



AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Conservation • Access • Events • Adventure • Safety

BY BOATERS FOR BOATERS
November/December 2004

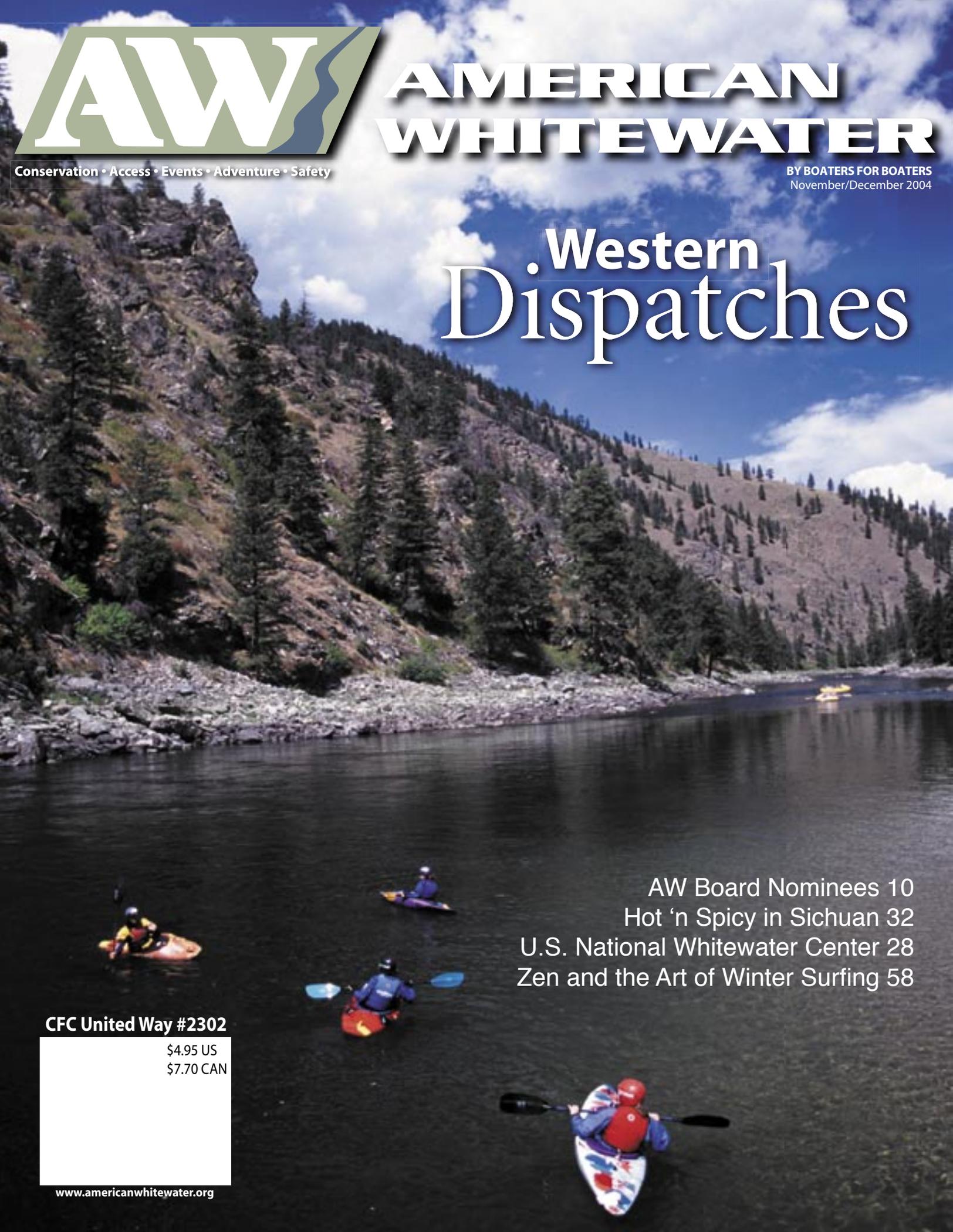
Western Dispatches

AW Board Nominees 10
Hot 'n Spicy in Sichuan 32
U.S. National Whitewater Center 28
Zen and the Art of Winter Surfing 58

CFC United Way #2302

\$4.95 US
\$7.70 CAN

www.americanwhitewater.org





USE YOUR OWN MOTOR.



www.wavesport.com



AMERICAN WHITEWATER

A VOLUNTEER PUBLICATION PROMOTING RIVER CONSERVATION, ACCESS AND SAFETY

Letter to the Editor by Don Karn..... 4

Corner Charc by Jason Robertson 5

History: Modern Canoeing Legend by Sue Taft 7

Partner Spotlight: Jackson Kayak by Eric Marksz..... 8

Board Nominee Bios..... 10

Columns:

- American Whitewater NEWS by Kevin Lewis 14
- Field Notes: Wishing for Windows by Clay Wright .. 15
- Field Notes: Boat Outfitting by Tanya Shuman 16

Conservation and Access

- Regional Updates by John Gangemi 18
- West Rosebud Creek, MT by John Gangemi 21
- Land Transfer: Alberton Gorge, MT 22
- Recreation Internship by Aaron Berg 24
- Tarkio, MT by Dunbar Hardy..... 26
- WW Study: Kern River California by John Gangemi ... 43
- Settlement with GLHA in ME by Tom Christopher 44
- Free at Last! Contoocook Dam Removed 46
- Project Futaleufu by Sarah VanGelder-Rane 48
- Idaho Update..... 52

Features:

- U.S. National Whitewater Center by Charles Lunan.. 28
- Sichuan China by Travis Winn 32

Trip Reports:

- A Night of Rain in Fiordland by Evan J. Stafford 54
- Confessions of a Surfing Zealot by Kevin Colburn.... 58
- Twas the Night Before Put-In 61

CFC UnitedWay #2302

Support American Whitewater through CFC or United Way

All the federal campaigns, and a few of the local United Way campaigns will allow you to donate through them to AW. Check to see if yours in one of them. Also, check to see if your employer will match your charitable contribution - double your money, double your fun!



Johnnie Kern at the office
teaching on the Main Salmon
Photo by Dunbar Hardy



Printed on Recycled Paper

American Whitewater Journal
Volume XLV, No.5

F E A T U R E S

History

Modern Canoeing Legend

pg. 7



Conservation & Access

Land Transfer on the Alberton Gorge

pg. 22



Feature

U.S. National Whitewater Center

pg. 28



Publication Title: American Whitewater
Issue Date: November/December 2004
Statement of Frequency: Published bimonthly
Authorized Organization's Name and Address:
American Whitewater
1424 Fenwick Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Purpose **American Whitewater**

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

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

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

RIVER ACCESS: To assure public access to whitewater rivers pursuant to the guidelines

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

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

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 AW Whitewater Safety Code.

EVENTS: AW organizes sporting events, contests and festivals to raise funds for river conservation, including the Gauley River Festival in West Virginia (the largest gathering of whitewater boaters in the nation), and the Deerfield Festival in Massachusetts.

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at 1424 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 589-9453. AW is tax exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



American Whitewater Journal Staff

Editor
Tim Nickles
1424 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910
phone 303-447-3890
e-mail: editor@amwhitewater.org

Co-Editor
Tim Catalano
Graphic Design/Production
Christie Dobson

Photo Editor
Scott Collins

Contributing Writers
Tim Nickles, Sue Taft, Kevin Colburn, John Gangemi, Jason Robertson, Mike Phelan, Clay Wright, Ben VanCamp, Tanya Shuman, Don Karn, Dunbar Hardy, Kalten Walter, Eric Marks, Kevin Lewis, Charles Lunan, Aaron Berg, Travis Winn, Tom Christopher, Sarah VanGelder-Rane, Evan J. Stafford

Photo Contributors
Jed Weingarten, Matt Davanzo, Tanya Shuman, Dunbar Hardy, Christie Dobson, Confluence Research, John Cornwell, Travis Winn, Kevin Colburn, Tim Hawkins

Advertising Coordinator
Gerald Eldridge
20 Battery Park, Ste. 302, Asheville, NC 28801
phone 828-252-0728
e-mail: gerald@amwhitewater.org

Safety Editor
Charlie Walbridge
Route 1, Box 329F, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525
e-mail: ccwalbridge@cs.com

Conservation and Access Editors
Jason Robertson, jason@amwhitewater.org
John Gangemi, jgangemi@digisys.net
Kevin Colburn, kevin@amwhitewater.org

American Whitewater Magazine Task Force
Jeff Espy, Dunbar Hardy, Dale-Marie Herring, John Mason, Tanya Shuman, Ambrose Tuscano

Missing Copies and Address Changes
cminer@digisys.net

American Whitewater is printed by
Spencer-Walker Press, Inc., Newark OH.
All rights 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.

Board of Directors & Staff

Sutton Bacon
sutton@suttonbacon.com
Rome, GA

Rich Bowers (Honorary)
nwrivers@attbi.com
Bellingham, WA

Dave Cernicek
dave@losalamos.com
Jackson, WY

Tom Christopher
tom.christopher@comcast.net
Lancaster, MA

Adam Cramer
adam@hazmatlaw.com
Washington DC

Adam Eichberg
adam.eichberg@tpl.org
Denver, CO

David Ennis
enndo@aol.com
Bryson City, NC

Steve Exe
steven.j.exe@beoing.com

Jennie Goldberg
jennie@nwwhitewater.org
Seattle, WA

Joe Greiner
joekayak@worldnet.att.net
Raleigh, NC

Chris Kelly
ckelly1022@aol.com
Columbia, MO

Tim Kelley
tmkelley@clarkson.edu
Potsdam, NY

Jay P.K. Kenney
JayPKK@aol.com
Denver, CO

**TOLL FREE NUMBER
866-BOAT4AW**

Don Kinser
dkinser@ediltd.com
Marietta, GA

Jeff Leighton
jeffleighton@prodigy.net
LaFayette, CA

Kevin Lewis
klewis@snowcrest.net
Anderson, CA

Evie Locke
evelynlocke@verizon.net
Charlemont, MA

Eric Nies
ericnies@mac.com
Morgantown, WV

Aaron Pruzan
aaron@jacksonholekayak.com
Jackson Hole, WY

Norwood Scott
wns111@aol.com
San Francisco, CA

Dave Steindorf (Honorary)
dsteind@telis.org
Paradise, CA

Barry Tuscano
barry@greensburg.com
Bolivar, PA

Charlie Walbridge
ccwalbridge@cs.com
Bruceton Mills, WV

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Kevin Lewis
Vice President: Jennie Goldberg
Secretary: Chris Kelly
Treasurer: Jeff Leighton

AW STAFF

Jason Robertson
Acting Executive Director
1424 Fenwick Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Michael Phelan
Outreach Services Director
20 Battery Park Ave., suite 302
Asheville, NC 28801

Kevin Colburn
Eastern Conservation and
Access Director
20 Battery Park Ave., suite 302
Asheville, NC 28801

John Gangemi
Western Conservation and
Access Director
482 Electric Avenue
Bigfork, MT 59911

Carla Miner
Conservation Assistant and
Membership Coordinator
482 Electric Avenue
Bigfork, MT 59911

Scott Collins
Technology Director
1300 NE 49th Avenue
Portland, OR 97213

Ben VanCamp
Events Coordinator
20 Battery Park Ave., suite 302
Asheville, NC 28801

Gerald Eldridge
Advertising Coordinator
20 Battery Park, Suite 302
Asheville, NC 28801

AW MEMBER SPECIAL OFFER*

THE WORLD OF WHITEWATER KAYAKING DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR,
FOUR TIMES A YEAR



The International Whitewater Magazine

100% whitewater more photos than any other kayaking magazine.
Fresh, powerful, and inspiring... yep, that's Kayak Session!

Subscribe now and save over
37%
from cover price

\$24.99
instead of ~~\$39.80~~
FREE SHIPPING
+ GET A FREE POSTER !!

*Special offer available only with the use of the present form (photocopy accepted)

Please sign me up for one year (four issues)

Visit award winning website
www.kayaksession.com

Start my subscription with: current: next issue

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
email _____

Method of payment Mastercard Visa Cheque

Credit card Number Exp. date: _____/20 _____

Signature _____

You may fax this form and/or credit card orders to: 301-565-6714

Detach and mail to: American Whitewater / Kayak Session Subscription - 1424 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Call Toll free: 866-BOAT4AW - info@amwhitewater.org or subscribe online @ www.kayaksession.com

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

The end of summer excitement of the 8th annual Upper Gatineau Whitewater Festival is now but a memory. As we look ahead to planning edition 9, I can't help but think back to the letter from Streamkeeper Bryan Tudor appearing in the May/June Journal. Bryan pointed out that non-American editorial copy was increasingly creeping into the magazine. He wrote that he had no interest in reading these stories as there is little chance that he will ever paddle in another country. As a two-time and grateful contributor of "foreign" content to the Journal, I would like to add my humble "two cents" to the thoughtful and generous reply written by you, the editor. An American presence at our whitewater festival in Maniwaki is always welcome. I



sincerely hope that all of you who come to paddle our Gatineau, consider in some small but meaningful way that it is your river too. By coming, you help preserve. By publishing stories, AW does make a difference. I'd also like to thank Mr. Tudor for his dedicated work in preserving the rivers he obviously loves so much and I hope that he will not be insulted when I say that in a small but respectful way I consider those same rivers to be mine - even though I probably never will paddle them. 

Don Karn
Lac Blue Sea, Quebec, Canada
www.gatineau.org



3 more excuses for a day off!

AIRE

The Force is a spirited playboat designed to perform like a hard shell kayak while providing the security and safety of an inflatable.

The Traveler's stability and load capacity is great for solo and tandem canoeists as well as families, hunters, and anglers.

The Super Duper Puma's narrow beam and extra length make the perfect combination of performance and stability.

For a free catalog contact us at 800.247.3432, P.O. Box 186, Meridian, Idaho 83680 or visit www.aire.com.

Corner Charc

by Jason Robertson, Acting Executive Director



Jason Robertson
photo by Jed Weingarten

Revisiting Our Philanthropic Roots

I know you and I know your love for paddlesports. I know that your life simply would not be the same without access to the rivers that you love. I know these facts because I share your love for both the nation's and the world's rivers.

Organizations like American Whitewater, the American Canoe Association, American Rivers, and America Outdoors, share your passion and we are all motivated by the high standard of working with the paddling community and government to provide opportunities in perpetuity for the public to enjoy the rivers that we know.

As you already know, American Whitewater is celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2004 and the American Canoe Association is celebrating their 125th anniversary in 2005. We have a legacy to be proud of and have helped to bring great change to the paddlesports industry. Our work has helped to make lifejackets and helmets standard gear for a safety conscious community. Our past publicity of great innovations such as the canoe and kayak roll have helped to propel paddlesports. The stories that our members have shared through our news letters and classes have helped to open imaginative horizons for the young and old. And we have created opportunity for commercial success of rafting, canoeing, and kayaking.

When I think about the work we have done, and the successes our organizations and volunteers have had, it amazes me. These successes have changed my life and I am sure that they have changed yours as well.

Locally, imagine paddlesports without the Gauley, the Ocoee, the Arkansas, the Chattooga, the South Fork American, the Middle Fork Salmon, or even the Grand Canyon. Expand that image to a nation without the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, without the Wilderness Act, without navigability laws allowing you to float on the river in your backyard, without free flowing waters. These are the successes

that American Whitewater has helped to create in partnership with our fellow non-profits, the commercial rafting industry, local outfitters, boat manufacturers, our members, and our volunteers.

These pinnacle successes changed my life, and I became a boater in large part because I had the opportunities that these successes created. I am sure that these successes have also changed your life.

Whether you choose to support American Whitewater or one of our non-profit sisters, your support is essential for creating opportunity for your children and your children's children. We have a legacy to protect and you are as much a part of it as are our staff and volunteers. We are not resting on our laurels, and we are publicizing new innovations in safety, sharing streamgaging with over 7000 boaters every day via AmericanWhitewater.org, and fighting to protect free public access to America's waterways. 

TYGART RIVER ENTERPRIZES

Pickups
Jeeps
Cars
Vans
SUV's

Heavy Duty
Steel Racks



When You're Ready for A
**real
RACK**

FOR BOATS & BIKES
www.tygartriver.com

(304) 457-5674

PRION

invest in durable goods.

Clay Staley drops the big one on Oh-Be-Joyful. © Christian Robertson

embudo



*it's stiff
it's durable
it rules*



Gear for Paddlers

Need beta on the Embudo?

go online at

www.wildnet.com/embudo

or call for a catalog 303-444-2336



History Modern Canoeing Legend

by Sue Taft

John Berry, a Legend in Modern Whitewater Canoeing

For John Berry, canoeing was more than just a past-time. It became his passion, a passion from which we have all benefited- canoeer and kayaker alike. He was a racer and an explorer, a student and a teacher, a designer and a boatbuilder- all hallmarks of a legend and for which he is considered by many to be the father of modern whitewater canoeing.

John was one of the first members of the Canoe Cruisers Association (CCA) in the D.C. area soon after it was founded in 1956. He was an open boater, solo paddling a 16-foot wood and canvas Old Town Guide model canoe that he named Traveler. Drawn to competition, he competed in solo and tandem events in the newly emerging sports of slalom and downriver in U.S. whitewater. Using his slalom and downriver skills, he also explored new and more difficult rivers in western Maryland and West Virginia with other CCA members. Their explorations of the Cheat and New River Gorges in the late 1950's established those rivers as regular CCA club trips. Through-out all of these explorations and competitions, he continued paddling Traveler as a decked canoe with a modified spray cover.

However, that changed in 1959 when John competed in the Nationals held on the Roaring Fork in Colorado. One of three boaters from the East competing in decked open boats, he saw the first closed C-1 built in the U.S., the Merlin, designed by Larry Zuk of Denver. John recognized the potential of Zuk's closed design and upon his return home, designed and built a closed C-1 for himself. He premiered it at the Brandywine race in 1961 where two fellow racers, Bob Harrigan and Bill Bickham, who also saw Zuk's design, were not impressed. Bickham called it the "Monitor" after the Union iron clad which had an extremely low deck with a raised turret amidships, much like the low deck and raised cockpit of John's design.

While John's first design was not successful, he and his racing partner, Bob Harrigan, pursued closed C-1 and C-2 designs from Europe for competition. They were represented the U.S. at the '61 World Championships in Europe paddling a "banana boat," an end-hole C-2 with a very rounded hull and lots of rocker. While they barely were able to compete against the far superior European racers, they learned



much from what they saw including boat designs and technique which they brought back to the U.S. and expanded upon.

John continued to design new boats and test new technique for slalom racing and was very eager to share what he learned. In the spring of 1964, John promoted the formation of a slalom division within CCA which encouraged and produced many young slalom racers over the years. In the 1970's, a handful of young CCA racers changed C-1 competition forever with their dramatic C-1 medal sweep of the '79 World Championships in their new radical designs using their new radical techniques- inspired by the model set by John years earlier.

By the mid-1970's, John had left the DC area for upstate New York where he continued building racing boats and giving lessons. Noticing that many New England area open boaters were still using Old Town and Grumman canoes, he saw a need for a new design and turned his attention back to open boats. In 1975, he based a new open boat design on a closed slalom design, a Czech 80 cm C-1, by raising the sides of

the hull to add freeboard to make a 13-foot OC-1 which became his Flasher design. His next design, again based off of a C-1 slalom hull, became the Flashback. Through his one-man boat building business, Millbrook Boats, he provided his new open boat designs which quickly became the hot boats in open slalom competition. In 1978, John designed an OC-2 boat based on one of the hottest C-2 slalom hulls of the time. He took a few of them to the Nationals at the Yough and on the spot, the team of Carrie Ashton and Bunny Johns bought one for the race. They won the OC-2W class only 5 seconds behind the best OC-2M team, a testimony to their skill and the efficiency of this new design, the ME ("Maximum Exposure"). Coincidentally, Kay and Jim Henry of Mad River Canoe were also at the race and approached John about obtaining rights to the design. In 1979, Mad River began building the ME, first in composite and later in a Royalex version.

