



March RAPIDS



WESTERN WHITEWATER ASSOCIATION

2015 CHILI RUN

February 21 a group of 15 boaters attended the Chili Run pre-run. It was a chilly day and the breeze came up adding to the chill factor. There were no rock incidents that day that I heard about. However, the next day we were not quite as lucky as I think I heard a couple of boats introduced themselves to a rock.

Thank you to all the volunteers who came up to Rattlesnake Eddy to clean the beach for Sunday.

Sunday morning at the ramp was downright cold in my opinion. But by the time we got to Rattlesnake Eddy the temperature had risen a little and there was no breeze. I think it was probably the warmest

Chili Run I have attended.

There were twelve entries, although a couple was side dishes not chili. Good Food, Good Friends and a very Good day. And the winners were: Best Chili (and the chairs for next year's event) Don and Cindy Kahre, Best Side Dish Keith Whittig Fam-

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March RAPIDS

Special points of interest:

- *Chili Run February 22*
- *Walters Ferry Run March 14*
- *Walters Ferry Dredging*
- *Not Important, but Possibly of Interest!*
- *Walters Ferry Ramp repair*

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With two of the year's club runs over and behind us, one was the New Year's Day run and the second was the Chili run. Both were on the Snake River from Walters Ferry to Swan Falls Dam. We were able to experience the river at a lower level with most of the rocks exposed on the New Year's run. On the Chili run the water was up considerably and

had a few sleeper rocks just under the surface. On Saturday 16 boats came and ran the pre run with no issues or mishaps. Many helped do a quick cleanup on weeds and brush to make way for the chili tasting event on Sunday. I counted 24 boats, with a few new to the run. Many styles and flavors of chili were offered, some had unique names. I was so full by the time

I had tasted all of the entries and had a tough time voting for the best since all of the entries were so good. I think it was the elk meat chili that ended up being my favorite and didn't surprise me when it won best chili. I hope everyone enjoyed the day of food and visiting as much as I did. We had some members that weren't able to boat in and

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 2)

drove instead. They were picked up on the north side and boated across.

On Monday, I was very surprised to find out that one boat had been left behind sitting on a rock. Fortunately they were able to get out on their cell phone and get help. This is another fine example of what the

club is all about. Helping fellow boaters in need.

The whole weekend was full of fun and safe boating and makes me anxious for the next run. The Glenns Ferry run on March 14th. I haven't been on this run before and I have to admit I am a little nervous about the unknown. Putting my faith in people with experience who I

know will lead and teach a safe trip. Maybe we will see you there.

Happy and Safe boating
President Randy Clagg

2015 CHILI RUN

(Continued from page 1)

ily, Hottest Chili Carey Bryant, Best Kitchen Rick White Family and Best Name David Dickerson. Thank you to all the participants. I over-ate and was really ready for a nap.

This was a nice day and soooo much fun. Hate to wait a full year for the next one. But I guess good things

are worth waiting for.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the Glenns Ferry Run, March 14.
Anita Shore, Chair



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Glenn's Ferry 2015

I know it already feels like spring out, but it's not that time of year yet. It is the time of year where the Western Whitewater goes to Three Island Park for our annual Glenn's Ferry run. The run is Saturday March 14th. Many of the members go over and camp out for the entire weekend, while others make a day run out of it. It's a good run to get the cob webs out of the boat if it has been sitting most of the winter. There is a couple technical sections to this run, but very manageable with a little coaching for anyone that has some experience on moving water.

There will be a drivers meeting at the ramp just down from Three Island Park at 9 am. We will run up in groups of 4-5, depending on how many leaders I have. In

the past it has been hard to get enough leaders that know this section, so if you do please set up and help the club out. The weather that time of year can go either way, so bring warm clothes.

We will have a steak dinner, with the beef provided by the club. The rest of the dinner is pot-luck so



make sure you bring your best side to share. We will have dinner starting around 6 pm back in the camp ground at Three Island Park. In the past we have done a pan cake breakfast, and will look at do-

ing this if there is enough interest.

I am going to try and get maps to the ramp and the park posted online this week. Please call or email if you have any questions. Chad Colton 890-4812 or chad.colton@nm.com



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Walter's Ferry Boat Ramp

Some of you may already be aware of this, but just in case, Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) Southwest Region has recently completed a sediment removal project from the Walter's Ferry boat ramp. Some of you may have some questions regarding it, so here's a short review of the project.

The Walter's Ferry site is one of the Southwest Regions most popular boat ramps located on the Snake River. The ramp offers both anglers and hunters access to a large section of the Snake River below Swan Falls Dam. A persistent drought, low river flows, and high sediment loads combined to create a large sediment bar between the end of the ramp and the main river channel. At extremely low river flows, this sediment bar was within inches of the water's surface, effectively closing off the ramp. Large boats couldn't be launched and small boats could only do so by going over or through the sediment bar.

