



RAPIDS

May 2011

www.westernwhitewater.org

2011 Salmon River Run

Can you spell *SKINNY*?

This year's run was very well attended and the weather was great. We had people as far away as Darby, Montana; Chico, California; Portland, Oregon; Sandpoint, Idaho; and even from Canada join us on this run. The water levels were low compared to past WWA runs. Flows were approximately 8,500 cfs on Thursday and 8,400 cfs on Friday at the White Bird gauge.

On April 14th there were approximately 30 jet boats that showed up for the run, but only 26 boats launched and headed up river. This was the practice run for the novice boaters and the getting- reacquainted-with-the-river for some of the more experienced boaters. Some boats went up as far as Ludwig rapids while others stopped at James Ranch or Lunch Bar. One group only made it as far as the end of the road. Needless to say, the river gods were not smiling upon us that day and due

to the lower river flows there were a number of mishaps on the river. The river gods did not seem to be choosy on who they picked on or any particular rapid to be difficult. Both experienced boaters and novice boaters got to mark rocks along the way. I would have to say that Carey Falls may have claimed the most number of mishaps, but Vinegar and Chittum had claim to their fair number of mishaps also. There is a rumor going around about renaming Vinegar Creek to Spencer's Rapid, but as anyone should know, a good leader always shows his followers where the rocks are located in each rapid. At least that's my story and I'm sticking to it. Although some individuals did not run as far as they would have liked to, by the end of the day we were able to put all of the boats back on the trailers.

On April 15th there were 21 boats launched to head up river. Some of the more experienced boaters went up as far as Campbell's Ferry while others stopped below Ludwig Rapid. There were a number of individuals who worked up the nerve to run the "S turn" through Ludwig and I even saw one novice boater establish a new line above the upper rock without tapping. Again, there were a number of mishaps and silver rock markings at several of the rapids on Friday, but at the end of the day, all boats were back on their trailers.

The mishaps during both days ranged from minor scratches and dents to dislocated pumps, smashed grates, seized up steering

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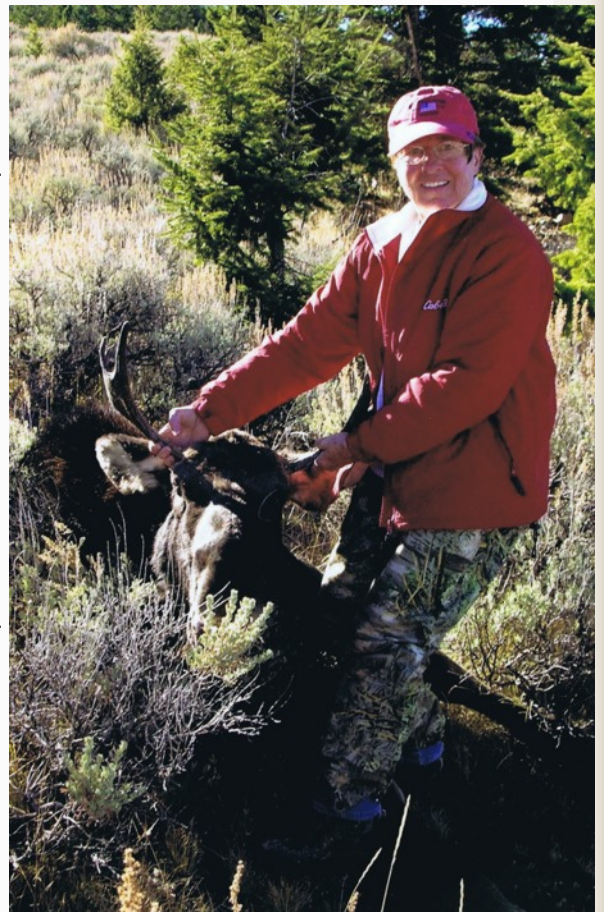
A Story of Renewal, Healing, Sacrifice, and Fulfillment

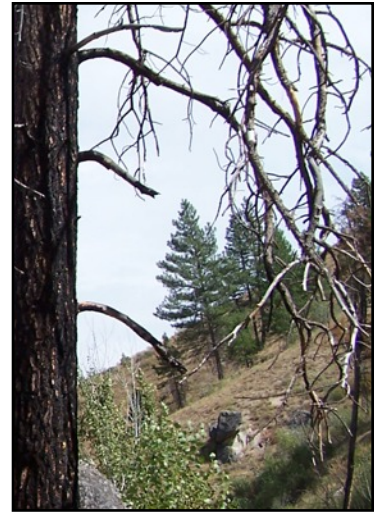
I was in White Bird a few months back visiting with Roger and Cathy Brown. I mentioned to Cathy that the last time I saw her and Roger they were preparing for Cathy's hunt of a lifetime and I asked her how it went. What followed was an excited, animated, emotional, and passionate recreation by Cathy of her Bull Moose hunt. The story couldn't be told without reflecting on a life altering accident involving her husband Roger. Roger had been seriously injured some time before prior to her drawing the tag of a lifetime.