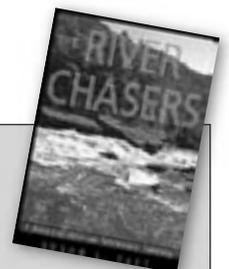
In 1988, John sold Millbrook Boats to John Kazimierczyk who has continued the tradition that John started, as a racer, designer, and builder of canoes. As a living legend, John Berry paddles his canoe almost daily on a small river near his home in Belchertown, Massachusetts. 

Copyright © 2004 Susan L. Taft
All rights reserved.

With permission for use by American Whitewater.

Sue Taft is the author of *The River Chasers*, the history of American Whitewater Paddling.

If you have a topic or question you would like answered, e-mail it to editor@amwhitewater.org and look for its answer in an upcoming issue.



Partner Spotlight Jackson Kayak

I'm Paddling an All Star Now...

...Thanks to Jackson Kayak and American Whitewater. You gave me a great summer project to work on.

My parents wanted me to stay busy over the summer so the AW/Jackson Kayak Membership Drive Contest came at a great time. It was hard to stay motivated while signing up new members but then I would

I got to know a lot of other paddlers during the contest. I belong to the Keelhaulers and Three Rivers Clubs. Many of them helped out by signing up and encouraging me. I could not have done it without them. One of the coolest things I've learned since I started kayaking is that there are a lot of really nice people doing it. Paddlers always seem to be ready to help each other on and off the river.



Eric Marksz

Winner CONTEST

just think about the new Jackson Kayak and get fired up again. In the beginning I thought it was all about winning a kayak but as the two-month contest came to an end, I realized I met a bunch of new people, learned about river access/quality issues, and had a lot of fun.

I just started kayaking last year so there were lots of things I didn't know about the sport. I knew about American Whitewater but wasn't sure what they did. If I was going to be able to sell people on the idea of becoming a member I'd have to learn more about them. So I did. If anybody wants to know about the kind of work they do and why every kayaker should be a member, they can just ask me. Before, I never really paid attention to those things but now I do. I'm really glad that AW is out there working so that I'll have access to clean rivers when I'm an adult. I feel good that there are many more members now and that I had something to do with it. I even found a couple of fly fisherman to join since I figured they need good access to clean rivers too.

Getting to meet EJ and receiving my new All Star on Saturday night at Gauley Fest was the greatest thing ever. I was so excited (and nervous) I forgot to shake EJ's hand. Next time I see him I will. The Gauley was a little too hard for me to paddle yet (next year!) so we drove up to the Lower Yough on Sunday so I could try my new All Star on a familiar river. I just couldn't go a whole week without getting it in some whitewater. I was spinning in holes better than I ever have.

So thanks for giving me a chance to win a new kayak and for giving me a great summer project to work on. I can't wait to see what AW and Jackson Kayak come up with for next summer. I'll be ready.

Sincerely,
Eric Marksz

PS: EJ, next time I see you, will you autograph my All Star? 



Runner Up



Dear American Whitewater
 Hi, my name is Kalten Walter. I am nine years old and I live in Wooster, OH. About 4 years ago my dad got a kayak and ever since he got one, I have wanted to go down the New River Gorge (in West Virginia). From this contest I have learned how hard AW works to conserve rivers, promote river access, and to teach about river safety. Thank you for giving me the chance to win a Jackson kayak.

Sincerely,
 Kalten Walter



Kalten Walter

additional contributors



Last year, Lotus Designs co-branded the Sherman PFD and Spectra Throwbag to support AW work, becoming one of AW's biggest Corporate Sponsors. For 2004, they are adding two co-branded pfd's, including the women's Lolita so female paddlers can show their support of AW!



Back by popular demand, AW will be releasing its revised Safety Flash Cards. Adventure Medical Kits produces these essential cards which will be available from retailers carrying the Adventure Medical Kits line of products.



NOC looks forward to continuing their successful Rapid Progressions Clinics and supporting AW by educating new paddlers about the river they enjoy while helping to increase AW's membership!



In 2004, Smith Optics continues its sponsorship of AW's River Festivals and is now offering AW major donors a special gift from Smith Optics.



Patagonia awarded AW a \$5,000 grant to acknowledge our leadership role in restoring river through the hydro-relicensing process in the western U.S.



Kokatat remains one of AW's strongest allies by continuing support of AW events and outreach and is playing a major role with AW's River Stewardship Institute on the Klamath River this year.



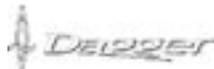
Wavesport continues to support AW because whitewater rivers are not exactly a dime a dozen. In addition to a substantial monthly donation, Team Wavesport will be offering free clinics to AW members to help celebrate AW's Anniversary and thank AW members for doing their part. Check the AW and Wavesport websites for more information.



In 2003, Clif Bar initiated The Flowing Rivers Campaign to help AW increase its Affiliate Clubs through six \$500 grants to support work on conservation, access or safety issues. Clif Bar has extended its support in 2004 and AW looks forward to continued success.



AW is honored to have Teva as one of its most important allies. For years AW and Teva have partnered in various forms to reach out to the paddling public. In 2004, Teva presented AW's 50th Anniversary Gala in Vail, CO at the Teva Mountain Games.



AW looks forward to continuing its relationship with Dagger in 2004. Look for opportunities to paddle with Team D through your local AW Affiliate Club!



Walden Kayaks is donating four recreational and light touring kayaks every year for the next five years, available for sale on the American Whitewater website through 2008. Today, friends of American Whitewater may purchase a Walden Experience, Adirondack, Odyssey, or Vista Expedition online to further support American Whitewater's efforts to conserve and restore America's rivers and streams.



In 2004, IR continues to lead the industry in demonstrating corporate responsibility. IR has continued its support of AW with its AW branded product, and the industry's first Pro Donation Program. AW is grateful to have such a dedicated and sincere corporate partner.

2005 AW Board NOMINEES

Liz Ferrin

Kristine Jackson

Dave Cernicek

Patricia Supanich

Andrew Jillings

Chris Bell

Mark LaCroix

Aaron Pruzan



Liz Ferrin

Place of Residence: Santa Barbara, CA

“I hope that my experience over the last six years will be useful to the Board. My position as Promotions Manager for Teva gave me the great privilege to work alongside many professional kayakers. These conservation-minded athletes were great examples of how to work along with American Whitewater to give back to the river. I am grateful and completely humbled to have the opportunity to give back to the community that has given so much to me.”

Liz’s relationship with the river community began in 1998, when she quit a job at a University of Utah hospital to take on a full time position as an unpaid intern for Teva. Although she had been rafting and canoeing growing up, she admits that she was quite a river novice. That summer, Liz attended her first whitewater event, the Animas River Days in Durango, CO. This event was also her first introduction to kayaking. Liz traveled over 30,000 road miles that season with colleague, Sports Marketing Manager Adam Druckman.

While Liz says that she would never profess to be a great paddler, she admits having a great love of rivers and strongly believes in what American Whitewater stands for. She has worked closely with the AW staff on four national rodeo tours, the Liquid Lifestyles tour, and their 50th Anniversary Gala.



Kristine Jackson

Place of Residence: Rock Island, TN

Kristine Jackson says she is interested in being a part of the AW Board of Directors because, "I love being involved and helping in areas where the need is great and the potential impact can be huge."

Kristine, age 34, spends half the year traveling in an R.V to events all around the U.S. and Canada with her family and two dogs. She acts as homeschool teacher for her two kids: Emily- 14 years old, and Dane- 11 years old; and she can be seen on the sidelines of kayaking competitions assisting her husband of sixteen years, Eric (or "E.J" as most people know him), with making sure he has all the gear he needs to rush from one event to another.

Kristine is the Director of Sales for the family's business, Jackson Kayak. Even though the Jackson family has only been located in the Cumberland Plateau for about a year, Kristine and her family hope the company's presence will make a positive impact on the small community of Rock Island.

Jackson is the President of the - United States Freestyle Kayak Association (USFKA) which was set up in 2001 to be a base support mechanism for the US Freestyle Kayak Team. This non-profit organization has been instrumental in fundraising, team management, and team logistics while training, traveling, and participating in Freestyle Kayaking World Championship Competitions. Kristine also serves as Vice Chairman for the International Freestyle Committee, the governing body for World Freestyle Championships.



David Cernicek

Place of Residence: Jackson Hole, WY

David grew up on the rivers of the west. His passion for rivers has led him into a career of river-related work. David offers a unique perspective on rivers since he has worked with river issues from many different viewpoints. He has been rafting and kayaking rivers noncommercially since 1982, and has lived and boated in most areas of the country. He has worked as a guide and manager of commercial rafting companies in Colorado and Idaho. While completing a master's degree in natural resource management, David worked as a professional researcher investigating river user behavior. His specialties are river carrying capacity, crowding and conflict issues. He has volunteered countless hours for many river conservation related causes. During his education, David worked with the National Park Service's River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program in Washington D.C., where he participated in national river conservation policy formulation and the Wild & Scenic Rivers Program. David has worked as a river ranger on the Rio Grande and Rio Chama in New Mexico, the Stanislaus and Toulumne Rivers in California, and the Hoback and Snake Rivers in Wyoming. David is presently the River Manager for the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Jackson Hole, Wyoming where he administers all river corridor use. Part of his job is coordinating the Snake River Fund, a donation program used on the Snake River in lieu of a mandatory fee program. This one-of-a-kind program is led by the river using community and works in partnership with the US Forest Service to protect and care for the Snake River Corridor.

"My desire to be a part of the American Whitewater Board of Directors stems from my commitment to work closely with any group truly interested in protecting rivers and working to find solutions to the ever-increasing threats to the wonderful experiences they bring to all who use them."



Patricia L. Supanich

Place of Residence: Vail, CO

Working in the accounting and financial industry for 14 years, Patricia's career has taken her across the U.S., Mexico, and South America where she oversaw, at one point, 28 manufacturing facilities totaling \$2 billion in revenue where some of her responsibilities included ensuring accounting and tax compliance with U.S. GAAP, federal, state, and local regulations, reviewing and analyzing financial results and forecasts, performing internal audits, and coordinating and overseeing audits with outside CPA firms. Currently, Patricia runs a consulting firm, Peak Performance Business Solutions, which provides accounting and financial assistance to businesses across Colorado.

Patricia left Michigan in October 2000, to pursue a more enjoyable lifestyle, after, what she calls an "early mid-life crisis" after her first whitewater experience on the New River at 5 1/2" in 2000. She later moved to Colorado to teach, become a raft guide and sacrifice all her material wears for gear. Since moving to Colorado she took up kayaking, sometimes paddling 5 days a week. In 2002 she decided to become a kayak instructor and later became a member of the Browns Canyon Boater Committee and coordinated a 40+ member volunteer-based, educational effort to inform private boaters on the Arkansas River Management Plan at put-ins, working closely with AHRA, Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area personnel. The Committee was also tasked with putting a permit system in place in case quotas were reached and triggered the permit system for private boaters.

Patricia is also an active member of Vail Mountain Rescue and is a professional backcountry guide with Meet the Wilderness focusing on "at-risk" youth. She is also a rock climbing instructor in her spare time. She lives in Vail, Colorado with her son Kenny, 9, who is a complete freestyle skier with Team Summit, and dog, India. Her other passions outside water and rock are traveling, ice climbing, skiing, and backpacking in Utah.

2005 AW Board NOMINEES



Andrew Jillings

Place of Residence: Clinton NY

What really got Andrew hooked on whitewater paddling was learning to roll. Before then it was just another way to get cold and wet in the British countryside, but when he hit his first class II roll everything made sense. He has since moved to the US and has paddled a lot of rivers. Just like learning to roll, it took a friend to teach him the value of American Whitewater. One day on the river his friend said "if it wasn't for AW this river would be dry, right here, right now." This made Andrew realize that rivers are not free, that everyone has to pay for them in some form or fashion, if not through access fees then with advocacy.

"I think I can be of use to AW by helping out with safety issues. I've taught Outdoor Education at the College level for 13 years (including the last few as an ACA Instructor Trainer) and have an academic interest in accident theory and risk management. I'd like to help with the accident database and to look at ways that we can persuade the decision makers that we're not a bunch of death wish yahoos. We're smart and informative people and they should listen to us.

I feel honored to have been nominated as an AW board member and I hope that I can live up to the standards of the great board members that have served before me"



Chris Bell

Place of Residence: Asheville, NC

In 1969 Chris participated in a YMCA rafting trip on Oregon's Rogue River and has been a paddler ever since. Though the early years were dominated by army surplus rafts and inner tubes, today he's more likely to be creeking or squirt boating in a kayak or canoeing with his two daughters.

Chris's most significant contribution to AW to date has been his work on the Cheoah dam relicensing project, where by happy not-quite-coincidence he's been fortunate to combine his love of paddling with his professional skills as an economist. Chris also served as a Gauley Festival volunteer and is currently AW's Southeastern Regional Streamkeeper. In October 2002 Rod Baird and Chris shared honors as AW Volunteers of the Month in recognition of their Cheoah work.

Chris's non-AW volunteer activities include originating and coordinating the Western Carolina Rescue Rodeo (1992-1997), serving on the Pigeon River Fund board (1997-2004), serving as President, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster of the Western Carolina Paddlers (1990-1998, 2004-), and creating and maintaining the boatingbeta.com regional website.



Mark Lacroix

Place of Residence: Thornton, NH

Mark currently lives in the White Mountains of central New Hampshire with his wife Sharon. Sharon has been his paddling partner for almost 20 years now ever since they first met on the Hudson River gorge in New York. He works as a project engineer for Spraying Systems. Mark's main responsibility is to oversee a team that designs flue gas scrubbing systems used to clean dirty emissions from power plants and factories. "I enjoy my job since I feel I have an impact on keeping the air we all breath clean."

Mark first started paddling a canoe as a teenager back in the 70's. In the early 80's he started kayaking. It was at that time that he first joined American Whitewater. He's been active in several area clubs including the Merrimack Valley Paddlers (MVP), New Hampshire AMC (NHAMC), Mount Washington Valley Paddlers (MWVP), and the Vermont Paddlers Club (VPC). He is most active in the MVP taking care of their website, newsletter, and a yearly guide he calls the "Old Paddler's Almanac". He assists in the NHAMC's spring whitewater school yearly, and also leads a "Swiftwater Rescue school" for both the AMC and MVP. This past summer Mark received his ACA accreditation as a Swiftwater Rescue instructor from Charlie Walbridge.

"Since I first started boating I have seen many new boating opportunities emerge because of the leadership roll AW provides. We can now boat on good class II through V water on 511 release dates per year. This is an incredible success story I hope to be able to continue and even expand on. There are also several dam removal and relicensing decisions coming up in the next few years. I hope to continue the work that Tom Christopher, Bill Hildreth, John Frechella and several other predecessors have done."



Aaron Pruzan

Place of Residence: Jackson Hole, WY

“I am honored to have served on the board of American Whitewater for the past two years and know we have accomplished a lot. I look forward to continuing this work for another session.”

As the owner of Rendezvous River Sports and Jackson Hole Kayak School, Aaron has introduced thousands of people to the sport of kayaking since he began instructing in '93. In '96 he began the non-profit Jackson Hole Kayak Club, which provides an inexpensive means for kids to get into paddling. The club introduces young people to the fun of running wild rivers and competitive paddling.

As a board member of the Snake River Fund, Aaron has helped work with Bridger-Teton National Forest in a unique alliance to keep the Snake user fee area free. SRF is now in its fifth year of existence and is succeeding in bringing together a diverse group of river users including commercial outfitters, rafters, fisherman and paddlers. All these groups have generously contributed to help maintain the facilities on the Snake and preserve its outstanding recreational values.

As a kayaker, Aaron's interest is primarily in expeditionary kayaking with numerous exploratory descents in Wyoming, Chile and most recently Russia. He also enjoys a diversity of competitive disciplines including slalom, wildwater, and freestyle.

“There are many challenges facing AW in the immediate future and it is important everyone who is passionate about whitewater do their part to help. During the next two years I hope to: experience the releases we worked diligently to achieve on the Bear River in Idaho; work with other non-profits in an unprecedented effort to achieve Wild & Scenic status for the entire upper Snake River watershed; spearhead a new approach to opening the Black Canyon of the Yellowstone River to legal kayaking. Let's do this”.

American Whitewater Board of Directors 2005-2007

Vote for those who will responsible to you and our rivers!

Here are the candidates for the AW Board of Directors. Directors serve a 3-year term beginning January, 2005. You can vote for up to eight (all of those on the ballot).

- Chris Bell
- Dave Cernicek
- Liz Ferrin
- Kristine Jackson
- Andrew Jillings
- Mark LaCroix
- Aaron Pruzan
- Patricia Supanich

Return your ballots to AW by December 12, 2004.

American Whitewater
1424 Fenwick Lane
Silver Springs MD 20910
FAX to 301-565-6714 or e-mail to
Jason@amwhitewater.org

2005 AW Board
NOMINEES

VOTE

AW News

From the Prez

By the time you receive this issue of the AW Journal, another year draws to a close. With the New Year, the board welcomes a new President and I can return to relative obscurity.

I began formulating my closing thoughts at the North Fork Feather release where fellow board member Dave Steindorf, our super regional coordinator Vicky Vine, and myself were packing the booth. All weekend countless smiling faces were thanking us for the years of our lives and thousands of dollars spent to make these releases happen. Further, AW and its volunteers now spend large amounts of time managing the releases and attending the monthly meetings required to manage the settlement agreement.

Where am I going with this you ask? Volunteerism!

My involvement with AW began innocently enough. After years of just being a member and occasionally throwing a few bucks toward an issue that concerned me, I became involved in a local hydropower relicensing. Luckily, then AW conservation director Rich Bowers flew out to California to help me and my paddling club learn the process of dealing with a utility that looked upon boating as demonic possession. Next, the Rock Creek – Cresta relicensing on the North Fork Feather where the years of negotiations became a blur. Somehow, while off on a Grand Canyon trip, I ended up on the board of AW. Never having been on the board of anything, this was quite the learning experience. I discovered that the AW board was composed of the most amazing people I've ever had the pleasure of working with and actually looked forward to our twice yearly meetings. Moving onto the Executive Committee and finally to board president has required scaling back my project work

in favor of organizational duties. Now that my two-year term as president is winding down, I look forward to re-engaging in conservation and access issues.

Frankly, American Whitewater is a small fish in the large pool of non-profits. Though small, our staff is highly skilled and dedicated. Where we shine is the ability to leverage our staff with dedicated volunteers and the thousands of hours they willingly give each year to help meet the mission of AW. From parking cars at Gauleyfest to sitting through endless hydropower meetings, volunteers make it happen. Without volunteers, AW would be a much less effective organization. I'll never know what triggers the desire to volunteer; I'm just thrilled that it occurs. 



Kevin Lewis
AW Board - President

ACE presents...

GIRLS at PLAY

www.watergirlsatplay.com

A whitewater kayak instructional video for women with World Freestyle Medalist Anna Levesque
Filmed and edited by Chris Emerick

Now available in stores.
online or from The Heliconia Press
401.312.567300

SR PADDLER
DUBOY
RAPID
published by The Heliconia Press
photos by Jay & Howard

RIVER JEWELRY

created by JC Caccla (riverguide/bolomith)

sterling \$36	Keyrings \$48
	
	
	

Paddler's Amulet
Kayaker's Amulet
St. Bernard
Cyclist's

Also Offering: Western Bolo Ties, River Beads, Braided Leather Bracelets, Yoga Jewelry, Angel Pendants and Patron Saint Medals and a uniquely entertaining CD,
'Campfire Tales & Riversongs' \$16

To order phone 1-800-808-9787
Mountain Angels Trading Co.
PO Box 4225 Ketchum, ID 83340
www.MountainAngels.com

Field Notes by Clay Wright



Clay Wright
photo by Christie Dobson



Wishing for Windows

“You’uns been raftin’ in them mountains?”

A middle-aged man driving a Chevy van full of dressed up kids (a birthday party perhaps?) has stopped in the road as we are turning out of a Kentucky restaurant.

“We just went Kayaking . . . up at the Russell Fork”

“Whare ya frum?” he asks, looking up at the pink plastic kayak above my head.

“Tennessee – “ I said, uncertain of what this might mean.

“How cum ya got Nevada Tags?” he asked.

“Oh – well this isn’t our truck. . . we travel all over.”

“Then where do you go to church?”