So, why does the sediment build up here so prominently and persistently? Well, first of all, this is nothing new. I've been associated with Walter's Ferry for over twenty years and have removed this sediment build up four of five times during my career. There are a couple factors that cause this build up at the end of this ramp. The Snake River has a fairly high level of suspended sediments. Secondly, the ramp is set back from the river in a small bay. When faster moving river water swirls into this bay it loses velocity, the sediment it carries falls out of solu-

tion, and begins to accumulate. The installation of the new boarding docks during 2003 on the upstream side of the ramp has also contributed. This dock extension slowed river flow even more and altered flow patterns. Since 2003, the sediment bar has moved a short distance farther from the bay and has become slightly larger.

So, what is the solution to this problem? Well, short of a complete overhaul of the ramp, docks, river flow patterns, and sediment loads, dredging is the most practical solution. All the bills aren't in yet, but these dredging efforts were estimated to cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000 excluding personnel costs. These funds came out of our Regional Boating and Fishing Access budgets. I suppose \$4,000-\$5,000 spent every seven to ten years is far better than an estimated \$300,000 to move the ramp and boarding dock. If river flows improve, dredging may even be required less than this.

I have been approached in the past by folks offering to clean the ramp free of charge, this is always appreciated, but I'm afraid impossible. There is a long list of why the IDFG cannot accept a donation of this sort. Perhaps, the biggest reason is our permitting obligations. I'd rather not go into that process in detail, but we are required to meet State and Federal laws on all of our sites and for all of our construction and maintenance projects. This particular project required sampling for endangered species known to be in the area, section 7 ESA consulta-

tion, a 404 permit from the Army Corp of Engineers and Idaho Department of Water Resources among other things. There are also issues involving where to place the material that is removed from the river. There simply isn't room at the site to just place the material on the bank anymore and hauling off site can get expensive.

The possibility of introducing or spreading invasive weeds or species is becoming a huge concern while doing this type of work. I am very thankful to staff from the Idaho Department of Agriculture for their assistance on this project. They assisted us with cleaning and de-contaminating the required silt curtains, as well as other equipment used to remove the silt. Their assistance helps ensure when those items are used in the Clearwater River or elsewhere, they won't be packing any hitchhikers with them. Invasive species control and management efforts, such as this, are paid for with funds from boat licensing. I hope all of you would agree that we all need to remain vigilant about cleaning our boats and ensuring that we are not moving invasive species as we travel this beautiful state and beyond. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to give me a call (208) 465-8465. I hope you all have a safe time on the water and enjoy the Walter's Ferry ramp.



Story and photo courtesy of the Idaho Fish and Game,
Boating and Fishing Access





NOT IMPORTANT, BUT POSSIBLY OF INTEREST

As I have a little space to fill, I wanted to give a few of my beliefs about our club.

James and I have been members for only seventeen years and I know there are members who have been with the club, much longer.

I was told by, if not one of the originals; close to it that originally a few boaters met at a local café for breakfast or a bar in the evening to just talk about fishing and boating. They would meet up someplace and run a river, the Snake, Salmon or the Payette.

They decided they should form an association to protect our rights to stay on the river. So, the

club was incorporated in 1978.

As I said before, I have not been a member for that long, but I think a big part of what we do is teach newer boaters how to run the rivers safely.

Promoting Safe Whitewater Jetboating, Family Recreation, and Access to Rivers

However, if I am wrong, someone please correct me.

I recently overheard someone ask the question, what is the club's intention for the money we have in our savings account? Well, I was the club's secretary treasurer during the not to long ago battle with the government regarding our right to the use of the

Salmon River. They wanted to take away our rights to use this river. I paid our attorney a big amount every month for over a year during this dispute. Believe me when I say, we can spend the money we have saved very rapidly.

I am very proud to be a member of this organization. As Randy said in his message. It is a good example of what our club is about—Helping fellow boaters in need.





2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President Elect — Shay
White*
Vice President— Bill Dutton*
Secretary/Treasurer—Mark
Bickmore*

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JED MYERS**

*term expires Jan. 2016
**term expires Jan. 2017
Newsletter Anita Shore
Work# 208 454-1669
als43@shoreshoreaviation.com

As there is always a spot that needs to be filled—I am asking everyone in the club — Have a good story to tell about fishing, hunting or anything else you do with your boat. Please submit all your photos and stories to the Rapids to share with the rest of the club.

rapids@westernwhitewater.org

Would you like to rent the WWA Satellite phone for your trip? Contact the Whites at 208 888-4278 or email at western-whitehousetire@q.com

Classifieds are free to members—so if you have something to sell, email the rapids@westernwhitewater.org



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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=
(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: Reservations must be made online. <https://www.recreation.gov/>

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

Bliss Dam Outflows: Idaho Power (Call weekdays only) 208-388-2255

Calendar of Events

March 9, 2015: General Membership meeting—Canyon Creek Restaurant, Nampa ID

March 14, 2015: Glenns Ferry Run, Glenns Ferry, ID

April 16, 17, 2015: Salmon River Run

May: Payette river run (day to be determined. Depends on water flow)

June: Skills Day (Day and site to be determined)

September 12, 2015: Confluence Run

October 24, 2015: Hammer Creek Fishing Day

General membership meeting: Second Monday of the month at Canyon Creek Restaurant, Nampa ID