I so enjoyed her story that I asked her if she could write it up for the Rapids. Cathy obviously was a bit uncomfortable about doing that but I made sure Roger heard me in hopes he could encourage her to share her story with the rest of the WWA. Several weeks later I ran into Roger and Cathy's son, Dan Brown. I told Dan that I had asked his mom to share her story but thought maybe she could use some encouragement. At the WWA banquet Roger approached me and gave me a partially written summary that Cathy had written but did not finish. He gave it to me anyway in hopes that maybe we could finish it and tell her story. Using mostly Cathy's words we hope that the story captures her experience and the ultimate fulfillment of a dream!

Cathy's Story:

I was sitting in the Intensive Care Unit with my son Dan, as I had done for days, maybe weeks, as we hoped and prayed for my husband's health to improve. Unfortunately Roger was not doing well and I was reflecting, as we all do, on things left undone. I mentioned to Dan that I had been applying for a Bull Moose tag for 12 years without success. I told him this would likely be the year that I would draw and his dad and I wouldn't be able to go. As luck would have it, that is exactly what happened and I knew this was a once in a lifetime opportunity that we would not be able to enjoy. Little did I know at that moment that luck was truly on my side and Roger would improve enough before hunting season to take me and our 4 wheelers to our hunting spot in the Leadore/Salmon area. We were fortunate enough to have private property to hunt, owned by an elderly couple we have known for years. It is a nine hour trip just to get there for us and approximately a 1,000 miles round trip. The first outing was in September and the weather was much too warm for a good hunt. As expected we did not see anything. In October we made the second trip to our hunting grounds. The weather conditions had changed dramatically as we got snowed on and the temps were such that the water in our camper started to freeze up. We saw several moose with young calves but no horns. We returned home and began planning our third trip which would take place in November. It would be our final trip as the weather was really getting nasty and extremely cold. As a matter of fact, there was a storm moving in on the area when we arrived in Leadore in November. Thank goodness we had decided to stay in a motel rather than in our camper. We hunted our usual spot and on Wednesday we began to see cows and calves again.





I DO NOT COUNT THE TIME

Campfire Philosophy

What is it about a struggling 2:00 AM campfire in the wilderness that makes a person so introspective and centered, so philosophical and intuitive? I sat within an isolated, lonely hemisphere of campfire light with my horses snorting and my dogs tightly nestled in back of me. All around was the impenetrable, threatening blackness, of the forest on this clear, moonless night. At that exact moment, I was the only person on earth. The ribbons of smoke and flames from the fire entwined like tendrils of enlightenment, enticing me to follow their gentle circuit upwards, to the stars; the stars, where questions and answers have never existed, where zero time and a beginning never existed, a concept that man has forever rejected, because he never understood infinity and limitless space and time.

I don't know what disturbed the horses, that night, awakening me; but as I sat at the campfire to calm them, I experienced a night like no night has been, or will be again. Under that self-same sky, that universe; man struggled to survive, then struggled to co-exist in a protective society of other like creatures. Mankind grew from the Neanderthal to Modern Man. Man began to learn and built knowledge upon what he had learned yesterday. All the ancient civilizations of ancient man are the seedlings of who we are today and it all occurred under that sky of enlightenment that one night at that one campfire.

Quite naturally, I allowed myself to feel deep human thought and the emotions that accompany them. Humans call it, inspiration. How presumptuous! Then I made myself dig ever so much deeper inside to think intellectually, scientifically and remember that, "that is where I came from." I'm a product of the solar system, the galaxy and the universe in general. Every mineral on earth and every cell in my body is composed of chemical elements from somewhere within that beautiful home for all of us, we call the universe.

As the night became dawn and the insects became quiet I humbly accepted that I would never see that night ever again. I had no questions and I didn't have need for answers. As if reaching up to my beginnings, the campfire flames touched eternity, infinity and sampled some of it as if through my own soul. I needed nothing more, I received all man was meant to have. Now what am I going to do with it?