Ouch – my jaw is now a little lower and I can tell by this family man’s expression exactly where he’s come from and that I’ve just hesitated too long for him to expect the right answer.

But what IS the right answer? I know from my Bible-belt upbringing and my Catholic School roots that the place I’ve spent every Sunday for the last 20 years isn’t somewhere this mountain man would call Church. How could he? I know when I had to dress up in uncomfortable clothes and sit quietly indoors for an hour every Sunday I’d feel jealous of the ‘folks’ breezing up to the mountains, too. I understand the look I’m getting. But does he understand mine?

As a child I was taught that Church was a place where the Lord lived, that the building itself was the ‘House of God’. I recall wondering, “God created caves, canyons, rivers, and seashores – why would he live here?”

To me ‘his house’ was empty. No spiritual presence, just the hard bench, perhaps a cushioned knee-rest and endless minutes spent wishing for windows to look out.

During those times, while studying the seriousness with which my fellow church-goers prayed, I knew that I was missing something. It was as if the words, songs, and passages could feel my discomfort and thus bounced right off. My neighbors came out those doors looking re-freshed and invigorated, or at least relieved. Well, good for them; the problem was apparently with me.

Not to say that I don’t get to feeling spiritual now and then. Sometimes when blasting through the Speed Trap at Gorilla or buzzing by the rock overhang at Lumsden Falls, or even when the mist rises up below Lost Paddle or the colored leaves swirl around just right in an eddy above Tower Falls - I feel a power. It doesn’t last for an hour and it may come less than once a week, but I’ve found I do have spiritual capacity - one that only comes out in wild places.

Paddling trips do for me what Church does for others. I journey to meet other followers and discuss the paths we are taking. We are ready to help a brother in need, and know that our brother will be there for us in times of distress. These trips create a greater awareness of the world around me, make me think carefully about the choices I’m making, and bestow thankfulness for each day that I come out alive. Paddling is my link to spiritual experiences and where I find my own version of the ‘House of God’.

“The River!” my co-pilot interjects . . . saving me from my thoughts and this family from the awkward silence settling in. The man smiles back at us - not the response I was expecting at all. Perhaps he used to fish, or maybe he hunts on Sundays during the season. Anyway, although I was expecting a judgmental frown, I was greeted instead by the knowing smile of someone who understands.

Perhaps I’m not the only one who spends their time in Church wishing for windows. 

Whitewater Challengers

New York’s #1 Dealer
in Kayaks, Canoes
and Gear!

Pyranha
Wavesport
Jackson Kayaks
Prijon

We’re so
close to the
Moose River,
we consider
it family!!

Route 28
Old Forge, NY 13420
wcmoose@capital.net
315-369-6699



Field Notes

by Tanya Shuman



OUTFITTING for the smaller Paddler

“One of my least favorite things is to outfit my boat. However, it is an important part of kayaking. Here’s the analogy to get a better understanding... .imagine running without tying your shoelaces, you wouldn’t make it but a couple of feet before falling over.”

It’s the same as outfitting your boat. You want to be snug as a bug in your boat. A boat that is outfitted correctly will make everything easier from rolling to more advanced skills like blunting.

I’ve been fortunate to be involved in the Lotus Ladies Paddle Days throughout the year and numerous times I see paddlers in particular smaller people/women, who are basically swimming in their boats, super loose with little or no outfitting at all. So here I am in front of the computer writing up a short outline on outfitting for the smaller paddler. These helpful techniques on outfitting have really helped me in kayaking and hopefully will help you out too.

Seat

Seat Forward - This will give you more leverage. Most seats are in the middle or moved back because retailers want to ensure that whoever hops into the boat will be able to fit. As smaller people, we don’t have big feet or long legs so move the seat forward. You will realize that such freestyle tricks like cartwheeling are much easier to throw down. Also, in river running, having your seat forward will keep you forward and less on your back deck and feeling like your swirling around in a rapid. One thing to remember is if you find yourself pearling

(bow of your boat dives in the water while paddling) then you should move the seat back a bit.

Seat Raised - Smaller people, in particular women, typically do not have long torsos. So by raising your seat you're actually increasing your torso. Instead of hitting the side of your kayak, you're able to clear it and have more flexibility while you paddle down the river. Sitting high in your boat gives you more leverage with bracing, rolling, freestyle tricks, and allowing you more reach with your paddle for your forward stroke. I usually raise my seat an inch. The best way to decide on how high to raise your seat is to ensure your waist doesn't hit the side of the boat.

Hip Pads

Hip Pads are an essential part of outfitting which to my surprise a lot of paddlers don't have in their boats. Hip Pads help you in all aspects of kayaking from rolling to looping. Without hip pads, you would fall out of your boat. Hip Pads assist in the hip snap which is vital in kayaking. The best way to figure out how tight to have your hip pads is when you are sitting in your boat on the ground you should be able to put the boat on edge easily without your hips sliding out of the pads.

Thigh Braces

Most women don't have the abdominal strength like men. I know I don't and in order to compensate for this I rely a lot on my inner thighs for edge control. Edge Control is a basic kayaking skill used in everything from river running, creeking, surfing, and all freestyle tricks. Making sure your thighs are tight in your thigh braces is very important. Most manufacturers offer a well designed thigh



Tanya Shuman
photos by Tiffany Manchester

brace. If the thigh braces do not have an outer shell which wraps around your outside thigh then add foam to the wall of your kayak. Also adding foam just to the front of your seat will raise your thigh into the thigh brace better. You want to make sure that your thigh is not loose in your boat but tight so you can direct your kayak both with your abs and thighs to get to where you want to go on the river.

Backband

Having a backband that works and stays tight while you paddle is imperative. This will help you stay forward in your boat. You want to make sure it's tight at all times. While kayaking you have a tendency to slouch or get thrown on your backdeck; a tight backband keeps you forward. I prefer the Wicked Backband however the ratchet system that is implemented by most manufacturers is just as good.

These five essential outfitting techniques will help in your level of paddling. Take the time to outfit your boat. It really makes the difference. 

See you on the river!



"What's so great about being a woofier?"

"Silly. It's WFR."

There's more than one way to become a WFR.

1. The 4-day WAFAto-WFR Bridge course
2. The 3-day WFR Challenge course
3. The 8-day WFR course
4. You can be born a woofier.



**WILDERNESS
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATES®**

Emergency training
for outdoor professionals.™

www.wildmed.com
1-888-WILDMED

office@wildmed.com Bryant Pond, ME 04219 USA
office@wildmed.ca Hamilton, ON Canada



Conservation & Access Regional Updates

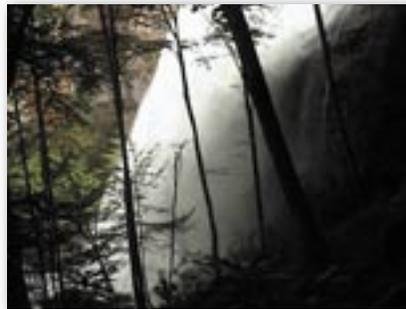
by John Gangemi

East

7/14-15/04: Volunteers, including Catawba regional coordinator Andrew Lazenby and Carolina Canoe Club members, gathered to participate in a flow study on the Catawba River below Lake James. 8/3/04: AW regional coordinator Greg Lawrence reported the successful resolution of an access closure on Alabama's beloved Johnnies Creek. 8/20/04: AW staff responded to a plan to close paddling access to Fort Knox rivers while allowing hunters and anglers to continue using the same areas (KY). 8/21/04: AW volunteer attorney Nathan Galbreath received the USFS's initial response to our appeal which offered no support for the boating ban – the USFS decision is due this fall (NC/SC/GA). 8/27/04: AW Conservation committee co-chair Tom Christopher reported a positive FERC decision regarding Vermont's Little River. 9/1/04: Allegheny Energy Supply

agreed to fund 8 gages slated for removal in WV, saving the gages. 9/4/04: Long time AW board member Charlie Walbridge enlisted the help of other organizations and stepped up efforts to halt road building and logging in the Cheat Canyon (WV). 9/9/04: Dan Mullins, president of the Willimantic Whitewater Partnership, hosted a meeting regarding regulatory requirements for removing several dams on the Willimantic River (CT).

West Fork Tuck (NC) Releases Challenged by Misled Local Residents



Dozens of letters have recently been sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from misinformed individuals upset over the 7 annual recreational releases planned on the West Fork of the Tuckasegee. The releases were a contentious and hard fought issue in the relicensing of the Tuckasegee River, but ultimately were included in the Settlement Agreement. In the summer of 2006, thanks to American Whitewater, this wonderful Class IV creek is scheduled to begin releasing for paddlers to enjoy. There are challenges, though, that must be overcome in order to bring the settlement agreement to fruition. Local residents, misinformed by a group of reservoir-

side homeowners who bailed out of the settlement process at the last minute, have been asking the FERC to strip the releases from the settlement. They claim that the releases will drain Glenville Reservoir by pulling down a massive amount of water, yet releases actually drop the reservoir less than one tenth of one inch. They claim that releases will violate property rights, yet Duke has an easement specifically allowing them to release water, and NC law supports the right to float through private lands. They claim that releases cater to a tiny population of special interests at the expense of the general public, but ignore the facts that paddlers are members of the general public who will use the river in significant numbers, and that this is only a tiny piece of a massive settlement that balances mitigation across all user groups. They also claim that the access trail will be unsafe and will have to trespass, which was disproved by a survey and special access study that proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that access can be legally and safely provided. It is unfortunate that these individuals have been lead astray by a few disingenuous people, and American Whitewater will work with FERC and with the local residents to counter the misinformation and resolve the issue.

Partial Success on Ausable River (NY) Relicensing

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission finally issued a license earlier this fall for the highly contentious Ausable Chasm in northeastern New York State. The dam owner, New York State Electric and Gas, was strongly opposed to providing access to this beautiful and unique Class IV+ reach. The FERC has required NYSEG to carry out a complete study of the whitewater resource in the coming year or so, and to submit a plan for providing access to the reach – or not – in consultation with AW and several other organizations. American Whitewater will be participating in the study process to assure a fair treatment of the issues and a reasonable plan. While it is unlikely that NYSEG will propose to allow access no matter what the results of the study, FERC has made it clear in the license that the FERC has the ultimate say on the



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

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





Ausable Chasm in
northeastern New York State

We're going places.

Ecuador
Grand Canyon
M.F. Salmon
Jarbridge/
Bruneau
Rogue

Join us for one of our
multi-day paddling
adventures.

DeRiemer



Adventure
Kayaking

Quality guiding and instruction

www.adventurekayaking.com
info@adventurekayaking.com
(866) kayak 66 (529-2566)

Conservation & Access Regional Updates

continued

matter. While not a definitive answer to this longstanding debate, the license as written by the FERC leaves the door open for future recreational access, and suggests that recreational access is likely appropriate.

Roadless Rule Challenged by the Bush Administration

This past summer, the Bush Administration proposed to repeal the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, putting 58.5 million acres of our national forests at risk to destructive road-building, logging and drilling. In 2001, the public spoke out in unprecedented numbers (1.6 million comments, overwhelmingly in favor) to encourage President Clinton to sign the original Roadless Rule into law. While President Clinton's administration hosted roughly 600 public meetings and solicited a record number of public comments over a 2 year period on the original roadless rule, the Bush Administration attempted to sneak a repeal of the roadless rule past the American Public through a virtually unpublicized 2-month comment period with NO public meetings. American Whitewater filed comments opposing the repeal of the Roadless Rule and also requested an extended public comment period. We also encouraged the paddling community to voice their objection to the repeal of the Roadless Rule. Check the American Whitewater website for more information on the current status of this very important river conservation issue.

AW Regional Coordinator Speaks at Press Conference in Washington DC

AW Regional coordinator John King recently spoke on behalf of the whitewater rivers and streams of Southwestern Virginia at a national press conference. The press conference drew significant response, and John's words

were picked up by news forums across the region. The focus of John's speech was on irresponsible logging plans for a beautiful watershed that includes Little Stony and Big Stony Creek. Speaking at the National Press Club, John stated: "The Bark Camp Timber Sale is just one example of the blatant disregard for our richly diverse ecosystems and recreation opportunities found on High Knob. This area is home to several rare and endangered species such as the elktoe mussel and Indiana bat, and other outdoor activities from family picnics to world-class whitewater." Ultimately, the US-Forest Service decided to offer up a portion of High Knob to logging companies regardless of the public scrutiny, however no logging companies accepted the USFS offer. Even up against a mountain of environmental evidence, significant local opposition, and reticent logging companies, the USFS has stated that they will lower the price of the timber sale until the trees find a taker. It remains to be seen whether or not the controversy around the logging will make it unappealing to logging companies at any cost.

John King has done a truly great job of defending the forests and rivers in his back yard, and we would like to thank him for all his efforts and specifically for traveling to Washington DC to represent American Whitewater. 

Conservation & Access West Rosebud Creek, MT

by John Gangemi

American Whitewater Spearheads Unique Whitewater Flow Study

American Whitewater and the Beartooth Paddling Society partnered with PPL Montana in the summer of 2004 to conduct a Whitewater Flow Study on West Rosebud Creek, Montana. Forty boaters participated in the study. Information from the study will help us identify flow preference curves for whitewater boating, which will identify minimum acceptable and optimum flows. This flow preference curve will be used to evaluate possible effects on whitewater boating from hydropower project operations and help define flow needs.

West Rosebud is an extremely scenic ten-mile Class IV (V) run. For more information about the West Rosebud see the great reach description (Aw reach ID #1020) provided by Ron Ladders and Dave Gulbrandson. The creek is commonly delineated into an upper run (between Emerald Lake and Pine Grove Campground) and lower run (from Pine Grove Campground to the irrigation diversion).

PPL Montana operates the Mystic Lake Hydroelectric Project in the upper West Rosebud drainage. The Project regulates flows into West Rosebud Creek affecting whitewater boating opportunities. This private hydropower project is currently undergoing relicensing overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). American Whitewater is working with local paddler Ian McIntosh to file comments with the FERC on PPL MT's application and scoping document.

American Whitewater, Beartooth Paddlers and PPL MT jointly developed a unique approach for this whitewater flow study. Rather than provide a series of controlled releases in a specified flow range over a two to three day period the parties elected to use the existing instream flows during reservoir spill coupled with an internet based survey form to record participant evaluations of the instream flows. This unique approach has advantages and

drawbacks compared to a conventional Controlled Flow Whitewater Study.

Advantages: The internet based approach allowed us to sample a large number of paddlers throughout the season of spill. Theoretically, we planned to have a wide range of spills tracking runoff. In reality the 2004 water year did not provide the broad range of spills for full evaluation so the study is being expanded to next year. Opening the study up to all paddlers also allows a measure of the demand for the resource whereas participation in controlled flow studies are typically limited for logistical and safety reasons.

Drawbacks: Not all boaters have internet access or fail to complete the survey until hours, days or even a month later. This time delay might make it difficult to answer resource specific questions with clarity.

This is a non-facilitated study. Surveys by nature invite opportunities for error either through misinterpretation of individual survey questions or universe of responses provided. To avoid these errors facilitators administer surveys to walk participants through surveys in advance. This allows participants to better understand the intent of a question and field of potential responses. Facilitators also provide an overview of the study helping to get participants focused. Facilitators can also extract information from focus group discussions. None of this occurs in a non-facilitated internet based study. Furthermore, individual survey responses over a broad range of dates introduce other variables into the responses such as weather etc. Controlled flow studies over two to three days minimize these other variables.

Another drawback is the uncertainty regarding flow information. This proved to be a real problem for the 2004 study. Most boaters were accustomed to reading a kayaker's gage installed on the Pine Grove Bridge on West Rosebud. This gage has

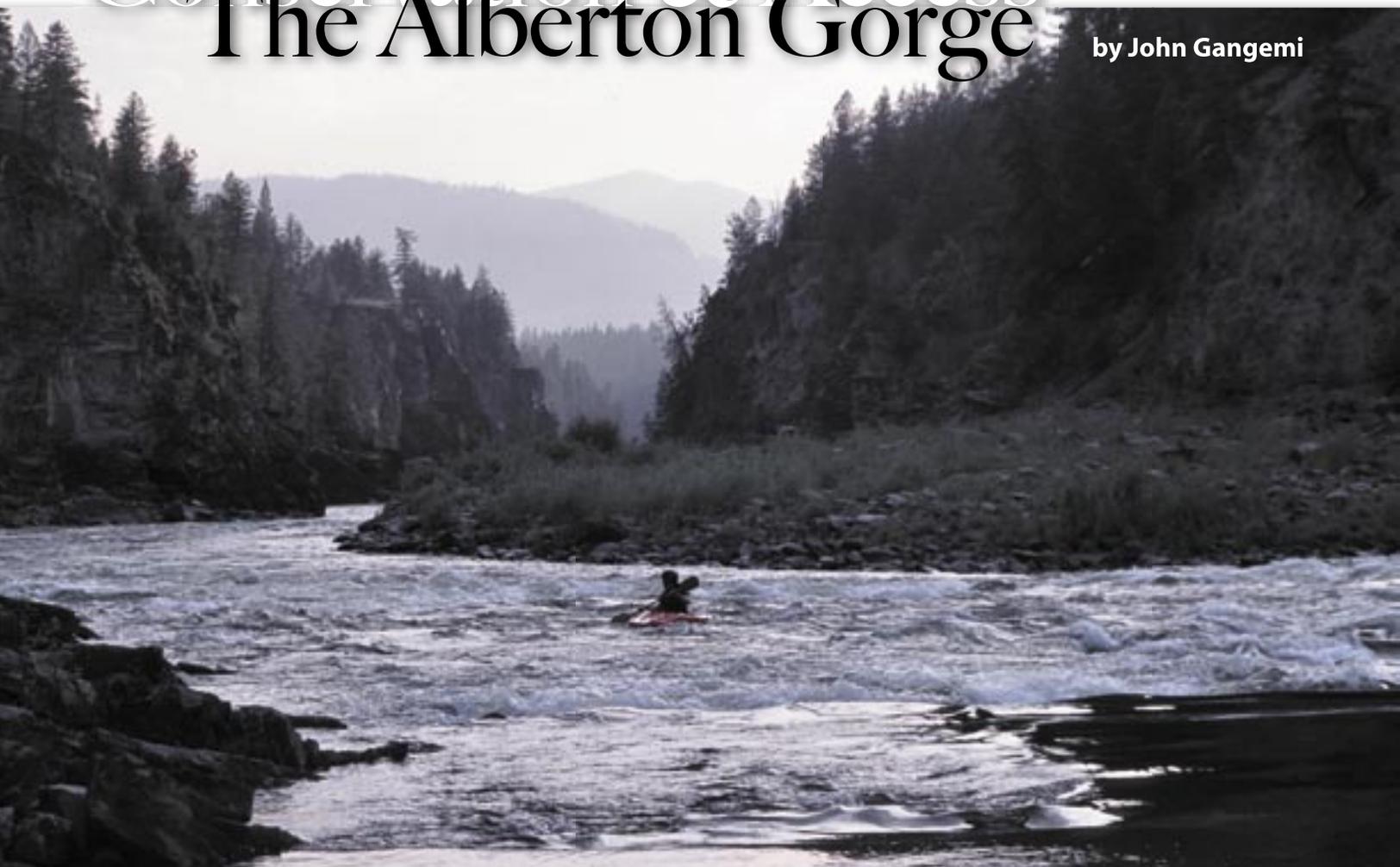
no relationship to the USGS real-time information. Further compounding flow information problems, the USGS gage is not real-time in reality and does not actually report flows for the whitewater reach – instead it reports flows for an upstream reach which flows into a re-regulating reservoir, the purpose of which is to buffer changes in flow. PPL MT installed a real-time flow gage reporting mechanism for the reach below the re-regulating reservoir. Unfortunately lightning shut this reporting link down on several occasions and boaters were uncertain on which gage to use. These flow information problems will be corrected for the 2005 season.

The West Rosebud Creek Whitewater Study will be extended to the 2005 paddling season. Be sure to put this creek on your 2005 travel schedule. Spills from Mystic Dam typically occur in July on normal water years—this is later than run-off for other runs in this area due to the reservoir storage capturing earlier run-off.

