



RAPIDS

November 2011

www.westernwhitewater.org

President's Message

For those of you unable to attend the most recent general membership meeting, Sandra Mitchell, representing the Idaho Recreation Council, addressed the membership regarding an emerging issue on the North Fork of the Clearwater. I certainly will not be able to describe the problem in great detail in this message. Suffice it to say that the Forest Service has attempted to close the North Fork of the Clearwater to motorized traffic without providing the public appropriate notice and an opportunity to comment. In fact, the first that the WWA learned of this closure was after a boater was issued a citation. The legal basis for issuing a citation is being challenged with a hearing date scheduled in early December.

I contacted Ms. Mitchell after I learned of the issue and called and spoke with the gentleman who received the citation. He has decided to challenge the citation with the support from the Idaho Recreation Council. As you all know, legal issues are costly and time consuming. Despite the cost and uncertainty of legal challenges, I firmly believe the WWA should support this cause, financially and politically. It is this type of issue that first attracted me to the WWA. I

certainly appreciate and have benefited from the camaraderie. However, it is fair and open access to the state's waterways that cause me the greatest concern. We have all made significant investments in our boats and the time it takes to run rivers responsibly. Despite these efforts it is clear that there are people who can and will take away access, one small and seemingly insignificant stretch of the river at a time. I believe that we should be visible and vocal on all issues surrounding boater access. I urge you to support this cause by speaking up about boating access, be involved in the WWA and the political process as much as possible and be good stewards while on the water. Let's keep those rivers open so our kids and grandkids can enjoy the same opportunities we have available to us today. See you on the river.

Brian Oakey
President



WWA Hammer Creek Derby Weekend

As hard as it is to believe, this annual event has come and gone for another year. The weather was incredible with warm temps and plenty of sunshine. The mild temps were relished by all. Oh yeah, there were fish in the river again this year with the only difference being that several participants were able to get a few in the net and subsequently onto their boats! Our boat was fortunate to see a beautiful fish landed on a boat next to us by the Captain's female boat assistants! That fish ultimately fell a $\frac{1}{4}$ " short of the winning entry but the real story was watching these ladies struggling to land that fish whilst the Captain remained in his seat and was seen laughing uproariously! Of course at check-in he was right there to collect the winnings also. Hehe, great fun!!

It was reported there were 37 entrants into the Derby and each had a vision of winning some prize money. There were at least that many stories of lost fish as well! Those stories of lost fish led one and all to believe that each of them would have been a contender for top honors! Of course there were the wild fish brought to the boat and released that were much larger than any legal fish turned in at the ramp! Then there is that one fisherman that proudly lays down his oversize Trout thinking it should win him a prize! Thank goodness some things never change.

Norma Ames caught her first ever Steelhead during a pre-fish on Friday with her husband Darwin at the helm. It reportedly was a 30"+ fish. Although we are lacking absolute proof it is suspected that Darwin somehow kept that fish in good condition for 24 hours as Norma claimed first place with her beautiful returning Salmon River Steelhead on Derby Day as well! Congratulations Norma! She was so thrilled to catch two such beautiful fish that Darwin figures she is now a diehard lets-go-fishing companion, at least until the snow flies and the windshield freezes over for the first time.

The Dutch Oven feast Saturday evening was held in Carl Norton's shop just off old highway



Carl (3rd place), Norma (1st place), Randy (2nd place)

95. As usual the participants put on a fabulous feed and if anyone left hungry they simply weren't paying attention and were probably still telling fish stories! A group of friends, WWA members, did some Halloween decorating of the driveway, parking area, and of course inside as well. The tables were covered with Halloween colored tablecloths, there seemed to be a few appendages laying around, talking mirrors in the bathroom, and of course carved and lit pumpkins

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Hammer Creek

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highlighting the evening. The same group that did the decorating also got into costume for the evening festivities. We had a couple of Witches that really wanted to be evil but couldn't keep the smiles off their faces. Cruella De Vil from 101 Dalmatians made an appearance looking for her Puppies and I really am not sure what the other character fashioned himself as but I called him Chief Cook Wampum Pampum and I did see him lending moral support to those cooking on the premises! The costumes were wonderful and added a festive and ghoulish feel to the evening! Thank each of you, Dan, Kathy, Nadine, & Diana for making all of us smile and for decorating the evening with your costumes and Halloween regalia.



Ron

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The annual WWA banquet will be held February 4, 2012

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See ya on the RIVER!

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Remember when?

Remember when?

Taken from the September 1998 issue of the RAPIDS

Rapid Wizard

In Tow

"The boat hasn't run this well in a long time," I remarked to my wife as we passed fishtrap bar. The tune up seemed to really make a difference. About a half mile from Kirby Creek, I thought I heard or sensed something out of the ordinary. The river took us close to the right bank and through some good sized rollers. I was working the throttle, trying to make the ride as sooth as possible when the vibration started. We were in the middle of the rapid and the more throttle I gave, the worse the vibration was. "Get on the radio," I told my wife. The vibration was bad now, and I was looking for a way out. As I started for the left bank, out of the corner of my eye, I could see the red boat making a hard turn. We limped to shore,

smoke coming out of the engine compartment. It was decided that as far as my boat was concerned, the summer trip to Hells Canyon was over. We hooked up the anchor rope and everyone piled into the other boat for the tow back to the ramp. That was the longest ride I have ever taken.

Imagine what kind of ride it would have been without a WWA member in front of us. Without the radio communication, nor the help from club members, the trip down might have been a lot different. Sometimes it seems we harp on things such as safety radios, don't go alone, etc.

BUT WHAT IF?



Let's hear from you!

Rant is defined as "A speech or *Text* that does not Present a Calm Argument!!!!"

Rave is to "Write or speak with Wild Enthusiasm!!!" Send your Rants & Raves to.....RapidsRantandRave@gmail.com

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09/2011



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Meeting	November 14
New Year's Day Run	January 1
WWA Banquet	February 4

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

Round to the season of equinox we have come again, celebrating once again the turning of the year. The harvest for some, the sowing time for others, both times of thanksgiving, of hope, of turning and considering what lies ahead, what the fields require, what the heart demands. May we have a good seed time, able to set out and plant what is more than needful, so there is plenty not just in human food, but for the earth, restoring the broken places. In our harvest and in our sowing, may we give thanks for the generosity of this life.

—Rev. Naomi King



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** term expires January 2012*

*** term expires January 2013*

Newsletter

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