



Rapids

July 2013

Join us Canyon Creek Restaurant & Lounge 1411 Shilo Dr. Nampa, Idaho I-84 Exit 36

Next meeting:

July 8th 7 pm

Do you have a topic to discuss or a guest speaker we for the meeting? Please contact Clyde:

cschrader4@q.com

Quote of the month:
"It's only water and rocks, and I can dodge rocks!" ...

Double D

Picture right:
The days to run the Payette this year were slim, but we did get a chance to go wash off the winter grime.

Skills Day 2013

Skills Day, A little High and Dry

The 2013 Skills Day was held on Saturday June 8th, with a practice run taken the night before. On Friday night the practice run successfully went from Nyssa to Ontario State Park and back. The river flow was at 6,800 cfs that night which was about as low as one would want to run the stretch of the river right above the rest area on the eastbound lane of the Interstate to the interstate bridge. The next day there were 11 boats that showed up to run and the weather was near perfect. The river did not cooperate and the flow was 5,200 cfs that morning. Nonetheless, we discussed some of the towing techniques and ways to facilitate a quick release of a tow rope from the towing boat. Also, some tried the Columbia River anchor system to see how to hold anchor in a current and retrieve an anchor in swift water. From the demonstration and practice, it



was evident one should have approximately 12 to 17 feet of anchor rope out for every foot of depth in the river. If possible, thread the anchor line through the trailer hitch cleat on the front of your boat to keep the bow high in the water. The purpose is to prevent the current from causing the bow of the boat to be pulled down into the moving current. Lastly, it was pointed out that if at all possible, set the anchor system you use in river current out while the boat is under power. That will allow you to power up to adjust rope length or boat position should something not work as planned. The run down stream was shortened, as about eight miles downstream there was a channel that was passable the night before but with lower flows, it was too skinny to run multiple boats through the shallow channel. So the group had to turn around and head back upstream. There are numerous places that I can wade across the river this

summer and keep my knees dry. So if you are on the Snake River or any rivers this summer, remember the river bottom is closer to the surface this summer and use appropriate caution. The day after our run, the lowest recorded level at the Nyssa Bridge was noted. It was a flow of 4,300 cfs. With the heat this week, we may see an even lower all time flow.

While the run was shortened, the sights along the way were not. Along with the usual and expected ducks and geese, the group spotted a cow elk, deer, and a small brood of wild turkeys along the way. I usually see a bald eagle on that stretch of the river but none were spotted that day.

After the run, several enjoyed some conversation and great Mexican food at Tex Mex, the local secret for Mexican food in Nyssa. I am re-learning the river in these low flows and the ice flows of last winter changed a few gravel bars but if anyone is interested in running that stretch, I will happily share what I have seen this summer. It is a stretch of the river that has a unique character and attractiveness.

Thanks to all that participated and added to the education of the day.

Jed Myers



Whitewater 101

Over the years I have seen several newbies get their introduction to whitewater and its thrill. This year I was asked by a local group of Scouts to line up a trip to Hells Canyon. This group was part of the Varsity and Venture scouts, and for those not familiar with scouting, that age group is from 14 to 18 years of age. None of these young men or adult leaders had been on a Jetboat and very few had been in whitewater.

This trip was part of their "High Adventure" outdoor project and after lengthy fundraising by the boys and discussion, the boys decided to try a rafting adventure down the Snake River and a Jetboat ride back upstream. So meals were planned, supplies purchased, camping gear organized and arrangements made. Sixteen young men and three adult leaders set out on a first time whitewater adventure.

The adventure began with a float down the River Canyon guided by Hughes River Adventures. Jerry Hughes was very helpful and catered to the group like it was his own family. The flows were around 6,500 to 7,000 cfs and the boys thought Wild Sheep and Granite was a little less impressive than I had made them out to be. Water Spout and Rush Creek were really working at those flows and Water Spout got several floaters pretty wet. Since I had run my boat through Water Spout and Rush Creek at higher and more navigable flows on previous outings, they thought I must really be something. They were wrong but I did not have the heart to tell them any different because later that false impressiveness might come in handy.

After river camping and river rafting, Hells Canyon Adventures ran the boys upriver to the starting point at Hells Canyon Dam. That impressed the boys to no end and several are thinking of some way to do that again. All of the boys have a deeper appreciation of the history of the canyon, the forces of whitewater and the shared usage of this tremendous resource.