You can keep abreast of the Mystic pool levels and instream flows at <http://www.mysticlakeproject.com/>. Please complete this online survey each time you boat the creek. If you paddle West Rosebud Creek more than once during that time, please complete a survey for each date you paddle. Information from repeat paddlers provides valuable comparative information that helps us better understand the boatable flow range. If you happen to check the staff gage at Pine Grove campground please note and report the gage height to help us build a correlation between the staff gage and the real-time flows. 

Conservation & Access The Alberton Gorge

by John Gangemi



Alberton Gorge Lands Transferred to Public Ownership Clark Fork River, Montana

Finally, after more than a decade of effort, the 320 acres of former Montana Power Company lands adjacent to the Alberton Gorge on Montana's Clark Fork River are being transferred into public ownership. These lands form a corridor along the popular Class III whitewater reach west of Missoula on I-90. Transferring these lands to public ownership ensures public access to this reach of river in perpetuity as well as protects the scenic backdrop in this river corridor. Ironically, most paddlers who will benefit directly from this public access were unaware this effort to protect lands along the Alberton Gorge corridor was underway.

Transferring this 320 acres now owned by Montana Power Company's successor, NorthWestern Energy, was the result of years of effort and negotiations spawned by local whitewater enthusiasts and representatives of Montana Power, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and River Network, a national conservation group. Peter Dayton, a local Missoula boater, has been instrumental getting this concept for a land exchange on American Whitewater's agenda and the radar of other river conservation organizations.

In October 1998, River Network's then president Phil Wallin contacted American Whitewater requesting financial assistance with a land acquisition on Montana's Clark Fork River. "We were in a pinch, because we had to come up with serious money to buy some time to put a land exchange together," Wallin said. "So we turned to the people who knew the river best – the

private boaters and the organization that serves them, American Whitewater." With the help of the Kenney foundation, American Whitewater kicked in \$15,000. River Network obtained another \$35,000 from the Conservation Alliance. This combined \$50,000 secured a five-year option to purchase Montana Power's 320 acres adjacent to the Clark Fork River in Alberton Gorge.

This transaction was anything but simple: The property, now valued at \$1.4 million, lies at the heart of a land transaction between the Lolo National Forest, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, and Montana Power Company. The land swap and sale ensures that the State of Montana will protect eight miles of undeveloped riverfront property for the dual purposes of public enjoyment and resource protection. Many elements of this transaction have changed dramatically since its original conception. Montana

Power was purchased by Northwestern Energy. Northwestern Energy filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. Assets such as the 320 acres in Alberton Gorge have been locked up with the Bankruptcy judge trying to satisfy Northwestern creditors and allow Northwestern to emerge from bankruptcy.

In 2003, due to organizational changes, River Network transferred responsibility for completing this transaction over to Five Valleys Land Trust in Missoula. Five Valleys will assure that funding is in place to complete the purchase of the Gorge lands, then turn the property over to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. Five Valleys is assuming the financial risk to get the land exchange done. Five Valleys will seek to pay off the remaining debt with proceeds of land sales from a second exchange process with Montana Dept. of Natural Resources.

American Whitewater is highly appreciative of Peter Dayton's vision and decade of effort as well as Greg Tollefson's willingness to take this project on for Five Valleys Land Trust. American Whitewater also appreciates the vision and commitment for river corridor land protection exhibited by River Network, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Lolo National Forest, Montana Power Company and Northwestern Energy. Thank you for creating a legacy on Alberton Gorge!

As you can see from the accompanying articles Alberton Gorge is a place that inspires boaters. The Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks manages commercial river use on the Alberton Gorge Section.

Check in with MT FWP to see if you can spend a summer working in Alberton as Aaron Berg did in 2002. If you're after surfing rather than employment then check out Tarkio Kayak Adventures for some fun on the water. 

American Whitewater accepts tax-deductible donations to support other land acquisition projects and river conservation efforts at: American Whitewater, 1424 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910.



For the Paddler on your List

**KAYAK & CANOE
Portage & Storage
SYSTEMS**



ClassFiveCarriers.com

Choose your boat,
your carrying method,
compare, then buy
directly on-line at:
ClassFiveCarriers.com
Order on line or call
1-866-925-7257
Happy Holidays
no sales tax



Conservation & Access The Alberton Gorge

by Aaron Berg

Alberton Gorge River Recreation Management Internship

The Alberton Gorge of the Lower Clark Fork River has much more to offer than its friendly Class III whitewater, quiet pools for swimming, and the opportunity to see Montana's abundant wildlife. The "Gorge" is also a great place to work and interact with the recreating public. Through a recent land trade deal the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MDFWP) would acquire several hundred acres of public riverbank property to turn the Alberton Gorge into a wildlife and recreation corridor like no other. The idea is to keep the conditions within the Alberton Gorge very scenic and as enjoyable as possible. MDFWP created an intern position to help in the management efforts to conserve these desired conditions.

I was the intern assigned to the Alberton Gorge in the summer of 2002 and had an absolutely wonderful summer. The internship consists of an assortment of duties in river recreation management. The main put-in and take-out get cluttered at times and a presence is needed to help things move along. That is where the intern comes in. In the later mornings the intern helps the public get into the water and makes sure they are equipped for the float ahead of them. The intern then heads downstream to the take-out and helps all the floaters out of the river to keep things moving along there. Mixed in with the duty of facilitating access site traffic there are many other important duties. These duties include educating the public on

river ethics and etiquette, posting pertinent information on the signboard, upkeep of the latrines and boat ramps, and just plain old having a good time. There is no summer job better than the Alberton Gorge River Recreation Management Internship, especially if you're a student looking for experience. The MDFWP offers several of these types of internships every year. The position announcements for these internships are usually available the first week in January and begin in May or June and end in August or September. If you are interested in one of these internships don't hesitate to visit the MDFWP website at www.fwp.state.mt.us or give the state offices in Helena a call to find out where the internships are for that summer. 



We at LVM understand when push comes to shove
you gotta watch your kayak videos.



LVM LUNCH VIDEO MAGAZINE
"The World's First Whitewater Video Magazine"
www.LunchMag.tv

Conservation & Access Tarkio in the Alberton Gorge

Tarkio Kayak Adventures "Team Tarkio"

by Dunbar Hardy

Tarkio Kayak Adventures was created in 1997 by Brennan Guth. Brennan's vision was to create a community where paddlers could come together and enjoy the beautiful rivers and high-quality whitewater of the Northern Rockies, while being guided by some of the best instructors and people who call the river their home. Through multi-day instruction, people would improve their paddling skills while exploring remote canyons and live together on the river. Thus, the idea of 'Team Tarkio' was born.

Brennan's hometown was Missoula, Montana and his home river was the Alberton Gorge Run on the Clark Fork River. Countless days were spent enjoying the playful rapids of the Gorge and the beauty of the canyon scenery. Brennan also frequently paddled other rivers in the neighborhood such as the Lochsa River, the Selway, the Middle Fork of the Salmon, and the Main Salmon, as well as paddling numerous creeks in the nearby Bitterroot Mountains. He realized he had an abundant amount of high-quality whitewater rivers in his backyard to share with others.

Today, Tarkio Kayak Adventures continues to carry-forth Brennan's vision. The team assembled includes some of the best known paddlers/instructors in the whitewater world, as well as some of the highest quality people – Johnnie Kern, Willie Kern, Dunbar Hardy, Land Heflin, Peter Kettering, Polk Dieters, Courtney Ludden, Nikki Kelly, Polly Green, Traycee Bowerman, Shawn Robertson, Melissa Picoli and Buffy Bailey. The members of this team are people who love whitewater rivers and simply wish to share their passion for the river and countless years of whitewater experience with others.

The riverside base for Tarkio is a beautiful riverside lodge on 40 acres next to the Clark Fork River. Brennan and his father, Dr. David Guth, began building a beautiful log and beam lodge overlooking the river as well as other base facilities. The base includes comfortable rooms for guests, a bathhouse with indoor/outdoor showers and a sleeping loft above, and a cozy yurt for additional sleeping. The lodge location is just downstream of the Alberton Gorge run which offers year-round class III surfing and playing. The base is also located the put-in for an excellent class I-II beginner run.

Tarkio Kayak Adventures offers a wide range of clinics and trips, as well as private instruction/guiding. Lodge-based clinics include Swiftwater Rescue, ACA Instructor Training Course, Kids Kayaking Camp, Women's Clinic, Beginner Clinics, Intermediate Clinic, and Playboating Clinics. Other trips Tarkio offers are Lochsa River Clinics, the Selway River, the Middle Fork of the Salmon, and the Main Salmon. In the off-season Tarkio offers international whitewater trips to exotic locations such as British Columbia (late summer), Italy (spring), Chile/Argentina (winter), New Zealand (winter), China (winter), and Bhutan (fall).



Brennan Guth
photos by Dunbar Hardy



Tarkio Riverbase

The team at Tarkio Kayak Adventures is proud to offer this amazing list of global whitewater adventures, as well as a beautiful and comfortable home to invite our guests. Whether it is at our base at Tarkio or on another worldwide river, we think of Brennan and try to simply share our passion and love for rivers just as he did. Tarkio was Brennan's home and it has become ours, and we wish to invite everyone to visit us and become a part of the team. 

For more information on Tarkio Kayak Adventures go to www.teamtarkio.com or call 406-543-4583 in Missoula. See you on the river.

Waterfall Creek
Middle Fork of the Salmon River ID





by Charles Lunan



FEATURE STORY

When it opens in the first quarter of 2006, the U.S. National Whitewater Center in Charlotte, N.C. will set the standard for man-made whitewater courses.

Its four channels will drop 20 feet over approximately 5,200 linear feet. Operators will be able to modify each channel for different skill levels. Recreational rafters, play boaters and Olympic kayakers, for instance, could train simultaneously on Class III and IV rapids. A conveyor system will then transport boats and paddlers back to the top of each run.

But the most amazing aspect of the U.S. National Whitewater Center may be that it is getting built at all.

Since its inception in 2000, the project has taken as many twists and turns as a whitewater slalom course. There was a

recession, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a state budget crisis, a taxpayer backlash against funding for an NBA basketball arena and the challenge of raising money for a unique facility. But like Olympic kayakers, the leaders steering the project navigated around the obstacles and kept the project upright.

The result is a \$25 million riverfront park that will feature not only a state-of-the-art whitewater course, but 307 acres of mountain biking and running trails, an indoor and outdoor climbing center, a boat house on the Catawba River for flat-water paddling, a conference center and restaurant and primitive camping sites. Many now agree that the center will set the standard not only for adventure sports parks, but also for regional economic planning.

The idea was hatched one spring weekend in 2000 when an attorney and banker from Charlotte traveled to the Ocoee River in Tennessee to watch friends compete in trials for the U.S. Olympic kayaking team. Chet Rabon, an attorney with Carley & Rabon and Vic Howie, then overseeing Bank of America's sponsorship of the U.S.

Olympic kayaking team, spent much of the weekend hearing about their friends' recent trip to the Penrith Whitewater Stadium, which would be hosting the 2000 Summer Olympics in Australia. The man-made course was incredibly realistic and spectator friendly and offered whitewater access in a manner not available in the United States. Without such a facility, U.S. kayakers said they could not train as frequently as European and Australian competitors.

Shortly thereafter Rabon and Howie concluded they could build a course like Penrith's in Charlotte for as little as \$5 million. It did not take long for obstacles to emerge.

The leaders of the project determined that the project would face serious difficulty trying to raise private capital for such a unique project. So, they formed a 501c(3) non-profit corporation in April 2001, with the intent of pursuing public and philanthropic money via a public-private partnership. They recruited community leaders, architects, lawyers and marketers to their board of directors and an "advisory team," whose pro-bono work would help keep costs down.

The board determined that the biggest challenge would be building support for a facility that relatively few people had seen or could even imagine. They realized they were going to have to show how the project would enhance Charlotte, a major banking center eager to attain "world-class" status. The leaders recognized the need to build grass-roots public support by expanding the project's scope. The board organized a workshop to get input on how the center should

be designed. A hundred people showed up, including several local television news crews. When the local fire chief saw the news report, he asked the board if there was a way to incorporate

a swift water rescue-training program at the facility. The park's leadership also worked with the U.S. Olympic Committee to receive their commitment to designate the facility as an Official Olympic Training Site. They recruited USACK, the national governing body for canoe and kayaking events, to Charlotte.



In December of 2001 the Board hired Jeff Wise, an avid kayaker, attorney and entrepreneur then heading up a medical software company, to come on board as executive director. Wise, 41, began to develop a business model. The project was originally conceived as a downtown venue but is was quickly determined that a facility offering more outdoor recreational opportunities such as mountain-biking, flatwater access and climbing would ultimately be a more successful business.

"One of the things I would tell other communities is don't go out and sell this as a kayaking facility," said Wise. "That won't sell. Now, we talk about it as this outdoor sports park on the river."



Wise had been working with the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation staff regarding land acquisition when County Commissioner Ruth Samuelson suggested building the center on land already owned by the county.

"The county has plenty of land and not enough money to develop it," said Samuelson.

After reviewing over 450 different potential sites, the group chose a tract of land along a 1.5-mile stretch of the Catawba River, only 10 minutes from downtown Charlotte and with 74 miles of over 2 million people.

MCK
It's a rapid education

Save \$ in Canada!

Since 1972, Madawaska Kanu Centre's combination of outstanding instruction, delicious meals and a stunning location with guaranteed warm whitewater, is a formula that has Beginner to Expert paddlers return each summer. Located on the Madawaska River, in the Ottawa Valley, MCK offers Weekend and 5-Day Courses.

WWW.MCK.CA
SUMMER: 613.756.3620
WINTER: 613.594.5268

Feature U.S. National WW Center

In an effort to support its claim that the facility would serve as a regionally significant economic development tool, a well-known economics professor at The University of North Carolina-Charlotte was hired to prepare an economic impact study. Dr. John Connaughton estimated such a park would spur nearly \$37 million in spending and create over 690 jobs inside and outside the park.

“It showed that we were not just doing this for a bunch of wet-headed kayakers,” said Wise, noting that less than a third of the center’s 30 board members are paddlers.

The larger and more diverse Whitewater Center was now estimated to cost \$25 million. The operation’s financial projections indicated that the not-for-profit organization could take on significant debt to pay for the project. Even with tremendous support and leadership from the area’s banks, it was clear the center would still have to come up with

collateral. Several key employees from local banks began working with the Whitewater organizers to structure a financing plan.

They began focusing on how the local governments could financially support the project. Since N.C. law prohibits municipalities from guaranteeing private debt, lawyers working with the Whitewater Center crafted an approach in which each government pledged to pay the center so much per year to run the park, but only if the center failed to make enough money to cover all park expenses.

The arrangement appealed to Mecklenburg County because it did not have money to develop the riverfront property, said County Commissioner Ruth Samuelson.

“They were able to tap into a need we had and offer us an opportunity to meet it at less cost,” said Samuelson.

By August 2003, two counties and four cities pledged a total of \$12 million under the agreements. This included \$3 million from neighboring governmental entities in Gaston County, which is one of the project’s key supporters.

Now the board turned to raising up to an additional \$15 million in cash from the community. This would require the board’s collective experience along with the expertise of Beth Crigler, a professional fundraiser who joined the project in 2002.

It was decided that similar to the local governments it made sense to ask the local foundations to support the project with credit as opposed to grants. Many foundations have since embraced the concept, Crigler said.

“These loans allow them to support a great community project and then get their

KAYAK ECUADOR RAFT

SMALL WORLD ADVENTURES

www.smallworldadventures.com
1-800-585-2925

The advertisement features a central image of a kayaker in white water with the text 'SMALL WORLD ADVENTURES' overlaid. To the left is a photo of a kayaker in a yellow jacket. To the right is a photo of a raft on a river. At the bottom left is a photo of a small building, and at the bottom right is a photo of colorful patterned fabric.

money back out to fund another project,” said Crigler. “Nobody has ever done this before.”

The community development loans caught on.

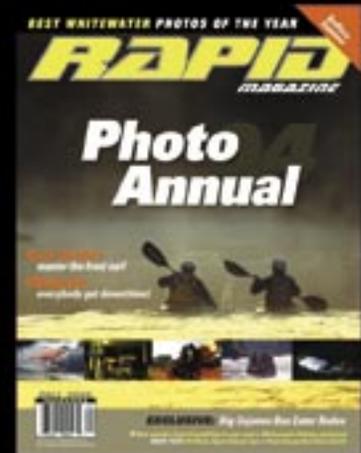
In September, the U.S. National Whitewater Center closed on \$10 million in community development loans, and another \$15 million loan with the local banks, clearing the way for it to break ground in November and open in the spring of 2006. It is now focusing on raising up to \$5 million more in donations from the public to lower the amount it needs to borrow from the banks.

The center estimates 214,000 people will pay to use the whitewater course in its inaugural year. Many of them will be new to the sport and that’s something that can only advance American Whitewater’s goal of preserving scenic rivers by promoting whitewater paddling.

“We will do it, the way American Whitewater does it,” Wise said of the center’s plans for developing environmental stewardship. “We will develop an overriding love for the outdoors. You can only love it, if you experience it. If you are standing on the 37th floor of your office tower you don’t feel connected to the outdoors and you are not going to connect with it.” ^{AW}

Charles Lunan is a marketing consultant and former journalist based in Charlotte and a volunteer with the U.S. National Whitewater Center. For further information on the center, go to www.usnwc.org.

RAPID MAGAZINE



WE DELIVER THE RIVER

READ BACK ISSUES AND SUBSCRIBE ONLINE
www.rapidmag.com

Sichuan CHINA



photos and story
by Travis Winn

Qing Yi Jiang August 5th

Takeout. Day number one. A whole village stands on the bridge eagerly waiting our arrival at the little blue water tributary where we agreed to meet Li and the rest of our land support crew. We shoulder our boats and work our way up through the terraced corn fields to meet the throngs on the bridge. I set down my boat and point up the tributary's small valley to a weathered old man. Mustering up all that I know, I smile a few words. "Pioliang!" "Tai hao le!" "Xixie." (Beautiful! How excellent! Thank you.) It's the extent of my vocabulary now, but fortunately, for this little exchange, it does what I want. His face lights up with laughter. We connect. Kayaks, rivers, Americans - hopefully they will always be associated and forever hold a positive place in his heart.

Clive and Dan and I are here as a result of a joint effort between Peter Winn's Shangri-la River Expeditions and Liu Li's Sichuan Scientific Exploration Association in Western China. I'm Pete's son and the one in charge of making sure all involved parties come away happy from this experience so that we can lay the groundwork for future river-related activities in China. With us are Liu Li, Feng Chun, and Ma Jing of Sichuan Scientific Exploration Association, driver Li, Sam, a PhD student from Beijing who's learned about kayaking over the internet and is elementary school buddies with the TV crew, and then the TV crew. Zhang Tong, Gao Quen, and Qin Ming work for a popular adventure sports channel and will be in charge of video documentation of our expedition. Goal number one for the three of us, well, the eleven of us, is to explore as many rivers as possible in western Sichuan, and make two half hour TV presentations on kayaking and what it will mean for China. It's the first time that this part of China has been explored for its whitewater potential, and the first time that kayaking has been given national media exposure in China.

Feng Chun is a legend in his own right. He has logged as many first descent river miles as anyone in the world, loves rivers as much as anybody I've ever met, and along with Li and Ma Jing is one of the most genuinely honest and friendly human beings I've ever had the pleasure of spending time with. In 1986 he participated in the first descent of the Chang Jiang, or the Yangtze River, from source to sea. In 1998 he helped lead the first descent of the Yarlung Tsangpo from the source to where it enters the Great Bend. He and his team of scientists spent



36 days hiking the full length of the Great Bend. Next week, he's launching on a 1000 km first descent of a tributary to the Chang Jiang. Next year, he is helping Li start a commercial rafting company in Kanding.

Considering the wild day of whitewater we threw ourselves into today we're all pretty happy to be safe on dry land. The first rapid was tenfold larger than it looked from the road, and being able to hear the boulders roll didn't help our sense of confidence. Scouting this Tsangpo-ish torrent the realization came to me: Not only were we first-descending Class V in a remote corner of China; we were presenting kayaking to a nation of one billion for the very first time. As the trip progressed we modified our priorities accordingly:

Number 1: Kayaking is fun. Make it look that way! No bad swims!

