

MAY 2016

RAPIDS



2016 SKILLS DAY

The Skills Day Run will be held this year Saturday May 14th on the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam. This is the second year for this event to be at this location and by all indications, the river flow appears to be more favorable this year than last year. Just checking the website today the river has been running from a low of 16,000 CFS to a high of 26,000 CFS for the past week. These are pretty good flows to launch and retrieve a boat and also to learn a little about your boat

in some moderate whitewater. Last year some of the more skilled captains navigated Wild Sheep and Granite but the run will be above those rapids for training purposes.

The run will start with a captains meeting at the Helipad camping area above the dam at 8:30 AM and launching thereafter. We will run down river with stops on the way to Battle Creek and then back to the dam with a lengthy stop at Brush Creek.

Brush Creek is a good class three rapid to learn how a boat will handle in swift current and whitewater. In general the run is a good opportunity to learn boat skills in swift water with some class three whitewater to navigate as well.

The river below Hells Canyon Dam has a lot of variety. The whitewater can change from morning to afternoon with the changing flows from the dam. There is a lot of fishing

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Brush Creek Rapid
Skills Day 2015



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April has proven to be an exciting and very busy time. During the April 11 regular membership meeting we had guests from Life Flight and Idaho Parks and Rec as speakers. If you don't already have Life Flight insurance I encourage you to contact them and get signed up. You never know when you might need them. Polli Buzzini is the Community Outreach Coordinator her e-mail address is pbuzzini@lifeflight.org or you can go to the website www.lifeflight.org for more information. Julie Traska from Idaho Parks and Rec did a demonstration on the boating section of their website... please go to the following address for some great

information on safe boating <https://parksandrec.idaho.gov/activities/boating>.

During the 3rd weekend in April we always have our Salmon River Run and the Salmon River Jet Boat Races. Both of these events are near and dear to our family. Back in the day (1990) Grady was 5 and I was 3 when dad and mom took us on the Salmon for the first time. We were with Don Moore and a great group of jet boaters. The water level was running at 32,000 cfs that weekend. We went anyway! Obviously I don't remember much about that trip,

(Continued on page 4)



These symbols have been in the last several issues of the Rapids. Does anyone (other than Bob Hays) know what they say?



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2016 SKILLS DAY

(Continued from page 1)

variety from steelhead and salmon during the seasons to trout, catfish, and bass year round. There will be some time for fishing during the stops on the run. As with any whitewater outing safety is the highest priority and expect the usual things with the class two and three rapids however, the most common personal health and safety issue treated from Hells Canyon is poison oak or poison ivy. They are very common on the creeks that feed into the river so use some caution.

After the run, we will have a pot luck dinner at the Helipad camping area. The club will provide the meat for the dinner and the fine whitewater camp cooks will bring the "accessories". If you have never seen a WWA

potluck, it is a true dinner spread of great food, great people, and good times. We will have a brief discussion and try to get a reasonable head count at the May general meeting. This will be a good time to answer questions and fine tune the outing. As with all club runs, make sure your CB radio is in good working order and that your boat is equipped with a porta-potti (Forrest Service Regulation). Most of all bring your sense of adventure and prepare to enjoy one of the area's true outdoor gems.

Jed Myers,
Chair

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED

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but I know for a fact that is really big water. The water level this year was about the same and the group decided not to make the run, several boats went over the hill to Pittsburgh Landing and ran the Snake. Other boaters stayed on the Salmon and helped with safety boat duties, which was greatly appreciated.

The 32nd Annual Salmon River Jet Boat Races were on Saturday and Sunday with lots of excitement and thrills for the crowds. I want to thank Mick Cowger and all of the fantastic safety boat captains and crews. Barry Fenton from Canada always speaks very highly of our safety crews and I quote "Riggins is the best race of all because of the safety boats and experienced crews. I would rather race here than any other river". On Friday during the testing and tuning our safety crews were right there

when one of the racers flipped his boat. Thank you John Faw and crew for being willing and ready, Trevor Yochum of Lewiston is very grateful.

Saturday morning the water level was around 29,000 cfs. Still pretty high, somethings are washed out and others just bigger. Twelve boats showed up to race and 10 started and finished. Several boats had some damage from pressure waves and a few rocks. The Unlimited class was won by Gord Humphrey, the CX class was won by Ryan Ringer and FX class was won by White Boyz. All and all it was a great weekend. Thanks to everyone who came to race, who came to help and who came to watch. Thank You WWA for supporting Riggins and this race.

