tried a number of different extrication techniques before the body floated free—roughly 35 minutes after it went under. CPR was tried without success. Bates says the rope was almost impossible to see with the water on or off. He feels that it was a discarded throw bag, but may have been a component of a Zdrag system, as boats are often pinned nearby.

Also on June 25th Gordon Graham, a kayaker, drowned on East Rosebud Creek near Rock Springs, Wyoming. His boat overturned and was swept into a log jam. The body was recovered by his paddling partner with assistance from state game wardens.

On July 3 rafter Walter Goodman was killed on the popular **Guadalupe** River near **San Antonio**, Texas. Goodman, paddling with another man in a two-man raft, was dangling one foot over the side when it became wedged in a passing rock. He was dragged out of the boat and pinned underwater. His companion attempted a rescue, but was unsuccessful. This information was posted to the Internet by David Fallside.

Another Internet posting reported a double drowning on Washington's **Nooksack** River on the same day. The group was a well-equipped party from the Navy base in Bremerton, Washington. They apparently encountered a nasty log which had flipped or wrapped four boats on a commercial trip the previous week. The first boat in their party portaged, but the other two elected to run. They wrapped, trapping the victims. A local guide said that, in his opinion, the log was totally unavoidable.

Walter **Felton** of the Arkansas Canoe Club called to report a bizarre and tragic double fatality on the Cossatot July 8. The river was running under 100 cfs, much less than a whitewater boater would need. Two men and their sons began a trip down the "falls" in a small vinyl raft. They flipped against a large rock known as the BMF. The two boys, 12 and 14, were wearing **PFD's** and swam to shore. James Brawley, 38, swam after a cooler and washed into "The Washing Machine." This narrow drop channels the entire flow of the river at this level; Brawley caught his foot in a crevice and went under. His companion, Robert Ash, attempted to rescue him but could not. Ash then returned to shore where he dropped dead of a heart attack! Brawley was later freed by rescuers summoned by the boys.

Most of the rafting accidents in this re-

port result from violations of basic safety rules. I have seen accident summaries from Colorado and California which include a number of river fatalities involving small **inflatables** that were not reported to AWA. This indicates a recurring problem. Those of us who work at river safety need to find ways to reach people who raft casually. It's also clear that running rivers at high levels carries with it a serious added risk, particularly from downed trees and debris. Solo paddling greatly increases the danger. Paddlers can never forget this!


The commercial fatalities are not unexpected. For years the physical ability, experience, and fitness of rafting guests has been declining. Better equipment and improved guiding skills make it possible to run more difficult rivers, but the guests who end up in the water may be overwhelmed and helpless. This danger must somehow be communicated to trip participants, so they can make an intelligent choice, particularly in high water years when river levels raise the difficulty substantially. Some sort of fitness screening, including the ability to function effectively in cold water, may well

be advisable on Class V runs.

The AWA continues to need your help to compile this report. **Please** send accounts of river fatalities and near-misses to Charlie Walbridge, 230 Penllyn Pike, Penllyn, PA 19422. You can phone 215-646-5034 or **EMail** me at **Compuserve** 73514,1714. This material is the basis for much of the **AWA's** safety program and will determine what actions we take to educate our members and the public at



1334 COVERDALE DRIVE
HIXSON, TENNESSEE 37343



NORSE PADDLE COMPANY
WHITEWATER
CANOE & KAYAK PADDLES
with proven

- performance you demand
- durability you want
- value that makes \$ sense

Call or write for information & outfitters in your area:
RD 1, Spring Mills, PA 16875 814-422-8844

PD Designs™



Custom fit your boat for comfort and performance.

Call or write for free brochure featuring our Kayak Backbands and other accessories

1655 Escalante St.
Grand Junction, CO 81503-1817
Dealer inquiries welcome 970 / 241-0312



OUTSKIRTS

SPRAY SKIRTS

5 mil neoprene, nylon backed both sides

Heavy duty shock cord sewn through skirt
Bomb proof grab loop, sewn around shock cord

All seams glued, stitched. and sealed

Easy on - Easy off

Proven on the big waters of South America, Canada and on the South's steepest Creeks

One size fits 98% of all plastic whitewater boats (Dagger, New Wave, Perception, Piranha, Prijon)

New Heavy Duty model, double reinforced at rim area

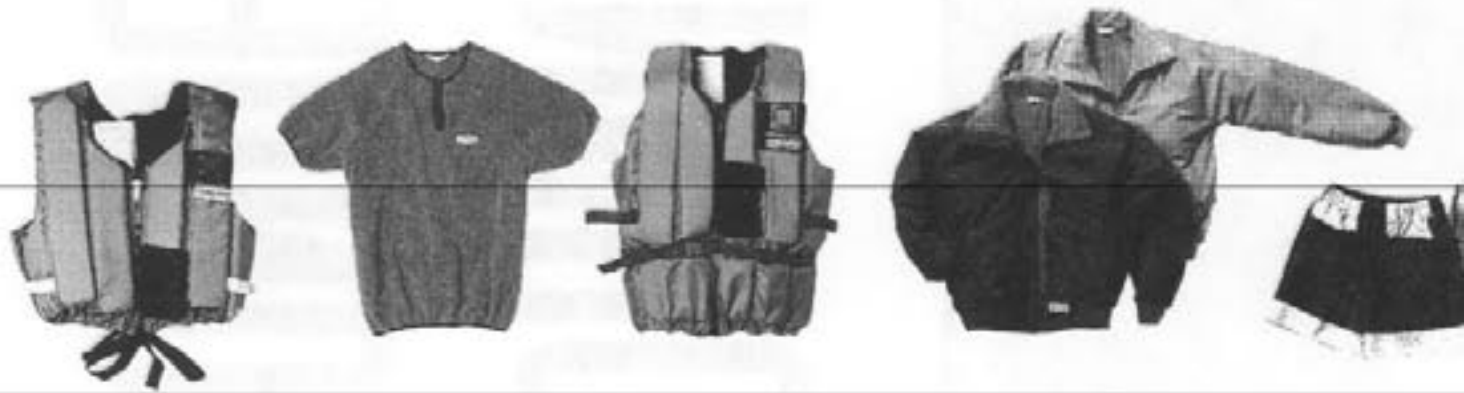
CUSTOM SYNTHETIC PADDLES

- Built for Performance
- Graphite Blades Are the Strongest, Ounce for Ounce
- Optional Graphite Shaft
- Lightweight to Expedition Weight Construction Available

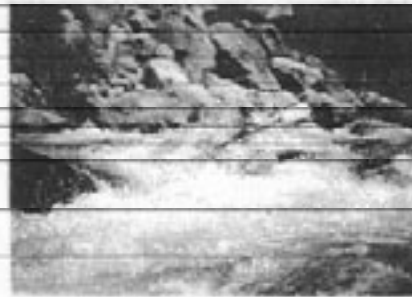
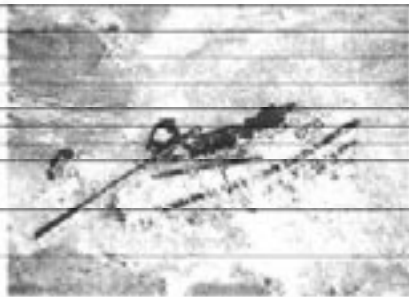
■ Choose Slalom or Slasher



WATERWEAR



ANYWHERE

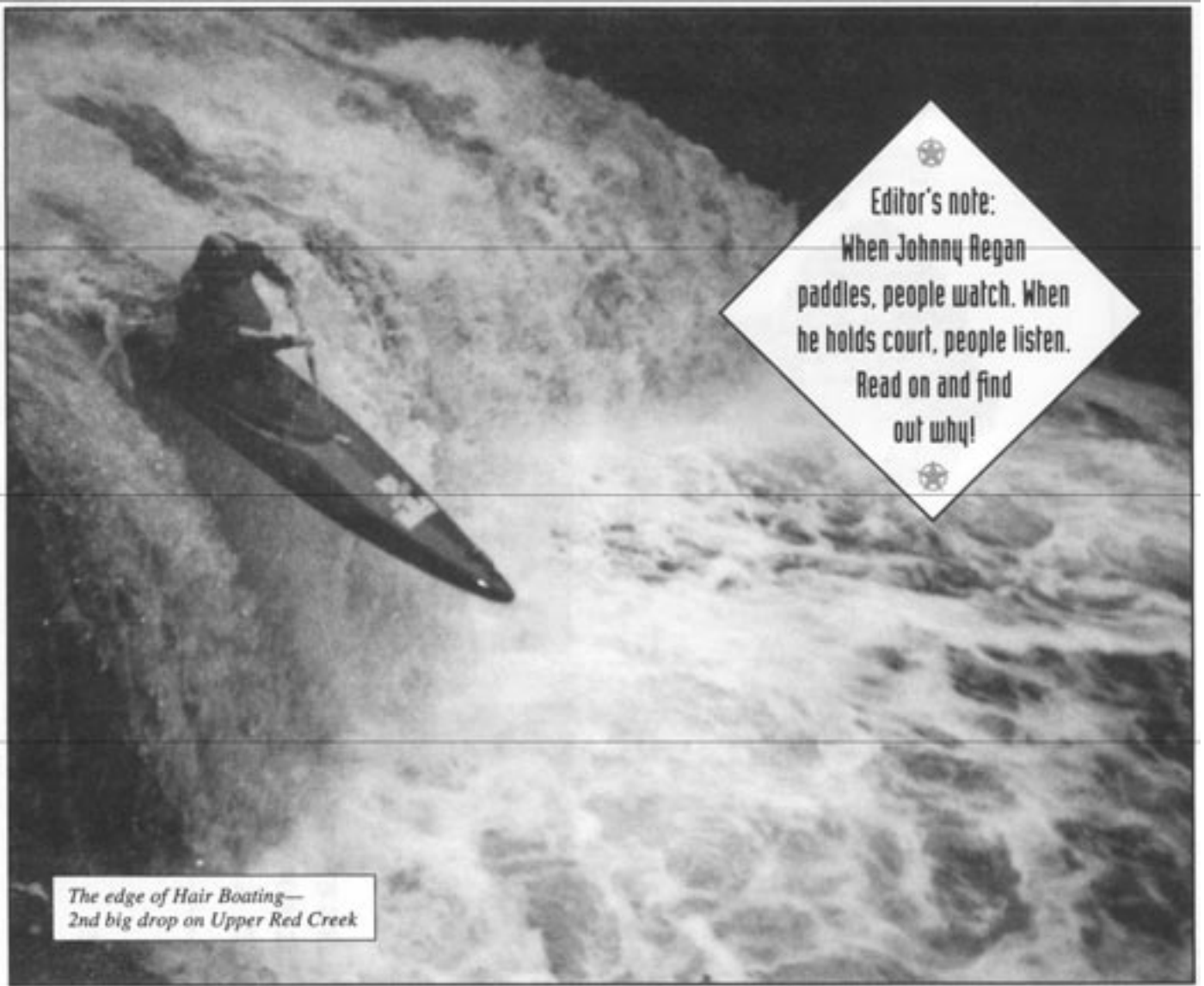


**EXPEDITION PROVEN. PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN DESIGN.
EXPERIENCE OUR FULL RANGE OF TYPE 3 PFD'S,
PACKADERMAL® UNDERWEAR, AND ALL-TERRAIN**

Call or write for our free 24-page catalog of PFD's and all-terrain clothing and sportswear. Extrasport, Inc., 5305 N.W. 35 Court, Miami, Florida 33142 (305) 633-2945

Polartec™ is a trademark of Malden Mills Ind., Inc.

Not



Editor's note:
When Johnny Regan
paddles, people watch. When
he holds court, people listen.
Read on and find
out why!

*The edge of Hair Boating—
2nd big drop on Upper Red Creek*

It's o bird! It's o plane!!
No... It's

JOHNNY 

by John Weld
Contributing Writer

WONDER!!!

What makes Johnny **Regan** so engaging?

Most everyone who knows him will immediately point to his overwhelming enthusiasm, especially manifested when he is on and around his favorite element — whitewater.

"When he is on the river," said a friend recently on the Upper **Yough** as John barreled by, "**Regan** looks like he's been plugged into an 220 volt socket."

This first impression becomes a lasting one. **Regan** paddles with an inspired, aggressive style, like a slalom racer making a sprint for the finish line. And hapless boaters trying to follow him are constantly egged on by his boundless encouragement. This energy radiates from John and spreads throughout the paddling world. He is not only one of the most recognizable paddlers on American rivers, but he is also one of the best. And **Regan** just keeps getting better!

Johnny Wonder, as he is sometimes called, is a very engaging character. He is always on the go; there seems to be no end to his energy. **Regan** is undeniably a tease and a rascal, but he practically never says anything that is truly negative. Most everyone finds him a likable rascal... a charming rogue who likes to stir things up in the spirit of fun.

Physically, he might best be described as robust. Decades of running whitewater, not to mention skiing and mountain biking, have rendered him solid, muscular and tanned. At 35, a touch of white is starting to sneak into his dark beard, but his piercing light gray eyes, easy grin and hyper-kinetic style give an overall impression of youthful exuberance.

One sign of John **Regan's** influence on paddling culture is that throughout the Appalachians, **Regan** impersonators abound. These imitators entertain at the take-outs of all the east coast's toughest runs, from the Bottom Moose to Bear Creek, mimicking John's booming raft-guide voice, seasoned with his light Appalachian drawl, and his panoply of surfer inspired facial expressions.

The only thing better than a good **Regan** impersonator is the man himself, drinking a beer and holding court, while engaged in an animated discussion of some paddling topic. John can quietly attract a following with his charisma alone, but it is often his raucous, unmistakable laugh that draws a crowd.

At the same time **Regan's** overflowing enthusiasm lures boaters toward him, he is known for his selectiveness in choosing pad-

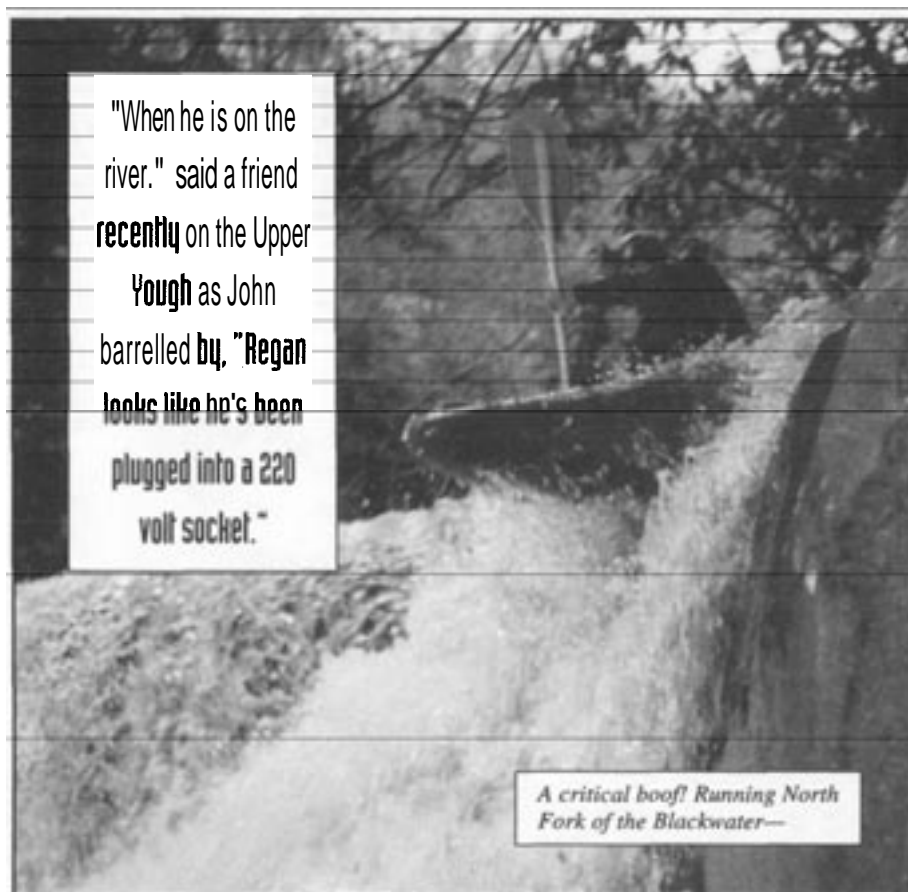
dling partners, especially on radical or difficult runs. The result of this dichotomy is that eastern boaters mention paddling in the company of **Regan** with special pride. To be able to start a whitewater story by saying, "**The** other day I was paddling Red Creek with **Regan...**" makes the account all the more valuable. Invariably such a story will lead to something John did that is "typical **Regan,**" usually recounted with the obligatory impression.

But there is more to John than the caricature that his impersonators present. He has a perfect mixture of bravado and conservatism that has allowed him to challenge the nation's most difficult whitewater for two decades. And, in spite of his lack of formal training with coaches, his technique is almost impec-

cable. Often he paddles with members of the **U.S. Team** and his style is a reflection of that influence.

"John has the kind of natural feel for the water and the smooth efficient style that many slalom racers, who have trained and competed for years, will never have," one team member observed recently.

In mid July I had an opportunity to talk to John at his home, perched atop one of the ridges that towers over the paddling mecca of Friendsville, Maryland. As on most summer days of the past ten years, John had just finished a run down the Upper Yough. Back at his porch we talked and drank beer. Over the course of the balmy evening a half dozen other prominent boaters drifted by, This ➡



"When he is on the river." said a friend recently on the Upper Yough as John barreled by, "Regan looks like he's been plugged into a 220 volt socket."

A critical boof! Running North Fork of the Blackwater—

came as no surprise, John is a veritable magnet for whitewater talent.

The interview focused on the **fact** that John's whitewater career has practically spanned the evolution of modern whitewater boating, from his start in homemade, fiberglass, end-hole **C-2s**, to his current job as a rep for Prijon **kayaks**.

John has been involved with the sport long enough to provide a first hand account of the humble beginnings of some of the nation's most prominent paddlers. He also witnessed the first descents of rivers that have since become some of the most popular in the country.

OK, Lets start from the beginning. How old are you now and where and when did you start boating?

I'm 35, and I started boating when I was 13 in **Bel Aire**, Maryland. I started in an Explorer Post with the likes of Danny Isbister, John Connely, Dave and Dan Demoree. All of these guys were in the same Explorer Post and we started on the Gunpowder River.

The Gunpowder. I think that might have been my first river as well. It's a long way from the Upper Blackwater, skill-wise.

Well, you have to start somewhere. But nowadays people will start learning basics on class V water, but back then, we weren't wren rolling. Back then, you boated for a year before you started to roll. That's how we learned such good braces, we learned to boat without a roll... So the guy I learned with

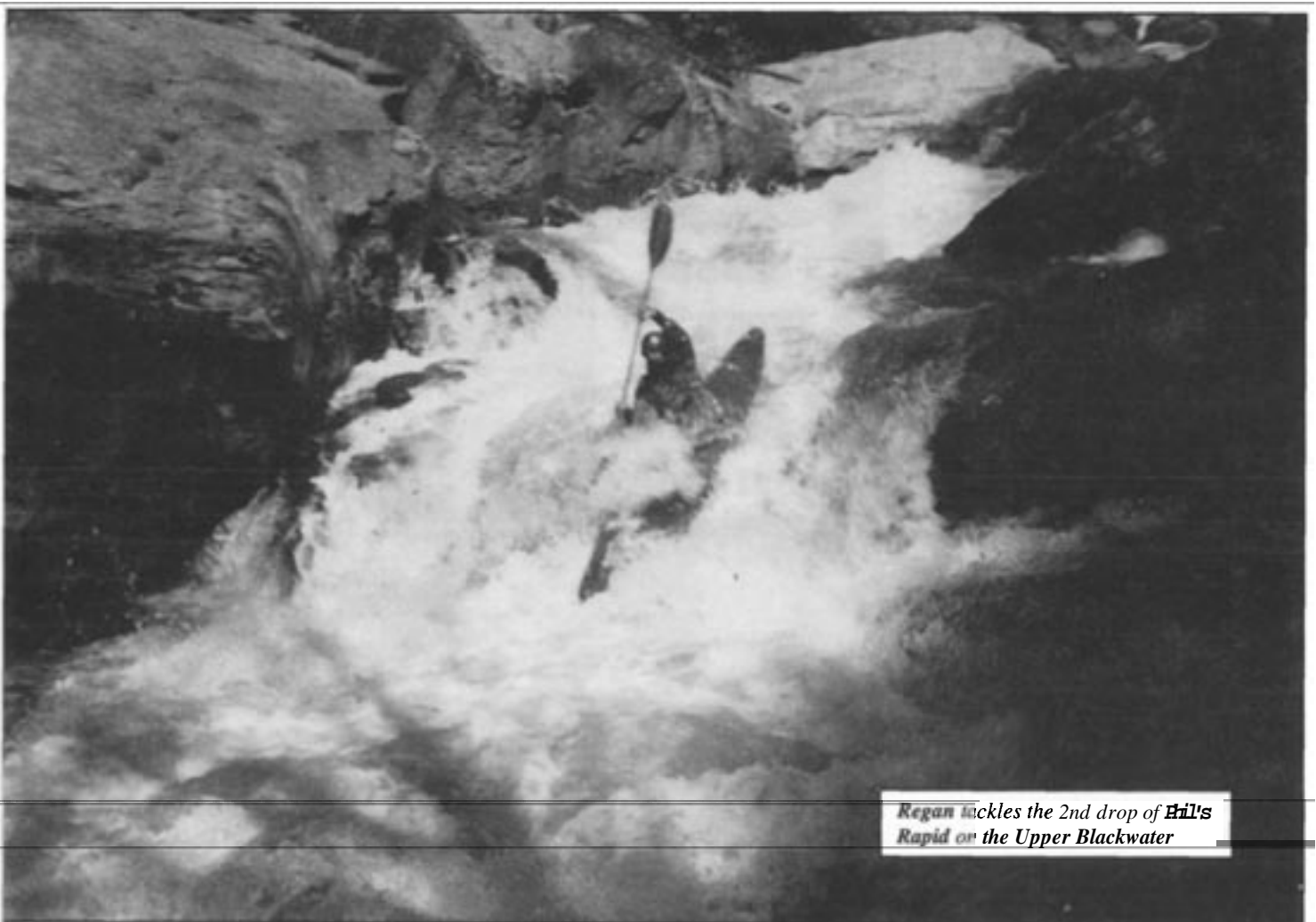
was Dr. Yockey. He was a nuclear physicist at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Dr. Yockey... was he a pretty good boater?

He wasn't any kind of fancy boater, he was just a nice guy with a big heart. You know, your typical Boy Scout troop leader. I think this was 1973 that we started boating with him.

So what kind of boars were you paddling back then?

Well, in the introduction for the new comers into the post, we learned in a **Berrigan C-2** [lots of laughter]... You know what those →



Regan tackles the 2nd drop of Hill's Rapid on the Upper Blackwater



look like, right? We made our own boats. Dr. Yocky had a **Berrigan** mold.

Back then, most people made their own boats?

Yeah, exactly. Boats weren't available. If you were into boating, it was a hard core thing. You had to make your boats, you had to make your skirts. My first kayak then was a Prijon XXXX.

Little did you know...

Yeah, little did I know. When I got really active in the post is just about when Danny Isbister and Dave and Dan Demory got out of High School, and left to guide on the Yough.

I guess Wilderness Voyagers was the big outfitter then?

W.V. is where everybody went. They were the outfitter, the place for hardboaters to go. Especially racer types. But then what really got me hooked on boating was in 1975, on an Explorer Post trip to Ohiopyle at the same time the Nationals (slalom) were going on. I watched Eric Evans go from gate 20 to gate 21 in his Mark V (an old design slalom boat) and he surfed a wave across to make the gate. I said, "Wow, that's cool." Because I saw that he used the river to get across. That's when I decided that **kayaking** was it.

So that was in 1975. What happened from there?

My dad got transferred to Chicago. I thought it was going to be the end of my boating career. You have to understand what my youth was like. My dad was a Colonel in the Air Force, so I was in a different grade school every year for the first six years. By this time, I had finally settled in with a group of people I really liked. A lot of the guys in the Explorer post were older than me, but I loved it so I thought that moving to Chicago was the end of the world. But as it turned out, moving to Chicago was one of the best things that could have happened to my boating career.

now's that?

Because I bumped into a group of hard-core boaters from Chicago. Guys by the name of Doug Miller, Hank Hayes, Fred Young and Mark Hall. Now back in those days, you had, just like today, "hairboaters" and "racers," but back then, hairboaters were C-1'ers. They weren't kayakers.

I guess they were going right from Grumman's into C-1's?

Right, **exactly**. From open boats to decked boats. They let some kayakers tag along with

Often, his paddling partners are members of the U.S. Slalom Team and his style is a reflection of that influence. "He has the kind of natural feel for the water and the smooth efficient style that many slalom boaters who have trained and competed for years will never have", says one U.S. Team member about Regan.

them, though. Some very big names now. Guys like Steve Rock, Bob Seagrist... and they were running some heavy stuff.

By heavy you mean...?

Well, In 1975, the Russell Fork was run for the first time. Dean Tomko [a C-1 boater] was the first to run **everything** that same year. So, these were the guys that I fell into in Chicago. They were such hard-core boaters that every weekend in the spring they would drive to West Virginia from Chicago.

So what happened to bring you back here?

I was a junior in high school in Chicago, and my buddy Doug Miller got a job with W.V. (**Wilderness Voyagers**) in Ohiopyle. I went to

visit him in the summer after my junior year of high school. This would be the summer of 1977. And I saw Doug down here guiding rafts, and I said, "this is me. I want to be a raft guide." But W.V. wouldn't hire me because I wasn't 18, I was 17.

Now, the Lower Yough in 1977 wasn't like what it is today.

It was a different scene. The guides were all hardboaters. You didn't have raft guides and college students coming in. Not that there is **anything** wrong with that, but... it was a different scene. There was a lot less people **involved**, and the people who were involved were all hard-core. A lot of them were racers... But anyway, I caught wind that Nantahala Outdoor Center was hot to trot looking for guides because half of their staff made the U.S. Team. I believe the Worlds were in **Spittal**, Austria in 1977. So all of a sudden, they needed guides and I called on the phone and told them I was 18. And I got the job. I pulled into the parking lot and I didn't even have my car unloaded and they gave me a paddle and said, "there's your raft." So I worked for the N.O.C. in 1977, mostly on the Chattooga.

How long did you work for them?

Two years.

Now, there is a rumor floating around that you flipped a bus full of customers over while working down there.

Oh. That was in 1979. In 1979 it was my third season working in the Southeast, and I was working for a friend of mine named Gail **Kirschner**. She left the N.O.C. to manage a friend of hers' new rafting company on the Nolichucky, and I was the hired guide. It was called the Nolichucky Whitewater Center.

So then what happened with the...

The bus? Well that's a wild story. Basically the problem was that you had a 19-year-old



JAG MANUFACTURING, INC.

P.O.Box 9571203 Jansen Avenue
Johnstown, New York 12095
Phone (518) 762-9558
Fax (518) 762-2807

Official Licensee of the **US. Canoe and Kayak Team**



wild man **driving** a 1964 school bus. It wasn't exactly my fault, **though**, but at 19-years-old you **might** not know the responsibilities that you have **driving** a bus. I was **coming** down a one-lane dirt road on a hill in low **gear** in control. Then three dune **buggies coming** up the hill, come fish **tailling** around a corner **rac-ing** each other. I swerved to miss them and I **got** my **front** wheels off the **edge** and then cut back hard to **get** my wheels back on the road and then the back wheels went off the **edge** and it just rolled. The bus rolled two and a half times.

People must have been thrown all around in there.

It was **amazing**. It's kind of **looking** in at the clothes in a dryer at the laundromat. You know how school busses have those mirrors? I remember **hanging** on the **steering** wheel and **looking** up into the mirror and **seeing** 30 customers, 6 rafts, 30 helmets 30 paddles and lunch **tumbling** around the bus like a clothes dryer.

Did anyone get hurt from this?

Well, I was the probably the most seriously injured, I cut an artery in my shoulder and they evacuated me first in the ambulance. It may not have been that because I was the worst hurt that I **left** first, but maybe I didn't have a chauffeur's license. I **guess** the people who I worked for were smart **enough** to **get** me out of there.

Was anyone else hurt?

Yeah, there was your **typical** broken noses, broken arms... but nobody sued.

Was that the end of your stint at the Nolichucky?

No, I went back to **Chicago** and laid low for a while and recovered, and then I was back on the river in two weeks.

Everyone associates you with Friendsville and the Upper Yough. How did you end up here?

After my three years **working** in the South-east, the Gauley River was **becoming** famous. I realized I wanted to check out the Gauley. I had run the Gauley before in 1977 with a bunch of N.O.C. people.

In 1979, the Gauley had not been commercially run that long.

Right. The first time the Gauley was run was in '65, and commercial **rafting** couldn't have



been more than five years old in 1977. But in the fall 1979 I went to work on the Gauley. What a year that was. 1979 was the most incredible year in whitewater history.

Why is that?

Well, for example, they had to turn the river down to 2,500 cfs from 8,000 cfs every week-end. So I lived in the **parking** lot, **running** the Gauley at 8,000 Monday **through** Friday and **rafting** it at 2,500 Saturday and Sunday. In all the years I have been **boating**, which is a lot **longer** than most people around here have been **boating**, I have never seen a season where they have to turn the river down **every weekend** to allow **rafting**. It was a **big** time year.

Did you get a chance to run the Lower Meadow that season?

I ran the Lower Meadow for my first time in the fall of '79. Jimmy Snyder took me down. I ran the Upper **Yough**, the Lower Meadow and the **Big Sandy** for my first time in '79 with Jimmy Snyder. It was kind of a "Hey, welcome to West **Virginia**, John." And I loved it. I realized that my next move was to West **Virginia**.

So, finish your progression towards Friendsville.

First, what you have to understand is that **being** a raft **guide** is a lot like **being** a **migrant** worker. You're not **picking** apples and **oranges**, but **working** the Chattoog in the early **Spring**, and you **go** to the Cheat, and then in the summer you can **go** to Maine or Colorado, and then in the fall you can go to the Gauley and then the Russell Fork. OK, so at that point I was **figuring** out the circuit. And then I worked the **Chattooga** early **spring**, and then I

worked the Cheat in the **spring** of 1780. That's how I met the folks at Laurel Highlands (a raft outfitter based on the Lower **Yough**) at the Cheat in 1780.

You worked for Laurel Highlands?

I worked for Laurel Highlands for... probably 11 years.

So then you worked on the Cheat that spring, did you work on the Lower Yough for Laurel Highlands that summer?

I didn't work the Lower Yough. I tried the Lower **Yough** once, and I didn't have what it took to work in Ohio. ➔

Why?

Well, I don't know... unguided rafting... it's to much of a circus in Ohio. My bosses and I agree that Ohio is not for me. So after the Cheat season I went to work in Maine for two seasons. I had a great time in Maine, but I only worked there for a month and a half and would come back and hang out at the Upper Yough. I realized that this was the place to be, Friendsville, Maryland.

So this was in 1981. Were people commercially rafting the river then?

The first commercial rafting trip on the Upper Yough was run by Appalachian Whitewater in the fall of 1980. The first outfitters to get started were Precision Rafting and Upper Yough Expeditions. Now there were some what we call pirate trips in the late '70s on the Upper Yough, but it wasn't until 1981 that business started to operate there with a

permit and a license. So then in summer of 1981 I decided that this is where I wanted to be and I moved to Friendsville.

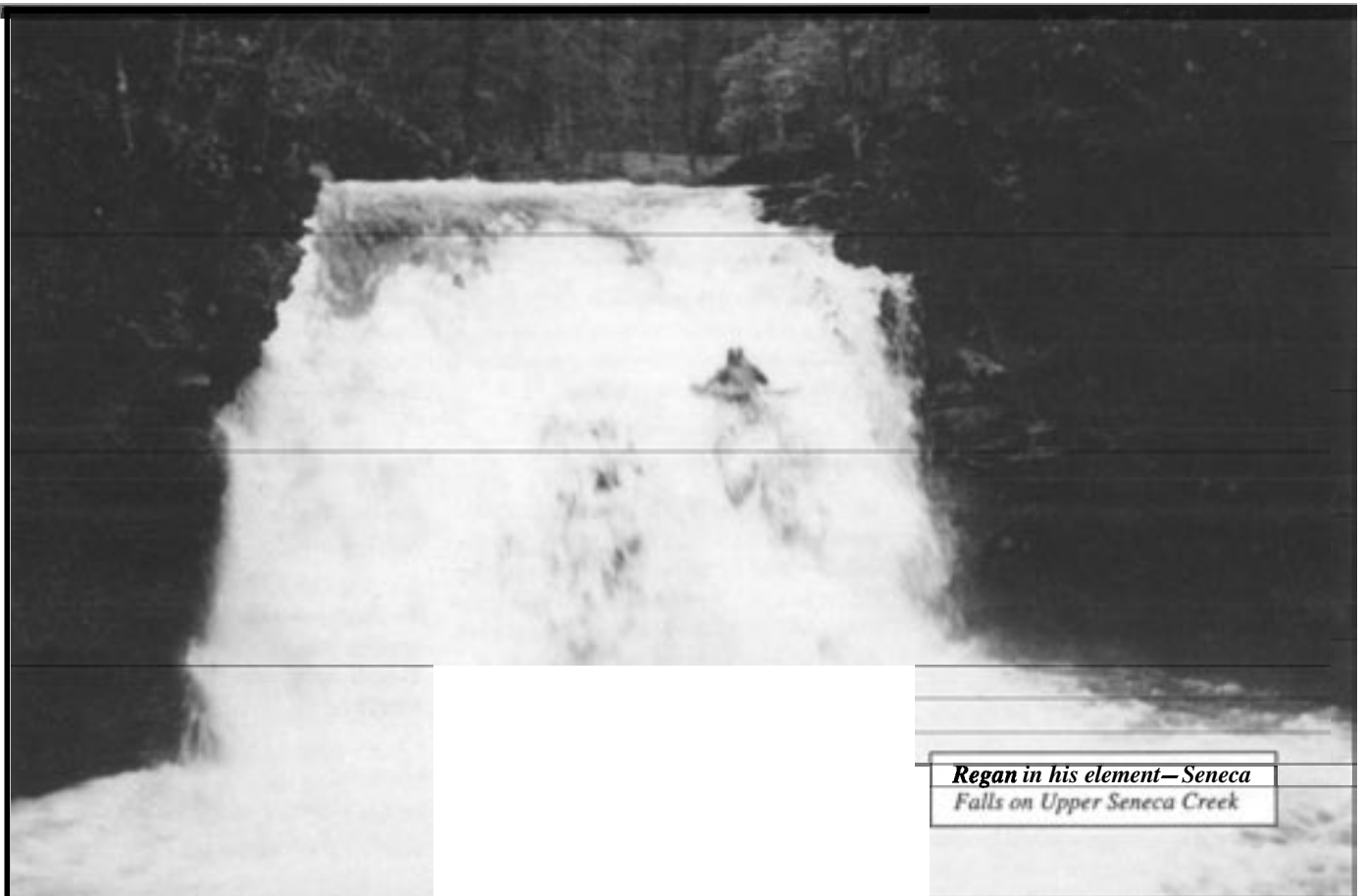
This is a time when the characters that would make that area famous started to assemble in Friendsville.