Number 2: Teach as many people as possible, and get as much positive, environmentally focused media attention as possible.

Li took care of this one, introducing us to the head of the tourism bureau in every town and even organizing a kayaking debut in one of the towns along the way. As the trip progressed, we became increasingly



aware of the growing outdoor community in China. After many handshakes, autographs, and excited smiles we realize that China has been looking forward to this for a long time. We are just lucky enough to be the catalysts.

Kanding, Ganzi (Tibetan Minority Prefecture w/in Sichuan)

August 7, 2003

The story just keeps getting better. In front of Dan and I are about thirty smiling people. The immediate six are requesting our autographs and email addresses. We don't quite know how to sign autographs, but we give it our best. With the approval and help of the local government and TV station, Li, Ma Jing, and Feng Chun have organized Kanding's first kayaking debut.

To the cheers of one thousand people, under the white cloud and blue sky of Paoma Mountain we paddled Kanding's Zhe Duo He. Monks, old women, and little boys alike waved and shouted and chased us as we tried to go slowly down the blue green torrent they call a river.

Kanding's beautiful monastery offered us welcome peace and quiet that contrasted starkly with the happy chaos we had just experienced downtown. In addition to the incredible history tied to any monastery, I find Buddhism fascinating because it associates so well with running rivers. Once I asked a monk what I could do to learn about and understand Buddhism. He told me simply to "Think Buddha," that is, to be aware and perceptive in my day-to-day lifestyle. I believe the greatest appeal to kayaking for many people is that it requires total and complete awareness. It requires perception of intricate currents and a complete and constant understanding of the way that boat, water, body, and rock interact. In addition, the surroundings of most rivers inspire another sort of awareness; that of natural beauty, of mountain valleys and green hill slopes soaring away to stony crags, of sharp blue sky horizons defining those crags.

After an excellent lunch with representatives from Kanding's tourism board and promises to return and give the governor a raft ride, our merry band of travelers jumped on the bus to work our way further into geographic and ethnographic Tibet. On our way up the pass, we paddled a beautiful section of a pristine steep low volume tributary to the Zhe Duo He. The unanimous conclusion among our group was that Kanding will be a

Feature continued

Sichuan China



Mecca for whitewater kayakers and Chinese citizens interested in commercial rafting.

As we continued over the pass the geography took another sharp change. Passing Erlang Shan meant a change from the wet semi-tropics of Lushan and Tian Quan to the more temperate shrubbery of Kanding; passing Zhe Duo Shan meant a sharp shift into the endless horizons, blue skies, and treeless rolling glaciated hills and mountains that seem to associate with classic geographic Tibet. As we stopped at the pass, the wild flowers and prayer flags of the pass and cool breeze flowing up from Xinduqiao brought with them another welcoming gift, an enormous white vulture, free as the wind, surveying us inquisitively from his solid perch on the thermals. "May we enter?" we ask. Yes, he seems to say, as he finally soars off over the small group of yak hair nomad tents in the distance. "Follow

me." Who knew what lay ahead...some vague place named Xinduqiao off down the valley, perhaps, if we were lucky, a view of Gonga Shan, and inevitably, more welcoming smiling Chinese and Tibetans.

Dan and Clive eye me quizzically as we roll to a stop in front of what appears to be a Tibetan guest house and monastery. I rub my eyes and look again at the sign hanging on the entry. "Sichuan Scientific Exploration Association," I read slowly. I shrug, "Nope, I didn't know about it. Guess we're staying here tonight." As a beautiful old Tibetan woman grabs our bags, we smile and shake our heads. Li's surprised us once again.

As we sit around and drink yak butter tea inside one of the most intricately colorful rooms I have ever seen in my life, Feng Chun shows us how to make Tibetan tsampa. Mmmm. Barley flour, Yak butter, coarse

grain sugar. Dan remarks that it tastes like his favorite kind of cereal. Funny we should taste home out here. I'm thinking that perhaps it would serve as a good Power Bar substitute. One could add fruit and other flavors and sell it at coffee shops (Tibet's in vogue right now, right?)

As the afternoon fades on, flames and smoky tendrils lead on to greater (and lesser) ramblings. It seems, I think, that everything in China is bigger. The mountains are bigger, the rivers are bigger, the open space is bigger, the number of people is bigger, the cities are bigger, the smiles are bigger. Not only this, but the differences are bigger; that between wealth and poverty; that between the blue sky vistas of Tibet and the constant cloudy wet of Chengdu; that between the sky scrapers of Chengdu and the yak hair tents of Zhe Duo Pass. China is a land of extremes, a land where the overwhelming

MINI ME

Less than: **\$1550**

- Fits four adults
- 18" tubes
- Rowing frame available
- Quick release thwart system
- Less than 50 lbs.
- Self bailing
- Hypalon durability
- Urethane bottom chafer

HYSIDE
WHITewater INFLATABLES
Call for pricing & availability
800.868.5987

Visit hyside.com today!

EXCITEMENT
Into The Tsang Po
End Game
Wehyakin

FUN VIDS
Thunderballs
Cock Pit
Paddlesnakes

PADDLING DVDS

ACCESSORIES
Orosi Sunglasses
Boof Gear, Hats,
T-Shirts, NosePlugs

ON THE WEB AT
WWW.WHITWATERVIDEO.COM

WINNER! 2003 National Paddling Film Festival
Best of Show & Paddler's Choice

The PADDLESNAKE HUNTERS

They hunted paddlesnakes in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and New York. But they found something even more *dangerous!*

On DVD & VHS
See your local retailer or
WhitewaterVideo.com



Feature Sichuan China

continued



number of yin and yang's add up to a perception of interdependence not found or appreciated in the western world.

I wake up from my reverie as Dan and Clive go up the stairs to hang out their paddling kit on the open deck of the guest house. "Travis! Look at this" Up the old wooden stair case, past the colorful traditional Tibetan wall paintings, out on the deck to a view of the ancient Stupa and dilapidated truck on the road. TO WHAT!!!!!!! A big screen TV with 10-inch speakers, all set inside a top quality suburban American wooden cabinet.

"LIU LI! Talk about extremes! What kind of cultural experience is this, anyway!!! Did you give her this thing as part of the deal to use the guesthouse!?" I shout halfway joking down the stairs. He walks up a bit baffled and assures me that no, he didn't know about this either, but what's the problem? Momentary shock and mock indignation

SHREDREADY.COM



**BECAUSE
SOME BONES
HEAL QUICKER
THAN OTHERS**



HELMETS THAT PROTECT THE BONES THAT MATTER MOST



quickly fades to laughter and shaking heads as we sit down with the beautiful old Tibetan woman (who owns the guesthouse) and her family to watch Gao Quen and Qin Ming's footage from the last few days. Dan sits down next to her granddaughter who is learning English and we share a picture of Arches National Park, in the USA, with her as everybody else grins in astonishment at our whitewater antics. We go to bed early, sharing the tea room, as in the morning Dan and Clive and the TV crew and I are hiking up to the top of a nearby hill (summit at approx. 14,200 feet) to catch Gongga Shan at day break, before the clouds shroud its summit. Gongga Shan is the highest peak outside of the Himalayas, reaching an altitude of nearly 25,000 feet. In two days we will paddle a river draining its northwestern flank.

August 9th

A tributary to the Luchu near Julong on the western flank of Gongga.

After a day traipsing about along the Yalong Jiang unsuccessfully finding any difficult whitewater, we're happy to back in Xinduqiao. In general, the difficulty of the whitewater diminishes as one travels west towards the softer rock and the post glaciated region of the Tibetan plateau. We did, however, find some gorgeous steep V-shaped slate canyons full of beautiful trees, interesting Tibetan culture, and commercially raftable Class II-III whitewater.

Dan's got a bad enough cough that this morning he had to take an injection, so he has decided to take it easy in the guest house. Clive and I will be on our own if we find any whitewater, but at first as we drive down the gravel-filled valley of the Luchu we're a little bit skeptical. After a short stint on a gorgeous section of class two that Li thought might turn to class four or five we give up and drive further downstream.

Paradise. Three miles of nonstop clear water Class III-IV some excellent five to kick things off and beautiful Tibetan spectators to boot. Today's been pretty lazy so far. Gao Quen, Zhang Tong, and Qin Ming have been doing the most work, explaining what a kayak is and having Clive and I introduce the program. Sound easy? Say "Welcome! You're watching Brave Men" in Chinese and then tell me it's easy. Anyway, after spending two or three hours playing with cameras we decide we need some action.

"All right, Clive, what do you think about this rapid?" Sam is dressed up in Tong's

TV announcer outfit so that he can ask us questions in English.

"Well, Sam, I mean Tong, this looks pretty challenging, but with the appropriate skill and proper group it should be no problem."

"Yep, oughta be fun. We're a solid team." I chime in. We're next to each other in our boats above a good pitch of easier Class V with a bunch of Tibetan onlookers, many of them distractingly beautiful girls, on the bank.

Clive peels out. Boof. Left stroke right stroke punch that hole...ooooops ...Clive I told you not to bring a playboat! He's vertical on his stern, and about to fall over and float into a really nasty hole upside down. Whop. Whack. Cartwheel Cartwheel loop loop. "Come on Clive, get outta there man, this is what we agreed not to do on camera!" I have time to paddle the rapid, catch the eddy, and wonder whether or not he'll survive the next bit swimming before he finally floats out upside down, hits his roll, and scrapes his way into the eddy. So much for a lazy day.

Rush Sturgis - Photo by: Charlie Munsey



Shop online at **outdoorplay**

and a portion of each
sale is contributed to AW

plus
Members Save!

10% off whitewater kayaks

15% off all other equipment

coupon codes

10% off boats **AW - 2000**

15% off gear **AW - 1000**

expires 12-31-04

call us at 800.994.4327



A S T R A L

Check out our huge selection of Astral vests at www.outdoorplay.com



Aquavest 300R Rescue



Women's Wondervest 200



Aquavest 200



Merchandise



New Vintage T-Shirt
 Celebrating 50 years of AW
 100% Cotton Color: Natural
 S - XXL
 Price: \$18.95



AW's awesome Flex Fit®
 Hat w/IR logo
 Navy (One size fits all)
 Price: \$18



AW Hooded Sweatshirt
 100% Cotton
 Color: Grey or Red
 Sizes S - XXL
 Price: \$36



IR Thick Skin
 Sizes S - L
 Price: \$68

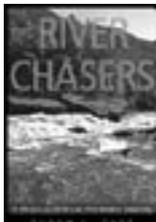


Baby Doll T-shirt
 100% Cotton
 Sizes S - L
 Price: \$20

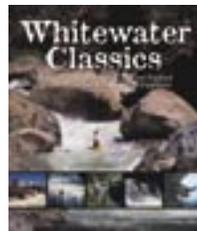
**Purchase AW merchandise on-line at
www.americanwhitewater.org.
 Hit SHOP then AW Merchandise.
 You can also call toll free to
 place your order over the phone
 at (866) 262-8429**



Throw bag: Lotus Spectra
 throwbag w/AW logo (3/8" in
 diameter x 80" in length). A great
 price for a great throwbag!



River Chasers
 Price: \$39.95



Whitewater Classics
 Price: \$26.95

Men's IR Board Shorts
 w/AW Logo
 Red/Blue/Gray
 S - XL
 Price: \$50



Women's IR
 Board Shorts
 w/AW Logo
 Blue/Floral
 S - XL
 Price: \$40

Shipping and Handling:

Orders <= \$2.00 - Please add \$0.50 for shipping
 Orders \$2.01-\$75.00 - Please add \$8.50 for shipping
 Orders > \$75.00 - Please add \$12.50 for shipping

Feature Sichuan China

continued

fuel tank going over a rough bit of road. After some quick thinking to save as much fuel as possible and some input from Li, Feng Chun, Clive, and Dan, who are quite experienced with vehicular problems, the driver decides the best option is to find a tow and send a few of us ahead in a taxi. By the wee hours of the morning everybody's in bed in Siguniang Shan's one and only four star hotel and the fuel tank's as good as new. As usual, these guys have pulled it off with style.

Dan's still working on getting better [we think he likes the Chinese company more than our own, but we don't blame him] as Clive and I put on the Wolong. This morning, as we crossed the pass into the headwaters of the Wolong, we move back into the mist and bamboo forests of the more humid Chengdu Basin. The Wolong Valley is home to the world's largest Giant Panda reserve and breeding facility. Because of this, logging is banned completely and human activity is severely restricted, so the river is very pristine. Last year Liu Li took me here to paddle a short section lower down. The Wolong cuts through a series of granitic igneous rocks here, which makes for an excellent Class IV-V river bed. It looks like fun from the road, but as Clive and I explore it at river level, the horizon lines are big, the slots are narrow, and the holes are punchy.

Blue water, big smooth black boulders, and banks overhung with bamboo turn this into a whitewater fairy land. The road is far from the river here, so neither of us really knows what to expect around the bend. We

work our way slowly, stopping frequently to scout and rest. Each corner brings steep boulder gardens and big holes, which Clive maneuvers expertly in his small kayak. At one point, Clive is ahead in an eddy on the right above a distinct horizon line. He flags me on, "Good to go."

Alright, I'm thinking. It's about time we find something big and clean. I launch off the drop. I scan for an eddy. Ohhhhh no. In front of me is the steepest boulder garden I've seen yet and there's no eddy. Clive must not have been quite able to see around the corner from his vantage in the eddy. Paddle, paddle, make that slot, boof that hole...oops, sideways into a pour-over. My downstream velocity is so high that when I drop into sideways I flip downstream. I roll up stuck sideways. Oh well, at least it's a small hole. Thank god, I'll rest here. Ooooh no. Clive's getting pasted upstream. All I can see is the bright yellow tip of his boat pointed skyward. Here we go again. Whack, whop, cartwheel, cartwheel." Come on Clive, stop playing around."

Party on the Hong Kou August 13th

Well, we survived the Wolong yesterday. After being enthralled watching three baby pandas play king of the mountain for about two hours, it occurs to me that searching for world peace is the wrong approach. Everyone should take a lesson from the panda and search for world play instead, and world peace will follow.

Dan finally got that fire pie he'd been dreaming about for the whole trip, and today he's ready to paddle. We're sitting on the beautiful white granite gravels of the Hong Kou just outside of Dujiangyan City. Qin Ming and Gao Quen have been scratching their heads for days trying to figure out how the heck to make one of their cameras waterproof so that they can put it on the front of the boat. The solution? Condoms and chewing gum!!!! These guys are a crackup. I'm more scared than I've been the whole trip, having a thousand dollar camera perched on the front deck of my boat secured only with packing tape, but they insist, and all goes well.

Lunchtime means more handshakes and smiles and a mock rodeo for the owner of the local rafting company. Dan and I go to town trying to cartwheel our creek boats in a ledge under the bridge, and Clive squirts it up on the eddy line. We seal launch our kayaks off of the cliff on the opposite side of the river and I jump off the bridge. I jump in and swim the bottom of a rapid to show that rivers aren't necessarily scary places. At least two hundred smiling onlookers cheer for us. The warm blue green waters of this place would be wonderful for teaching kayaking.

After lunch, we find out that the rest of the team will be joining us by raft. It's our turn to cheer as our land counter parts splash their way over and around white granite boulders and down blue green chutes. Feng Chun looks right at home, and Ma Jing looks like he could spend days floating down the river. Hopefully both of them will join Li and my family and I as we organize the first Chinese descent of the American Grand Canyon next year. Then, we will spend days doing this. As Dan and Clive and I stop on the bank to wait for our friends a whole group of girls walk down to the water's edge. "English?" I ask hopefully, feeling ashamed and foolish for not speaking Chinese.

"Yi dian dian." A little. Hmmmm, that's okay. The next thing she says: "Lets go dancing. Come on." She grabs my hand. Ohhhh man. I look at Dan and Clive. They'll wait for me.

"I'll come back next week?" "Please?" She smiles. I'm not sure she understands. Now normally I'm not too much on dancing but when a gorgeous Chinese girl walks straight

BUILT SINCE 1986
The **SHREDDER** easily rolls up to a compact 18"x28"! The cross tubes & raised floor eliminate the need for a bulky frame.
Price \$1,600.00
Airtight Inflatables
724 - 329 - 8668
P.O. Box 36
Ohiopyle, PA 15470
Ask for Toni

SHREDDER The first SELF-BAILING all inflatable cataract! NO HARD PARTS!
Made in Pennsylvania 98% domestic content!

Feature Sichuan China

continued

up, grabs my hand, and insists, well, then it's a different story.

Tin Tin Café, downtown Chengdu August 14th

Sichuan is a province famous for spicy food, beautiful girls, beautiful mountains and rivers and minority people, peaches, and for having a relaxed atmosphere. In the coming weeks, I will come to feel more at home here than I do in most, if not all, of the United States. Dan and Clive and I, by the nature of what we are sharing, have been welcomed here with special care. Right now, we are scribbling away our thoughts on China and rivers and white water so that the owner of the restaurant can hang them from the ceiling. Tin Tin's is owned by one of Feng Chun's comrades from the Yarlung Tsangpo trip, and as he looks at the pictures from our trip it seems as if he can barely contain his excitement. On the wall hang stunning pictures of various mountain climbing and rafting expeditions around China.

I scribble something along the lines of: "May the Chinese become the best and happiest kayakers in the world and may their rivers flow freely." On each of the toes of the foot that I am writing on, I write the name of a major Chinese river. Yarlung Tsangpo. Chang Jiang. Huang He. Lancang Jiang. Dadu He. To name a few. It's true. One of our goals here, as much as anything, is to cultivate a love for wilderness in its natural state, and eventually to show that

a free flowing river can be economically and socially preferable to a river inundated by a dam. As Americans, we know what it is like to have our national treasures drowned, and we know that rarely does economic merit justify this sacrilege. Rarely is their any economic merit that could not have been gained through another more ecologically and socially sustainable way. Perhaps it will take ten years, perhaps twenty, but eventually perhaps the Chinese will learn from our mistakes and figure out a positive alternative to building dams. In the meantime, the best approach is to have a ball teaching as many people to paddle and get on the river as possible and see where it takes us.

Shortly after we picked up Clive from the airport on the evening of August 4th, Liu Li took us to an outdoor shop and climbing wall partly owned by Sichuan Scientific Exploration Association. Along with about twenty other willing, able, and excited potential kayaking students we met a woman named Xiao Li, who is on the Olympic Flatwater Kayak team and who is in charge of developing whitewater teams in China. This immediate meeting between Shangri La River Expeditions, Sichuan Scientific Exploration Association, and Xiao Li, combined with the suggestion that so many Chengdu youth would like to start kayaking began to signify to me that we really are part of something new, and that we really are the perfect team to make whitewater kayaking and rafting happen in China. Sichuan Scientific Exploration

Association has the ability to organize everything from clubs to expeditions to youth outings in China. My father and I's Shangri La River Expeditions is slowly gaining the ability to mobilize kayakers in the United States. Xiao Li will have the resources to teach many people. Between us and other teams like ours, with the help of people like Dan and Clive and Tong and Gao Quen and Qin Ming, kayaking and rafting could become part of China's claim to a very incredible natural and cultural world. In the following weeks, I had the pleasure of teaching kayaking to Li's son, Ma, Feng Chun, Xiao Li, and the manager of the outdoor shop. I discovered soon that with a few tips, they'd be teaching just as well as I. I also worked in the office, organizing another expedition, and spent many hours talking about future river activities in China with Li and Ma and other people interested in rivers. In the past, Sichuan Scientific Explorations and Shangri La River Expeditions have worked together to run river expeditions on the Kyi Chi near Lhasa, and the Nu Jiang. We also ran a section of the Yarlung Tsangpo that Feng Chun explored in 1998.

If this expedition is any representation of what the future has to bring, Shangri La River Expeditions and Sichuan Scientific Exploration Association will have a very strong relationship for many years to come. In 2004 we are organizing a Chinese Expedition to raft the Grand Canyon (of America), kayaking expeditions in Sichuan and Guizhou, a rafting expedition on the headwaters of the Mekong in Tibet, and most importantly, continuing to teach the Chinese how to paddle and get on the water. On that note, we are collecting donations in exchange for sets of postcards of Feng Chun's Yarlung Tsangpo expedition. If you have any old paddling gear sitting around that needs a home, please contact Pete or Travis Winn at 1-877-242-7108. Thanks! I would also like to thank Necky, Lotus Designs, and Snapdragon Designs for donating equipment to the club. 



