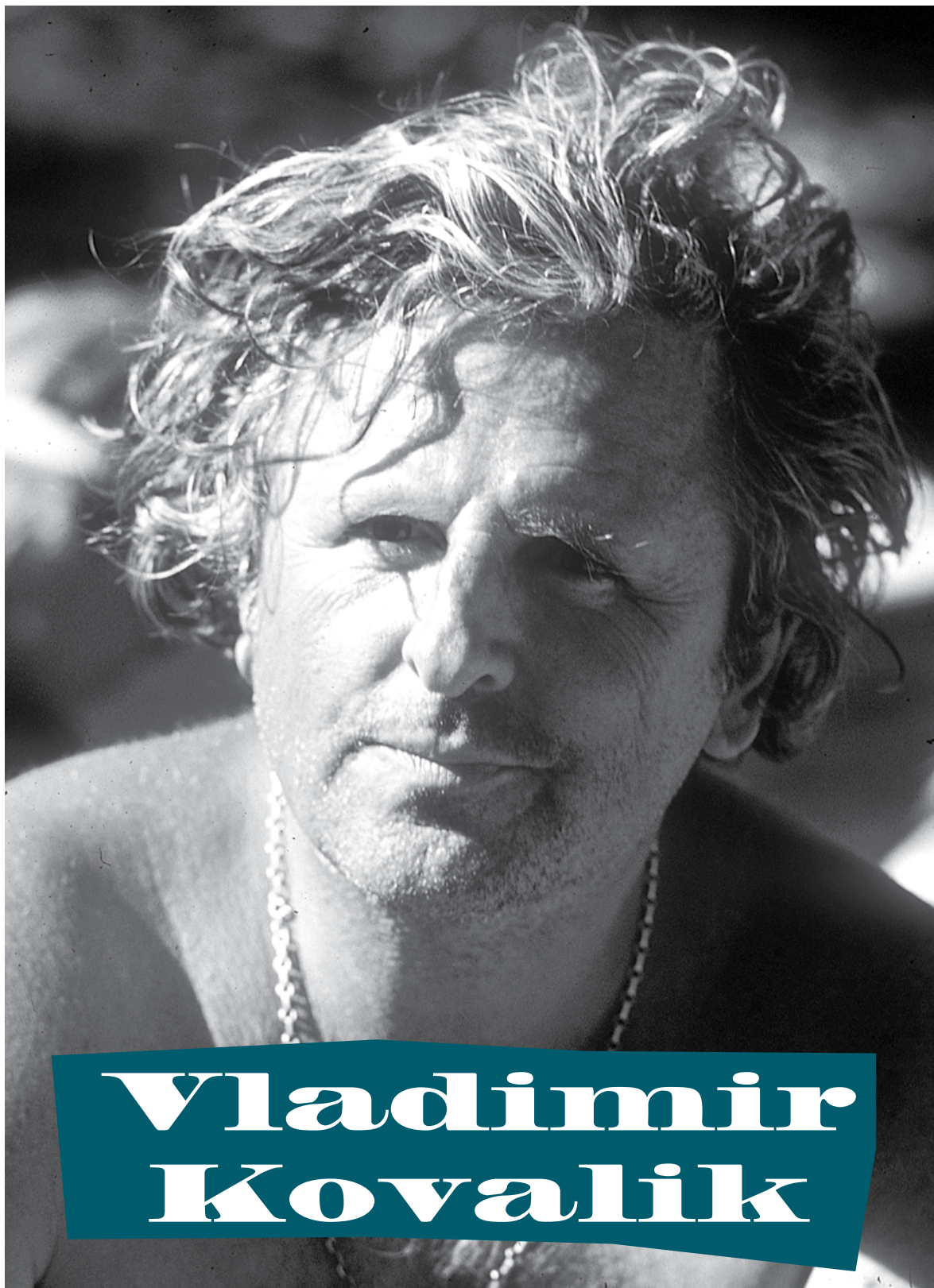


boatman's quarterly review

the journal of Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc | volume 18 number 4 | winter 2005-2006



**Vladimir
Kovalik**

CRMP Update • Prez Blurb • Farewell • Dear Eddy • Water Wars • Living Culture
Legalize Epinephrine? • Books • In Praise of P.O.C. • Back of the Boat
2006 GTS • AAB 2004 • Adaptive Management • Wage & Benefits Survey

boatman's quarterly review

...is published more or less quarterly
by and for Grand Canyon River Guides.

Grand Canyon River Guides
is a nonprofit organization dedicated to

*Protecting Grand Canyon
Setting the highest standards for the river profession
Celebrating the unique spirit of the river community
Providing the best possible river experience*

General Meetings are held each Spring and Fall. Our Board of Directors Meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of each month. All innocent bystanders are urged to attend. Call for details.

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Our editorial policy, such as it is: provide an open forum. We need articles, poetry, stories, drawings, photos, opinions, suggestions, gripes, comics, etc. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc.

Written submissions should be less than 1500 words and, if possible, be sent on a computer disk, pc or mac format; Microsoft Word files are best but we can translate most programs. Include postpaid return envelope if you want your disk or submission returned.

Deadlines for submissions are the 1st of February, May, August and November. Thanks.
Our office location: 515 West Birch, Flagstaff, az 86001
Office Hours: 10:30-4:30 Monday through Friday

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CRMP Update

THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (FEIS) for the Colorado River Management Plan at Grand Canyon National Park has been published and can be downloaded from the following website: www.nps.gov/gcra/crmp. This very recent development precludes GCRG perspectives in this issue, so look for more information in Volume 19 #1 of the Boatman's Quarterly Review. But in the meantime, educate yourself by reviewing "Modified Alternative H" (the NPS Preferred Alternative). The CRMP team at Grand Canyon National Park has made this quite a bit easier by including the following documents on their website:

CRMP: Key Changes in the FEIS from Current Condition

CRMP: Key Changes in the FEIS from the DEIS (the Draft EIS)

To request a copy of the Final EIS on compact disk (CD), you can send an email message to gcra_crmp@nps.gov with "CD" in the subject line. Include your name and mailing address in the body of your email and the CD will be sent to you when available. You can also request a CD via snail mail at: CRMP Team, Grand Canyon National Park, PO Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023.

Printed copies of the EIS will be available for review at the GCNP Headquarters Building and at selected area libraries (locations will be posted on the CRMP website). If you need a printed copy of the Final EIS, you can request one from: CRMP Team, Grand Canyon National Park, PO Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. Please include your name, telephone number and shipping address in the message. However, very limited quantities are available.

A 30-day no-action period will follow the publication of the notice of availability in the Federal Register. Following this no-action period, a Record of Decision will be prepared that documents the NPS decision and rationale for that decision. A summary of the Record of Decision (ROD) will appear in the Federal Register. Once the ROD has been published, a monitoring and implementation plan will be developed to meet ROD specifications. The Final Colorado River Management Plan, including the monitoring and implementation plan, will be published and made available to all interested parties.



Prez Blurp

“ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DAM” it was said, GCRG had our Fall Meeting up on Lake Powell at the end of October. With many thanks to Breck Poulson and the crew at Wilderness River Adventures, we were able to take advantage of a generous offer through Aramark, using two of their houseboats plus a sporty run-about. We extend our sincerest thanks to Teva for the monetary donation to make the dent for gas and food that much smaller, and to Helen Yard for contributing her tasty Toucanet coffee to wake us up on Sunday morning. We had quite the flotilla with the addition of several other speed (and not-so-speedy) boats. This was my first time on the Lake, and I encourage all who have not taken the opportunity to visit Lake Powell to do so. All of us had a fantastic time in this beautiful spot—hiking, boating, bonding—it was truly a great community-building event and one we hope to repeat.

We limited the official meeting time to about an hour before we left our camp on Sunday. This gave us a chance to relax and talk informally for the most part during the weekend. Many items presented during the meeting time are topics discussed at board meetings and are presented in this issue of the BQR. Traditional Cultural Properties for river runners, epinephrine legislation, a wage and benefit survey, and the upcoming CRMP are all issues we are currently considering. As we should like to make extremely clear, anyone is welcome to direct comments about these or any other topic to anyone on the Board of Directors or Lynn Hamilton. Better than that, get Lynn to inform you of the board meeting schedule and come. Your input is welcome and encouraged!

When I was deciding to run for the board, I asked around for some advice and I got some opinions about GCRG. This is one of the reasons I want to stress that we are all in this together. If you are a guide, or anyone concerned about the Canyon and river trips, we want your thoughts. We like to think that we are working on things that truly matter to the Canyon boating community in general, and specifically, to guides. Also, as Drifter Smith pointed out, we are not the Flagstaff Rowing Club. GCRG has good representation from motor as well as rowing guides, and a number who do both. Our board also regularly includes guides who are not Flagstaff-based, there again mirroring the diversity of this river running community.

I would like to mention a word about the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (AMP). Before coming to the board, I knew relatively nothing

about the AMP. This Program was formed as a result of concerns about the downstream effects of Glen Canyon Dam. This is our working environment. GCRG has two representatives in the Program: Andre Potochnik, who sits on the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG), which sends recommendations for Dam operations to the Secretary of the Interior; and John O'Brien, who sits on the Technical Work Group, which provides credible scientific information to the AMWG for well informed management decisions. If you have access to the internet, check out http://www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/amp/twg/twg_members.html and the various links.

The layers of groups and meetings are sometimes confusing and a bit off-putting for us who want to run the river. We did not become guides to sit inside and talk. The Grand Canyon River Guides organization is here, however, to take your direction and go with it. Your input on all topics is valuable, and we are here to listen. Lastly, we encourage all guides to contribute to the *Boatman's Quarterly Review*—artwork, stories, photography, poetry, etc. We want this publication to be reflective of the diverse talents of this vibrant guiding community!

Joe Pollock

Dear Eddy

IN REFERENCE TO BLAIR KUROPATKIN'S "DEAR EDDY" ARTICLE IN BQR 18:3, WRITING IN REFERENCE TO "THE SURPRISING TRUTH ABOUT ADDICTION" BY STANTON PEELE IN BQR 18:2

I CAME TO FLAGSTAFF in the winter of 1983-'84 to make a new start. Had swamped for Diamond's the previous summer during the high water but rushed back to Oregon in June upon the news of my girlfriend being killed in an automobile accident. Grief stricken, I moved on and did some forestry work in the Wallowa-Whitman mountains of North East Oregon later that summer and lived in a teepee near Bend during the early snows of fall deciding what to do with my life.

It had been a wet spring but a dry winter and my friend and brother Bob Grusy had given up on ski instructing at Snowbowl and was going to Mexico as I was heading south. But he said, "Stop in on my friends in upper Greenlaw where I've been staying and they will put you up. They are great guys." So I rolled into Flag with everything I owned in a '65 Dodge Dart and knocked on the door of a duplex in East Flag. Expecting a nagging landlord instead of a road weary stranger, Whale answered the door with a gruff "Who the hell are you?" After introductions and small talk I got to know Jeff Voss and The Whale; boatmen who have been my friends ever since.

That was my introduction to The Whale, Curtis Hansen and the beginning of a friendship and association like so many of us shared. We ran with him or along side him. Helped him out or were helped out by him given the circumstances.

Grusy and Robby Pitagora had a golden vision when they proposed the Whale Foundation. And, as few of these pipe dreams proceed, the Whale Foundation has been more than the success that they envisioned ten years ago. It is something to be applauded and supported.

However, I feel that in all this we are beginning to forget who The Whale was/is. In Blair Kuropatkin's letter in the last BQR in which Stanton Peele's letter was eloquently commented on, this was stated: "The Whale Foundation was founded as a result of, and named after, a tragically and fatally addicted individual."

While the addictions, fetishes, and anti-social behaviors of The Whale can be debated, I think that there are some basic facts about the man's life and death which come into play which have little or nothing to do with addiction or substance abuse.

Curtis was a teenager from Idaho when he went to fight the war in Vietnam. He was a door gunner on a Huey med-evac helicopter. The things he saw and did during his time there are not suitable topics for polite conversation. He did not expect to live or to come home and continue his life.

He once told me that everything that came after Vietnam was extra. He didn't expect to have the time, so he felt like all the time after was extra. Fortunately he found the Grand Canyon and spent the majority of these "extra" years in a place he loved and with people who loved, if not worshipped him.

And I think the reasons people loved The Whale were simple: Whale had a keen appreciation for the essential. His bullshit meter was razor true. He loved and appreciated people who were authentic or who, at least, did not pose. If you fit that bill, he would be your friend and defend you till the end. It was that simple with him.

Toward the end of Whale's life he was faced with many challenges. Some were work related in terms boating and some involved work up here. Some were physical, concerning his health and vitality.

Some challenges he faced none of us who were close to him then probably had a clue.

Now, I'm not saying that taking your own life is the preferred alternative. And I acknowledge there are many more constructive ways of dealing with life's problems. However, having known The Whale and having missed him after he left, the way I see it is that he decided he had enough of the "extra" years and it was time to leave while he was ahead. I don't really think it was much more complicated than that.

So, rather than remembering Whale as the "tragically and fatally addicted individual" who is the poster boy for The Whale Foundation, I would rather he be remembered as the good friend and unique individual who lived life on his terms and chose to leave life on the same terms.

We miss you Whale.

Chris Geanius



Image from "The Grand: The Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, a Photo Journey"
photo by Steve Miller

Farewell

EARL LESEBERG

MANY OF YOU OLDER Grand Canyon Expeditions, Hatch, Diamond, Moki Mac, Western, and former Sanderson and White Water River Expeditions boatmen, as well as airplane pilots, might recall the name Earl Leseberg, founder of Lake Mead Air, Boulder City Nevada. Or, perhaps, you might have heard tales of his flying exploits such as: dropping “medical supplies,” packed in ice cream to keep the medicine cool, of course, at 220 Mile camps; flying beneath the Navajo Bridge (“What bridge?!”); leading helicopters into the Canyon down to the River when the storm clouds were so thick that Captain John Hance could snow-shoe across and the chopper pilots wouldn’t dare; and skipping his plane’s wheels on the water.