From The Desk of Ed

As printed in the Jet boat edition of the *Salmon River CURRENT*

Riggins, Idaho

April 14, 2011

RAPIDS

www.westernwhitewater.org

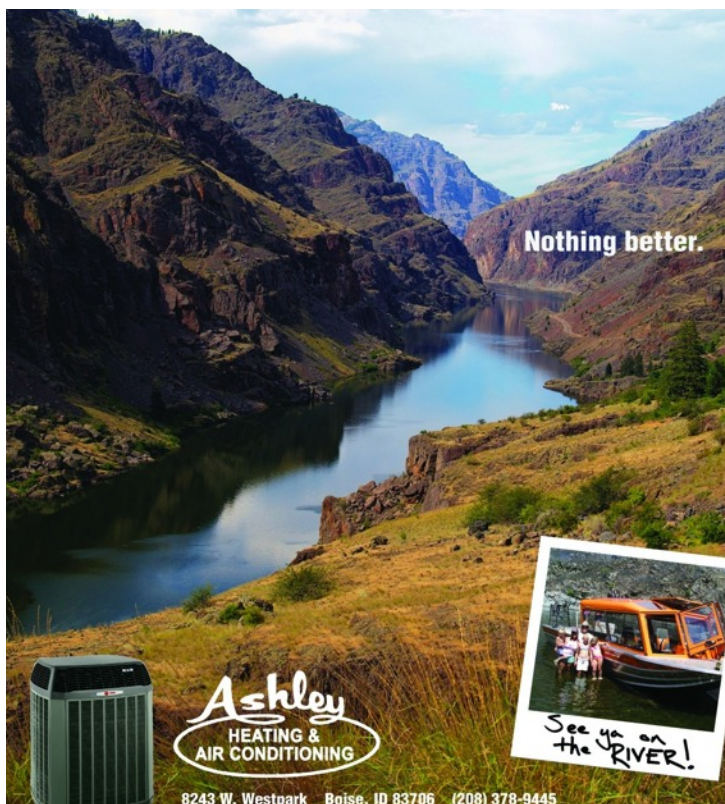
RENEWAL

Continued from page 2


Roger, for whatever reason, likes to take a nap on his 4 wheeler and he was doing just that when out of the trees stepped a young bull. I awakened Roger and fortunately the only creature that was startled was the one sleeping on the 4 wheeler. The bull was intent on heading for a patch of willows and had no idea we were anywhere in the area. This particular spot had been chosen for our stand, as physically there was no way we could track and retrieve a wounded animal, plus we had to be able to get our 4 wheelers to him in order to facilitate getting him out. This spot provided that opportunity. I knew my aim had to be good with the shot placed appropriately to bring down this extremely large animal before he reached the willow patch. I readied myself and Roger whistled to get the bulls attention. It was as if the entire event was scripted because that bull stopped immediately and turned to look at us. Those were his final steps. The shot hit its mark and the bull fell where he stood.

We worked all Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday to get the bull dressed, quartered, and loaded on our 4 wheelers. As mentioned we were staying in a motel and needed a place to hang the meat and hide. The motel reluctantly agreed and we hung it from the rafters on the porch. That was a sight to see but never the less the meat was taken care of properly and we are so enjoying it. We are amazed at how tender the meat is with no hint of a wild game flavor.

That was the best hunting trip we have ever been on. It was the fulfillment of a long term dream! We have a renewed spirit as Roger continues to heal and I am so thankful for being able to share this experience with him. Life takes on a new meaning when you go through what Roger and I did and we have a different perspective of it all!



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THANKS FROM THE BANQUET CHAIRMAN

Well folks, the 2011 Western Whitewater Association Banquet is in the books as another successful event thanks to the tireless efforts of many volunteers and all of you members, spouses, and friends of WWA who took time to attend.

Those who attended, approximately 250 whitewater junkies, were treated to displays of five new jet boats, two new RV's, several pickups, and numerous accessories for the sport we hold near and dear. Most of all, the evening was a treat for renewing acquaintances and sharing river stories, fishing stories, and friendship stories for young and old alike. I know that my wish list increased through the evening and talking with some fellow jet boat captains my steelhead fishing and river running knowledge increased as well. As the evening progressed it became necessary to set up additional tables above our door sale estimates prior to dinner to accommodate all those in attendance. That is a good thing and the staff at the Idaho Center took care of that need very well.