Conservation & Access Kern River, California

by John Gangemi

Borel Whitewater Study Successful

On July 9-10, 2004, thirty boaters in kayaks and rafts participated in a Controlled Flow Whitewater Study on the six-mile Class III Borel reach located on the Kern River below Isabella Reservoir. Boaters examined flows of 400 cfs and 1200 cfs. This study was originally scheduled for July 2003 but was terminated prematurely after one day of flows because the “watermaster” working for the agricultural interests refused to provide the range of flows specified in the study. Despite this temporary setback American Whitewater in concert with other parties successfully completed the study in 2004. The study will help American Whitewater and other parties in the relicensing proceeding identify the range of flows for kayaks and rafts as well as commercial rafting.

The Borel bypass reach (also known as the Picto or Jungle run) is affected by Southern California-Edison’s (SCE) Borel Powerhouse operations, which are undergoing review as part of a FERC relicensing process. SCE has filed to continue operating this hydroelectric facility and has been conducting a series of studies aimed at understanding potential impacts of the Project, as well as developing protection, mitigation, or enhancements (PME’s) that might be used to address those impacts. As part of that process, SCE agreed to collect information about minimum acceptable and optimal flow levels for different types of whitewater boating in the Borel Bypass reach.

SCE has proposed to mitigate the dewatering of the river channel by “augmenting” existing instream flows with an additional 400 cfs if that augmentation would bring instream flows to an acceptable boatable flow range. This augmentation would be constrained to specific months, weekdays and daily time periods. The Controlled Flow Whitewater Study was designed in part to define the range of boatable flows.

The study plan developed by American Whitewater with assistance from SCE, agencies, and stakeholders such as the Kern commercial outfitters called for evaluations of 400 cfs, 800 cfs, 1,200 cfs, and 1,600 cfs. Unfortunately, there was insufficient



photos courtesy Confluence Research

snowpack this year to evaluate 1,600 cfs.

This whitewater study, originally scheduled for July 2003, was terminated prematurely because the “watermaster” controlling flows into the Kern River below Isabella Reservoir refused to provide the specified range of flows requested for the Controlled Flow Study. The study in July 2003 was limited to a single flow, 780 cfs, the instream flow for that day. The watermaster was effectively holding the Controlled Flow Whitewater Study hostage despite the fact that the study was ordered by the Federal Energy Commission. The watermaster works for agricultural interests in the central valley. In general, those agricultural interests have concerns that changing the amount of flow between the Bypass Reach and the Canal potentially has impacts on water delivery to downstream users. American Whitewater has recommended empirical studies designed to verify these concerns over water delivery.

In 2004, SCE had numerous discussions with the watermaster, agencies and American Whitewater about securing study flows; this ultimately led to the July

releases. The watermaster agreed to deliver flows of 1,200 cfs and 400 cfs on back to back days. Approximately 30 people boated 1,200 cfs and 25 boated 400 cfs. Taken together with the 780 cfs flow examined last year, we had 21 private boaters, 26 outfitters/guides, 13 agency/utility/researchers participate in at least one flow (total of 60 participants).

American Whitewater will work with local volunteers, SCE and the commercial outfitters analyzing the results of this study. The goal is to develop an augmentation proposal that meets the interests of all stakeholders including the private boaters, commercial outfitters, SCE, agencies and agricultural interests. 



Conservation & Access Settlement Reached in ME

American Whitewater Reaches Settlement With GLHA In Maine

On July 21, 2004 Board Member Tom Christopher and other parties came to agreement with Great Lakes Hydro America on the Canada Falls and Seboomook Sections of northern Maine's Penobscot River.

It took over four years of negotiations with multiple parties including the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation, as well as multiple state and federal agencies, to craft an agreement that would balance the recreational demands on a resource that was highly prized by both boaters and anglers.

The settlement agreement calls for recreational releases every Saturday on the Canada Falls section from July 4th until the 2nd weekend in September. The settlement agreement provides for a change in the minimum flow on the Seboomook reach, and will increase the flow to 500 cfs. This will provide water for boaters and fisherman throughout the entire year, thereby greatly enhancing the boating experience for paddlers. The settlement also requires several 1500 cfs Seboomook section high release days in the fall.

Great Lakes Hydro America is a subsidiary of Brascan, Inc., a Canadian holding company that has interests in both paper mills and hydro generation. Frazer Papers, another Brascan subsidiary purchased the now defunct Great Northern/Bowater paper mill facilities located in Millinocket, Maine. GLHA provides power to the mill and any surplus directly into the grid. This

ends a more than century old ownership of land and paper-making in the region that at one time employed more than 3,800 people and kept 11 paper machines running twenty-four hours a day.

Presently there are approximately 400 employees and one machine running while company officials struggle to upgrade and re-tool equipment to compete in a global marketplace.

American Whitewater, with local volunteer participation, carried out a flow study on these reaches in 2003 and has been an active participant in this relicensing for several years. During the flow study over the course of three days, participants were able to experience a range of multiple flow regimes to determine what would best fit paddlers' needs and would not conflict with the interests of other parties. The result was a variable framework that would provide safe paddling for boaters of varying skill levels. One of the highlights of the Canada Falls reach is a 20-foot slide that even Class II boaters with a roll could easily manage at different levels.

While the settlement agreement has been reached between paddlers, the power company, and other stakeholders, several



STAHL SAC
Gear Bags As Stylish
As Your Moves!

The Panama and Bonaire Mesh Backpacks With Padded Shoulder Straps & Self Draining PVC Bottom
28" x 15" and 30" x 17"

For Stahlsac "Steel Bags" Call:
1-800-521-2247
www.stahlsac.com

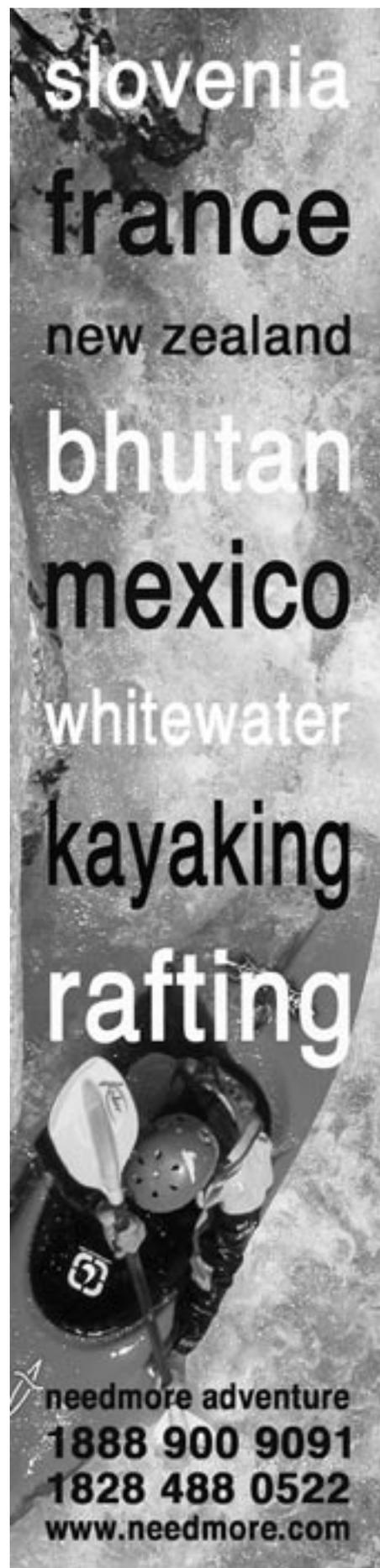




additional administrative hurdles must be cleared before the provisions of the settlement agreement are brought to fruition. The Environmental Protection Agency has ruled that a "Use Attainability Analysis" (UAA) must be completed by Maine's Dept. of Environmental Protection because part of the balancing act includes drawdowns on other off-site impoundments. Once this is completed to the EPA's satisfaction the DEP will issue a "401 Water Quality Certificate", which is necessary before FERC can issue a license.

All parties involved, including state and federal agencies are working feverishly to complete this process so a new license can be issued by December 31st of this year. Once completed by this deadline, additional land protection in the form of buffer zones around all of the impoundments will automatically fall into place. The best way to insure water quality is to protect the land around rivers, ponds, and streams, and this is important to all of the parties sitting at the negotiating table.

Once completed, this will be the fifth major settlement agreement secured by American Whitewater in New England. Collectively AW's efforts on these agreements have resulted in over 600 paddling days each season on six separate river reaches throughout New England. Since 1994 the impact of American Whitewater has ensured the boating future for paddlers in the region for the next 30-50 years. 



slovenia
france
new zealand
bhutan
mexico
whitewater
kayaking
rafting

needmore adventure
1888 900 9091
1828 488 0522
www.needmore.com



Conservation & Access Free at Last!

The Contoocook Dam Removed

by Tom Christopher

One the morning of June 29, 2004 an era came to an end when the West Henniker Dam on the Contoocook River in southern New Hampshire was breached, freeing up almost an additional mile of whitewater for paddlers.

The “Took” is one of the most important whitewater resources available to boaters in southern New England from ice-out until mid-June each paddling season. It features everything from Class II training runs to the infamous Class IV “Freight Train Rapids” that provides a high adrenalin rush

during all but the lowest flows. Thousands of boaters flock to the Contoocook every spring, some on a daily basis because it is so close to larger population centers in eastern New England.

The State of New Hampshire gave the Town of Henniker a “letter of deficiency” four years ago and ordered the Town to either repair the 10 foot high-130 foot long concrete gravity structure or remove it entirely. The construction of the dam dates back to the 1700’s and most recently was reconstructed in 1936 in its present state. The dam effectively was a “plug” in the river that once removed, provided a free-flowing stretch for over 15 miles.

Paddlers have long looked at the impoundment and wondered what would be available to them if the dam was ever removed. While standing, the dam created a vicious river-wide hydraulic that was a potential “drowning machine” to any boater that should have the misfortune to be swept over the top.

The estimated cost of the removal ranged anywhere from \$100,000--\$200,000 dollars and posed a clear threat to the Town’s annual budget. Repair of the dam was easily double the cost of removal. Faced with this dilemma, Town Selectmen opted for removal and decided to work with the State of NH Dam Removal Program under the direction of Stephanie Lindeloff, dam removal coordinator.

By organizing resources and securing grants Ms. Lindeloff was able to have the project completed with no direct cost to the Town of Henniker, with the exception of some limited in-kind services. American Whitewater was the first outside organization to commit funds for the removal and provided over \$11,000 dollars as a contribution to the project. It is the first time AW has directly paid for the removal of a dam to secure whitewater resources. Other contributors included: American Rivers \$25,000; U. S. Fish & Wildlife \$15,000; U. S. EPA \$20,000; Fish America Program \$20,000; NH Fish & Game Dept.

\$ 15,000; NHDES \$37,000; and Trout Unlimited \$2,000.

On the day of the dam removal over 200 onlookers and dignitaries gathered on the Iron Bridge crossing the river, to remember the history of the dam and its importance to the town's economy at an earlier time. Each speaker at the podium had a story to tell and all recognized that a new era had arrived. Restoration of the Contoocook was an important step in maintaining the rural character of this quaint New England town.

Long after the speakers completed their tasks, people sat along both sides of the river to watch a large excavator with a hydraulic hammer start to chip and pick away at the dam—knocking out chunks of concrete that would allow the impoundment to drain enough water out and allow the placement of a coffer dam to complete the later stages of deconstruction.



Over the next five weeks controlled blasting and removal of debris would take place, freeing up the river and exposing river features that would delight paddlers when the fall rains arrive.

During the festivities AW Affiliate Club, the Merrimack Valley Paddlers under the direction of President Nancy Gero and other members, provided a hospitality tent and spectacular sirloin steak-tip cook-out for paddlers, dignitaries, visitors, and the de-construction crew at lunch break. Paddlers need to have a good relationship

with host communities and this provided an excellent opportunity to say thank you to a town that has been good to boaters for many years.

Once again, the removal of the Contoocook Dam serves as another example of American Whitewater's commitment to protecting and enhancing whitewater resources for paddlers across the United States. As water poured out of the initial breach and rocks and boulders exposed themselves, each AW member and friend who contributed funds to complete this important project can take great pride in recognizing that their individual effort really made a difference in saving a river. 

NEW ENGLAND'S SOURCE FOR WHITEWATER INSTRUCTIONS & GEAR!
 Novice, Intermediate & Advanced Clinics



Zoar
OUTDOOR

Friendly certified instructors
 State-of-the-art boats and gear
 Guaranteed whitewater on the Deerfield River

Check out our fully stocked Outfitters Shop!

800 532-7483
www.zoaroutdoor.com



The Outfitters Shop On the Deerfield River
 Charlemont, Massachusetts



God, this sucks!
 I bet those LVM guys NEVER have to do \$#@% like this. They don't even WORK! All they do is paddle and run the \$%#^!

 LUNCH VIDEO MAGAZINE
 to subscribe:
www.lunchmag.tv

Conservation & Access Project Futaleufu

by Sarah VanGelder-Rane



photo by John Cornwell

The Rio Futaleufu is a crystal blue-green pathway to the south Pacific, starting in Argentina and dissecting southern Chile. It has intense whitewater; enough to satisfy and humble any kayaker, lifestyle or novice.

For any boater who longs for water purity, playholes, eddylines, fifteen-foot tall wave trains or rapids with sixty holes, the “Futa” is definitely on their dream list.

However, this river is also on the list of being changed forever. There are two potential hazards threatening the Rio Futaleufu within the next 20 years: one, a coppermine using cyanide for gold extraction upstream on the headwaters and the other, a company proposing a series of dams for hydroelectricity, essentially cutting out the heart of the whitewater. I am writing this article to compare and contrast the present and future of the situation in Futaleufu to what I have seen in my own hometown in the United States. Further, I am asking you to help support a positive resolution for the future of the Rio Futaleufu in Chile, South America with a kayak school for locals that will enable them to get into the tourism industry blossoming around them.

I grew up in a small town in northern New Mexico where there was (and still is) hostility toward kayakers and other river enthusiasts. Bystanders watched the rich kayakers boat in their backyard in New Mexico, having a good time and not necessarily bringing in much economic support for the overall community. A non-boater perspective often sees the river as a playground for the rich: kayaks, gear, lifestyle...it all adds up to be an expensive and extremely specialized sport they cannot be a part of. They do not see the natural resources of the river as a profitable income (in this case: tourism). Why would a non-boater in a poverty stricken community turn down a mining or hydroelectricity company promising lucrative work? To ruin the river for the rich kayakers’ playground? Pobrecitos, no pueden jugar! (Poor fellas, they can’t play!) There is still both class and economic tension in my hometown because of the

fact that it is a poor community with a river running through it. This is a major similarity with New Mexico and Futaleufu, Chile. The Futaleufu is at a crossroads. It has a poor community with a river running through it and two cultures struggling to intermingle. It is the crossroads of either bridging the cultures or creating tension. Mining or tourism? In Futaleufu, the future is yet to be determined. The many people who come to Futaleufu (either for the river industry or the tourism) are steering this economically poor town into what it will become.

Futaleufu has an incomparable geographical location, magnificent natural resources, and an amiable culture. Gringos and other foreigners arrive for work in late December, work hard everyday for the mostly foreign-owned rafting companies until the end of February and, with cash in hand, take the long flight home. The locals? They work for 8,000 to 10,000 pesos a day (roughly \$15 U.S.), maybe score a polar

fleece, make some food and gas revenue, sell some empanadas, and move into the central heated kitchen for the long, cold, rainy winter. I see more and more every year the similarity between Futaleufu and my hometown in New Mexico: two cultures in a poor economy where the rich wave to the poor local bystanders from their \$1200.00 kayaks.

My partner Aren Sven and I started a program 4 years ago called Project Futa. It has a simple goal: teach locals of the Futaleufu valley to kayak. Free! We get eager native students into gear, teach them swimming, rolling, and safety on the river, and share with them what we love: Kayaking, the Futaleufu River, the preservation of quality, tranquility and "La pura vida" that the locals have in this valley.

We teach the locals of the Futaleufu valley with sponsored gear from Patagonia, Stohlquist Waterware, Bomber Gear,

Liquidlogic Kayaks, KAVU, Snapdragon Designs, 4 Corners Riversports, Futafriends and Expediciones Chile. To the dedicated students, we give the donated equipment we have to begin their own river kit. It is a start! It is an incredible whitewater experience and a blossoming tourism industry that they can now be a part of. The locals will now see what they have—not only as a natural resource, but now they can work as guides, video kayakers, safety kayakers, and kayak instructors.

It wasn't long before the students recognized that the river can be their "golden goose" as well. Teaching residents of Futaleufu to kayak is a positive resolution to preserve one of Chile's natural resources, while providing a lucrative income for the native culture. It is plain and simple, the Rio Futaleufu is the gem of the locals of Futaleufu and it is their force that will preserve the clean water quality and whitewater destination for future generations.



Timmy: Lady, this \$#@% sucks!
Why can't you give away some \$%#%^ LVM like that Andy dude down the street?!!?

 LUNCH VIDEO MAGAZINE
to subscribe:
www.lunchmag.tv

Otter Bar Lodge

Kayak School

World-class
paddling location

Industry-leading
kayak instruction

Programs for
paddlers of all levels

Grand Canyon
September Trips

New Zealand Trips

Kids Kayaking
Camps



530 462 4772
otterbar@aol.com
www.otterbar.com

Conservation & Access Project Futaleufu continued

Aren Sven and I are now entering into our fifth year of Project Futa. This last season three of our fourth-year students advanced to the classic "Corazon" section of the Rio Futaleufu, Bridge to Bridge. This section is classified Class IV continuous, with a flow of 10,000-15,000 cfs! As of this writing, they have run this section over 10 times, confidently "playboating" their way down the river.

I will never forget their first run down at the bottom of the first rapid. The smiles from ear to ear told the story of successful, clean lines from all. I turned to the student closest to me and said what I have been waiting to say since day 1 of the project. "Bienvenidos a tu Rio, este rio es tuyos!" (Welcome to your river, this river is yours!)

Please help support this project! With your help we will be able to continue guiding the local residents of Futaleufu, Chile to an economic sustainability in the tourism industry.

With that support you are also helping bridge cultures together for the preservation of the Rio Futaleufu. Sponsorship and donations are needed. 

For more information, write us at:

Aren and Sarah Rane
Project Futaleufu
P.O. Box 3294
Taos, NM 87571

or check out Futafriends' website at:
www.futafriends.org.

photo by John Cornwell



In case of overexcitement while watching LVM follow the steps below.



Here at LVM we realize that you have a choice when you watch kayaking on tv. That's why we've been dedicated to bringing you the best in kayaking entertainment for almost half a decade.

LVM LUNCH VIDEO MAGAZINE
"The World's First Whitewater Video Magazine"
www.lunchmag.tv

Conservation & Access Idaho Update

Conservationists, Feds and State of Idaho Reach Historic Water Right Agreement

Salmon, Middle Fork
Salmon, Clearwater,
Selway, Lochsa and
Rapid River gain long-
term flow protections
under Wild & Scenic
water right agreement.

Conservationists, the U.S. Forest Service and the State of Idaho have settled a court case over Wild & Scenic water rights for the Salmon, Middle Fork Salmon, Selway, Lochsa,

Middle Fork Clearwater and Rapid rivers that will protect critical flows in those cornerstone streams of the National Wild & Scenic River System for generations to come.

The agreement, filed in late August in Idaho's special Snake River Basin Adjudication Court:

- Effectively prohibits the construction of major new water storage facilities (dams) in the adjudicated river basins.
- Prevents out-of-basin transfers of water from the rivers.
- Locks in minimum stream flows for each of the rivers.
- Protects high water flows in each of the streams, which are necessary for maintaining the ecological health of rivers.
- And requires the State of Idaho to actively protect the Wild & Scenic water right.