Earl was an enlisted U.S. Marine Corps aviator, serving as a dive-bomber pilot in the South Pacific during World War II, a transport pilot in the mid-1940s, and as a civil service employee for the U.S. Air Force after the War, based at Nevills Air Force Base in Las Vegas. From the early 1960s, and for over forty

years, Earl and Lake Mead Air flew many a boatman and passenger to and from their Grand Canyon river trips. The Belknap River Guide, with a photo of Earl on the page near Mile 204, stated, “Earl Leseberg, veteran pilot, has flown scenics over

the Canyon, picked up river parties at journeys end, and often responded to sos calls from trips in trouble.”

Earl received a civilian “instrument rating” until the early 1980s, but he always claimed that IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) actually meant “I follow roads,” “I follow railroads,” or “I follow rivers.” If anyone could fly by the seat of his pants, it was Earl who became a legend as *The Grand Canyon Bush Pilot*. Following a long battle with cancer, Earl Leseberg “closed his last flight plan” on May 23, 2005. When a student pilot solos, it is customary to cut or rip the back out of their

shirt and hang it up for all to see. There is no doubt that Earl’s shirt tail is hanging high near that big runway in the sky.

Art Gallenson & Richard Quartaroli

TONY HEATON

THE RIVER COMMUNITY lost one of our own on October 14, 2005. The sudden loss of Anthony (Tony) Heaton, owner and operator of the Bar 10 Ranch on the Arizona Strip, came as a shock to everyone who knew him. On the day of his death, Tony had been doing some of the things that he loved most in life; spending the day in the saddle, marveling at the beauty of nature, and chasing cattle on the Arizona Strip with his boys. Upon returning home later that same day, Tony, age 62, suffered a heart attack while doing chores at his corrals back in St. George, Utah.

Tony was born in St. George, and spent most of his time between town, and the Arizona Strip. As a boy he spent time with his father, a second generation rancher, learning a love for the land and the trade that he would later pass onto his own children. He married Ruby Hafen in 1965, and through the years they brought six wonderful children, four boys and two daughters, into the world. At the time of his death, the Heaton’s grandchildren total 21 in number. For Tony and Ruby, family has always been their top priority. All of Tony’s business decisions and ideas centered around involving the family and providing opportunities for them to work alongside one another.

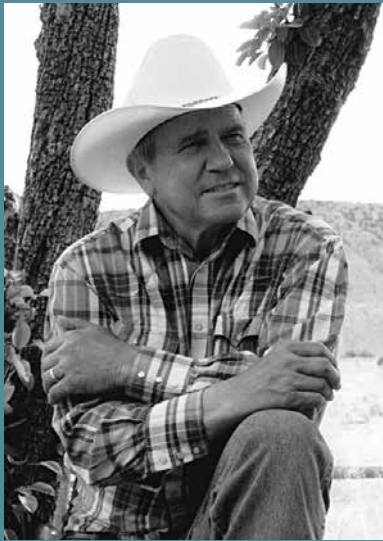
Tony taught school and coached basketball, track, and football at Dixie High and Hurricane High for thirteen years. During this time, his calm gentle demeanor and intuitive understanding of people, had a positive impact on the students and players under his tutelage. These character traits would serve him well throughout his life. His cowboy blood was strong, and Tony started in ranching with a few cows, along with his teaching job.

Soon, Tony and Ruby, began buying up small ranches on the Arizona Strip, and ultimately ended up with a little over 10,000 deeded acres and 250,000 BLM acres. In this desert range, with a low annual precipitation, it takes about 130 acres to run one cow. One of the ranches purchased during this time was the Whitmore Ranch that borders the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Due to the remoteness of the Strip, access to the ranch house was simplified by the previous owner, who had added an airstrip to the property.

Coincidentally, about this same time tourists, by



May 1976. Photo by Bill Belknap,
courtesy of Buzz Belknap.



Tony Heaton

the hundreds, began running the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, just down-wash from the Bar 10 Ranch. Ranching is a volatile business due to fluctuating cattle prices, weather, and other factors, and Tony always the visionary, saw a way to expand the use of the

ranch, and its proximity to the Colorado River. By the time river rafters got to a point near his Bar 10 Ranch, they had already been on the river for several days. As an option to continuing to Lake Mead, Tony began offering mule rides out of the canyon, where passengers could then connect to an old school bus for an eight mile ride to the ranch, and a flight back to Las Vegas. An eight hour round trip mule expedition in the heat, not knowing whether the passengers would actually be there, or if the planes would be waiting at the airstrip “if” the passengers did arrive, and an eighty mile drive over treacherous, sometimes unpassable roads to the nearest medical facilities, should the need arise, gave the words “daring” and “adventurous” proper meaning. Keep in mind the fact there were no telephones, or radios, or internet for communication with one another, the rafting companies, the airplanes, or town.

In 1983, a time when interest rates approached 25%, Tony envisioned sending a fresh supply of passengers down to the river, to exchange with the passengers leaving at Whitmore Wash. Pioneering the lower end trip, Tony was convinced that by building a facility with overnight accommodations, he could share the passion of a family ranch, and the Arizona Strip as a starting point of a river trip for people looking for a truly unique experience. He approached Western Rivers Expeditions with the idea of selling lower end trips. Western Rivers caught Tony’s vision and began selling the trip. The Heaton family hauled materials the eighty miles from St. George throughout the fall and winter, and built the lodge, literally hooking up the stove that next spring as the first plane load of passengers arrived at the ranch! Guests were

provided a western experience, featured at first entirely by the Heaton family. The mules were replaced by helicopters in 1985, and other river companies soon began selling lower end trips. In 1988, Tony bought Cross Tours, renaming the company Adventures West. After three years, he sold the permit to Arizona River Runners and concentrated on the expansion of the Bar 10. In 2002, Gavin and Kelly became partners with their father. As partners in the business Tony and his boys recently added ranch lands near Panguitch, Utah, as well as additional ranch lands near Whitmore, to their previous holdings. Other notable contributions by Tony included his work with the Grand Canyon Trust to preserve public lands on the North Rim.

The mission statement of the Bar 10 Ranch is such a strong reflection of the man behind the vision: “It is our purpose to provide a unique western ranch experience, in a safe atmosphere of genuine western hospitality. All agendas, activities, and experiences are planned and presented so as to uplift and inspire our guests in the following ways: Preserve the pristine feeling of remoteness and seclusion from the everyday world. Enjoy the unique beauties of this majestic area. Feel at one with nature and at peace with self. Sense through the genuine care and concern of the Bar 10 crew, that each guest is an integral part of the Bar 10 family.” To date, the Heaton estimate that some 170,000 guests have been through the Bar 10 Ranch.

Gavin, Kelly, and Ruby Heaton will continue to operate the Bar 10 Ranch in the coming years. Having visited there recently, I watched as Kelly’s kids followed him, lending a helping hand as the situation allowed, much as I envision Kelly and his brothers did with Tony, as the stewardship, and traditions pass to the next generation of Heaton.

On the rainy day of his funeral, I imagine that Tony was looking down from atop a horse somewhere, with his gentle manner and quiet assurance, thankful for the rain, and thankful for friends. But most of all I can see him beaming with pride for his family, for anyone who has met the Heaton, know that in this enterprise lies Tony’s greatest success

Chris Cannon

FRED BURKE

FRED BURKE, former owner of Arizona River Runners, hit the trail for the last time November 10, 2005. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on December 10th at the Wickenburg Rodeo Grounds. There will be more on Fred in the next issue.

For additional information, email Pam and Tim Whitney at whitney@infomag.net.

Water Wars

GCRG SUBMITTED THE LETTER BELOW to the Bureau of Reclamation in response to a request for comments to be considered in the development of management strategies for low reservoir (drought) conditions in Lakes Powell and Mead. The drought we're currently experiencing has greatly exacerbated the "water wars" in the West resulting in high tensions between Upper and Lower Basin States. GCRG wants to make sure we still have a river to run, once the dust settles. We extend our gratitude to those of you who sent in your own comments to this public process. The more voices, the better! Timing of the comment period precluded using the BQR as an outreach vehicle, so we relied on our guide and outfitter email lists to get the word out. If you would like to be added onto our email list for information like this, plus monthly dam reports, information on events and classes, and other topics of interest to river runners, please let us know at gcr@infomagic.net. Instantaneous communication can be a powerful tool!

August 26, 2005

Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region
Attn: BCOO-1000
PO Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

To Whom It May Concern,

Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc. would like to offer our views on the development of management strategies for Lakes Powell and Mead under low reservoir (drought) conditions. Climatic studies of the Colorado Plateau suggest that the drought may continue, on and off, over the next decade. What separates this drought from earlier ones is drastically increased water demand stemming from the huge population influx into the region. We applaud the Bureau of Reclamation for developing shortage guidelines before emergencies occur. Even should precipitation levels return to average amounts, it could take more than a decade of "average" years to refill both reservoirs.

Our diverse organization of over 1,800 individuals is dedicated to protecting the Grand Canyon, setting the highest standards for the river profession, celebrating the unique spirit of the river community, and providing the best possible river experience. Our role as the recreational stakeholder for the Adaptive Management Program, and our sharp focus on the immediate environmental issues of the Colorado River within Grand Canyon National Park and the recreational concerns therein, lead GCRG to submit the following recommendations:

1) Regardless of the management strategies adopted by the Bureau of Reclamation pending completion of



Image from "The Grand: The Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, a Photo Journey"
photo by Steve Miller

this public comment process, navigability and boating safety of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon *must* be ensured. Based on our extensive knowledge of the requisite conditions for safe and successful river trips, GCRG recommends that flow levels not fall below 5,000 CFS at night and 10,000 CFS during the day, while averaging no less than 8,000 CFS.

2) South Cove in Lake Mead now serves as the take-out point for many river trips. River guides have experienced difficulties created by river incision and shifting channels in Lake Mead due to low reservoir conditions. Furthermore, extremely low water levels could render the South Cove ramp unusable. Under these circumstances, river trips would be forced to travel significantly farther to Temple Bar, or congestion at Diamond Creek would be drastically increased, resulting in negative impacts to the Hualapai river running enterprise. Stabilizing Lake Mead water levels may lead to a reasonably constant and safer configuration that also benefits the businesses dependent upon this disembarkation point.

3) Low reservoir conditions should not impinge upon nor supersede event-driven sediment experiments from Glen Canyon Dam within the parameters approved by the Adaptive Management Program. Sediment is crucial for protecting and preserving: a) endangered species dependent upon near shore habitat, b) irreplaceable archaeological resources along the river corridor, c) camping beaches necessary for continued viability of the Grand Canyon river recreation industry, and d) the natural geomorphic features of Grand Canyon as guaranteed by the National Park Service Organic Act of 1916.

4) River restoration and endangered species are key components of the demands placed upon these reservoir systems. This focus must not be lost in the ensuing struggle between Upper and Lower Basin States. The primary mandate of the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 (section 1804) pledges that: *"The Secretary shall operate Glen Canyon Dam...to protect, mitigate adverse impacts to, and improve the values for which Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established, including, but not limited to natural and cultural resources and visitor use."*

5) Water allotments for all seven basin states should be reduced by the same percentage based on the projected water deficit for each year of drought. Simplicity and equitability can minimize stakeholder conflict.

6) Consider options that maximize efficiency of water storage including alternatives that reduce overall evaporative loss to the system. Also, consider ways to maximize power generation and water retention while reducing the need for daily fluctuations.

7) Given the realities of continuing drought conditions exacerbated by ever increasing water demands, mandatory water conservation measures are an absolute neces-

sity. Any basin state that successfully implements such measures should receive a pre-determined "water rebate" as an incentive.

8) Similarly, any basin state that successfully reduces its peak power demand by distribution to low peak periods or by institution of conservation and alternative energy methods should receive a "water rebate." This would lessen reliance on environmentally harmful high daily fluctuations and reduce dependence on hydro-peaking power during a period of diminishing reservoir levels.

Grand Canyon environmental and recreational issues are widely considered a model for changing demographic challenges to the river system. As our organization's strength, Grand Canyon River Guides' principle focus will remain on the operations of Glen Canyon Dam and its downstream impacts, yet we recognize this is but one critical segment of a much larger river system. Accordingly, GCRG advocates a basin-wide approach in the following majority opinion statement of our membership:

"The U.S. government should conduct all appropriate and necessary research to compile a full-scale Environmental Impact Statement delineating the impacts of Glen Canyon Dam and its power plant operations on the Colorado River's upstream and downstream resources, including national parks, monuments and recreational areas in its watershed."

Initial water allotments set in the 1920s were based on data from what we now recognize as a wet cycle. Nor could policymakers envision the population explosion and societal changes experienced by the American West. The primary concern of our constituency is that the Colorado River through Grand Canyon will be "bled dry" by competing interests. We believe the American public places high value on in-stream flows, whether for recreational, environmental, hydropower, or intrinsic reasons; and additional water should not be taken from the basin to satisfy unsustainable growth of outlying metropolitan areas.

The Colorado River is a system of extremes, yet we stress that a river without water is not a river. Grand Canyon River Guides presents our recommendations to this public process in light of this overriding concern. Although the Colorado River Storage Project will continue to endure, all strategies must be examined equally and thoroughly in order to develop a creative and workable solution to the inherent challenges posed by ever-increasing demands on this river system.

Sincerely,
The Officers and Board of Directors
Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc.

River Runners of the Colorado—A Living Culture

RIVER RUNNING TRADITIONS on the Colorado River span over one hundred years, commencing with Major John Wesley Powell's expedition in 1869. These traditions, both written and oral, are in fact a living expression of our American heritage with marked cultural significance. Over time, a distinct river culture and community have emerged. The very existence of publications like the *Boatman's Quarterly Review*, and organizations like Grand Canyon River Guides, attest to the viability and spirit of this enduring and unique culture.