The raffle was successful for a couple of young men who were very excited to win a couple of John Deere model tractors and accessories. To those excited young men, good luck with your current and future farming endeavors and thanks for the smiles for the rest of us. The live auction was a successful venture thanks to Gary Sparks of Sparks

Auction Service and Nyssa Tractor. I am not sure if an Idaho Vandal or BSU Bronco steelhead pole catches the most steelhead but both poles are clearly the finest quality however, one logo is far superior to the other.

To all who supported the event, a heartfelt thanks for supporting the cause of river and waterway access that is vital to our sport. This is the main fundraising event that keeps our organization going with activities and activism through the year. The support for this comes from the vendors, donors, and all members who attended as well as those members who were unable to attend. Through these efforts, we collectively work to increase

See BANQUET, page 8





RANTS AND RAVES

your opinions matter

Rant #1

This page was actually designed and the content was in place previously. The Rapids was done, (aah!), and ready to be sent off to the printer! Well not so fast there Mr. Editor, did you check your facts??? We certainly would not want to be forced into printing a retraction or a correction now would we? A last minute proofing of the publication revealed that the information filling THE ENTIRE PAGE was wrong! It was discovered that the info we had was from last year and did not accurately list those who contributed to the WWA Banquet this year. We wanted to dedicate the page to naming and thanking those that provide auction items, provide raffle items, and of course those that run the tables and games that make the banquet such a success. Well, it was not meant to be, thereby forcing the Re-do of the May issue of the Rapids and depleting our reserves of potential articles for future issues. Woe is the life of an editor that makes it up as he goes anyway!!!

Rant #2

Come on people, we need your participation here!!! Where are your Opinions, your Rants, your Raves??? Be involved, be heard, share a story, send them to me @ RapidsRantandRave@gmail.com. It may provide that therapy you didn't even know you needed!!!

Rant #3

**HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED???.... "WELL MAYBE YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER",
" I AM JUST SAYIN'!"**

What in the heck does that mean, HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED???... Don't be tempted! Put it out of your mind right now! Have you ever considered taking a shine to that old girl you are so proud of! Have you ever considered stepping up and putting that bling on her that would no doubt prove your love and adoration? Have you ever considered sanding, buffing and polishing your mistress? Have you bought stock in your favorite Vinegar distillery? WELL MAYBE YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER!!!!

After years of use and abuse, my old girl, (referring here to my boat "MISS MY MONEY" and not my wife, I AM JUST SAYIN'!) was looking pretty sad. She was scarred, she was torn, she was getting old, she no longer looked like she used to. My playmate was embarrassed to be seen by her friends on the river or on the road. She would no longer be seen in her two piece cover up, and would only travel under full cover whenever possible. It was breaking my heart! After much consideration, research and analysis of her state of mind, body condition, I made the decision to do a makeover and restore her to her previous good looks.....Don't do it!!!

Now that I am committed to restoring her beauty she purrs when I am sanding on her sides and buffing her rails. She moaned today when I spiffed up her gunnels.... I don't know what she will do when I polish her stern. She has demonstrated constant improvement in her self esteem! Unfortunately she is also making waves that she wants more, that maybe what I have done is not enough! I fear I am losing all control, that possibly our relationship will never be the same. I am afraid that I will now have to pay dearly for ignoring her needs in the past and will become her buffing and polishing slave.

I AM JUST SAYIN'

COMMITTEE MEMBERS MEET WITH SENATOR RISCH

The temporary Federal law allowing the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Park Service to assess individual fees for the use of or access to federal lands and waters was enacted in December 2004. This law will expire in December 2014 unless extended by Congress. Federal agencies and others are strongly advocating for the law to either be extended again or enacted as permanent. Federal agencies, commercial contractors and some private businesses are advocating for both extended and expanded user fees.

Much like the original temporary law enacted in 1996, and repealed in 2004, the current law is meeting a huge public outcry for repeal. Federal agencies, mostly the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land



Management, have applied the current law far beyond any authority granted to them by Congress. Several court cases have been filed and won by people who received a citation for failing to pay the fees. In at least two of those federal court cases the judge, while dismissing the citations, has admonished the agencies to stay within the authority granted to them.

Another reason why the public is calling for repeal is the cost of administering the program.

Several estimates, from the best information available, set the cost of administration as high as 80%. In other words eighty cents of every dollar collected never goes back into improvement or maintenance of the area where the fees were collected. The Congressional Budget Office has issued critical audit reports because they are unable to track the funds or determine the funds are being used for their intended purpose. Simply put, funds collected are not being used for the purpose intended.

