



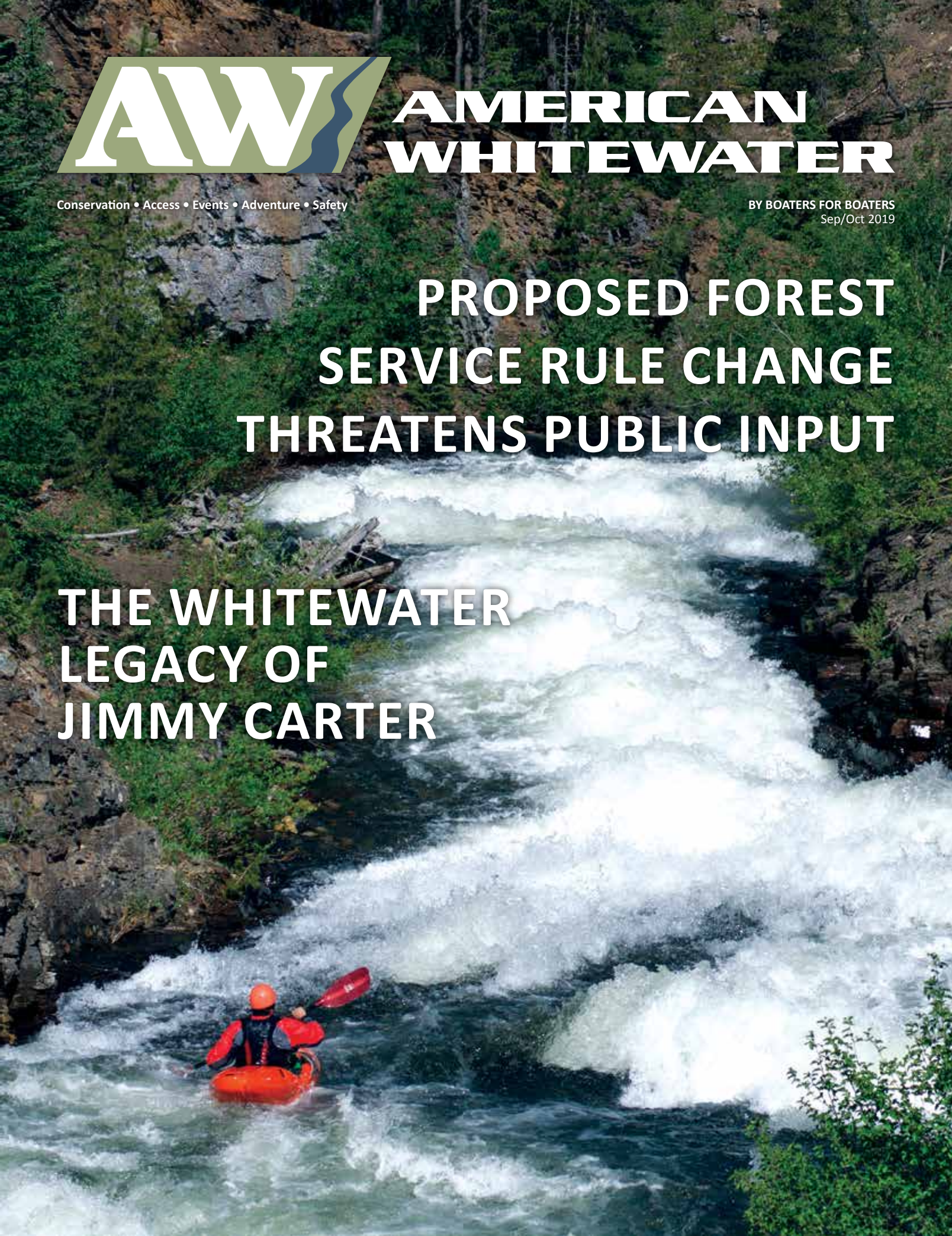
AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Conservation • Access • Events • Adventure • Safety

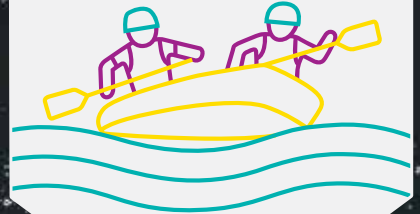
BY BOATERS FOR BOATERS
Sep/Oct 2019

PROPOSED FOREST SERVICE RULE CHANGE THREATENS PUBLIC INPUT

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AMERICAN WHITEWATER

A VOLUNTEER PUBLICATION PROMOTING RIVER CONSERVATION, ACCESS AND SAFETY

American Whitewater Journal Sep/Oct 2019 – Volume 59 – Issue 5

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We're hoping to make some of Colorado's best paddling streams around Crested Butte (CO) eligible for Wild and Scenic designation as a part of the current Forest Service Planning underway in the Gunnison Grand Mesa Uncompaggre (GMUG) National Forest. Access and other management scenarios that will affect whitewater recreation on the Forest are being considered as well, but rest easy knowing American Whitewater is positioned to make sure boater's voices are heard during the planning process. Oh Be Joyful.

Photo Evan Stafford

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PURPOSE

RIVER STEWARDSHIP: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

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

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THE JOURNEY AHEAD

IF YOU WERE lucky enough to catch the epic boating season in the West this year, you know that it was one for the record books. If you live in other parts of the country, we still have boating celebrations and opportunities to gather at the river at least one more time before the short days of winter arrive.

I often get asked about our river festivals and the reason we host them. Many folks think of them as fundraising opportunities. Truth is, they are inefficient as revenue generators for American Whitewater; staff could spend an equivalent amount of time searching for new grant opportunities and likely generate more dollars. Yet, these events are important to us and the culture of our paddling tribe. Festivals highlight some of our past success stories and provide a venue to talk about what is coming down the pike in terms of river stewardship efforts. And, let's face it, no other group of individuals likes to hang out and dance into the wee hours with their river buddies more than paddlers. So, we gather at the river to tell our stories, celebrate the river, and paddle.

No place is this truer than at Gauley Festival, held the third weekend in September each year in West Virginia. Over the last 37 years, Gauley Fest has grown to become the largest river festival in the world. The festival feels like a cross between a Grateful Dead show and the Olympic Village. It is the meeting place of world-class paddlers with a laid back vibe. Gauley Fest Saturday at Pillow Rock (one of the five major rapids on the Gauley River) becomes a coliseum of boating antics.

The Gauley is largely protected by the National Park Service; the river flows through a beautiful forested canyon among house-sized boulders. The Gauley, and its sister river, the New, have become the economic backbone of a rural region of West Virginia. American Whitewater leases the Legg Family field, above the Mason Branch access point, from a local landowner to provide parking for private

boaters. In partnership with the Gauley River National Recreation Area (part of the National Park Service), a shuttle is provided on busy weekends from the river corridor to the Legg Field parking area.

One of the recent success stories in West Virginia is the New River Dries where, in the final days of 2017, Federal regulators issued a new 47-year license for the dam that dewateres the spectacular 5.5-mile reach. The license requires significant new recreational and environmental enhancements in a river reach that has suffered from water withdrawals for well over half a century. American Whitewater played an active and leading role in securing these outcomes. For paddlers, the hallmark of the new federal license is nine new scheduled whitewater releases each year: two in March and seven in July and August. These flows offer scenic Class III+ paddling opportunities and restore important natural flow variability that will benefit river organisms.

On the other side of the country, in California, the North Fork Feather River watershed is part of a Rube Goldberg-like hydroelectric scheme in the Sierra Nevada. It consists of multiple dams, power plants, and trans basin diversion tunnels in the headwaters of the Feather River. For decades flows from the North Fork Feather were diverted for hydropower and only 50 cfs flowed through the channel. Unscheduled spring and winter releases were erratic and difficult to catch. All this changed in June 2002 with a new hydropower license that required recreational releases. The staff and volunteers of American Whitewater, Chico PaddleHeads, and Shasta Paddlers spent a decade, thousands of dollars, and countless of hours negotiating through the hydropower relicensing process to make these recreational releases happen.

The annual Feather River Festival is held the last weekend of September each year at Indian Jim Campground located two miles upstream from the small town of Tobin. A longstanding tradition at Feather Fest is

the Friday night film festival featuring the latest films from local paddling filmmakers.

Both the Gauley and the Feather represent significant milestones in river conservation and stewardship for American Whitewater. They join our other two annual festivals, Gore Fest in Colorado and Deerfield Fest in Massachusetts, as ways to connect our community with what these amazing rivers offer.

Mark your calendars for:

Gauley Fest – September 19 – 22, 2019

Feather Fest – September 27 – 29, 2019

The true unsung heroes of all these festivals are our hundreds of volunteers who make events possible. Thanks to them, we come together one more time to celebrate these remarkable rivers.

Wherever your boating adventures take you this fall, remember that American Whitewater's river stewardship program is made possible through your membership support. We continue to appreciate the importance of rivers and their role in supporting the health and well-being of the paddling community. At American Whitewater, we remain committed to giving back to these special places through river stewardship.

See you on the river,



Mark Singleton
Executive Director

P.S. On your way to the Gauley please know that the local Summersville police department takes their speed limit seriously. Drive at or below the limit through Summersville and be safe out there.


STEWARDSHIP

HISTORY OF GORE RACE

BY HATTIE JOHNSON

The Gore Race (CO) has drawn competitors from far and wide in its 30-year history, and in 2019, 75 kayakers and 13 raft teams raced through the canyon, including Aaron Pruzan (pictured) from Jackson, Wyoming and 21 other long boaters. Pruzan's son, 12-year-old Nate Pruzan was the event's youngest competitor. Photo by Evan Stafford





IF YOU HAVE ever been to the town of Kremmling, in northern Colorado, it's hard not to notice Gore Canyon off to the southwest. The steep, craggy canyon is a relatively short but impressive slice through the Gore Range of the Rocky Mountains, and stands in stark contrast to the surrounding landscape, a region dominated by rolling plains and buttes.

Upstream, the Upper Colorado River meanders through the heart of Grand County before eventually diving into Gore Canyon, creating steep, pool-drop rapids. When you first slide into the water at the put-in you are on the Blue River, mere feet above its confluence with the Colorado—or Grand River, according to local rancher, Jim Yust. Mr. Yust's grandfather settled their land in 1884 through policies laid out in the Preemption Act of 1841. The Yusts have made their livelihood on the land and the waters of the "Grand" and Blue rivers ever since. When Green Mountain Reservoir on the Blue River was completed in 1942, the Yust family lost the predictable crop production they had come to rely on. Power peaking, reduced river flows, and ice jams wreaked havoc on their land.

While the yo-yoing operation of the dam has ceased, Mr. Yust remains vigilant about how his water is managed. A couple of years ago, Jim also got back into paddling. Jim escorts race-timers across his land to that start line at the Gore Race every year and enjoys taking photos of each racer as they charge off into Fisherman's Nightmare, the Class III water that begins Gore Canyon. He kayaks the flatwater adjacent to his land, paddling up and downstream and insists if he can paddle both directions around the horseshoe bend (a.k.a. "the West Nile Shuffle" or "the sneak") then paddlers can too. If you ever see him on your paddle into the canyon, stop and chat. The history lesson you'll receive will be well worth your time.

By the time the Colorado meets the Blue, both rivers have seen their fair share of dams, reservoirs, and diversions. The headwaters are caught in a push-and-pull between the highly populated, arid East Slope and the wetter, more rural West Slope. Colorado, like all western states, follows the law of prior appropriation. If you were the first one to take a certain amount of water and put it to beneficial use, it's yours forever, and you get the first chance to use it in the future. Those who come after you can take what's left. Unlike some other western states, however, Colorado has a water law identifying a beneficial use of instream flows, if they are captured and controlled by a recreational in-channel diversion (RICD) or whitewater park.

In 2010, Grand County applied for a RICD water right on the Colorado River. American Whitewater, along with many other stakeholders, supported this project through the completion of the Pumphouse Whitewater Feature, which now protects flows up to 2,500 cfs from future development. After securing the RICD and the completion of the whitewater park at Pumphouse, American Whitewater became more deeply involved with the Gore Canyon Race and Festival because of its importance to the community and the stewardship work we've done and continue to do to protect flows critical to the health of both the race and the river.

Intricate water management systems on the Upper Colorado River typically ensure prime flows for this Class IV/V gem in late summer when the rest of the state is dry. Most paddlers wait for runoff to subside before entering the canyon. While the canyon has been run in the 10,000 cfs range, most mortals prefer a cushy 1,000-1,400 cfs or so. American Whitewater has been a constant voice for recreation in the discussions around flow and resource protection on

STEWARDSHIP

the Upper Colorado River. By hosting Gore Canyon Race and Festival for the past four years, we have been able to share this special place with many and engage the community in our efforts to protect it.

Today, Gore Canyon is a regular staple of the advanced intermediate/expert paddler in Colorado. However, in August 1989, when the first Gore Race was organized by Wave Sport founder Chan Zwanzig, he and a few friends had only been running the canyon without portages for a few years. After an East Coast kayaking trip, Chan was inspired by the Upper Youghiogheny (MD) race. When he came back home to Colorado, the Gore Race was born.

The first race in August 1989 had only seven participants. Safety boaters were bribed with beer and the chance to win a free kayak. Chan organized the race for five years and then handed the reins to a local rafting company, Timberline Tours. He continued to race for another four years, stopping after an upside-down run in Kirshbaum sent his boat—with him still inside it—out of the water, and leaving him with lasting neck pain.

Racing on Gore Canyon grew to host the national rafting championships and was even featured on ESPN. In 1992, an *American Whitewater Journal* article piqued the interest of then-Pennsylvania paddler Tim Kennedy. The article listed Gore alongside other extreme races: Great Falls of the Potomac (MD), the Upper Yough, and the North Fork Payette (ID). The following year, Tim came to race. Since 1993,

Tim has only missed two Gore races and today he calls Colorado home. While he doesn't always race — most years you can find him on the safety team or occasionally just spectating — he often regrets it. The years he has opted out of the race leave him wishing he had enjoyed the beautiful canyon, speeding through rapids alone and then joined the crowd of elated racers at the finish line. But, as he says, "There's always next year..."

Gore Canyon is not an easy racecourse. It's not that the whitewater is incredibly difficult, but compared to other Class V races around the country, this one is long. Stretches of flat water in between stout rapids can easily wear out the overly gung ho paddler. And despite shifting a few years ago, Tunnel never ceases to lay a smack-down. Thirty years of racing on Gore Canyon has seen an evolution and expansion of boats. New events have been added with the addition of the new whitewater park, and as stand up paddle boards increase in popularity. What hasn't seemed to change much over the years is the grassroots connection to the Colorado paddling community. Folks from all around the state come to celebrate the end of another summer paddling season. Racers continue to put the safety of their fellow boaters before their competitive nature. At the end of the weekend, there is always a tighter connection between all who were involved, and a deep gratitude for the mighty Colorado River.

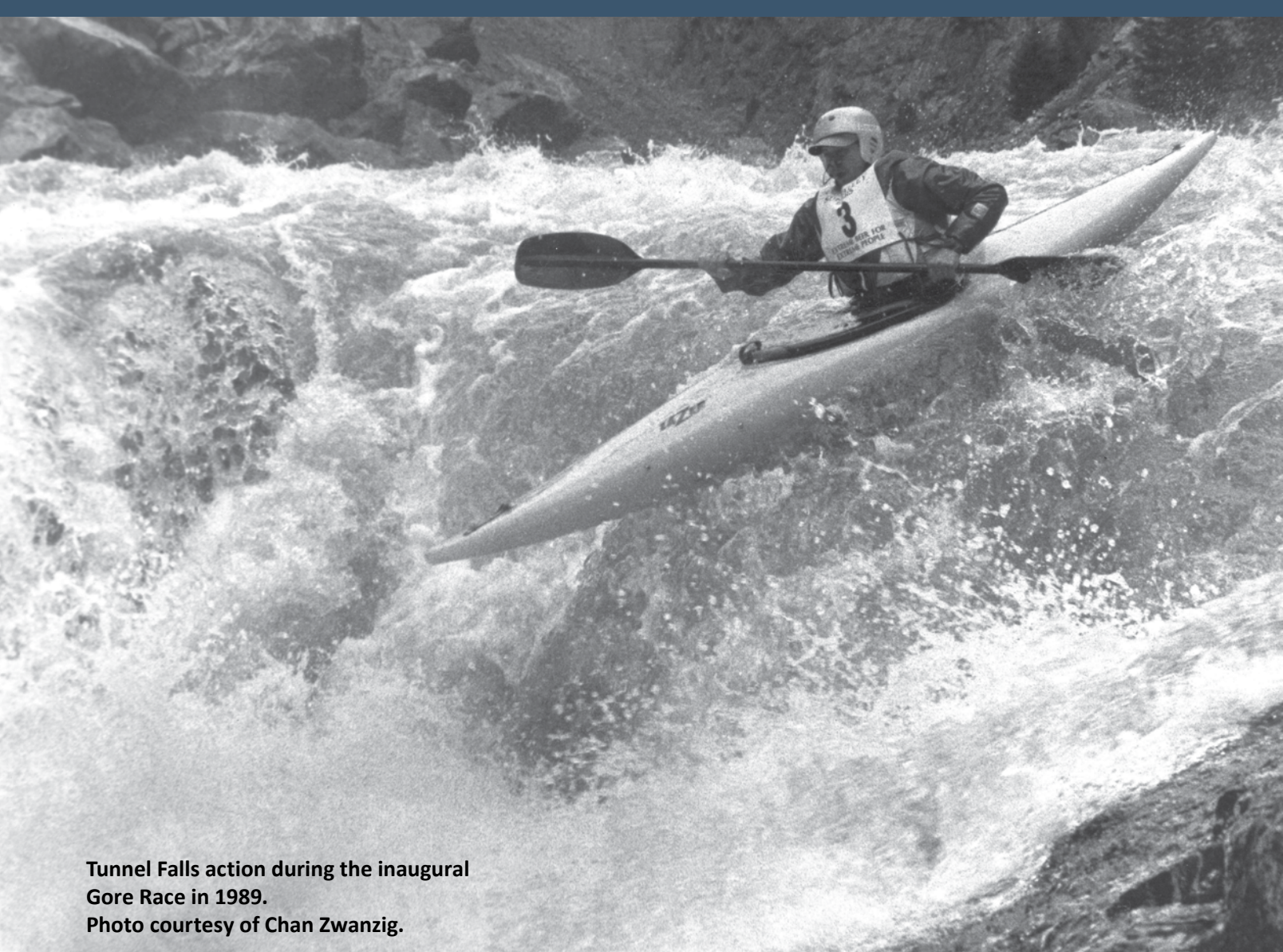
And that's where the unique visions and exceptional efforts of Jim Yust, Chan Zwanzig, and Tim Kennedy have met, at Gore Festival on the shores of the Upper Colorado.