An interesting presentation at the 1999 Guides Training Seminar given by Lisa Leap, Grand Canyon National Park archaeologist, concurred that *the boating community in Grand Canyon defines a living river culture*. She called upon the river community to identify those areas of cultural importance to them and suggested a specific process to do—a National Register program that centers on the traditional cultural significance of a historic property that is derived from the role that property plays in a community's historically rooted beliefs, customs and practices.

A "Traditional Cultural Property" or TCP, can be defined as one that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that a) are rooted in that community's history, and b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. TCP designation would enable the boating community to define itself culturally along the river corridor while also ensuring participation in all planning processes, federal or otherwise, as well as in the historic preservation components of overall management plans.

Although an unusual application of the TCP designation process, Traditional Cultural Properties for river runners in Grand Canyon could have measurable benefits—legitimacy and clout for river runners and mandatory consultation in any planning processes that include the river corridor, whether those initiated through Grand Canyon National Park, the Adaptive Management Program, or any other state or federal agencies. Furthermore, we believe that this designation would have great meaning for the river community as a whole as river running is more than a vocation—it is both a passion and a profound historical legacy. Any successful TCP nomination would acknowledge and legitimize the importance of the river running culture and the traditional values that are central to the way this culture defines itself. It would also highlight the impact that river runners in Grand Canyon have had on our nation's history including the expansion of the

American West—a touchstone for that same intrepid and adventurous spirit that lives on in Grand Canyon river runners today.

Over the years, various GCRG boards have informally discussed the issue. Defining what those TCP's might be for the river culture eventually brought us to the most simple but eminently logical conclusion—the *entire Colorado River corridor through Grand Canyon is our Traditional Cultural Property*. We found that our TCP was not just a single site, or any number of significant sites, objects or features. The whole, in this case, is greater than the sum of its parts—the entire river corridor encompasses beaches, rapids, the "natural" wilderness-like qualities, native species, specific historic sites, natural and man-made features, historic boats (both those *in situ*, as well as those undergoing conservation processes), etc... This "totality" is the essence of the river experience and what makes it so powerful and enduring for this river culture. Although not static, these values are necessary for maintaining the continuing sense of cultural identity for the river running culture as they connect, encompass and shape our traditions, history and even our future.

The holistic definition of the entire river corridor as the traditional cultural property for the living river culture makes perfect sense—it is "*vital to maintaining this group's sense of identity and self respect.*" Furthermore, "*any damage to or infringement upon [these traditional cultural values] is perceived to be deeply offensive to, and even destructive of, the group that values them.*" This language, taken directly from *National Register Bulletin 38*, so aptly describes river guides' deepest, gut feelings about this special place that it seems to have been written with that in mind. This signifies that a cultural identity exists—one that is not transitory, but deep, meaningful and enduring over generations. Christa Sadler, former GCRG president, echoed this sentiment very eloquently in a past BQR article,

"For indeed we are a tribe, a group with a history and traditions, even a language all our own. There are places on the River and in the Canyon that are important to our culture, traditions without which we would lose some of our identity, and a community without which we would not be who we are." BQR Volume 12:2, Spring 1999.

But what shall we do about it? The TCP nomination process is a highly complicated and involved process. Fortunately, the river corridor has already been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register. There is also precedence for large natural features to be nominated and accepted in this process (Mt. Shasta, for example). Yet, as previously indicated, this is a somewhat unusual application of the process,

although TCP's can certainly exist for any traditional group, even one as seemingly "untraditional" as river runners. This process would most likely require formal ethnographic studies and a great deal of background research, field inspection and recordation of the location. GCRG would not be capable of pursuing this without outside assistance, perhaps from an educational institution. It would also require a great degree of support from people knowledgeable about the TCP nomination process. We have been "testing the waters" so to speak with the cultural resources department of Grand Canyon National Park, and other quarters, to determine the feasibility of success as well as requisite support.

The river season is over, yet river runners will be drawn to Grand Canyon once again next spring. Regardless of whether GCRG is able to pursue this nomination formally, there is no doubt that river runners of the Colorado River have evolved into a distinct culture and a vibrant community. Take a moment to reflect on your individual role in the larger picture of this living culture. Each and every one of you link the past with the present, and the present with the future. This is both your heritage and an enormous responsibility—to ensure the continued preservation and protection of the Colorado River corridor through Grand Canyon, and to uphold the priceless river experience that feeds your soul.

Lynn Hamilton
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES

Recreating Respectfully: Showing Consideration for Other Cultures

ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE of the river running culture and its traditional values must not diminish nor detract from values held by the five active Native American tribes associated with the river corridor. Cultural sensitivities and traditional cultural properties (TCP's) can take multiple and highly diverse forms. Ours may differ from those of the Native American tribes, just as Paiute concerns differ from Navajo, which vary from those of the Hualapai, etc... Yet, all of these tribes (including river runners) view the Canyon and the River as sacred and intimately tied to their cultural identity.

There is a place for all these groups in Grand Canyon, but this requires a good deal of sensitivity to the concerns and traditional values of each. The Native American tribes have identified various types of traditional cultural properties along the river corridor that include archaeological sites, plant gathering areas, shrines, ceremonial locations and sites associated with their cultural history. Some of these TCP's are secret while others are publicly acknowledged.

The river running culture encompasses "recreation" as an inherent component. Because of this fact, developing and encouraging ways to recreate respectfully can enhance the river experience for river users and river cultures alike by highlighting the spiritual nature of these areas. When you arrive at Deer Creek, for example, remember that this is an area that is *very* sacred to the Paiute tribe, and use that knowledge to make informed decisions about appropriate activities for you and your passengers. River trips are more than just a recreational experience—they are also opportunities to show respect for the beliefs and value systems of others. Educate yourself and those around you, emulate that appreciation, and teach reverence for the Canyon and the River. Recreating respectfully is a necessity.

Lynn Hamilton
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GCRG

The Administration of Epinephrine— To Legalize or Not?

Imagine this scenario: A fourteen year-old boy is enjoying his first river trip with his family. He's playing on the beach when he gets stung by a scorpion, and within mere minutes it's clear that he is experiencing anaphylaxis—a severe allergic reaction. The boy is having trouble breathing, and his mucus production is so severe that the guides need to position him so that his lungs don't fill up with it. The trip leader has received anaphylaxis training from his Wilderness First Responder course and recognizes the symptoms. Fortunately he carries injectable epinephrine and Benadryl in his first aid kit and uses them on the boy. The symptoms abate briefly only to return. The guide injects another epinephrine dose with no effect. He does so again and again, hoping they'll have enough to keep him alive until the Benadryl can work. After several tense hours, the boy stabilizes and the crisis is over. A life is saved.

This is not a fictionalized account of what could happen. This frightening story is absolutely true. It occurred on a commercial river trip through Grand Canyon a few years ago, and it could happen again, at any time, and always without warning—a life and death situation. Which leads us to the very important article below.

OVER THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF, Grand Canyon River Guides has been exploring the legal conundrums posed by the lack of medical control for commercial river guides when using their Wilderness First Responder training in Grand Canyon. In doing so, we found that the discussion was most often framed in terms of the administration of epinephrine to treat severe allergic reactions. River guides are trained to recognize and treat anaphylaxis, yet it is illegal to do so in the state of Arizona without a written medical protocol provided by an advising physician or direct medical supervision in the form of radio or telephone contact by a supervising medical facility. The use of epinephrine therefore, appears to be the “boogey man”—the life and death situation that strikes at the heart of the issue that drives liability concerns for river guides and outfitters alike.

Our discussions about the medical control issue, whether at GCRG's 2004 Fall Meeting or through the *Boatman's Quarterly Review*, have been designed to inform and to stimulate discussion. Concern about the issue was so great for AZRA guide Kevin Greif, that he conducted his own research and subsequently discovered an Oregon state law that allows certain individuals (camp counselors, teachers, daycare providers, etc...) to be trained in the proper administration of epinephrine, to obtain a prescription, and to use it in case of an emergency when medical help is not readily available.

Further investigation revealed that a few other states have similar laws. The important point here is that *legal precedence exists*. In fact, twenty years ago, the American Medical Association felt so strongly about the issue that they drafted model legislation for “An Act Relating to Administration of Epinephrine by Certified Laypersons in an Emergency Situation Caused by Insect Stings.”

But what would this mean for river guides? Beyond legalization, such a law would also clearly define and standardize training protocols. Most Wilderness First Responder classes already include an “epi” training section, which could hopefully serve as the logical venue for standardized training that would be both acceptable to and in accordance with state regulations. Ideally, efforts would be made to ensure that any “epi course” would be user-friendly for river guides, with little or no cost, and readily available at numerous times of the year. In other words, guides would be afforded the significant benefit of being well-trained *and* legally protected when acting to save a life, yet with (hopefully) few bureaucratic hassles.

Physicians with a strong association to the river community such as Dr. Walt Taylor, Dr. Tom Myers, and Dr. Michelle Grua, concur that pursuing a similar law for Arizona is absolutely necessary to successfully address this potentially fatal medical emergency. In fact, according to Dr. Taylor's frank observation, “It's just unthinkable not to clarify this issue by making it legal.” Dr. Grua felt so compelled to act that she took it upon herself to initiate preliminary contact with Arizona state representative Doug Quelland, Chairman of the House Health Committee, to gauge his support for such legislative action. She did so not as a representative of GCRG, but rather as a member of the river community at large, as a physician with Grand Canyon ties, and as a concerned individual.

Representative Quelland, having suffered an anaphylactic reaction himself, has a unique understanding of the requisite timeliness of the administration of epinephrine. The latest response received by Michelle Grua on October 30TH, indicated that he had forwarded the information on the Oregon epi law to the legislative council, and would have a first draft within a week. Representative Quelland will be sending Michelle a copy of that draft for review. We will also request that both GCRG and the Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association be afforded the opportunity to review the draft legislation as well, with an eye to what is necessary and appropriate for our industry. Momentum is rapidly building and it behooves us to be involved in the process as it moves forward.

Obviously, this topic is one that elicits strong feelings. But for every action, there is a reaction—some guides may feel just as strongly that the epinephrine question should not be legislated, institutionalized and standardized. The Board of Directors of Grand Canyon River Guides, mirroring these divergent opinions, is somewhat split on this issue as well. Some board members feel that Arizona legislation regarding the administration of epinephrine should be actively pursued. Others caution that it should remain a “gray area” and feel that one more certification might be too much of a burden on guides who are already overwhelmed by the extensive requirements of Grand Canyon National Park. All have valid viewpoints. However, we can agree about the importance of broadening the discussion beyond the board itself, by presenting the issue publicly through this newsletter.

Epinephrine legislation is undoubtedly an important issue that requires all sides of the issue to be evaluated equally and rationally. Towards this end, we have provided below a few relevant questions and answers that may impart a bit more clarity, or at least food for thought:

HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM IS ANAPHYLAXIS?

For answers, we turned to a document developed by the Oregon Department of Human Services document, entitled: *Treatment of Severe Allergic Reaction: a Protocol for Training, Revised 1/02*. It is estimated that one to two in every 100 people are at risk for a severe allergic reaction to food, insect stings, medications or latex. Severe life-threatening allergic response to various allergens occurs in only a small percentage of the general population [Grabenstein, Smith, 1989]. *However, when they occur, immediate administration of injectable epinephrine is vital. A systemic reaction to an insect sting, for example usually occurs quickly; death has been reported to occur within minutes of a sting* [Stinging Insect Allergy, 1981]. To compound the situation, the person suffering the allergic response is often unable to self-administer his/her injection or has no previous history of allergic responses and is unequipped for the situation.

ANAPHYLAXIS TRAINING WAS PART OF MY WFR COURSE, AND I EVEN HAVE AN ANAPHYLAXIS CARD FROM WILDERNESS MEDICAL ASSOCIATES. AREN'T I ALREADY LEGALLY COVERED?

If you read the fine print on the back of your anaphylaxis card, you'll notice that it states, “Use of these skills must be approved by a physician advisor or medical control.” The protocols for the administration of injectable epinephrine *require* medical control which is generally *not* available in Grand Canyon unless you happen to work for the NPS or one of the very few outfitters that have a consulting physician licensed in Arizona (most don't). Therefore, do not assume that your first aid

training legally allows you to perform everything you've learned, because that is simply not the case.

IF I GET A PRESCRIPTION FOR EPINEPHRINE FROM A DOCTOR, ISN'T THAT CONSIDERED MEDICAL CONTROL?

No, it isn't. Legally speaking, prescriptions are only for the use of the person who has been prescribed the medication. In fact, using a prescription belonging to someone else is considered a felony. A more accurate term for medical control is really “consulting physician.” This implies that the consultation is occurring (either in person or by phone) at the time of the medical emergency based on their understanding of the situation, the patient's symptoms, etc...

AREN'T I COVERED BY GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS?

Good Samaritan laws for the use of injectable epinephrine exist in Utah and Oregon. As a working river guide in this state, Good Samaritan statutes may not apply since Grand Canyon National Park requires you to have this training and you are paid to do the job. Arizona State Revised Statutes define a Good Samaritan as “a person who renders emergency care or assistance in good faith and without compensation at the scene of an accident, fire or other life-threatening emergency and who believes that a significant exposure risk occurred while the person rendered care or assistance.”

HOW WOULD I BE PROTECTED BY A STATE LAW?

As an example, the Oregon law as it applies to anaphylaxis includes a clause regarding immunity for trained persons rendering emergency assistance. This clause specifies that there is no cause of action against a person who has successfully completed an educational training program described in the law “for any act or omission of the person when acting in good faith, except where such conduct can be described as wanton misconduct.” The same is true for the institutions, facilities, agencies or organizations that allow for the rendering of this emergency treatment.

We ask that you carefully ponder the information presented here. Talk to your fellow guides and to your outfitters. Search your own feelings. This boils down to an incredibly important question—should we (the commercial river running industry) support the passage of legislation that legalizes the administration of epinephrine in situations where a licensed health care professional is not immediately available? Please provide GCRG with your thoughts on the matter by phone, letter, or email to GCRG PO Box 1934, Flagstaff, AZ 86002, (928) 773-1075, gcrg@infomaginc.net.