The next part of their adventure moved to the Imnaha River and a campground called Indian Crossing. There they hiked to a place called the Blue Hole and took in some more natural beauty, cliff jumping, and fishing. While the weather was a little cold and rainy, the boys faces still light up when asked about the river run and the adventure of the canyon. None of the participants had been on a jet boat in white water and all have a commitment to "do that again". They will have one more "Super Activity" this summer that I am in charge of. Thanks to Jerry Hughes of Hughes River Adventures and Mark Yeates of Hells Canyon Adventures, my work is going to be real tough to top this excellent adventure and first class guided outing. The boys and the leaders pass on to you one more very large adventurous thank you. They are not newbies any more. Jed Myers

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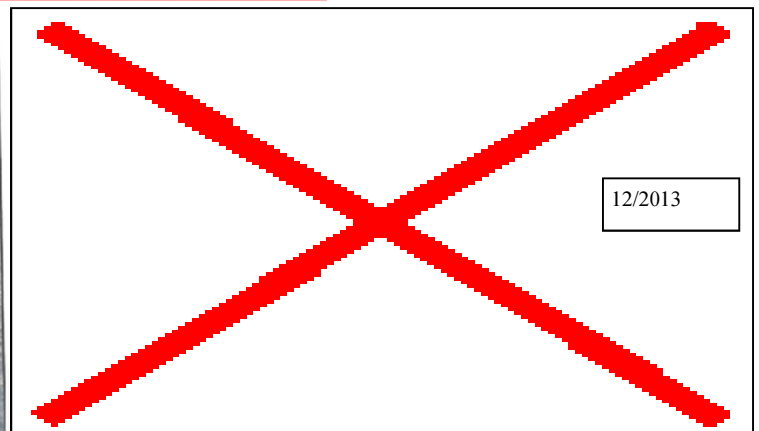


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April 2015

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PURPOSE

- To stimulate and advance the general welfare and safety of boating.
- To serve the interests of recreation water users.
- To defend against discriminatory legislation, regulations and burdensome taxation.
- To develop a fraternal spirit among all recreational water users.
- To provide a medium for the exchange of boating information.
- To own or lease property for the Association users.
- To perform all desirable and lawful functions for the successful operation of the Association and in the general public's interests.

CODE OF ETHICS

- I will maintain and enhance the quality of the water upon which I operate.
- I will at all times, drive at speeds as to keep the boat under control.
- I will always respect the rights of other water users.
- I will at all times give down-river traffic the right of way.
- I will leave campgrounds and campsites clean and bring out litter.
- I will get permission and have respect for private property.
- I will give aid to any boatman or water user when in danger.
- I will read the Code of Ethics of the Association and agree to abide by them as an active member and boatman.

March 2014

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*term expires Jan. 2014

**term expires Jan. 2015

From the Editor:

I have taken on the role of getting the monthly newsletter out to the general membership and while I am more than happy to pitch in do my part, it will be a better publication with your help. Have you been a great river trip you want to tell us about? Do you have an idea that you would like to share with the group? Any good pictures that we should all see? These are all things that you can submit to the Rapids to share with your fellow Jet Boaters.

rapids@westernwhitewater.org



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May 2014



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Western Whitewater Association "Rapids"

Calendar of Events

SEPT 14, 2013 Confluence Run

OCT 26, 2013 Hammer Creek Run

All dates are subject to change. In the event of a change, we will notify ASAP.

General Meetings

are the second Monday of the Month at
Canyon

Creek Restaurant Nampa, ID

Internet Addresses

Idaho Current Streamflows: (New Address) 5-01

[http://water.usgs.gov/id/nwis/current?
type=flow&group_key=NONE&search
_site_no_station_nm=](http://water.usgs.gov/id/nwis/current?type=flow&group_key=NONE&search_site_no_station_nm=) (enter it once and bookmark it!)

Idaho Power Streamflow Information: (03-02)

<http://www.idahopower.com/h2o/idastream.cfm>

Riverflow Information:

<http://www.idwr.state.id.us/planpol/techserv/flows.htm>

Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Salmon River Reservations: Slate Creek Ranger Station: 208-839-2211

Hells Canyon Power Boat Reservations: Pat Wurl: 509-758-0270

General information: 509-758-0616

River & Reservoir Levels: Bureau of Reclamation: 208-334-9134