Class V raft racing has been a unique component to the Gore Race starting a few years after its inception and, at its commercial peak, the race served as the National Rafting Championships for a few years. Nowadays it's better known as Colorado's quintessential grassroots boating festival, though the heart pounding raft racing remains a big part of the festivities.

Photo by Evan Stafford



STEWARDSHIP



Tunnel Falls action during the inaugural Gore Race in 1989.
Photo courtesy of Chan Zwanzig.

EXPERIENCING THE NEW NEW RIVER DRIES SCHEDULED RELEASES

by Ed Gertler

This July, I had the pleasure of experiencing West Virginia's New River "Dries" thanks to a schedule of assured water releases at Hawks Nest Dam. This series of releases are one of the most recent in AW's long string achievements at rewatering rivers historically desiccated by dam diversions.

There is more than enough information for prospective paddlers on what to expect at the AW River Information Site. What I have to offer is the observation that this run, at the flows scheduled, is just tailor-made for the great whitewater middle class (i.e. the

type of paddler who finds enough excitement in Class III and IV-whitewater). So if you are comfortable, for example, on the Hudson Gorge at summer bubble flows, lower Yough, Cheat, or Nolichucky at modest levels, you will feel right at home on the wet Dries. Add to that the warm water temperatures (in summer releases) and grand scenery, and you cannot go wrong.

Ed Gertler is the author of Maryland and Delaware Canoe Trails, Keystone Canoeing, Garden State Canoeing.

FIRST NEW RIVER DRIES RELEASES

BY KEVIN COLBURN



Quality Class III+ paddling during the first-ever New River Dries scheduled recreation whitewater releases!
Photo Kevin Colburn

IT FELT FITTING, somehow, to be alone, and then to have Bobby Bower show up to offer me a shuttle. I had driven from Asheville, NC to the first-ever scheduled summer release on the New River Dries, and no one was there. That's what it was like advocating for restored flows on the Dries too—surprisingly lonely—and then Bobby would show up at just the right time to help. Or maybe it was me that was showing up to help him. Either way, we at least partially overcame dogged opposition, questionable science, and political interference to secure releases on the Dries. It was time for a victory lap!

Before long, I found a group of paddlers from the DC area to paddle with. We picked our way through slots between towering boulders, surfed some waves, and played the countless deep eddy lines. It was a hot, languid day, even as we paddled in t-shirts, and the water felt terrific. We saw a commercial raft trip on the water, and a few other paddlers, all having a great time. I took another lap with a couple from New

Mexico and their friends, which was just as much fun.

It occurred to me, sitting in the sparsely occupied parking lot after my second run, that the Dries has rarely run at these normal summer levels because of the hydropower diversion. It usually only runs during big flow spikes that cause the dam to spill, and thus the river's identity is largely defined by epic surfing and Class V rapids at tens of thousands of cfs during these spills. So maybe the Class V paddlers who know the run assume it is too low to be fun at 2,500 cfs, and the Class III paddlers assume it is too hard. I don't think either is true, and I am hopeful that paddlers of a wide range of skill levels will find the run to be fun, beautiful, and a great way to spend a summer afternoon. I sure did.

The Dries at summer release levels is Class III or maybe III+. It is way more like the Lower Yough than the Lower Gauley. At summer release levels, you won't bump rocks with your boat or paddle, but you won't get big overhead waves either. The

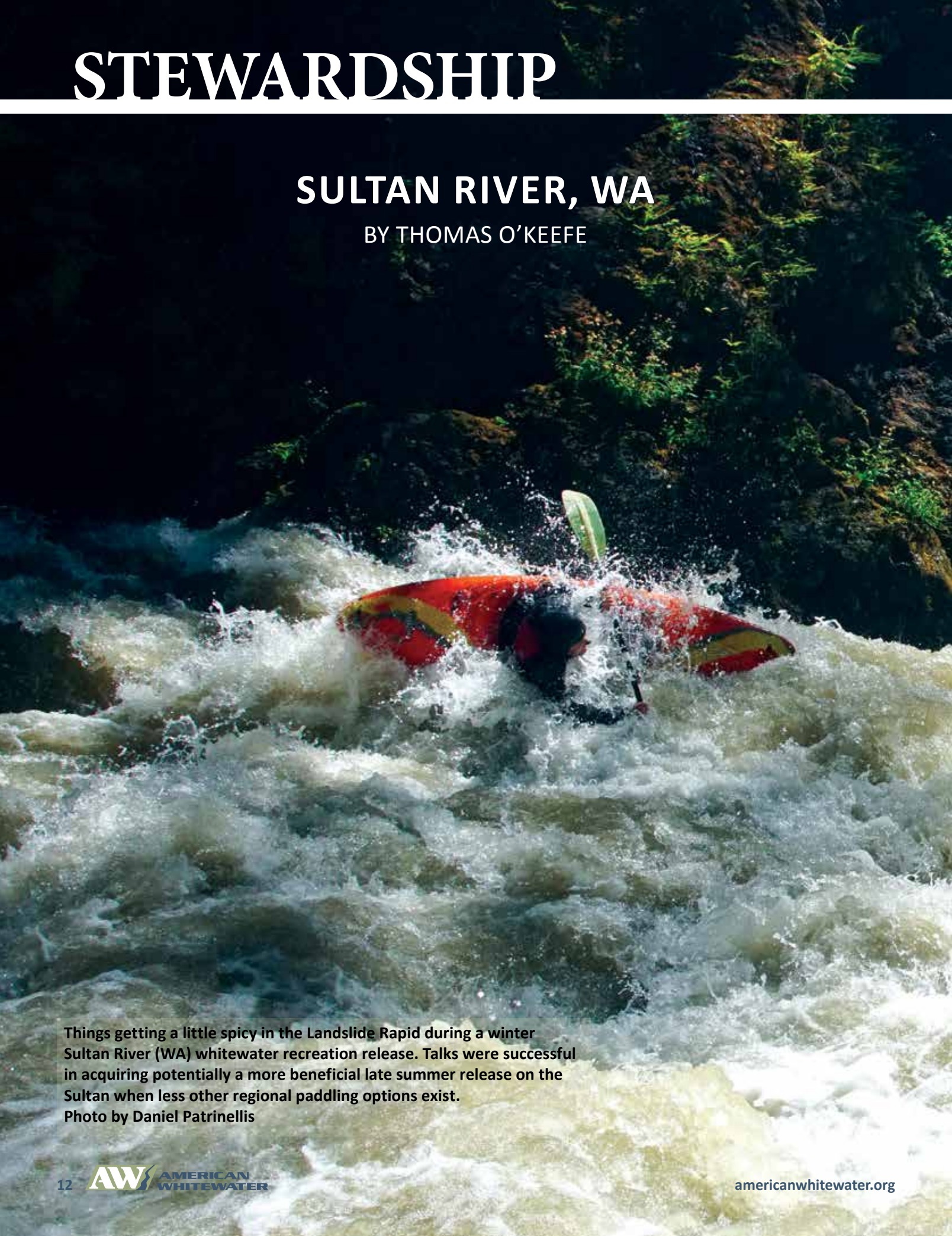
releases are set at 2,500 because the reservoir is too small to store and release water, so all it can do is pass natural inflows. In addition, the hydropower plant diverts 1,600 cfs all the time, so higher releases would require higher inflows than often occur in the summer. Higher release targets would therefore mean that we would get few or no releases in dry years. So, 2,500 was a good balance between the quality and quantity of releases, and the flow study showed that it was a good boating flow.

The releases that American Whitewater negotiated will also be great for the river. The releases are during the summer season when the dam often flatlines the river's flow at 250 cfs (up from 100 prior to the new license). These pulse flows will almost certainly improve water quality and instream habitat by mimicking natural small, rain-driven flow pulses. Sometimes even small amounts of water can make a big difference for biodiversity—and outdoor recreation. We look forward to both flourishing on the New River Dries.

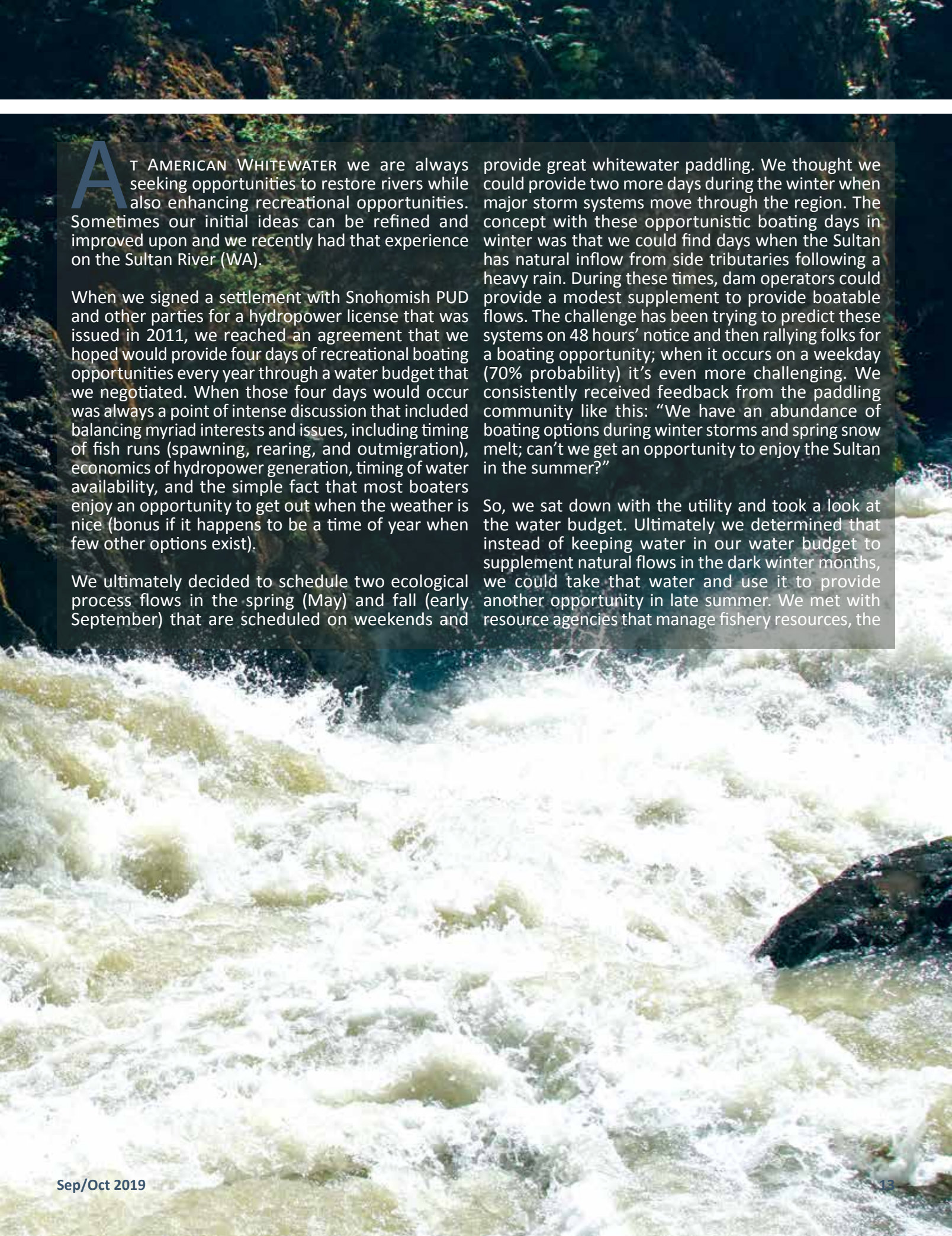
STEWARDSHIP

SULTAN RIVER, WA

BY THOMAS O'KEEFE



Things getting a little spicy in the Landslide Rapid during a winter Sultan River (WA) whitewater recreation release. Talks were successful in acquiring potentially a more beneficial late summer release on the Sultan when less other regional paddling options exist.
Photo by Daniel Patrinellis



AT AMERICAN WHITEWATER we are always seeking opportunities to restore rivers while also enhancing recreational opportunities. Sometimes our initial ideas can be refined and improved upon and we recently had that experience on the Sultan River (WA).

When we signed a settlement with Snohomish PUD and other parties for a hydropower license that was issued in 2011, we reached an agreement that we hoped would provide four days of recreational boating opportunities every year through a water budget that we negotiated. When those four days would occur was always a point of intense discussion that included balancing myriad interests and issues, including timing of fish runs (spawning, rearing, and outmigration), economics of hydropower generation, timing of water availability, and the simple fact that most boaters enjoy an opportunity to get out when the weather is nice (bonus if it happens to be a time of year when few other options exist).

We ultimately decided to schedule two ecological process flows in the spring (May) and fall (early September) that are scheduled on weekends and

provide great whitewater paddling. We thought we could provide two more days during the winter when major storm systems move through the region. The concept with these opportunistic boating days in winter was that we could find days when the Sultan has natural inflow from side tributaries following a heavy rain. During these times, dam operators could provide a modest supplement to provide boatable flows. The challenge has been trying to predict these systems on 48 hours' notice and then rallying folks for a boating opportunity; when it occurs on a weekday (70% probability) it's even more challenging. We consistently received feedback from the paddling community like this: "We have an abundance of boating options during winter storms and spring snow melt; can't we get an opportunity to enjoy the Sultan in the summer?"

So, we sat down with the utility and took a look at the water budget. Ultimately we determined that instead of keeping water in our water budget to supplement natural flows in the dark winter months, we could take that water and use it to provide another opportunity in late summer. We met with resource agencies that manage fishery resources, the

STEWARDSHIP

The Sultan River (WA) will soon offer a summer whitewater release opportunity in most years, a great change from mostly winter releases in the past, requested by local paddlers and negotiated by American Whitewater.