Exactly. Phil Coleman, Roger Zebel, Jesse Whittemore. We originally started in Albright, West Virginia (the town at the put-in of the Cheat Canyon), and that's where we all lived until we came to Friendsville. Back in those days, it seemed like the Upper Yough ran every day. I don't know, maybe there is less water nowadays. But it would run every day and trips were far and few between. It was hardly enough to run a business, much less a career.

At this point, you were 21. Had you decided that you were going to make a living off of boating?

I lived in my van for five years, and I guess that's the migrant worker thing. So many people do it, I mean I would work the river scene, and then I'd go wash dishes at a ski resort and ski all winter. I did that for five years until I met my wife here in Friendsville and moved into a home. So then after working for Upper Yough Expeditions for two, maybe three years until 1984 — which was sporadic work — Mike McCardey (from Laurel Highlands) offered me a job to start up their Upper Yough business. And I worked for them until 1992, when I just decided that after 17 years of guiding rafts, it was enough.

What was going on in Friendsville during the time that you were guiding rafts? I know that when I was a kid in the mid '80s, I thought Friendsville was the Mecca of whitewater boating. It seems to me now that Friendsville isn't quite what it used to be. †



Regan in his element—Seneca Falls on Upper Seneca Creek

Bow Buoyancy.

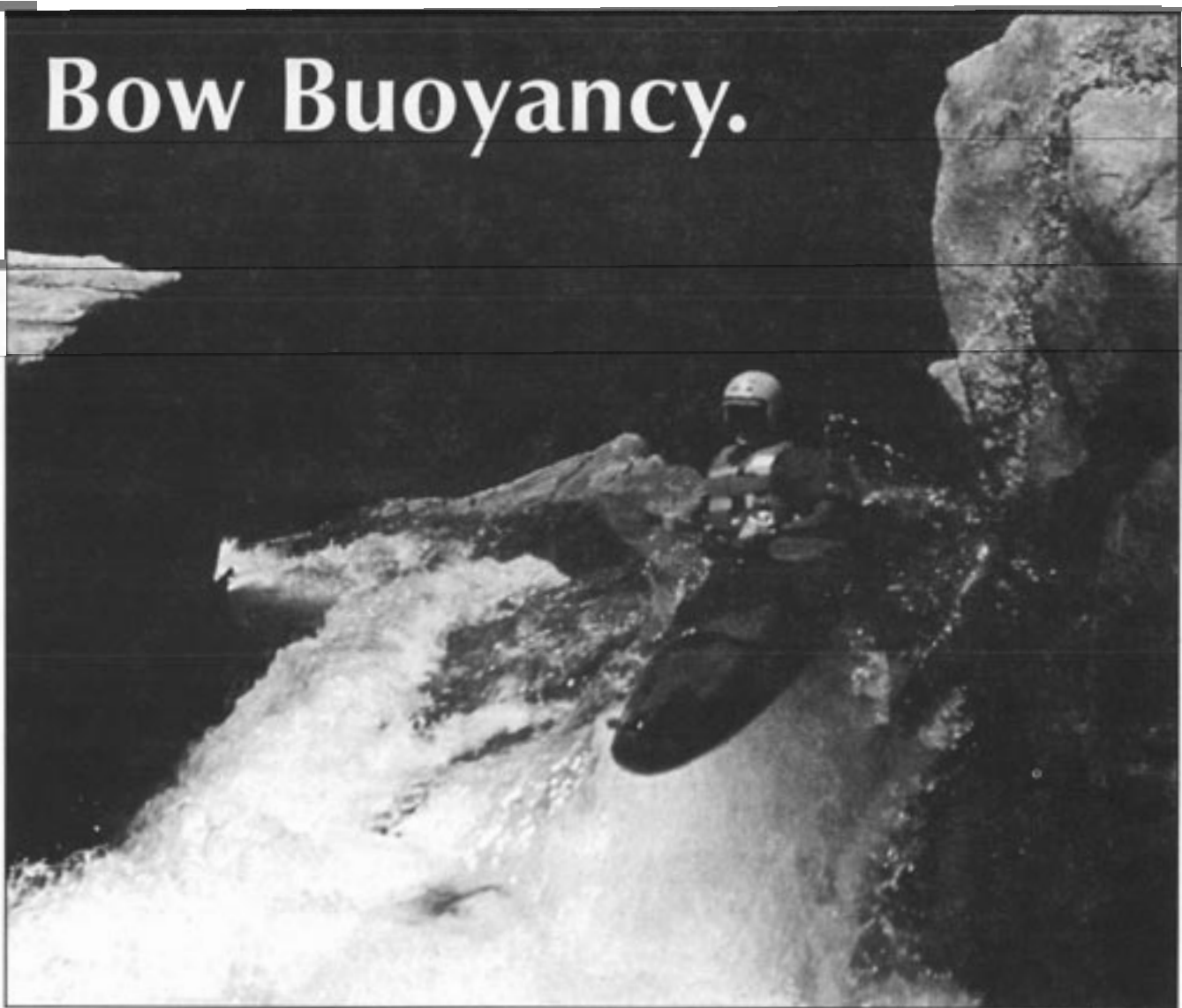
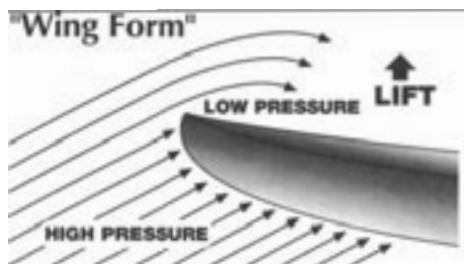


Photo by Grant Amara

How equipped is your kayak?

Bow buoyancy. It keeps you from diving deeply at the bottom of steep drops. Enables your boat to resurface more quickly. Gives you time to adjust for the next crucial move. Helps you ride over the top of that big hole.

Bow buoyancy is a function of both volume and shape. Dagger designers pay a lot of attention to issues like bow buoyancy. A cruising boat needs a lot. A rodeo boat needs less. Extensive computer modeling and on-the-water testing help us determine the optimum amount of bow buoyancy for each of our models. Want to know more? Our catalog is free, our new video is \$5.



DaggerTM

P.O. Box 1500
Harriman, TN 37748
615-882-0404

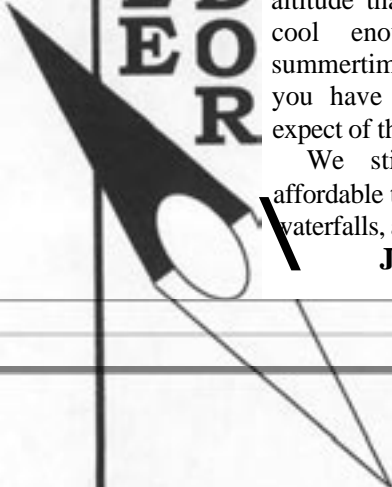
**P
A
D
D
L
E
R**

Until last year, only a handful of boaters had ever experienced Ecuador's magnificent white-water, but some things are just too good to be kept secret, and that's the case with the rivers of Ecuador. If you can envision world-class, warm weather, winter boating in a remote tropical forest environment, at an altitude that is high enough and cool enough to feel like summertime in Colorado, then you have an idea of what to expect of the boating in Ecuador.

We still have the most affordable trips to Chile's creeks, waterfalls, and rivers!

JOIN US!!!

**ad
C
H
I
L
E**



**SMALL
WORLD
ADVENTURES**

P.O. Box 262, Howard, CO 81233
1-800-58KAYAK 1-800-585-2925

JOHNNY WONDER

Friendsville is definitely not what it used to be. Boating was a young sport in the '80s, um, I can't give you exact numbers, but I wouldn't be surprised if the number of boaters in the mid- '90s is triple what the number of boaters was in the mid- '80s. So in the mid- '80s the people living in Friendsville were your hard-core boater types that could live on almost nothing, they didn't need much of a job to live, and they could run class V whitewater. In the mid- '80s there were only a few people that could run class V whitewater. You know, nowadays, skills have gotten better, equipment has gotten better.. . you didn't have all of the plastic boats to choose from that you do now. So that kind of kept people away from Friendsville. Back then, the Upper Yough was the top notch river, and in the '90s it's just your everyday class IV be-bop.

So let's look at the Upper Yough right now. Because now it's so crowded I won't go near it on the weekend. Do you think that it's getting out of control, or do you think the number of people out there is a positive thing for the sport?

Of course it's a bad thing. Over population of any kind is a bad thing. But really, it's beyond control. Until kayakers stop making babies it's not going to change.

I kind of see the Upper Blackwater as being the Upper Yough of the year 2,000.

No doubt. The only thing that keeps that from happening is that there is no valve on the Upper Blackwater like on the Upper Yough.

I just wonder if that when people reach that point, are we going to start to have multiple paddling deaths every season on one river?

I really don't think so. Look at the Green River down in North Carolina. I look at the Green River as being the Upper Yough of hair. There is a dam on the thing and people can work their schedule around releases on the Green. People have run the Gorilla upside down, backward, without a boat and nobody

*Back Country
Ski and Sports
Blacksburg, VA*



- We have it all; equipment for paddlers from beginner to expert!
 - Experienced Paddling Staff!
 - Full Instruction Program!
 - Fantastic Selection!
 - Great Prices!
- Give us a call...

Where Adventure Begins.
**RACK COUNTRY
SKI AND SPORTS**
3710 South Main Street
Blacksburg, Va 24060
(703) 552-6400 10-8 M-F, 10-5 k t

At Back Country
Whispering
Knee Jar
Kable Carols
Shree Chaps
Snowbirds
Ski even
Snowbird



has gotten seriously hurt or killed yet there. That Gorilla is the hardest, most intimidating piece of whitewater that I've ever run in my life and people have blundered it every possible way. I can only believe that whitewater is really a safe sport. You're either going to bite it big, or you're going to make it. . . Now drowning is a big thing, I mean it is death, but then I hear that drowning is one of the most pleasant ways to go.

To change the subject a little, one thing that you never do is race. Why is that?

Good question. I guess that I don't have a head for racing.

It's funny, many people agree that you have a slalom paddlers' technique without ever racing.

Look where I learned to paddle: N.O.C. I have always likened myself to paddling like a slalom racer. . . I like paddling fast, I like paddling aggressively, I like paddling with skill. Slalom paddlers go down a course as fast as they can and it *takes* a lot of skill.

Who would be the top three influences on your paddling?

I would have to say Carrie Ashton, Les Bechtel, and ummm. . . tough question, there are so many people, but I would have to say Brian Homberg.

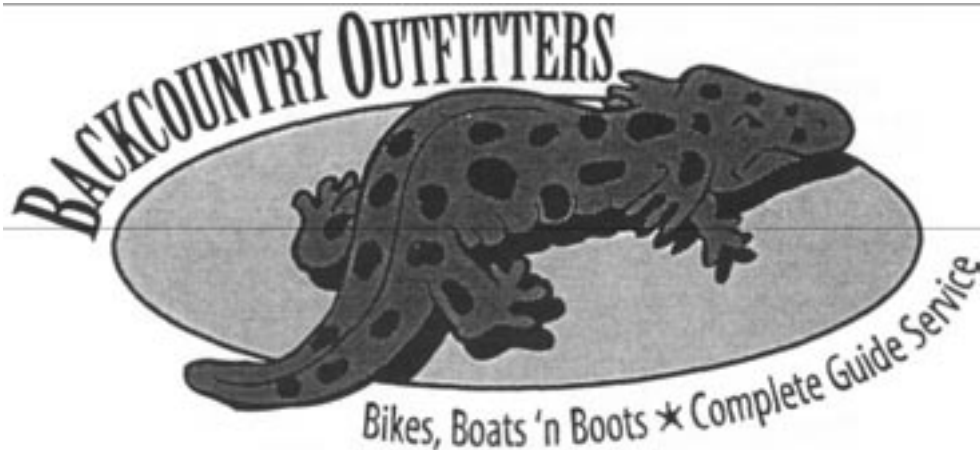
But anyway, you never race.

Well, I have raced the Upper Yough Race a couple of times, but I really don't have a head for competition. There are people who can

handle competition, and they say if you can handle it it's a healthy thing. But I have been to a lot of competitions where egos clash and rudeness, and people are different. Really, I think the reason that I can't handle it is because I'm the worst at it. When I go out to compete I want to win. If I don't win, I'm not having fun, and if I'm not having fun, I'm rude.

You mentioned earlier the three people you enjoy paddling with, I don't know if you know this, but William Nealy somewhere said that you were *one* of his favorite people to paddle with,

I love paddling with William Nealy. I met William on the Nolichucky in 1979, and I



**Savage • New Wave • Patagonia
Lotus Designs • Prijon • Rapid Style
Silver Creek • Mtn. Surf**

Entrance to Pisgah National Forest

Hwy 276 & 64 704-883-WILD

Voted #1 outdoor
retail store in
America by
B.O. staff

Largest selection of
used boats in
Transylvania
County

paddled with him and his buddy Richard Plant... William is a great guy. He is really off the wall. He's a funny guy... He's so harmless.

Changing the subject again, what was the worst thrashing you ever had?

The worst thrashing I ever had was in the ocean. On shore break on the coast in Maine. I was in a Prijon '82... great boat in the ocean.

Good until you get into shore break, I guess?

That's where I learned about shore break. Don't mess with shore break. I don't know much about the ocean, but waves change as the tides change. I was out surfing, and as high tide came in, the waves started to break closer and closer to the beach. I was having fun and I didn't really realize that the waves were evolving into shore break. I started riding them in, and I, uh, found shore. I found shore the hard way. Stupid me, too. I wiped out and blew a hole in my skirt. I go back to my van to get a spare spray skirt. And I put it on my boat and I go back out to try again. It did the same thing to me again, it put a hole in my second spray skirt and I washed up shore and I'm laying on my boat, boat full of water with my skirt still on but all blown out and an old lady walked up to me and said "had enough yet, son?" She saw the whole thing.



John Regan and wife Diane at the '89 Worlds on the Sauge River

So how about the worst swim on the river?

I swam Sock 'em Dog at about six feet once, and I swam the three ledges below Gorilla once. Ouch, that hurt. I've run Gorilla six times, and I'll be honest with you Gorilla scares the shit out of me. It's a very difficult rapid, I don't care what anyone says. I have run that rapid correctly six times... I was where I wanted to be all six times. But whatever happens to you at the bottom is a roll of the dice. This one particular time I hit the bottom and my skirt popped, and I sank to the bottom of the river... I swam the next

three drops face first. I've learned what my problem was at Gorilla. The best runs I've had at Gorilla is when I was listening to my Southern friends like Woody Calloway who say that you just have to float off the drop. And I've never floated off of a drop in my life... You don't boof Gorilla, you just let it happen.

You worked for Laurel Highlands for 11 years and then somehow ended up with Prijon here on the east coast, which is what you are doing now. How did that come to pass?

Well, I got married in June of '86. I was raft guide river bum living in my van and I met my wife here in Friendsville at the Riverside Bar and I started to get a dose of real life. I realized that living with a family — Diane (John's wife) had a nine year old son at the time — you had to work I had always lived on the road and I liked it so I went tractor trailer driving school here at Kaiser's Ridge, got a license and started to drive a truck. This was October of '86 and I'm still more or less doing it today, but now with Prijon. ➔



John Regan and home/van— Cheat River, Spring 1982



The best runs I've had at Gorilla is when I was listening to my Southern friends like Woody Calloway who say that you just have to float off the drop. And I've never floated off of a drop in my life... You don't boof Gorilla, you just let it happen.

What do you think of that life?

I love it. I love rolling down the road, and being a mechanic and just operating a big rig. I really get a charge out of driving a fully loaded truck. But boating is still my main focus... I (ended up with) a really cool job where I didn't have a dispatcher telling me what to do. I was in control of my destinations and my own work schedule by finding my own loads.

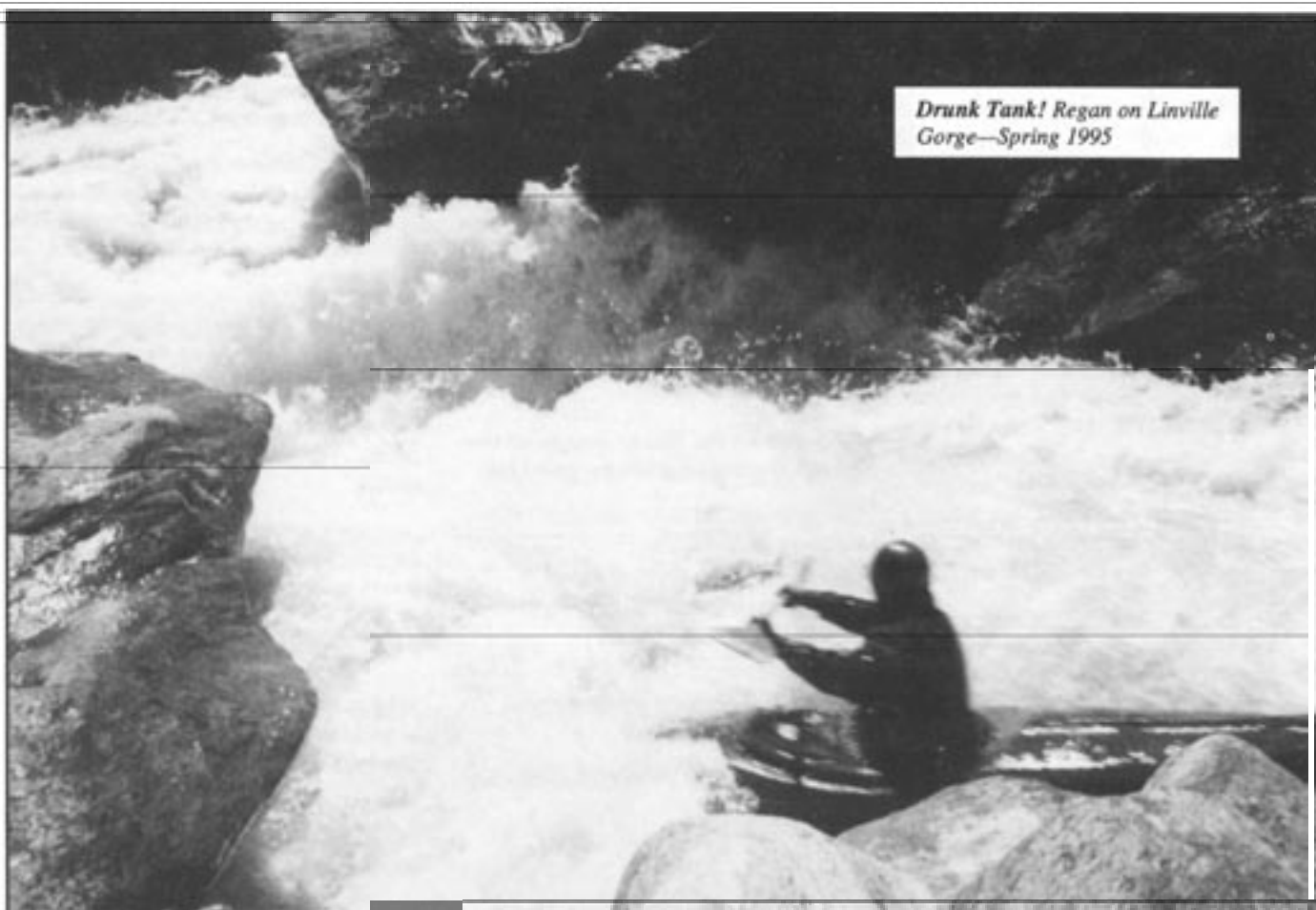
Were you driving all over the country?

I was in 48 states and Canada. I could get my own loads and go where I wanted to go. So I took my mountain bike, my skis, and my kayak all in my truck. I had my kayak hanging in chains underneath the trailer. It was filthy when I took it out. People would give shit when I showed up at the Ocoee and I would unchain the boat and I would drag it over to the river. It would be all covered with grease and salt. People would say, "you're not

going to put that into the water are you?" And by that time I would already be in, with a patch of oil all around my boat.

So what happened with you and Prijon? I know that you have paddled Prijon boats for years.

Well, I've always paddled Prijon. It's a high performance boat that matches my aggressive paddling style. Prijons have always been aggressive boats since day one... I met Landis



Drunk Tank! Regan on Linville Gorge—Spring 1995



(Arnold, the Prijon importer in the U.S.) on the **Gauley** and I had always paddled a Prijon boat and I approached him one day and I realized that I needed a plastic T-Canyon. I had paddled a fiberglass boat forever, and I had always looked down on plastic boaters as, well, plastic boaters. Well, let me tell you I was running the Upper Blackwater one day in a Prijon '82 (a fiberglass slalom design) with Marty **McCormick**. And Marty helped save my life that day. I got vertically pinned at Flatliner falls. And it was your classic vertical pin. I had water rushing over my head, I had an air bubble, and I was getting violently thrashed around. I had time to think that "hey, I might drown." But at the same time I was thinking that I don't want to break my knees backwards because I wasn't in a keyhole cockpit... So I knew that I had to get my knees out of the cockpit, and I'm on my tippy toes on my foot braces, and I'm stiff-arming the cockpit rim and I extended my self so much out of the boat that the water grabbed my life jacket and it righted me. At the same time Marty jumped on the boat and pulled me to shore. I realized that at the end of the trip that I need not (necessarily) a plastic boat, but a bigger boat. So I bought an Assault (a mid-'80s, high volume cruising boat) and used that for the rest of the summer. But let me finish the rest of the story about the Blackwater. We got back in our boats, and we are stressing out. I don't think Marty had been down before, and I'm leading and get to the next horizon line and I can't do it. And I pin myself on the shore. I was gun shy. I couldn't do the ledge. I'm sitting there pinned, and Marty pulled his boat to shore, pulls me out of the pin. I mean I just couldn't do the drop. He grabs me, he slaps me and he says, "If you can't do this, we're out of here right now." And I said "I can do it man, I can do it." So I shook it off and finished the run.

Then you paddled the Assault...

I paddled the Assault around for a summer, and I realized that fiberglass wasn't going to do it, so I bought the strongest plastic boat you could buy, a T-Canyon. So I went to **Landis** and I bought a boat and all

of a sudden everyone started boating a T-Canyon around Friendsville. You know **Landis** probably sold more T-Canyons that next year to Friendsville than anywhere else. So **Landis** offered me a commissioned sales rep job in '93. Well, I had been driving a truck, and loving that job and I also had a **salary** coming in. Being a commissioned rep to me seemed like a gamble... when I work I want to make money. I didn't want to take the gamble.

So, what changed your mind?

He asked what it would take to be a rep, and

...I would unchain the boat and I would drag it over to the river. It would be all covered with grease and salt. People would say, "you're not going to put that into the water are you?" and by that time I would already be in with a patch of oil all around my boat.

I said, "Salary position. You pay me what I make driving a tractor trailer, and I'll do it." It was in instant yes. That was in July of '94.

I see you on the Upper **Yough** an awful lot. It must be a **pretty good job**.

It's a great job. But it is a job. I don't want anyone to be fooled. I'm on the river a good bit, but I'm also on the road a good bit. I'm on the road an average of 15 to 20 days a month.

How many hours a week do you work on the average?

That's a tough question. If you consider **kayaking** work...

But I don't consider **kayaking** work.

But I do (laughter). I'm probably on the river two or three days a week

How do you correlate that to work?

Well you paddle the new Diablo and back surf the third wave at O. Deck (on the Potomac) and sell a Diablo.

How long to you think that your arrangement with **Landis** is going to last? Until you retire?

Well, I am definitely not thinking about retirement at my age, although Diane is and I've been told I should. Basically I'm happy to have a full time job and love what I do.

Do you think that you are getting better every year?

Yeah. Absolutely.

Is right now the best that you have ever been?

Yeah, I think so. I mean you always learn. Its nothing that I'm really doing in particular, either. Skills get better and equipment gets better.

When you first started boating **people** were taking a **year** to learn to roll. now they're learning in a morning.

Hell, yeah. There's people learning how to pry their squirt boat before they learn a Duffek.

So you have been boating for **22** years now?

It's done me well. But it's been a lot of luck

Why is that? Why do you like **kayaking**? I mean you could have been a skier.

I like kayaking because it's so dynamic. It's so user friendly, and low impact. I love skiing too, but skiing is full contact. Also, skiing is

D
A
R
E

T
O

B
E

D
I
F
F
E
R
E
N
T

**NEW!
WAVE
KAYAK PRODUCTS**


- *Boats for beginners to experts.*
- *Over 100 custom built glass designs.*
- *Superior vacuum bagged foam core race boats.*
- *Custom Graphics*

Plastic Designs

 **Cruise Control**  **Mongoose**  **Quantum**  **Infinicat**

Call for a Dealer nearest you or to receive a free catalog.

New Wave Kayak Products, Inc

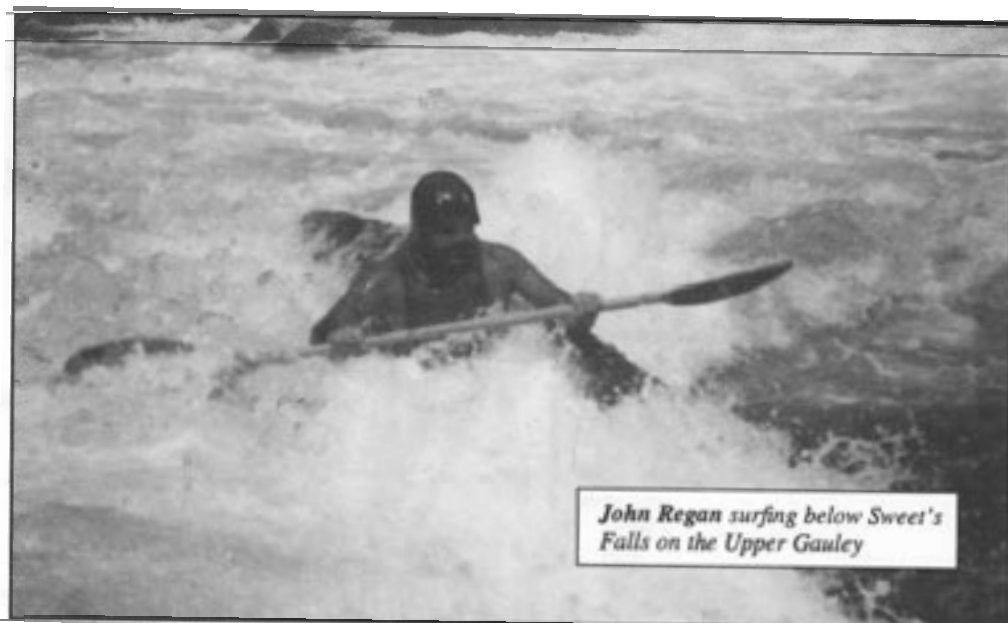
 **(717) 944-6320**

2535 Roundtop Road, Middletown, PA 17057

one moving medium and **kayak-**ing is two moving mediums. You and the water. Moguls to move. If moguls moved, or if you could ski an avalanche, then you might be talking some shit.

So perhaps the trick to making a career out of boating is to keep paddling every day year after year and eventually things start to fall into place.

But really, it's been a lot of luck
It's nothing that I've ever done,
luck has been on my side. 🍀



 ridge
press
menasha

Distinctive Books for the Out-of-Doors

We offer a wide selection of paddling books, including:

The Appalachian Whitewater Series:

Vol. I: The Southern Mountains\$14.95

Vol II: The Central Mountains.....\$13.95

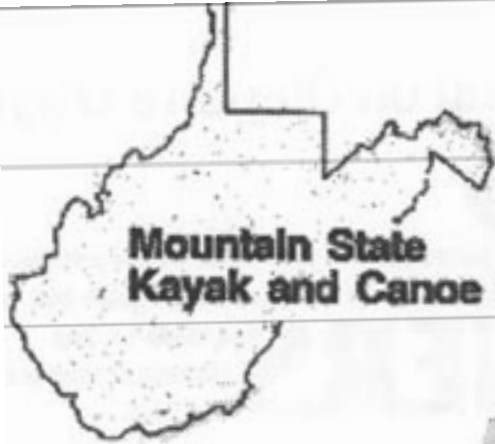
Whitewater Tales of Terror\$ 6.95

Kayak: A Manual of Technique.....\$14.95

The Whitewater Sourcebook\$19.95

Wildwater West Virginia.....\$14.95

To Order Call
800-247-9437



Mountain State
Kayak and Canoe Co.

West Virginia's
Premier New and Used
KAYAK and CANOE
Outlet

Prison

Dagger

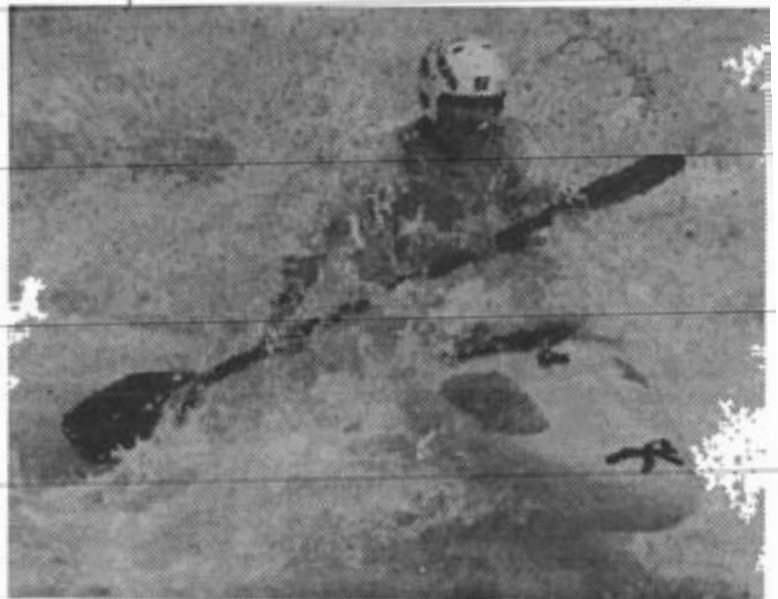
pyranha

Silver Creek

EXTRASPORT



**LIGHTNING
PADDLES**



101 Wiseman Avenue
Across from the Courthouse
P.O. Box 384

Fayetteville, West Virginia 25840

1-800-84 KAYAK

● Mail order-1-800-84-KAYAK

TREASURY

A Guide's Training on Oregon's Owyhee

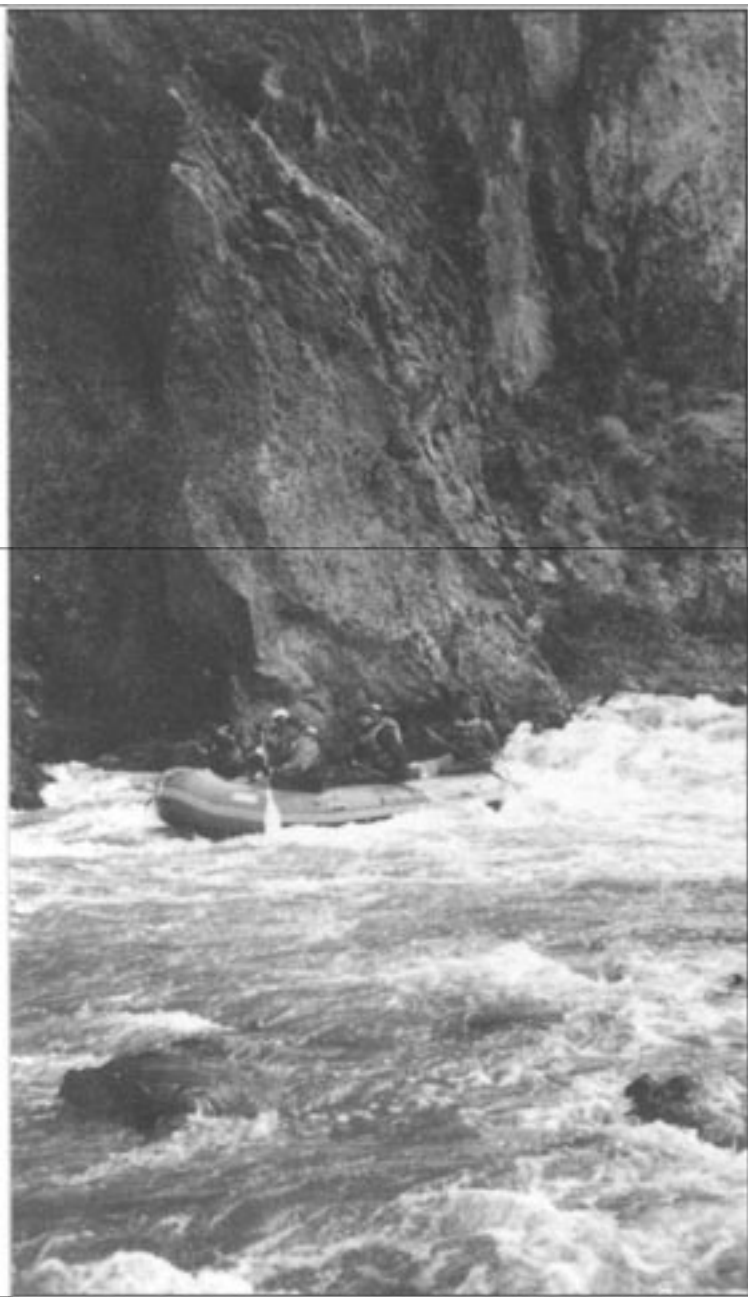
BONDS AND

your life is a bonded river, just sound good to you? Well, before you toss that

letter of resignation at your boss, read on. Working as a river guide just might be

RIVER RUNNERS

a whole lot less glamorous than you imagined.



by BRIAN J. WHETSTINE

The Owyhee River churned green and white over my head as I bobbed up and over a huge roller, one hand gripping a paddle and one hand my boat. Looking down river over the crest of the wave I glimpsed a gauntlet of watery hills waiting for me like frat boys at an initiation.