Jed Myers is the chair for the skills day coming up in May and we also have the 2016 World Jet Boat Marathon Race will be at the end of this month, May 20 – 29, starting in St. Maries. The 4

rivers involved in this event are the St. Joe, Coeur d'Alene, Grande Ronde, and Snake Rivers. I believe they are still looking for safety boats and captains for Lewiston and the Grande Ronde. Let me know if you are interested. White Boyz will be racing and if anyone has or knows of a motor home we could use that would be very much appreciated.

Hope to see you all on the river.

Respectfully
Shay White



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.

NOTICE

It is very important to attend the next WWA meeting—May 8, 2016 at Canyon Creek Restaurant, Nampa Idaho !!! We have been informed by Sandra Mitchell, there is a movement afloat by the Clarkston Forest Service to charge a \$10.00 Launch fee in Hells Canyon. It is imperative we voice our stand on this. We hope to have more information by the meeting next Monday. Please plan to attend.

Safety Boats on the Salmon River

Due to my forgetfulness, I forgot to ask Mick Cowger to give me a story on the Safety Boats for the Salmon River Jet Boat Races, until it was about time for me to go to press. Therefore there will not be a story in this month's Rapids. Hopefully next month. Again, I apologize to all members and to Mick. I will try to do better in the future.

FLYING HELLS CANYON

With all the wind we had in the valley Saturday, it looked like a flight on Sunday was going to be very rough. But Mother Nature was very nice and shut off the wind, Sunday, May 1, was a beautiful day for flying.

Toby of Ashley Heating brought his beautiful DeHavilland Beaver to the Caldwell Airport where he picked up his passengers, the high bidders for an airplane ride through Hells Canyon.

After fueling up (fuel furnished by Jim Shore, Shore & Shore Aviation) Toby and his five passengers departed for a fascinating scenic flight through Hells

Canyon. According to Brandi Moore, one of the lucky passengers, they flew down the Canyon to the confluence of the Salmon River and then upriver about 12 miles. She said they saw Elk, Big Horn Sheep and Coyotes.

They proceeded to Pittsburg Landing and then upriver to Temperance Creek where they landed for lunch. Brice Barnes, owner of Custom Weld and Hells Canyon Packers furnished them with lunch. Everyone raved about the lunch. Brandi described it as "awesome".

If you would like to experience a fantastic meal and/or lodge for the night, Brice Barnes

said they would be happy to accommodate you. To make reservations for a meal or lodging contact him at 208-816-0121 or at brice@boatingfun.com or go to his web site HellsCanyonPackers.com.

After lunch the group flew back to the Caldwell Airport. **Everyone had a great time and thank Toby for a great ride.**

Left to Right: Brandi Moore, Cheyenne Scott, Denise Moore, Jim Moore, Toby Ashley and David Horton



2016 WWA

Officers

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Toni Ruby*

Grady White* whitega@cou.edu

*term expires Jan. 2018

**term expires Jan. 2017

Calendar of Events.

MAY 9, 2016 General Membership meeting—Canyon Creek Restaurant, Nampa

May 7, 2016 (tentative) Weed Rim

May 2016 (to be determined) Payette River Run

May 14, 2016 Skills Day Hells Canyon Dam

SEPT 17, 2016 Confluence Run

OCT 22, 2016 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

Members wishing to place ads are free. Commercial ads are \$10.00 each month, or \$100.00 for a year. If you have an ad that you would like run, call Anita Shore at (208) 454-1669

FAX (208) 454-1923 or email shore2shore@heritagewifi.com. 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

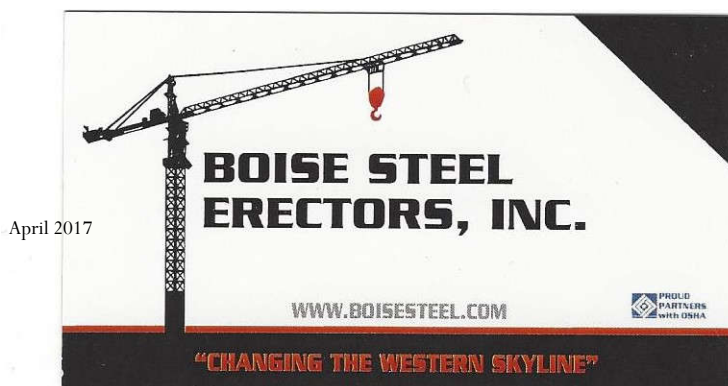
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Internet Addresses

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_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://](http://www.idwr.state.id.us/planpol/techserv/flows.htm)

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