Photo by Daniel Patrinnellis

utility, and the Tulalip Tribe to see if we could make it work. After a few meetings and discussions, we came to consensus that we could provide another opportunity in August, a time of year when other boating opportunities in the Skykomish watershed are limited. The opportunity comes with a few caveats, the most significant being that we need sufficient water in the reservoir. The whitewater boating opportunities don't use much water and provide an ecological benefit, but the water is also used for drinking water, so that will be a consideration. Ultimately, we believe we will be able to provide this new summer opportunity in most years. Earlier this year the utility submitted the proposed changes on behalf of the whitewater boating community to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

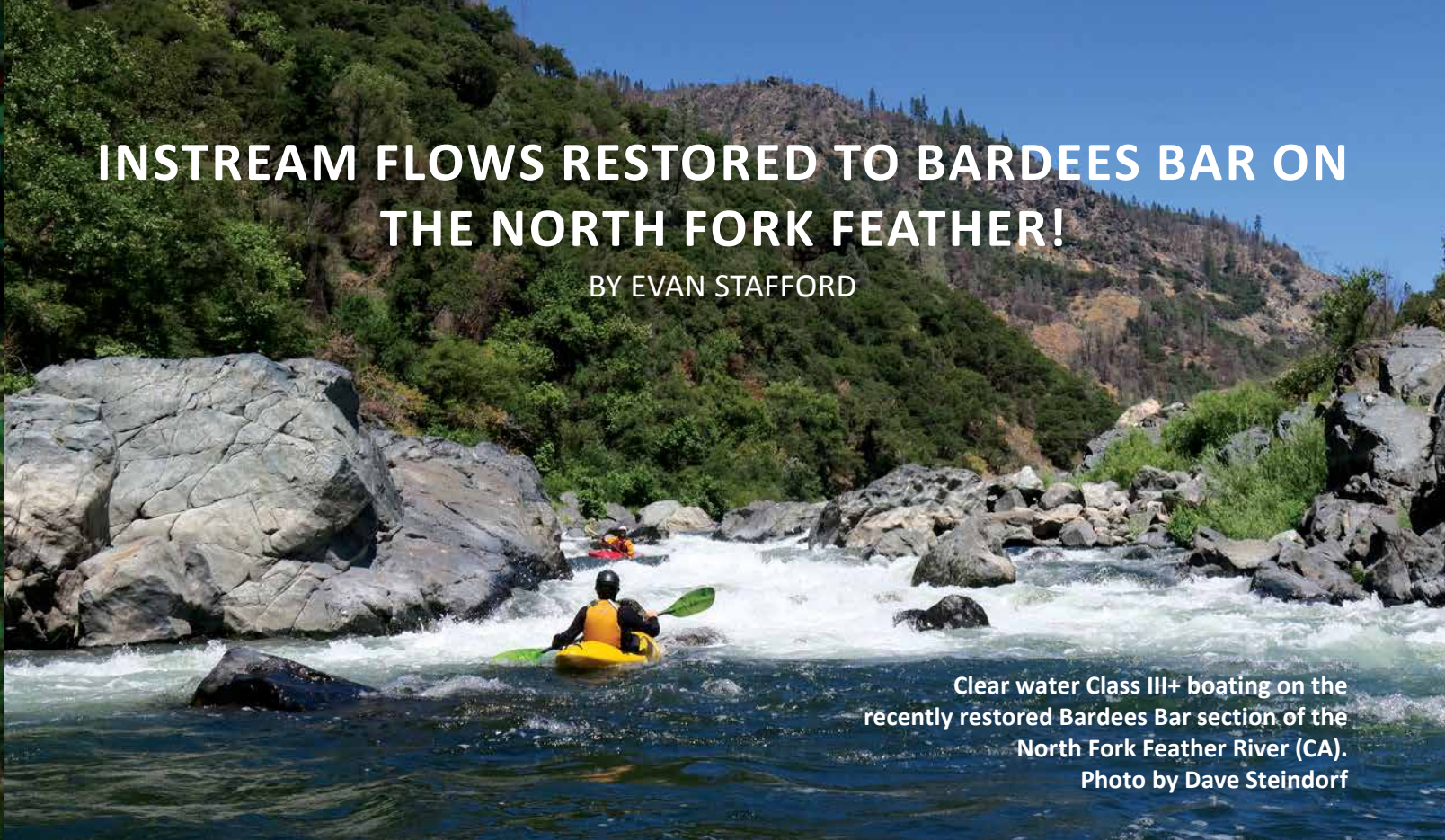
On June 27th we received a Director's Order from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with the following statement:

"The licensee's proposed amendment to the Whitewater Recreation Plan would improve whitewater boating opportunities on the Sultan River while protecting aquatic and other environmental resources at the project. For these reasons, and the fact that no agencies or entities object to the licensee's proposal, the licensee's proposed amendment to its Whitewater Recreation Plan should be approved."

We are now working to see if we can provide this new opportunity this summer. As local paddlers know, the water ran out a little earlier than usual on most of the local whitewater runs, so we will need to see where things stand in late summer. If we have sufficient water available, we hope to make it happen for this summer!

INSTREAM FLOWS RESTORED TO BARDEES BAR ON THE NORTH FORK FEATHER!

BY EVAN STAFFORD



Clear water Class III+ boating on the recently restored Bardees Bar section of the North Fork Feather River (CA).
Photo by Dave Steindorf

TWENTY YEARS AFTER American Whitewater began engaging in the relicensing of the Poe hydroelectric project on the North Fork Feather River (CA), the Bardees Bar section (Class III+) is finally seeing boatable flows that will support summer recreation in all but the driest years and will greatly improve ecological conditions for the river. FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) issued a new license for the Poe project, including the paddling flow schedule that American Whitewater negotiated in December of 2018. The hydro projects that were built in the Feather River drainage in the 1950s and 60s gathered up most of the river's water and put it in pipes to produce power. While this was a boon for power production, it was devastating for the ecosystem and local recreation economy. Since 1997, American Whitewater has successfully restored flows to multiple de-watered sections of the Feather, and this success on the Poe project is one of the last pieces of the puzzle to restoring recreation and ecological flows to the entire drainage.

"I had the opportunity to paddle the Bardees Bar section of the Poe reach

recently. It was fabulous. Seeing this section of the Feather emerge from over a half century of worse than extreme drought conditions, 50 -150 cfs, to a much improved 500 cfs, filled me with joy and pride. It just looked right." – AW California Hydropower Specialist, Dave Steindorf

In restoring these flows, we applied lessons learned from our work on hydro projects across California, specifically the science we helped develop that protects the Foothill Yellow Legged Frogs that call the Feather home. Flows that gradually recede with the spring snowmelt provide better conditions for frogs and other native aquatic species. Fortunately, these flow conditions also provide predictable flows for whitewater recreation. We also negotiated a new trail and road enhancements that will make access for paddling the Bardees Bar section much improved.

American Whitewater has spent so much time and effort on the Feather because of its huge restoration potential. Before the hydro projects, the Feather supported one of the most robust trout fisheries in the state and would have provided whitewater

boating all summer long, even in the driest of years. With the latest flow agreement for the Rock Creek and Cresta reaches in place, year-round boating has returned to the Feather River. This added recreation opportunity on the Bardees Bar segment will continue to help revitalize the North Fork Feather canyon and provide more summer and fall boating opportunities when other drainages are no longer running at boatable flows.

We're still in discussions on how to implement the recreation release schedule, above and beyond boatable base flows. In Normal and Wet water years, we negotiated 6,000 additional acre-feet in the Poe bypass reach for recreational boating purposes. Recreational release flows will occur between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and should equate to at least 10 scheduled days of boating in the fall. The final development of this schedule will be, in part, dictated by the final ramping rate plan that will be developed over the next year. It is our intent to have releases this fall and this will help to gauge the level of interest in flows during that time of year.

STEWARDSHIP

RUSSELL FORK RELEASES

BY KEVIN COLBURN

THE 2019 FALL release schedule for the Russell Fork River was recently announced, and it includes two new Friday releases that will result in two three-day weekends of releases in October. These additional releases to the historic fall release schedule are the result of a public process convened by the Army Corp of Engineers last spring to explore the possibility of expanding the release schedule under a number of potential alternatives.

American Whitewater and many regional paddlers advocated for additional recreational releases throughout the public process. We conducted and shared a survey that indicated significant support for Friday releases. The new releases are listed as “tentative and subject to change,” and hopefully, if they go well, additional releases will be scheduled in future years. Enjoy these new paddling opportunities!

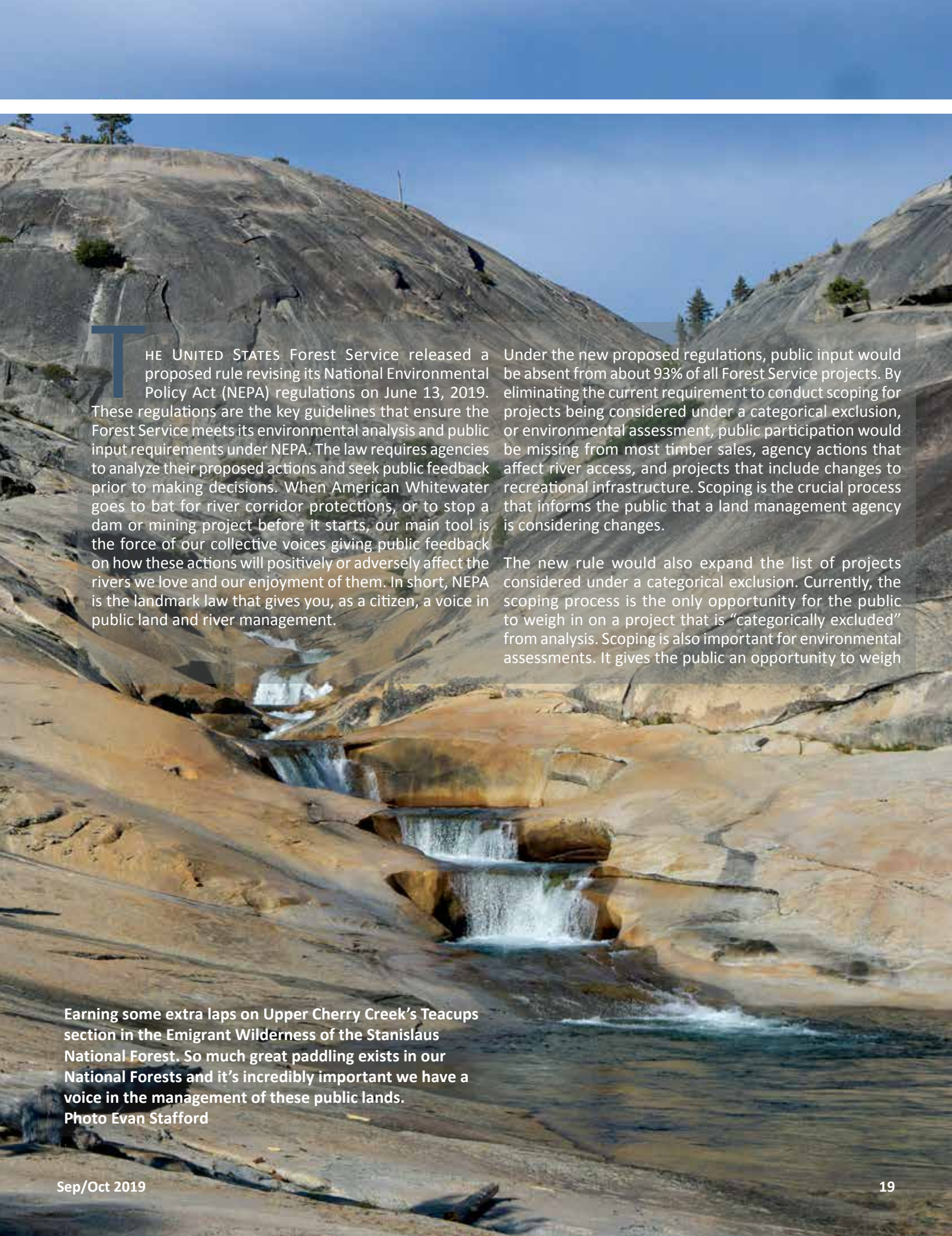


The Russell Fork River (KY/VA) will see two new Friday whitewater recreation releases creating a pair of new three-day release weekends during the classic fall release schedule. Photo by Sarah Ruhlen.

STEWARDSHIP

PROPOSED FOREST SERVICE RULE WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE PUBLIC INPUT

BY KEVIN COLBURN AND EVAN STAFFORD



THE UNITED STATES Forest Service released a proposed rule revising its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations on June 13, 2019. These regulations are the key guidelines that ensure the Forest Service meets its environmental analysis and public input requirements under NEPA. The law requires agencies to analyze their proposed actions and seek public feedback prior to making decisions. When American Whitewater goes to bat for river corridor protections, or to stop a dam or mining project before it starts, our main tool is the force of our collective voices giving public feedback on how these actions will positively or adversely affect the rivers we love and our enjoyment of them. In short, NEPA is the landmark law that gives you, as a citizen, a voice in public land and river management.

Under the new proposed regulations, public input would be absent from about 93% of all Forest Service projects. By eliminating the current requirement to conduct scoping for projects being considered under a categorical exclusion, or environmental assessment, public participation would be missing from most timber sales, agency actions that affect river access, and projects that include changes to recreational infrastructure. Scoping is the crucial process that informs the public that a land management agency is considering changes.

The new rule would also expand the list of projects considered under a categorical exclusion. Currently, the scoping process is the only opportunity for the public to weigh in on a project that is “categorically excluded” from analysis. Scoping is also important for environmental assessments. It gives the public an opportunity to weigh

**Earning some extra laps on Upper Cherry Creek’s Teacups section in the Emigrant Wilderness of the Stanislaus National Forest. So much great paddling exists in our National Forests and it’s incredibly important we have a voice in the management of these public lands.
Photo Evan Stafford**

STEWARDSHIP

in on a project at the very beginning, and alerts people to the fact that the Forest Service is considering a project in the first place. Under the new rule, projects that affect recreational amenities and access to rivers could proceed without being informed by the users who would be affected.

When the rule was published in June, it initiated a 60-day public comment period. On August 9, the Forest Service extended the comment period by 14 days, ending the comment period on August 26. Considering the wide array of negative implications for the management of our rivers on public land, American Whitewater made a significant push to encourage our community to submit comments. We also submitted our own official comments opposing the new rule. The whitewater community responded with emphatic opposition to removing the public process from Forest Service decision making, and submitted 1,639 comments through the American Whitewater comment submission form. Many boaters also submitted comments through other portals.

We fundamentally disagree with the core premise of the Proposed Rule, which claims reduced public involvement will yield more work getting done on the forests. Without a meaningful way to receive public input, and stay within the bounds of the law, the Forest Service would leave the public with litigation as the only option to have a voice. This is a terrible option: it is costly in terms of financial resources, time, relationships, and opportunity costs. Removing scoping, and with it, the voice of the recreation community, the Forest Service does not, and cannot, adequately know how and where people recreate on the National Forest System, and thus how to meaningfully integrate recreation into projects and avoid needlessly diminishing recreational quality and opportunities. The most efficient, collaborative, and effective way to beneficially shape the outcome of a project is at its beginning. Scoping is vital, and often, the information we provide during scoping is enough to ensure that projects can move forward with our community's support in a way that will meet its interests. As a community, we not only want to have a say in how our rivers and creeks are managed on our public lands, we insist on it.

Protect your paddling paradise by protecting your right to have a say in how National Forests are managed. Paddlers submitted over 1600 comments opposing a new Forest Service rule which would strip public input from about 93% of all new Forest projects. Upper Cherry Creek (CA). Photo Evan Stafford



WHITEWATER HISTORY

JIMMY CARTER – A WILD RIVER LEGACY

BY DOUG WOODWARD



*Jimmy Carter kayaking Big Shoals on the Chattooga in May 1973.
Photo by Doug Woodward*

IMAGINE... A LEADER capable of understanding how the natural world sustains both our physical and emotional selves, not to mention his having a passion for human rights and healing the differences between disparate groups of people. Now picture that leader as the President of the United States. Improbable? Yes. Impossible? No.

It is safe to say that no president since Teddy Roosevelt has embraced the importance of protecting unique natural areas to the extent that Jimmy Carter has. Even Roosevelt was not presented with the same great opportunities to protect wild country as Carter.

Growing up with the freedom—once his chores were done—to fish and wade nearby Choctahatchee Creek as a boy likely nourished the seed that later matured into a warrior against those who would trade the natural world for a few quick dollars. Very few presidents-to-be, I suspect, have

brought live baby alligators and snapping turtles back to their home following a foray into the swamp.

Years later, in the early '70s, during Carter's tenure as Georgia's governor, he took action on several environmentally sensitive projects in a way that made him unpopular with those who stood to gain financially from the ventures. But, as would later become evident in his presidency, he understood that there were missing factors in the traditional analyses and that the financial benefits of these projects were often significantly overstated.

Channelization, or "draining the swamp" to lower the water table by bulldozing deep straight trenches into the terrain and destroying existing creeks and wildlife, had a brief period of popularity at the time. As the governor returned to Atlanta from a trip, he was confronted by two speculators who had been denied channelization permits by Georgia's Department of Natural

Resources for land they had purchased at a bargain price. After listening to their pleas, and knowing the intrinsic value of swampland as an incubator of life, Carter replied, "You bought a swamp—now you've got a swamp."

One of Georgia's major rivers, the Flint, rises just south of Atlanta and flows unimpeded for over 200 miles. A massive dam was proposed for the river at Sprewell Bluff, not far from the town of Plains, in governor Carter's home district. Carter spent many hours analyzing the data used to justify the plan and ultimately determined that construction would be wasteful and financially unsound, not to mention the major environmental destruction it would cause. In 1974, he de-authorized the project, an act that left proponents open-mouthed and furious.

It was during this same period that whitewater began to run in Carter's veins. A small Atlanta group of paddlers who knew



Carter chats during lunch at Big Shoals while kayaking Section II of the Chattooga, a river that he would be instrumental in protecting under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Photo by Doug Woodward

the Chattooga River well, led by Claude Terry, an Emory University microbiologist with a connection to the governor, arranged three challenging paddling experiences for him, each on different sections of the river. The Chattooga, of course, had just been made famous as the river where the movie Deliverance had been filmed.

The first of these Carter trips would be by open canoe—usually an aluminum craft in that day—noisy, with an evil tendency to snag on river rocks rather than sliding over them. The trip was set for Section III of the Chattooga, a 14-mile intermediate run of ledges and drops, ending with the intimidating Bull Sluice, which, of course, we would portage.

Claude had lined up a half dozen canoes and guides for the group of friends from Georgia’s Department of Natural Resources and Carter’s son Jack. The guides were seasoned canoeists, familiar with the Chattooga River. We were impressed by the informality of the governor, who had come to savor the experience of this remote river, accompanied only by friends who shared his love of wild places.

The day flowed with the remote river, the guests and guides paired into teams of two to challenge the rapids, which led through riparian forest that had never seen a highway or railroad. As the afternoon waned, only Bull Sluice, a double drop totaling 12 feet, remained ahead of us. One by one, the canoes were hauled onto the rocky ledges on river right and were soon portaged out of sight. Except for one.