Lynn Hamilton
Executive Director GCRG

About Books

THE GRAND

STEVE MILLER GENEROUSLY shares some of his photographs, among the 315 images in his newly released book, *The Grand: The Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, a Photo Journey*, 208 pp, Wilderness Press / Grand Canyon Association, \$29.95. Steve refers to the totality of the Colorado River experience through the Grand Canyon simply as the Grand, and I willingly mimic his appellation. The Grand has captured a big piece of Steve's heart and he, in turn, has captured important parts of it in image and text. He gratefully shares what he feels and has seen with the rest of us through his photographs and a spare narrative that left me wishing for more.

Steve has run the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon fourteen times over a span of 35 years. As with most of us, he hopes to return for several more, whenever and however that may happen. As with the rest of us who keep returning to the Grand in reality and in our imaginations, Steve has pondered what keeps drawing him back. What hold does the place have on him...and on each of us? In personal journals, letters to friends, brochure copy, or newspaper articles, many of us have floundered in our own attempts to describe that which consistently eludes description: the magic of the Grand and why it lives inside us even when we are some place else.

In his preface Steve answers this "why come back" question in 350 of the best chosen words that I have ever read on the subject. Here's a sample: "Much of the magic comes from your literal immersion into the river and Canyon. You are in it, enclosed by it—there is nowhere else. You have left civilization behind, as though it were a dream." Who among us has not felt that same way? Steve captures in a few short paragraphs those sentiments that "don't show in the photos." He hopes that "what the photos do show is this place that is like no other." In my estimation, he has succeeded.

Having tried to capture the Grand in photographs myself, I eagerly turned to see what advice Steve might have for me in his one page chapter at the back of the book, "Photographing the Grand." He rounds out several excellent pointers with this telling observation: "It's my belief that established nature photographers are not necessarily more 'talented' than you or me. In my opinion, the secret of success in the field is to be out there, making yourself available to what nature has to show you...Then, when you are there for nature's great moments, you'll get great photos." Steve's book proves that point, as long as you are willing to schlep along your camera and tripod as nearly constant companions.

The Grand can be purchased on line at the Wilderness Press web site by using this URL: [www.wilderness-](http://www.wilderness-press.com/book277.htm)

[press.com/book277.htm](http://www.wilderness-press.com/book277.htm). Alternatively, you can call Wilderness Press at (800) 443-7227 or the book can be found at the Grand Canyon.

Rob Elliott

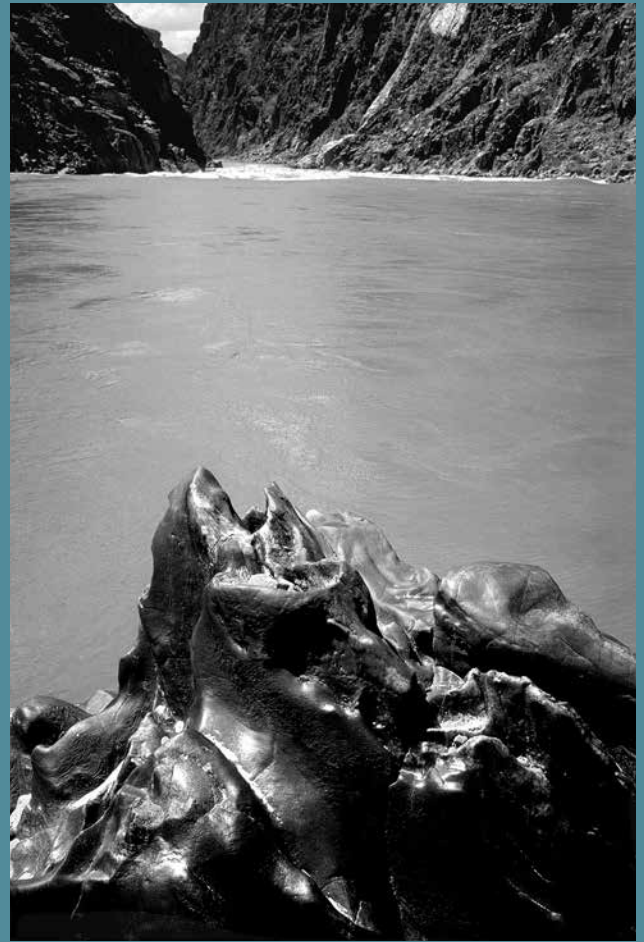


Image from "The Grand: The Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, a Photo Journey"
photo by Steve Miller

WHO IS BERT LOPER?

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I've been working on the biography of Bert Loper for a few years now. Part of what I am now trying to do is figure out who Loper is to today's river folk. Is he a hero, icon, some old guy, wannabe, no one in particular...who is he to you? I am not asking for essays, although I will not turn them down. Mostly I want to know what the name Bert Loper means to you, and why. Is there something he did, stood for, or represents? A particular feat that stands out? Or does Loper mean little in today's river world?

Any and all input is very welcome. There's no right answer. Brad Dimock, 1000 Grand Canyon Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001; 928 774 8853; braddimock@fretwater.com.

Brad Dimock

THAT GRAND CANYON PLANT GUIDE

MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN wondering, is that Grand Canyon plant book ever going to be published? The breaking news for you plant lovers out there is that we are in the home stretch of our epic effort to compile a book of the plants of the Colorado River and its tributaries. Nearly four years since we began the project we are in the final writing/editing stages. The book will be on its way to Mountain Press Publishing by the end of 2005. If all goes according to plan it will hit the shelves by late fall 2006, just in time for Christmas presents. Thanks to all those who have offered moral and financial support, researched plant descriptions and took stunning photographs. Questions or ideas, last minute contributions? Please contact us.

The Charlie's Angels of Botany
Kate Watters, Kristin Huisinga, Lori Makarick
katewaters@msn.com
Kristin.Huisinga@neu.edu
lorimaka@infomagic.net



Image from "The Grand: The Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, a Photo Journey"
photo by Steve Miller

In Praise of Port Orford Cedar, At Last

“IT’S LIKE COCAINE. IT’S WORTH SO MUCH MONEY
PEOPLE ARE CORRUPTED WHO NORMALLY WOULDN’T BE
CORRUPTED. IT’S NOT LIKE NORMAL TIMBER.”

—Jim Rogers, a former industrial forester (now an environmentalist) speaking about the commercial value of Port Orford Cedar, 1994

GENERALLY SPEAKING I would not consider myself much of a genuine tree lover. (Here in Oregon such devotees are dubbed “tree-huggers.”) At best, I might be compared to the boyfriend who shows up when he needs something—shade, fruit, a branch to swing on, or a place to build a tree fort. A deserving suitor, I am most certainly not. In so far as my affections for inanimate objects extend, I would readily confess to being an unrepentant paramour of wooden boats, specifically of the untainted Briggs dories that once plied the waters of Grand Canyon.

In short, I have spurned the tall green plants more than once too often.

And therein lays the problem. Somehow I have ignored the wood in wooden boats. Even after years of sticking my head into the side hatches of a dory to inhale the unforgettable aroma—a ginger scent laced with bilge river water, Old Milwaukee beer, dry hay, and rain in the desert—I have conveniently discounted the very source of this memory-evoking scent. To this day, a random whiff of freshly cut cedar washes me back up the river of time.

Talk about floating in the past lane.

My ability (or disability?) to disregard the indisputable fact that the boats I most fancy were made of wood, Port Orford Cedar (P.O.C.) wood to be exact, borders on the criminal.

In my perpetual state of amour and mental disconnect, I have severed form from content as easily as a child yanks the petals from a flower. It is no surprise. Nearly everyone who comes in contact with the whimsical, yet practical craft loses their heart, often without even knowing it, and then their reason. Dory aficionados are the worst. Think not? Ask any boatman about the dory he or she once rowed. Watch their eyes glaze over as they attempt to articulate the virtues of an old flame they have never quite gotten over. Beware when they start to spin a boat tale; never is there only one. Rarely, if ever, do these ex-lovers mention the raw material, the essence of the shapely craft.

A willingness to succumb to gaily painted surfaces and a shapely figure is a habit not easily broken.

So it is time to make amends, to nudge the eye-catching boat out of the spotlight and sing the praises of *Chamaecypariss lawsoniana*. Perhaps then my inexcusable

indifference toward this versatile species can be partially redeemed. Perhaps then I can say, without smirking, that I love trees...nearly as much as dories.

“A TREE IS A TREE—HOW MANY MORE DO YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT?”

—Ronald Reagan, former California governor

P.O.C., sometimes called Lawson Cypress or Ginger Pine, was first “discovered” along the Oregon coast by the new Americans in 1851. The indigenous people, of course, already valued the cedar as a material resource. They also attached considerable spiritual significance to this tree. Even then, this conifer was not a plentiful species compared to the apparently endless sea of Doug Fir, Western Hemlock, Red Cedar and Sitka Spruce. Over the decades it would become less plentiful as the appetite for the wood grew. Fossil records for western North America dating back fifty million years, however, indicate that it was once widespread.

So far as we know the P.O.C. grows nowhere else in the Western Hemisphere. Its range extends from Coos Bay, Oregon to the Klamath River in California, a narrow strip of rain-soaked coast nearly two hundred miles in length. Pacific storms barrel roll into the upper left coast of America unobstructed, their payload of H₂O in tow. The coastal range snags the rain, detaining it long enough to make life good for P.O.C.

The east-west axis of the conifer’s range extends inland roughly forty miles, from the seaward slopes of the Coast Range to the five-thousand-foot elevation level in the Cascade Mountains. At sea level, the tree thrives in isolated stands along stream sides, bogs and other wet areas. At higher elevations, it is one of the few species to flourish where heavy mineral soil limits other species. As mentioned before, the “ginger pine” prefers a mild climate and truckloads of rain (forty to ninety inches annually.) Roughly seventy percent of P.O.C. is located in Oregon.

Though you might not be able to name it, you could not miss the distinctive appearance of a P.O.C. It is a handsome tree, lacy in appearance with slender lines slanting upward to form a pointed crown. The leaves of the fern-like branches are bright green, with a pale underside. The sprays lay flat, neither drooping nor hanging stiffly. Its cones are course and spherical in shape, clustering on the upper branches. They ripen in the fall.

Large, attractive, and shade-tolerant, this gymnosperm can grow up to two hundred feet in height (with diameters of three to six feet) in five hundred years. In the Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon stands a

P.O.C. 219 feet tall with a diameter of twelve feet. It is nearly seven-hundred years old. (It shows signs of severe hugging!)

Bark is six to eight inches thick, occasionally twelve inches, and provides excellent protection from forest fires. The slender seams in the bark run deep enough to stick your nose into and catch the fleeting ginger aroma.

~

Initial contact with freshly cut P.O.C. is enough to make a Druid out of anyone. Once milled, the wood has a smooth, creamy white hue that is soothing to the eye. Its satiny texture, as well as its tight, straight grain, invites a caress. It is the scent of the wood, however, that sends most people reeling. An aroma not easily forgotten, it has been described as rose-like and also as a strong ginger odor. Open a chest (in the bedroom or attic) and you will likely inhale the familiar scent.

Ironically, too much of the bewitching scent of P.O.C. can lead to problems. Boat builders and wood workers take note. Continued exposure to its volatile oils can be overpowering and has been known to cause various allergies. It has also been linked to kidney problems. Dust masks and skin protection are recommended.

Its strength, flexibility, and relative light weight have made P.O.C. a versatile wood. It works well with power or hand tools. It polishes easily, takes paint or stain without complaint, and wears smooth. Its resistance to decay (i.e. soil, weather or water) is legendary among woodworkers and boat builders. It is one of the most durable of woods. At one time or another it has been converted into broom handles, clothes chests, stringed instrument sound boards, Venetian blinds, railway ties and separators for storage batteries. During WWII it was employed in the construction of aircraft. Today it is the preferred wood for world class arrow shafts.

The Chinese favor the satiny wood for lyrical fragrance in their caskets. The Japanese revere the P.O.C., not surprising given that the P.O.C. is genetically related to the Hinoki cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*), a tree in short supply in Japan. The wood is often used in the construction of their temples and shrines. To this day the Japanese will pay dearly to have a piece of the wood on their home altar.

The Japanese were not the first to appreciate the spiritual qualities of material objects. As mentioned before, the indigenous tribes of Northern California have long considered the P.O.C. to be a hallowed wood as well as a healing tree. It played a significant role in the ceremonial life of coastal natives, used often in spiritual purification rites. Various religious regalia are made of P.O.C. and stored in chests made of the same wood.

In its medicinal role every part of the tree was used: buds to heal sore lungs and throats and tooth aches; leaves for chronic coughs; bark and twigs, oddly enough, to heal kidney problems.

“THE GLORY OF THE DORIES IS THEIR LIGHTNESS AND MANEUVERABILITY; THE WAY THEY GO DANCING OVER THE WAVES, THE WAY YOU CAN TURN THEM LIKE THE KNOB ON AN OUTHOUSE DOOR. IF YOU SACRIFICE THAT, YOU’VE LOST THE WHOLE GODDAMNED BALL OF WAX.”

—P.T. Reilly, September 13, 1984

The revered wood has always been a favorite of boat builders past and present. Native-American tribes of the Northwest (the Tlingits and the Haidas) used it to fashion paddles for their more famous Western Red Cedar war canoes. Prior to WWI, Sir Thomas Lipton (yes, of Lipton Tea) ordered his cup-challenging Shamrock series of racing boats to be built of P.O.C. For general yacht building, it has served generations of boat builders as a first class material for decks, railing and interior paneling. In 1936, near Powers, Oregon, Buzz Holmstrom dragged a P.O.C. windfall out of the woods. Later, in his basement in Coquille, he built the boat that would carry him through two successful Grand Canyon trips. Today, the forest around Powers contains one of the last and largest stands of the pungent-smelling wood.