There was nothing to do but ride it out. I had descended beneath the towering rimrock of eastern Oregon's spectacular Owyhee canyon this past March to tag along on a guide training trip put on by Oregon-based outfitter Wildwater Adventures. I wanted to find out how guides were trained, what kind of people they were and what their life would be like once on the river.

I expected adventure, but when a curling lateral wave grabbed my PackCat in the booming cannonades of Artillery Rapids, I got more excitement than I wanted. Rather than brace I bounced and shot headlong into the cold, roiling water. Though I stood a chance of being smashed to flinders on a rock, I felt remarkably at ease. Down river were four boats packed with guides who would consider it a personal insult to let me drown. I wasn't two breaths past Artillery's last salvo before the air was tangled with their throw lines.

My rescuers were on a week-long guide training expedition set up by Al Law, owner of Wildwater Adventures. Law and his charges had come to the wind-swept plains of eastern Oregon to float the high desert Owyhee river. The Owyhee extends from Oregon's southeastern border with Idaho and Nevada. It gathers together three forks of the river and runs north to the 50-mile-long Leslie Gulch reservoir. In 1984, Congress designated 120 miles of the Owyhee River as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Owyhee is called "Oregon's Grand Canyon" for good reason; the river cuts a long and twisting route through volcanic and sedimentary rock and is studded with many fantastically colored side canyons, gulches, gullies, caves and hot springs. Above the river vault multi-colored rock formations weathered by thousands of years of water and wind.

Prehistoric peoples lived along the river basin and their lithic fragments and petroglyphs, eerie hands, shamans, sticks and dots, can still be found along the wind-



whipped riverbanks. The Owyhee's desert canyon is arid with sparse vegetation and few inhabitants save big-horn sheep, ducks and geese, small rodents, and Oregon's densest population of rattlesnakes.

Spring weather in the canyon is capricious, and on any given day a boater can run the gamut of conditions, from glorious sun to furious rain squalls, from hail and snow flurries to microbursts of wind so powerful a paddler must hold on for dear life. And woe to the guide trying to set up a tent.

As for whitewater, the Owyhee boasts rapids running from unnamed class II's to the notorious class IV "Widowmaker." Al Law took his guides through the 67 mile lower Owyhee stretch from Rome to Leslie Gulch. This section's rapids range from class II to IV with descriptive names like Read-it-and-Weep, Dog Leg, Whistling Bird, Rock Trap, Squeeze, Montgomery, and Morcum Dam.

The river has a short, self-regulating season and is best run from the beginning of April to the end of May, when the river flow ranges between 2,700 and 1,300 cfs. When flow dips below 1,300 cfs the Owyhee becomes quite technical and straight chutes turn into snarling holes lined with sharp rocks.

In March, the Owyhee was the perfect place for Al Law's candidates. The burgeoning spring runoff gave the river a broad and forgiving face. Still, Law and his lead guides were careful to stop and point out where tough spots were sure to crop up once the thirsty desert took back its water.



Left page: Rushing past Class III Whistling Bird
 Top to Bottom: Guide Trainees in the Owyhee's Class IV Montgomery;
 Lead Guide Mark Denyer (left) and Student Jed Taylor (right) scout
 Artillery rapids; Guide Dave Maroon watches student oarsman through
 a rapid; Lead guide Fred Faust enjoys a 102 hot springs shower



Like a baseball manager with his coaches, Al Law and three of his experienced lead guides, Mark Denyer, Dave Maroon and Fred Faust, held "Spring Training" for 15 aspirants who ponied up \$385 each for a package that included runs down Oregon's Deschutes, McKenzie, Rogue, Santiam, Upper Klamath, and Owyhee rivers. These rivers ranged from straightforward class II-III waters to technical and dangerous class V's. On these six days on the Owyhee, Wildwater's future guides learned the spectrum of their work, from paddling strokes and commands, to reading whitewater, loading boats, safety, cooking, field sanitation, river history and geology, rescue, equipment repair (about which philosophic owner Law was heard to rhapsodize, "The most important thing a guide can carry is duct tape. Duct tape is like Jesus on a roll— It sure saved me!")

The trainees discovered river guiding is hard work—extending from dawn to well past dusk. They learned that there is a lot more to it than just oaring a boat. But most of Law's trainees ultimately made the cut and were put on his roster of guides for the season. Only a few trainees took a look at the never-ending work a guide must do and decided it wasn't worth the money.

River guiding is an independent business and the guide's job resists a formal outline of duties. All of what guides do is driven by necessity (getting off a rock, avoiding disaster) and the wants and needs of the paying cli-

ent (cooking dinner, loading gear, making windbreaks, explaining river lore, etc). For a profession that takes tenderfoot customers into remote and risky situations, there are remarkably few official regulations regarding the qualifications of guides.

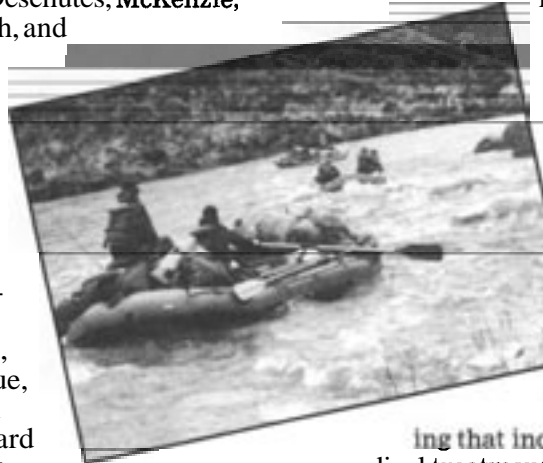
In Oregon the outfitter must carry a State Marine Board license and liability insurance and must ensure that, beyond the legally-required First Aid/CPR card, company guides are "competent."

Verifying a newcomer's competence can be as informal as the recommendation from a trusted guide, or the completion of on-river training such as the Wildwater Adventures course.

To cement their guides' skills, some outfitters offer advanced training that includes swiftwater rescue, backcountry medical treatment, gourmet outdoor cooking, and river history and geology.

Tall, slow-moving, and unflappable, 22-year-old Dave Maroon is one of Al Law's most experienced oarsmen. On the Owyhee he ably demonstrated how to manage one of the tribulations that guides often face on the river. When a student guide hung the heavily-laden gear boat up on a rock in the middle of the coursing river, Maroon uttered the obligatory, "Oh s—," calmly sized up the situation, and then, without even getting his feet wet, led the unnerved student in the backbreaking task of shifting gear bags. Meanwhile water crashed over the tubes and filled the raft. The two finally worked their way off the rock with a small tear in the floor.

Though the other students kidded the embarrassed trainee when he made camp, Maroon never uttered a word of recrimination. "These things happen," he said simply. Later on, belying his apparent lack of concern for the serious situation he had been in, Maroon opined, "You have to have complete respect for the river and the environment you are in. Always know the river is more



Top: Student guides set up for dinner behind a vital raft windbreak

Inset: Wildwater Adventures crew heads for class 11-111 Artillery Rapids around the bend

powerful than you **are...never** take it for granted."

A recent community college graduate, Maroon hopes to **run** his own fishing guide service and can't imagine much else he would ever want to do. "**This** is my life," Maroon notes, "It's what I like to do. I've grown up in the outdoors so it just comes natural to me."

Like Maroon, most of Wildwater's guide trainees were young college students preparing for summer work. A smaller circle were older guys, 28-35, looking for seasonal, outdoor employment. Nearly **all** the trainees shared Maroon's love of the outdoors and had several years of whitewater, fishing, or backcountry experience. Some **pre-**

ferred guiding fishing trips while others loved whitewater. They **all** shared a love and respect for the wilderness and the desire to bring others to the special river experience.

As they went through the course of training, trip leader and lead trainer Mark Denyer, a radical kayaker with more time underwater than most people have above, advised, "A good guide must have confidence, be aggressive, and adapt well." Denyer and Maroon speak from experience, they both have a lot of water under their hulls.

To the vacationer who sees a guide calmly pulling the boat through the frothing jaws of death or offering up a charbroiled steak on a sandy beach in

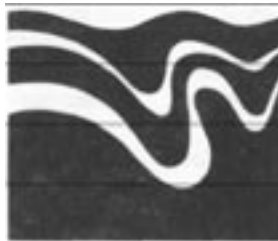
the warm summer's eve, the guide's life seems an endless spree. This training trip proved nothing could be further from the truth. River guiding is tough, demanding, day-in-day-out **work** requiring strong backs and **will**ing hands. It is a service industry with entertainment as the product and where the client's safety and happiness get top billing. Guides are on-duty from the pre-dawn coffee to the night's last glowing ember. The hours can be grueling.

Long hours can be tolerated if pay is decent. But veteran river runner Law held court with his aspirant guides around a flickering campfire and labored to dispel their visions of wealth in a season.

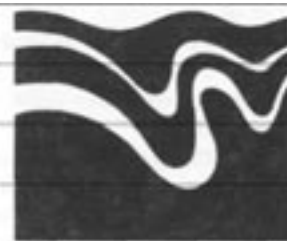
CLOTHING FOR WATERSPORTS



Drysuits



Whirlpool Drytop



Paddling Jackets



Paddling Pants



Polar Lite Pile



Polar Tek Pile



Nylon Pile



Accessories



Kōkatat

5350 Ericson Way
Arcata, CA 95521

1-800-225-9749
In CA: 707-822-7621



ment. Outfitters recognize this and usually don't object if their guides "freelance" or work for other companies on the side.

Al Law estimated he would employ 10-15 guides full-time over the season and another 10-15 on overbooked trips here and there. These extra 10-15 guides would have to freelance to make ends meet and gain experience. And the "E-word," experience, is everything. No reputable outfitter will let an untested guide take clients down river without hard proof of his or her abilities.

"Guides and treasury bonds have a lot in common," he mused, warming his hands by the dancing flames, "They both lay around a long time and do absolutely nothing. The difference is that someday the bond matures and starts making money." In line with Law's maxim, per diem for whitewater guides ranges from a low \$50 for first-year employees to \$150 for lead guides with supervisory responsibilities (this usually includes meals and transportation).

Trips range from three hours to all-day, overnights, and expeditions. Pay is, of course, higher the longer a guide stays out. A few outfitters take sore advantage of their guides' youth and ambition and require them to plan and pack for trips as well as unpack, clean, and repair equipment... without pay. But the majority of outfits pay an hourly wage for these vital services.

In contrast to whitewater guides, fishing guides are often older, more experienced, and usually provide their own boats and gear. For the most part they are treated as subcontractors. Fishing guides usually pay for client meals and transportation and are required by the sponsoring outfitter to meet extremely high standards. Though they earn more than whitewater guides, fishing guides typically work a longer day because as the average fisherman wants to fish from dawn to dusk—as long as the fish are biting.

As a supplement to their pay, guides may receive tips. Depending on the length of the run and the generosity of the clients, the average guide may get an extra \$10 to \$20 per day for his or her hard work. In the interest of fairness, some outfitters wisely request clients give tips to the lead guide. This experienced guide leads the team in dividing the money amongst all who worked on the trip, from shuttle drivers to chefs.

In that case an exceptionally hard worker, perhaps a volunteer working gratis to gain experience, will get more, while a sandbagger will get nothing. This adds incentive for guides to pull out the stops for the clients and work together.

Taken by itself, the pay and meals may sound pretty good, but scant few guides work full time and rare is the guide who receives health or pension benefits. Guiding is seasonal in the Northwest, usually May to September, and every guide goes through dry spells of unemploy-

As already noted, beginning "swampers" often find they must volunteer to work gratis until they can earn an outfitter's trust and nab a paying billet. This can take a while and in the meantime the expense falls entirely on the guide's shoulders. It takes a lot of determination to stick with it when the bill collector is beating on the door.

Despite seasonal work, short pay, and long hours, guiding still holds strong appeal to those who love the wilderness and the challenge of the river.

"It's like a bug," asserts Wildwater lead guide Mark Denyer, dodging campfire smoke during a late night bull session, "Once you catch it, it's impossible to get rid of it. You just want to get out on the river."

Indeed, guiding can be an incredible high. Guides live for weeks at a time on the river and offer clients a special front seat to America's wild and scenic wilderness regions. Guides see fantastic sights that many people never get to see, and their adventure accounts are never overdrawn. Unlike the rest of us, chained to our desks and stuffy workrooms, their "office windows" open up to the whole outdoors. When guides tire of the view they simply strike the tents, load their gear, and float a few miles down river to new adventures, new vistas, new territory.

Whether fishing a fruitful hole or blasting through a Class V rapid, guides are the gatekeepers to some of America's best adventure spots – our beautiful, flowing rivers. In season, there can be no grander job than that.



Top: Student guides load the boats

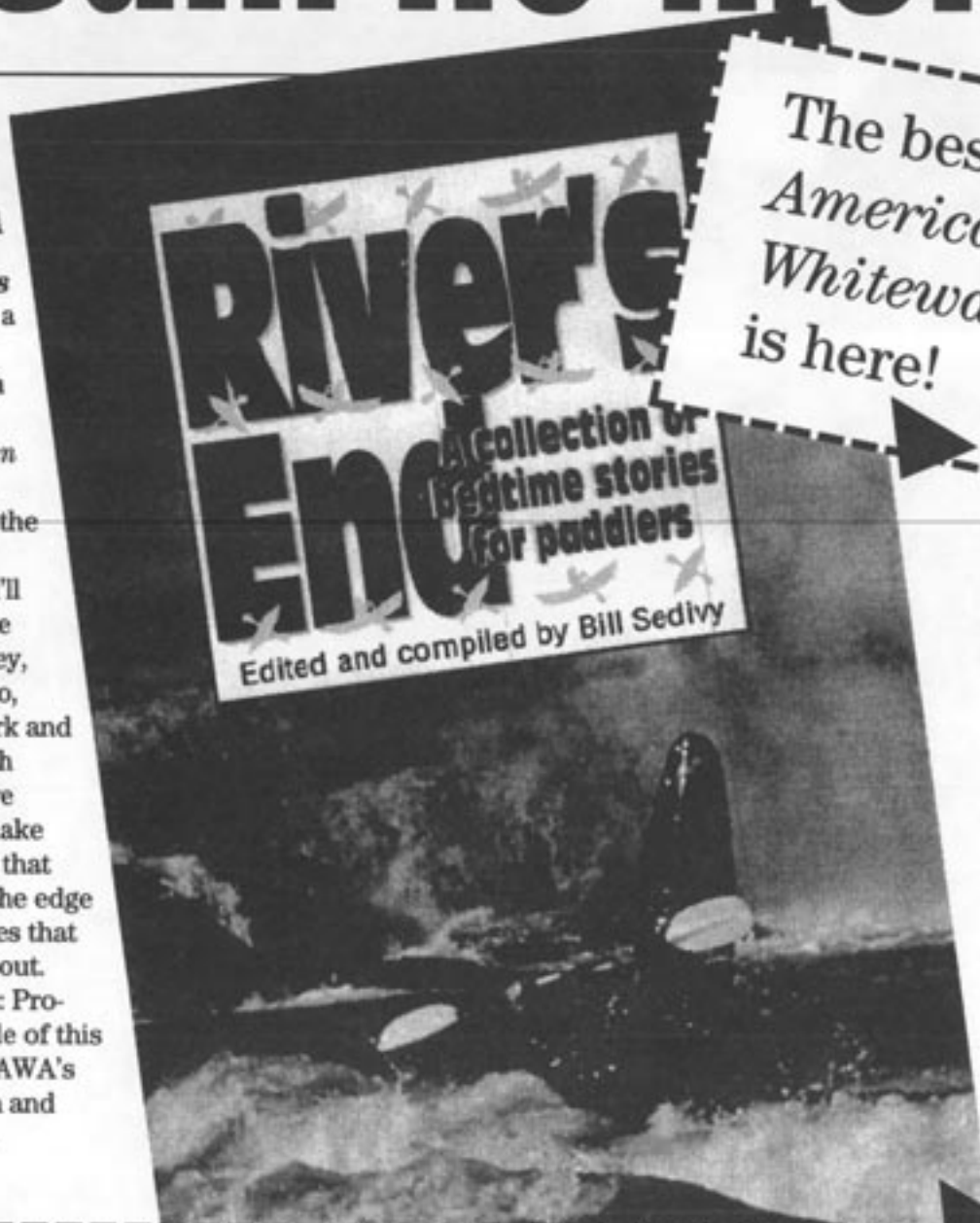
Bottom: Author Brian J. Whetstone on the Eastern Oregon Owyhee River in his own Jack's Plastic Welding "Pack Cat."

Dream no more

River's End - A collection of bedtime stories for paddlers is a collection of the best features from the last 10 year's worth of *American Whitewater*, the official journal of the AWA.

In this book you'll read tales from the New, Cheat, Gauley, Meadow, Colorado, Snake, Middle Fork and elsewhere in North America. There are stories that will make you laugh; stories that will keep you on the edge of your seat; stories that you will dream about.

An added bonus: Proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit AWA's river conservation and access programs.



The best of
American
Whitewater
is here!

To order, fill out the coupon below and send a check or money order for \$15, plus \$2 shipping and handling, to Bill Sedivy, Big Dog Publications, 1410 Country Manor Drive, Logan, Utah, 84321. Please allow about four weeks for delivery. Sorry, no credit cards accepted.

Name: _____ Number of copies _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Attention
whitewater retailers:
To order call Bill Sedivy
at 801-752-6136.

PANADERIA
PASTELERIA
MI FAVORITA

patagonia

Hayden Claffe and Bryan Tooley pack it in after the first descent of the Rio Uribante, Venezuela.
For a free catalog, please call: 800 336-9093 Photo: Phil DeRiemer ©1995 Patagonia, Inc. Dept. 72177H

Lay out your toiletries—bucket, cup, soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, and travel kit.



Bathing in a Bucket

by April Holladay

by April Holladay

This author recently survived...

and enjoyed... a major Arctic

river expedition. In this article

she shares her secrets with

the squeamish.

"Women! Don't give up on that wilderness expedition. You **can** triumph over blood-craving mosquitoes, flesh-tearing flies and chilling Arctic water. You can even manage to bathe under these conditions. Here's how...in a dozen easy steps "

"First **step—don't go!**" you grin.

But think what you'd miss: moose up to their necks in frigid water, black bears shambling through a dump fire, wolves pouncing on mice, loons wailing through the night, gulls dive-bombing to protect their fledglings, terns wheeling in aerial combat, **sandhill** cranes dancing courtship, bald eagles fleeing vengeful gulls, sandpipers piping... their rear ends bobbing. And no

people. If you get the chance, you've got to go.

But there's no need to forgo shining hair. We hold these rights to be unalienable: a clean body, clean clothes, and a feeling of comeliness. You don't need modern plumbing, only a little time and the river, to accomplish the essentials. Here's how. Convince your traveling **companion(s)** of the sanctity of your cause. What's a little time? You can't be paddling every day... all day. Heck, the wind blows frequently. This is the time to bathe and a poor-to-impossible time to paddle.

Wind is your friend. Wind banishes mosquitoes and flies. And that's one way to beat the flesh-eating, blood-sucking devils.

Follow these steps for a satisfying, gusty bath:

1. **Select a site.** Find a couple of flat rocks or, better, a rock shelf by the water. This provides a clean wash rock and dressing room. **Shun sand** (it gets into everything) and, worse, mud.

2. **Lay out your toiletries.** Put a bucket and a cup beside the wash rock; put soap that floats, shampoo, a toothbrush, and toothpaste on the rock. Nearby, place a bandanna or washcloth and your travel kit containing mirror, hairbrush, lotion, sun block, and lip protector.

3. **Build a dressing-room 'nest'** on another rock. Spread out your jacket (which serves as a **coverup** robe if a boat approaches). Heap your clean clothes and a small towel on the jacket. This is your **drying-off** and dressing room.

4. **Start.** The water isn't that cold. To convince yourself, take a modest, ginger step toward your goal. Just brush your teeth and wash your face. So far, so good. No bugs and you haven't frozen yet.

5. **Wash your lower body.** Don't wade into the cold river unless it's a hot day with terrific winds. Instead, use a bucket. Strip **below the waist**. Wash and rinse. If flies home in on your wet body, quickly dry off and put on pants. Wet flesh attracts flies

MOUNTAIN GEAR

Skis

	REGULAR	PACKAGE
Atomic Tourap	\$379.00	\$349.00
BD Badlands	\$576.00	\$525.00
BD Boundary	\$428.00	\$395.00
BD Eclipse	\$375.00	\$345.00
Fischer Voodoo	\$299.00	\$279.00
Fischer Phantom	\$219.00	\$199.00
Karhu Outbound	\$349.00	\$319.00
Karhu Hardbody	\$309.00	\$279.00
Karhu 10th Mtn Tour	\$199.00	\$179.00
Karhu 10th Mtn Terrain	\$189.00	\$169.00
Karhu Catamount	\$199.00	\$179.00
Karhu Pinnacle	\$199.00	\$179.00
Karhu GT Kinetic	\$185.00	\$169.00
Kazama Cornice	\$389.00	\$359.00
Kazama Headwall	\$375.00	\$339.00
Rosignol Nepal	\$199.00	\$179.00
Tus Montet MX	\$449.00	\$409.00
Tus Excaltor MX	\$399.00	\$369.00
Tus Cirque MX	\$399.00	\$369.00



PRE-SEASON SKI SALE

All of these items are from previous year's stock and in limited quantity but are priced to sell fast!

	REG. PRICE	SALE PRICE
Kazama Telecomp 2	\$345.00	\$349.00
Fischer GTS Ultra	\$299.00	\$219.00
Rosignol TRS VAS '91	\$329.00	\$99.00
Karhu XCD Supreme	\$199.00	\$149.00
Merrill Super Ultra	\$399.00	\$299.00

Boots

	REGULAR	PACKAGE
Merrill Supercomp	\$459.00	\$419.00
Merrill XCD Double	\$369.00	\$339.00
Merrill Fuzion	\$389.00	\$329.00
Merrill Matrix	\$249.00	\$219.00
Merrill Vortex	\$209.00	\$189.00
Merrill BC Backcountry	\$209.00	\$189.00
Merrill BC Descante	\$175.00	\$159.00
Nordica Telepro	\$349.00	\$319.00
Nordica Telebreeze	\$279.00	\$249.00
Nordica TR9	\$409.00	\$369.00
Scarpa Denali	\$468.00	\$429.00
Scarpa Terminator	\$498.00	\$459.00
Scarpa T2	\$459.00	\$419.00



TERMINATOR
Reg. \$489.00
SALE \$349.00

10th MTN TOUR
Reg. \$229.00
SALE \$149.00

ALASKA DIAMOND BOUNDARY
Reg. \$379.00
SALE \$249.00

FTS FUZION
Reg. \$385.00
SALE \$289.00

Bindings

	REGULAR	PACKAGE
BD Riva 2	\$89.95	\$82.00
BD Riva Classic	\$85.00	\$79.00
Ramsar Classic binding	\$299.00	\$209.00
Rotafella 412	\$69.00	\$79.00
Silverta SL	\$339.00	\$309.00
Silverta 404	\$325.00	\$295.00
Voile CRB 3 Pin Cable Brake	\$130.00	\$120.00
Voile CRB Strap Classic cable	\$115.00	\$105.00
Voile CRB 3 Pin Cable	\$119.00	\$109.00
Voile 3 Pin Cable	\$74.95	\$67.00
Voile Release Kit w/brake	\$69.95	\$64.00
Voile Classic Cable Binding	\$66.95	\$69.00
Voile Release Kit strap	\$54.95	\$50.00
Voile Tele Binding	\$35.95	\$32.00
Voile HD 3 Pin Binding	\$41.95	\$37.00



FREE MOUNT WITH PACKAGE PURCHASE

ROCK GEAR

OMEGA CARABINERS

Oval or D C/D	Reg. \$1.20 ea.	6 FOR \$24
Anodized D C/D	Reg. \$1.75 ea.	6 FOR \$30
Locking D C/D	Reg. \$1.75 ea.	3 FOR \$17
Omegalite III Straight C/D	Reg. \$1.50 ea.	6 FOR \$30

Omegalite III Belt C/D Reg. \$1.50 ea. 6 FOR \$30

94 BD HARNESSSES

Mentor	Reg. \$82.50	\$39.95
Wizard	Reg. \$49.95	\$36.95
Sorceress	Reg. \$49.95	\$36.95

CLOSEOUT PMI ROPES

10.5 x 60 Std	Reg. \$151	\$119.00
10.5 x 50 Dry	Reg. \$190	\$129.00
10.5 x 60 Dry	Reg. \$179	\$139.00
8.8x 45 Std	Reg. \$95	\$69.95
8.8x 50 Std	Reg. \$100	\$79.95
8.8x 50 Dry	Reg. \$127	\$89.95

Poles

	REGULAR	PACKAGE
BD Self arrest probe	\$113.00	\$105.00
BD Expedition probe	\$109.50	\$99.00
BD Flicklock adj probe	\$89.95	\$82.00
BD Flicklock Alpine Probe	\$75.00	\$69.00
BD Traverse	\$67.50	\$62.00
Leki Vision Varlo	\$139.00	\$129.00



- Leki Super Extreme 3 pc \$99.00 \$92.00
- Leki Powder \$99.00 \$92.00
- Lifelink Alpine Extreme Comp \$99.00 \$92.00

Supplies

	REGULAR	OUR PRICE
Ortovox F1	\$344.00	\$249.00
Ortovox F2	\$322.00	\$249.00
Lifelink Sectional Probe		\$75.95
Lifelink Snow Study Kit professional		\$125.00
Voile Shovel pro		\$33.95
Voile Shovel telepro		\$36.95
Voile Snakeskin short		\$45.95
Voile Snakeskin long		\$47.95
Voile Snakeskin alpine		\$49.95
Voile Trap top sheet kit		\$19.00



Package price requires purchase of ski & boot.

TO ORDER CALL 800-829-2009

MOUNTAIN GEAR

2002 N. Division
Spokane, WA 99207



FAX ORDERS:
509-325-3030
FOREIGN ORDERS:
509-326-8180

CALL FOR OUR NEW CATALOG!

We'd like to hear your feedback. Send email to: mgear@eznet.com
Or visit our home page on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.eznet.com/mgear.html>

Prices are subject to change. Special prices for a limited time only.

Bathing in a Bucket

- when the air is calm.
- Now your upper body. Empty your bucket and scoop another. Peel off your clothes above the waist and soap up. Dry and dress if flies descend.
 - Shampoo your hair. Start by pouring cups of water onto your hair. It's easier to control where water goes with a cup than a bucket. Suds. Rinse with many cups and buckets until clean. Stroke your hair and hear a squeak. Sounds good; you're getting there. Towel off.
 - Dress. Stroll to your dressing-room nest. Your body should be dry from the wind. Douse yourself in lotion, sunblock, and lip protection. Slip your clean body into clean clothes. Feels great doesn't it? But you're not quite done.
 - Wash your dirty clothes. Scoop more water. Soap and scrub the clothes you took off, dropping them into the bucket for a ten-minute soak. Wring the soapy clothes out. Now the dirt's loosened. Back to the river to cast it out.
 - Rinse your clothes. Rinse each item first in the river; then dunk it in the bucket to wash off sand picked up from the river rinse.
 - Hang up your clothes. Wrap a bungee cord or light rope around a bush. Clip the clothes with clothespins to the cord or bush branches. The sighing wind will dry them quickly. The sun will clean them even more.
 - Brush your hair to a glossy sheen. Emergency contingency: an approaching boat. You've got minutes before the strangers appear. Dash to your dressing nest and don the coverup jacket. Presto! You're decent (or at least covered).

How to Make Soap

You ask a lot of soap in the wilderness. It's got to get you and your clothes clean when you both are unreasonably filthy. And it's got to accomplish this miracle in cold water. It must float. Who wants to be grubbing around at the bottom of a river for floundered soap that doesn't float? Not many soaps make the grade.

My husband makes the best soap I have ever used... from our breakfast



bacon and sausage grease, hot water, and Red Devil lye. I don't know why he suddenly started making soap a few years ago. But I'm glad he did. I won't use any other—it's that good. His grandmother used to make soap when he was growing up in Somerset, a town of six thousand in south central Kentucky. She'd make the soap in the basement of her house and use it to launder clothes. "It smelled like all beejesus" Dick remembers.

He recalls she made it out of water, lye, and grease. For the right proportions, we dug a recipe out of *The Foxfire Book*, a collection of almost forgotten ways from the Appalachian mountains of Rabun Gap, Georgia. "Hog dressing, planting by the signs, snake lore... moonshining; and other affairs of plain living" like soap making. [Wigginton, Eliot and His Students: *The Foxfire Book*, Anchor Books/Doubleday, New York, NY.]

Here's the recipe:

Mix together two and a half pints of hot water, one can Red Devil lye, and five or six pounds of grease. Dick adds the water and the lye to the grease, which he stores in a bucket outside. He stirs it (outside because a lye and hot water mixture can be volatile) for about twenty minutes, until the mixture thickens like gravy. After the soap hardens overnight, Dick cuts the soap into pieces. Summers in New Mexico are warm enough to keep the grease liquid outside. But, in the winter, Dick melts the grease before he starts, so it will mix properly. The soap smells pleasant, unlike Dick's grandmother's version, and is gentle. It makes your skin feel clean. Make a batch to take with you on your next wilderness trip.

Wilderness Hygiene

Here's some hints for coping with hygiene in the wilderness.

Above back: Build a dressing nest on another rock. Don the jacket in a hurry if a boat appears.

Top inset: Scrub your dirty clothes.

Bottom inset: Pin laundered clothes to a cord wrapped around a bush.

Bathing in a Bucket

Use paper towels instead of toilet paper. One never intends to get toilet paper wet, but it happens. Rain sneaking into the pocket containing critical supplies or an oops when loading the canoe, and toilet paper's worthless. The solution: bring paper towels. They work almost better wet than dry, if rain or a dunking befalls them.

Arctic mosquitoes are life-threatening. Literally. Bug repellent containing near 100 percent of the chemical, N, N diethylmetatolumide (DEET), is a necessity for survival. Davidson and Rugge mention Off and Cutter's as their friends' choices, although their favorite repellent is Ol' Time Woodman's Fly Dope. [Davidson, James West and Rugge, John: The Complete Wilderness Paddler, Vintage Books Random House, New York, NY, 1983]

I use REI's Jungle Juice 100 and find it effective against the varmints,

but I'm startled by its strength. Once I put a bottle of the stuff in a plastic bag and then set the bottle on the dining table. A little Jungle Juice leaked out of the bottle, dissolved the plastic bag and removed a large patch of varnish from the table. Many repellents are hard on dry suit seals.

What to do when nature calls and you expose great expanses of skin to the blood-craving hordes? First pour a liberal portion of mosquito repellent in your hand. Smear over the soon-to-be-exposed area. The mosquitoes will hum and dive and probe for an untreated patch, but you can perform your business unscathed.

Put sanitary napkins or tampons in a reclosable plastic bag and then put that bag in still another one. Finally pack the doubly-sealed package in your most watertight duffel bag. Don't risk getting these supplies wet. Tampons, as opposed to sanitary nap-

kins, reduce the danger of attracting inquisitive bears. (Editors note: Bear experts tell us that contrary to popular myth, menstruating women do not face an increased risk of bear attack.)

Wind, sun, water, and hard work can crack skin on your finger and thumb tips so badly you can barely use them. Slather a therapeutic lotion on these areas and all skin exposed to the elements. It helps! Therapeutic Keri Lotion is the brand I use. Most discount stores sell a 15-ounce bottle for under \$10.

In the wilderness, my thumbnails regularly tear into the quickeven when I keep them clipped short. Broken nails impede opening a pocket knife and I can't tolerate that. My solution is to carry nail clippers in my pocket. I use the little metal clippers file to open my pocket knife.



canoe & kayak Magazine

The #1 Paddlesports Resource

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
Call 1-800 MY CANOE

special introductory offer
Save 45% off the cover price
1 year (6 issues) only \$12.97

Canoeing or kayaking...whatever your paddling pleasure...

calm-water touring, wilderness trips, or the rush of whitewater...you can be there all year long in the pages of CANOE & KAYAK Magazine, The #1 Paddlesports Resource.

CALL TODAY! 1-800 MY CANOE (800-692-2663) or (206)827-6363. WE WILL BILL YOU LATER

CANOE & KAYAK MAGAZINE, P.O. BOX 3146, KIRKLAND, WA 98083

*Squirt Boating
Kayaking
Rafting
Canoeing
Climbing
In-Line Skates
&
Mountain Bikes*

505) 256-0546
Great Looking Earrings, Pendants & Key Chains
for all
"Gravity Surfers"
229 Texas NE @ Albuquerque N.M. 87108

Rapid Designs Jewelry
FOR YOUR SICKNESS
JE

RETAIL PRICE
\$15.00
Per Item
Wholesalers Wanted!

Guadalupe
Photo: Tim McGivern



C A S C A D E



THE NEW CASCADE WHITEWATER HELMET:

THREE YEARS OF EXTENSIVE RESEARCH, DESIGN,

AND TESTING RESULT IN A HELMET WITH THE MOST

ADVANCED TECHNICAL FEATURES AVAILABLE TODAY.

SPORT HELMETS INC. 900 OLD LIVERPOOL ROAD, LIVERPOOL, NY 13088 TEL: 315 453 3073 FAX: 315 453 3762

800 537 1702

**FOUR CORNERS
RIVER SPORTS**

The Whitewater Store

Boating at its Best in
Southwest Colorado

1-800-426-7637
Durango, Colorado



- free mail order catalog
- same day mail order service
- full-line retail store
- kayaks, canoes, accessories
- catarafts, inflatables
- whitewater races
- paddling school
- kids paddling program

Call Today!

Support River Conservation with the AWA ■ Enjoy the Gauley Festival!