Jimmy Carter’s and Claude Terry’s canoe remained lightly beached in the shallows above the Bull, while the pair stood in serious conversation, looking intently at the rapid. “Holy shit!” I thought, “Claude’s not really planning on taking the governor down the Bull in an open canoe, is he?” Most of us ran the rapid successfully in decked boats, but an open tandem canoe was very problematic given Bull Sluice’s challenges.

The pair was coming my way. “Doug, what do you think our chances are if we decide to run it?” Carter asked. “About one in a hundred,” I replied.

“No, no—that’s not what I meant! What are our chances of being killed or seriously hurt?” I realized then that the governor pragmatically expected to take a swim and pick up a few bruises as part of the challenge.

“Quite low. You have a very competent partner in the stern and we’ll have you covered all the way—a safety boat at the bottom of the rapid and two rope-tossing stations. I’ll have a third rope between the last two drops. When—sorry—if you

capsize, look for a rope immediately.” Unnecessary advice to a former nuclear submarine commander who had once saved himself after being washed overboard from his ship by a rogue wave in the night.

Claude had borrowed a helmet for the governor from one of our kayakers as an extra safety precaution in case of mishap. Having thoroughly evaluated the lines they should run, Carter’s “Let’s do it!” emphatically rang through the air above the constant rumble of the Bull. “Good luck!” I called after them as they disappeared around the bend, about to launch their canoe. Once more, I un-coiled, then carefully re-coiled, my throw line and laid it on the ledge beside me as I lifted my camera to frame the scene.

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WHITEWATER HISTORY



his photo, carved from larger slides, cluttered with lunchtime paddlers, isolates Carter and his smile of enjoyment at being a canoeer on the Narrows (Section III) of the Chattooga.

Photo by Doug Woodward

All eyes locked in an upriver gaze. Here they come! A dozen small precise moves, then successful passage of the surprise drop that can catch you unaware if you're watching the big ones in the distance. Both paddles, in a synchronous rhythm, bite the river with authority as the canoe starts to angle toward the Georgia shore. Good.

But wait. Their line is off, needing more rotation to the right, putting them in imminent danger of being sucked broadside into the hydraulic at the bottom of the ledge. Claude knows it and Carter feels it. They both react. Teeth clenched, Claude puts everything into a last-second draw stroke, which is just enough. Carter also reaches out with his paddle, only to find nothing beneath it but air and in a moment of precarious balance grabs the gunwale.

It is this moment of uncertainty that my camera records.

Now, the moment of truth. The bow of the canoe drops beneath the surface. Water breaking over his head, Carter reaches forward with a strong stroke to maintain momentum. The bow rises. Water pours off the center flotation. And the canoe still floats high as it slides toward the final drop. They've made it! The rest is anticlimactic.

Their position is perfect, and though the last drop is as steep as the diagonal ledge, there is less of a tendency for a canoe to bury at the bottom. Three quick strokes and they're clear, turning into the narrow eddy below the chute, Jimmy Carter and Claude Terry grinning together. We all salute the skill of this tandem team and especially the

willingness of the governor to engage risk and challenge.

Twice more, the Chattooga would feel the strokes of Carter paddles. Having taken time to practice rolling with several of us at the Georgia State pool in Atlanta, the governor was eager to try his new kayaking skills on the Chattooga.

In May we set up a kayak trip on Section II of the Chattooga, a nine-mile run of Class II water, with a couple of good Class III rapids thrown in for entertainment. Mountain laurel would be in bloom and the river would be clear and full. The week before the trip, the governor's office informed us that Carter's Saturday schedule would not permit him to attend, and that subsequent weekends looked equally busy.

When Carter himself learned of the plans, the conflict was quickly resolved. A Friday call from Claude Terry informed me that the trip was on again. At the put-in, our small group of kayakers, perhaps half the size of the group on that earlier canoe trip, peeled off into the current. The trip was smooth and the group was loose; conversation came easily.

We knew that Carter intended to run for President, and that he had already begun laying the groundwork. What impressed us most was his candor. He was completely willing to talk about the difficulties of his Georgia administration, as well as the successes, even his views on the kind of person the President of the United States should be.

As we relaxed for lunch on a small island at the head of Big Shoals, the conversation turned again to the presidency. Watergate was almost daily news, but Nixon's resignation was still three months in the future. What seemed to bother Carter most was the inaccessibility of the presidential office, not just to the ordinary citizen but to many of the President's own advisors. "Things will be different," he said with a grin, "when I occupy the Oval Office."

We saw the governor next on Section IV of the Chattooga, running by raft with several of us guiding and providing safety in kayaks. It was here, of course, that much of *Deliverance* was filmed, amid some of the most demanding rapids the Chattooga has to offer. Rosalyn Carter paddled next to her husband, showing much of the same determination as the governor. In fact, it was she alone who remained in the raft after the twisting plunge over Seven Foot Falls. Smiling all the while, she helped the safety kayakers pull Carter and the raft guide from the churning water below the drop.

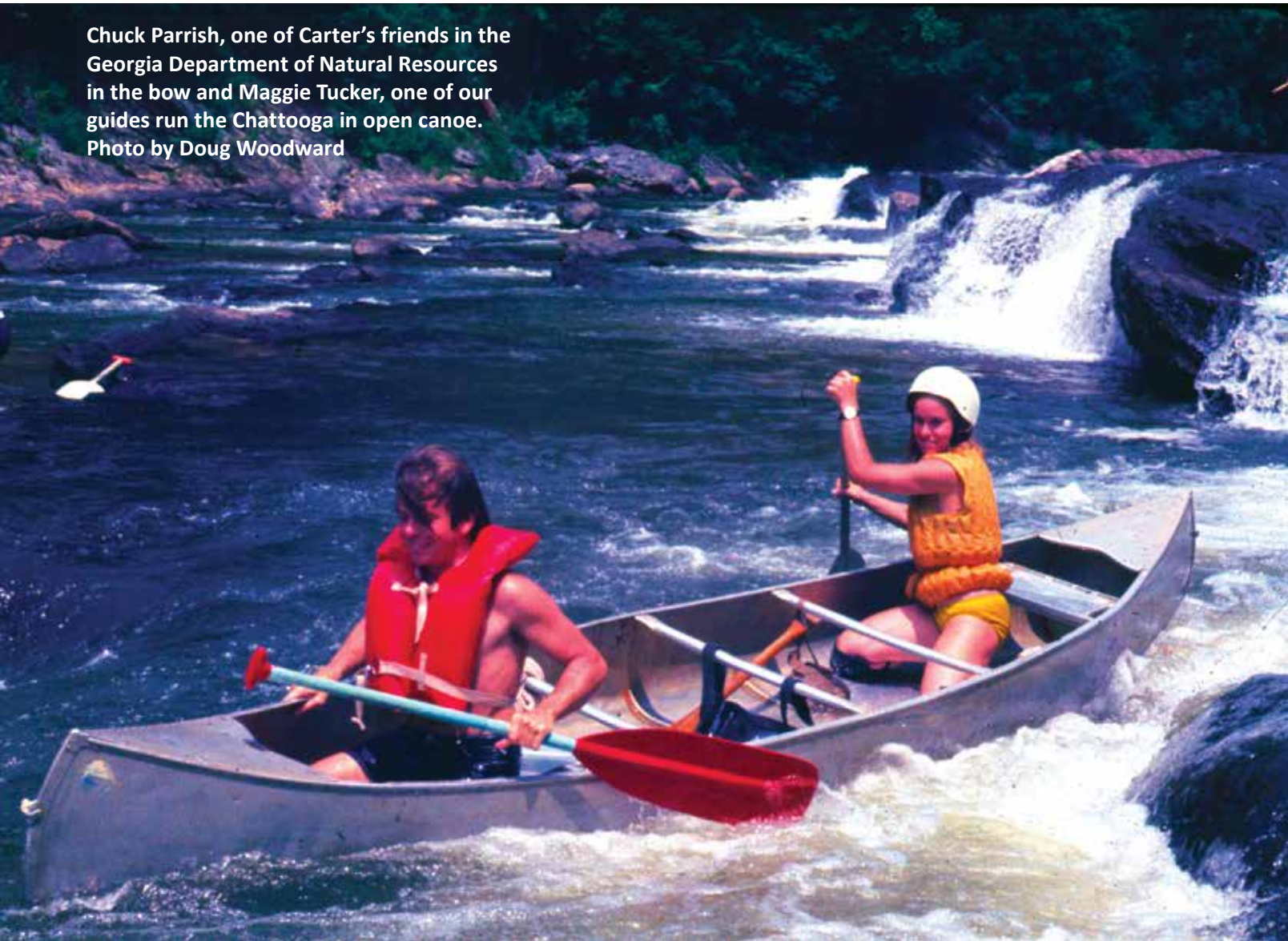
The unexpected swim on the most formidable section of the Chattooga did nothing to diminish Carter's enthusiasm

for wild and free-flowing rivers. To the contrary. As Carter would say 43 years later in the film, *The Wild President*, "It was this trip that opened my eyes to the relationship between a human and a wild river." He was speaking not only of the challenge of paddling it, but the spiritual importance of an untouched riparian environment to all who would experience it.

Carter's actions confirmed the truth in his words. When we reflected on his three Chattooga River experiences, we realized that never once had he brought a photographer, reporter, or state trooper with him. Publicity and protectiveness were not part of his agenda. He was on the river because his heart had drawn him to it.

Wild country and free-flowing rivers had lodged in his soul. While still in the Georgia governor's seat, Carter would have a chance to affect national legislation. The United States Congress had passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968. Relatively unknown, the Chattooga hadn't been included. We knew that the original Act called for rivers to be managed for "solitude, adventure, risk and challenge." There was no doubt whatsoever that this remote and uninhabited river valley fit the intent of the Act. But just after *Deliverance* hit theater screens nationwide, the Chattooga suddenly became one of the most sought-after rivers in the country. She could easily be loved to death.

Chuck Parrish, one of Carter's friends in the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in the bow and Maggie Tucker, one of our guides run the Chattooga in open canoe. Photo by Doug Woodward



WHITEWATER HISTORY

The protection of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act would be vital to the Chattooga's future. We had known this even prior to the river's explosion in popularity. A small but dedicated group of Georgia conservationists and river runners would be key players, educating those who would ultimately make the decision. Following untold hours of groundwork and river trips to introduce legislators to the river, bills to bring Wild and Scenic protection to the Chattooga were introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate.

The House bill was authored by U.S. Representative Roy Taylor of North Carolina and co-sponsored by U.S. Representative Phil Landrum of Georgia. Matching legislation was authored by Georgia's senior senator, Herman Talmadge and co-sponsored by Georgia Senator Sam Nunn.

Joe Tanner, head of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources, and Claude Terry went north to testify before the Senate subcommittee reviewing the bill. Despite their informed, favorable testimony, the outcome of the bill was still in doubt.

Aware of the indecision in Congress and the rumor that Senator Scoop Jackson, D-WA, wanted to remove the Chattooga from the bill, Claude called the governor's office and insisted on speaking with Carter. Making sure that our grassroots efforts had been exhausted, Carter finally agreed to call Jackson and request a personal favor for what had now become Georgia's most famous wild river.

The Chattooga was designated Wild and Scenic in May of 1974.

Lots of folks got credit, and deserved it, but the victory was really, to a large extent, Jimmy Carter's.



As we well know today, another victory—the likely result of public outrage at the Nixon presidency and the dedicated work of the far-reaching “Peanut Brigade”—carried Washington outsider Carter into the White House two years later. In contrast to many politicians of that day, as well as the present, Jimmy Carter would bring with him a passion for honesty, human rights, energy conservation, and the elimination of waste, wherever it might occur. And, of course—an environmental consciousness.

He rode a blue wave into Washington in the 1976 elections, as both the House

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The third and toughest Chattooga run—Section IV—and the only mishap of the day as the raft dumps all occupants except Rosalyn Carter in the crossover current below Seven-foot Falls.

Photo by Doug Woodward

and Senate featured strong Democratic majorities—a position of one-party power any president would crave. Carter hit the ground running, with visions of change that were in keeping with his moral integrity. But even his closest advisors were astounded at the scope of his proposals and his reluctance to compromise.

Carter quickly found that party affiliation meant little when the pet projects of a legislator's home state were being threatened with de-authorization. If he thought that his derailing of the Sprewell Bluff Dam in Georgia was akin to poking a hole in a hornets' nest, his early determination as President to kill more than 30 water projects throughout the U.S. created blow-back that was simply off the charts. His thoroughness in reassessing the costs and benefits of these projects showed

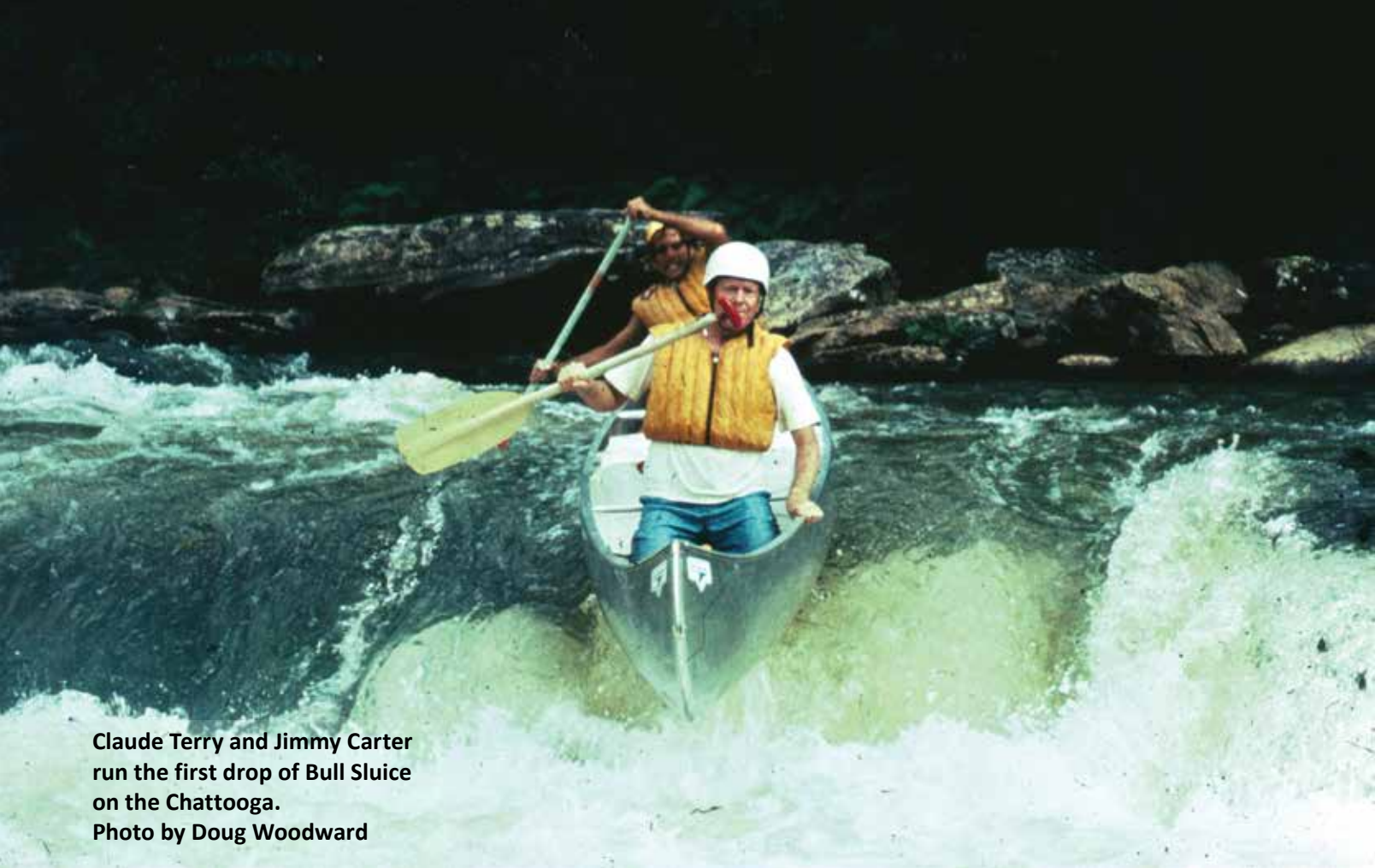
not only the waste of taxpayer dollars being sucked into the pork barrel, but the massive environmental destruction associated with each devastating water project.

Often Carter appeared to have more detailed knowledge of a particular project than the representative or senator of the state in which it was proposed, much to the consternation of the latter. In time, 16 of the original 35 projects on the "hit list" were defunded and Carter's mandate for eliminating public waste became well known. In fact, some of this philosophy of not initiating wasteful projects even carried over into the Reagan administration.

But late in his presidency, Carter would lead the way on environmental legislation that would mark him as one of the most visionary presidents of our time. The vast

lands of Alaska held the opportunity for setting aside areas of unusual size, beauty, and significance for present and future generations to enjoy, as well as satisfying the interests of the indigenous people and the resource extraction industries. It was a balancing act that few presidents would have had the courage to take on. Yet Jimmy Carter did.