Today overseas demand, past and current logging practices and a fungus-like root rot (*Phytophthora lateralis*) have made the P.O.C. increasingly valuable. Stands of large old-growth P.O.C. are literally few and far between in its historical range. In 1996 the clear grain cedar commanded prices up to \$6,000/1,000 board feet, often ten times the price of Douglas fir. Mature P.O.C. logs have become the ultimate “money tree,” fetching as much as fifty thousand dollars overseas.

There have been efforts by conservation groups to have the overseas sale of this vulnerable wood regulated. If P.O.C. were specially listed, each shipment would bear an export permit certifying that the shipment will not be “detrimental to the survival of the species.”

It is, like the authentic wooden dory, a species under threat.

If you should happen to fall under the spell of P.O.C., whether by sight or smell, you might still find a stash of this precious wood in one of the family-run, back road mills that inhabit the coastal towns and inland valleys of the south Oregon coast.

Sacred forest tree, healing tree, shrine tree, temple/boat tree, memory-producing tree, straight arrow tree, and proverbial money tree—the Port Orford Cedar is, as the former industry forester said, not like normal timber.

The next time I visit the Oregon coast, I shall be on the lookout for a Port Orford Cedar. When I find one, I will nuzzle its bark and without embarrassment, give it a hug.

I will hope that all is forgiven.

Vince Welch

Back of the Boat— The Whale Foundation News Bulletin

LIAISON TRAINING

THE WHALE FOUNDATION Board of Directors and Health Services Committee would like to thank all the participants, the mental health providers, Chris Wright, and the Grand Canyon Conservation Fund for making the October 2006 liaison training possible and so successful. We had 23 participants and twenty volunteered to be liaisons to Whale Foundation outreach services from within their companies. The participants particularly liked the opportunity to practice “active listening” after a lecture on the subject, and learning that, “As a liaison I don’t have to “fix” someone.” The Whale Foundation assists members of the Grand Canyon river guiding community who are experiencing stress, depression, and other types of psychological need or illness. Some of the services and/or information we provide are: confidential mental health counseling, wellness and lifestyle information, career planning and transitioning, financial planning, and the Kenton Grua Scholarship for post secondary education financial assistance. The Whale Foundation’s Liaison Program was created to provide a personal link between the river community and the Foundation’s services. Our goal is to find at least one working Grand Canyon guide in each commercial company, and a few freelancers, who would be willing to act as a bridge—or Liaison—between fellow guides and the Whale Foundation. We are grateful to those who have generously and enthusiastically volunteered to serve in this capacity and applaud those who have used this link to get help. All liaisons sign an agreement promising confidentiality. If you are interested in this program please contact us. For more information please check out our website at: www.whalefoundation.org.

Hope everyone had a great river season.

Susan Hamilton-Gourley

NEW 2006 WHALE FOUNDATION CALENDAR

Christmas is coming. Help support the Whale Foundation’s outreach programs and order this great new fourteen month calendar. Created at Mary Williams Design, it is full of beautiful four color images of the Canyon by many of its veteran photographers and at \$10 including shipping is a ridiculous bargain! You can purchase them at Mountain Sports in Flagstaff, Willow Creek Books and Outdoor Gear in Kanab, download an order form at www.whalefoundation.org or just wrap your check/money order in a piece of paper along with your coordinates and mail it to P.O. Box 855 Flagstaff, AZ 86002-0855. Money orders made out to The Whale Foundation will speed your order along. Otherwise please allow two weeks for your order to be shipped. For foreign addresses please add

\$5. Please, no phone orders and, thanks for supporting the Grand Canyon river guiding community.

WINGDING IV

The fourth Annual WingDing will be held on **Saturday February 4, 2006 from 6–11 P.M at the Coconino Center for the Arts, 2300 N. Ft. Valley Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001** (behind Sechrist School and the Art Barn).

This Grand Canyon river family rendezvous and fundraiser is a great gathering and a whale-sized undertaking for about 350. We’ll have dinner and music, a raffle and lots of beautiful art, books, services and getaways from the river community in both silent and live auctions. We’re also looking for volunteers to help with food, beverages, registration, both auctions, set up and clean up. If you’d like to join us and can spare some time around then to help with the planning and execution of this fabulous feast you are most welcome. Just call 928-779-9440 and we’ll call you back. Mark your calendar and we hope to see you there.

The Whale Foundation
P. O. Box 855
Flagstaff, AZ 86002-0855
Toll Free On Call Help Line: 1-866-773-0773
Business: 928-779-9440
Web: www.whalefoundation.org
Email: info@whalefoundation.org

WHALE FOUNDATION HEALTH CARE SERVICES JANUARY–OCTOBER 2005

- Our health providers list includes eight mental health counselors, twelve physicians (including two who specialize in psychiatry), one dentist, one optician, two health insurance brokers, three certified financial planners, six physical therapists and three massage therapists.
- Counseling (free or reduced cost): 35 guides totaling 115 hours.
- A Flagstaff physician served fourteen guides donating \$1280.00 of medical services.
- Health professionals provided free screenings to 41 guides at the Spring Guides Training Seminar Health Fair, a value worth \$750 per patient. The Whale Foundation paid \$345 for blood work.
- Four \$1500 post secondary educational scholarships were granted to guides from the Kenton Grua Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- \$2000 donated to miscellaneous guide health needs.

2006 Guides Training Seminar

IT MAY SEEM A BIT PREMATURE to be making plans for next spring, but we need you to do some planning—for the Guides Training Seminar that is! Both land and river sessions will be fantastic, offering the most comprehensive interpretive training available in the human, natural and cultural history of Grand Canyon, along with relevant resource management issues. The annual Guides Training Seminar is made possible by the committed efforts of the following GTS partners: Grand Canyon River Guides, the individual commercial river outfitters, the Grand Canyon Conservation Fund (a non-profit grant making program established and managed by the Grand Canyon river outfitters), Grand Canyon National Park, the Grand Canyon Association, and Teva.

So mark your calendars for the following dates:

GCRG SPRING MEETING

DATE: Friday, March 24, 2006

LOCATION: Marble Canyon Lodge (Marble Canyon, AZ).

TOPICS: GCRG board nomination, conservation and guide issues.

Dinner and party at Hatchland afterwards

GTS LAND SESSION

DATES: March 25–26, 2006

LOCATION: Hatch River Expeditions warehouse, Marble Canyon, AZ.

COST: \$35 (or \$30 if paid by March 1st)

LODGING: on your own—at one of the local lodges or camping is OK.

BRING: a camp chair, a mug, dress warmly and in layers and plan on staying for the weekend!

LEAVE: leave your dogs at home please! It's rather interruptive during talks.

FOCUS: The cultural, natural and human history of Grand Canyon and current Park issues, plus the wonderfully informative Whale Foundation Health Fair.

PREREQUISITE: Nada—this event is open to the public.

GTS RIVER SESSION

DATES FOR UPPER SECTION: March 28 through April 3—Lees Ferry to Phantom Ranch.

DATES FOR LOWER SECTION: April 3 through April 11—Phantom Ranch to Diamond Creek.

COST: \$175 for the upper half and \$195 for the lower half.

FOCUS: Same as above, but on the water with excellent speakers in the best classroom in the world!

DEADLINE FOR SIGNUPS: March 9th! All guides, whether freelance or sponsored must be signed up before this date.

PREREQUISITE: You must be a working guide or trainee in Grand Canyon to be eligible (with work for the 2006 season). You can be sponsored by an outfitter (who will pay your way), or you can apply as a freelance participant and pay for yourself.

FREELANCE REQUIREMENTS: 1) must have all your medical requirements and other guide certifications fulfilled as specified by GCNP, or 2) you must be a licensed guide on another river, actively working towards becoming a guide in Grand Canyon. If you're not sponsored by an outfitter, send us a check (which we will hold until we determine if you can go) and send us a letter or resume with your background telling us who you are and why you should go. This will help with our selection process.

SIGN UPS: a postcard will be mailed to guides around the first of the year, but it's OK to sign up beforehand if you like, as long as you meet our requirements.

You'll notice that the *firm deadline for the GTS river trip sign ups will be March 9th!!* That's very early, we know, but it's logistically necessary. Arizona River Runners will be providing the motor rig and handling the food purchase for the GTS river trip next year—they are packing out for their own training trip on the 11th and will all be gone after that until just prior to the GTS launch. So, we need to have firm numbers *before* they leave. *This means that if you're interested, you should talk to your outfitter now, get things firmed up, make those plans, and let us know before the deadline.*

The 2006 GTS land and river sessions will be *amazing*. Even before speaker invitations have been mailed out, we've been getting requests from top speakers who want to come and present their latest work. So, start your planning now! It will be GTS time before you know it.

Adopt-a-Beach Report for 2004 Season

ADOPT-A-BEACH IS SOON to celebrate ten years of all-volunteer, repeat photography of Grand Canyon camping beaches. Dedicated guide effort year after year has made this program possible to succeed in performing its primary functions: amass information about the status of Canyon Beaches from guides and other river runners who regularly see them, provide visual and analytic documentation of the beaches, and represent recreational interests to resource managers such as those at the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (AMP). The opportunity presents itself for guides to interpret the downstream effects of Glen Canyon Dam—and, by extension, all dams—to rafters from other parts of the country and the world who are not able to see the changes over time. With the release last November of the second Beach/Habitat-Building Flow (BHBF) since the Spring of 1996, the Adopt-a-Beach photo archive and analyses have provided an important insider's look at nine years of changing beaches.

The State of the Colorado River Ecosystem in Grand Canyon, (the "SCORE Report") recently published, details over ten years of research by the USGS's Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center. Continuing efforts by the AMP to manage Glen Canyon Dam so as to "increase the size, quality, and distribution of camping beaches" have not succeeded. Beach size remains roughly the same or decreasing. Adopt-a-Beach program records are consistent with this appraisal. A copy of the SCORE Report is available online at <http://www.gcmrc.gov/products/score/2005/score.htm>.

Adopt-a-Beach analysis for the 2004 season revealed no significant changes in beach conditions with the

exception of an increase in reports of vegetation. Eighteen comments regarding the encroaching vegetation, mostly tamarisk, but also including arrowweed and camelthorn, were noted for the 2004 season, up from seven in 2003.

Loss of campsite area due to vegetation encroachment has been considered problematic for years. Efforts to quantify area loss due to vegetation are underway. Adopt-a-Beach photo locations show the growth of tamarisk and other vegetation that may stabilize beach fronts but also reduce available camp space.

Beach sizes were remarkably consistent throughout the 2004 Summer season. There were no significantly visible or reported increases in beach size. An overwhelming 92 percent of summer change records indicate that the beaches remained the same. Small deposits made during the Summer fluctuations can be seen in photos taken after flows reduced to 5,000–10,000 cfs in September. Such deposits are short-lived and could be seen as a thin layer on rocks near camp mooring areas (see 23 Mile figures). The camp at Upper National (Mile 166.4, river left) showed progressive cut bank retreat throughout the season, removing the small deposit made by the Winter flow. Small variations like this are seen in the photo

record, but have no substantial impact except in aggregate, resulting in the continued degradation of any accumulated sediment.

Winter High Fluctuating Flows (WHFF) of 5,000–20,000 cfs continued from January through March 2004. Guides commented on the "spongy" nature of sand deposited during the WHFF. Most camps (28 of forty) revealed no change over the Winter. Silver Grotto was the only beach to have any appreciable visible change over the Winter season, and it showed a decrease over the Summer season to remain, at season's end, at lower levels than



March 3, 1996, approximately 12,000 cfs. First photo for 23 Mile, less than one month before the first BHBF in April. Note tamarisk with leaf-off.



May 5, 1996—15,000 cfs. Decrease in beach size since last visit because of fluctuating flows; no change in campability. Tamarisk with leaf-on.

before the 1996 BHBF of 45,000 CFS.

Comparing results of the 2004 Winter season change to the 2003 Winter season change does not show encouraging signs. Overall, beaches at the start of the 2004 Summer season showed less change as a result of the WHFF as compared to the start of the 2003 season. When compared by reach, over 75 percent (eleven of fourteen) of beaches in Marble Canyon remained the same over the 2004 Winter; only about 36 percent (four of eleven) remained the same over the 2003 Winter. There were, however six fewer beaches in total showing an increase after the 2004 Winter compared to after the 2003 season. This may be the result of a sediment deprived system finding an equilibrium in response to the WHFF. Although the reasons for the changing response to the WHFF are unclear, it would no longer seem prudent to recommend continuing such flows under similar circumstances in the future in the name of conserving beach sediments.

Continued winnowing of the 1996 BHBF deposits can be seen in comparing end-of-season photos with pre-BHBF photos. Only one-fifth of beaches remain larger than in March of 1996, compared to over one-quarter of beaches at the end of the 2003 season. Pre-1996 BHBF conditions persist one-third of the beaches, while more than one-fifth of beaches show a decrease. While certain beaches are becoming more difficult to evaluate as vegetation encroaches (Tathatso and Hance, for example), it is clear in most cases that continued high fluctuating flow regimes are detrimental to the beach deposits.

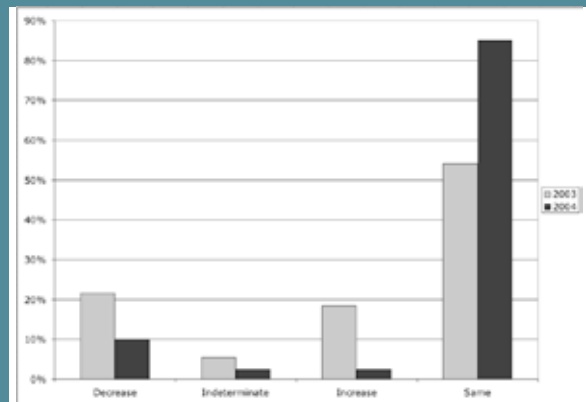
As our beaches are obviously shrinking, I would give



September 14, 2002—8,000 CFS. Comments read, "First photo taken since 9/2000."