“While this agreement is not perfect, the settlement does accomplish significant

protections for some of Idaho's most magnificent rivers, for river recreation, and the salmon, steelhead and other native species that call these watersheds home,” said Bill Sedivy, Executive Director of Idaho Rivers United. “In protecting these six great rivers for our children and grandchildren we have also protected the human, animal and plant communities that depend on them.”

The settlement was reached after nearly two years of negotiations between the federal government, the state, and agricultural and mining interests in Idaho. Idaho Rivers United and Wilderness Society members who hold water rights in the Snake River Basin represented conservation interests. The conservationists were represented by Advocates for the West.

“With so many rivers in other states already lost to dams, pollution, diversions and heedless destruction, Americans look to places like Idaho, where a few of our streams have fortunately been set aside and



protected,” said Tom Stuart, an Idaho Rivers United board member, Stanley businessman and one of five conservation interveners in the case.

“This settlement may be historic, and perhaps precedent-setting for other wild rivers across America,” Stuart added. “I think we’ve done a good job protecting the Wild & Scenic Rivers in Idaho’s heartland as ‘crown jewels’ for all Americans.”

Bill Eddie, the Advocates for the West attorney representing the Idaho Rivers United and Wilderness Society members, said the agreement protects the rivers while allowing for reasonable economic development – particularly in the Salmon River drainage, where the headwaters are not protected by Wild & Scenic designation.

“We’re going to have to keep working to protect these rivers, but this agreement provides critical protections,” Eddie said. “It allows some reasonable growth, but that growth is capped to ensure that these rivers, particularly the Salmon, never dry up.”

“River conservationists will have to remain vigilant in order to make sure that Main Salmon flows are protected within the spirit of this agreement,” Sedivy added. “Although this settlement attempts to strike a balance between Wild & Scenic values and other needs, state water managers will need to protect the Main Salmon water right.”

According to Sedivy, this settlement (which must still be approved by the SRBA court before taking effect) is particularly significant when viewed beside other Wild & Scenic agreements advanced by the Bush Administration.

In 2003, federal and state officials signed a water right agreement for the Gunnison River in Colorado that reduced minimum flows to a trickle, allowed for out-of-basin transfers to feed water users in Denver and rendered life-giving flood flows meaningless.

“Our Idaho case could have turned out very differently had these five Idaho Rivers United and Wilderness Society members not intervened in the court case after we were excluded from engaging as an organization,” Sedivy said. “This settlement shows what a difference a few dedicated individuals can make.”

Conservation interveners in the case included Tom Stuart and Gene Bray of Boise, Bonnie Schonefeld of Kooskia, Marie Osborn of Stanley and Phyllis Kochert of Gooding. 

To see a copy of the agreement, visit www.idahorivers.org.

www.americanwhitewater.org



www.americanwhitewater.org

84,000 Hits a Day! 8,800 Unique Hits!

Introduce your business to a new opportunity to advertise.
Be a part of the number ONE internet resource for paddlers.

For more info contact:
Gerald Eldridge / American Whitewater
828-252-0728 gerald@amwhitewater.org



Great Adventures Start at the Center

Great Gifts For The Paddler

It's time to equip the paddler in the family with the latest in boats and gear. Shop our Nantahala Outfitter's Store or order from our on-line catalog. Order by noon Tuesday for Friday delivery.

Gift Certificate

NOC Gift Certificates are a great way to give this holiday season.

Whitewater Instruction • Outfitter's Store • Mail Order
Bike & Kayak Rentals • Rafting • Restaurants • Lodging

Nantahala Outdoor Center

877.382.2453 • 13077 Hwy 19W, Bryson City, NC 28713 • www.noc.com



ADVENTURE TRAVEL TRIPS

Costa Rica. NOC guests have paddled this tropical paradise with us for over 20 years! Intermediate II Kayak, Nov 13-20 and 20-27. Intermediate I Kayak, Nov 28 – Dec 4.

Jamaica. From the Caribbean Ocean to the Cabarita River! Rapid Progressions™ Novice Kayak, Dec 5-11 and Dec 12-18. Intermediate I Kayak, Nov 21-27 and Nov 28 – Dec 4.

Chile. Stop dreaming and paddle this world renowned paddler's paradise. Intermediate II/Advanced, Jan 8-15 (North Wine Country). Intermediate II, Jan 22-29 (Ring of Fire). Intermediate II/Advanced, Feb 3-11 (The Pantagonia Adventure). Intermediate II/Advanced, Feb 16-25 (The Futaleufu').

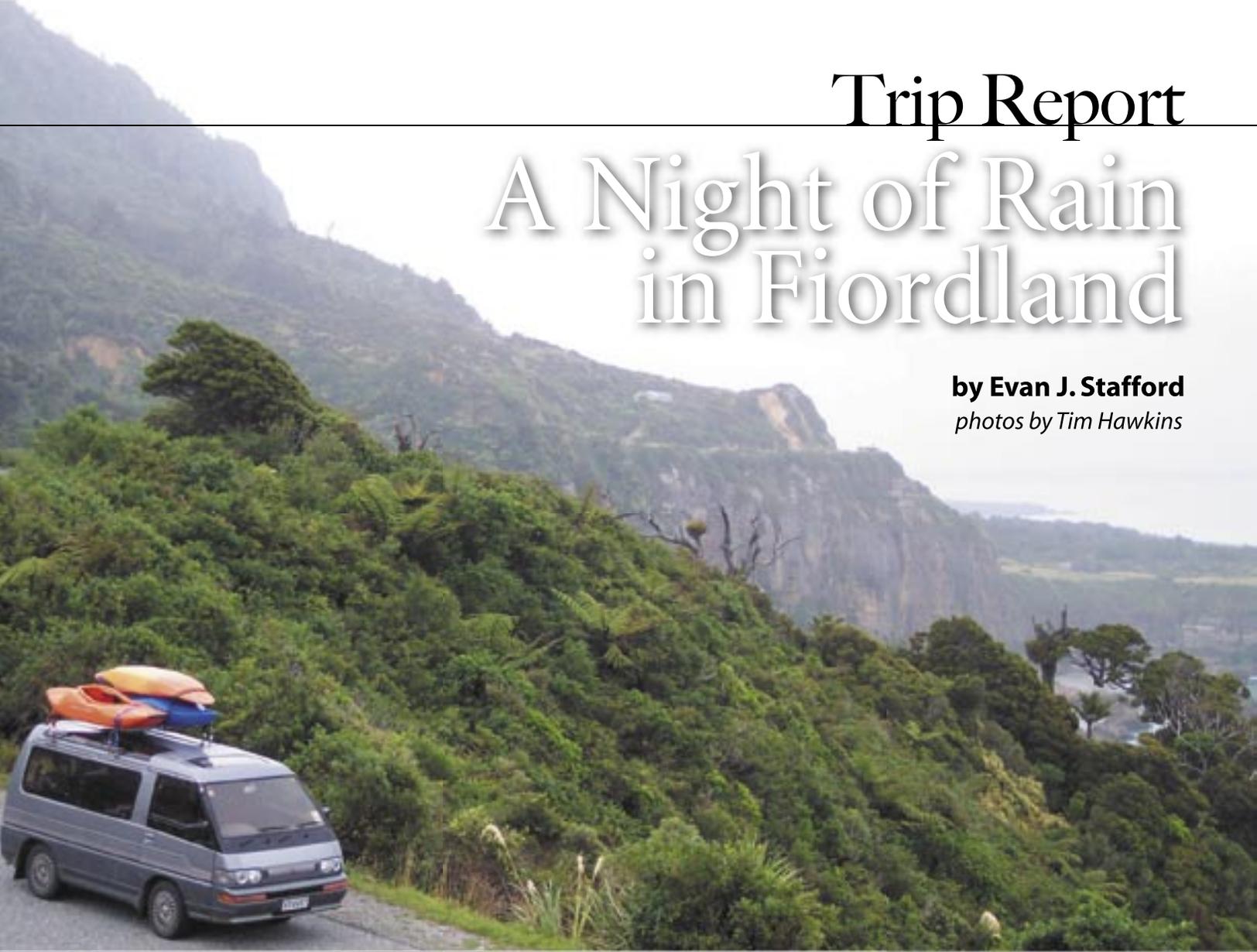
Everglades. For all of the whitewater paddlers needing to take a break this winter! Explores the blend of mainland and Caribbean life in the mysterious Everglades. All Levels Sea Kayak, Jan 8-15, 16-23.

Trip Report

A Night of Rain in Fiordland

by **Evan J. Stafford**

photos by *Tim Hawkins*



The Poudre Posse Down Under - Volume I

We're in the Milford Pub. It's just pissing outside. We're dry for now, but we don't have much of a plan for when the pub closes. There isn't a room in town. We have no diesel for the van. The van, the "Delica," is a spacious Mitsubishi luxury vehicle with the skylights. The Delica has brought us from North to South Islands. It has taken us to so many rivers in between. It has made it all the way to Milford Sound to a night of rain in Fiordland. And the Delica is... currently out of diesel.

The "Delica" in all its glory.

We would have been able to buy some diesel. The guidebook1 said not to expect much after 5pm. We were there at 4:45.

There is, however, one small problem. Some imbecile sabotaged a fishing vessel. The vessel lost its entire tank of diesel into the sound, causing a minor ecological disaster (strange irony). The ensuing scare and cleanup had effectively closed the sound. No one is allowed in or out--hence the lack of available beds.

And then it dawned on us--a night of rain in Fiordland! It didn't matter where we were going to sleep. The rivers were going to be gushing! Now Fiordland is the second rainiest (if that's a word) place on Earth. They average one inch of rain a day. I come from Colorado, where a fortnight of rain in Fiordland equals our rainfall total for the entire year. But it hadn't rained in over a

week. And the next was to be our last day in Fiordland, as well as Pete and I's last day paddling in New Zealand.

We begin to buy jug after jug (Kiwi for pitchers of beer). If we're going to sleep in the rain, we are not going to do it sober. Grant and Pete, hungry for a feed, but with only enough coin left for beer, begin to cook with their camping stove under the awning of the employee hostel (the closest dry place they could find). A Milford employee walks out, curious as to who is cooking/likely camping on the walkway. He offers us the sea kayaker's lounge for the night. Needless to say, we graciously accept. A little paddler's love goes a long way.

I Graham Charles' guidebook, New Zealand Whitewater, 125 Great Kayaking Runs.

We wake up to clear skies and large puddles. We hop in the Delica for some diesel and a check on the level at the Tutuko Bridge. Bruce Barnes, a Hokitika school teacher, enshrined in legend (he was on the team for the first descent of just about every west coast heli-run, and who presently saves money by hiking into any and all of the "heli" runs) had told us that the Tutuko was a classic. He said, "depending on what you are into, the lower section is excellent, and the upper section hardly looks boatable, but can come together with a few forced errors." In other words, the lower section was good to go and the upper section would be "the gnar gnar."

"Gob-smacking" view of Mt. Tutuko from the put-in.

Class IV+, all boat scutable, and in a "gob-smacking locale," is how the guidebook rated the lower section. This would be right up our alley. We already had some confrontations with NZ for V+ (P, VI), and with no local knowledge of the levels, put in, etc. we opt for the lower run. The lower run would still be somewhat of a mystery. I begin to re-read the guidebook description.

Hike for between 50-70 minutes up the

trail. Sometime? after 50 minutes and before 70 minutes you'll come across a streambed with less moss on the rocks (than the other 40 streambeds you will have already crossed) and with a possible cairn (I put one there one time). Proceed to drag down the streambed with the rocks with less moss for approx. 35 minutes until you reach the river. You should come out at the base of a heinous looking rapid with an awe inspiring view of Mt. Tutuko. If you're new to the game, take a punt. If you miss the put-in, put on and figure out where you went wrong. The Poudre Posse (from left to right: Evan Stafford, Tim Hawkins, Pete Stromberg)

I'm paraphrasing here. But that's really all it says. "Sweet," I say, ready to make the charge through the mud. Peter and Tim say "sweet" too. The rest of the group is either still drunk or hemming and hawing over how high the water level looks and if this is really what they want to get into. The three of us suit up and charge up the muddy trail and into the rainforest.

Pete is leading the charge, running with his boat attached to his safety leash, the boat dragging and bouncing behind him. I only say his boat, because it would be the boat he is going to paddle. It's



star 

Star offers a variety of models. Whether you are a professional guide or an amateur boater, Star has the ideal boat for you. Call for a **FREE** catalog!

EXCITEMENT
15' Super Bug
One of 5 bug series models



ADVENTURE
14' Hurricane
One of 4 select series models



RECREATION
14' Cataract
One of 4 cat models



RELAXATION
TX200 Tracker Kayak
One of 8 kayak models



"Revolutionary new designs like the Bug Series have brought Star to the forefront of the rafting industry."

Factory Direct Pricing
Packages with row frames available

STAR INFLATABLES
www.starinflatables.com
Toll Free: (877) 900 2628

Trip Report

continued



paddler: Clay Wright photo by Jod Weingarten

Keeping You Dry
11 years...and counting



...because it works!

100% Made In the U.S.A

NEW! Freestyle Series



Titanium Neoprene Gaskets
Extremely Dry and Comfortable



Hot New Colors
Orange, Gray,
Red, and Blue

Generous Cut
Allows for
maximum
mobility & comfort

**The driest &
most durable
skirt on the market**

actually a rental from Sunspots in Rotorua. Actually it's not even his rental boat, it's Grant's. Hence, his minimal regard for the blue Liquid Logic plastic he's leaving all over the rocks in front of me.

I'm carrying my boat on my left shoulder. I switch shoulders. My right shoulder is sore from 30 days of non-stop paddling. I switch it back to the left. This can only last for so long. I'm dragging my boat attached to my safety leash, and the boat is bouncing wildly behind my quickening pace.

Peter is a die hard smoker and I'm not letting him out of my earshot (not because he'll stop for a smoke in the middle of the trail, but because I'm not a smoker, and so I'm obviously in better shape). The scenery is amazing. The rainforest is bursting with every imaginable kind of fern and moss. I keep wondering where the monkeys are. The sloth, the jaguar....the stoat? I turn just as a large rat-like creature darts through the bush.

The little side creek with" less moss."

It's just over 50 minutes since we left the trailhead. We're anxious to get on the river. We think every stream we cross is the one. We try to be patient. The rocks have too much moss. The streams look too small to carry down. We can't wait any longer. We come to a stream with too much moss on the rocks. We want to go down it anyway. It's past 60 minutes. We think we're fast hikers with our boats. We've hiked into other rivers. We must have passed it because we're so fast.

We decide to leave our boats at the stream with way too much moss to be the one and hike just a little bit further up the trail. Ten minutes further up the trail we find the one. Not as much moss on the rocks and a pile of moss-less rocks that looks as though it once could have been a cairn. We go back for our boats.

Waterfall on the small side creek.

We crash down the stream which is simply breathtaking. We lower our boats down small waterfalls. We climb and frequently

slip on the still fairly moss-covered rocks. We are deep in the bush now and we feel it. There is just something noble about dragging your boat. I'm only picking mine up if I absolutely have to. Tim is snapping pictures left and right. The moss is four inches tall, five in some places. We come to a bend and I can tell it opens up around the corner. We reach the last waterfall before the little stream runs into the now charging, jade green Tutuko. We lower our boats and climb down to the river bank.

The view of Mt. Tutuko is stupendous, "gob-smacking," awe inspiring. The rapid we are looking at is STEEP, has tons of wood, and is certainly heinous, even by kiwi definition. We start to scout the first drop directly below us. It looks runnable, but it contains three large unavoidable holes, the last one being river-wide with a large rock backing up the middle two thirds of the outflow. Slightly off-line here and a swim would be likely. We decide to put in below this first rapid.

The guidebook had said "everything" was boat-scoutable. I guess he wasn't talking about the first drop. Or maybe it is really cranking in here. It looks big, but not too BIG. The next rapid does appear to be of a "boat-scoutable" nature. I drop in first, make a quick move from right to left and catch an eddy. I raise my paddle up.

Boat scoutable and in a "gob-smacking locale." Sweet! photo by Dave Frankel

We are all in the next eddy looking over our shoulders. It looks steep and continuous for as far as we can see. I peel out. The current is deceptively strong. I thought I was going right, past a rock in the middle of the flow. Instead I'm drifting left of it with no momentum. I plunge past the rock into a steep ledge hole going left. I ender, see blue sky, and come down splatting a boulder into a small eddy. Yes! It's on!

Tim and Pete must have seen my action and actually made it right. They're both waiting in an eddy on river right. I make some exciting moves and join them. Tim suggests we start to scout. Pete peels out.

I follow. We catch an eddy still on river right. Pete yells to Tim, "I'm not getting out of my boat at all!" Tim, still in his boat, paddles down to us. We laugh.

We have to run long sections at a time, because it really is pretty charging, and it's hard to catch eddies. We play leapfrog through some fantastic moves among huge steep boulder gardens, fast curling waves, and stomping holes and rocks. Tim still gets out of his boat a couple of times, mostly to take pictures, but I still see him trying to get a better view of what's downstream. It's all one long rapid. Now Pete is out of his boat directing me with a sign to boof.

Pete scouting?

I look back smiling. It's all good. Tim runs a different line in his smooth efficient style, less the cool boof move. Pete peels out and...goes for the meat. It's bigger than he thought, I think. He subs out. He surfaces upside down. He owes ice cream.

Just a friendly bet we have. You roll, you owe ice cream. Simple as that. We laugh. It's an amazing run. We break in an eddy on river left. A beech tree is leaning over the river. Two of its branches are perfectly

framing Mt. Tutuko in the background. The scenery is superb. Of course Tim takes a picture. We all peel out together pumping fists and smacking fives.

Mt. Tutuko framed by the beech tree.

The intensity eases. There are still some intense moves and the rapid never ends. We see the bridge and are filled with a sense of accomplishment and also a sense of longing. Longing for the run to be longer. For the rainforest. Dragging up the trail feeling noble. Dragging down the creek with the gigantic ferns, and five inch moss. Longing for the rapid to never end. For another night of rain in Fiordland.

"It's all good up there!" Evan at the take out bridge.

Pete and Evan lovin' the hike in. Dragging up the trail feeling noble. 



SNAP DRAGON DESIGN
425 957 3575 phone www.snapdragondesign.com fax 425 957 4547
JOSH BECHTEL-KAWAH
PHOTO © KIPPIN PRODUCTIONS
JOCK BRADLEY



Confessions of a Surfing Zealot

by Kevin Colburn

I focused on the smooth circular rhythm of my booties pushing the pedals as I looked down to keep the snowflakes from stinging my eyes.

With pogies on the handlebars, I rode hard on the snowy roads, trying to stay upright.

I wished I'd followed the lead of the more hardened Montanans I knew and had threaded tiny screws through my bike tires for traction on the ice.

After a few miles of riding I turned off the road and stashed my bike among elk tracks and knapweed under a ponderosa pine. There, like a friend waiting for me at the airport, was my red in-a-zone looking like modern art in an ancient world of white.

I shouldered my boat and retraced my footprints from the last time I went paddling, and the time before that, and the time before that. The snow stung my feet through my neoprene socks as I walked across the meadow and down into Alberton Gorge. I thanked my lucky stars I made it down the icy slope once more without going down, and packed my well-insulated body into my kayak. As I slid into the water I wondered how far away the next kayaker was; 200 miles? 400 miles? It was a Tuesday afternoon

in February in Montana after all, and thanks to the thermal inversions characteristic of the Clark Fork Valley around Missoula the air temperature was a balmy 35 degrees. Elsewhere in the intermountain west the rivers were covered with ice, and the air temps were in the 20s or lower. I was alone as I paddled towards Temple Wave.

There is a legend about a magical desert city buried by shifting sand dunes that every so often gets uncovered and thrives. Temple Wave is like that city in the desert and becomes surfable only when the water is unusually low. With most of the watershed frozen solid, winter is a perfect time to play here. I should note that only I call this wave Temple Wave. I named it after several somewhat harrowing winter descents to the wave to experience 4-hour meditative solo surf sessions.

In this dark season, the perfectly triangular wave became my church. My mind could be

troubled or pondering as I cranked up the eddy line but then would instantly clear as I blasted onto the wave and surfed. I would not resume thinking until I got blown off. I would repeat this until there were no thoughts left, until I was mere energy traveling a circuit, getting charged with every surf.