In August of 1978, midway through the Carter presidency, my older children, Cricket, 15 and David, 13, and I had the opportunity to kayak 430 miles of Alaska's Noatak River, 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle, from the Brooks Range to Kotzebue Sound. It was just the three of us; caribou, grizzly, fox, and marmot our only neighbors. It was scary. Beautiful. Wild. It was an adventure that still fills our hearts with wonder, 40 years later.



**Claude Terry and Jimmy Carter
run the first drop of Bull Sluice
on the Chattooga.
Photo by Doug Woodward**

Arriving back in Georgia, we knew it was time to pay back a debt to Alaska, though not a monetary one. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Bill had been introduced in both the United States Senate and House of Representatives the previous year, and I had then testified before John Sieberling's House Subcommittee on Alaskan Lands when it held hearings in Atlanta. I spoke as an engineer, showing the Subcommittee how more than 60% of the lands considered as "mineral-rich" by the mining industry did not conflict with the lands that would be added to the National Park, Wilderness, and Wild Rivers Systems.

It was a challenging appearance for me, as the Subcommittee members, particularly Alaska's Senator Ted Stevens, questioned many of my premises, making me feel as if I were on the stand in a court of law. I realized then the hostility of many Alaskan residents toward the "Alaska Lands Bill," those feelings being channeled through Alaska's two senators, Stevens and Gravel. Years later, the views of many residents

would mellow as they came to realize the benefits of this legislation.

Now it was time to lean on our own congressional delegation, particularly U.S. Senator Sam Nunn (GA) and U.S. Representative Ed Jenkins (GA). Cricket, David and I spoke with Jenkins in Jasper, and Nunn in Atlanta, where we not only gave them supporting data for the Alaska Lands Bill, but a brief slide show of our Noatak adventure. We were assured of their support, and received a personal letter from Jenkins telling us that he had voted for the Alaska Lands Bill on May 16, 1979 when it passed the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bill that later emerged from the Senate was much weaker than the House version, giving watered-down protection to smaller areas, despite the leadership of President Carter and Interior Secretary Andrus for the House version. Conservation leaders worked with Representatives Morris Udall and John Seiberling to draft a stronger compromise bill, but when it became clear

that Ronald Reagan had won the 1980 election, President Carter had no choice but to sign the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, as it then stood, into law.

Nevertheless, it was a historic moment when the Act became law on December 2, 1980, preserving 104.3 million acres of wild country, creating 10 national parks, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and 25 Wild and Scenic Rivers. The indigenous people of Alaska were given the right to select 44 million acres of Federal Land in settlement of claims that had been under negotiation for decades. And the majority of the state remained open to oil and gas exploration.

Few presidents have shown the dedication, once they left office, to continue the work that fueled their passion while in the White House. Not so, Jimmy Carter. His work in human rights, conflict resolution, and elimination of human suffering over nearly four decades was recognized when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

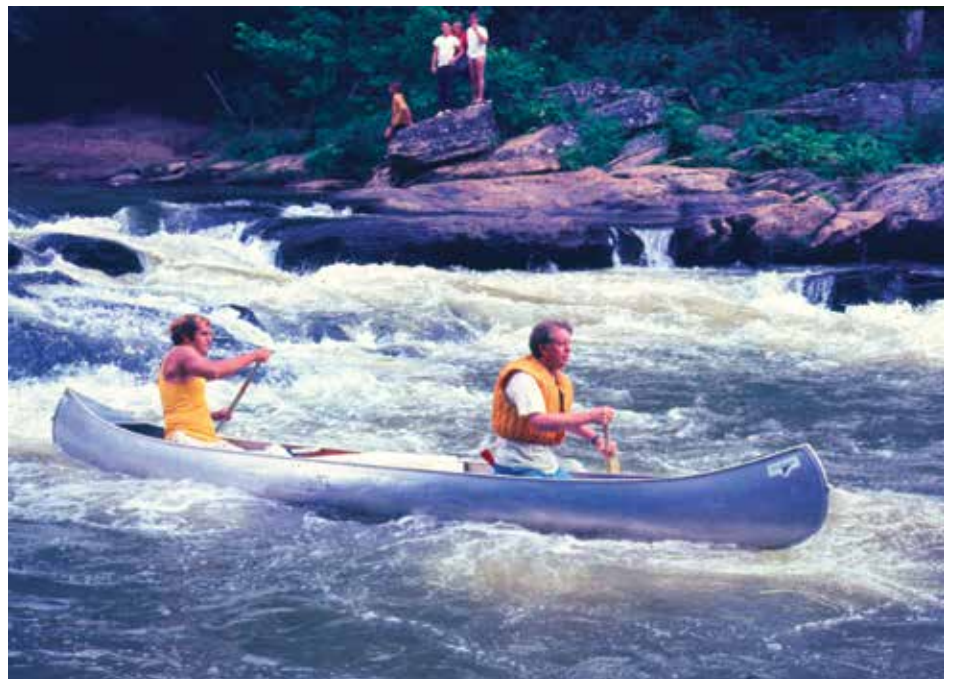
WHITEWATER HISTORY



Filming of the movie Deliverance (which sparked Carter's first interest in the Chattooga River); stunt doubles Claude Terry (the organizer of the Carter trips) and Doug Woodward (author) paddle for actors Jon Voight and Ned Beatty.
Photo by Payson Kennedy

Yet, for those of us whose spirits would wither away without wild country in which to renew ourselves, Jimmy Carter's greatest legacy is to be found in the rivers that remain free-flowing and the great swaths of protected Alaska land that allow the caribou and grizzly to roam.

Claude Terry (stern) and Jimmy Carter (bow) running Keyhole rapid on Section III of the Chattooga. We were short on PFDs that day, but we made sure that Carter and his friends were all covered. Claude was then Safety Chairman of the American Canoe Association. However, when this photo was first published nationally, Claude was immediately fired from that position.
Photo by Doug Woodward



WHITEWATER HISTORY

TALES OF EARLY PADDLING ON THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU WITH THE EAST TENNESSEE WHITE WATER CLUB (ETWWC)

BY JOHN TANSIL WITH HELP FROM OTHERS



otter's Falls Gang in 1973. Martin Begun published pictures of these guys running Potter's Falls (Crooked Fork Creek, TN) in the AW Journal and got a reprimand from the AW Safety Director. Photo by Robert Humphries

This article has been split in half to better fit our formatting. Stay tuned for the Winter 2020 issue for the second part of the ETWWC's history.

THIS IS A story about early history of paddling on the Cumberland Plateau with the East Tennessee White Water Club, the first whitewater club in the state of Tennessee. ETWWC was formed in 1962 in Oak Ridge, TN and it immediately became an American Whitewater (AW) affiliate club, listed in the 1962-2 *AW Journal*.

The club's members started off with a bang with an early descent of Big South Fork of the Cumberland, as described in the article "Pioneering a Tennessee River" (John Bombay, 1962-2 *AW Journal*). One of the quotes from this article reads, "Since man's earliest existence, his curiosity has always driven him from his homestead to explore the unknown." This phrase aptly describes the attitude of ETWWC members from the get-go!

Being just a few miles from the eastern escarpment of the Cumberland Plateau, Oak Ridge is ideally situated for exploration

of rivers on the Plateau. In particular, the wonderful whitewater of the Obed/Emory watershed in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area became "home rivers" for ETWWC. It wasn't long after they discovered the Big South Fork that ETWWC members did an early descent of the Obed River from Devil's Breakfast Table to Nemo Bridge, as described in the article "River Reports: Tennessee's Obed" (John Bombay, 1964-3 *AW Journal*). However, unknown to ETWWC, two young college students from Oak Ridge, Robert Humphries and Chuck Ochiltree, had already probed the Obed. Their very entertaining narrative follows.

During the period from 1962-1972, the ETWWC had a transition from a mixture of kayaks/open canoes to mostly decked boats (K-1, C-1). Club members obtained a Hahn C-1 and built a mold that other club members could then use to build a C-1. By the time I joined and started paddling with ETWWC in 1972, their paddlers were almost all in decked boats. ETWWC also had a mold for an Old Town kayak and a Lettmann Mark IV kayak, which became my boat of choice. Some of the club members of the time were Robert Humphries (OC-1→C-1), Chuck Ochiltree (OC-1→C-1), John Bombay (K-1), Richard (Dick) Reed (OC-1), Tom Berg (OC-1), Jerry Cosgrove (OC-1), Don Jared (K-1), Reid Gryder (C-1), Martin Begun (C-1), brothers Paul Singley (K-1) and Alan Singley (C-1), Mike Holland (K-1), Monte Meals (K-1), Ken Cooper (K-1), and Mark Hall (C-1).



Naturally, ETWWC members traveled to other parts of the country to paddle, mostly to the upper Midwest and along the Appalachians. They met other paddlers on these journeys and invited them to the Plateau to paddle when water conditions

Logo of the original East Tennessee White Water Club (ETWWC), which was founded in 1962. The logo was chosen before the word “white water” became a single word. The crossed canoe paddles reflect the club’s canoeing roots.

Photo by Reid Gryder



were right. They developed a special bond with “north woods paddlers,” Fred Young (C-1) and students from the University of Wisconsin Hoofer Outing Club, and frequently paddled with them over holiday weekends in the winter/spring. Because Martin Begun was a racer, he was known to many eastern paddlers. Paddlers such as Dan Demaree (K-1), Jack Wright (K-1) and Charlie Walbridge (C-1) came down from Maryland/West Virginia to paddle with ETWWC. First descents of the Caney Fork, Bee Creek, and Piney were done by a mix of ETWWC members and these guest paddlers.

The author and his children at the put-in on the lower St. Francis River, MO.

Photo by Linda Seaman Tansil

WHITEWATER HISTORY

1963 FIRST VENTURES ON OBED RIVER WHEN ETWWC WAS UNKNOWN

This narrative is provided by Robert Humphries and Chuck Ochilree regarding early runs on the Obed River before they were aware of the ETWWC.

During this period, no one had run the Obed, as far as we know. When we later became part of the ETWWC there were discussions about a man that published a guidebook for southern whitewater, which included discussions about the Obed. I believe his name was Burmister (sic?). His description of the river was pretty close, but many in the club suspected that he simply used topo maps to create the description he used. He also said he ran a "foldboat" that used to be advertised in the National Geographic in those days. A "foldboat" sounded a little light duty for the Obed, adding to the doubts.

We were in college from 1960 to 1964 (UT Knoxville). We made contact with the ETWWC in 1966. Before then, here is the list of trips we took in 1963 and 1964, with the 1966 run, described last, leading to our first contact with ETWWC:

1963-Obed 1st trip-day 1

Our very first whitewater trip was from Devil's Breakfast Table on Daddy's Creek that runs into the Obed. Being naive, we had planned to travel all the way to Oakdale in one trip. Worse, we had THREE people in the canoe! Chuck and I paddled, and the other student sat on the floor in the middle. The water was up, but not wild. We made it to what is now called "the rock garden," named that day by Chuck. When our friend saw what we were about to take on, he panicked and tried to jump out, causing us to flip. The canoe ended up wrapped around a middle-of-the-stream rock in a classic "one-rock pin." We kept jumping in the flow upstream trying to dislodge the canoe as we passed by. No luck. We tried to hike out at that spot. No way. So, we swam downstream a mile or so when Chuck saw a worm can sitting on a rock. Sure enough, we found a trail that went through a crevice in the straight-up canyon walls. We called home for a ride, picked up the cars, and went to Oak Ridge.

1963-Obed 1st trip-day 2

The guy with us the first day was NOT coming and never went canoeing again. So, Chuck brought two kids from his neighborhood to help us. We hiked back in, dislodged the canoe, and started downstream giving it a try with FOUR people. No good. It had seven holes in it. Chuck sat on the back of the canoe, which raised the holes out of the water. The three of us swam. It started getting dark as we reached Clear Creek. Chuck paddled on to Nemo and the

three of us "scrambled" up Clear Creek to Lilly Bridge. His parents picked us all up and our first adventure was over.

1963-Obed 2nd trip

Wiser now, Chuck and I put in again on Daddy's Creek, but had a more sensible goal of Nemo. And, it was JUST THE TWO OF US. The water was up, just right for a good trip. We made it!

1963-Obed 3rd trip

We had two friends who heard about our adventures and had purchased a canoe. One of them was a classmate of ours. The water was low. Bad trip. We had to drag many places.

1964-Late August, I think. Powell River from Big Stone Gap, Virginia to Oak Ridge, one-week trip

We were going to graduate in December of 1964 and knew that we would be going in different directions, so we paddled this week-long trip. Had to carry all our stuff and canoe over Norris Dam. Many stories to tell about "along the way," including the cooking still we encountered! Yikes! Smoking! Early Deliverance experience!

1965 (late) or 1966 (early), not sure. New River/South Fork Cumberland to Leatherwood, camped out half way

I made a trip from Memphis where I worked, and Chuck did the same from Chattanooga bringing two or three coworkers from TVA, and also his Dad. One guy broke his leg. His Dad slipped and hit hard on his back, but recovered quickly.

1965 (late) or 1966 (early), not sure.

We ran the French Broad in Carolina with the same two guys in their canoe that were on the third Obed trip. My canoe flipped in the flooding waters and wrapped around a rock. We stopped the trip and went back home. It was too rough for boats without foam to keep the water out.

1966--Obed--The connection with ETWWC

Chuck had moved back to Oak Ridge and shortly after that, by coincidence, I did the same, coming from Memphis. We decided it was time for another Obed trip. Same route: Daddy's Creek to Nemo. Good water level. Good trip. No problems, as we had gained some skills along the way. BUT... guess what we saw as we went through the "Rock Garden"? A canoe wrapped around the mid-stream rock... the same rock that crunched Chuck's canoe on our very first run. We got if off the rock OK. It had some sort of dealer

1963 FIRST VENTURES ON OBED RIVER WHEN ETWWC WAS UNKNOWN

sticker on it that said "Nashville," but no other info. One of us paddled it and the other Chuck's canoe....I suppose that was him.

When back in Oak Ridge, I put a lost and found ad in the local newspaper. The very next day I got a call from a man named **DICK REED**. I told him that if he could describe it he could have it. He said he was not interested in the canoe, but the fact that we had found it on the Obed, meaning we had **RUN THAT RIVER!** He explained that he was the President of the ETWWC, and that they had been hoping to find someone who had run the Obed. He asked if we two could lead them on a trip. I said, sure, we're **EXPERTS!** (meaning: ex=a has-been. Spurt=a drip, under pressure).

Sure enough we set up a trip with them and had 13 canoes that day. The water level was good. We had a good trip, became good friends with all of them, and joined the Club.

We got to one rapid and I hollered back to some of them, "be careful, this is a 90 right/90 left turn that is tricky". The name stuck for that rapid.

A second rapid was also named that day. **TOM BERG** was behind me. I shouted out to him, "This is a good one..wheee!" As we approached the drop and he could see foam floating up in the air, I could hear Tom saying over and over, "Oh my God, Oh my God, Oh my God." (nervous). I went down, turned around and watched him screaming, "OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD!" (totally scared). He made it, eddied out, and I heard: "Oooh myyyy GODDDD" (proud. "I did it").

I'll leave it to you to guess the name of THAT rapid.

Canoe and Hiking Club at University of Tennessee (my first time in a kayak and disaster on Daddy's Creek)

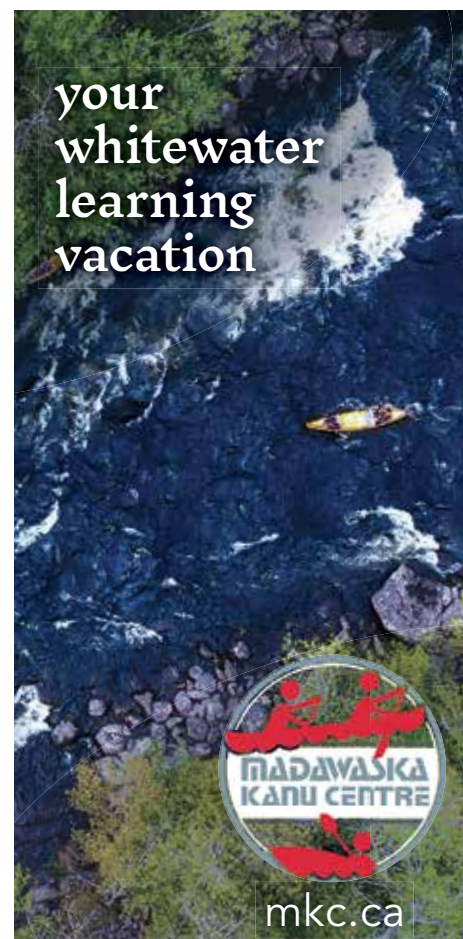
The author joined the student Canoe and Hiking Club at Tennessee about 1970 and met Bill Krueger, the club faculty advisor. Bill and I were around the same age and we became good friends while sharing adventures together. My first whitewater trip was on the Class II Hiawassee River and I rented a canoe so that I could take a friend along. We turned over three times and got cold and wet. All the way down the river I noticed the students in kayaks were far more maneuverable than we were in the canoe. I mentioned that to Bill and he invited me to his place to see the stash of UT club kayaks. It was then that I learned that Bill had built all the kayaks

out of fiberglass and that some boats were more "complete" than others. They all had a complete shell (i.e., hull and deck seamed together). Beyond that, it was a crapshoot (i.e., maybe a seat, footbrace, kneebraces, etc.). The common thread was the Tennessee colors, orange for the deck and white for the hull. Every time we got to a river put-in there was competition to get the most complete kayak.