September 2, 2004—8,000 CFS. Guide comments on worse camping, "rockier." Note veneer of sand left from summer flows of 9,000–17,000 CFS.



Percent of beaches showing Winter change, 2003 and 2004 compared. Note increase in 2004 of beaches showing no change ("Same").

an important reminder to all guides: camping above the Old High Water Zone should not be allowed. Our rafting clients often seek out the most comfortable camping spots, which may in some instances be in the fragile zones away from shore. Pressure on the resource will undoubtedly increase; a word beforehand may help ease some of this strain.

ADOPT-A-BEACH FOR 2005

The BHBF that took place last November was the single most important experiment for beaches in over nine years. After reaching the pre-determined sediment trigger from the Paria, a flow similar to the BHBF in 1996 streamed through the Canyon. Shortened in duration and slightly lower in flow, this BHBF was successful in depositing new beach sediments in primarily Marble Canyon. The 2005 season Adopt-a-Beach packets are nearly all returned and results from the program on the first year after this new BHBF will be forthcoming next year.

The Adopt-a-Beach program would not continue without the support of all guides and river-going adopters who make this possible. Adopting a beach is one way of becoming more active in the management of the Canyon and can be an opportunity to interpret the dam-influenced environment for those who choose a Grand Canyon river trip. A big thank you to the individual contributors to Adopt-a-Beach and especially to the Grand Canyon Conservation Fund. This fund is established by our outfitters and was essential for the 2004 Adopt-a-Beach program.

Joe Pollock

What's Up with Adaptive Management of Glen Canyon Dam?

THE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT Program for Glen Canyon Dam moves into its 10th year. There have been some remarkable events in the past year. Here's a glimpse of some of it. Please read on!

August, 2004...we were in the most severe five year drought since Spanish conquistadores first gazed into the depths of Grand Canyon (1540s). Lake Powell had dropped to its lowest level since it was first filling in the late 1960s. Western Area Power Administration gave us the news that the dam could lose generating capacity in 2006 if the drought continued. Power revenues that fill the coffers of the Colorado River Basin Fund would dry up, which would impact the funding source for the AMP, operation and maintenance of the dam and electrical transmission system, Salinity Control Program, irrigation projects, and other environmental programs in the basin.

The Adaptive Management Work Group made several notable recommendations at the August 2004 meeting. We prioritized our concerns to a few main areas, including: Humpback chub, archeological sites and sand bars. The need for prioritization arose from the realization that the program cannot cover the entire suite of management objectives outlined in the strategic plan given the level of funding for the program. So, a prioritization of the program components was undertaken. Unfortunately, several aspects of the program that are important to our cause, such as the recreation resources, were found at the bottom of the list when the exercise was complete. Most AMWG members concur that abundant sandbars are a critical component of ecosystem health, whether for sufficient recreational camping beaches, renewal of sand to infill and protect eroding archeological sites, or for reforming backwater habitat for rearing of endangered humpback chub.

We also made three recommendations for experimental actions during the 2005 water year (October 1, 2004–September 31, 2005.) First, we recommended a High Test Flow (HTF) above power plant capacity should be conducted in November 2004 upon reaching a sediment input trigger from the Paria River by the end of October. Reaching a consensus agreement to conduct a fall high flow test is an amazing accomplishment and something that GCRG has been working towards for several years. As of last year, cries of “It will NEVER happen!” were heard from the water and power interests, as floods above power plant capacity in the fall violate certain aspects of the “Law of the River”. However, scientific facts, economics, and some political maneuvering won the day and the recommendation went forward to the Secretary of Interior. Secondly, we

recommended another year of Trout Suppression Flows (TSF), 5000–20,000 cfs daily fluctuations for January 1 to April 7. In order to get a fall flood flow recommendation, it was a political necessity to agree to these flows, as these flows are very beneficial for hydropower, especially during peak power demand in mid winter. Thirdly, we recommended another year of “mechanical removal” of non-native fishes near the mouth of the LCR.

For the first time since 2001, the Paria River input enough sediment to trigger the high flow release and the experiment was on. The experiment lasted 90 hours, reached a maximum release of 41,000 cfs and had a gentle up ramp and down ramp from the 8000 cfs constant flows before and after the event. Initial assessments showed that the HTF deposited new sand bars throughout the system, similar to those observed in 1996. Sandbars in upper Marble Canyon (RM 0–41), the most “scoured” reach, did very well, but results were mixed in lower Marble Canyon (RM 41–65). The experiment proved that tributary inputs can be “managed” with high flow events and that, perhaps, sand bars can be sustained. Scientific studies done on various aspects of the river ecosystem were presented at the October 25–27 GCMRC Science Symposium in Tempe and are contained in a recent compilation available on the web (http://www.gcmrc.gov/news_info/outreach/symposiums/2005/sym_2005.htm). Another report is available through the GCMRC—The SCORE Report—that summarizes ten plus years of monitoring and research leading up to the 2004 high flow test (<http://www.gcmrc.gov/products/score/2005/score.htm>)

Many of us predicted that the TSF following the HTF would largely erode new sand deposits. Initial results from the sediment scientists show that erosion rates following the 2004 high flow were similar to those observed in 1996—the newly built sand bars did erode. It is clear to us that high flow events are needed at a greater frequency (2–3 years) in order to rebuild eroded sand bars, increase camping area, possibly slow the erosion of archeological sites, form near shore habitats for native fish, and restore disturbance events to the system. Individual flood events are not a one time “fix” and need to be conducted whenever there's enough sediment. The 2004 event proved to us that these flood events need to be part of the operations and not just as experiments and we will continue to work towards this goal.

At the August 2005 AMWG meeting, we struggled with budget woes caused by poor bookkeeping by the Feds. We suspended the TSF and the possibility of another HTF in 2006. We want to see how the TSF compares to normal Record of Decision operations and

need final results on the HTF before knowing how best to plan for and conduct the next beach building flow.

Upcoming issues include developing a recreation resources monitoring program, future experimental flow plans, developing budgets, etc. GCMRC recently conducted a review of the recreation resources monitoring program (also see SCORE Report chapters on this subject) and we will be involved in vetting that report through the AMP and (hopefully) working in better

cooperation with the Grand Canyon National Park on these issues. Future flow experiments are also being considered that include: 1) more high flows; 2) seasonally adjusted steady flows; 3) more high fluctuations; 4) mechanical removal of trout and much more.

Andre Potochnik, Matt Kaplinski, John O'Brien

Wage and Benefits Survey 2005

NOTE: PLEASE READ—THIS BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS SURVEY.

BACK IN THE MID-1990S, a few intrepid river guides initiated an outfitter pay and benefit survey which entailed sending out about 400 questionnaires, mountains of data entry, and a couple years to complete. The results appeared in the Fall 1997 issue of the BQR. Many guide comments from this summer's GCRG ballot suggested implementing another survey of this type. You spoke and we listened. River guides are the very reason for this organization's existence and the driving force behind our policy decisions. So often we concern ourselves with the health of the resource, and rightly so, but in this case, the "resource" is the guides themselves and their immense value to Grand Canyon and the commercial river industry.

Consequently, GCRG has conducted a new guide and benefit survey, but with a few distinct differences from the previous survey:

1) This new effort is not a wide sampling, but rather a sharply focused survey based on information gathered primarily by GCRG board members, a few other key individuals, and the outfitters themselves. Whenever the information has been guide-generated, we have attempted to verify that information with the relevant outfitter. The spreadsheet below indicates whether results have been verified or not. *We strongly caution that any information not verified by an outfitter is subject to errors and gaps.*

2) This information was gathered and published in a matter of months rather than years because wage scale and benefit information can so rapidly become obsolete. The quick turn-around time for this survey will ensure that information is current and accurate *for this point in time, when outfitter verified.*

3) This survey is anonymous with no outfitter identifiers (no company names, no user days). We have retained

motor and oar identification only because the differences in pay scales directly relate to the amount of work each type of trip entails. The purpose of this current survey is to show a *range* of pay and benefits that exist in the world of commercial guiding in Grand Canyon. Please note that we have not been able to obtain information from all companies (roughly two-thirds), but certainly enough to provide a feeling for the *general range* available to working guides.

4) We have included NPS wages and benefits for comparison. However, please remember that the Park works off grant money and taxpayer dollars, and is not subject to profitability. We only include them to broaden the range of what's out there—not as any direct comparison to outfitter wages and benefits.

5) We have streamlined the survey questions to focus on a few key areas. Tangible and intangible benefits have been retained in this survey because they truly help to provide a more accurate and balanced picture of valuable advantages offered to working guides in Grand Canyon that supplement wages.

As we mentioned, the purpose of this survey is to show a general range of the wages and benefits available to guides. **However, there are some distinct variables and qualifiers at work here that can directly affect this information and how you perceive it. This listing includes (but is not limited to) the following factors:**

- Wage scales have been simplified for ease of dissemination, but they can actually be quite complex.
- Outfitters may approach their wage scales differently depending on variables like years of experience, number of trips, years of service and/or number of trips with that particular company, etc...
- An economy of scale may come into play (larger companies may have more resources, for example).
- Some outfitters who provide motor trips pay all guides on the boat while others may pay only one guide

(which allows them to pay at a higher rate).

- The number of boats on a trip affects the number of personnel (paid and unpaid) needed to successfully run the trip.
- Some companies pay for the rig and de-rig days. Others don't.
- Not all companies have a wage per day—some guides are salaried.
- Some guides do their own food-packing where others

contract it out.

- Some outfitters offer end-of-season bonuses and/or profit sharing, while others do not.
- Pre-and post-trip meals are sometimes provided by outfitters, but not always.
- Some outfitters pay for various training sessions, while others do not.
- Worker's Compensation is always provided for paid employees and is part of an outfitter's overhead.

	Pay Per Day	Retirement Plan	Health Insurance
Company A (outfitter verified)	Lead \$116–\$140 (can increase with years of service up to \$200/day) Guide \$85–\$110, Swampers \$63–\$85	none for seasonal employees, full time employees have 401K	AFLAC for seasonals, health insurance offered for full time employees
Company B (outfitter verified)	Motor \$163, Dory/Motor \$129, pay is same rate for all guides, pay rate reflects three extra days per trip for packing, rigging, de-rigging, etc.	none	none
Company C (outfitter verified)	Note #1 – the following wage scale is for 2004. 2005 wages will reflect a cost of living increase. Note #2 – guides are paid these wages for rig day also. Oar guide \$109–\$125, Oar core crew \$143, Baggage \$80, Kayak support \$109–\$125, Plus other oar wages: Trip leader \$40, Head cook \$30, Paddle captain \$30, Interchange \$70 for everyone. Motor TL/pilot \$187–\$199 (plus an additional \$25 if TL is on a two boat trip), Swampers \$84–\$106. Guest assistants.	profit sharing for full time employees (fully vested after six years), full time is 1000 hours or five oar trips	33% of annual premium (up to \$800 max) for full time employees, full time is 1000 hours or five oar trips
Company D (outfitter verified)	Trip leader/pilot \$175, Swamper starting wage \$65, (extra \$5/day for WFR/EMT), \$5 raise for every ten trips for all Swampers and Second boatmen, \$10 raise for every ten trips for TL. Guest assistants.	none	AFLAC, crew pays for it but can pay for the entire year during the summer
Company E	Lead \$150–\$160, Guide \$120–\$150, Baggage \$0.	none	none
Company F	Trip leader \$118–\$164, Guide \$110–\$154, Swamper \$78–\$86. Full day wages for rig and de-rig day.	none	none
Company G (outfitter verified)	Lead \$150, Second boatman \$120+, Swamper \$90. Guest assistants.	401K for all full time employees (six trips/year)	company pays for half of full time employees' coverage
Company H (outfitter verified)	Lead \$140–\$160, Second boatman \$120–\$135, Swamper \$60–\$80.	401K match three to 6% of gross	health insurance paid for six months (river season)
Company I (outfitter verified)	Lead = guide pay plus \$20/day, Guide \$115–\$145, TL get additional \$20/day, (extra \$5/day extra for WFR), Baggage \$0.	401K, match boatman's contribution with 25%, up to 6% of wages invested	10% of full-time employees six month premium, increases by 10% each year until 100% of six months premium reached in year ten
Company J (outfitter verified)	Guide \$117–\$125, Support boat \$80, Baggage \$45, full day wages for rig and de-rig, Additional pay: TL \$35, Head cook \$20, Paddle captain \$10.	profit sharing contributions are made for qualifying guides based on gross pay	partial reimbursement for qualifying guides who have own health insurance starting in 2006
NPS	Note #1 – This range is based on a 14-day trip and includes overtime pay for anything worked beyond a 40 hour work week - 8 hrs/day. Note #2 – These positions are created as a way to hire boatmen, who also perform duties as listed under their appointment. Disclaimer: These may not be correctly worded NPS titled appointments, but rather give an example. This pay range is also an example. Science Technicians: (GS-5 and GS-7) \$108.07–\$134, Ranger Assistants (seasonal GS-7) \$138.06–\$163.76 depending on how long the appointment has been held.	none	none

Our desire is that this survey will prove beneficial to river guides in Grand Canyon by enabling them to clearly see where they stand in relation to the rest of the community. This project may also prove useful to commercial river outfitters as well—seeing what other companies do differently may prompt information sharing and initiate productive dialogue. *Overall, Grand Canyon River Guides would like to emphasize the positive*

with this survey as a useful tool for guides and outfitters alike, and we offer it for your review in that spirit.