Whitewater High In Guatemala

Designed by Lauren Fan

by Joe Greiner

High in the Sierra De Las Minas of Guatemala, the quetzal bird, resplendent in his iridescent green feathers and red breast, awoke to a new day. The cloud forest was uncharacteristically clear. He could see all the way to the Rio Panima, one thousand meters below. His sharp eyes spotted a number of equally resplendent creatures, floating on the clear green water. He watched them for a time, then soared off to find his breakfast of fruit and berries. He thought no more about his sighting.

Perhaps he should have. Life in the **east-**em Guatemala highlands will never be exactly the same again. Kayaking has come to Guatemala.

What follows is NOT a hair boat story. It is a story of what turned out to be, for the most part, a relaxing whitewater vacation. Crystal clear water, interesting rapids, a couple of portages, hot springs, **cloud-**topped mountain views, and friendly people populated this trip.

Paul Heesaker and his wife **Marián** have been coming to Guatemala for years. Paul is a river guide on the Arkansas River in Colorado during the spring and summer. Come fall, the Heesakers move to **Antiqua**, Guatemala, where they have established a business leading hiking, snorkeling, and rafting trips. They also help tourists book trips to the Mayan ruins, sailing, etc. From the first the highlands and cloud forests, home to the quetzal bird, have spoken to Paul's soul. His company is named Area Verde Expeditions, whose acronym A.V.E. means "bird" in Spanish. The symbol of the company is the quetzal bird, whose livable habitat, much like our own, is disappearing.

In late 1994 Paul wanted to explore beyond the two or three rivers that were being rafted in Guatemala. Maybe Guatemala would be a good place to lead kayak trips? So the word went forth. Anyone interested in discovery and willing to share the cost was welcome. Bring your good humor, your flexibility, your patience. Ten accepted the invitation.

Paul and four others drove a school bus from Salida, Colorado to **Antiqua**, Guatemala. Four more flew in from various cities. Roberto **Rodas**, from Guatemala City, was waiting for us. Paul, along with Max Young led the group. Paul, Max, Roberto, Dave Bonomo, Marc Brown, Sean Dougherty,



Dave Bonomo getting air below a rapid called Tres Piedras. Upper Lanquin.

The tree house/cabana built in the roots of the Saba tree. Panima River.



Olympia Rapid on the Panima.

and Marc Haug are all **rafting/guiding** professionals. Ed Lucero makes whitewater jewelry when he is not kayaking. Sarah Beaubien is a student at Colorado College. I am...well...let's just say that I am blessed with the time to do this kind of stuff.

We set out from **Antiqua** very early, five one morning, so we could beat the heavy morning traffic in Guatemala City. Roberto had managed to secure some previously "classified" topographic maps and Paul and Max had worked out a two-week circuit that would yield a couple of first descents. It was not the gradient or the difficulty which had left these rivers unexplored. They had not been paddled because of access difficulties and because there just haven't been that many kayakers in Guatemala.

The Spanish cultural influence ebbed slowly the further from Guatemala City we traveled. We were now in native Indian territory. These people are the descendants of the **Mayans**, whose many unspoiled ruins attract tourist traffic in Guatemala and in Honduras to the south.

Our first river was the Upper Lanquin. To our knowledge only one group had done this run before, and that was only two weeks prior to our trip. The put in was in a

RGP COMPOSITES

The R. Palmer line of paddles

Simply put, *the finest* and by far *the most stylish* paddle in the known universe! Since you gotta have one of these paddles we decided to put one up for grabs at the Gauley. But hey if you miss us at the Gauley, give us a call. We'll set you up with **the only paddle worth using?!**

1-800-899-2610 or if in WA use 1-206-869-7272

Guatemala

clear blue-green pool just downstream from the cave that is the origin of the river. The Upper Lanquin proved to be an interesting creek, similar in size and rapids to south-eastern runs like the Lower Tellico. It had one rapid that most of our group portaged.

I got out to scout it with Ed. We were surprised to see two strangers, downstream, waving. They hailed from Capetown, South Africa and had heard rumors about boating in this part of Guatemala. The pair was on a six month holiday and had driven from the USA with their boats.

The South Africans had attempted the rapid on the day before our trip. Jeff had stayed to the right, but his friend, Bruce, had been blown left and gone backwards down a siphon. At the last second Bruce had put his arms out to the side and chinked himself in between the two rocks. This stopped his body, but his boat was "sucked" out from underneath him and disappeared into the siphon. Bruce "chimneyed" out from between the rocks and then walked to the takeout. Later they used a pulley and Z-drag to rescue the boat.

That was enough information for me. Scouting was difficult and the rapid was long. It did not look much harder than a long, eastern-creek, class IV+, but I knew we would be back tomorrow with more



Four boaters plauing on the Panima.

time, so I walked it. Ed took a better look and decided to run it. He aced it in perfect control. Since the rapid didn't have a name, in honor of the previous day's events, we named the rapid "The Way To Capetown."

That night, Bruce and Jeff came by to

visit our group. They had their own 4WD pickup truck with boat racks. They were only going to be in Guatemala a few more days and then they were going on to El Salvador for some surfing. Ultimately they planned on driving through Nicaragua to Costa Rica for more boating. This itinerary was just too tempting to Ed when the South Africans asked him to join them. After some deliberation, Ed did just that. Now we were nine.

The next day, Paul and Max and the rest of our crew delivered medical supplies to the local medical clinic in the town of Lanquin. Some had been purchased with the proceeds of Area Verde Expeditions, the rest had been donated by medical supply companies in the USA. The clinic director was delighted.

The rest of the morning was spent in a visit to Semuc Champey. It is here that the Cahabon river tumbles out of the cloud forest, only to disappear INTO a cave. The opening to the cave is covered with clear, deep, travertine pools. They reminded me of Havasu Creek in the Grand Canyon, but they were much larger. These were delightful for bathing, swimming, and just relaxing.

Paul has a dream. He dreams of a camp and some cabins. He dreams that he can buy this land, build the camp and cabins, and hire local Indians to run it. He has a dream that he can turn it over to the Indians. He has a dream that the native Indians may see that there are other ways to profit from their beautiful homeland, besides slash and bum agriculture. He is realistic and understands

AT
BLUE RIDGE
OUTDOORS
WE USE
THE GEAR,
WE KNOW
HOW IT
WORKS, AND
WE THRIVE
ON
ADVENTURE...
JUST LIKE
YOU!
COME IN
AND TALK
TO US IF
YOU NEED
INFO, OR
YOU HAVE
ANY
QUESTIONS,
OR YOU
JUST WANT
TO BARK
AT THE
MOON.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED
CLIMBING
HIKING
CAMPING
RIVER GEAR
TRAVEL &
IN-LINE FUN

Blue Ridge Outdoors
Corner of Court and Wiseman Ave. Fayetteville, WV (304) 574-2425
Downtown Blacksburg, Va and Tanglewood Mall Roanoke, Va



Joe Greiner running the bottom of Wrong Way To Capetown. Upper Lanquin.

that, at the moment, the locals have little choice but to do what is required to feed and raise a family. Right now that means slash and bum to raise corn or graze cattle.

But Paul does more than dream. He has invested several thousands of his own money from the meager earnings of A.V.E. in what he calls the Semuc Champey Project. Paul is like a salmon swimming upstream. But, I think he has a chance.

The next morning we geared up for a three day, two night trip on the **Cahabon**, taking great care to put in below the cave. This river is well-known and has been run by A.V.E. for several years. We found the same clear water and interesting rapids as on the Lanquin, but on a slightly larger scale. We spent a lot of day one playing, surfing, ending, and enjoying the sun.

The second day was supposed to feature an easy cruise to the settlement at Chuloc.

At the end of every trip, participants willing, I make a "Last Supper" request. I ask everybody to reflect and describe what for them was their "most m o m e n t . " I try not to put words in anybody's mouth. They can use any adjective they want after "most." Often, people will have two or three



CHATTOOGA WHITEWATER SHOP

(803) 647-9083

invites you to come experience the National Wild and Scenic Chattooga River. We are a licensed professional outfitter and offer a complete selection of paddling equipment and services. We are open seven days a week April through October and on weekends all winter.

**14239 Long Creek Hwy.
Long Creek, S.C. 29658**

"most moments." After this trip, the nine people told of sixteen "most moments." Ten of those moments involved "The Incident At Wrap Rock."

The rapid is a long, low gradient, straight shot with a rock at the bottom. An eddy runs all the way down the right side. It should be easy. There was a tree limb showing about 30 feet upstream of the rock in the current that would normally carry a craft to the right. Marc and the oar rig had made it safely. Six kayakers were at the bottom, waiting. Roberto and Sarah were in the paddle raft. As he entered, Roberto spotted the tree. I saw a moment of hesitation as he glanced to the left of Wrap Rock. Then he and Sarah started to dig to the right.

Too late! The middle of the raft hit the branches of the tree broadside. The raft stopped and they both catapulted into the current and were quickly retrieved. Not so the raft. It was stuck on the tree like a gipped frog. Seven rafting professionals proceeded to caucus. I watched. The river was too wide for a tag line. The raft was bucking wildly. Even if someone got out to the raft, nobody was sure they could stay there. All but one agreed that just getting a person to the raft and a line on it was impossible.

But Max did not agree. Without a word, he opened his dry bag, put on his T-

shirt with the "S" on the chest, walked up the eddy, and dove into the current. He passed by the bow of the raft, reached up and grabbed a D-ring with one hand and the top of the tube with the other. One mighty move later he was on top of the raft, grinning at us.

He later said that his "most moment" came when he looked over to shore and saw us staring back at him, open-mouthed and stunned. Several others described their "most moments" as the astonishment at Max's accomplishment.

Once we were sure that this was no illusion, we all cheered and started getting lines and biners to Max. The raft had folded under itself, in addition to being wrapped. This was not going to be easy. Max took the lines and biners and worked his magic - all the while riding the bucking raft. He made multiple attachment points. He sent out two lines. We pulled to the right. No luck. We broke that setup down and paddled over to the left shore. We **Z-dragged** to the left. The raft started to break up. One thwart was ripped free and our pump (attached to the thwart) was never seen again.

We broke that setup down and paddled back to the **right shore**. We **Z-dragged** to the right. Those of us on the mpses **were** sweating like NBA players. Two hours after the wrap, the raft moved slowly free. Once we got the raft to shore, we retrieved the rescue

gear and triumphantly sprinted down river, trying to reach Chuloc before nightfall.

We didn't make it. When our headlamps failed to illuminate the water more than ten feet in front of us, Paul and Max figured that was a good time to make camp, filter some water, eat and catch some sleep.

Our last day of the Cahabon trip was relatively uneventful. We broke camp, paddled about two kilometers, portaged Chuloc Falls, and put back on the river. We managed to flip the oar rig at a big hole around noon. Here we lost three of the four oars. With no oars we needed bodies to paddle the "oar rig". So we lashed some of the kayakers onto the rig and paddled it out with the spare raft paddles.

Early that afternoon, we found a perfect hot spring jacuzzi (bubbles and all) and soaked away the cares of the trip. We had lost one pump, three oars, and a lot of ego. Such is the price of adventure travel.

We took the next day off from river running to enjoy a power boat ride across Lake Izabal to El Paraiso (Paradise). Along the way the boatman took us near shore and we were able to watch the howler monkeys in the trees. That particular grove is one of the

Raft sports on the Cahabon, Sara Beaubien, Max Young, Roberto Rodas, Mark Haug.





Traveling Guatemala style to the put in of the Panima.

monkeys' last habitats in that portion of Guatemala. El Paraiso turned out to be a delightful cold creek/hot creek waterfall combo. Knowing that we still had two rivers and two first descents to go, we relaxed and soaked and refreshed ourselves.

After leaving El Paraiso we headed to the village of La Tinta. Every town in Guatemala has a patron saint and on the feast day of that saint, the village celebrates and a traveling carnival comes to town. The celebration feast of San **Tomas** in Chichicastenango is said to be akin to the Mardi **Gras** in New Orleans. Well, the Festival of Sainte Katerina in La Tinta is not of that magnitude, but it is an excuse for a lot of drinking, fireworks, carrying on, eating, and schmoozing. It is like a Guatemalan Gauley Festival. And it lasts two days and two nights.

Between festival nights we managed a first descent on the nearby Rio Polochic, running a section that we called Genesis Gorge. It was a clear water creek about the size of John's Creek in Virginia, and about that difficult. Keeping with the "Genesis" theme, we named the rapids Adam and Eve, The Serpent, The Garden Of Being Eaten, Cain Killed Abel, and the final rapid, Everybody Out Of The Garden!

After two nights of festival and two days on the Polochic, we took aim on our last target, the first descent of the Rio Panima.

We traveled to Tuccuru and hired a single Toyota Land Cruiser to haul all of us over two 4,000- foot-high passes, traversing a definite "4WD only" road, to the Rio Panima. This 60 foot-per-mile stream felt like Section III of the Chattooga - complete with one portage, at a rapid we called Olympia. The water was crystal clear as always.

The trip was mostly uneventful but interesting. We did see much more evidence of slash and bum agriculture than we expected, given the inaccessibility of the head of the river.

After four days we returned to La Tinta. Then we headed back towards Antigua. We had one more stop to make. On the last day we entered the mystical misty kingdom of Biotopo Quetzal, a cloud forest preserve. Guatemalan Indian legend says that in 1524, the Quiche Indian, Tecun Uman, a warrior-leader and wizard-shaman, faced Pedro Alvarado and two hundred soldiers, near the town now called Quetzaltenango.

During the battle of Llanos Del Pinal, he was mortally wounded and fell bleeding upon the ground. The quetzal, having watched his noble

struggle against overwhelming odds, took pity and sheltered Tecun Uman's body with its wings. The bird then lifted the Indian hero from the battlefield.

Pedro Alvarado had won the battle, but Tecun Uman's spirit lived on. The bird, heretofore whitebreasted, acquired its distinctive red breast from the blood of the fallen leader. Since that time, the quetzal has remained red-breasted. Now the Indians consider the bird to be a symbol of Heaven's protection.

There are a few places on earth that inspire and awe. These are the sacred places; the Grand Canyon, **Chongma-longma** (mother goddess of the world, Mount Everest), and the giant redwood forests of California.

For me, the quetzal-inhabited cloud forest of Guatemala is another. It is a soft, moist, fertile, quiet place. It feels like a cool sauna. The sound of water dripping falls softly upon the senses. Ferns wave gently. It is an enclosed place, enveloping the body and the spirit. It is the birthplace of the clean and sparkling waters that we had played upon.

Wandering through this sacred forest was my "most moment" in Guatemala ... listening, watching, and reflecting.

All over Guatemala, the cloud forests are slowly disappearing. The quetzal bird sleeps.

Will any of the forests remain when Paul's son, Zach, becomes a man?

For now, Zach sleeps.

His Dad is on the job.



Author's commentary: In late 1995 and early 1996 Paul Heesaker and Area Verde Expeditions will be running raft supported kayak trips on the Lanquin, Cahabon, Polochic, and Panima Rivers. Nine day trips will cost about \$990, plus air fare.

In the opinion of this author, Paul is more than a businessman engaged in tourism and providing adventure trips. I have seen what he and A.V.E. have put back into the community at Lanquin and the proposed campground at Semuc Champey. While

1994 was the first organized kayaking trip, he has been doing tourist business in Guatemala for several years.

For a whitewater vacation with an environmentally ethical professional, you should consider this. If you can run (not necessarily play) the Ocoee, the Cheat Gorge, or the Numbers, you ought to be able to enjoy paddling in Guatemala.

Information is available from Area Verde Expeditions, PO BOX 476, Salida, Colorado 81201. 719-539-7102.



Raft ends on the Cahabon. Roberto Rodas, Mark Haug, Marc Brown, Dave Bonomo, Paul Heesaker.

CHATTOOGA RIVER ADVENTURES

RAFT RENTALS

*Custom Guided Lake
Canoe & Kayak Tours*

- **CLINICS • Outfitters Shop**
- **White Water Equipment Sales**
Backpacking/Camping Supplies
- **Video**
- **Photography**
- **Lodging**
Available



Two miles from Chattooga River Bridge
Highway 76 in South Carolina

1-803-647-0365

1-800-U GO RAFT

14546-B Long Creek Hwy., Mtn. Rest, SC 29664

EXTREME TEAM

TEENAGERS TACKLE

GREEN NARROWS

by Pete Kennedy
Adventure Quest Director

On Monday, June 12, 1995, seven members of Vermont's Team Adventure "Extreme" squad became the first junior age paddlers to complete the entire Narrows of the Green in North Carolina. Coming straight from the Ocoee Rodeo, Adam Boyd (17), Justin Souter (17), Scott McClesky (17), Silas Treadway (16),

Fred Coriell (15), Kyle Marinello (15) and Nathan LaBrecque (14) were guided by some of the nation's finest extreme paddlers, including Forrest "Woody" Callaway and the Kern brothers (Chuck, Willie, and John).

Last summer and this spring the members of the Extreme Team explored and paddled some of the most difficult rivers in the U.S. and Canada, including the North Fork Payette, Gore Canyon and Ecores. Several trips with Callaway during the spring of '95 gave them the green light to tackle the Green.

Bolstered by several inches of rain on top of the standard release, the Narrows provided plenty of water for the descent. As the upper drops fell away, the confidence level of the young athletes steadily grew. They reached the infamous "Gorilla" totally psyched. Even some angry hornets and mean stings (Kyle in the eye) didn't deter them from diving into and over Gorilla.

Nathan managed to leave his right elbow pad somewhere in the drop, but other than a bruise, there were no problems. The only really tense moment was Justin's blown skirt in the entrance, just above the falls.

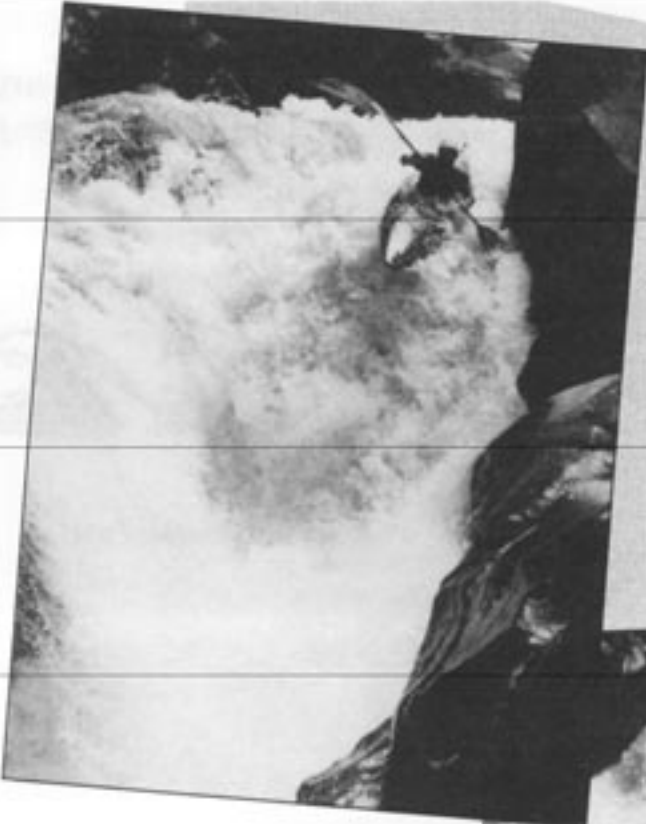
A quick swap with Silas in the eddy prevented a blown repeat in the maw of Gorilla. Charlie did manage to put on quite a show, surfing the hole at the base of the falls for an extended period of time. However, when all was said and done, the Gorilla gave up fourteen runs, no swims and hardly an error!

On through the Groove Tube — outrageous fun! Finally came Sunshine Falls, the last critical drop in the Narrows. Fred managed to find the rock at the bottom, coming out in pieces, but unscathed. Adam proved that a righty C-1 paddler can



1995 Ocoee Rodeo, C-1 squirt Team Adventure

Bredan Moore, age



Kyle Marinello, age 15, "Gorilla" Green Narrows, Team Adventure



Nathan Larecque, age 14, "Gorilla" Green Narrows, Team Adventure - Youngest paddler to complete the entire narrows

Silas Treadway, age 18, "Groove Tube" Green Narrows, Team Adventure



make the drop upright and alive. Scotty (a lefty C-1) made it look too easy. Kyle is proof that someone 5'1" tall and 115 pounds soaking wet can make an Overflow dance in the air, as well as in the water.

The "Extreme Team" now heads for the West to seek out new rivers and drops, as they continue work on the video "Kids on the Cutting Edge of Whitewater."

DO TEENAGERS BELONG ON DANGEROUS CLASS V+ WATER?

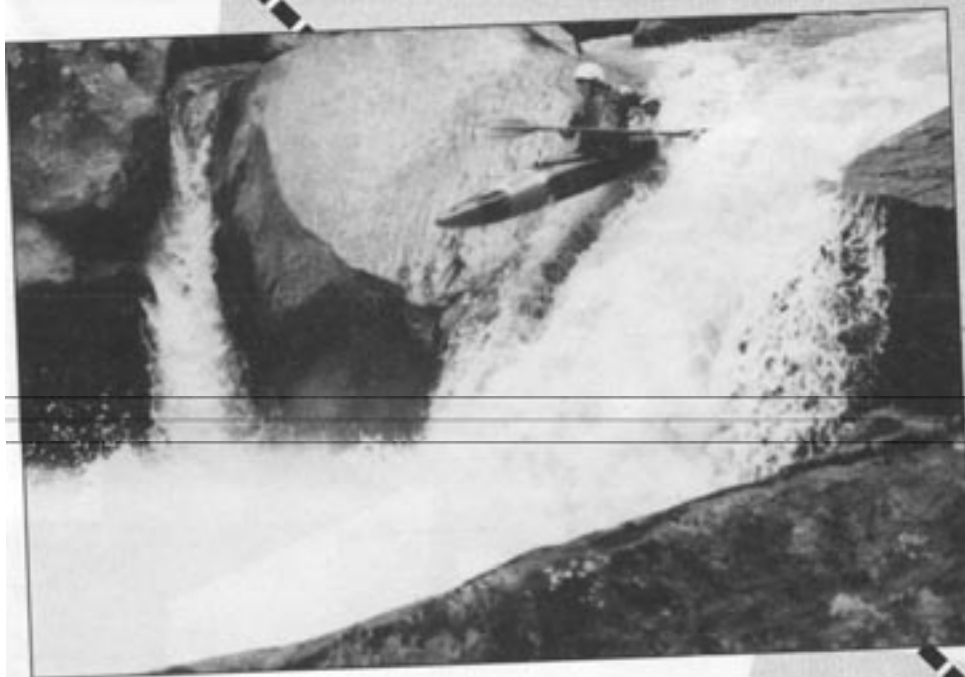
EDITORS NOTE: Even if they are technically proficient, are teens mature enough to evaluate the risks...and consequences of class V plus boating? In the following statement Adventure Quest head Pete Kennedy addresses this issue.

TEEN5 AND HAIR: A PERSPECTIVE

Running Class V-VI whitewater requires a *real dedication* to excellence in training, technique, and *performance*, plus a lot of self-confidence, motivation, common sense, and pure *adrenaline*. It also requires one's total understanding of one's goals and the sport in general. Much hoopla has been raised over our group of young *paddlers*, both in positive and negative terms. Undoubtedly there is a point to all of this, which is as follows:

The "Extreme Team" is just a small *core* of the Team Adventure competition program, sponsored by Adventure Quest in Woodstock, Vermont. The program is ENTIRELY self motivated and self supported by its members, Adventure Quest head *coach* Peter Kennedy, and his wife, Kitty Edwards. The purpose of Team Adventure is to prove that it does not take a trust fund to be a champion *paddler* (though a trust fund would be nice).

Do 14-17 year old kids have the knowledge and skill to paddle these rivers?



Fred Coriell, age 15, "Sunshine Falls", Green Narrows - Team Adventure

Our athletes train, paddle, and compete six to seven days a week, almost year round. In the past two years, Team Adventure has placed more athletes on the Junior U.S. Slalom Team than any other club in the U.S. In 1993 and 1994, the Team swept the Junior classes at the Open Boat Slalom Nationals.

Team Adventure members also started appearing in the whitewater rodeo scene in 1994. Justin Souter placed 2nd in Junior K-1 at the Ocoee; Adam Boyd 1st in C-1 at Payette; Luke Moore 1st in C-1 at Ottawa. In 1995 Scott McClesky made the World Open Canoe U.S. Rodeo Team.

The "Extreme Team" members are selected from the core of Team Adventure athletes, based on their skills, experience, technical abilities, overall knowledge of the sport, common sense, and ability to perform under extreme pressure. The average age of the Extreme Team athletes is fifteen years and the average experience of the Team is six years of paddling (the shortest being three years this summer). Talent plays a large part of the selection process, as do drive, determination, and dedication to the sport. Team Adventure athletes work their way up through the ability ranks from Development paddler, through Attainer, then Excel, and finally (possibly) the Extreme Team.

To be an Extreme Team athlete means knowing your limits. Each member makes their own decisions as to who, what, why, when, how and where they paddle. One of the most consistent comments made about the Extreme Team is their ability to personally assess their own limits at any given time on the river. This leads into solid support from the group for each other.



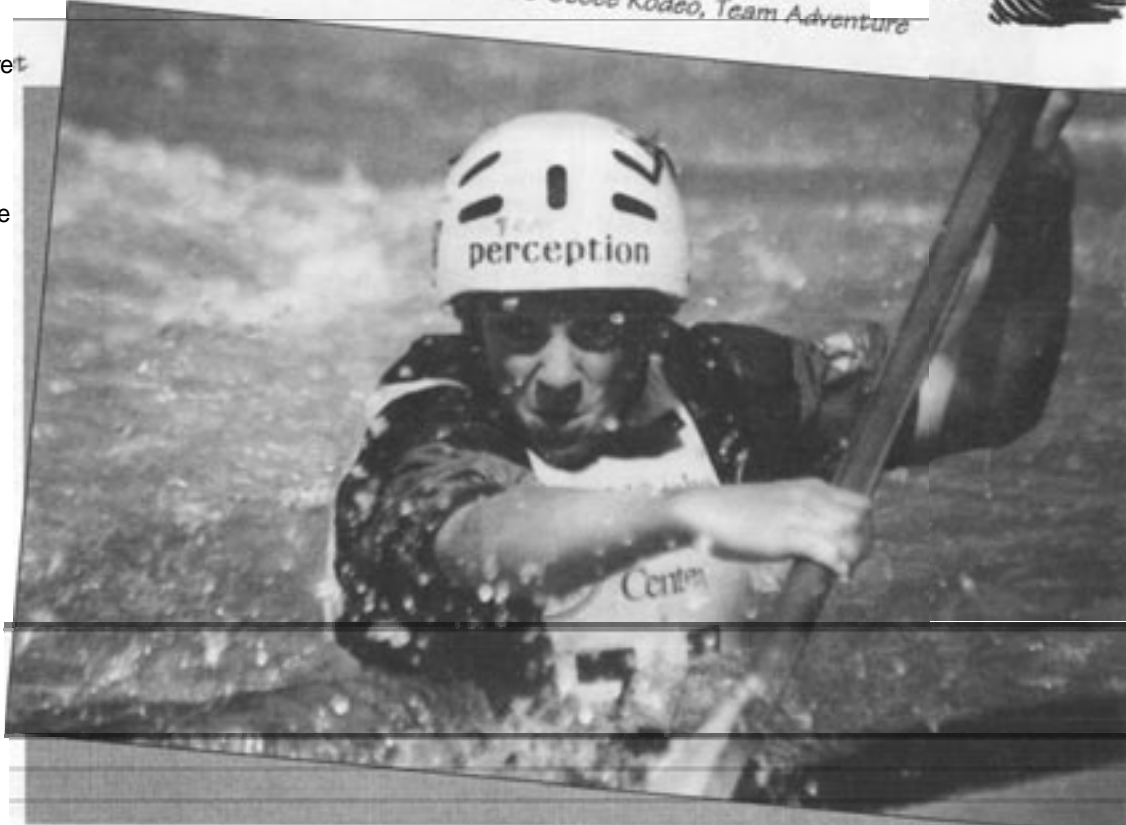
Nate and Woody celebrate a successful junior/senior run of the Narrows of the Green, N.C.



Adam Boyd, age 17, 1995 Ocoee Rodeo C-1 Expert squirt - Team Adventure



Kyle Marinello, age 15, 1995 Ocoee Rodeo, Team Adventure



A decision to run or walk a given drop is made individually, yet supported by the group. Do 14-17-year-old kids have the knowledge and skill to paddle these rivers?

Obviously they do. But before making a rash judgment (as many have done so far), come watch or paddle with the Extreme Team. Then make an assessment. We have been very careful to enlist the aid of some of the best paddlers in the country to paddle these rivers with the group. One from a safety standpoint, the other from an objective viewpoint. As the "Extreme Team" continues to raise the standards of kids paddling whitewater, we hope that the paddling community will see that building our sport from the base is a necessity, not a detriment, to its future.



The "Serious Choice"

"The place to go for SERIOUS WHITEWATER FUN!"

—Nathan Masters, son of Bill & Janet Masters, owners of Perception Kayaks, Easley, SC

In addition to our standard courses, **ADVENTURE QUEST** is offering the following NEW programs for 1996:


- * **CLUB ADVENTURE**-Fall, Winter, and Spring programs. *(Beginning September 1995)*
- * **THE ACADEMY**- A tutorial

school for competitive young paddlers. *(January-May 1996)*
ADVENTURE QUEST WEST- A.Q. summer programs Base in Northern California. *(Beginning June - August 1996)*

Adventure Quest

P. O. Box 184
Woodstock, Vermont 05091-0184
(802)484-3939 or 3202 Fax: (802) 484-3202
E mail: a quest @ e world. corn.

Adventure Quest is a Non-Profit, Educational Organization of Whitewater and Wilderness Programs for Kids, Teens and Families.



Most boaters only know the Paria River as the little stream that some times muddies the mighty Colorado River at Lee's Ferry, the put-in for the Grand Canyon. Hundreds, maybe thousands, of paddlers glide by the mouth of this tiny creek in the desert every year. Eager to face the big water rapids like Badger Creek, House Rock, and Hance, they don't give a thought to running the sandy little wash on river right.

I, too, was among this majority, and was quite surprised when I learned that it had been paddled - once. Brad Dimmock and another Grand Canyon boatman ran the Paria in the early eighties.

As I walked along the sandstone ledges and across the dry riverbed of the Paria one warm October, I imagined, as all kayakers do, what it would be like with water in it. I dreamed about someday kayaking through these same canyons.

The winter of 1993 in the Southwest was one for the record books. Storms

rolled in from the Pacific on top of one another, dumping copious amounts of rain and snow on Southern Utah and Arizona. The normally dry Salt River in Phoenix raged at 160,000 cfs. The Verde River peaked at over 100,000 cfs. The mountains were buried in deep snow and the deserts were thoroughly saturated.

I am driving through Southern Utah in early February. The wind hits my kayak on the roof and nearly blows me off the road. The nighttime sky is intermittently illuminated by flashes of lightning, and my wipers can barely keep up with the rain. Another storm has rolled in.

Passing through Toquerville and on towards Hurricane, I pass over the Virgin River. It seems to be bank full. Though I can't see much, I can hear it's roar below. I get back in the truck and continue across the desert. The rain keeps falling and I start to think about the Paria. Will it be running? Probably not. I try to dampen my hopes,

avoiding the letdown.

The highway bridge over the Paria appears in the headlights. I pull over and get out. The rain has stopped. I can hear the river long before I can see it.

The Paria has gone from a rocky gulch to a river in flood, bending the tamarisks in its path and cutting away long standing vertical walls of dirt along its banks. I stick a twig in the mud at waterline, and return to my sleeping bag for the night.


I awake to sunshine and a chilly 28 degrees. Snow dusts the buff colored sandstone buttes in the distance. The water level has dropped, but not by much. My stick is 2 inches from the water. The flow looks to be about 500 cfs. The river looks more manageable than last night in the dark chaos, yet it still possesses a powerful energy. The brown water, heavy with mud, courses through the desert, rumbling in an otherwise quiet, refreshed setting.

The thought of paddling downstream gnaws at me. I consider my situation:



The Desert in Flood... Exploring Arizona's Paria River

by Tyler Williams



Ahead of me lies 46 miles of wilderness river, a distance that almost certainly will take two days to traverse. The river is dropping. In 24 hours it will probably be reduced to a creek too small to float. The chances of being left high and dry without a river are good. That leaves me with the ugly possibility of having to drag my kayak, loaded with gear and weighing 70 pounds, across many miles of desert mud and rock to my destination at Lee's Ferry.

I have no paddling partner. Although much of the run promises to be flat, there will definitely be some whitewater. If there is any trouble, I will be totally on my own. Though it is sunny, the temperature will probably not reach 50 degrees today. With no drysuit, keeping warm will be difficult. Obviously, the only smart thing to do is hop in my truck and continue down the highway to Flagstaff.

Logic loses out to my gut feeling once again. I turn away from the river and head for my car two or three times, but the river

keeps calling me back. I finally succumb to its energy.

I shove into the current and check my watch. It's 8:27 a.m.

I am paddling downstream hard, almost as if I were in a down river race. The thought of carrying my boat for ten miles or more keeps running through my mind. I've got to get as far as I can today, while I have the water.

The river meanders through the desert, moving fast, but nearly going in circles. I go around one large horseshoe bend after another. In twenty minutes of paddling, I'm still less than one air mile from my car. I wish the river would straighten out and flow south, like I know it eventually will. I keep paddling hard.