The student club paddled many of the easier rivers (i.e., tributaries of the Emory/Obed, Nantahala, French Broad, Chattooga, etc.). Certain paddlers became "usual suspects" on these club whitewater trips. That was how I met Monte Meals. Monte and I became good friends and he talked me into entering a flatwater race on the Holston River. I bought a cheap boat for

\$50 and finished the race in hands covered with busted blisters.

Sometime in the spring, Bill and I decided to paddle the Class III/IV section of Daddy's Creek, TN. It was a warm day and the river was low, really low. These days no one would paddle it with the little water we had. That's probably why I didn't drown that day. Getting down the creek was more like sliding over wet rocks than paddling. We passed the mouth of Yellow Creek coming in from the right and knew that Daddy's was about to get steeper. Looking ahead, I saw a horizon line next to the right wall and paddled straight over it. My boat stopped dead and I was vertically pinned with a rooster tail of water coming over my head. I pulled the skirt but couldn't exit the boat and was afraid it would shift so that I would be pinned upside down. My \$50



WHITEWATER HISTORY

boat had a very flexible layup and as the boat started to fold the seams split. I used my thighs to push outward and the deck opened up, delivering me into the river. Bill and I drug the useless boat up on the bank and I started walking downstream as Bill continued down river to the take-out at Devil's Breakfast Table.

I called Monte shortly after getting off Daddy's Creek and he said we should hike down Yellow Creek and retrieve my broken boat. About two weeks later I met Monte and a friend of his at the Yellow Creek bridge. As we walked down Yellow Creek, the friend in very animated dialogue described what running Yellow Creek was like. When we got down to Daddy's Creek, my broken boat was gone. As it turned out, the young friend of Monte's was an accomplished C-1 paddler from ETWWC named Alan Singley. Although he didn't know it at the time, he would make history with the first runs of Overflow Creek, GA.

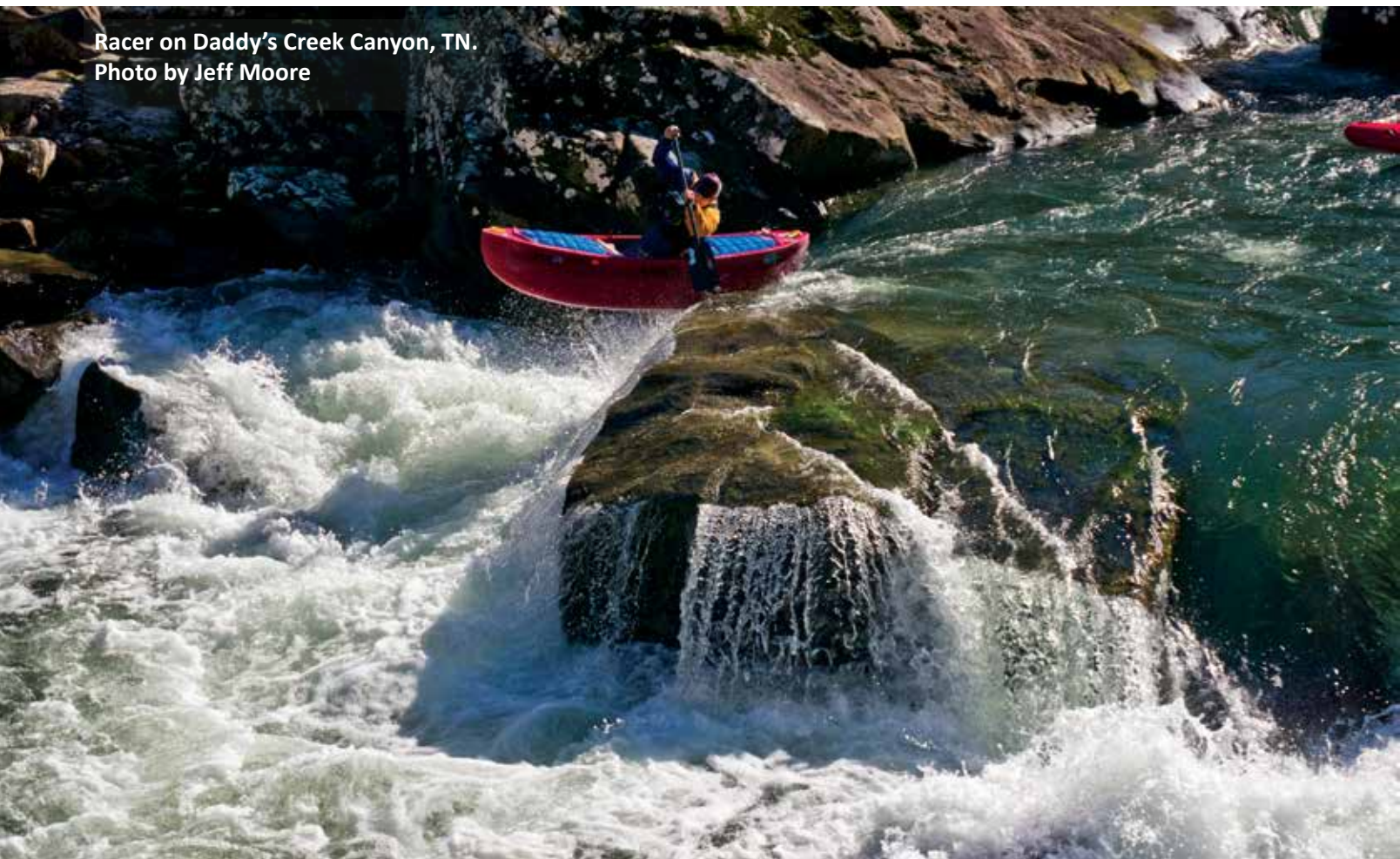
"CANEY FORK!"

"CANEY FORK!" Those two words in large capital letters are burned into my brain forever. They were written by Fred Young, C-1 paddler from upstate Illinois, at the top of a letter he wrote to the ETWWC after the first descent of the Caney Fork River, TN. The letter was being shared with club members and Monte Meals gave it to me to read in summer, 1972, when he was helping me build my Lettmann Mark IV kayak from the club mold. The vivid description of whitewater mayhem, combined with a successful run, made such an impression on me that whitewater sport has been a part of my life ever since.

Late 1971/early 1972 ETWWC hosted north woods paddlers Fred Young and the Wisconsin Hoofers, who had come south to paddle some whitewater. They chose to paddle the Caney Fork since no one had done it before. Fred related the following to me in an email:

"John, your letter brought back fond memories of many Tennessee expeditions that have melded together. I first got into whitewater boating as many of us did paddling a 15-foot open Grumman canoe fitted with plastic sheeting to keep the boat from filling and sinking. Our first expeditions down modest Wisconsin whitewater ended with our canoes wrapped around Wisconsin granite, caused by the inevitable upstream leans. Somehow, we managed to pry them off the midstream rocks. With great effort we pounded out the dents. After a number of those trials we kept seeing whitewater canoes (C-1s) and kayaks on our rivers, which led to the acquisition of molds in Madison, Wisconsin and a nascent boat-building industry led by Jim Fahey. From 1966 through most of 1968, I was on active duty in the navy but commissioned an order for a maneuverable C-2 to be ready for me when released from active duty. Let me preface that with citing a number of expeditions down spring-melt Wisconsin rivers in full runoff mode. Somehow, we

Racer on Daddy's Creek Canyon, TN.
Photo by Jeff Moore



managed to escape with our lives and boats still useable. Participating in slalom competitions improved our skills. I had some great mentors, among them Russ Nichols, Al Button, and Walter Brummond, to mention but a few. At some point we received an invitation to go test our skills on Tennessee whitewater in late winter/early spring, which we (Madison Hoofers outing club members) gladly accepted. Since I had a big Mercury Marquis station wagon that would hold up to eight boats, I hosted Madisonians to join me for the overnight expeditions to Oak Ridge with layers of boats on the roof and layers of people in the car taking turns driving. After a quick morning breakfast we headed to the myriad rivers plunging off the Cumberland Plateau escarpment. Of course Daddy's Creek and the Obed were early ventures. Reid Gryder, Martin Begun, and Mark Hall guided us to some of their favorite waters and together we craved higher and steeper creeks branching out East and South. Wednesdays and Thursdays we developed a plan for the following weekend; depending on rainfall predictions, groups of midwest boaters would meet ETWWC members at various put-in launch points.

Hungering for more dangerous, challenging waters, we were introduced to Caney Fork and Bee Creek. On one of those expeditions, after a fun and challenging run, we encountered the local sheriff, who announced we were trespassing. We talked our way out, but it made quite a greeting. Caney Fork introduced us to holes in the riverbed which sucked up much of the river's flow, which was a new experience for many of us. I particularly remember receiving a post card from Martin Begun

Top: *Mary Ann Grell on Caney Fork, TN.*

Photo by Jeff Moore

Middle: *Paddler at State Line Falls, Watauga River, TN/NC.*

Photo by Jeff Moore

Bottom: *Brandon Stephens at Upper Potter's Falls on Crooked Fork Creek, TN.*

Photo by Jeff Moore



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WHITEWATER HISTORY

featuring the words, “Fred Young got stung on Bee Creek!”

In their four-meter-long, composite Hahn C-1s, Fred and Mark Hall would run the most challenging rivers of the time. Together they had early descents of the Green Narrows, Linville Gorge, and upper sections of the Chattooga. (For more information, see <https://www.canoekayak.com/whitewater-kayak/the-secret-history-of-the-green/>)

“Piney! Piney! Piney! ...”

I witnessed a strange phenomenon at the boater meeting place in Oak Ridge after joining ETWWC in summer 1972. Assuming there had been a lot of recent rain on the Plateau, paddlers who pulled into the parking lot of Hilltop Market would be welcomed with the chant “Piney!..Piney!..Piney!..” as if to announce the trip of the day to newcomers.

The Piney River, TN was first paddled in 1971-72 by Martin Begun, other members of ETWWC, and guest boaters from the upper Midwest and Maryland/West Virginia. Begun had scouted the whole run on foot before paddling it. There were three runs of the Piney in 1972, all high water, and each with carnage. Don Jared painted the first gauge on the bridge at the take-out and the Piney quickly became a favorite run.

The “Piney chant” was played out to me one weekend in early 1973 and that became our destination for the day. We dropped a car off at the riverside picnic area close to Spring City and headed for the put-in up on the Walden Ridge escarpment. As we drove up the steep winding road with majestic views of the valley below, it occurred to me that we were going to lose that 1,000 feet of elevation by paddling down a whitewater river.

There were no other cars at the put-in so it was just Monte Meals, Ken Cooper, Mark Hall, and me on the river. Kenny said, “John, this isn’t the second run, or the third; maybe it’s the fourth run,” but it didn’t deflate my ego. I was just happy to finally be paddling the river that I had heard so much about.

I don’t remember a whole lot about the run except that the gorge was incredibly beautiful and intimate. We ran “Sentinel Falls” and a long slide that got my attention with a swim on the far right. We scouted “Hungry Jack” and the drop with dogleg left/dogleg right to avoid a pin/undercut. By the time we got to the take-out we were basking in the glory of paddling a river that few others had experienced.

For several years after, the only groups on the Piney were people from the first runs and a few others. When I paddled it a second time in spring 1975, we were again

Kemper Begley on Piney River, TN.
Photo by Jeff Moore



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Unknown paddler from UT, Knoxville student club on the Nantahala, NC in 1971. The fiberglass boats had orange decks, white hulls, and black seam tape.

Photo by John Tansil

the only group on the river even though none of the other creeks farther south on Walden Ridge had been discovered. The Piney was discovered at about the same time as the Caney Fork/Bee Creek combo and these three were the first Plateau creek runs other than Obed tributaries. Both the Piney and Caney Fork are true classics that should be enjoyed by everyone with the skill to paddle them.

Ken Cooper was correct about the number of runs on the Piney. According to Dan Demaree who paddled the flooded Piney in December 1972:

“My trip was the 3rd trip ever down Piney River. Martin Begun, the Singley brothers, others from ETWWC had paddled it twice earlier in 1972. But they said our trip was the highest it had been run by far. It was a very scary run!!!”

Charlie Walbridge also shared his memory of this high water Piney run:

“That was our trip. High water. About 15 people started; six or eight finished. Donna Berglund and Jack Wright walked

out at the first ledge after she banged herself up. Kenny Cooper broke his boat at Hungry Jack. He walked out, hot wired a logging skidder, and met us at the put-in. I remember there was a ledge towards the end that Martin Begun ran, and I portaged. As I carried around I met Alan Singley coming the other way. He got to the top of the ledge, and before launching he stood there and shouted, ‘You ain’t out-guttsin’ me, Begun!’”

To be continued...

About the author

In 1972 the author joined American Whitewater (AW) and the affiliate East Tennessee Whitewater Club. He also became a life member of both Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP). After moving to Missouri, the author and his wife Linda became active in Missouri Whitewater Association (MWA) and were later elected to life membership in MWA. Although age has taken its toll, the author continues to paddle whitewater, mostly in Missouri but also along the Appalachians and Rockies.

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SAFETY

WHITEWATER ACCIDENTS – JANUARY-JUNE 2019

BY CHARLIE WALBRIDGE, SAFETY EDITOR

TWENTY-NINETEEN HAS BEEN a high water year everywhere, increasing the opportunities and risks for whitewater paddlers. In the first six months there were 15 kayak, two canoe, three paddleboard, and 10 rafting fatalities. These numbers are very similar to last year's, which also saw high flows. The list includes 10 flush drownings, six paddlers without life vests, and five involving strainers. There were also six deaths at low head dams, more than double the expected number. High water was often a contributing factor. Colorado led the states with seven deaths, followed by California with five. In both places an unusually deep

snowpack has been keeping water levels high for weeks. In six accidents, the victim was either paddling alone or as part of a one boat trip. When a lone raft carrying several people flips, there's no real backup, and swimmers are just as exposed as a solo paddler would be. This article includes tables and charts prepared by Charlie Duffy, who has performed hours of work to improve the accuracy and usefulness of American Whitewater's Accident Database.

Equipment Traps

This spring two very experienced kayakers were caught by their own gear. Nancy Kell, a very experienced mid-states kayaker, died

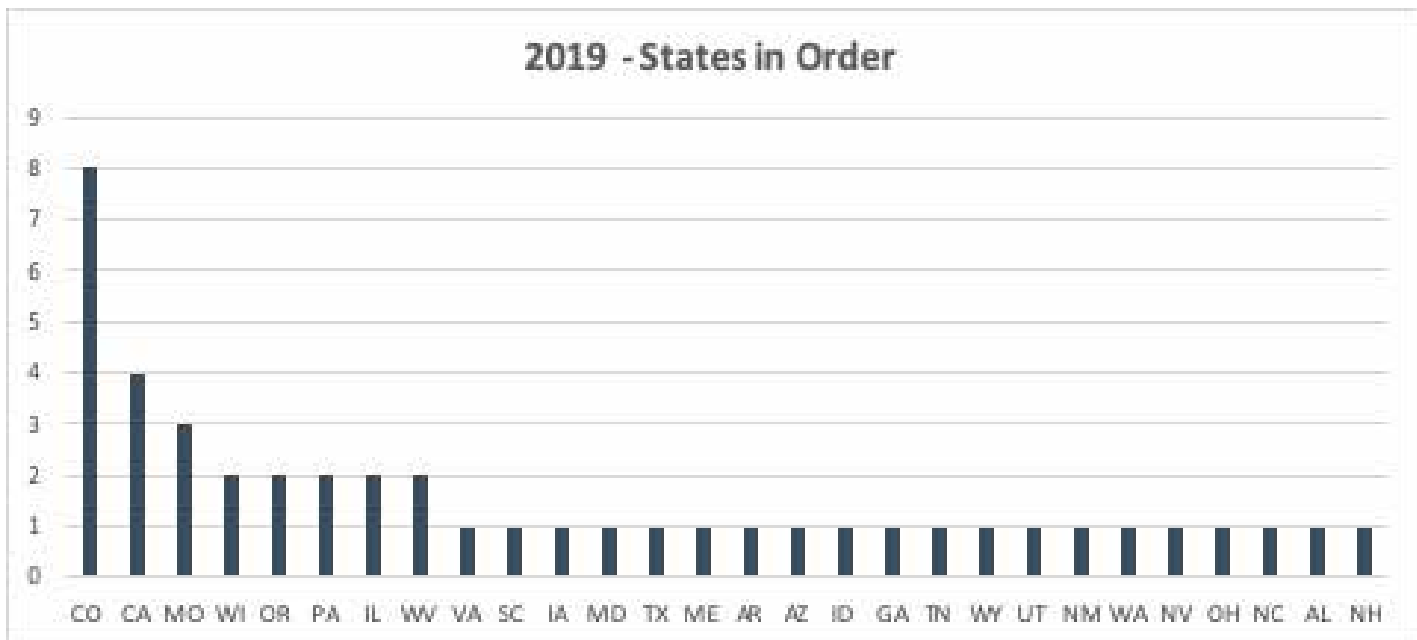
on February 24th after flipping in a Class II rapid on West Virginia's Red Creek. There was a lot of visible shoreside wood where the accident occurred, and more hidden underwater. The group chased her boat, but found it empty. Then Bill Durr spotted her underwater in midstream, near where she had capsized. According to his report he waded out to her with great difficulty and pulled her head above the water. He found her snagged on the tow tether she wore on her PFD. Using her knife, he cut the tether, but his legs were tangled in the strainer and he couldn't get her ashore. He let her go, and she floated downstream. She was quickly picked up by other paddlers in the

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Colorado River, Grand Canyon. | Photo: Evan Stafford



group who pulled her onto a gravel bar and began CPR. Others hiked out to a nearby farmhouse and called 911.