Much more criticism of the law has come from several state legislators in the form of resolutions calling for repeal. The Idaho Legislature unanimously adopted a similar resolution calling for repeal. Idaho U.S. Senator Mike Crapo, a long time critic of the law, has advocated for repeal for several years. Senator Crapo, in a letter to the Western Whitewater Association in December 2007, made this comment:

"As an outdoorsman and legislator, I am opposed to the imposition of recreational fees for access to public lands. I am also a firm believer in the principle of multiple use access to our natural resources and consider user fees to be simply another form of tax on the public. Mandatory user fees undermine the fact that public lands are held in trust for the American people and a fee would limit access only to those who could afford the cost. I continue to oppose the imposition of a user fee for access to public lands and support efforts to safeguard public use of our natural resources.....I will continue to oppose the concept of payment of mandatory payment of user fees for access to public lands."

Last year the WWA joined with the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition in an effort to either repeal or amend the law with stronger language and better defined conditions under which a user fee may be collected and used. In an effort to move this effort forward Bob Hays, Chairman of the WWA Legislative Committee and Rich Vaughn, a member of the Committee met with U.S. Senator Jim Risch and his Chief of staff John Sandy. Senator Risch sits on a key Senate Committee where this legislation would begin. Senator Risch expressed sincere concern about how the current law is being implemented and we believe the Senator will make a sincere attempt to join in an effort for change.

BANQUET

Continued from page 5

the awareness of our sport, promote safety in our sport, and maintain access to waterways.

As with any event, there were many volunteers that put forth hours of effort to bring this event to a successful conclusion. My personal thanks are extended to all of you. I was out of town the week preceding the banquet and Saturday morning for the set up there were numerous member volunteers and their spouses that made this event come off in such a successful manner. To mention any name would exclude some but I extend a thanks to Anita Shore for taking care of the registration and check out at the banquet among other things prior to the banquet. This she did as her right hand helper (Mr. Jim Shore) was home recuperating from surgery. Jim, God's speed to a quick recovery from all of us and we will see you on the river soon.

Finally to all members, spouses, and jetboaters, thanks and I'll see you on the river.

Jed Myers



Black Creek Blowout Update

The rapid created by the Black Creek blowout on the Salmon River has changed little since April 6. River levels are holding around the .5' reading at the Corn Creek boat launch, which is around 5,000 cfs. This level fluctuates a bit each day, but no substantial run-off has occurred yet this spring.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Weed Run	April 29-May 1
Board Meeting	May 2
General Meeting	May 9
Payette River	May 14
General Meeting	June 13
Skills Day	TBD

WWA Meetings are held at Smoky Mountain Pizzeria Grill, 980 East Fairview Ave Meridian 884-1067

"We have received recent information from Jim O'Connor of Arctic Creek Lodge, that the log jam has an open channel along the south (left) bank. He said this channel could accommodate a raft," reported Russ Bacon, North Fork District Ranger. "However, the log jam is still blocking the river on the north side. Our concern is that the new rapid created by the blowout is so treacherous that any complications in running it could easily push a river runner directly into the log jam which has a lot of current going under it. There is no room for error."

Boaters should scout the rapid and log jam from the south (left) side, pulling in 100 yards upstream from the rapid.

The rapid and log jam were created by a flood in the Black Creek drainage on the Main Salmon River around the first of April. The river channel was completely blocked ½ mile below Salmon Falls.

For more information contact the North Fork Ranger District at 208 865 2700.

SALMON

Continued from page 1

and engines that were not running in top condition. It would be easier to count the number of boats that didn't hit rocks than those who did. This was truly an eye opener and confirmation to all of us why this is the most difficult and technical run that the WWA has to offer. With everything that happened, everyone seemed to have a good time and I look forward to hearing everyone's stories. Dan Byington also entertained several of us when he put on his cowboy hat and shared a couple renditions of his cowboy poetry around the campfire.

I want to personally thank the leaders who helped with the run: Jim McGarvin, Mike Gerhard, Bruce Burrup, Joe Sands, Bill Dutton, and Gary Hays. Send your photos or video to jetboat@WesternWhiteWater.org so they can be posted on the website.

Bob Spencer



April Monthly Meeting of the WWA held at Smoky Mountain Pizzeria

Last month's meeting was held for the first time at the Meridian branch of Smoky Mountain Pizzeria and it was a full house!!! It was great to see such a good turnout, reminded me of days gone by.