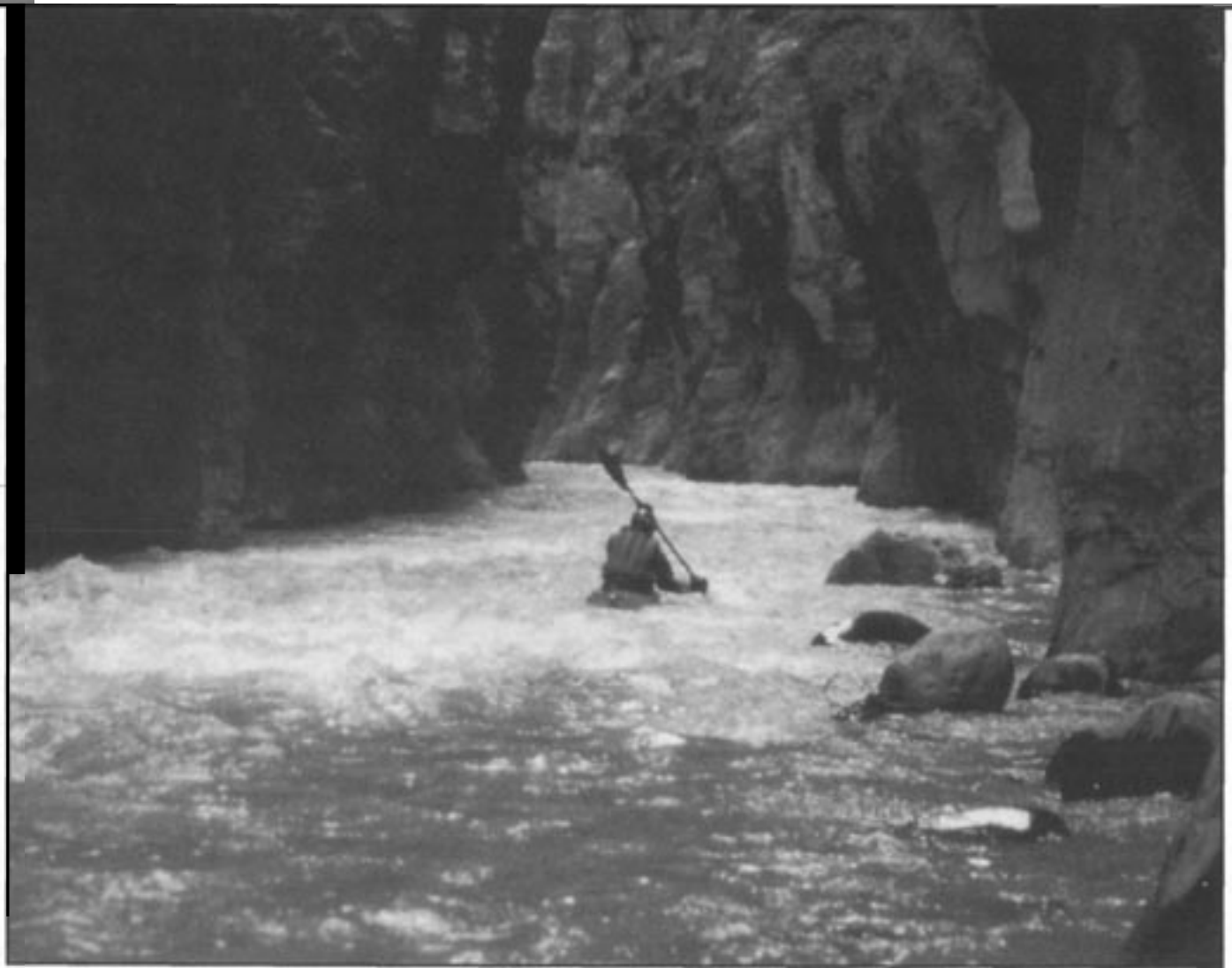
The river is a muddy brown. Every time a small sand wave laps over my deck, it leaves a thin film of silt. A couple of times, I misjudge the deepest channel, and I get stuck on sandbars that lurk beneath the chocolate water. I can hardly call it water.

I feel like I am on a river of mud.

Ninety minutes from the put-in, the canyon walls begin to form around me. Sheer cliffs of sandstone converge and I am no longer in the open desert. It is almost as if I am entering a cave. The canyon floor is dark. Smooth rock walls twist upward, only allowing the occasional sunbeam to penetrate down to the river. I have entered the slot canyon of the Paria. The walls continue to get closer, pinching the river and quickening its pace.

I'm rushed along through the gorge, concentrating to keep my boat straight. If I let myself drift sideways my kayak will broach between the canyon walls, since they are no more than twelve feet apart. Fortunately, there are no logs across the river in this canyon, because there are no eddies either. The current careens around corners in the slot, and I am sluiced along with virtually no option but to go with the flow.

I occasionally glance up to the narrow



Exploring Arizona's Paria River

ribbon of sky above and grin with satisfaction at my unique situation. I am relieved to finally emerge from the slot. I catch an eddy and stare back at the fissure in the wall that I just came through.

Downstream, the Paria meanders between huge cliffs painted in desert varnish. I drift along with the current, sucking on my fingers to keep them warm. The river is gentle. The most difficult part of paddling now is staying in the fastest bit of current. The river is wider now, with eddies and pools and riffles. I drift around corners, listening; nothing but the gurgling sound of the river running through the land of rock. Giant sandstone domes glisten with water in the sunlight. This place of slickrock and sand almost looks green. Moss grows in cracks in the wall.

Up ahead I see a rock slide that has reached the river. A surge of excitement (or is it panic?) rushes through me as I envision congested, tumbling rapids. I proceed cautiously, paddling from eddy to eddy. I peer over my shoulder and see a logjam spanning the channel. The entire river goes underneath.... portage number one.

I get out of my boat and drag around the logjam. Out of my kayak, I realize how cold it is. Time to get warm. I inhale two candy bars and some fruit, and lay on the sunny rocks. The sun feels weak, but it does manage to dry my paddling jacket.

Once again on the water and on to the Colorado. Lee's Ferry or bust! ... freeze. Some landmarks look familiar. I remember this spot from my hike. I think I'm a little past halfway and approaching the first sig-

nificant rapids.

The river begins to descend more quickly. Rapids begin. First there are class gravel bars, then some bigger boulders in the channel form easy class II drops. I nervously hop from eddy to eddy and suddenly feel incredibly isolated. I get out to look a couple of times, only to realize that I am scouting class II.

Working downstream carefully, I scout once again. This one is a more significant rapid. Without a second thought, I heave my heavy boat to my shoulder and walk, stumble, and climb downstream to the bottom of the rapid. That wasn't a very pleasant portage, maybe I should just run this stuff. I am alone though; I'd better play it safe.

Two portages and several scratches, bruises, and stumbles later, and I'm ready to start paddling this river, alone or not. I scout a long class III, then return to my boat and run it. It's easier than it looks and my confidence grows. I run a few more class III rapids. Then, as I am surveying my next rapid from the calm of an eddy, I hear a crashing sound above.

Staring down at me in bewilderment is a bighorn ram. He stands precariously atop an eighty foot cliff, and I look up at him with wide eyes and a wide smile. A minute or two goes by, then he deftly trots up the slope. He returns to his business, and I to mine.

Another five minutes of paddling brings me to a familiar spot. I camped here once. From this point on, the canyon opens up. The cliff walls gradually sepa-

rate until there is a mile of sand dunes, boulders and cactus between them and the river. Soon I will be able to see Lee's backbone in the distance, marking the end of my journey. I feel a sense of relief in knowing where I am... only about twelve more miles.

Much to my surprise, as the canyon widens, the rapids get tougher. Dozens of rock slides have altered the riverbed, leaving mazes of boulders that the river must find a way through. The geology has changed as well; the river has more gradient. I had not paid much attention to the riverbed here on my preliminary scouting hike, since my path was on the slope high above.

I'm forced to pay very close attention today, as every horizon line seems to get more distinct, every slot tighter.

My confidence continues to grow, and I am scouting less and running everything. I run the best rapid on the river so far, a solid class IV. I'm in with the rhythm of the river now, paddling from eddy to eddy.

I pull into a small eddy at the top of a significant looking drop. As I glance downstream, I feel my boat begin to wash out of the back of the eddy. I take several frantic strokes, slapping the water with my paddle, holding my position, but not making any headway back to the eddy. With a panicked lunge, I grab the rock on shore with my right hand. My hand begins to slide down the sloping rock. Then, a hold, a crack, a beautiful little finger hold of a crack in the rock. I pull myself closer to shore and using my paddle with my left hand, I work my way back to the tiny eddy. I carefully get out and pull my boat out with me.

The drop I just narrowly avoided going over backwards is a relatively mellow looking five foot high chute. Still shaken from my brush with disaster, I portage.

There are more rapids; class III, IV, and some class V rock jumbles. I portage most of them. I am disappointed that no one is here with me, I am portaging some promising rapids. Another hour passes, most of it spent with my boat on my shoulder, getting dragged through the sand, or sliding down boulders. The portage fest starts to wear on me, and I go for a big scout. I leave my boat on a beach of sand and clay, and climb the hill on river right.

From atop a house-sized boulder in the desert, I can survey the next mile of river: rapid, rapid, small rapid, big rapid, big rapid, pool, small rapid, small rapid, then around the corner and out of sight. Back at my boat. I notice the sun low on the horizon. I check my watch; 5:15 p.m. I'll camp here.

I lay in my sleeping bag and listen to the sound of river. I hope I wake to the same sound. I think back on one of the greatest days of my life - floating through the slot, the desert bighorn, the curving sandstone walls. Even if I have to trudge this heavy boat out of here tomorrow, it will have been worth it.

I awaken to the sound of a creek. The water has dropped, but there is still some there. The flow can't be more than 100 cfs,



Whitewater Kayaking in Chile It's the trip of a lifetime!

Expediciones Chile trips are more than just paddling challenging rivers. They're an extraordinary experience. **Imagine the best day of paddling you've ever had**, greeted at the end of the day by an ox cart shuttle capped with a relaxing sauna and massage. Our trips have gained an international reputation — the best-of-the-best.

Please contact us for more information.

Expediciones Chile

333 Earl's Road, Bryson City, NC 28713
CompuServe 71774.756
Fax 704/488-9082
Phone 500/488-9082

but it is enough to float my kayak in most places. However, rapids that looked runnable on my scout yesterday are now boulder sieves that I must portage. I get into a pattern of paddling to the top of a rapid, getting out, walking around, and paddling the fifty yards of flat water or riffle to the next boulder jam. After a time, I stop putting my sprayskirt on for my brief paddles between portages. Some portages are easy, sandstone sidewalks to stroll along. Others aren't so much fun, requiring me to climb over, around, and through piles of rock, with my boat in tow.

My shoulder is bruised from carrying my kayak, and my knuckles are a red, bleeding, skinned and bruised mess from dragging my kayak.

But the river is beginning to mellow. The boulder jams turn into class II mazes which I can paddle through. Gradually the terrain flattens out, and I am floating along on a muddy canal in the desert, interspersed with an occasional class I or II gravel bar. Cows nervously stare as I drift by. I come to a fence, my final portage, and soon I see the bridge over the river at Lees Ferry.

I am home.



PADDLING CENTRAL

The center of paddling in southern New England is Zoar Outdoor. Our ACA certified school, fully stocked Outfitter's Shop, and location on the Deerfield River put us at the heart of it!

Come visit us this season!

Looking for a new boat? Come paddle any Dagger Perception, or Prijon boat on real whitewater before you buy it.

Call for our color brochure **1-800-532-7483**

Charlemont, Massachusetts 01339



(203) 672-6365

U.S. Rt. 7, Box 302

West Cornwall, CT 06796

- Dry Suits (Stohlquist, Bermudes)
- Polypropylene Tops and Bottoms
- Paddles by Mitchell, Prijon, Backlund, and Wenonah
- Boats by Prijon, Perception, Wenonah, and Mad River
- Pogies, Paddle Jackets, and P.F.D's
- Pile Sweaters and Pants

10% Discount to all HACKS, FRC, and CCRA members.

CANOES, KAYAKS, ACCESSORIES

**SALES
RENTALS
INSTRUCTION**

HOURS:
Weekdays 10-5, Sat. & Sun. 9-8
Closed Tuesdays



**Attention
Whitewater
Sofa
Surfers!**

WILDSIDE IMAGES PRESENTS

BOB'S WHOLE VIDEO

Your complete guide to all the best action provided by many of the best paddlers in the GALAXY at the 1993 BOB'S HOLE RODEO in Oregon.

**SLALOM - SQUIRT
HOLE-RIDING**

Two days of head to head competition compacted into 55 minutes of non-stop action complete with narration and music.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND BRACE YOURSELF FOR A WILD RIDE!!

Send \$26.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling to:

WILDSIDE IMAGES

8314 GREENWOOD AVE. N #3900
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98103



WATERLINE CUSTOMER SERVICE: 1-800-945-3376



**High Performance
Canoe and Kayak Paddles.**

- Hand crafted from the finest materials
- Custom orders from 9 styles of blades
- Composite reinforcement options
- Repairs

Call or write for more information:

2450 Jones Road
Lenoir City, TN 37771
(615) 986-9387



Backpack? Kayak?

THE BACKYAK

- kayak carrying harness
- cockpit mounted gear bag
- portage pack
- 2 lbs., 13 oz.

Because getting to the put-in shouldn't be the

challenging part

SALAMANDER

P.O. Box 1363 • Bend • OR 97709

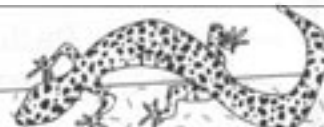
503-388-1821

FAX 503-388-1831

Or check out your local paddle store

Original concept by Andy Opler

\$144 ea.
Complete Backyak Gearbag System



AN ECUADORIAN WAHOO

BY ENGA LOKEY



MODERATE FLOW ON THE RIO TOACHI

food and five eager, inexperienced rafters, and headed over the Andes to explore the Rio Mulaute and Rio Blanco.



FIRST DESCENT ON THE RIO PILATON

wide river at low flow, Class III drops interspersed with flat-water that allowed plenty of time



AFTER 3 HOURS BASHING THROUGH THE JUNGLE, THE RIO COCA PAID OFF WITH INCREDIBLE WHITEWATER

DAY ONE OF THE RIO COCA

Looking west from Quito we had seen clouds for days, and there were rumors of rain in the Santo Domingo area. But since we were in Ecuador, we couldn't just pick up the phone to find out what the water levels were doing. Instead, we loaded up Alfredo's Landcruiser with gear,

After bouncing down the final drop of our Class III drive to the put-in, I caught the first glimpse of the Rio Mulaute and began to get a hint of what was in store for us. I had been asked along as a safety boater because I had kayaked the Blanco from its highest tributary a couple of weeks earlier. Paddling down the wide river at low flow, I encountered technical Class III drops interspersed with flat-water that allowed plenty of time to appreciate the incredible scenery.

River otters played hide-and-seek with me as I floated through a spectacular jungle teeming with birdlife.

However, what days earlier had been a crystal clear, warm, meandering stream — a favorite with locals for picnics and swimming

"THE ONLY TIME I HAD SEEN WATER THIS BIG WAS IN THE GRAND CANYON!"



THIRD WORLD SHUTTLES CAN BE AS INTERESTING AS THE PADDLING

— was now a frothy chocolate milkshake racing to the sea. I was expected to know the lines, but the river in front of me was not the peaceful little tributary that I had seen before. I could only guess (dread?) what might be waiting below the confluence. How amusing to think that we chose this section because we wanted something more mellow than the frequently run Toachi River!



AS WE NEAR OUR TAKEOUT AT PUERT' O MISHUALLI, LOCAL FISHERMAN ARE BAFFLED BY OUR STRANGE CRAFT

"ITS INCREDIBLE! I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A RIVER THIS BIG AND CONTINUOUS. LETS GO BACK AND DO IT AGAIN RIGHT NOW."

Alfredo turned hopefully and asked, "Did it look like this when you ran it?"

Trying not to sound apprehensive I replied, "No, it was a little lower. Looks like we'll have some big water on the Blanco."

The Rio Mulaute section, which would normally offer several hours of scenic jungle

floating, was behind us in twenty short minutes of continuous class III flush. I hit the raging waters of the Rio Blanco only a few boatlengths ahead of the raft, but was quickly hurled downstream out of sight. As far as I could see, one huge wave followed another. There was not an eddy in sight.

The only time I had seen water this big was in the Grand Canyon, but even the Colorado River has flatwater sections between the big rapids. The Rio Blanco was just one immense rapid — not a bit of flatwater for miles.

I headed for the nearest bank. Desperately hugging a boulder, I waited for the raft to appear. Alfredo raced

by with a look on his face that I couldn't quite read. Excitement? Fear? Confusion?

He shouted something in Spanish that sounded like an appeal to a deity and was gone.

I chased after him and asked, "There's no stopping! Do you want me in front of you or behind?"

"You're the probe. Get out in front and signal the line to me. If there are holes out there as big as these waves, it could get ugly." Just the answer I didn't want. I was hoping he would keep me out of the holes.

I sped downstream as cautiously as possible, trying to pick a conservative line. But the whole river was a monstrous wave train. I knew there had to be a giant hole hiding out in those waves somewhere.

I tried not to think about the fact that I was, for all practical purposes, boating alone. The raft would be of no use if I got myself into trouble, and I wasn't too certain how I could possibly help them.

We raced on. I tried to stay on the shoulder of the waves, ready to paddle desperately away from any hole that might suddenly appear. But I kept finding myself at the bottom of the biggest wave trains without having seen a hole! I signaled to Alfredo to go for the big rides down the middle. After a few confirmational, conservative runs of his own, he began to trust my signals and move out into 'the meat.'

Screams of exhilaration could be heard at the crest of each wave. Alfredo began to look a little more relaxed, as fear was replaced by the excitement of being on the biggest water of his life. As impossible as it was to believe, these huge waves were just that, and nothing more. There were no killer holes! This was a big-water boater's dream river.

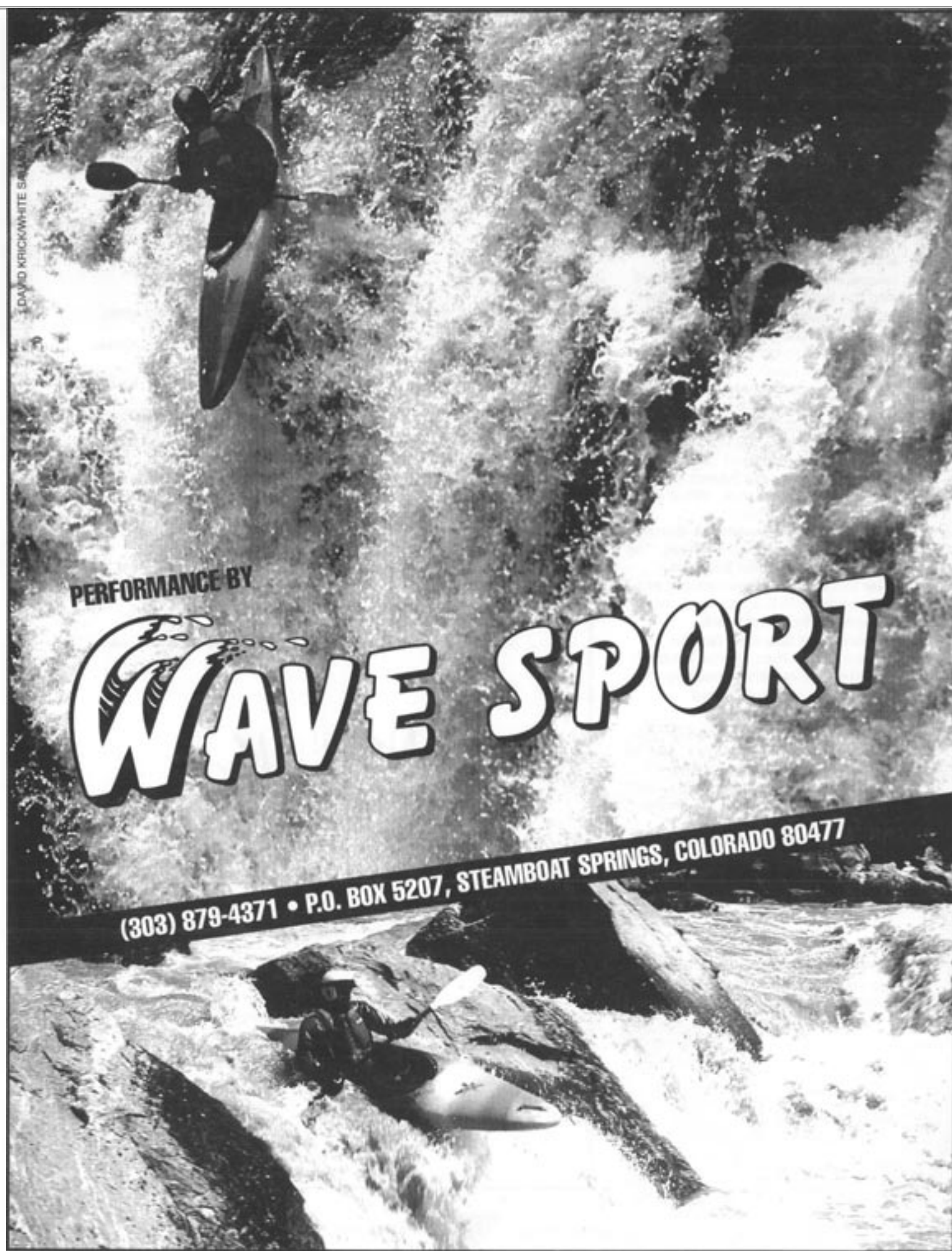
Once I was able to relax, I began to play a little. Sitting on top of the

DAVID KRICKWHITE SKIING

PERFORMANCE BY

WAVE SPORT

(303) 879-4371 • P.O. BOX 5207, STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO 80477



most incredible wave I had ever surfed, I shouted to Alfredo, "I quit! I'll be on this wave 'til the water drops." The look of panic on his face made me reconsider. I peeled off the wave and raced downstream, once again to pick the lines.

just as we reached the confluence of the Toachi River and our camp for the evening, the joyous rafters hit a huge breaking wave sideways and two paddlers were sent swimming. One was snatched back into the boat quickly, but I earned my hero status by getting the other one back to the raft downstream.

That evening brought more rain and the river rose. Once again, we left shore apprehensive about what might be waiting downstream, but by the time we got to the take-out, we were all smiles. Alfredo looked down from the raft and said, "You looked like you were having even more fun than we were. What did you think of the river?"

There are hardly words to describe paddling days as good as these. "Its incredible! I've never been on a river this big and continuous. Let's go back and do it again right now."

Kayaking in Ecuador was beginning to take on a familiar pattern. Each river left me amazed by either the quality of boating or the spectacular scenery and wildlife... sometimes both.

Having led kayak trips to Chile for four years, my partner and I came to Ecuador in search of something new. We never imagined we would find such a whitewater gem in this tiny country.

I'm just amazed that Ecuador hasn't already become a favorite destination for kayakers seeking refuge from the North American winter.

Editor's note: Those interested in paddling in Ecuador may wish to contact trip leader Enaa Lokey at box 262, Howard, Colorado 81233.

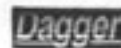
We prefer our water white *How about you?*

Our new location has everything to fulfill your whitewater needs. If it's equipment you need, our 2200 sq. ft. showroom has it. Kayaks, canoes, and accessories are available in our full-line retail store. We also carry equipment for rock climbing, (1300 sq. ft. rock climbing gym on the premises), Telemark skiing, backpacking, camping, and more outdoor activities. Can't get to the store?

Call toll free at 1-800-243-4112 for mail orders.

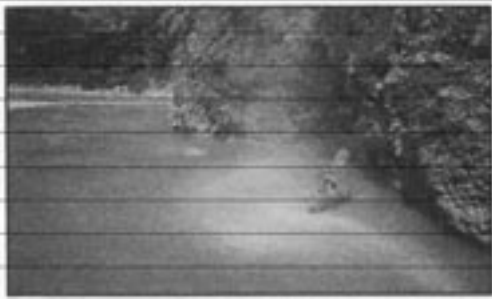
We are 5 minutes from exit 31 of the NYS Thruway (190).

We are central to many New York rivers - Call for river level info.



a division of Northern Outfitters, Inc.

•New Wave Waterworks*
•587 Main Street*
*Suite 109•
•New York Mills, NY 13417•



Whitewater Shangri-La!

Story and photos by Jeffrey Parker and Bridget Thomas

For years we had been listening to tales of Himalayan boating skeptically. The Himalayas are for climbing, we thought. Access must be too difficult for paddling, and the real thrill of the Himalayas must be in trekking around its peaks.

After spending a few months running rivers in Nepal we stand corrected. The trekking in Nepal is great, but the paddling is also fantastic, and allows access to areas well off the trekkers' beaten path.

We arrived at the end of September in time to catch the high post monsoon flows. Over the following two months we paddled a number of excellent rivers. This included a healthy mixture of exploratory paddling and well known classic runs; such as the Tamir, **Marsiandi**, Trisuli, Sun Kosi, Kali Gandaki. One of our favorites was the Modi Kola.

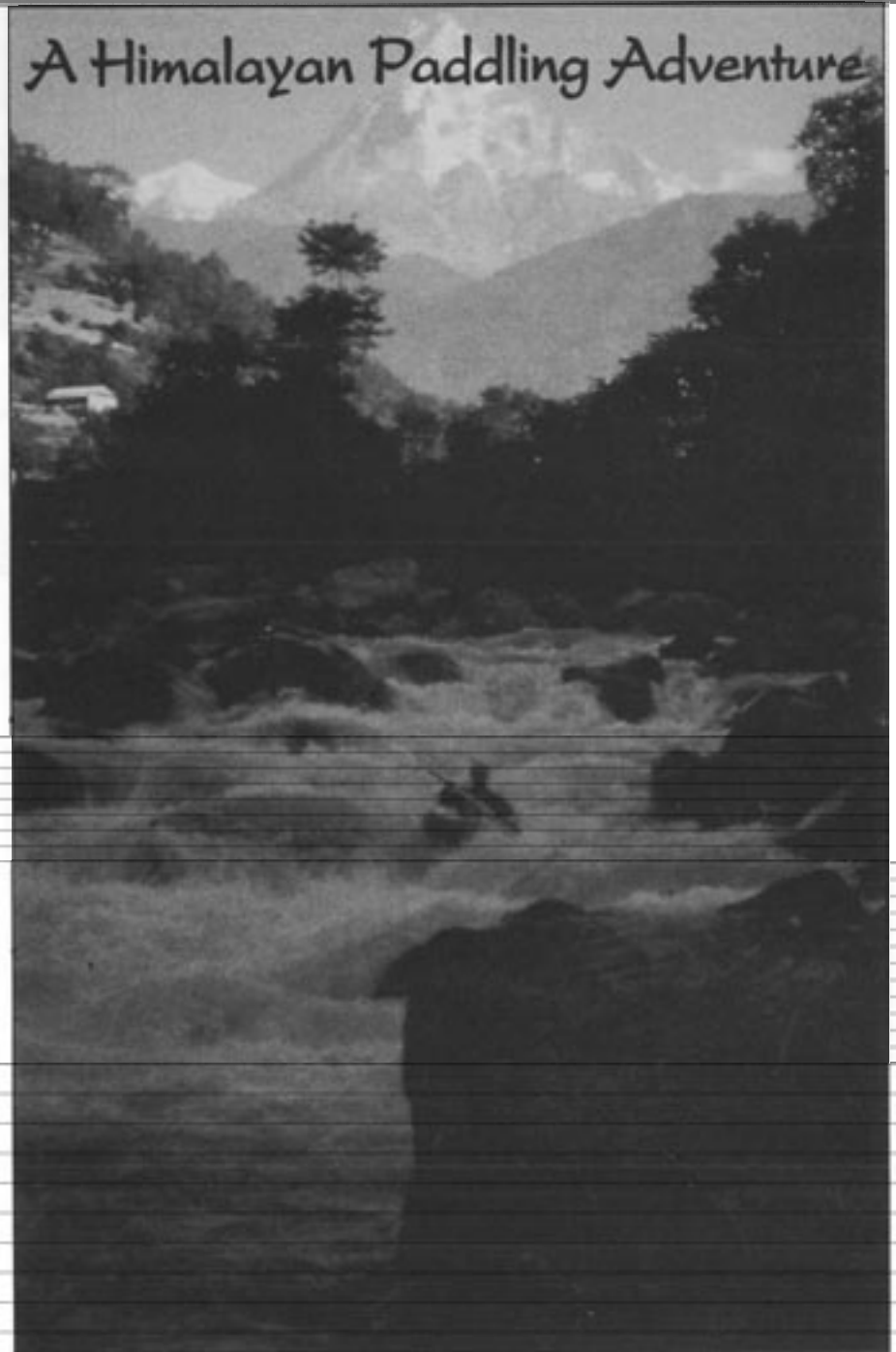
The journey down the Modi Kola river from high in the Himalayas is a classic. The Modi Kola drains the Annapurna sanctuary through deep mountain gorges, before running into the Kali Gandaki river. It continues through a jungle corridor to emerge in the great valley of the Trisuli.

The trip begins in Pokhara, Nepal's second largest city, with a two-hour bus ride to the trail head. As the policeman shouted up to the bus rooftop "Permits!, Permits!," we smiled with the confidence of having paid \$5 for the relevant piece of paper. That was until Paul whispered "I've left mine in Katmandu."

The next minutes typified everything that we had come to know and love about Nepali bureaucracy. Smiling and saying "OK, OK" in our best Nepali accents, permits passed from person to person as kayakers climbed on and off the bus. Finally, the bemused policeman pronounced, "All is OK," and the last kayakers scrambled up the ladder onto the already moving bus.

Many of the best rivers in Nepal have no road to the put in, allowing one to combine a pleasant trek with a remote river trip. As our potential porters feigned grief at the weight of our loaded kayaks, the price of a

A Himalayan Paddling Adventure



Designed by Lauren Fair

Jeff Parker on the Modi Kola, below Birethanti. (top) Bridget Thomas enjoys first shower in months on Kali Gandaki.

days **carry** went up and up. We eventually conceded to their price. With a sly smile, the porters tied two boats together, carrying a double load for a double wage, and set off. It was all we could do to keep up.

Psyched for an epic, we had been **temped** by the guidebook description of an

extreme upper section. Steep boating and **constant eddy scouting** made for some rewarding paddling. The envisioned epic never happened, but plenty of class V did. At one particularly choked section of the river, Steve Woollett jumped out of his **Hurricane** to bank scout.





East Nepali Girl



Upper Modi Kola

"Hang on here guys, I'll check this out." After five minutes of jostling for position in the eddy, Steve returned. "You guys are definitely going to love this, it's the perfect rapid."

As Steve's description of the carnage downstream unfolded, the line sounded even less probable; boofs, siphons, undercuts, and strainers.

"It's going to look really gnarly, but it'll work like a dream."

He was right — well at least about the gnarly part. A great days paddling ended with Steve's trashing in the ~~final~~ hole, giving the rest of us a chance to laugh from the bank.

From here, the Modi Kola provides two days of great class IV. Rapid follows rapid, with staggering views of snow capped Machapuchhre, standing at 23,000 ft. The river has an amazingly friendly character; clear water with a paucity of nasty surprises. There were virtually no flat stretches... it was like a long downhill ski run.

Birethanti is a great place to eddy for the night. We stayed at the Riverside Lodge (where else?). Steep creekers should check out Rest Day falls on the **Burungdi** Kola, the tributary which joins here. The final day of pleasant **kayaking** takes you to the confluence with the Kali Gondaki. We opted to paddle with empty boats after Goose volunteered to carry the equipment the mile up to the bus. This decision, of course, had nothing to do with his broken rib, courtesy of Rest Day Falls.

Drifting down the Kali Gandaki, we felt

relaxed with the hardest rapids now behind us. As we drifted and enjoyed the scenery, we swung around the corner into the first rapid, 4L, with Jeff Parker taking the lead. He was soon being cartwheeled in the bottom hole. Who said river racers don't make great rodeo paddlers?

That evening, laughing and reflecting on the day's events, we settled into the river life, pleased to be away from the hustle and bustle of the Annapurna circuit. Searching for firewood, we attracted the attention of two young boys on the opposite bank. Realizing what we were after, they disappeared from sight, soon returning with armfuls of driftwood.

"Dowra, dowra" they shouted, as we ferried over to gracefully receive their offering. Overjoyed just to have helped us, they continued their work on the hillside, their high pitched singing drifting over to our campfire.

After a strangely restless night, we were joined for breakfast by two men from the nearest village. As we sat around the fire waiting for the porridge to brew, we chatted as best we could.

"You slept here last night?," they asked with evident surprise.

"Yes," we smiled, gesturing at our bivi bags.

"I could not stay here," one replied, shivering. "If someone dies in our village, here we bum them. There are many ghosts."

Glad that we hadn't met these men the

night before, we exchanged glances around the fire, and rapidly changed the subject.

In all it took four days to paddle the Kali Gandaki, time enough to appreciate the great scenery and the occasional challenging rapid. On the last day the rapids intensified and we had a "near death" experience. Sitting beside the river, a crowd of locals appeared bearing a stretcher, which was ceremoniously placed on a funeral pyre. Anxious to communicate to us what they were doing, we were told in broken English, "I am burning my friend."

"Yes," we replied. "You are having a barbecue."

As we left, the villagers took some time from watching the fire to wave good-bye. Only Bridget noticed the feet sticking from the woodpile. Taking out at Ramdi, we caught up with a great bunch of Irish paddlers and shared transport back to Pokhara.

Our Nepal trip could hardly have been better. The people we met and the places we saw only inspired us to plan to return, even as we were leaving.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

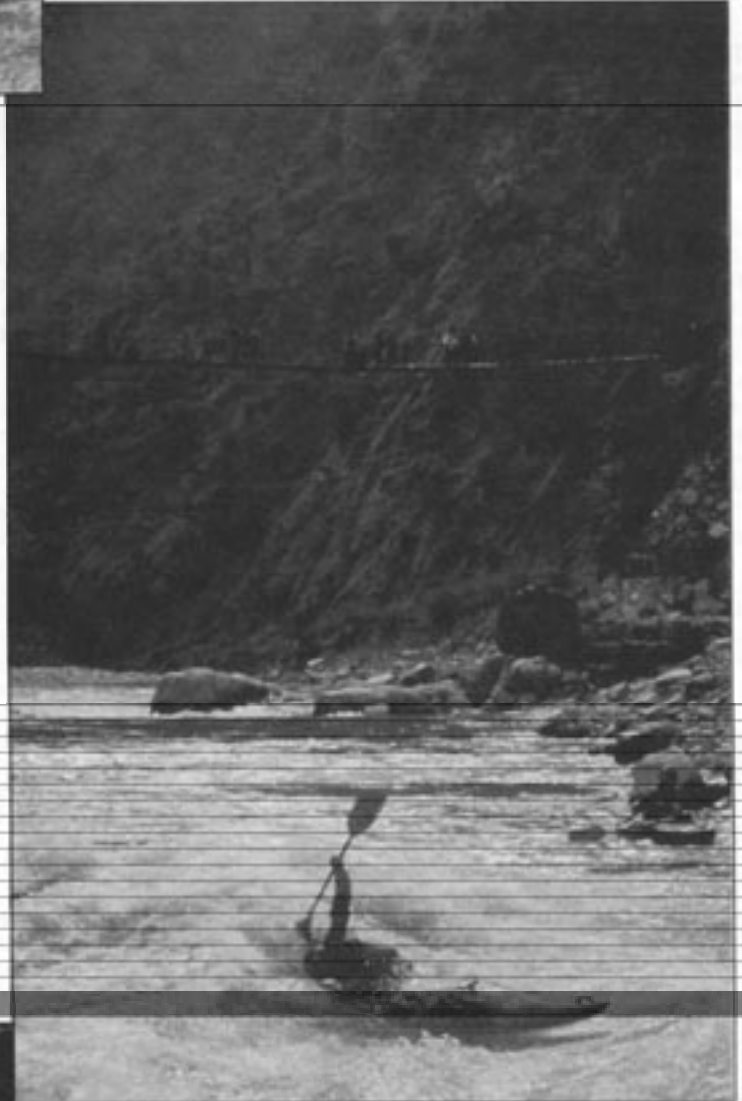
Scottish paddler, Bridget Thomas is a world champion in Whitewater Rodeo. She is spending the year paddling whitewater around the world, with fellow Scots Andy England (Goose) and Andy Jackson. In Nepal they were joined by Colorado boater, Jeff Parker. Sponsors of their expedition included Prijon, Polartec, Stohlquist, Reebok, Patagonia, Monotone and Perception.