Anyone using a cowtail, pigtail, or tow tether needs to recheck their setup. Tethers must fit well, but that’s not enough. Ms. Kell’s tether was very snugly fitted, and it snagged anyway. A tether should release cleanly at both ends. Ms. Kell attached her front carabiner to a non-releasable strap. A releasable point *might* have pulled free on its own and saved her life. Do not attach a tether to the rear of your PFD with a non-locking carabiner, as it may inadvertently clip into a rope. Use a solid ring or locking carabiner. The harness release should be quick and foolproof. Practice using your harness in strong current before you need to use it on a river. Finally, remember that any additional strap is a potential snag hazard. Ask yourself if the usefulness of a tow tether is worth the added risk, especially on small creeks with strainer hazards. You can easily carry a tether in a PFD pocket or a dry bag. Some Astral rescue PFDs offer a built-in pocket that works really well.

An improvised grab loop on an old sprayskirt led to a fatal entrapment on California’s

Truckee River. According to a report from Charlie Albright, Steve Bauwens, 49, met a friend at Floriston on April 20th. As they prepared to launch, the grab loop on Mr. Bauwens’ sprayskirt broke. They jury rigged a repair with a carabiner and they got on the water. The day was uneventful until they reached the first hard rapid, Dead Man’s Curve, a Class IV drop at 4,000 cfs. Mr. Bauwens, running second, flipped at the bottom where two big flows merge and could not roll. His partner attempted a bow rescue, but Mr. Bauwens came up and blacked out. His knees were later found in a position to wet exit, but he was not able to finish the maneuver.

Mr. Bauwens washed downstream, still in his boat. His partner performed a “hand of god rescue”, popped the sprayskirt, and somehow got both of them into an eddy just above Stateline Dam. There he performed CPR for over an hour before portaging the dam and seeking help. This account is a harsh reminder for us to make sure all our gear is in good condition. If you do a makeshift repair, check it thoroughly before continuing. Mr. Bauwens’ sprayskirt was a very tight fit, which was part of the problem.

Class V Fatality

Sean Manchester, a respected expert kayaker, died on California’s South Yuba River on March 30th. Mr. Manchester, 42, was paddling with two strong kayakers and they all knew the river well. The level was 1,100 cfs at the highway 49 bridge, a moderate flow. Trouble struck at Corner Pocket, a notorious Class V drop with a bad ledge hole on river right. The majority of the water exits to a river left wall which is severely undercut. Mr. Manchester was caught and surfed here for a long time before he bailed out. He continued to recirculate for a while longer before washing free. After he flushed out one of the boaters was able to grab his life vest, get him to a small ledge, and start CPR. A second group arrived and used a Spot receiver to notify Emergency Services. CPR continued until EMTs arrived by helicopter 90 minutes later.

No PFDs!

Life vests, the most vital piece of safety gear for whitewater paddlers, are sometimes neglected by inexperienced river runners with tragic results. On May 1st Missouri’s Bull Creek rose 14 feet (!) following thunderstorms. It was flooding when three kayakers got on the water. None

wore PFDs. Everyone flipped in the fast, turbulent river. Scott Puckett, 35, and Alex Akern, 23 were pulled underwater. Their bodies were found days later, jammed in a debris pile. The third man made it ashore and walked for miles to report the accident.

A 56-year-old Sacramento man died while rafting on the North Fork of the American River in California on June 6th. David Johnson was with two others in a single raft when it flipped. No one was wearing a life vest. They all washed downriver, below the Iowa Hill Bridge. Mr. Johnson's body was found the next day in Lake Clementine, miles downstream. One of his companions made it to shore and called 911; a second was stranded and needed a helicopter rescue.

New Hampshire's Merrimac River near the Sewall's Falls Bridge contains fast water and a few mild rapids. On June 12th Alex Bronchuk, 20, was kayak fishing with his brother. They did not bring life vests. They tied their two kayaks together and dropped an anchor. Suddenly the current pushed the upstream ends of the kayaks underwater and swamped them. Both boys were now in the water, trying to grab loose gear. They started swimming towards shore, but were pushed into a rapid downstream. Mr. Bronchuck washed downstream and disappeared. His brother caught hold of a rock and got to shore. After searching for his brother, he borrowed a phone from a hiker and called 911. Mr. Bronchuk's body was found by divers 32 hours later.

June 30 was a high-water day on Colorado's Poudre River. Two men and a teen launched on the Mishawaka Section in a small, single chambered vinyl raft. The teen was the only one wearing a PFD. Not surprisingly, they all ended up in the water. David L. Smith, 57, washed downriver and has not been found despite a lengthy search. A 48-year-old man and his 13-year-old son made it out of the water with minor injuries.

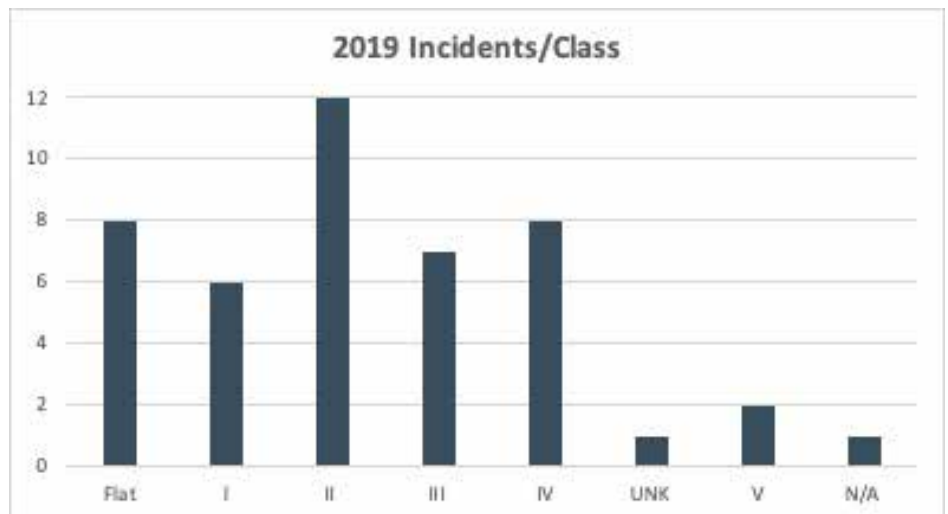
Flush Drownings

"Flush drowning" is a term used to describe the death of a whitewater swimmer who is wearing a life vest. When a rapid is extremely long and violent swimmers just can't get enough air. Also, a small amount of icy water down the throat can set off a laryngospasm, or an asthma attack. That's what happened on February 2nd, at the Boulder Drop on Washington's Skykomish River. Richard Timson, 31, was kayaking with a friend when he flipped and swam. The rapids are very continuous here, and the winter water is very cold. His partner got him ashore and attempted CPR for nearly an hour before seeking help. On April 27th two kayakers flipped and swam on South Carolina's Class II Saluda River. A swiftwater rescue team was training nearby; they picked up a man who told them that his friend was in trouble. They quickly spotted Gregory Hinson, 27, in his red PFD, floating face down in the river. They brought him ashore and started CPR. Despite their efforts he died in the hospital that evening.

On May 17th Maryland's Upper Youghiogheny River was running at 2.5 feet, making its Class IV-V rapids much pushier than usual. A three-boat commercial rafting trip had a good run until a raft dumped in Little Niagara throwing a guide

and two guests into the water. One guest was picked up by the second raft; the other by the safety kayaker. The kayaker and the guest, an older lady, washed downstream into Zinger and Trap Run Rapids. She had a long, punishing swim, and a number of efforts to help her were thwarted by the current. At one point the safety kayaker had a throw rope in one hand, and the woman in the other! He could not hold on, flipped, and swam. As this was going on, the guide from the flipped boat climbed back onto the raft and sprinted downstream. He caught up with the woman below Trap Run and got her ashore. Then several private kayakers who saw what was happening arrived. A strong team led by two paramedics performed an hour of high-quality CPR, rotating positions every few minutes. Initially her color returned, but she did not survive.

In June there were five rafting accidents in the Rocky Mountain region as the unusually heavy snowpack began to melt. Three were private, one-boat trips running at high flows. Nikolay Pezhemskiy, 29, died on Colorado's Eagle River; Cheryl Currant, 72, and Zach Jones, 33, perished in separate incidents on the Rio Grande in New Mexico. All were wearing life vests, but without a second boat they had no hope of timely rescue from the fast, icy water. Each



SAFETY

floated for miles before they were located by emergency responders. These events emphasize the importance of a second boat for safety, especially on high water runs.

Two commercial fatalities showed that a multi-boat trip does not eliminate the risk at high flows. On June 10th Sameer Prasla, 42, was accompanying a group of Boy Scouts on a commercial rafting trip down Colorado's Arkansas River. The river was flowing at 4,200 cfs, which is quite high. After his raft flipped in Spike Buck Rapid he washed some distance downstream and was unresponsive when guides got to him. On June 21st Amy Kirsch died after her raft flipped during a high water run on the East Fork of the San Juan River near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. She was carried downstream three miles in 15 minutes before a guided boat was able to reach her. In both cases, CPR was attempted without success.

Afterwards, several Colorado rivers were closed for a short time by state authorities because of the high flows. Outfitters stopped running trips on the most difficult sections, but even the easier stretches are pretty wild. Several more fatal accidents

occurred in early July, continuing this unsettling trend. We will cover these later.

Noted river explorer Rocky Contos reported the death of Mary Grace Butscher McCoy after her raft flipped in the Jinsha Jiang River in Sichuan province of China on June 10. This was the last descent of this large mountain river before the dam gates close. Flow was a "moderate" 35,000 cfs. The group scouted a long, powerful Class IV rapid containing three very large waves that were capable of flipping a raft. A raft hit one of those waves and tipped hard to one side, throwing Ms. McCoy into the river. Two other rafters stayed in the boat and chased her down. As the river flowed through easy rapids Ms. McCoy got into a faster jet of water which pushed her away from her rescuers. They noticed that she was not swimming towards them. It took almost 15 minutes to catch up and pull her into the raft. Then her breathing stopped. Resuscitation was attempted, without success. The swim did not seem that bad, and it's not clear why she didn't survive.

Two paddleboard accidents are considered flush drownings. On February 2nd an unidentified man tried to float Southern California's Escondito Runoff Channel following 3.5 inches of rain. This is a man-made, concrete lined ditch, not well suited to paddling. He was seen floating face down by a bystander who called 911. His body was found stuffed in a culvert.

On June 30th Michael James, 40, spent the day playing the waves at Buena Vista Whitewater Park on the Arkansas River in Colorado, Water levels were high. At some point he got into trouble and floated helplessly downstream. Several boaters tried to rescue him, but high, fast-moving water worked

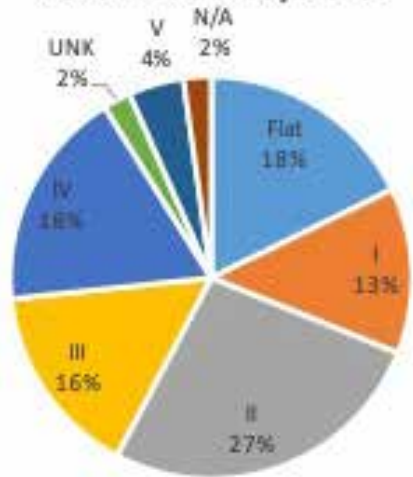
against them. A boater finally got Mr. James to shore 30 minutes later, where EMS took over. By this time, he was dead. With so many paddlers on the water, it's easy to think of whitewater parks as inherently safe. But with everyone focused on their own activity it's not hard for a solo paddler to slip away. It's a good idea to buddy up whenever possible.

Low Head Dam

This has been a particularly bad year for paddling deaths at low-head dams. Normally comprising 8% of moving water accidents, this year that they made up 20%! It started on January 5th when two experienced sea kayaking instructors ignored the danger signs and ran Red Rock Dam on the Des Moines River in Illinois. Timothy Chicoine, 61, was killed; a second man was pulled from the hydraulic alive by rescue squads. On March 30th, a mother and her 11-year-old son went over Crowhop Dam on Georgia's Chattahoochee River. The boy survived, but Fallon Wells, 37, drowned. Her husband and daughter, who were in another kayak, managed to get to shore above the dam. A week later, on April 4th, a man and a woman went over a dam on the DuPage River in the Hammel Woods Forest Preserve in Illinois. Bystanders saw the pair in trouble and called 911, but rescuers did not arrive in time.

On June 8th Ross Tharp, 33, died after paddling an open canoe over a mill dam on War Eagle Creek near Rogers, Arkansas. He was wearing a life vest, but this did not protect him. Rescuers tried CPR without success. In Idaho Cal Willie, 21, was tubing on the Teton River with nine friends on June 14th. They were not aware that there was a diversion dam ahead. They saw the dam, and everyone tried to get to shore. Nine of the tubers made it, but Willie did not. He went over the dam and was killed. In nearby Utah, Brent Parkin, 57, was kayaking a stretch of Utah's Jordan River when he went over a small diversion dam and drowned in the backwash. His paddling partner got him ashore and attempted CPR.

2019 Incidents/Class



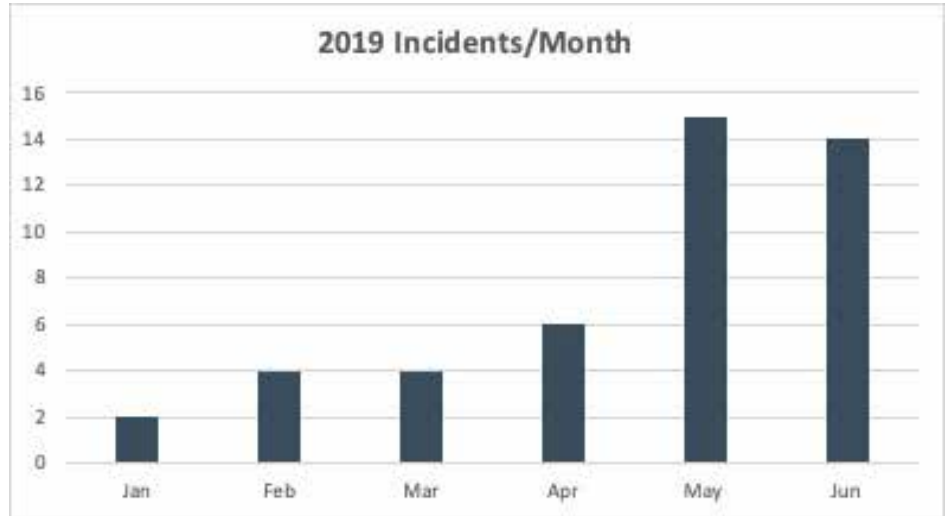
Strainers

Downed trees are always dangerous because the water flowing through them can pin a boat or person underwater. On March 3rd Dylan Archuleta was running Arizona's Class II Gila River with another kayaker. Neither paddler was wearing a life vest. When his partner got caught in a logjam, Archuleta, 26, paddled over to help. His kayak flipped against the strainer and he was pinned underwater. The other paddler managed to free himself, swim to shore, and get help. Rescuers arrived and released the pinned kayak, but Mr. Archuleta had slipped away. A week-long search failed to locate his body. On May 18th Vanessa Gutierrez, 44, drowned after her kayak that pinned on a strainer near the "Smiley Face" take-out on Missouri's Black River. No additional details are available.

On May 22nd Brian Allen, a raft guide trainee, died on Wyoming's Snake River. This famous scenic river is only Class I, but it's known for strainers and is dangerous at high water. Mr. Allen was trying to dislodge a raft pinned on a snag when he slipped, a raft pinned on a snag when he slipped, fell in, and was trapped underwater. On May 25th, a troop of Boy Scouts found trouble on the outside of a bend near Murwin Park on Wisconsin's Yahara River. There were a number of kids in the water when rescuers arrived, clinging to trees. Everyone was saved except Grace Gordon, 14, who was pinned underneath a canoe. And lastly, 31 year-old Sarah Schultz was killed when she fell off her paddleboard and was pinned beneath a tree. High water probably contributed to this accident.

On Shore

Several of this year's river-running fatalities occurred on shore. On May 11th Leif Hansen fell while carrying his kayak to the put-in below Box Canyon Dam on California's Sacramento River. The trail is extremely steep and exposed. Mr. Hansen, 61, slid over the edge of a cliff and was killed instantly. On May 19th David Treadway, 58, was camping with a group in the mellow Seven Islands section of West Virginia's Cheat River when an



exceptionally violent storm blew through the area. A gust of wind snapped off the top of a tree, that fell on him, killing him. His two companions were badly injured. (A few weeks later the Cheat River rose from 1.8 to 15 feet one evening following a very heavy upstream rainstorm. No one was killed, but boats were lost and riverside campers fled for their lives!) Lastly, Peter Schwab disappeared during a hike to National Canyon in Arizona's Grand Canyon. Mr. Schwab, 66, was on a commercial rafting trip. His body was spotted near Lava Falls two weeks later, with no clear explanation of what happened.