Lynn Hamilton

Tangible & Intangible Benefits

A week on a houseboat on Lake Powell (must pay for gas & small waiver fee). Safety incentive program with monthly awards. Customer service program that includes pay increase when reaching different levels gauged by comments from passengers. Pro deals & company purchasing program for many different items from boats, gear and clothing to energy star appliances. Quality equipment with focus on making launches and trip pickups as easy as possible. No rigging or de-rigging of boats. Plane flights for returning oar crews. Very flexible scheduling—management puts needs of guides first when scheduling. Paid first aid trips. Pay for GTS trips. Company will reimburse any money for training or education that relates to river or canyon. Open door policy for all crew. Crew is encouraged to talk to management when they feel the need. Management will work on making needed improvements as soon as possible and are concerned with crew issues. Paid swampers on all trips. Kitchen crew packs out trips.

Bunk house during the main part of the season. Very good equipment and groceries. Generally no exchanges. Christmas bonus. Paid first aid training for working guides through company sponsored courses. General freedom to use your best discretion regarding river decisions.

50% of fees paid for secure parking (off company property while on the river). One paid physical therapy session per season. Gift matching program—company matches donations to approved non-profits up to \$200 for anyone working two or more trips/season. Equipment reimbursement based on number of trips done during the season. Equipment discounts on merchandise sold at company store. Training reimbursement is 50% for WFR, CPR etc, and 100% for food handler course and annual GTS. One free company hat, shirt per season. Replacement of personal oars if damaged on company trip. Reimbursement for Hepatitis B vaccination. Paid rigging day (de-rig is done on last day of trip). River crew doesn't have to pack food. Head cook (on oar trips) packs all perishable food the day before rig-day and gets head cook pay. Motor boatmen & swampers pack all perishable food on rig-day.

All equipment paid for and replaced/repared as needed by company. Equipment discounts on merchandise sold at company store: clothes, sandals, books, carabiners, etc. Reimbursement for annual GTS. Two company logo shirts per season. Free room and board while off river. Reimbursement for Hepatitis B vaccination. Pay for rigging and de-rigging days. Double pay for exchange day.

Flexible scheduling. Environmental ethics. Paid first aid training. Training trips. Encourage GTS participation.

Flexible scheduling. Variety of trip lengths. Freedom to run your own trip (nothing cookie cutter about it). Boat assignments for the season. Excellent gear. pay for rig and de-rig days.

Trailer for use by all interested employees during the season. Paid dinner and hotel room before every trip. Paid breakfast after every trip. paid WFR and food handlers courses. Reimbursement for Hepatitis A & B shots. Provides rigging. Best boss imaginable.

X-mas bonus. Multi pro-deal opportunities. Paid WFR. Paid hourly on training trips.

Quality equipment. High crew/passenger ratio. Flexible scheduling. GTS participation paid. Responsive management. Good boss. Great company to work for. Outfitter will rent boats as needed from employees for \$250/trip. Flat rate mileage reimbursement for guides who normally work in other company locations to Grand Canyon operation to work as a guide.

Cash bonus at year's end based on number of trips/position worked. Pro deals. Company sponsored WFT and Swiftwater Rescue. Food handlers and GTS river and land sessions paid for. Non-company sponsored courses, including continuing education, reimbursed 50%. Off-season physical therapy sessions paid for. Long trip schedule (average 15 days). Small, light paddle boats. Warehouse/repair staff. High crew/passenger ratio. One third to one half of all trips have no interchange option.

Quality equipment that is maintained constantly. Low passenger to crew ratio. Low stress (since all passengers are volunteers and are responsible for themselves). Good environmental ethics. Boathouse manager who helps with organizing and pacing. Park staff on trip means education about Park management. Resource personnel on trip provides education about Park resources.

Vladimir Kovalik

SHORTLY AFTER [WORLD WAR II], when I was about seventeen, my dearest friend in Poprad found, in a wrecked train, a relic of the war: a German inflatable raft. It was a pretty heavy, rubber-coated canvas raft, but it was very nice. We went to a gas station and had it inflated. We brought an old pickup truck, put it on, and they inflated it. It was not very big, but it was, to our way of looking at it—a giant. It was a German small assault raft, and very heavy, and it even had some rations in it, and papers, a survival kit, and a light, some kind of a beacon that would run on batteries, and what have you. Anyhow, we inflated it and then we made paddles from a fence. We stole some wooden fencing and made paddles. Three of us decided to go on a journey on a beautiful river that runs through wilderness from the Carpathian Mountains, throughout the whole Slovak Republic, due west, and eventually the river—named Vah—joins the Danube River, and together with the Danube, flows east to the Black Sea.

Anyhow, we decided to take the journey on the Vah River. So we got supplies of food, which we accumulated from our homes. We didn't want to tell our parents, they would be scared stiff, and it was after the war, where there were a lot of mines and unexploded bombs and what have you, all over, through the country. However, we told them we're going to visit some relatives, and we brought the boat to the river and took the journey.

The journey was fantastic. The river, running through some magnificent, beautiful mountains, and a lot of ruins along the river of old castles and old chateaus, long abandoned...it was an amazing journey. However, there was no way to get from the river. It was going through wilderness. There were no towns and villages for a long distance. And shortly, after a day or two on the river, we ran out of food. So we had to go at night to villages and try to get from shepherders camping, as much food as we can. Usually what happens in this country in the mountains, the shepherders, when they travel with the sheep, they make circles around, and they have small huts where they have their supplies of food when they come back, so they can eat, such as dry cheese and biscuits and different kinds of food. So we would supply our boat with different things to continue the journey.

What was memorable, what I will never forget, was the fact that sometimes we parked the boat under the ruins of an old castle, and we would climb at night, and spend the night in those ruins. All of us were scared to death, but we pretended we are doing real fine and we feel okay, and feeling brave, and telling stories to

each other. Usually, we never slept. All night long, we kept talking. Everyone was scared to go to sleep, that we probably wouldn't wake up. (laughter) So, as the journey continues, we were getting more and more tired. After about ten days or two weeks, we finally ran out of food—it was hard to get, and we were weak, and we were missing our parents and friends, so we decided to sell the raft, which we did, to some commercial people who needed to ferry things across. They had farms on both sides of the river, so they decided it would be a good transportation from one side to the other, and they gave us a fairly good sum of money, which we then bought tickets for the train, and some supply of food, and returned back to Poprad, to our parents.

Anyway, that was our journey and my introduction to the river, that I have never forgotten. And I suppose that my eventual decision to go in the river business must have had something to do with the very first journey in Slovakia.

* * *

One of the best, brightest, and certainly most colorful characters ever to grace the passageways of the Grand Canyon (or more appropriately—the planet Earth) is a crazy Czechoslovakian named Vladimir Kovalik (VK). Most of us owe the man (and, as he himself constantly points out—his beautiful family, fine friends and wonderful crew) more than we know. Back in the good old days VK, along with his extremely competent wife Nada and his good buddy Ronn Hayes (the actor), started a river company called Wilderness World (which ultimately—after a seventeen year run—was sold and thereby metamorphosed into the modern day Canyon Explorations). What we all owe him for, besides that impossibly cool little company and all the great trips and hot-spit crews and magical traditions thereof, is a passion for design and perfection that led to more advances in boats and boating technology than you could shake a stick at: the Campways Havasu, Miwok, Apache; today's Avon Spirit and Pro; whole companies like Riken Inflatables and Maravia that were sucked into the business in part through VK's energy and enthusiasm; as well as boats by Caligari and Metzler; features like self-bailing floors, lace-in thwarts, sitting on the cooler, collapsible frames; not to mention music trips and silent float outs to Diamond Creek...all these things and many more VK had a major hand in.

He's brilliant, fearless, an unrestrained doer. Like a few other Grand Canyon giants (John Wesley Powell, Martin Litton, Fred Burke, OC Dale, Kim Crumbo, Wesley Smith, Whale...) VK too was shaped by war—

* * *

Shortly before the end of the war [when VK was fourteen], it was getting pretty hectic in Slovakia, because more and more partisans were fighting Germans who were returning from the eastern front through Czechoslovakia, through Ducla Pass, and through Czechoslovakia, back to Germany. At the same time, they were picking up—the Germans, wherever they could—young people, and training them to fight partisans with German soldiers, military...Czech and Slovaks they were picking up, and my father decided, “Son, the best decision would be if you go to your uncle’s place in the country, where you will be quite safe,” because it’s a little village in the southern, south-central part of Slovakia. So he took me to the railroad station. He found out there is a train going west. It is not a passenger, but a freight train, going to go. But, he decided, you could always get in a caboose, and go as far west as you can, and then you know the way and everything. Just go visit, so just keep going away, because if the Germans find you here, they will take you, just like they’ll take all the neighbors’ kids, youngsters. And so he brought me to the railroad station about eleven o’clock in the evening. It was cold, it was the end of January. I will never forget it, I had a lot of warm clothes on, and the train, sure enough, it was already at the station, waiting there, and filling up with water for the steam. The unusual thing was the whole freight train, all the sliding doors were locked, and there were wire things with a seal. It was sealed—all the doors looked sealed. And the caboose on the end was empty, and so he put me in. When the train whistled, he opens his jacket and pulls a cigar box, and he gives me a cigar. You can imagine my father giving me a cigar! You can’t smoke, you can’t drink, you can’t do anything, and here is my father, and he’s saying, “I’m giving you this cigar. It doesn’t mean I’m giving it to you to smoke right away. But if you get cold or something, light a cigar. Don’t inhale, just kind of smoke, and you will feel good, you will relax.” And he gave me a cigar and a box of little matches. So I thanked him, and I was very proud. He didn’t want to look, he turned around, he turned away, because he had tears in his eyes, not knowing what will happen, but he felt it was much better to go before it would be too late. And so, shortly after, the train started to go. And what happened is that from Poprad, the train going west has to climb to the highest point of railway station in Slovak Republic, which is about—thirty miles from Poprad there is a high point, and the train goes very slowly. Anyhow, I thought that steam in a caboose would be delivering steam and heat. However, it was disconnected, and it was pretty cold. Although I had a good parka and good clothes, eventually I decided, when the train slowed down, I decided I would just go up and go and jump from one...and it’s a long freight train; however, I decided I’m going to take a chance, because

I would freeze here, not knowing when the train was going to stop, etc. So I climbed up, and I went from one wagon to another. Sometimes I had to go using ladders going between. And I perused my way. But I came to about the middle of the train, and suddenly I hear the door sliding, the side door, and I look around, I couldn’t believe it, it’s a freight train, all the doors were sealed. But here comes the barrel of a gun, and it’s coming up. Here comes an arm, a hand, and a man lifting up and looking at me. I look at him, and I freaked out. There is a gun, but he can’t—because the train is moving and it’s slippery, and it’s winter, and there’s the gun, and I freaked out and I went in between the wagon, and the train slowed down. Then I actually, what happened, in reality, I jumped, eventually...because the train started to put the brakes on. I guess they signaled, or pulled the thing. And the guys came in, and I jumped in the snow and I ran away. There was a lot of noise, a lot of commotion, a lot of things going on. And eventually, what happened, this was a train that was carrying wounded German soldiers, escorted by German police, and some citizens of German origin, from the eastern part, from either Russia or Ukraine, that were going back to Germany. So my climbing on top of the thing disturbed them, and they were very, very unhappy. What eventually happened—the train going through, because of the partisans mining the railways, had two flatcars in front, that they pushed, so in case there were mines, they would explode, not to injure the locomotive. Eventually, the train actually exploded. A tunnel not far from there was mined. I was not far away. The train was like maybe a kilometer or so away when it exploded, and there was a big fire. I mean, here it is, I jumped—I was then on my feet. The train went in, it exploded—whatever happened, I don’t know. I have no idea. So I bypass and I went, but I was caught by the police. And the police were Slovak police, but they were under the jurisdiction of the German command, and they had to, whenever somebody was caught, like I, without ID, they had to contact the German office, and I went for interrogation. I was brought up to a town, and for about a week or two weeks, they were training me with a Panzer-Foust [phonetic], which is called Panzer-Fist. It’s an anti-tank weapon...the Germans were training. I was caught, and there were some other young people. This is what my father was afraid of. And eventually, I ended up there. And what happened, they were going on a patrol, approximately six or eight Germans, and two of us—the other Slovak who was there, I had no idea who he was, but he was there. None of us trusted each other, we didn’t talk, I didn’t know whether he was a volunteer for Germany, or whether he was caught like I was. So anyway, we went to the woods, and we already had a gun and everything, we were on a patrol looking for the partisans. And it was very, very cold, so

the Germans decided to make a fire. And they made a fire under—they cleared up snow, under a big pine tree or fir tree, where the limbs were quite high. They made a little fire and they were warming up their hands, and pounding their feet, jumping back and forth. Everybody put their guns down in the snow, and we were standing there, and suddenly the bullets start flying. The partisans were watching us probably for quite a while, and so they started to shoot. One of the Germans got wounded, and everybody dispersed for cover. I ran. It took several days, but eventually I ended up on my uncle's farm. It was not a farm, it was a...vineyards and an orchard. I eventually ended up there...The saddest story is what happened after I returned home. You see, this is again, how stories pop up. What happened is, there was no communication on telephones, because Germany destroyed every telephone link, and they carried their own underground cables, which was just general staff communication and military. And anybody who would make any effort to wire into it, were automatically shot. And nobody would dare. So anyway, there was not much communication. My parents didn't know where I am, they couldn't communicate, they couldn't travel. My father's car was confiscated for military use, etc., etc., and they wouldn't even dare to go anyway, because this was towards the end of the war, and there was a lot of fighting and a lot of bloodshed, and a lot of mines, a lot of artillery shooting—Germans to partisans, and vice versa.

So anyway, I eventually ended up at my uncle's place, and after a while, after I recovered and was fed well and felt pretty good, I started a journey back to Poprad. And this is something which is really hard for me to talk about. What happened, the journey took longer than I anticipated. I was fourteen years old, whatever, fifteen. I was going from village to village, hitched with cars, but there were very few cars going. Usually they were trucks delivering things between villages. And whichever way, primarily hiking and climbing. I became so exhausted, my clothes rotted up, and I had absolutely nothing warm, everything was soaked, cold. I eventually ended up in Poprad. I had a very hard time to breathe. I had a tremendous problem with my lungs. And so I came to the house, to my family home, and the war ended. It was the end of the war, and many people returning from the woods, from the forests, broken up, frozen up. So the family, the people would stop in the house, and the families automatically brought warm coffee or tea or soup. When somebody walked through the gate, my mother used to try to feed the people and help them. And so what happened, I came to my house, and I was almost delirious. I was ill, I had a hard time to breathe. There was a wooden walkway from the gate to the main entrance, I was going in the back of the house. And I walked in, and I was hunched, I had my jacket over my head, and I was shaking and freezing.