Bridget Thomas on the Upper Modi Kola.

Showing off for the locals.

**"The river has
an amazing
friendly nature,
clear water
and no nasty
surprises."**



Coloradoan Dave Neff, on the Modi Kola.



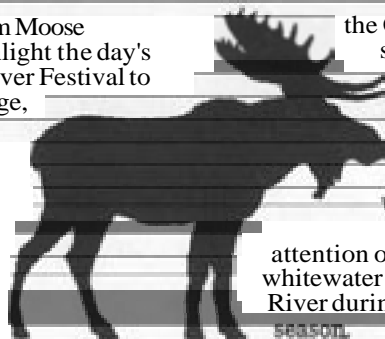
Briget Thomas and Jeff Parker, taking a break.

HAIR RACE SLATED FOR MOOSE FESTIVAL

The 1st annual Bottom Moose Downriver Race will highlight the day's activities at the Moose River Festival to be held Oct. 21 in Old Forge, New York.

The Bottom Moose is approximately five miles in length and contains eight named drops of class I-V and V difficulty and several other unnamed rapids of lesser intensity. The race will have a spectacular start at **Fowlersville Falls**— where the Moose drops 50 feet over a 60-degree slide - and an equally impressive finish at Crystal rapid, three-stage, 30-foot waterfall.

"The race should be a spectacular event for both racers and spectators," said festival coordinator Chris Koll. "A hiking trail parallels much of the river, so people who don't want to boat the Bottom can still see the action."



the Gauley event—only considerably more intimate," Koll said.

"We're lucky to have a great site—the celebration will be inside in case of bad weather."

The Festival will focus attention on the wide range of whitewater available on the Moose River during the October paddling

During the final four weekends of **October**, releases from upstream reservoirs provides water levels suitable for whitewater recreation on three separate sections of the Moose River. The "Middle Moose" offers eight miles of class II-III rapids that are suitable for novice

boaters, the "Lower Moose" provides 11 miles of class 3-4 action appropriate for strong intermediate paddlers, while the "Bottom Moose"

has long been considered one of the premier expert runs in the eastern United States.

"The Moose in October is a tremendous whitewater resource that has long been overlooked," Koll said.

"The Bottom Moose has deservedly received most of the attention, but there's really whitewater for every ability level all located within a 25-mile stretch of river. We expect to attract paddlers of all skills and experience to the festival."

For information regarding the Bottom Moose Race or the Moose River Festival, Koll can be contacted at (315) 475-7499 days, (315) 652-8397 evenings, or E-mailed at CKoll1234@AOL.com.

The awards presentation will be conducted Saturday evening at the Moose Festival site at Old Forge's North Street Park. In addition to the race, the Festival will feature live entertainment, equipment displays, whitewater videos and equipment raffles and auctions.

"The Festival will be modeled after

Prominent Wyoming Kayaker Dies on River

Gordon Graham of Rock Springs, Wyoming died in a **kayaking** accident on Montana's East Rosebud River on June 25, 1995. Graham was a member of AWA and a past president of the Bittercreek Whitewater Association.

A trust fund has been established for the education of his daughter, Bailey. Contributions may be sent to Bailey Graham Educational Trust, c/o Keith Hays, Rock Springs National Bank, P.O. Box 880, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82902.

Ohiopyle Triathlon Scheduled

The Ohiopyle Stewart Volunteer Fire Company has scheduled the first annual **8X4X4** Triathlon for September 16, 1995. The race will include a eight mile bike ride on the **Yough** River Trail, a four mile **canoe/kayak** segment on the Middle **Yough** (Class 1-11) and a four mile **run**.

The entry fee will be \$15 before September 2 and \$20 after that date. Registration the morning of the race will be held from 8-9 at the firehall. **All** entrants will receive T-shirts. The race will be limited to 250 participants. A portion of the proceeds will be used for the Fire Company Truck Fund. This fire company serves the park and the surrounding community, a popular whitewater mecca.

The race will begin at 10 a.m. with a staggered start at the entrance to the **Yough** River Trail in Ohiopyle. Awards will go to the top male and female **finisher**, top three team finishers and to the top male and female finishers in the following age groups: 14 and under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49 and 50 and up. Awards will also go to the fastest three firemen who enter. Equipment rentals will be available by prior arrangement.

For additional information please contact the Ohiopyle Stewart Fire Co., P.O. Box 62, Ohiopyle, PA 15470.

SUMMARY OF THE AWA FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

April 30, 1995
 Ric Alesch, Vice President, AWA
 Pope Barroto, Conservation and Access Committee Chair, AWA

THE NEED FOR A STRATEGIC PLAN:

A VISION FOR AWA

There is only one national organization dedicated exclusively to the conservation, restoration, and enjoyment of whitewater rivers — the American Whitewater Affiliation (AWA). The Affiliation was founded in 1955 to address the needs of the community of people throughout the United States who enjoy and value whitewater rivers, to provide a means for them to communicate with one another on a nationwide basis, and to serve as a national advocate for whitewater sports. This is a summary of the American Whitewater Affiliation's new 5-year strategic plan; a plan that will guide growth, development and operation of the organization through the year 2000.

OUR MISSION

Based on this vision, the AWA Board of Directors adopted the following mission statement: "To conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely."

In the spring of 1994, the Board embarked on the task of writing a strategic plan to serve this mission through the end of this century. The plan addresses goals and strategies for whitewater river conservation, river access, safety, and

STOP THE NEW WORLD GOLD MINE



(T-shirt front - with three color block print)

— BUY THIS T-SHIRT

\$16.00 (includes shipping)

ALL PROCEEDS go to fighting this mine and preserving the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone (See article in conservation section of this issue.)

Artwork donated by Packy Cronin
 T-Shirts donated by **patagonia**



(T-shirt back)

Send checks/money orders only, to: Headwaters Paddling Association
 P.O. Box 6028 Bozeman, Montana 59771
 Include your shipping address and size - M, L or XL

FIGHT FOR SACRED WATERS

special events. The Board approved the plan on March 23, 1995.

Since 1990 AWA has employed professional staff, which now includes an Executive Director, a Conservation Program Director and a River Access Coordinator, together with part-time persons working on publications and clerical tasks. A strategic plan is needed to develop consensus on a direction for the organization and guide staff in doing projects to fulfill the AWA mission. AWA still relies heavily on local volunteers (such as our regional coordinators), many of whom have a broad range of experience and knowledge about whitewater rivers and recreation, but the work of the organization has expanded far beyond the capacity of volunteers alone.

The following four sub-plans, together with the internal organizational development plan to be completed this summer, constitute the overall AWA strategic plan for 1995, through the year 2000.

WHITewater CONSERVATION

Goal: To restore and protect whitewater rivers.

Projects:

- Participate in all key Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing and relicensing actions that affect whitewater rivers in order to advocate protection and enhancement of whitewater opportunities. This includes restoring recreation to formerly dry rivers, securing better recreational flows, guaranteeing free public access and improving awareness of the public values at stake at hydroelectric projects.

- Oppose using federal funds for the destruction or diversion of whitewater rivers.

- Support legislation to permanently protect whitewater rivers. This will involve close networking with other groups, publicity in *American Whitewater*, Internet news groups and web sites, press releases, letter writing campaigns, submitting testimony and direct lobbying.

- Develop and use a wider variety of tools to protect rivers. These will include: legal action, improved state river protection programs, wider use of the 2(a)(ii) process, and the use of federal laws other than the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

- Develop and make available technical information to individuals and groups

regarding the economics of whitewater recreation and hydropower.

- Start new statewide river conservation groups.

- Build a stronger commitment to river conservation within the whitewater community.

RIVER ACCESS

Goal: To ensure that whitewater recreation and rivers are free from threats or restrictions to river access.

Projects:

- Seek changes in federal and state policies and rules that restrict river access by boaters.

- Assure access at newly licensed or relicensed hydro projects on whitewater rivers.

- Purchase, lease, or license (alone or in cooperation with land trusts and other groups) key streamside land parcels.

- Press public agencies to acquire, on a willing seller basis or by exchange, legal access and parking areas for recreational river users.

- Seek improvements in state landowner liability laws.

- Promote a philosophy of taking responsibility for one's own safety within the whitewater boating community, outdoor recreation in general, and the legal framework which governs our actions.

- Help in negotiations with landowners to get permission for non-commercial boaters to cross their lands to access whitewater streams.

- Seek to secure the legal right of passage by recreational boaters on whitewater rivers.

WHITewater SAFETY

Goal: To increase whitewater safety awareness and skills.

Projects:

- Promote and distribute AWA's Whitewater Safety Code.

- Improve reporting of whitewater related accidents to a designated central coordinator.

- Promote a philosophy of responsibility for one's own actions.

- Distribute Whitewater Safety Flash Cards.

- Promote awareness and education to improve river safety.
- Revise the Whitewater Classification System.

WHITewater PROMOTION

Goals: To establish a calendar of AWA-insured and sponsored events that is geographically diverse and accomplishes other objectives set forth above; to celebrate America's whitewater resources and foster paddler gatherings for fun, enjoying whitewater resources and, occasionally, having friendly competition; to provide a forum for education on current local and national whitewater issues; to create alliances between AWA and other conservation groups; to heighten national and regional awareness of AWA's activities; to generate income for AWA's conservation and access programs; and to increase AWA membership.

Projects:

- Continue sponsoring whitewater rodeos.

- Improve existing festivals and establish new ones.

- Initiate additional expert level races.

- Encourage other events.

- Become the focal point for whitewater information on the "information superhighway."

- Distribute the AWA Slide Show and Promotional Video.

HOW CAN YOU HELP

Additional details on steps to implement these projects, including milestones and due dates, are contained in the strategic plan. If you would like a copy of the entire document, or even better, if you would be willing to help work on one of these projects or make a donation to implement the plan, please write to AWA President Risa Callaway or AWA Executive Director Phyllis Horowitz at P.O. Box 85, Phoenicia, NY 12464.

Rodeo Roundup

by Risa Callaway

Rodeo Season is winding down, and it is evident that the sport of Freestyle Paddling has grown, to the extent that organizers, competitors and sponsors are excited, anxious, curious and frustrated with the prospect of deciding where we need to go next.

THE GOOD NEWS: Events like the Ocoee Rode, the Potomac Whitewater Festival, and the Coosa Rodeo are raising thousands and thousands of dollars for conservation. Attendance is up, local support is strong. If the organizers can grow their succession-planning skills, longevity is likely.

The Not-So-Good News: There are lots of events which are all run a bit differently. Expectations by sponsors and organizers are still at slightly different levels. Ground rules are in order, but everyone is hesitant to try to homogenize the events. There are a few paddlers out there who are aspiring to become famous and wealthy (well, perhaps at least one of the two) from paddling in rodeos. Some event organizers are saying they don't want to grow or be part of the 'circuit' if it means there are rules, regulations, requirements, etc. for their inclusion.

This August, at the annual meeting of the National Organization of Whitewater Rodeos, a committee of AWA, such topics will be discussed. We will chart of the path for next year and perhaps years out. One thing is certain - every one of the group of organizers and sponsors is a boater who understands the spirit in which the NOWR has been developed. The next steps will be taken for the benefit of the paddling community.

NOWR MISSION STATEMENT

The National Organization of Whitewater Rodeos exists to facilitate whitewater rodeo events in North America. A whitewater rodeo is a fun, friendly, gathering of paddlers and communities engaged in an event which showcases a whitewater skills competition. The event shall promote river and water resource protection and access, and publicize both current issues and related organizations.



**OCTOBER 14,
1994
HAYSI,
VIRGINIA**

▼
BLUEGRASS MUSIC

▼
VIDEOS

▼
FOOD

▼
FUN

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
CONTACT (502) 227-8167**

Take the Wild Ride!

The highly entertaining, yet instructional video of the world's best rodeo kayakers at the Rodeo Worlds. See them land big air back in the hole, and hear them explain how to learn the moves. See what else lurks in the brains of career playboaters. 52 Minutes. \$29.95

"My husband borrowed this tape from a friend, and after 5 days of watching it, he had to return it. But he got depressed, and went into withdrawal.

So I needed to buy him one." - Eileen Butchkowski, Petersburg, PA

"If you are a whitewater buff, "Wild Ride" belongs in your library" - Paddler

"Rad stuff for the whitewater junkie, but you can actually learn something" - Canoe

The Kayaker's Edge This fast paced instructional video unlocks the secrets behind basic and advanced stroke techniques, smooth surfing and sidesurfing, rolling and bracing. 58 min. \$29.95

"The best general instruction video on the market" - Outside

Solo Playboating! Inspiring instructional video packed with information for open canoeists. Strokes, rolling, and more. \$29.95
"Entertaining...super job of presenting technical points. Nicely paced...fun to watch."
-Charlie Walbridge, Wildwater Designs

Performance Sea Kayaking... the basics and beyond 59 minutes \$29.95 **NEW!**
The C-1 Challenge Fun, instructional video for decked C-1 paddlers. 24 min. \$19.95
The Citizen Racers Workshop All the basics of whitewater slalom for the curious paddler or beginner racer. Learn about Olympic Slalom! 18 minutes. \$19.95

Available from most stores and catalogs, OR send tape price plus \$4.00 shipping to:
Performance Video & Instruction, 550 Riverbend, Durango, CO 81301
(970)259-1361 (970)259-4148 fax

Evelyn sat in the green light of the Timberline tent groaning as she pulled her wetsuit up each leg. Her sleeping bag, bunched in the corner, looked cushy and inviting. "Ugh, wet neoprene," she muttered as the thick elastic fabric bucked and rolled. Her broad white thighs spilled over her hands like bread dough.

"Whitewater is not a sport for middle-aged women," she informed a mosquito walking delicately across the roof of the tent. "I feel like a sausage in this thing."

But once she had stretched the wetsuit up over her hips and belly and fastened the Velcro tabs over each shoulder, she felt fifteen pounds slimmer. Sexy, even. Maybe that's why I do this, she thought, just to wear the clothes. She had a sudden image of water piling up against the gray granite rocks just below Cucumber Run. She let out her breath and stood up.

"Aren't you ready yet?"

Greg called. Of course, he was ready. She could still feel his ribs, at 45, and the ropy muscles in his calves. The man was disgustingly fit. But

he was cute, tucked neatly into his own neoprene casing, his long toes sticking out of his river sandals. She thought of circling those toes with her fingers, running her hand along the ridge of his calf. **Maybe later. If she was still in one piece.**

Evelyn felt her ears pop as they drove down into the river valley. Drops glistened on the pine and hemlock trees lining the gorge, the trunks black and water-stained. The parking lot above the put-in was already nearly full, canoes and kayaks and duckies and paddles and lifevests and helmets were strewn across the sloping lawn. A young woman in a purple wetsuit shouldered her kayak - with ease - and strode across the road. Then she was all nonchalance, chatting with the park official handing out boating permits. She was maybe, twenty-two, blond and slim. I hate you, Evelyn thought.

Yesterday had been the training run on the middle section of the Youghiogheny, an easy class II. **Two-foot** ledges interspersed with long pools where she could polish her forward stroke. Still, while trying to side-surf a hole, she had flipped.

Struggling to hold the Impulse by the bow painter and shore, she had come up from the water to Greg's broad grin.

"Need some help?" She stuck out her tongue at him. But after they pulled the boat ashore and dumped it, they poured hot coffee out of the stainless steel thermos and split the **Hershey** bar, square by square. She tasted chocolate when she kissed him, **m-m-m-m**. Back in the canoe, fastening the thigh straps and straddling the foam saddle, she felt her thighs pressing against the wetsuit, strong and full.

But today's stretch, the Loop, was harder, big water, cross-currents that would spin and flip you in an instant. Evelyn feared Cucumber Rapids the most, a tumultuous drop squeezed between large boulders. The guidebook said swimming Cucumber must be like getting flushed down a toilet. She didn't want to swim.

But Greg said Entrance and Railroad Rapids were actually the trickiest to run. With each rock pile the current accelerated, you took on more and more water until you were pushed toward the last drop, sloshing, gunwales tipping, then having to avoid the fierce turbulence of a **boat-eating** hole. She had never done the Loop solo before. She planned to eddy hop and hope.

Why am I doing this? She slung on her lifevest and tightened her glasses' strap. Who knows?

Greg was checking the pressure in his air bags, letting a little out through the clear plastic nozzle. "You might want to check yours," he said. "Wouldn't want them to burst in the sun."

"Already did," Evelyn said shortly. Men—always have to give advice! Sweat trickled down her wetsuit. It was hot for early May. "Come on, let's go," she said.

by Sondra Willobee

Wet Neoprene

"Do you need help with your boat?" Greg asked.

"No."

The roar of the twenty-foot Ohiopyle Falls just upriver pressed against them as they lurched down the gravel incline with their boats balanced on their shoulders. Mist spilled downstream and beaded on her face. Those falls had stopped George Washington, during the French-Indian War when he was looking for a supply route to Pittsburgh. Downstream, there was a short space of flatwater, then she could see the current pick up speed as it headed toward Sugarloaf, a house-sized rock.

She felt a pull of fear in her belly. "Oh, well," she said aloud, pushing off with her paddle, "here goes."

Entrance went fast. Frightened by the force of the current, Evelyn took the sneak down the right. "Coward," Greg teased, but she didn't care. She didn't want to play the waves or holes. She just wanted to stay upright. The water was up, brown and swirling from last night's rain. She sat in an eddy, watching a group of kayakers take the big drop left of Sugarloaf rock. A burly, bearded man in a metallic blue **playboat** shouted encouragement to the only woman in their group. The woman kayaker flipped in the hole, but rolled up as her comrades cheered. Evelyn practiced leaning the boat, right, then left, stretching the long muscles down her side. She felt stiff, old.

She had not remembered the water pushing this hard. She felt like a cork bobbing, a leaf. She realized how much she had always relied on Greg's strength and judgment when they paddled tandem. Evelyn splashed her glasses with water—they were fogging up from the heat of her face. But Greg was already lining up for the next rapids, waving to her from below. "Come on!"

Cucumber. The current kept pushing, pushing her right toward the outside of the bend when she knew she needed to get left for the drop. Draw. Draw. Her arms felt limp, ineffectual. But somehow, she got right and then, bloop, she was riding the tongue, down the brown water, down into the standing waves below that turned her sideways and squirted her into the eddy by shore. "I did it!" she whooped.

Greg was out in the current, surfing the big wave. She bailed the water from her boat and washed her glasses again. She was too tired to get back into the current to test her strength against the waves. Easy does it, she thought, and I'll survive.

"Hey, girl, good going." Greg pulled up beside her and shook the water off his face. She took a deep breath, watching him rub his hand across his lips. She



PRIJON
Kayaks

Experience the Sensation!

Hurricane paddling is a full body experience. You and the boat become one, exposing the river's potential. Experience the sensation yourself.

For a free Prijon catalog call or write:
WILDWASSER SPORT USA
P.O. Box 4617
Boulder CO 80306
303/444-2336
Fax No. 303/444-2375



SALAMANDER

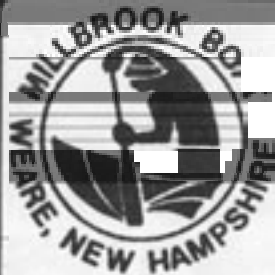
Canyon Shorts

FIT' to SIT'
Pajama Shorts for Amphibians

- 5- Panel Construction • Ergonomically Designed to Fit Amphibians in Paddling Position • 4-way Stretch Nylon II
- Long Legs Prevent Thigh Chafes

P.O. Box 1363 • Bend • OR 97709 Or check out your local paddle store

\$60 ea. 503-388-1821 • FAX 503-388-1831



Millbrook proudly introduces 4 new whitewater canoes for 1993: The **REAKTOR, PROWLER, CULPRIT, AND FATBOY**. Don't forget the Souhegan and **AD/DC**! They are great for week-end paddling. Step into the light weight world of Millbrook Boats, with over 20 canoe designs to choose from. We have something for everyone!

Each canoe is custom made. All models are made of Kevlar/graphic construction. Prices range from \$700-\$900. Call or write for a catalogue. They are FREE!

John Kazimierczyk, Millbrook Boats
49 Lufkin Road, Weare, NH 03281 (603) 529-3919

Wet Neoprene

rocked forward and back in the boat. "My glasses are really fogging up," she said. "I can't keep them clear."

"They sell a defogger you can treat them with," he said.

"Lot of good that does me down here," she laughed.

At Camel and Walrus Rapids, she made the straight shot river right over all four ledges and avoided the rock heap at the bottom.

She wet her glasses with her tongue. She went straight through Eddy Turn, declining the chance to zig-zag down the right side. By the time she got to Dartmouth, the second-to-last rapids, she could hardly see.

Smash! She broached on a rock. The river swept along powerfully on either side of her. She leaned downstream and let the current lift her free. Catching an eddy, Evelyn dipped her glasses in the water. She watched Greg pivot cleanly into a micro-eddy below a rock in the middle of the stream. He looked good. Impatient with her own caution, she peered through the very bottom of her glasses and she took off for Railroad Rapids without a word.

It was stupid. She didn't know where she was going. She couldn't remember where the guidebook had said to go. As she saw the railroad trestle high above the river, the roar from the water hit her and she was right at the top of the drop. She couldn't see anything but a horizon line, right in front of her. She planted her paddle deeply and pulled right, as a man sitting on shore yelled, "Go left, go left!" Then she was over the drop and the wave hit her. She was under water in an instant.

Her head popped up and there was the red underside of the boat and her paddle in her hand and the water churning all around her. Shit! She was in Charlie's Washing Machine, the biggest, nastiest hole in the river. She had even aimed for it. All she could see was foaming whitewater.

Her shin scraped a rock. A kayaker pulled alongside and she grabbed the tow loop of the boat, kicking toward the big rocks by shore. She humped herself onto a rock like a sea lion, water streaming from under her helmet over her face and down her back.

She stretched out, panting. Another kayaker was sitting in an eddy below in a battered green squirt boat with duct tape on the bow. He raised one eyebrow, smiling. "That was an adventurous line you took."

Downstream she could see Greg pulling her canoe toward the far shore. She looked down at her dripping wetsuit. She could feel every inch of her skin against the neoprene.

Evelyn smiled back. "Yeah, it was," she replied.

**E
U
R
O
K
A
Y
A
K
S**

Life is short. Paddle hard!



For more information contact:

HEAD VIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 18978

Boulder, CO 80308

Tel/Fax 303.417.1955

T.G. CANOE LIVERY

P.O. Box 177

Martindale, TX 75655

Tel. 512.353.3833

Fax 512.353.3977



P A D D E
100 YEARS OF QUALITY

100 YEARS OF QUALITY THE FRANCH BOWLS, CRYSTAL RIVER, COLORADO



APRIL FOOLS

by Howie Freiman

A CALIFORNIA MISADVENTURE

Kayaking on April Fool's Day probably portends disaster, but I was in no mood to pay attention to omens. Looking back, there were many omens that day... all of which we chose to ignore. My partners in crime were Jerome, a gerontologist, and Nathan, an orthopedic surgeon. As things turned out, bringing along my own medical team was appropriate.

I mounded camping and boating gear on the front lawn. They pulled up in an already overloaded truck. As we were racking the third boat and shuttle craft (bike), ospreys called overhead.

Strange. I've never seen an osprey at my house. There is no water nearby. Now three of them are circling. Weird.

I'd been working all night - at least my judgment was clear. We left my yard, waving to family and friends, bound for somewhere - destination to be decided. Where to boat today? This was the first of a four day boating trip. There were many choices. The weather had been good - lots of rain, but now it was sunny and warm.

I mentioned Bluff Creek. Just then a huge bird, a juvenile bald eagle, flew past the truck. I'd never seen an eagle there,

almost within town limits. Surely it was a sign. OK. Let's do Bluff Creek.

It was an appropriately named creek for the day. Jerome had participated in its first descent, several years before. I had boated it once. It is a beautiful steep creek. I'd been boating well lately and my overconfidence was up. This run would keep my interest. Nathan had not been there, so this would be "good for him."

We arrived at the take-out to find a surplus of water cascading down the terminal canyon. No problem! We could have driven a few more miles to the Salmon and had a nice warm up on class IV waters. But I wanted this. We dropped our bikes into some thick poison oak and were off up the dusty logging road to Bluff Creek's headwaters. As the road angled steeply upwards, a short, bearish, shaggy animal ran in front of us. None of us had seen one of these before. Jerome guessed it was a wolverine. Another omen?

We went onward and upward, jolly to be nearing our destination. A fox stood in the road, **blocking** our route. He

would not move, even after we stopped and yelled, just a few feet away. No kidding. Jerome thought he must be sick. The fox finally sauntered off. We continued on. We did not heed the omen.

It was 3 o'clock by the time we'd hiked down the mountain to the stream. With the water flowing fast at about 1,000 cfs, time was no problem. I felt great; I was descending class III and IV rapids, catching eddies at will. Jerome and Nathan looked good too. Then it did get narrow and fast and powerful and steep. I saw an eddy I thought I should catch to look over a drop. It was small, backed by a ragged sieve and large ledge.

I cruised in, but no dice. I was paddling furiously but heading sideways over the ledge. The sieve caught the nose and tail of my (not for long) lovely Pirouette S. I was held firmly in the cockpit as the water rushed downward onto my legs. My head was out of the water.

The boat began to fold a bit on either side of the cockpit, hyperextending my legs uncomfortably. It remained in that position, horizontal and submerged. I pulled the sprayskirt but couldn't force my way out of the boat. Then the boat folded even more; now my legs were really hurting. I had fleeting thoughts of serious injury and death. Then the boat broke loose and I fell out into the hole at the bottom of the ledge.

The swim was harrowing, and seemed potentially lethal. Nathan boated beside me, but with the gradient and power of the water, couldn't fish me out. I bounced into rocks and through holes. After too long (perhaps a quarter mile), adrenaline powered kicks surfed me across a wave and into an eddy. Nathan saw I was out and took off after my boat and paddle. Jerome pulled up as I was testing my legs.

He said I looked gray. My right leg hurt. After a few minutes I could bear weight, though. I told Jerome that I was climbing out of the canyon. He left to catch Nathan.

The climb was steep and slow. I had to negotiate a large slide and cross the gorge of a side stream. My injured leg was clumsy. But I was very happy to be alive. Finally, I reached the bikes at the take-out. Oops! Why were they **all** still there? Were the others still on the river?

There was an hour of light left and this would be a moonless night in that forest. Then Nathan paddled up.

"What took so long?"

"Jerome dislocated his shoulder. I reduced it. He's walking out too. We have your boat, Howie. Its a little creased in the middle but otherwise OK."

Nathan peddled off up the mountain to get the truck. I went to meet Jerome. I had been with Jerome a year before when a fall from a bicycle had fractured the same shoulder he had just dislocated.

SALAMANDER

Otter Paws

Born to be Warm

Paddling Gloves for Amphibians

- ▲ All seams glued & blind stitched ▲ Velcro wrist strap
- ▲ Urethane coated palm, improves grip and durability
- ▲ Ergonomically cut & designed specifically for paddling

P.O. Box 1363 • Bend • OR 97709
Or check out your local paddle store

\$38 a pair

503-388-1821 • FAX 503-388-1831

APRIL FOOLS

That injury had kept him from kayaking for weeks. This recurrent injury wouldn't be good. I, myself, was limping and bleeding from a hole in the **hematoma** on the front of my lower leg.

But where was Jerome? Certainly not where I expected. I hunted around, following some footprints as the light grew dim. Then, from far off, I heard Jerome's whistle. He, too, had been forced to climb out of the canyon. A cliff had blocked his progress along the

stream. He carried his emergency bag, but our two boats were still in the canyon.

We huddled around a fire as the temperature dropped. He told me how he got hurt. He had flipped in a series of nasty hydraulics. He had rolled quickly to prepare for the next monster. But his roll didn't stop - he went 360 and found himself upside down again. Was his paddle broken? Jerome rolled again. He stayed up. The paddle was not broken. But his

shoulder was deformed.

So as the stars revolved above, we talked, chewed on "gourmet" moldy old jerky from Jerome's bag, and considered Nathan's situation. We were sure that if Nathan had taken the straight bike route to the truck, he would be back. Jerome decided to look for him on his bike.

Nathan related his adventure later. Because of the darkness, he was forced to dismount a mile and a half up the mountain. He developed severe cramps in his leg muscles. **He stopped** and dozed for a time before he continued the ascent. That's when he heard the bloodcurdling shriek. He reasonably concluded that he was being stalked by a mountain lion. We'd seen a large one not far away the previous summer.

Caveman Nathan continued onward, now brandishing a makeshift club and several pockets full of rocks. He thought he had passed familiar landmarks in the inky night, but then discovered he was a "little" lost on a dead end logging road. He backtracked several miles to a fork in the road and found the truck. As he started driving he met Jerome. Jerome's bike light batteries had given out and he was walking. Fortunately they hadn't missed each other in the maze of logging roads on that dark mountain.

I was really pleased to see them back at the take-out at 1 a.m.! Therm-A-Rests, sleeping bags, warm, dry clothes, **Nirvana!**

The next day was dedicated to **equipment** rescue. Nathan had emerged unscathed, but Jerome couldn't boat. The climb into the canyon would **be** hard for me, since I'd hurt my leg. So we decided Nathan would climb to the river. He could fit into Jerome's boat and paddle it. He'd put a cockpit cover on my boat and nudge it downstream ahead of him.

Apparently my empty boat pinned several times. It took most of the day for Nathan to pry it out of Bluff Creek. By the time he reached the take-out my kayak was self-bailing - there were large holes in it's bow.

I learned a number of lessons about kayaking on April Fool's Day and about steep creeks and high water. And about starting a vacation on easier runs... to warm up. And about bringing enough safety equipment and about staying within my limits.

As a consequence of our experience on Bluff Creek I appreciate more deeply how wonderful it is to be alive. I'm concentrating more on living for the moment, paying attention.

It is April sixth now. I've begun to re-assess my life, making new connections to my family and friends and myself. And I am looking forward to further growth and to more safe kayaking in the future.

We have what you're looking for...

Whatever it is, you'll find it in our 88-page color catalog, which is the biggest and most comprehensive in the whitewater business.

We are Whitewater Raft specialists, but we're also paddlers, and we carry the best names in the business. Call or write for your copy of THE Whitewater Catalog



Cascade

O U T F I T T E R S

P.O. Box 209, Springfield, OR 97477 • 1-800-223-RAFT (7238)



Rescue Within Reach

Available in Kern Mantle Poly Propylene or Spectra Core Line.



The Retriever
Waist-worn throw bag with tow system **\$65.50**



The Guide Throw Bag
Waist-worn throw bag holds 70-ft. of line **\$68.50**

P.O. Box 1363 • Bend • OR 97709 Or check out your local paddle store
503-388-1821 • FAX 503-388-1831



I'm foolin' around

on my favorite river, one evening near dusk. The river runs left around a rock and goes over a short drop into a pool. Well, the turn goes OK, and I'm all lined up for the slot, **startin'** to think about a few cold ones, when all of a sudden I'm over. I set up, roll, and peel into the eddy. I'm wiping the water from my face when this voice says, "Nice roll." **Right** there in the eddy is this guy in a **C-1**. Now **I'm** not real prejudiced, but he's the weirdest **lookin'** paddler I've ever seen.

He has on this long white gown instead of a farmer john, and there's this big bulge in the back of his PFD, like he was humpbacked or something. I couldn't rightly tell about his helmet; the air just seemed to glow up there. And lashed down to his spare paddle holder is this big long shiny gold horn. I'm careful about who I paddle with, and this guy looks like he's from California.

"Thanks," I say. Better keep it casual and quick. "Plenty of water this year."

"By His providence." He sounds enthusiastic. I figure I'll ferry out into the current, pretend to let it blow me down to the next eddy where I can't get back up, and then wave good-bye. The water catches my nose, spins it around, and I grab some water with a duffek. *All* of a sudden it spits me back into the same eddy.

"Don't be in such a hurry, my son. I have much to tell you. You may call me Gabriel."

I ain't about to call this dork anything, especially if he keeps calling me son. **Ex-**cept maybe...

"Careful, now. 'Tis unseemly to think profanely."

"Sorry, Gabe." I'll just humor him a bit, especially since he looks like I could be in this eddy awhile.

"My son, He wants to give you a message. He wants you to spread that message to all paddlers."