Miscellaneous

Two accidents fell outside the more common categories. On January 19th a "pick-up" group of 10 paddlers put in on a Class III section of Oregon's Hood River. The water was rising quickly. Kevin Neidorf, an athletic 28-year-old kayaker and mountain bike racer, chose a line in Old Copper Dam Rapid that was rocky and studded with pourovers. He flipped and hit his head. The group eventually got him ashore, started CPR, and called EMS. He was taken to the hospital with a massive head wound where he died the next day.

On June 27th a kayaker on a large club trip died after capsizing in Pennsylvania's Class

II Chenango River. The coroner reported that Dennis Healey, 72, had suffered a massive heart attack.

Near Misses

There were lots of close calls this year, mostly involving unskilled paddlers. Many fine rescues were made by emergency services, whose teams are better equipped and trained for swiftwater rescue.

A kayaker reported a mishap while surfing with a friend at the French Broad Ledges on February 2nd. They were both playing a glassy 5-foot wave. His friend had a long surf and dropped back. The other kayaker took several more surfs, then started looking for his friend. He got out and spotted several emergency services vehicles downstream. It turns out that his friend had flipped in a hole and taken a long swim. He barely made it to shore! A bystander spotted him and called 911.

On March 3rd Roanoke Fire/EMS helped several kayakers stranded in Virginia's Roanoke River. They found a man helping his 12-year-old son, who had pinned his kayak. At first he told rescuers he didn't need their help, but as he waded

Continued on page 50...

AW PARTNERS

\$20,000 - Class V



\$15,000 - Class IV



\$10,000 - Class III



\$7,500 - Class II



\$5,000 - Boof



\$2,500 - Wave





NORTHWEST RAFTING CO

Each day American Whitewater faces new challenges that threaten our whitewater rivers. To aid us in this fight, we rely on support from members, donors, foundations, and partners in the industry. Companies throughout the whitewater and outdoor industries are stepping forward to support AW's River Stewardship work. American Whitewater urges you not to make purchase decisions blindly. When you buy your next piece of outdoor gear there are many factors to consider: quality, dependability, comfort, safety, and fashion. American Whitewater hopes you will add one more consideration to this list: corporate responsibility. Support companies that support your rivers.

NORTHWEST RAFTING COMPANY offers guided multi-day whitewater rafting trips on select National Wild and Scenic rivers most of which flow through designated federal wilderness areas.

We are exclusively focused on offering the best whitewater rafting trips in the West. Our truly expeditionary whitewater experiences on the Illinois and Chetco rivers cross the vast Kalmiopsis Wilderness. Our trips on the Rogue and Middle Fork of the Salmon are high energy, family-friendly adventures on two of the most incredible and beloved rivers in the northwest. Our rafting and cultural tour in Bhutan gives the intrepid traveler an unforgettable, soul-stirring understanding of a country that warmly welcomes its visitors but actively protects itself from becoming over-touristed.

Our selective size enables us to offer exceptional whitewater rafting and kayaking trips that adhere to the highest standards of safety, guide experience, and knowledge, and guest comfort on the water and off.

We strive for professionalism and consideration in everything we do, from the first time you contact us until you're home again. With many of our guests repeat customers, and recognition from such leading industry organizations as *National Geographic*, *Traveler*, and *Outside*

Magazine, we are confident you'll find a NWRC trip is a one-of-a-kind, when-can-we-do-this-again adventure.

We believe sharing wilderness and wild rivers is the best way for people to understand the value of our public lands and to become advocates for their conservation and preservation. Unless people know about these pristine places and can experience their transformative power, the wilderness is nothing more than an abstract thought with the potential to be easily consumed by privatization and careless development.

We are inspired by a vision of a country in which our Wild & Scenic rivers are enjoyed and respected, from both intimate and distant perspectives. Our guests build and strengthen their connections with nature, with their fellow travelers, and most especially with themselves.

For the past few years, America Whitewater has partnered with Northwest Rafting Company for a trip on the Wild and Scenic Rogue River focused on our stewardship activities. This trip provides a great opportunity to connect with members in ways that build a lasting understanding of the role of recreation in fostering a stewardship ethic. Join us June 18th - 21st, 2020, on the Wild and Scenic Rogue River. Bookings can be made on the Northwest Rafting Company website.



Join



AMERICAN WHITEWATER Today!

American Whitewater has been extraordinarily fortunate in our ability to leverage a strong grassroots base—members and other volunteers—to assist our limited staff with many whitewater river conservation and restoration efforts.

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

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

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

across the country.

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

Membership
P.O. Box 1540
Cullowhee, NC 28723

*Note: AW will never share your information with others

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Member Number: _____

↑ _____ if you have one and know it

Membership Level

\$35 Standard

\$25 Member of Affiliate Club

Club: _____

\$25 Student

School: _____

\$50 Family

\$100 Affiliate Club

\$125 Ender Club (*Shirt Size:* _____)

\$250 Platinum Paddler (*Hoodie Size:* _____)

\$400 Supporting Affilitate Club

\$500 Explorer

\$1000 Lifetime

\$2,500 Steward

**For current member rewards
go to:
americanwhitewater.org**

Donation

Donation of \$ _____

Journal Options

Do NOT mail me the AW Journal, email it to me <- Saves AW money, and trees! :)

Auto-Renew (No Renewal Notices!)

Auto-renew my membership each year on the credit card below

Payment

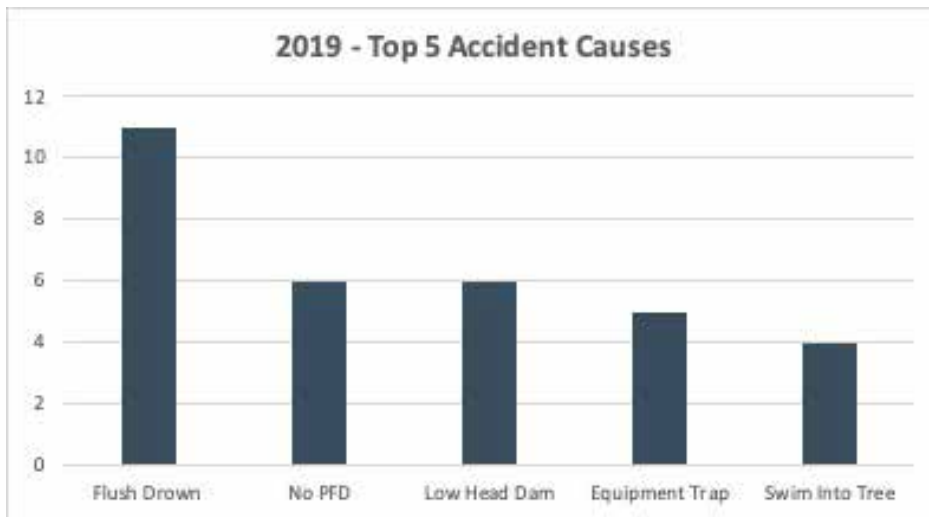
Credit Card Cash Check # _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

SAFETY



to shore he slipped and swam in the icy water. A rescue swimmer dived in and got him ashore.

Firefighters in Willoughby, Ohio responded to a report of a stranded kayaker on the Chagrin River on April 20th. A man and a woman in their late 40s had been running the river when their kayak capsized. Both were wearing life vests, but the woman's fell off during the swim. She got to shore and was stuck at the base of a 100-foot high cliff. Her partner swam to shore, walked to a nearby house, and called for help. Rescuers ferried a motorized inflatable across the fast-moving current to pick her up.

An unidentified man had to be extracted from a vertical gorge on Colorado's Class V Vallecito Creek after badly injuring his shoulder in Trash Can Rapid. Bruce Evans, fire chief for Upper Pine River Fire Protection District, said that this was a full-on vertical extraction. The gorge is simply not accessible any other way.

There were two rescues of paddlers who were caught in pinned open canoes. Missouri's Jacks Fork River was running two feet above floodstage when the District Ranger got a call that a man was trapped in the river. Rescuers who power-boated upriver found that the aluminum canoe had folded around the man's foot, trapping him. Life vests were not in use. They

were able to free him by cutting apart his Converse sneaker!

In Maine, the Sebec River was running high for the annual June 7th race. Nick Rowley, an experienced competitor, was trapped in a pinned canoe. Milo, Maine firefighters, who were providing race safety, were able to wade out into the frigid water and help. After trying to pull the boat loose with a winch mounted on an ATV, they ended up tearing the Royalex canoe apart, piece by piece, until Mr. Rowley could get free.

An Oregon State Police trooper rescued a kayaker from the Wilson River on May 30th. The pair had broached and pinned a double kayak. One of them, Monte Walker, had his foot tangled in a loose line. He was struggling to keep his head above water by holding onto a paddle held by his partner. A nearby resident helped the trooper as he cut the line and pulled the man to safety.

In a similar incident, several American Whitewater members saved the life of a sit-on-top paddler caught on a submerged log above the Gruene Bride take-out on the Guadalupe River in Texas. A line attaching the boat to the kayaker's ankle had snagged on the log. The boat and the kayaker were stuck, the pinned kayaker in a sitting position facing downstream. Water cascaded over his head, creating an air pocket so he could breathe. Several of

the AW group moved in to help; one man managed to swim out and cut the rope, releasing the kayaker and his boat. The man was unfazed by the experience and continued to paddle downstream.

A large group of men assaulted 14 high school kids who were paddling Alabama's Flint River on June 2nd. What started out as taunts turned into threats of beatings and rape. The men attacked the paddlers where the river shallows out along a gravel bar. One boy was put in a headlock and punched repeatedly; a girl was ripped from her kayak by her hair and held underwater. The group continued to follow the teens downriver, yelling threats. The teens found an adult who called police, who were waiting at the takeout. "If the police hadn't been there," a girl said, "I think these people would have continued to beat us up."

Three kayakers got into desperate trouble on Illinois' flooded Rock River on June 2nd. They owe their lives to first responders from several agencies. While Conservation Police Officer Steve Francisko of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources launched a powerboat onto the flooded river, Rock Island Firefighters used a drone to locate the kayakers. Following the firefighters' directions, Officer Francisko drove towards the aptly named Turkey Island, turning his motor on and off and listening for cries for help.

He found the kayakers holding on for dear life. "Two of them had swamped their kayaks. One was holding on to his kayak and a tree limb to keep himself above water. He didn't have a life jacket on. The other guy was getting very fatigued. His kayak and his life jacket actually got washed away. The other guy threw his life jacket to him, and he only had it on through his arms. He didn't have it zipped up. So it wasn't doing a whole lot of good. The current was so strong, it literally ripped off one of the men's swim trunks!" A third individual was still in his kayak and wearing a life jacket.

Officer Francisko brought all three back to land, bruised and fatigued, but alive.

On June 2nd New York State Forest Rangers rescued nine stranded kayakers on the rain-swollen Battenkill River. The group, ranging in age from late teens to early 30s, got into trouble in the high, fast moving water. Several kayakers were stranded on a nearby island, some were clinging to submerged trees, and one was floating downriver. Rangers responded with rafts and swiftwater rescue gear and got everyone out safely.

You can help!

American Whitewater needs your help gathering accident reports to share with other paddlers. First person accounts from experienced paddlers, newspaper articles, and on-line posts are all important. Since many media articles are inaccurate or incomplete, clarifying comments from paddlers familiar with the area are really useful. And while serious incidents involving skilled whitewater paddlers are quite rare, they often teach us important lessons, help us avoid trouble, and show how to better manage emergencies. Accurate accounts of these accidents also keep malicious rumors at bay, something to consider in this age of Internet gossip. We're also very interested in accounts of successful rescues!

To report a whitewater accident, near miss, or serious injury, please go to the Safety page on americanwhitewater.org, click "report an accident", and enter the information. Or you can email me at ccwalbridge@cs.com or message "Charlie Walbridge" on Facebook. Feel free to share newspaper articles, chat room posts, or even rumors! I'm not an "investigator", but I often run down sketchy reports on line to find out what happened. I can also help you prepare an accident report if needed.

It's Easy to Support AW!

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

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

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

AFFILIATE CLUBS

AW'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE

BY BETHANY OVERFIELD

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

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

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

An Affiliate Club that is already being recognized as an AW Lifetime member is recognized in the annual Honor Roll as a Lifetime member. They do need to contribute either at the \$100 or the \$400 level annually to be recognized as an Affiliate Club in the AW Journal and under the Affiliate Club heading of the published Honor Roll. Is your club missing from this list? It might have expired. Contact me at membership@americanwhitewater.org to square your club membership away!

Supporting Affiliate Clubs

Alaska

Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks

California

Gold Country Paddlers, Placerville
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Paddlers, San Jose

Colorado

Colorado Whitewater Assn, Denver
Dolores River Boating Advocates, Dolores

Georgia

Georgia Canoeing Association Inc, Winston

Kentucky

Bluegrass Wildwater Association, Lexington

New Jersey

KCCNY, Flanders

Ohio

Keelhaulers, Cleveland

South Carolina

Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

Washington

Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle
Washington Recreational River Runners,
Renton

Affiliate Club by State

Alaska

Nova River Runners Inc., Chickaloon

Alabama

Coosa River Paddling Club, Wetumpka
Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

Arizona

Outdoors Unlimited, Flagstaff

California

Chico Paddleheads, Chico
River City Whitewater Club, Sacramento
Shasta Paddlers, Redding
Smith River Alliance, Crescent City

Colorado

Friends of the Yampa, Steamboat Springs
High Country River Rafters, Wheat Ridge
Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center, Buena Vista
San Miguel Whitewater Asso, Telluride
Team Colorado Whitewater Racing Club,
Longmont
Upper Colorado Private Boaters Asso,
Glenwood Springs
Western Colorado University Whitewater Club,
Gunnison

Connecticut

Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq, Lakeville

Delaware

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, , Oaks (PA)

Idaho

Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise

Indiana

Hoosier Canoe Club, Brownsburge

Iowa

Iowa Whitewater Coalition, W. Des Moines

Kentucky

Elkhorn Paddlers, Lexington
Viking Canoe Club, Louisville

Maine

Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society, Freeport

Maryland

Baltimore Canoe & Kayak Club, Baltimore
Blue Ridge Voyageurs, Rockville

Massachusetts

AMC Boston Chapter, Boston

Minnesota

Rapids Riders, Eagan

Missouri

Missouri Whitewater Assn, St. Louis
Ozark Wilderness Waterways, Kansas City

Montana

Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings
Whitewater Kayak Club at Montana State
University, Bozeman

Nevada

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

New Hampshire

AMC New Hampshire Paddlers, Raymond
Ledyard Canoe Club, Hanover

New Jersey

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)

New Mexico

Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico,
Albuquerque

New York

ADK Schenectady, Schenectady
Outdoor Education/Base Camp, Hamilton
Zoar Valley Paddling Club, Machias

North Carolina

Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh
Landmark Learning, Cullowhee
Mind Body Play, Asheville

Ohio

Friends of the Crooked River, Akron

Oregon

Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Portland
Hells Canyon Shuttle, Halfway
Northwest Rafters Association, Roseburg
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Portland
Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club, Corvallis

Pennsylvania

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)
Benscreek Canoe Club, Johnstown
Bradford County Canoe and Kayak Club, Sayre

Canoe Club of Centre County, Lemont
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, Harrisburg
Conewago Canoe Club, York
Keystone Canoe Club, Mertztown
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Lehigh Valley
Mach One Slalom Team, State College
Philadelphia Canoe Club, Philadelphia

Tennessee

Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts, Limestone
Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee, Sevierville
East Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge
Eastman Recreation Club, Kingsport
Tennessee Scenic River Association, Nashville
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Knoxville

Texas

Houston Canoe Club, Houston

Utah

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

Vermont

Vermont Paddlers Club, Montpelier

Virginia

Canoe Cruisers Association, Middlebury
Coastal Canoeists, Richmond
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Roanoke

Washington

Northwest Whitewater Association, Spokane
Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club, Spokane
The Mountaineers, Seattle
Washington Kayak Club, Seattle

Washington, DC

Canoe Cruisers Association

West Virginia

Dbl Z! Whitewater Club, Fayetteville
WV Wildwater Assn, S. Charleston

Wisconsin

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

Wyoming

American Packrafting Association, Wilson

Quebec

Montreal Kayak Club, Montreal

Ontario

Guelph Kayak Club, Elora
Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers, The Kawarthas

National

Team River Runner

DISCOUNTED AW MEMBERSHIP FOR AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERS

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

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

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

JOIN AMERICAN WHITEWATER AS A CLUB AFFILIATE!

10 REASONS TO JOIN AW AS AN AFFILIATE CLUB

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

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



Protect your paddling paradise.
\$35 for peace of mind.
Join American Whitewater.
americanwhitewater.org/join

AW AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Contribute your text and photos to *American Whitewater*

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

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

americanwhitewater.org > Library > AW Journal



MORE
SCREAMS.
LESS
SCREENS.



KEEN GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SPECIALIST, AND FAN @MEESTERWHEELSKERS CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT ON OREGON'S ROGUE RIVER.



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