Topics were varied but centered mostly around the upcoming WWA events such as the Salmon River Run and Salmon River Jet Boat Races. The Payette Run was discussed and Tee offered to Chair the run with a date of May 14th and a launch time of 10:00 AM established. Lunch will follow the run so meet up at the Park in Horseshoe Bend after you have safely gotten your boat back on the trailer. The Salmon River Weed Run was also discussed by Chairman Don Moore. This joint effort between the Forest Service and the WWA is scheduled this year for April 29th and 30th. Anticipated areas where targeted weed eradication would be focused included Mackay Bar, Painter and Warren Creek, and the James Ranch.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Fred Bell

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Repayment options of the Wallace embezzlement funds were discussed at length and some exploratory work is being done to insure the WWA's best options are in order.

New members John Peabody and Nick Sarich were introduced and they each gave a brief rundown of their experience level and a description of their watercraft. We welcome these new members and look forward to seeing them on our Idaho waterways.

Remember when?



Taken from the April 1999 Rapids

Rapid Wizard

How Not To's:

Ever been on the boat ramp and had to wait for one of those guys that just can't seem to get his boat off the trailer and into the river?? You see these guys clamoring around the inside of the boat, lifting the hatches, almost climbing in!! I'm sure the boat has a **blower**, and my boat blower has never failed to work. I don't know what they expect to find, maybe the motor. I always say, if it was running fine when I put it on the trailer, then it will be fine now. Have you ever seen a boat develop a **gasoline leak** just riding on the trailer, and I have never over filled the tank!! Besides, now days, the boats are very mechanically sound, engineered through and through. Anyway, after these guys finish **sniffing under the hatches**, they back the boat in the water partway, with the rear deck raised. Don't ask me why, supposedly they just sniffed for gas fumes. Finally they start the motor, and appear to be **watching the gauges** for some ominous sign. I have never started a motor, that didn't have **oil pressure** or was **charging the battery** immediately. To top it off, after the gauge scan, they hop up from the seat, run to the back of the boat and try to climb in the engine compartment, AGAIN!! I tell you, there are several sure things in this world, 1) I never forget to **put the plug in**, 2) My exhaust hoses and

fittings have never leaked, 3) My **freshwater cooling hoses** have never leaked, nor has my **sand trap** 4) My **engine** has never **leaked gas** nor **oil**, 5) and last, I have never **heard funny sounds** coming **from the engine** compartment. After they finally get the hatch closed, they then return to their seat, start **looking at the gauges again**, like maybe the gauges are reading differently than when the boat started. While he is sitting in the seat, the guy usually gives me a wave. I think it's to let me know that he is still alive. After this big show, his wife, or buddy, usually back the boat **in some more**, and he **gingerly throttles** it off the trailer. I mean it's crazy; here the guy is with a 400hp, fire breathing, big block something or other, with a 9 1/2" turbo'ed three stage, water pumping jet boat and he **doesn't gun the throttle** to get off the trailer! When I back off the trailer, I run her up to 3 grand, blowing water up to the front tires of the truck. Yup, with that new impeller I can really wash down a boat ramp. I do have to get an impeller every year though; they just don't seem to last. Must be the poor quality metal nowadays. Well I'll teach these guys a thing or two, when I get my boat back. I still can't remember what happened. One minute I was hitting the starter, the next minute, I was being pulled from the water by some guy with a jet boat on his hat.

Sincerely, Joe "the rock" Skidmore
Rm 302 St. Al's Burn Unit

RAPIDS

www.westernwhitewater.org

The Happy Cooker



SAUSAGE-N-CHEESE

2 lbs. Hot Italian sausage, cubed
2 cups chopped onions
2/3 cup chopped green pepper
2 cloves chopped garlic
2 (16 oz) cans stewed tomatoes

2 cups tomato juice
2 (4 oz) cans mushrooms
4 tsp. Beef bouillon
1 tsp Italian seasoning
1 cup grated Parmesan **and** Romano

Brown sausage in oven, drain. Add onion, green pepper and garlic. Cover and cook until tender. Add all other ingredients except cheese. Heat and cook 30 minutes. Stir in ½ of cheese and top with remaining half.



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NEW MEETING PLACE

The membership meeting place has changed to Smoky Mountain Pizzeria Grill, 980 East Fairview Ave
Meridian 884-1067

The next meeting is May 9 at Smoky Mountain Pizzeria Grill.
See you there!

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are free to Members. The number at the end of your ad indicates the number of times your ad has appeared in the RAPIDS. After 3 times the ad will be dropped. You will need to resubmit the ad with some changes for further publication.

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* term expires January 2012

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Newsletter

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