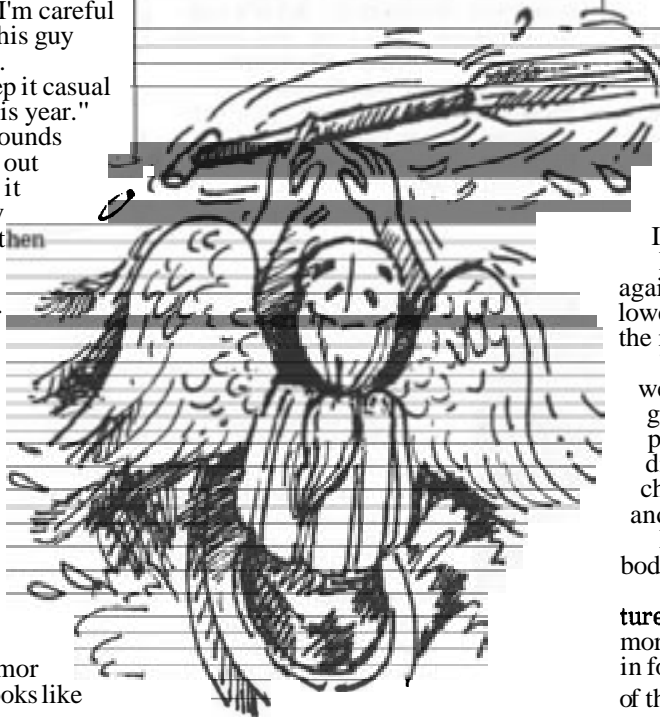
I'm not sure I understand all this, but it makes me uncomfortable. A funny feeling, like when you miss your third try at a roll and there's no more air. Suspicious, I ask, "What message?"

"That my chosen people should not abuse their rivers, fill them with trash, dump sewage in them, pump in toxic chemicals, dam up its flow and kill its life." He's warming to his subject. "Why, He will not tolerate it any longer! It's just unconscionable! You're supposed to be stewards, good stewards! How can you...."

"Wait a minute, Gabe," I interrupt. "I'm a little slow on the uptake. Let me take this down."

THE MESSAGE

by Bryan MacKay



"I've got a better idea. I'll show you." Then he whips out that gold horn from its clip and toots a note.

All of a sudden, we're **floatin'** down the Cheat, over in the Ohio basin. The rocks are all orange, there's soapsuds on the water, the eddies are filled with plastic milk jugs, Styrofoam and beer cans, and the banks look like a cemetery for used cars. We eddy behind a '57 Ply-

mouth.

"Look at this mess!" says Gabe. I'm lookin'.

"Slobs! Every blessed one! He should turn them into pillars of salt!"

I see my opening. "The fruits of mercy, Gabe, and all that. Love thy neighbor."

He looks over at me, sheepish.


"Sorry. I **do** get carried away sometimes, but I can't help it. This water - no fish can possibly live in it. Why, look at your paddle; the plastic's starting to dissolve from the acid mine drainage."

He's right, and just about then I feel water leaking into the bottom of my plastic boat. Probably melting away too. "OK, Gabe, I'm hip. Just get me out of this goo." He picks up the trumpet and blasts again. This time we're down on the lower Colorado, with the tamarisk and the mosquitoes.

"Look at these swamps. Once they were nurseries for His fish, wintering grounds for His birds." Gabe looks positively bucolic. "And you want to drain it to water the desert! **Fill** it in, channel it, build condos, and race up and down it in **stinkpot** power pigs!"

I slap at my arm. Four little skeeter bodies, one bloody.

"Hey!" says Gabe. "He made all creatures, great and small." A thousand more insane kamikaze mosquitoes drone in for the kill. One gets him on the back of the neck.



SALAMANDER

The Beam Bag **What's Between Your Knees?** The Pillar Pocket

The BEAM BAG is a "glove box" for your kayak, it holds those necessities at your fingertips. The PILLAR POCKET mounts to the front pillar of your kayak to put your drink of choice within reach.

\$15.50

P.O. Box 1363 • Bend • OR 97709

\$17.00 **503-388-1821 • FAX 503-388-1831**

THE MESSAGE

"Ow, **dammit!**"

I chuckle. "Guess you're only human, eh, Gabe?"

He frowns, hauls out his horn and puckers up.

This time we're on the Stan, out in California, and in the action up to our elbows. I'm pretty good at this stuff, and I'm **lookin'** forward to seeing ol' Gabe in some real water. I top a wave and look down into a small hole, no bigger'n two or three house trailers. Gabe's down there, **surfin'** on his off side. He sees me coming, **shifts** his weight and pops up. He grabs the top of the hole with his paddle as he goes by, and pirouettes in mid-air. Not bad for an amateur, but I've seen better. Just can't seem to remember who, but it'll come to me.

All of a sudden it ends and we're floating on a lake.

"Wait a minute," I say, "We've got miles more of this whitewater ahead of us. What happened to it all?"

"Had, my son, had. They dammed it up. For water storage and flood control and power generation and the like."

"But they can't do that! They need environmental impact statements, permits, citizen input meetings and **stuff!**"

"It's done. A nice sterile lake filling up with mud and garbage. In a few mil-

lennia it'll silt up **entirely** and we'll have a **nice waterfall** over the dam. Kinda **sceneic**, I'd say."

"Come on, Gabe, cut the sarcasm. I know you don't like this any better than me. **Can't we** do something? **Pray for** an earthquake? Hijack a jet and bomb it? A miracle? Isn't that a bit more in your line?"

"I could recommend one, but **I won't**. You **people** did it, so it's **up to you** to undo it. That's the message I want you to spread. Write letters. Visit Congresspersons. Clean up a river. **Stay** home one weekend and donate **your** gas money. But get off your ethafoam blocks and do it!"

The horn again. This time we're **floating** down a fast current. Rock **cliffs** on either side. It all looks vaguely familiar. Gabe's ahead by ten yards. He takes off his **PFD** and shakes out these big things where his hump was. Feathers fly. All of a **sudden** it hits me where I am. The tourists up on the overlook are all **pointin'** their cameras; it sounds like a press conference.

Gabe turns to me. "Keep the faith, son. Spread the **word**. He's counting on you."

He reaches the brink, flaps once

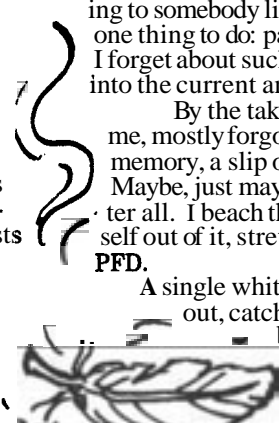
and soars upward, C-1 and all. I reach the lip, paddling **hard**, hyperventilating in the evening sun. No time to panic now. Remember, no one's ever been killed running Great Falls of the Potomac. Lean back, paddle over the head.

Over. Falling. Darkness.

I roll up. I'm sitting in the eddy, the one where I first met Gabe. Water in the sinuses, ears plugged up. It all seems like a dream. Couldn't be real, no way. Just hallucinating, as usual. **Gotta** start **laying** off those malt beverages; addles the brain. Imagine, me, a grown man, **talk-**ing to somebody like Gabe! There's only one thing to do: paddle, paddle hard till I forget about such nonsense. I peel into the current and fire downstream.

By the takeout it's all behind me, mostly forgotten, a weird faint memory, a slip of the neurons. Maybe, just maybe, I'm not insane after all. I beach the kayak, wedge **my-**self out of it, stretch, and pull off my **PFD**.

A single white feather, dry, falls out, catches the evening breeze, and drifts out over the darkening river.



THIGH RETAINER - NEW FOR '95

Mohawk's new and revolutionary THIGH RETAINER takes the place of thigh straps or saddles with built-in thigh retainers. This innovative thigh retainer holds its shape so the paddler easily slips into "paddling position" without readjustment or having the hassle of getting into thigh straps.

This new system quickly and easily adjusts, with a stainless steel cam buckle, to fit any size paddler. By pulling on a single strap, located just forward of your lap, both legs are released at once for a quick exit. The four inch width of the unit and its thick micro cell foam give very comfortable and firm support to your thighs and hold you firmly in the boat with very little knee lift. This unit will retro fit most foam saddles and pedestals.

MOHAWK'S NEW SADDLE with THIGH RETAINERS

Mohawk has a new foam saddle with integrated quick release thigh retainer and knee wedges. It holds you comfortable and firmly in place and is adjustable so it will fit practically anyone.

"So quick and easy to get in and out of: No thigh straps to mess with and it holds me firmly in place, yet it's very comfortable." (Jeff Richards - Steep creeker, winner 1992 Ocoee Rodeo & Winner 1994 short boat class Dixie Division (slalom races).

"I've used a Mohawk thigh retainer on big water in Costa Rica, the Upper Yough and Steep Creeks and it's just great. It is extremely comfortable and holds you tightly in the boat. It fits anyone, is easy in and out, and last but not least, pull on one strap that is practically in your lap and it releases both legs at once. The students in my canoe rolling classes just love it". (Mike Aronoff - ACA Instructor, Washington DC area.)

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



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDED • CALL FOR OUR COMPLETE LIST OF ACCESSORIES

ITEM	SIZE	LIST \$	FACTORY DIRECT
MOHAWK'S SADDLE (FOAM)	WOMEN WEDGES & PAD, THIGH RETAINER & YAKIMA FT BRACES	\$165.00	\$132.00
MOHAWK'S SADDLE	SAME AS ABOVE W/O YAKIMA FOOT BRACES	\$125.00	\$100.00

ITEM	SIZE	LIST \$	FACTORY DIRECT
FLOTATION BAGS (red, yellow or blue)	3D X 48"	\$49.97	\$32.78
	3D X 60"	\$44.04	\$35.23
	3D X 72"	\$47.60	\$38.08
END RAG LACING KIT	LACING & STRAPS FOR 2 BAGS	\$22.50	\$26.00
THIGH RETAINER	ONE SIZE WITH RINGS	\$39.95	\$31.96

MOHAWK CANOES - 983 COUNTRY ROAD #27 N. - LOSBURGH, NJ 07238
PHONE: 907-834-3233 FAX: 907-834-3232

Murphy's Law of Whitewater Paddling.

HUMOR

Compiled by Duke Wavewalker,
Master of Disaster a.k.a. Steven
Coomoyer

In the trials and tribulations of everyday life in the modern, high-speed world, a day doesn't go by when, in either the home, workplace or both, we find ourselves thinking about Murphy's Law. The most common postulate is "If anything can go wrong, it will." True. Very true.

But it doesn't end when we load up the shuttle vehicle on Friday night and take to the roads with some liquid destination ahead. Good ol' Murphy is right along with us. Did you actually think he'd stay home? Of course not. Murphy's Law seems like it was invented for the whitewater world.

No paddler who's spent any time running rivers is immune. "Ol' Murphy" is riding shuttle, paddlin' with us, and, more often than not, following us back to camp. Over the years, lists have been formed, basically by memory and infamous campfire stories, of postulates of Murphy's Law as applied to the sport of whitewater paddling. Here are a few from the Duke and his buddies up in New England:

1. You are not the **stuntmen** in the video. You aren't Jeff Snyder or Nolan Whitesell either.
2. If it looks stupid and works, it isn't stupid. (Starting campfires with gasoline should not come to mind.)
3. Don't look conspicuous. It draws cops, rangers and tourists with silly questions.
4. Above a large drop, others will expect you to probe. When in doubt, let someone else probe.
5. Never, ever paddle C-2 with anyone braver than yourself.
6. Never forget that the materials you're using were supplied to the manufacturer by the lowest bidding vendor.
7. Authorities will always check the cooler. Customs will check everything, including you. Wear clean underwear.
8. No planned route down a technical and steep Class V survives the first four moves intact.
9. All five hour dam releases end two hours short. And the "Bubble" is at least one hour ahead of you.
10. The important moves are simple.
11. The simple moves are hard.
12. The easy way has undercuts.
13. If you're short of everything but water, you're probably in floodstage.
14. No road trip-ready vehicle is ever totally legal.
14. The more serious the situation, the

shorter the **throwbag** falls.

15. Professional river runners are predictable, but the world is full of amateurs.
16. You will always forget something at home.
17. If you think you're about to get hammered, you're absolutely right.
17. If the Appalachian Mountain Club phone **tape** (or any **AMC** member) says it's "a nice level," pack the mountain bike.
18. Magnetic key holders will stay in place for about the first six miles.
19. Camp math: six people times two beers each equals 12 cases.
20. Anything can and will break, rip, or leak at the worst possible moment.
21. Wet suits aren't dry.
22. Dry suits aren't either.
23. "A short, easy approach is always at least a solid class III plus.
24. Never forget that TV commercials are just that.
25. If you have a tough time getting into a gorge, you won't get out.
26. Road maps never fold back like new.
27. Your newest "first descent" was a weekend late.
28. When the going gets weird, the weird probe, the smart take sweep, and the rest grab cameras.
29. When in doubt, run **left** of center. (Or is that right of center?)
30. If you probe more than your fair share of drops, you'll have more than your fair share of drops to probe.
31. Anything you do can get you killed, including doing nothing.
32. "Quick release" is never quick enough.
33. Bank scouting time divided by 10

equals actual run time. This doesn't include time spent stuck in holes.

34. Good judgment comes from experience.
35. Experience comes from bad judgment.
36. "Quick shuttle" is an oxymoron. Even NASA knows this.
37. So is "flood control." (Does the Corps know this?)
38. Covert and illegal campsites are easy to find. Just ask any ranger.
39. Dinner can be almost anything that doesn't move after it's boiled in the coffee pot.
40. When you think you're "Bomb-proof," you're in for a bombing.
41. **Throwbags** tangle people on both ends and anywhere in between.
42. Murphy was a realist, always out of duct tape and a C-1 paddler with bad knees.

American
whitewater products

773-5582
1385 Justice Rd,
Central Point OR

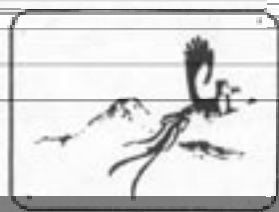
Here Locally 15 years

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat & Raft Trailers • Inflatable Boats • Inflatable Rafts 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alum Rowing Frames • Alum Dry Boxes • Alum Camp Kitchens
---	---

• Achilles • Momentum • Sotar

AREA VERDE EXPEDITIONS



P.O. Box 476
Salida, CO 81201
(719) 539-7102

KA YAK

GUATEMALA

"a whitewater paradise in the
heart of the Mayan world."

Rios Cahabon, Lanquin, Polochic
and newly discovered Rios Panima
& Matanzas, (AYE 94 first descents)

Dagger™

WIN A FREE TRIP TO CHILE!

all proceeds go to your local N.O.W.R. rodeo program

Dagger and Expediciones Chile would like to take you away for a week of sublimation and excitement. Enter a land where the clear water flows through the majestic peaks of the Patagonia Mountains Range, providing diverse whitewater for all skill levels. Come experience this unique culture, take in the captivating scenery and indulge in the

ultimate whitewater experience. Don't miss out on this opportunity! Buy your raffle ticket at one of the **NOWR Rodeo Events**.

1995 NOWR Events

New River Rodeo

April 29-30

North Idaho Whitewater Festival

April 29-30

Bob's Hole Rodeo

May 5-7

Lochsa Rodeo

May 13-14

Coosa River Whitewater Festival

May 20-21

Big Fork Whitewater Festival

May 20-21

Potomac Whitewater Festival

June 3-4

Kananaskis Whitewater Festival

May 20-21

Ocoee Rodeo

June 10-11

Fibark/Headwaters Championship

June 15-18

Willow River Paddlefest

June 16-18

Animas River Days

June 23-25

Payette Whitewater Roundup

July 7-9

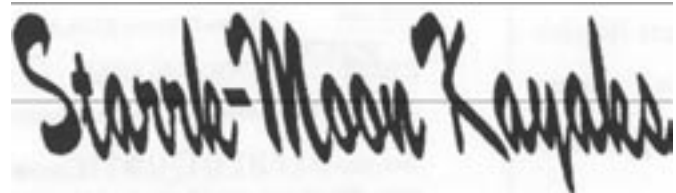
American River

September 8-10

Sponsored by:

Dagger™





Starrk-Moon Kayaks

Starrk-Moon Kayaks & Gear

Delta, Pa

At the Muddy Creek Gorge

&

the Susquehanna River

Over 100 kayaks in stock!!!

All ready for test paddling!

Minutes off interstate 95,

between

Baltimore & Wilmington

OPEN 7 DAYS

phone (717) 456-7720



KAYAK ECUADOR!

Undiscovered Whitewater Paradise

- Mystical Jungles
- Indigenous Cultures
- Toucans and Oropendulas
- First Descents . . .

In the middle of the world, at the foot of the majestic Andes, among the headwaters of the mighty Amazon River lies some of the most spectacular whitewater on the planet.

RJOS ECUADOR invites you to be one of the first to come and explore what may soon be the next world renown white water destination.

Expeditions for Intermediate, Advanced and Expert paddlers.

For Itineraries and Dates contact our U.S. office at:
RJOS ECUADOR
 P.O. Box 114 Index, WA 98256 • Tel./ Fax (206) 793-1705

...the most successful
 ...kayak of all times,
 -claimed a british whitewater
 magazine. So why dont we see it?
 Address in exile [from North Carolina]:

☀ ☔ ☐ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗ ☘ ☙ ☚ ☛ ☜ ☝ ☞ ☟ ☠ ☡ ☢ ☣ ☤ ☥ ☦ ☧ ☨ ☩ ☪ ☫ ☬ ☭ ☮ ☯ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷ ☸ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

☎ (2) 73 35 75 ☎
 ☎ (706) 745 6056 ☎
 ☗ ☘ ☙ ☚ ☛ ☜ ☝ ☞ ☟ ☠ ☡ ☢ ☣ ☤ ☥ ☦ ☧ ☨ ☩ ☪ ☫ ☬ ☭ ☮ ☯ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷ ☸ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

Čimická 29, Prague 8, Czech Rep.
 8475 Dockery, Blairsville, Georgia 30512

The new **StratoQuatic** kayak
 with the widest sweet spot -Again to
 inspire pretenders? Dont worry about it!
 You have been told. See it!

Lunatic Apparel
 P.O. Box 122 • Long Creek, SC 29658
 (803) 647-9912

Wendy's Presents

The 3rd Annual UPPER GAULEY RACE

CASH ☆ PRIZES ☆ FOOD ☆ MUSIC

When: Monday, Oct 9th Wildwater and Slalom Classes
 Registration at 8am in the parking lot below dam OR pre-register at the Gauley
 Festival at the NARR/Perception/New Wave Booth!
 For more information call Donnie Hudspeth at 304.658.5242
 or see our listing on the AWA Web page at <http://www.rahul.net/fallside/awa.html>

A F F I L I A T E S

ADK **Genesee** Chapter
c/o Jerry **Hargrave**
47 **Thorpe** Crescent
Rochester, NY 14616

ADK Schenectady
P.O. Box 733
Schenectady, NY 12301

Adobe **Whitewater** Club
P.O. Box 3835
Albuquerque, NM 87190

AMC Berkshire Chapter
d/o Mike **Zabre**
34 Russell Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

AMC Boston Chapter
c/o Jim **Cavo**
33 Chester Avenue
Waltham, MA 02154

AMC Connecticut Chapter
c/o Jan **Larkin**
151 Hamilton Drive
Manchester, CT 06040

AMC Maine Chapter
c/o Wolfgang W. Kaiser
P.O. Box 331
Woolwich, ME 04579

AMC New Hampshire
Chapter
c/o Stanley J. Solomon
4 **Whittier** Road
Lexington, MA 02173-1717

AMC New York
c/o Trudy L. Wood
41 W. 96th St., Apt. 3C
New York, NY 10025

AMC S.E. Mass.
c/o Mark **Klim**
49 Record Street
Stoughton, MA 02072

America Outdoors
P.O. Box 1348
Knoxville, TN 37901

Appalachian Paddling
Enthusiasts
c/o YMCA
P.O. Box 60
Erwin, TN 37650

Arkansas Canoe Club
P.O. Box 1843
Little Rock, AR 72203

Atlanta Whitewater Club
P.O. Box 33
Clarkston, GA 30021

Badger State Boating Society
c/o Karin Papenhausen
918 E. Knapp #5
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Bayou City Whitewater Club
P.O. Box 980782
Houston, TX 77098
Beartooth Paddlers
P.O. Box 20432
Billings, MT 59104

Birmingham Canoe Club
P.O. Box 951
Birmingham, AL 35201

Blue Ridge River Runners
P.O. Box 10243
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Bluegrass Wildwater Assoc.
P.O. Box 4231
Lexington, KY 40544

Boat Busters Anonymous
2961 Hemingway Ave.
Oakdale, MN 55128

Buck Ridge Ski Club
P.O. Box 179
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Burned Out Canoe Club
c/o Fred **Vaughn**
Box 15
McConnell, WV 25646

Canoe Club of Greater
Harrisburg
c/o Mary **Klaue**
R.D. 1, Box 421
Middleburg, PA 17842

Canoe Cruisers Association
c/o Mac **Thornton**
322 10th Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Carolina Canoe Club
P.O. Box 12932
Raleigh, NC 27605

Central Georgia River
Runners
P.O. Box 6563
Macon, GA 31208

Chicago **Whitewater** Assoc.
c/o Marge Cline
1343 N. Portage
Palatine, IL 60067

Chota Canoe Club
P.O. Box 8270
University Station
Knoxville, TN 37916

Club Adventure
c/o Adventure Quest
P.O. Box 184
Woodstock, VT 05091

Coastal Canoeists Inc.
P.O. Box 566
Richmond, VA 23204

Colorado Rocky Mtn. School
c/o Bob Campbell
1493 Rd. 106
Carbondale, CO 81623
Colorado Whitewater
Association
P.O. Box 4315
Englewood, CO 80155-4315

See Us at the Gauley Fest!

WIGGLY STIKS
are the
product of cumulative
efforts to produce a paddle
that joins the subtleties
of expensive wood blades
to the long life
and versatility of
composite material
shafts.

Wiggly Stik
Kayak Paddles

RR4 Box 1076 Plymouth, NH 03264
603 536 2888

Ergonomically Designed
Composite Shaft
Propulsion Systems

WIGGLY STIKS promote better paddling.

Coosa River Paddling Club
 d o Lonnie **Carden**
 Southern Trails, Inc.
 5143 Atlanta Highway
 Montgomery, AL 36109

E. Tennessee Whitewater
 Club
 P.O. Box 5774
 Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5774

Foothills Paddling Club
 P.O. Box 6331
Greenville, SC 29606

Garden State Canoe Club
 c/o Joseph **Pylka**
 30 N. Greenwood Avenue,
 Apt. D
 Hopewell, NJ 08252

Georgia Canoeing Assoc.
 P.O. Box 7023
 Atlanta, GA 30357

Georgia **Tech** ORGT
 c/o Suzanne Beaumont
 SAC-0110
 Atlanta, GA 30332

G.L.O.P.
 c/o James Tibensky
 P.O. Box 2576
 Chicago, IL 60690

Greater Baltimore Canoe
 Club
 P.O. Box 591
 Ellicott City, MD **21041-1841**

Headwaters Paddling Assoc.
 Box 1392
Bozeman, MT 59715

Holtwood Hooligans
 c/o Dave **Rostad**
 922 Marcia Lane
 Lancaster, PA 17601

Hooper Outing Club
 c/o Mike Sklavos, **Water**
 Safety
 Memorial Union
 800 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706

Hoosier Canoe Club
 c/o Dave Ellis
 4770 N. Kessler Blvd.
 Indianapolis, IN 46208

Housatonic Area Canoe &
 Kayak Squad
 c/o E.J. **McCarthy**
 351 Route 7
 West Cornwall, CT 067%
 West Cornwall, CT 067%

Huntsville Canoe Club
 P.O. Box 52
 Huntsville, AL **35804-0052**

Idaho State Outdoor **Pgm.**
 c/o Ron Watters
 Box 8118, ISU
Pocatello, ID 83209

Kansas **City** Whitewater
 Club
 c/o G. Rebecca Stark
 5600 **Kenwood** Avenue
 Kansas **City, MO 64110**

Kayak & Canoe Club of
 Boston
 c/o Peter **Cogan**
 Box 123
Putney, VT 05346

Kayaking **I-N**
 c/o Schumacher
 471 Hagemann Dr.
 Livermore, CA 94550

KCCNY
 c/o Pierre De Rham
 P.O. Box 195
Garrison, NY 10524

Keelhaulers Canoe Club
 c/o Susan Vetrone
 2085 Halstead #4
Lakewood, OH 44107

Lansing Oar & Paddle Club
 c/o Karl **Pearson**
 P.O. Box 26254
 Lansing, MI 48909

Leaping Lounge Lizards
 c/o Rick Norman
 3437 E. Green St.
 Pasadena, CA 91107

Ledyard Canoe Club
 Box 9
 Hanover, NH 03755

Lehigh Valley Canoe Club
 P.O. Box 4353
 Bethlehem, PA 18018-0353

Lower Columbia Canoe Club
 11231 NE Davis Street
 Portland, OR 97220

Meramec River Canoe Club
 c/o Earl Biffle
 26 Lake Road
Fenton, MO 63026

Merrimack Valley Paddlers
 c/o George May
 157 **Naticook** Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

Metropolitan Canoe & Kayak
 P.O. Box 021868
 Brooklyn, NY 11202-0040

Missouri Whitewater Assoc.
 c/o Jeff Martin
 1742 **Warrington** Court
 Manchester, MO 63021

Mohawk Canoe Club
 15 **Andrea** Lane
 Trenton, NJ 08619

NORS
 c/o **Bob & McCurdy**

Colorado Springs, CO 80904

NOVA **Riverrunners** Inc.
 P.O. Box 1129
 Chickaloon, AK 99674

COOL RIDGE
 CO.
 "THE COOLEST SHOP IN TOWN"
 THE LARGEST SELECTION OF: ☺
 TIE-DYES Oils Silver Jewelry CANDIES
 Tobacco products! SMOKING ACC.
 TAPESTRIES Stickers PATCHES
 INCENSE
 GRATEFUL DEAD MERCHANDISE
 329 HIGH ST.
 MORGANTOWN, WV 26505
 (304) 296-5757

"Paddler Mugs"™
 are better than ever.
 Unique, as always.
 More elaborate scenes
 than before.
 Customizing, a White
 Tree Pottery hallmark.

Please, visit the "White Tree Pottery" booth at Gauley Fest.
 "Paddler Mugs"™ made their big public debut
 at Gauley Fest '92 and they're back again.
 Choose from mugs on hand, or have one designed to match
 your own paddling style and color choice.

Handcrafted with care by
 Melinda M. Arthur

White Tree Pottery
 405 Windsor Drive
 Rocky Mount, VA 24151

(540) 484-3722

Ontario Voyageurs Kayak Club
P.O. Box 41
Adelaide Post Office
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2H8
Canada

Outdoor Adventure Club
PO Box 402
Dayton OH 45404

Outdoor Adventure Program
Bldg. 2807
Mt. Home AFB, ID 83648-5000

Outdoor Centre of New England
10 Pleasant St.
Millers Falls, MA 01349

Outdoor Recreation Program
Building 420
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Ozark Wilderness Waterways
P.O. Box 16032
Kansas City, MO 64112

Paddling Bares
P.O. Box 22
Milltown, NJ 08850-0022

Palmetto Paddlers
c/o Mandy Maier
284 Shoreline Drive
Columbia, SC 29212

Perception Kayak Club
c/o Perception Inc.
111 Kayaker Way
Easley, SC 29640

Philadelphia Canoe Club
4900 Ridge Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19128

Pikes Peak Whitewater Club
c/o Sarah Dentoni
533 North Wahsatch Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3001

Project Challenge
8306 Mills Drive, #190
Miami, FL 33183

Rhode Island Canoe Association
c/o Dave Hevner
254 Bailey Woods Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

River Rendezvous
P.O. Box 888
Telluride, CO 81435

River Touring Section
Sierra Club - Angeles
Chapter
d/o Dave Ewoldt
%24 Saluda Avenue
Tijunga, CA 91042

Roanoke County Parks & Rec.
c/o Bill Sgrinia
1206 Kessler Mill Road
Salem, VA 24153

Rockin "r"
1405 Gruene Road
New Braunfels, TX 78130-3334

San Juan College Outdoor Program
4601 College Boulevard
Farmington, NM 87402

Sequoia Paddling Club
P.O. Box 1164
Windsor, CA 95492

Shasta Paddlers
c/o David Bish
1637 Cessna Court
Redding, CA 96001

Sierra Club Loma Prieta
c/o Dave Kim

3309 Oxford Lane
San Jose, CA 95117
Sierra Club RTS
d/o Lynne Van Ness
159 Southwind Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Sierra Nevada WW Club
c/o Charlie Albright
7500 Gladstone Drive
Reno, NV 89506

Smith River Valley Canoe Club
d/o Harry B. Rhell, President
15 Cleveland Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club
P.O. Box 819
Spokane, WA 99210

Steep Creek Films
4104 Shoal Creek Boulevard
Austin, TX 78756

Texas Whitewater Assoc.
P.O. Drawer 5429
Austin, TX 78763

Three Rivers Paddling Club
c/o Barry Adams
811 Smokey Wood Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Toledo River Gang
d/o Mike Sidell
626 Louisiana Avenue
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Triad River Runners
P.O. Box 24094
Winston-Salem, NC 27114-4094

U. of Maine at Machias
Library
9 O'Brien Ave.
Machias, ME 04654

University of Tennessee
Canoe & Hiking Club
2106 Andy Holt Avenue
Knoxville, TN 3799-2900

University of Utah
Outdoor Recreation Program
Building 420
Salt Lake, UT 84112

Viking Canoe Club
P.O. Box 32263
Louisville, KY 40232

Waterline
c/o Irv Tolles
36 Bay Street
Manchester, NH 03104-3003

Custom Screen Printing

- Fund Raisers
- Special Events
- Business Promotion

Your Artwork or Ours - Call or Write for FREE Estimate

GREEN WALRUS SCREENWORKS
2160 W. Charleston, Ste. L-333
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
(702) 242-0220

CORELLA

WHITE WATER

CUSTOM SYNTHETIC PADDLES
Canoe & Kayak

Rt 1 Box 761
Stuart, VA 24171
703-694-6873

West Virginia Wildwater
Assoc.
P.O. Box 8413
S. Charleston, WV 25303

Western Carolina Paddlers
P.O. Box 8541
Asheville, NC 28814

Wildcat Canoe Club
d o Michael Ranstead
3425 E. 106th St.
Carmel, IN 46032

Willamette Kayak & Canoe
Club
P.O. Box 1062
Corvallis, OR 97339

Zoar Valley Paddling Club
c/o Ken Ahlstrom
46 Albany Avenue
Dunkirk, NY 14048

2 PERSON CANOE ? 2 PERSON RAFT?



WHITEWATER PADDLERS: THIS NIMBLE, INFLATABLE CANOE WILL BLAST YOU THROUGH CLASS IV, CATCH EDDIES, HANDLE LOWER FLOWS...

SOLO AND TANDEM INFLATABLES

12 AND 16 FOOT MODELS

SELF BAIL AVAILABLE

THE TOUGHEST HYPALON CONSTRUCTION

PERFECT FOR DAY TRIPS, EXTENDED CAMPING TRIPS
AND WILDERNESS EXPLORATION

SUPERIOR TRACKING IN FLATWATER

IDEAL FOR BEGINNERS, SENIORS, FAMILIES AND FISHERMAN

LIGHTWEIGHT & PORTABLE

SEND \$11.95, CHECK OR MO, TO RECEIVE OUR EXCITING, 22-MINUTE

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

"SOAR: IT'S A SWEET RIDE"

OR

CALL OR WRITE FOR A FREE CATALOG

SOAR

SOAR INFLATABLES

507 N. 13th St. #409 ST. LOUIS, MO 63103

PHONE: 314-436-0016 FAX: 314-436-2332



The Great
Outdoor Adventure Center

**Whitewater
Challengers Inc.**

KAYAKING

IN THE POCONOS



FOR MORE INFORMATION, ASK FOR OUR **KAYAKING CLINIC** FLYER

CALL US TODAY !
(717) 443-9532

— LEARN WITH THE PROS —

Our Whitewater Kayak School consists of a two-day basic clinic. (Further instructions by special arrangements). ACA certified instructors, classroom sessions, whitewater movies, equipment, shuttles, wet suits, and plenty of river fun are all included.

Beginners start on still water, learning basic skills and paddling techniques. The second day is on easy whitewater.

WHITEWATER CHALLENGERS GUIDE SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 8
WHITE HAVEN, PA 18661

Drop into New England Whitewater Center's Canoe and Kayak School

Our instructional Program offers you a truly unique paddling experience. Treat yourself to a great vacation and an exceptional value while learning in a fun and personalized environment. We guarantee your progress and satisfaction. While in the area visit our Outfitters Shop and take advantage of our new Demo Program on the Kennebec River. Please call or write for additional information.



Wyman Lake,
Caratunk, Maine 04925
800.766.7238



*Specializing in whitewater
and touring kayaks
Sales, Instruction and Service*

Prijon

Pyranha

Snap Dragon Skirts

Lightning Paddles

Mountain Surf

Minicell foam from 1/4" to 3"

*Always a large selection of used boats in stock
We do fiberglass repair on boats*

*The Washington area's only
"full service" kayak shop.*

**6505 Mid Cities Ave.
Beltsville, MD 20705**

**301-595-2867 call for free
1-800-905-7707 catalog**

Guidelines for Contributors

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

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

If possible articles should be submitted using Wordperfect on a 5 1/4" single sided flexible disc. Please use the standard Wordperfect default settings; do not alter the margin or spacing parameters. If you use a different word processing program and/or smaller disks, send us one anyway... we may be able to transfer it to our files. Send a printed copy of the article, as well.

Those without access to a word processor may submit their articles typed. Please double space.

Photos may be submitted as slides, black or white prints or color prints. Keep your originals and send us duplicates if possible; we can not guarantee the safe return of your pictures. If you

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

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

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

If you are writing about a commonly paddled river, your story should be told from a unique perspective. Articles about difficult, infrequently paddled or exotic rivers are given special consideration. But we are also interested in well written, unusual articles pertaining to class III and IV rivers as well. Feature stories do not have to be about a specific river. Articles about paddling techniques, the river environment and river

personalities are also accepted. Pieces that incorporate humor are especially welcome. Open boating and rafting stories are welcome.

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

Profanity should be used only when it is absolutely necessary to effectively tell a story; it is not our intent to intentionally offend our more sensitive members and readers.

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

Articles will be edited at the discretion of the editors to fit our format, length and style. Expect to see changes in your article.