Paddling in the winter in Montana allows one to rename rapids that have had perfectly good names for decades, in fact it encourages it. That place was mine and the eagles, I could name it whatever I wanted in whatever language and no one would ever know or care. Such is the freedom of solitude. In solitude culture becomes meaningless and the only relationships are ecological, which to a human feels purely spiritual. My surfs were like cave paintings or pages in some holy text drawing significance from a cold harsh world. Hence, Temple Wave, also known as Cliffside II.

My paddle bit into the water and I dropped into the Temple. I caught the wave and carved back and forth strong and centered. In the summer I would toy with Alberton's waves like one wrestles with a loved one, often allowing them to get the upper hand. In winter, surfing is like sparring with a mountain lion, each splash a searing slash across your face. You take no chances. My first surf was long and dynamic as I anticipated each change of the wave and reacted as though the wave was speaking a language I spoke fluently. Far upstream I saw one of the resident bald eagles soaring towards me about 50 feet off the water. As he flew directly over me I leaned back into a shudder rudder and watched him pass overhead. This is a scene I'd witnessed throughout the winter through squinted eyes, snowflakes building up on my eyelashes. Energized by

the eagle, I threw a few careful flat spins and got blown off the wave. I paddled hard and non-stop back onto the wave. Once the first splash hits you, you cannot stop paddling or the cold sets to work on you like a butcher on a frozen ox. I cycled through perhaps 30 times before paddling downstream across the impossibly deep pools above triple bridges.

One enters lower Alberton Gorge through purple gates, not purplish, purple. Purple cliffs, several hundred feet tall, descend into the river where whirlpools tug at the surface of the water. I watched these cliffs and noted the incredible number of adobe nests built by swifts. These tiny birds plaster the cliff walls with thousands of nests and feed on the massive insect hatches that accompany almost every season on Alberton Gorge. Just downstream three bridges spanning the river come into view, signaling my arrival to another wonderful playspot, the aptly named Triple Bridges.

In winter, Triple Bridges features a neat slightly breaking wave that is very spinnable. In other seasons, the rapid holds a big, beautiful hole and a couple different steep waves where Blunts abound. I catch the wave on the fly and get a nice long ride before heading downstream. I remember while on the wave, surfing it in the middle of a warm night the previous summer. The blurs of the black water and white water as I dizzily flat spun on the wave had made me feel like I was in the central axis of a yin-yang symbol. We slept that night on a sandy beach just upstream, and paddled for breakfast. I forced those thoughts of warmth from my brain and regained my awareness of the cold that could quickly and passively take my life. The gorge walls constricted as I neared Split-rock Rapid. I paddled right past the cartwheel hole because I suck at cartwheeling and tend

to flip and get freezing cold. As always, I marveled at the tree teetering atop a 35-foot tall rock. High water in the gorge is a force to be reckoned with. After paddling through the short pool below Splitrock I dropped onto Icebox wave for a surf on the fly, blowing off halfway around on my second spin. Nearly flipping, I braced hard and cranked my hips to stay upright. At times, Icebox is an amazingly symmetrical and slightly oversteep wave that, for those able to catch it, offers wildly fast and clean spins. When I peeled off the wave I followed the wave train straight through Tumbleweed, the most challenging rapid on the river. Surfer Joe is next and when I stopped for a short surf on this small symmetrical wave, I saw the eagle sitting in a pine tree that clings to the left-hand cliff wall. I wondered what he thought of me, or if he thought of me at all. His gaze followed my passage; that much is undeniable.

The Jessica Wave was next. I have this theory you see, that for every person in your life there is a wave somewhere and surfing that wave mirrors your relationship to that person. I have only found two such waves and they are back to back on Alberton Gorge. The Jessica Wave is simply the top wave of Boateater. It is a small simple and stable diagonal piece of flawless glass that covers mottled rocks clearly visible beneath the laminates of the wave. I dropped in with the kind of confidence that comes from familiarity rather than from ego. I leaned back and downstream while ruddering on my upstream edge, surfing the wave diagonally. As I did this, it pulled me upstream into a sweet spot. Leaning against a polished shoulder, I moved into a shudder rudder, and back out. I carved watching my bow hover back and forth across the glass-covered rocks, marveling at the wave's sheer

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUPPORTING AW!
Kayak Instruction • Outfitter Shop
Costa Rica • Ecuador • Mexico
*10 Years: and working as hard to keep your respect
and trust as we did originally to earn it!*
www.endlessriveradventures.com
PO Box 246 • Bryson City, North Carolina 28713 • 800-224-7238



Trip Report

continued

Jessica-ness. It was a conversation; simple, playful, and crisp. So goes my metaphor. In aboriginal places the line between reality and dream is blurred and one informs the other until both are one body of knowledge. My one and only surf lasted a characteristically long time, maybe 6-8 minutes, and then I headed into Boateater.

I will not divulge my name for the wave hole at the bottom of Boateater to protect the guilty. This thrashy feature is too much a wave to side surf and too much a hole to front surf. You must throw at it a constant mixture of shove-its and only through the paddling equivalent of psycho-babble and tough-love can it be surfed for any duration. Even its presence is fickle; here today, gone tomorrow. I gave it a go and as usual was kicked out without ceremony after a minute or so. I loved the challenge of that wave and found smug pleasure in mastering it if only for brief moments. Indignantly, I smirked and floated towards Fang.

Fang is the last major playspot on the river and almost always creates an incredibly fast and powerful surfing wave that is eddy accessible. Sometimes it is symmetrical and friendly, but more often it is a wild ride requiring strong abs, an acutely focused mind, and ultimately an acceptance that what happens is not always within your control. Put another way, Fang provides opportunities and takes them away just as fast; it is up to the paddler to react and harness those bursts of almost unlimited potential energy at the very instant they arise. Fang also provides some world-class bow-diving, sinus-clearing, ice-cream-headache-giving, whip-lash-fast stomping. I caught the eddy next to the wave and cleared my mind. Determinedly I entered the wave and started sparring with the cougar.

I played intensely until I was nearly spent, paddling as hard as I could to catch the eddy again as high as possible after each surf. I got

thrashed a couple times and nearly screamed from the pain that ensued upon rolling up after each lesson in edge control. It was as though my skull shrank from the cold and was attempting to squeeze my brain out my ears. I desperately promised myself out loud that I would not surf again in hopes that the crushing pain would abate and never return. After about 30 seconds or so the pain would diminish and I would find myself back at the top of the eddy, ferrying back onto the wave, cursing myself.

While I was still warm, I paddled out, hiked up to my car, and quickly changed into dry clothes. My thoughts tumbled through my recent surfs like lotto balls, pulling out significant ones to reflect on. I considered that day on the gorge special, but for no particular reason except all days on the gorge are special. I forgot my bike again as I drove home to Missoula, all buzzing, feeling every muscle in my body but none of my toes. *AWW*

THE HELICONIA PRESS presents
A NEW book from
KEN WHITING
LET'S SEE PG. 1 HOW TO KAYAK
THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO
Whitewater Kayaking
BY KEN WHITING AND ANTHONY WATKINS
1 888 582 2001 | helipress.com

THE HELICONIA PRESS presents
KEN WHITING's award winning
Instructional books and videos
Whitewater Kayaking
The Boateater
KAYAK Playboating
HOW ARE THE DISHES COMING ALONG?
For those with paddling on the brain...
1 888 582 2001 | helipress.com

Events Calendar

2004 American Whitewater Supporting Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
November 6-7	Tallulah Releases	Tallulah Falls, GA	www.americanwhitewater.org/river/state/GA
November 13-14	Tallulah Releases	Tallulah Falls, GA	www.americanwhitewater.org/river/state/GA
November 20-21	Tallulah Releases	Tallulah Falls, GA	www.americanwhitewater.org/river/state/GA
November 20th	"The Thing" at Tallulah	Tallulah Falls, GA*	sutton@suttonbacon.com

2005 American Whitewater Supporting Events

February 25-26	National Paddling Film Festival	Lexington, KY	www.surfbwa.org/npff
----------------	---------------------------------	---------------	--

* 2004 AW Membership Appreciation Booths

CAMP MOR
WWW.CAMP MOR.COM
CANOE AND KAYAK OUTFITTERS
DRY BAGS • PFDs • INFLATABLES
• NEOPRENE CLOTHING
• CAR RACKS • ACCESSORIES
PLUS:
• BACKPACKING
• CLIMBING
• FAMILY CAMPING
• RUGGED CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR
NAME BRANDS AT THE LOWEST PRICES
CALL FOR OUR FREE CATALOG
1-(800) 230-2151
Or Write to Us at:
PO BOX 700-AW0,
SADDLE RIVER, N.J.
07458-0700

T'was the Night Before Put-In

T'was the night before put-in,
when all through the camp
All the creatures were stirring
down by the boat ramp
The crafts were all rigged with the utmost of care
In hopes that the weather would be mild and fair

The rafters settled down for a night in their beds
While visions of whitewater danced in their heads
And me by the fire, toasty-warm in my hat
I too had settled down with one last night cap

When out by the groover there arose such a clatter
I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter
Away from the fire I flew in the night
Tore away the willows and shone my flashlight

The moon was abreast on the shimmering water
As I heard the faint splash of some river otter
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But the almighty River God and eight healthy mule deer

With a great big smile, so lively and quick
I asked him politely, "Hey... are you Nick?"
More rapid than eagles he began to bellow
No young lady, I am more than some fellow

He chanted, First Aid, Trash Bags and a Wrap Kit
Extra Vest, Shovel, Bucket, Foot Cups that Fit
Flip Lines, Throw Bags, some spare Oars
Bio Soap, a Strainer, Dry Box and more

He reached down and grabbed a handful of sand
As he looked in admiration at the great land
He told of the rivers and how much they nourish



by Sheri McGee

How they should be protected...
allowed to flourish

And then with a twinkling, he looked at me and said
It's boaters like you that I will never dread
You came here prepared to enjoy and be kind
People like you are too seldom to find

As you journey down this grand Owyhee
I will make it quite clear for all to see
I am the mighty River God here to protect
And punish all those whom have no respect

My hand will be with you on yet another trip
I will not let you swim, wrap or flip
For you are the people that cherish the river
With that he reached down and pulled out a quiver

He lightly placed the stick on my head
As he very quietly and gently said
I can see in your eyes the awe and the wonder
When ever you hear the river's great thunder

I will protect you and watch as you make your way
So that you can enjoy these waters another day
Then I heard him exclaim, as he dove out of sight
Safe boating to all, and to all a good night

Affiliate Clubs

AW's Original Purpose

by Michael Phelan

The Affiliate Club Program lies at the very heart of AW's existence. AW's original purpose since 1957 has been to distribute information among its Affiliate Clubs. AW's relationships with local clubs have provided the backbone for the river conservation and access work it accomplishes. Over eighty-five clubs are now AW Club Affiliates and they are all doing great work on your behalf. If you don't belong to a club consider joining one.

For 2004, AW is excited to announce several programs for AW Affiliate Clubs.

River Stewardship Institute: A week-long conservation and access training program designed to prepare river activists with the tools necessary to successfully save their rivers.

2nd Flowing Rivers Grant Program, sponsored by Clif Bar

BRAND NEW Affiliate Club section of the AW Journal dedicated to promoting your club and its events with the whitewater community at large. If your Affiliate Club would like to be one of the first to begin listing your club's major events in the Journal, please email ben@amwhitewater.org for more details.

The AW Journal Club Affiliates by State:

Alaska

Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks

Alabama

Coosa Paddling Club, Montgomery
Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

Arizona

Desert Paddlers Club, Tempe
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Assoc, Flagstaff

Arkansas

Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

California

B.S.A. Durham Troop 16, Durham
Chico Paddleheads, Chico
Gold Country Paddlers, Lotus
River Skills Center, Mt. Shasta
Sequoia Paddling Club, Windsor
Shasta Paddlers, Redding
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, San Jose
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Granada Hills

Colorado

Pueblo Paddlers, Pueblo West
Colorado White Water Association, Englewood
FiBark Boat Races, Englewood
Gunnison Valley Paddle Club, Almont
Pikes Peak Whitewater Club, Colorado Springs
University of Colorado Kayak Club, Boulder
WATER, Grand Junction

Florida

Project Challenge Inc., Miami

Georgia

Atlanta Whitewater Club, Atlanta
Georgia Canoeing Association, Atlanta
Georgia Tech Outdoor Recreation, Atlanta

Idaho

Idaho Rivers Sports, Boise
Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise

Illinois

Chicago Whitewater Association, Cary

Iowa

Iowa Whitewater Coalition, Des Moines

Indiana

Hoosier Canoe Club, Indianapolis
Ohio Valley Whitewater Club, Evansville

Kansas

Kansas Whitewater Association, Mission

Kentucky

Viking Canoe Club, Louisville
Bluegrass Whitewater Association, Lexington
El Rio Loco Paddling Club, Barbourville

Maine

AMC Maine Chapter, Hallowell

Massachusetts

AMC Boston Chapter, Boston

Maryland

Greater Baltimore Canoe Club, Kingsville
Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers, Boonsboro
Monocay Canoe Club, Frederick

Minnesota

Boat Busters Anonymous, Stillwater

Missouri

Kansas City Whitewater Club, Raymore
Missouri Whitewater Association, St. Louis
Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Springfield
Ozark Wilderness Waterways, Kansas City
Streamtech, St. Louis

Montana

Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings

Nevada

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

New Hampshire

Ledyard Canoe Club, Hanover
Merrimack Valley Paddlers, Merrimack
Mt. Washington Valley Paddlers, Franconia
Waterline, Manchester

New Jersey

Hunterdon Canoe Club, Flemington
The Paddling Bares, Milltown

New Mexico

Adobe Whitewater Club, Albuquerque

New York

FLOW Paddlers Club, Rochester
Housatonic Canoe & Kayak Squad, Ossining
KCCNY, S. Hackensack
Town Tinker Tube Rentals, Phoenicia
Whitewater Challengers, Old Forge
Zoar Valley Paddling Club, Dunkirk

N. Carolina

Camp Carolina, Brevard
Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh
Dixie Division of ACA, Tuxedo
Nantahala Racing Club, Gastonia
Western Carolina Paddlers, Asheville

Ohio

Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, Columbus
Keel Haulers Canoe Club, Westlake
Outdoor Adventure Club, Dayton
Toledo River Gang, Waterville

Oregon

Oregon Whitewater Association, Beaverton
Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club, Corvallis

Pennsylvania

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Sugarloaf
Benscreek Canoe Club, Johnstown
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, Mechanicsburg
Holtwood Hooligans, Lititz
Three Rivers Paddling Club, Pittsburgh
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Lehigh Valley

S. Carolina

Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

Tennessee

Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts,
Elizabethton
Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville
E. Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge
Eastman Hiking and Canoeing, Kingsport
McCallie School Outdoor Program,
Chattanooga
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Chattanooga
University of Tennessee Outing Club, Knoxville
Tennessee Scenic River Association, Grimsley

Texas

Bayou Whitewater Club, Houston

Utah

University of Utah, Salt Lake City
USU Kayak Club, Logan

Virginia

Blue Ridge River Runners, Lynch Station
Canoe Cruisers Association, Arlington
Coastal Canoeists, Richmond
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Roanoke
Richmond Whitewater Club, Mechanicsville

Vermont

Vermont Paddlers Club, Jericho

Washington

The Mountaineers, Seattle
Washington Kayak Club, Seattle
Washington Recreation River Runners, Renton
University Kayak Club, Seattle

West Virginia

West Virginia Wildwater Assoc., Charleston

Wisconsin

Badger State Boating Society, Waukesha
Hoofers Outing Club, Madison
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter, La Crosse
Northern Paddle and Trail, Rhinelander
River Alliance of Wisconsin, Madison

Wyoming

Jackson Hole Kayak Club, Jackson Hole

Canada, British Columbia

Vancouver Kayak Club, Vancouver

Canada, Ontario

Madawaska Kanu Camp, Ottawa

Club Update: Discounted AW Memberships for Affiliate Club Members

by Michael Phelan
Director of Outreach Services

I wanted to let everyone know about a new exclusive feature available on our website for AW Affiliate Clubs. In the recent past, AW has been offering discounted AW memberships to whitewater enthusiasts who are also a member of one of AW's Affiliate Clubs.

We now have the ability to offer this discounted membership online! For each club, AW will create a unique URL that will automatically offer the discounted membership and/or we can provide a coupon code that is specific to your club that will allow individuals to input the code on the normal AW Membership Page and then receive the discount.

Both options work equally well and minimize the opportunity that one of your members will be inconvenienced.

Several clubs have already set up the program and their members are enjoying the benefits of being an AW Member for only \$25 instead of \$35!

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact me and I would be happy to help your club set up this program. I can be reached at 828-252-0728 or Michael@amwhitewater.org.

Join American Whitewater as a Club Affiliate!

"10" Reasons to Join AW as an Affiliate Club

1. Receive the *American Whitewater Journal*, the oldest continually published whitewater magazine.
2. Join the list of Affiliate Clubs noted in each bi-monthly *AW Journal*.
3. List club events in the *AW Journal*.
4. Your Club's members can become AW members for \$25. A \$10 savings!
5. Have technical expertise for your Club conservation and access committees 'on tap.'
6. Have access to technical and onsite assistance for your Club's event planning.
7. Enjoy VIP benefits for "Joint Members" at AW events.
8. Participate in exclusive AW Affiliate Club promotions.
9. Post Club information on the AW Website to help paddlers find you.
10. Eligible to apply for a spot in the AW 2004 River Stewardship Institute.

For more information,
contact Michael Phelan at
michael@amwhitewater.org
AW Outreach Office at 828-252-0728
or sign-up on-line at:
www.americanwhitewater.org/membership

Guidelines for Contributors



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

If possible, articles should be submitted on a 3-1/2-inch computer disk. (Microsoft Word if possible – others accepted.) Please do not alter the margins or spacing parameters; use the standard default settings. Send a printed copy of the article as well.

Those without access to a word processor may submit their articles typed. Please double space.

Photos may be submitted as slides, black or white prints, or color prints or electronic, digital photos, 300 dpi tiffs, Photoshop or high res jpegs minimum 3”x5.” Keep your originals and send us duplicates if possible; we cannot guarantee the safe return of your pictures. If you want us to return your pictures, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission. The better the photos the better the reproduction. American Whitewater feature articles should

relate to some aspect of whitewater boating. Please do not submit articles pertaining to sea kayaking or flat water.

If you are writing about a commonly paddled river, your story should be told from a unique perspective. Articles about difficult, infrequently paddled, or exotic rivers are given special consideration. But we are also interested in well written, unusual articles pertaining to Class II, III & IV rivers as well. Feature stories do not have to be about a specific river. Articles about paddling techniques, the river environment and river personalities are also accepted. Pieces that incorporate humor are especially welcome. Open boating and rafting stories are welcome.

Profanity should be used only when it is absolutely necessary to effectively tell a story; it is not our intent to offend our more sensitive members and readers.

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

are spelled correctly and river gradients and distances are correctly calculated.

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

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

Send your material to:
Journal Editor
1424 Fenwick Lane
Silver Spring MD 20910
E-mail: editor@amwhitewater.org

The advertisement for Bomber Gear features a dark background with a large, stylized white graphic of a bomb with a lit fuse. The bomb is positioned at the top center. Below the bomb, the word "BOMBER" is written in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. Underneath "BOMBER", the word "GEAR" is written in a smaller, bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by a trademark symbol (TM). Below the brand name, the text "Your full source for whitewater and touring technical kayaking apparel." is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the advertisement, the slogan "Don't let the water in" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below the slogan, the text "Go to www.bombergear.com or call 970-259-1571 for free catalog" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

BRYAN KIRK

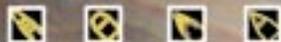


FIRST
ON THE
WATER®



DESPERADO SOCK

Photo: Chuck Hopkins



We'll change your life. At least the part of it you spend paddling. Call 800-635-5205 for a dealer near you or visit www.nrsweb.com



wherever there's water. *Dagger.com*



AMERICAN WHITEWATER

A VOLUNTEER PUBLICATION PROMOTING RIVER CONSERVATION, ACCESS AND SAFETY

AW Journal
1424 Fenwick Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Change Service Requested

NON- PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #127
NEWARK OHIO