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

The

Face of

Doctor

McBride

by Jonathan Katz



Spaced out from jet lag but dressed in his best business suit, Dr. Theodore McBride sucked in his belly, checked the shine on his wingtips and visualized, one last time, the steps he would take to sell Sparkle-60 dishwasher detergent to the Japanese. We can't all be paddlers all the time, and when McBride wasn't boating he was a surfactant chemist. Soapsuds were his life, and if he made the sale to Kawasaki he'd clean up. Closing this deal was the apex of his career, his Super Bowl, his Oscar, his Narrows of the Green. [It was not his Nobel Prize — he'd won that long ago, for pioneering work in lip gloss.] The last eleven years of his professional life — eleven years dedicated to the proposition that water spots could be eradicated from stemware — pointed to this single meeting with a hard-eyed Japanese industrialist.

Think positive. That's what Worley had told him, over and over again.

Worley, the fat, rude, foul mouthed, cigar chomping, scotch swilling Australian business broker had hammered McBride relentlessly; think positive

Worley's visualization drills bordered on the obscene. Close your eyes and imagine yourself signing the contract. Imagine a container ship unloading ten million cases of Sparkle-60 onto a pier in Yokohama — a three day supply. Imagine the gush of money, like a three tube release at Summersville Dam. McBride closed his eyes, saw himself surfing his Crossfire on a river of hundred dollar bills, the currency floating in a slippery green pool of Sparkle-60. He was ready to deal.

Except, of course, for Worley's warning: "Koichi Nakamura is Senior Vice President for Trade of Kawasaki Industries, Ltd., Domestic and Housewares Division. He's to make this sale. But he's old school. Lose face with him and you lose the deal — and that costs me a fortune in lost commissions. I worked my ass offsetting up this introduction for you. Don't blow it."

"Face?" McBride had asked. "That's sort of like balls, isn't it?"

"Face is to balls what my Ferrari is to Omaha's van. For the Japanese face is everything. They can't bear to look bad to their elders or their superiors in business. They'll gut themselves first. And if you lose face they'll know you're spineless and they'll give you nothing."

McBride nodded. He still wasn't sure what "face" was, but he understood the consequences. Worley continued.

"Nakamura is a serious jock. He plays everything, weightlifting, rock climbing,

basketball, karate. Don't go to the gym with him. But if you must, play as hard as you can. If he senses you're letting him win he'll lose face. But don't beat him, because if you do he'll lose face. Either way, you're..." Worley named a particularly unsafe sex act. "You'll lose the sale for sure."

McBride knew there were over twenty eight million dishwashers in the Greater Japan Captive Market — half a continent of spotted crystal. Once Kawasaki endorsed Sparkle-60, a river of the stuff would flow through those machines and McBride would wallow in currency. Surfs up!

So when McBride removed his shiny shoes and was ushered into Nakamura's private dining room on the 76th floor of Kawasaki Tower, he had a hundred percent of the mental attitude necessary to sell soap. He and Worley sat and waited for almost half an hour, surrounded by lush stands of bamboo growing in delicately painted porcelain bowls. In one corner of the room a small fountain spilled down a ramp of smooth stones, and the trickle of water was soothing to McBride's ears after the roar of jet engines and Worley's unpleasant growl. Yet he could not avoid the broker's last minute instructions. "You be careful with Nakamura. Don't lose face, and remember, he's one mean. . . . Worley impugned the marital status of Nakamura's parents.

Nakamura entered the room alone. He was a short, broad shouldered man with iron hair and a flat stomach, who wore a gray silk kimono. McBride bowed, but kept his head up, making eye contact with the magnate as he had been coached. Nakamura's black eyes were hard as rock. He did not blink. McBride felt his confidence begin to slip.

Three hours later it was shattered completely. He had eaten the endless series of grim courses his host had offered: raw fish, urchins in clear broth, raw meat, rice, pungent vegetables, sliced sea monster, and clods of cold, tasteless, quivering tofu, all washed down, piece by painful piece, in a river of sake.

Nakamura never once mentioned waterspots on crystal. He spoke tersely of how his oldest brother bayoneted American soldiers during World War II and glowingly of how Kawasaki motorcycles ate Harleys for breakfast. McBride's stomach roiled. He was sickly drunk. He had been sitting crosslegged on the floor for three hours. His knees were on fire and his bladder was bursting. He could sense Worley sitting to his left, rooting for him to stay seated, keep eating, keep drinking, keep making polite conversation, display no embarrassing weakness that would kill the deal.

Finally McBride surrendered to the agony. He begged pardon, staggered to

The Face of Doctor McBride

his feet and lurched off in the direction of the men's room. As he did so he stumbled against the wall, catching himself on the window sill, and looked down into the dark abyss outside the 76th floor. Then he caught sight of the roof of the adjoining skyscraper and gasped.

Twenty stories down, on the roof of the tower owned by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Harley-Eating Motorcycle Division, a river flowed. It dropped steeply over a series of giant terraced steps, through a boulder patch, down a long, twisting ramp, cascading into a pool near the edge of the roof. Then it circled back around the perimeter of the roof to a second pool, where the water was pumped up to the top again and sent flooding down the stone steps in a closed loop. It was an endless, circular river, surrounded by shaped trees, shrubs, flowers and stones. In the center stood a small wooden temple. Bathed in light from a hundred sources, some gentle, some intense, the river sparkled and gleamed as it poured through the most extraordinary roof garden McBride had ever seen. He stared, stunned, mouth open. And even as he did so, his eyes read the river — pool, slide, ledge, hole, ramp with boulders, slide, pool, big roiling pillowed hairpin turn at the bottom, then down the long ramp to the pool at the base of the first drop,

where the water was pumped back uphill. Big, fast water flowed in a circle on top of that building. Could it possibly be.... boatable?

McBride took a last look. Yes. In downtown Tokyo, fifty stories above the teeming streets, an artificial class IV river flowed.

McBride turned to Nakamura and bowed. "That garden is magnificent, Mr. Nakamura. I've never seen a river on a roof before."

Nakamura's eyes glittered. He spoke in Japanese, then translated. "The River of Vertical Pleasure. Can you paddle a kayak?"

"Not now," McBride answered, and even as his bladder pressed him he felt the weight of Worley's gaze and his mind raced. Nakamura knows all about me,

McBride thought. He knows I paddle. He probably knows the last time I swam. Don't lie to him. And let him take you paddling. It's non-competitive. No loss of face for anyone.

"Of course now," Nakamura replied. "A kayak workout is invigorating after a feast. Go relieve yourself, and we'll have a race."

Race? McBride's stomach rebelled at the thought of trying to paddle anything. How could he run whitewater — rooftop whitewater, no less — with a belly full of urchin meat and a head soaked in sake. In the men's room he leaned his head against the wall above the urinal and, at last, made his own river. Suddenly Worley slapped him hard between the shoulder blades and told him to assemble his excrement.

"Redeem yourself, McBride. This is your sport. And remember, don't chew him up out there. Just nip him a little."

McBride shook his head and sighed. "I'm too stuffed, too drunk to paddle. Boating loaded is Omaha's game, not mine."

Worley hit him again, harder, yelling. "This is it, McBride. Race. Face. No disgrace. Do you want the money or not?"

The money. McBride zipped his fly, squared his shoulders, and went to face Nakamura.

RÍOS

RIOS HONDURAS

10281 Hwy. 50. Howard, CO 81233
800 255-5784

Looking for a new place to paddle? Join us in Honduras and experience tropical paddling. We offer a variety of 1-9 day or custom/guide service kayak, canoe and raft trips. Some of our excursions through lush rain forests and exhilarating whitewater are led by renowned canoeist Bob Foote and top notch kayakers Mary Hayes and Phil DeRiener. Highly experienced expert guides lead other kayak and raft trips.

Call for more information and detailed itineraries.



FREE YOUR
FEET.
YOUR MIND
WILL
FOLLOW.



Teva
THE SPORT SANDAL.

The Face of Doctor McBride

The tycoon led them down one elevator and up another, explaining that he couldn't get away from the office long enough to paddle the steep creeks in the mountain air of Hokkaido. So he'd had Kawasaki Heavy Industries — Aquatic Toys Division reinforce the corporate headquarters building and install the river and garden on the roof. It had been a \$20 million job, which had cost Nakamura six months' bonus, but left him with the world's only rooftop river.

"It was worth it," he said, and led them into the boathouse on the 49th floor.

The boathouse was a museum of modern kayak design. There were at least a hundred kayaks and C-1's of all shapes, sizes and materials, from bulb nosed polyethylene to the thinnest possible glass squirt boats. All were in near perfect condition and a riot of color.

"See anything you like?" Nakamura asked.

McBride wandered up and down the rows of boats, touching hulls, caressing their lines like a stud in a cathouse. He stood before a sleek European model, reached out to heft it, when Nakamura's voice crackled with authority behind him.

"Old and tired, McBride. Obsolete, like American motorbikes. Don't bother

taking it down. Instead, you will paddle this."

McBride turned toward his host. Nakamura stood next to a kayak McBride had never imagined. It gleamed like chrome or silver, a razor blade, all planes and edges. It bore no markings, no grab loops or broach loops, no scratches, not even a fingerprint. McBride reached out to touch it like it was art. The material was hard and smooth, as stiff as steel, as thin as foil. The boat rocked under his touch. When McBride lifted it, it had no weight.

"Linear carbon fiber and titanium alloy. Jet metal. It weighs six pounds. Bring it to the put in and we'll get you outfitted."

Nakamura's boatmen stripped McBride naked and handed him a pair of black bikini briefs and a helmet made of the same ultralight plastic. Then they lubricated his chest and back with thin, clear oil and told him to raise his hands. They pulled a thin, clear, stretchy membrane over his head and down over his belly.

"Conventional spray skirts are too heavy," Nakamura explained, as McBride packed himself into the snug outfitting of the kayak. "They upset the trim of the boat. This plastic film reacts

to the oil. It fuses to your skin and the cockpit rim, making a totally watertight seal."

McBride touched the taut membrane, which looked bonded to his skin. He looked dubious. "How do you wet exit?" he asked.

"You don't," Nakamura replied. "Its roll or die. Yamada will cut you out of the skirt when we've finished."

McBride could feel himself getting scared. He hadn't swum in years, but the idea of being glued into the boat unnerved him.

Nakamura produced a small, square lacquered box and opened it. The floor of the box was a mirror, etched with lines of golden powder. The industrialist inhaled twice, and offered the box to McBride.

"Tricaine. Sharpens the reflexes."

McBride shook his head no. His chemistry background told him tricaine was a synthetic "designer" stimulant. God only knew what it would do to him.

Finally the industrialist leaned over McBride, showing him a pair of tapered pink plastic skewers, each nearly three inches long. They looked biological, hideous. "Nose plugs?" Nakamura asked. "These are internal. Slide them into your nostrils as far as they will go. They'll pass air, but block water."



To explore North Carolina's Cullasaja, Thompson, and W. Fork French Broad Rivers, send \$26.95+ \$3.00 s&h U.S. funds to:

WILDSIDE PRODUCTIONS

8718 Whitehorse Road, Suite 103-A
Greenville, SC 29611

Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	

SEDA

Serving the
paddling sports
since 1969

SHOGUN - *The ultimate whitewater play boat*

RIVER RUNNER - *Top recreational kayak*

RAPID - *Proven freestyle winner*

Still made using tough cross-linked polyethylene construction

Our SEDA Sea Kayak line consists of the famous Glider, Viking, Swift, Tango and Vagabond.

Our SEDA open and decked recreational canoes are highly regarded by customers throughout the nation and Canada.

Our SEDA accessories include Coast Guard approved lifevests, top design wet suits and a comprehensive line of whitewater and flatwater gear.

Call today for our 40 page bargain-packed catalog and dealer nearest you.

SEDA PRODUCTS, 926 Coolidge Ave., National City, CA 91950

Tel: 6191336 2444

The Face of Doctor McBride

Nakamura moistened the plugs with saliva and shoved them deep into his nose. McBride cringed. His mother had spent years teaching him not to pick his nose. "I'm not going to roll, so I won't be needing those."

Nakamura stripped down and skirted up. His body rippled with blocky muscle. No fat. An animal's body. McBride looked at his host and shook his head, thinking about his pot belly, hating Worley for getting him into this mess. Sealed into an ultralight kayak he'd never seen before, racing an animal jacked on its own custom made dope over the animal's home course, on an artificial river at night with a bellyful of urchins and sake. Not a good combination, he thought.

Worley leaned over him, whispered into his ear, breath stinking of scotch and cigars. "Kick his ass," he said.

Nakamura led McBride across the lagoon and into the current, toward the base of the kayak lift. The alloy boat practically bounced across the water. McBride assumed he could roll it, and didn't want to lose face with a practice roll. He dug in with the carbonfiber paddle. It weighed next to nothing and did not flex at all. The current caught him. It was faster than he'd anticipated. It swept them into the lift, where they were

scooped up like bugs in a cup of water, past a three foot high electric readout that read "20 CM/S" and "4.0". McBride converted the metric. About 500 cfs, he figured. More than he'd thought. And steeper. They'd risen about thirty feet.

"Best time for ten laps," Nakamura said. McBride nodded. The Japanese continued, "I'll lead. The course is open-ended. It has been paddled to a rating of 5.17. Good luck."

Open-ended? 5.17? The front of the lift dropped open and a boil of water swept them into the first rapid.

McBride oriented fast. There was a wave train ahead of him, leading to a horizon line. Nakamura's boat took it head on. About a four footer. Here it comes. Boosh! No grabby recycle at the bottom. No sweat. Another one, about the same. Only this one was undercut. McBride felt the river tug at his stern, powered out. He saw Nakamura pillow off the first of the offset boulders, slide right, pillow left and drop out of sight. Easy. Then a tighter slot between two more, with a drop between them into a soft hydraulic, could be tougher at higher water. Now, down the long ramp of standing waves to the bottom, he could see the water piling up against the side wall of the building. Hit it, lean, pivot on that edge, and he

was headed down the ramp and back to the lagoon. Easy. He could feel his head clearing, his stomach unknottling. He sprinted to catch Nakamura, to share the lift. Got him! Up they went.

McBride grinned at the magnate. "Fun," he said. Nakamura nodded at the sign. "29 CM/S and 4.5." Oh boy. It goes up fast.

McBride powered through the second lap, and the third. The water was definitely bigger, the holes grabbier. He was warming up, starting to breathe harder from the effort of catching Nakamura on the straightaway at the bottom. He could see Worley standing in an observation tower next to the dump-out for the lift, and hear the Australian cheering him on. Fourth lap. "45 CMS. 5.0." Class V, with six laps to go. McBride focused, braced for launch out of the lift, lined up on the wave train a scant yard behind Nakamura, got set for the first ledge and hit it dead on. He had a sense of falling. His bow buried deeper and as he braced up he risked a look back. No doubt. The ledge had grown. Something mechanical had pushed it up. It was at least an eight footer now.

McBride had barely a moment to appreciate what this change might mean for him when he hit the second ledge. It too

Colorado Kayak Supply

Supports the 1995 Gauley Festival!!

1-800-535-3565

Box 3059-B
Buena Vista, CO 81211

Plight of the Futaleufu

Will the Futaleufu continue to run wild and free below the Andes Mountains in the Patagonia region of Chile? Or will a proposed hydroelectric dam turn this river into a lake forever? Award winning television producer/director Terry Shiels unveils the compelling story of the battle being fought over the destiny of this river in South America. Experience the thrill of adventure as world class kayakers challenge what may be the most beautiful and powerful untamed river in the world. Learn about the plight of the farmers and ranchers that settled this area... How they may be displaced from their land and the only way of life they know. Meet 1984 US kayaker Chris Spelius and learn how his search for the perfect whitewater river landed him in the middle of this controversy. Learn what FUTAFUND is doing to preserve the Futaleufu as a free flowing river. A portion of the proceeds of tape sales are donated to FUTAFUND.

To order a VHS copy of Plight of the Futaleufu send check or money order of \$24.95 plus \$3.00 S&H to:
SHIELS PRODUCTIONS
1101 Sewickley drive
Charlotte, NC 28209

Also: Gorilla, Paddling the Narrows of the Green, & 19.95+ \$3.00S&H
Chachalaca. Jungle Paddling Costa Rica, \$24.95 + \$3.00 S&H



WETSUITS • DRY BAGS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • STABILIZERS • CARGO NETS • PADDLES • HELMETS • FRAMES • HEAVY DUTY STRAPS • WETSUITS • LIFE JACKETS

RESCUE BAGS • OARS • PUMPS • WETSUITS • DRY BAGS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • INFLATABLE KAYAKS • CARGO NETS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • HELMETS • FRAMES • HEAVY DUTY STRAPS • WETSUITS • LIFE JACKETS

WETSUITS • DRY BAGS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • INFLATABLE KAYAKS • CARGO NETS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • HELMETS • FRAMES • HEAVY DUTY STRAPS • WETSUITS • LIFE JACKETS

RESCUE BAGS • OARS • PUMPS • WETSUITS • DRY BAGS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • INFLATABLE KAYAKS • CARGO NETS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • HELMETS • FRAMES • HEAVY DUTY STRAPS • WETSUITS • LIFE JACKETS

RESCUE BAGS • OARS • PUMPS • WETSUITS • DRY BAGS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • INFLATABLE KAYAKS • CARGO NETS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • HELMETS • FRAMES • HEAVY DUTY STRAPS • WETSUITS • LIFE JACKETS

RESCUE BAGS • OARS • PUMPS • WETSUITS • DRY BAGS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • INFLATABLE KAYAKS • CARGO NETS • PADDLES • WETSUITS • RAFTS • HELMETS • FRAMES • HEAVY DUTY STRAPS • WETSUITS • LIFE JACKETS

INFLATABLE KAYAKS • CARGO NETS • PADDLES • GLOVES • HELMETS • FRAMES • HEAVY DUTY STRAPS • WETSUITS • LIFE JACKETS • RESCUE BAGS • OARS • PUMPS • WETSUITS • DRY BAGS

SOOTHE YOUR THRILL-SEEKING ADRENALINE-HUNTING SOMEWHAT UNCONTROLLABLE DESIRE FOR ADVENTURE.

At Northwest River Supplies WE DO test, design, destroy, improve, redesign and work darn hard on our products SO YOU CAN run the wildest rivers, knowing that our equipment will hold up and perform to your expectations.

NRS paddlesports equipment is not only the best around, but also is backed by exceptional service and warranties.

**For your FREE NRS catalog, call:
1-800-635-5202.**

**Northwest River Supplies...
Your Paddlesports Specialist.**



**Northwest River Supplies
2009 S. Main St Moscow ID 83843
phone: 800-635-5202 fax: 208-883-4787**

The Face of Doctor McBride

had grown, and the hole at the bottom was now a violent hydraulic. It caught him, and he backended for a moment before he levered out. Into the boulder garden where... there were two new boulders, offset in the old approach path. They hadn't been there before, must have been pushed up from the bottom somehow. What was going on? Should he catch an eddy, catch his breath, observe for a minute? No. Nakamura's boat was churning ahead of him. He'd fall far behind. Lose face. Plunge on, Doctor.

McBride barely caught the lift before it lurched up under his boat, rising faster now, past the sign. "5.5". Dump out at the top, look down the ramp. The wave train was now a churning mess of white foam and at the bottom, beyond the ledges, he could see the boulders... moving. The first two big ones that marked the approach to the boulder garden were sliding back and forth, the line between them growing wider, then tighter, the reaction waves flattening when they moved apart, **humping** hugely when they came together. McBride had never paddled a river where the rocks moved. How? He'd have to time it out. He back-surfed the second hole for a long moment, got kicked out the downstream side, and rocketed through the slot as the boulders slid apart. The hair-

pin turn at the bottom was a huge wall of water piling up against the side of the building, reaching toward the roof-line above him. Brace. Slide. Sprint for the bottom, and the elevator.

Nakamura was well ahead of him when the lift grabbed **McBride's** boat and swept it into the air. The readout said "90 **CM/S**. 5.9" and around him 2,500 **cfs** of trapped water roared. The ledges were huge now, 15-foot drops into boiling cauldrons of foam, and the hole at the bottom of the second one grabbed McBride and windowshaded him twice before he got his balance and fought his way out. God, the boat rolled fast! In **front** of him the boulder patch seethed and boiled as the rocks slid on their tracks and thrust up and down into the raging current, turning momentary eddies into monstrous suckholes.

Somehow, he got through and was swept into the hairpin, realizing that the water was level with the edge of the roof now and slopping down the face of the skyscraper. If he rolled there he could be swept off the edge of the building, to crash into a Tokyo sidewalk 500 feet below! He dug his paddle into the froth and spun down the straightaway.

Lap Seven.

The industrialist was far ahead... if he

hadn't gone off the edge of the building. The lift thrust McBride past the readout, toward the starry sky. The numerals were gone. In their place, a lurid red neon thumbs-up sign. Class VI. McBride was panting with exhaustion and fear when the lift dumped him back on the course. He plunged over the first ledge, the second, his guts rising in his throat each time, and the unbelievably **powerful** flood-tide swept him into no-man's land, where the boulders slid and crashed and hopped and popped like slam dancers in a mosh-pit.

In twenty years of paddling McBride had seen every conceivable kind of rapid, had encountered all the known river hazards, had lived through the hell of Stalingrad Gorge. But he had never seen the kind of hole a river makes when a ten foot boulder just disappears into the riverbed.

Somehow he fought his way through the white violence to the bottom, but as he braced high off the top of the last big pillow before the hairpin turn, the boulder under him dropped ten feet in an instant. The pillow collapsed. **McBride's** kayak fell deep to the bottom of the **drop-out** hole. Instantly the sides of the hole slammed shut over his head and sixty thousand gallons of water crashed onto the deck of his boat.

Pinned under the avalanche of water and welded to the boat by the skirt McBride cowered, clinging to his paddle. Then, suddenly, he felt himself thrust violently upward as the rock rose under



(301) 746-5389
Second Skin Pile®
tights, vests, and
one-piece suits



Sasquatch Skins®

**Quality
Innovation
Service**

"Upper Yough"
Riverside Shop
P.O. Box 70
276 Maple Street
Friendsville, MD
21531
**call for
Free Catalog**

**Stay DRY
Stay WARM**

Manufactured in the
United States by Mountain Surf, Inc.

Full Force Jacket®



Monsoon Pants®

him and drove him up through the water to the sky. His boat broke the surface, got hammered by a reaction wave and **cap-sized**. McBride fought to set up and roll in the fiendish, swirling turbulence, waiting to find his anchor points, to feel air on his knuckles, to flush clear. Then he **hip-snapped** and broke the water. Even as he rolled up he realized to his horror that he was far too close to the edge of the building. Frantically he **back-thrust** with his paddle. The river swept him to the brink, where he hung for a long second. Then his boat slid off the edge and McBride plunged screaming into the soft and enveloping darkness.

The scalpel-sharp point of the **tanto** slid into the taut plastic film of McBride's sprayskirt and zipped it open. McBride saw the knife and did not flinch as the blade passed his belly. For he was alive and empty, utterly without feeling. Slowly he looked up, and his shattered eyes met first those of Worley, then Nakamura. Worley was pale and silent, but Nakamura's eyes were bright with passion.

"Watch the replay," he said.

McBride's gaze shifted to the big monitor standing on the dock. He watched the race **from** above, as the boats swept around the cresting river. He saw the readout flash "5.14." He winced as the dropout hole devoured him, as his hull disappeared **from** view, as it rose again and plunged off the building. Then he saw the booms and nets mounted in the skyscraper wall reach and react to snare his falling kayak like a butterfly and deposit him safely on the dock.

The Japanese bowed deeply.

"You paddle like a Samurai!" he said.

He reached toward McBride, handing him a large crystal snifter of fine Napoleon cognac. McBride took it with trembling hands, lifted the warm amber liquid to his lips. Even as he did so, his fingers sensed the clean, crystalline finish of the glass and he knew that he held the truth.

"It's.... **Sparkle-60**," he said reverently, gazing at the snifter.

Nakamura bowed again and smiled.

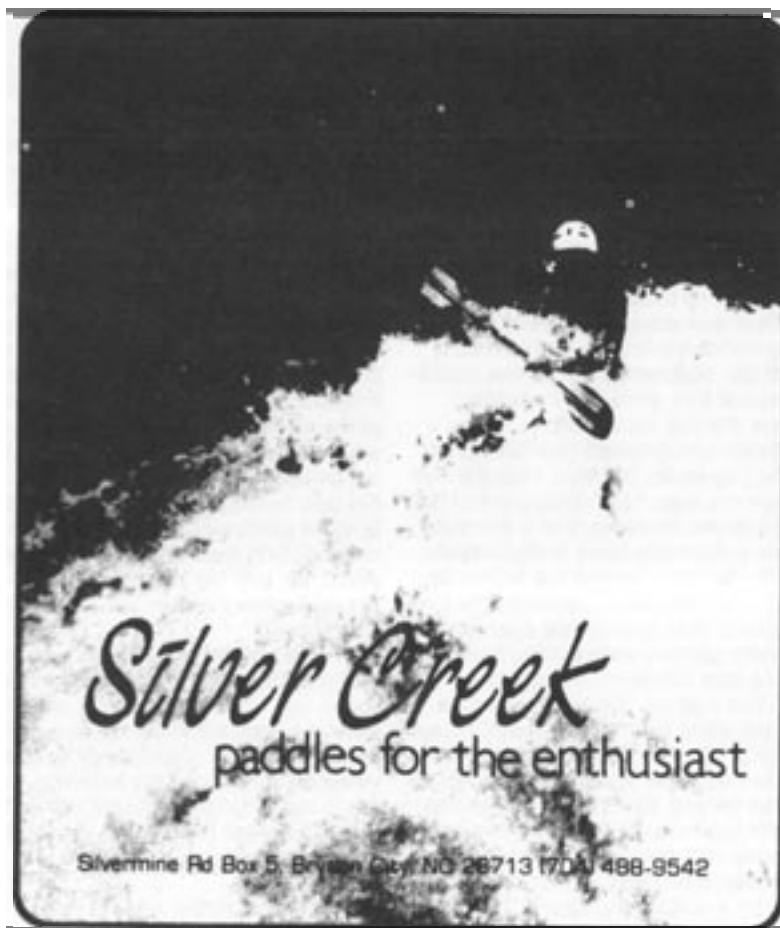
"A superior detergent," he said.

"Kawasaki Housewares will buy your entire output for the next ten years. How much profit do you want to make?"

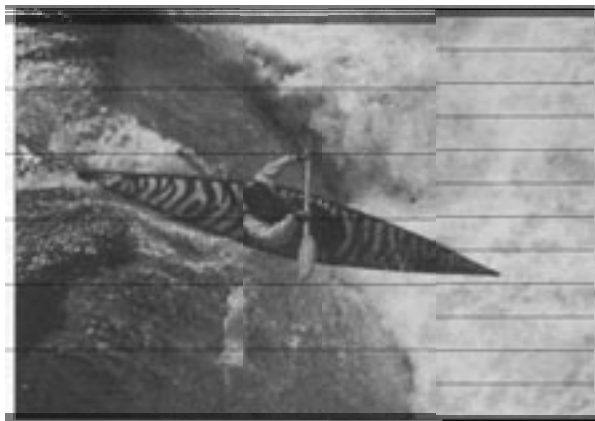
Worley puffed his cigar in McBride's peripheral vision as the Tokyo skyline glittered in the darkness.

The River of Vertical Pleasure was quiet now, the grinding torrent reduced to a trickle over the unmoving stones.

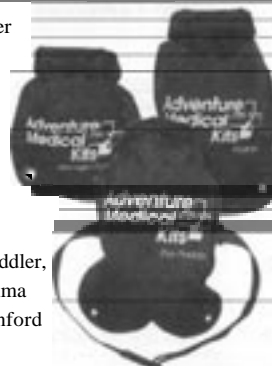
A gentle breeze blew out of the east, wafting the funky stench of money into the face of Doctor McBride.



DON'T GET CAUGHT UP A CREEK WITHOUT IT



When you're caught on the water with a medical emergency you can depend on Adventure Medical Kits. Adapting E.R. techniques to outdoor medicine is the unique specialty of Dr. Eric A. Weiss, the leading authority on modern wilderness medicine. Dr. Weiss, an avid paddler, is the Associate Director of Trauma and Emergency Medicine at Stanford



University Medical Center and a Board Member of the Wilderness Medical Society. His extensive medical knowledge and techniques have revolutionized medical kits for kayakers, canoeists and other adventure sport enthusiasts.

Adventure Medical Kits
The World Leader in Innovative First Aid

CALL 1-800-324-3517
FOR FREE CATALOG

Mohawk Canoes

World leader in Short Whitewater Playboats
 Designer & Builder of Whitewater Canoes Since 1971

97,000 Canoes Built Since 1964



PADDLER: Vernon Keith

PHOTOGRAPHER: Bobby Hall

NEW BOATS
PROBE 14 - RODEO - PROBE 12 II
 (See chart at right for prices & specs)

PROBE 11, 12 & 12 II... Viper-like performance, yet extremely user friendly. Dry, agile and quick to accelerate. Spins on a dime and slips into the smallest eddies. Yet they easily hold a ferry angle and track surprisingly well. Due to the extreme flare of the sides, the Probes have an amazing amount of final stability. A choice of three lengths to fit your weight and/or paddling skill. The paddlers who own these boats rave about their performance. This is a playboat you may never outgrow. rocker 4-1/2" & 5". **\$577.50 ea**

RODEO... A new shorter playboat for rodeos and steep creeks. Never have ends been so easy. Spin in the hole - Surf on the wave - Grab a smaller eddy. 10'6" WOW!

VIPER 11 & 12... Dry, quick and agile. The choice of steep creeks, slalom racers and rodeo competitors. A winner if you can handle the edge. rocker 4-1/2" & 5"

WINNER 1993 WORLD RODEO (1st 2nd & 3rd)
 WINNER 1993/94 OCOEE RODEOS
 WINNER 1994 OTTAWA RIVER RODEO

PROBE 14... NEW FOR '95 Mohawk's new tandem/solo playboat has all of the hot performance features of the Probe 12 in a larger boat. A great boat for those tandem paddlers looking for extra performance. The Probe 14 can be factory outfitted in a three position, two position or a solo configuration. An excellent choice for larger paddlers or those who prefer a longer boat. As a solo boat, it's so quick and easy to spin you think you're in a much shorter boat. length 14'2" beam @ gunwale 30-1/2" rocker 6"

XL13... Dry, stable, user-friendly. A Mohawk classic. Great for beginners and large paddlers. It is still a favorite of many paddlers. rocker 3"

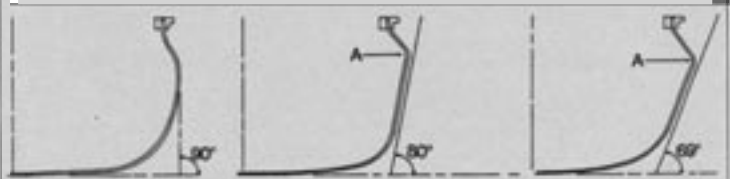
XL14... For large paddlers or tandem paddling. It can be outfitted with two position outfitting for tandem paddling or three position for both tandem and solo paddling. rocker 3"

XL15... A tandem whitewater boat and favorite of outfitters, schools or anyone doing tripping or playing on whitewater rivers. Available bare, with web seats, with kneeling thwarts or foam saddle (2 or 3 position). rocker 3"

WHITEWATER PLAYBOAT DESIGNS... Below are drawings of cross sections through the center of a Mohawk Viper, Probe and our XL series. Note the difference in flared angles. Where the bottom and side of the canoe meet, the Viper has a sharp chine or edge. This edge enables the paddler to carve turns and to judge the angle of their lean. However, it can catch cross currents and flip a boater who is not used to the edge. Also, when side surfing, the Viper is "grabbier" than the Probe. Advanced paddlers who master this edge love the control it gives them. But for many paddlers we believe the Probe is a more forgiving boat that will suit their paddling needs better, without giving up the quick acceleration and turning of the Viper.

As you can see from the center cross section, the Probe has more flare than the Viper. This is accomplished by lowering point A one inch and making the boat one inch wider at this point. The tuck-in above point A allows for a narrow gunwale width and a pocket for your hand. The extreme flare. (more than any other whitewater playboat) results in fantastic final or secondary stability, yet still maintains a sleek bottom that makes upstream moves, ferries and getting on surfing waves surprisingly easy. In summary, the Probe is a performance boat that is user-friendly.

All Mohawk whitewater playboats have symmetrical hulls. Why? Because, if properly designed, they will hold a ferry angle and track as well or better than an asymmetrical boat. Back surfing, back ferries, side surfing and spins will all be easier and smoother in the symmetrical boat because both ends react in the same way.



MOST WHITEWATER PLAYBOATS (XL'S)

MOHAWK VIPERS

MOHAWK PROBES

The difference is in the FLARE
 fast high performance boats with outstanding final stability

SPECS	LENGTH	BEAM	DEPTH	WEIGHT	MATERIAL	SUGG LIST*	FACTORY DIRECT
RODEO	10'6"	26 1/2"	16 1/2"	42 LBS			
PROBE 11	11'8"	25"	15 1/2"	45 LBS	ROYALEB	\$825	\$577.50
PROBE 12	12'2"	28 1/2"	15 1/2"	46 LBS	R-84	\$825	\$577.50
PROBE 14*	14'2"	30 1/2"	15 1/2"	59 LBS	ROYALEX	\$850	\$595.80
VIPER 11	11'6"	27"	15 1/2"	45 LBS	ROYALEX	\$825	\$577.50
VIPER 12	12'6"	27 1/2"	15 1/2"	49 LBS	ROYALEX	\$825	\$577.50
XL 13	13'3"	30"	15 1/2"	56 LBS	ROYALEX	\$840	\$588.00
XL 14*	14'3"	30"	15 1/2"	60 LBS	ROYALEX	\$850	\$595.00
XL 15*	15'4"	35"	15 1/2"	65 LBS	ROYALEX	\$870	\$609.00

*Tandem or Solo

+Prices do not include freight

WHITEWATER OUTFITTING... Whitewater playboats are available fully outfitted and ready to paddle. This outfitting includes: Foam saddle or pedestal, knee pads, thigh straps or retainer(s), yakima foot braces, air bags & quick disconnect lacing kit.

\$225 Solo

\$335 Tandem

\$395 Triple



963 COUNTY ROAD 427 N
 LONGWOOD FL 32750
 407-834-3233 PHONE
 407-834-0292 FAX

1995: Our 31st year
 under the same ownership and management
 97,000 Canoes built since 1964



american whitewater

AWA Journal

PO Box 85
Phoenicia, NY 12464

Address Correction Requested

NON-PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #622
NEWARK OHIO