I hear the door open and my mother coming in, and she had warm soup and she looks at me, she's getting me soup, and she looks and I see, she drops the soup and says, "Pepana boha" [unclear], "Oh, my God!" And she's recognized me, and she gets hysterical. She yells, and my father comes. They took me to the house, and they call a doctor, but there is no doctor, they're all gone. So there's a Catholic hospital, and they went to the hospital. The neighbors came and carried me to the hospital. No doctor available, end of the war, still shooting, still going on. But the sisters, they immediately recognized...I had water in my lungs. And so they had absolutely no thing—and I'll never forget to this day—they made me kneel on a chair, held onto it, they tied a line around me—whatever it was—and a sister came, one of the sisters who was a nurse, I suppose, and she gave me a big needle. I remember she put a towel in my mouth, and she said, "Bite hard! Don't open it, don't scream." And she stuck this needle right between my ribs, in, and then inserted a stainless steel little tube. And then with a needle they were pulling out the water, which looked like beer. (Excuse me for saying it as you're drinking beer!) They were pulling up. And that's what happened, because what was happening—I didn't even know what it means—but water was flooding my heart...So the sisters saved me. Then eventually, a few days later, we went to a nearby town, about twenty miles away, where a hospital was fully functioning. So I was treated there until I recovered.

That was my journey to my uncle's place, and coming back.

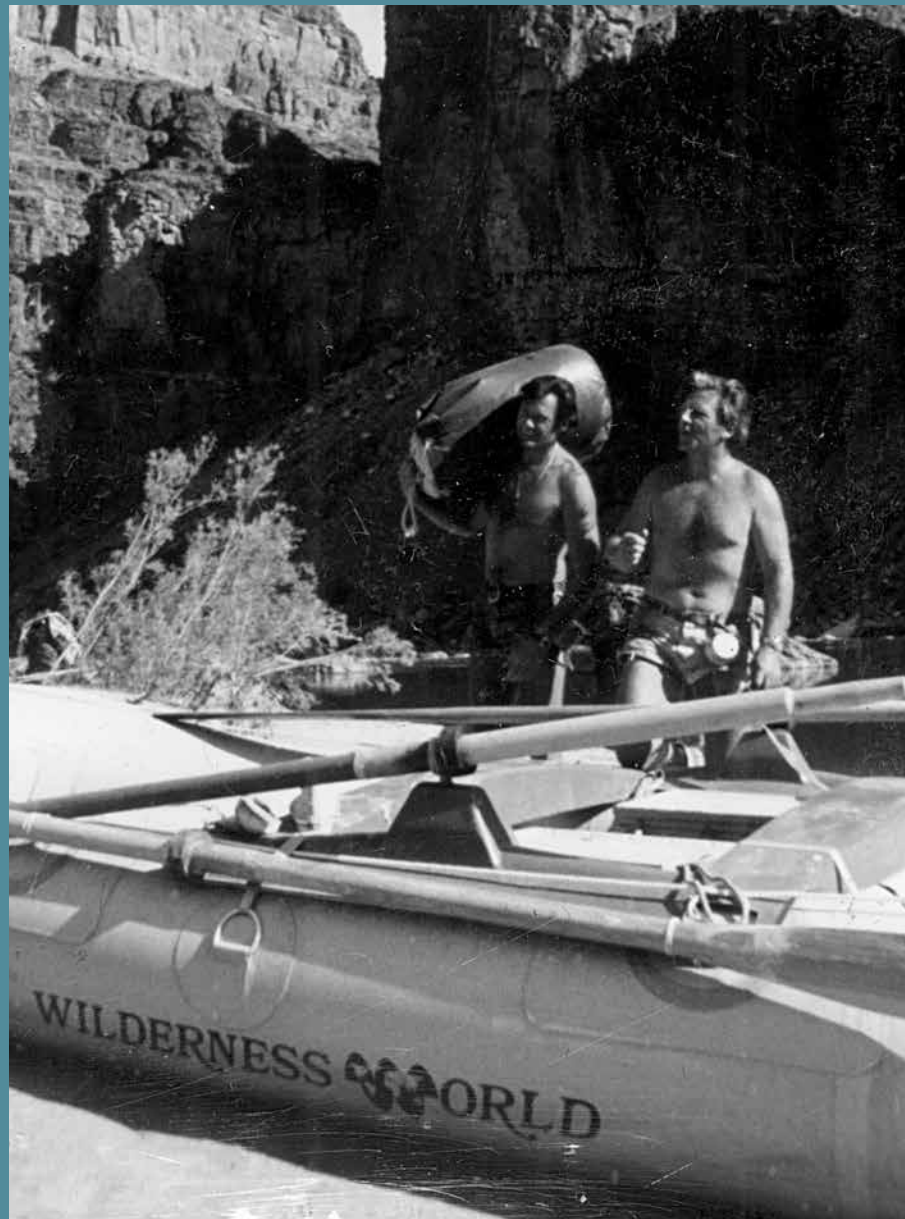
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It would take a book to tell all about VK's experiences in WWII and then after the war, behind the Iron Curtain, under the thumb of Communist Russia. Suffice it to say, here, that after running afoul of the Communists soon after the war, VK attempted one escape and saw a childhood friend get shot as they attempted to swim the Morava River into Austria. VK, after being sentenced to hard labor in Siberia, finally escaped from a train taking him there (by hiding under a railroad turntable at the border and having to pee on the shaft of it to get it to turn around by hand in the dark of night and dead of winter...). After an epic journey he crossed into Germany and there, in a displaced persons camp, met a beautiful American volunteer named Nada. Against all odds he married her, came to the U.S.A., learned to speak English, got a degree, and finally ended up a graduate student at Stanford University, where he met another larger than life character, Ronn Hayes—who later became a famous tv actor starring in shows such as "Lincoln Vale of the Everglades," "Lassie," and "The Rounders."

* * *

After I registered at Stanford, then they gave us a choice to some other activities...so I was going to register in the Stanford Alpine Club—climbing, and diving. This was about my third or fourth day at Stanford. I'm waiting in line, and here comes this handsome dude with a motorcycle—I heard it, "Vroom, vroom!" So he parks the bike, and there was somebody, his friend, ahead of me in line. So Ronn came and joined him. I am in line, and one of the ladies asked me, "Are you a climber?" I said, "Yeah, I was born in the mountains, and that's why I'm registering." And suddenly this voice comes from in front of me, "Where are you from?" I said, "From Czechoslovakia." He said, "Oh, I can tell you are from someplace in Eastern Europe. What is your name?" I said, "Vladimir." So this is how I met Ronn Hayes. He immediately left his friend and came to me, stood with me in line. He said, "You know, you need to join me. I have about three foreign students and some American students, and we get together every week. Tomorrow evening we have a meeting at my place." So, sure enough, I came there the very next day, and he had these three foreign students come in, and some other students, and they were very enthusiastic and asked me what I'm doing. I said, "I just came here, I'm going to graduate school," etc., etc. And he said, "Well, how do you make money?" I said, "Well, I have a scholarship, but I will find some jobs, like I had in Portland, different things." He said, "No, I will give you a job. I am a tree surgeon. I am a student, but when I was in high school, I had polio in my left arm, and the doctor told me I have to work physically so it doesn't return," because he had just the beginning of polio. "So I get a job at Stanford at a high school

in Marin County to work for a tree surgery company. And now, as a student at Stanford, I got this job from Stanford to trim the trees around Lagunita Lake and on Stanford campus. And I need people to work, and you're a mountain climber, you got to work with me." So he told me about tree surgery and working on the oak trees around the Lagunita Lake and Stanford campus. And, to be honest with you, seeing Ronn's enthusiasm, and he's wonderful...he's a horticulturist, because he studied trees. He didn't just butcher trees or cut them down. He fixed them, he cabled them, he trimmed them, he fixed cavities so the trees would grow, because he believed in things like that. Most tree surgeons, the biggest money



Ronn Hayes and Vladimir, 1972.

is made cutting trees down. It's easy, anybody can do it. But he wanted to fix them, to make them beautiful. And so he taught me all these things. And I became a tree man, as well as a graduate student.

So a long time after I finished, before I got a job at Stanford Research Institute, I did tree work around Palo Alto. And because we were climbers and we could use climbing techniques—you know, you would harness, tie yourself on a big redwood tree and swing around to do this. We were unsurpassed. Everybody wanted us to come and work. So for a long time I was making money, working as a tree surgeon, before I went to research. And even after I went to Stanford, when my friends and neighbors in Los Altos Hills or Woodside asked me, I went to—of course, free of charge—but I continued working all my life, to this day as a tree surgeon. As an example, look at this tree. You see? Two days ago, I was—look at the bottom where it's cut there. This tree was dying, they wanted to cut it down. And you see on the bottom? I trimmed it and I still need to trim the top. I'm making a beautiful tree out of it. It was nothing but suckers growing in it. So, to this day, I work on trees for me and my friends, just gratis, a little bit.

So that's how I met Ronn. When we met, he said, "Vladi, you need to become a member, and we're going to call it Cosmo Club." I didn't understand what it's all about. I said, "Okay, what is Cosmo Club?" He said, "It's Cosmopolitan Club. We have different people. We're going to get together, we're going to have a meeting, and we'll just get together." Because Ronn was extremely interested, being in political science and foreign affairs, he wanted to know, from foreign students from all directions, to get them together and to talk about—he was very concerned about the communist countries, the freedom. He had these meetings, and every week we would meet. And it started as the Cosmo Club, which became a huge success at Stanford University. He started it. And when he started it, and we grew up, about a year after I met him, we had an annual opening of Cosmo Club, and getting more and more people. It was advertised in *The Stanford Daily* and all over. So there was a big meeting, and I will never forget, to this day, he was so enthusiastic. And in his little cabin, there was a tub that was one of these old-fashioned with legs. So he said, "Vladi, let's clean the tub. There'll be probably 100–200 people. Let's clean it. I have nothing to serve for any drink or anything." So for two hours we were scrubbing the whole tub, and put it on, and we mixed—I don't even know, orange juice, Kool-aid, a couple of quarts of vodka and...Mixed everything in the tub! (laughter) And bought some plastic thing, and filled the tub to the gills. And people came from all over. Everybody brought friends, and there were foreign students, American students, you name it. It was the Cosmo Club! And he played music, it was in a garden, it was outside, and

people would walk to the tub, get a drink, come outside, and it was wonderful. I think it was the first year anniversary of the Cosmopolitan Club, which seems then grew from what I know now. Not only did they grow big, they even sponsor scholarships, I believe, and they do a lot of wonderful work. And I have to find out if it still exists, but I believe that it still exists.

This is the kind of man Ronn was. And you can see the impact this guy had on me. Here I couldn't even communicate, my vocabulary was maybe 500 words when I met him. Okay? And here is a man who so much entrusted things in me, and I in him—there's no words to describe it. This is why you understand he was my best friend, and always will be...Ronn Hayes was my mentor in many ways. His beautiful relationship with rivers, with the mountains, with nature, surpasses everything I have ever known. He is a man who gave me so much, and whose enthusiasm I carry to this day, and will carry for as long as I live. He's the one who asked me on the first river trip on the Colorado River, when he and Frank Hoover had the private permit in 1968. And ever since '51, Ronn has been to this day, my definitely best friend I have ever had in my life. He was more than a friend. He was a brother, he was a friend, and he was someone who contributed tremendously to my life. It was a sad day when I had to speak at his funeral [last winter]. Part of me died at the same time, when he died. I'm sorry about that. Ronn was a phenomenal contribution to the boat design, to my evolvment with nature, to my and Nada's, my dear wife, that we became very much involved with preservation of wilderness. And the stand that Wilderness World—and our boatmen—had was oriented towards: carry on the message of David Brower, Martin Litton, and going way back, to the people who really cared and wanted to preserve this phenomenal country that we have, and wild rivers, and forests and lakes, and the great nature that we have.

* * *

The first time in Grand Canyon was on a private trip in, I think, 1968. Frank Hoover got the permit, and Ronn called me, he said, "Vladi, I want you to come and be a boatman." Marvin Stevens, Ronn, Frank Hoover, George Mancini, and myself. We were the boatmen. And Jomo! Or maybe not.

STEIGER: So you rowed your own boat, the first...

V. KOVALIK: This was the first time. I had no concept of Grand Canyon. I had no idea what Grand Canyon is. But on the other hand, a river was a river. I read about it, but I never was in details what it is. And the rapids, I decided, "Well, people have been going there, so why not?" So I went there, and we met at Lees Ferry. I will never forget the meeting, because many of the people had never met each other. Frank Hoover put an ad in



Wilderness World Grand Canyon trip in July 1972.

the Sierra Club Journal, I believe, “People who want to participate on private trip, you should contact...” him. And there were several people from the East Coast. So they had never met, other than by letter and telephone. And the result was we will meet one day prior to departure at Lees Ferry, and meet together, have a dinner, and we will the next day go. So sure enough, I came to Lees Ferry a couple of days before—Ron and I—and we helped inflate the boats. There was a conglomeration of every kind of boat. There was Green River, Yampa River, there was a basket boat, the lifeboats. I don’t have any idea, but they were just inflatable boats. Funky boats. Some were pretty hard when inflated. Some were losing air within hours of inflation. And we had seen a lot of people going back and forth and looking at the boats, and bringing bags full of clothes and putting it in the boats. Nobody knew whose boat is whose. We had no idea. It was very disorganized. All we knew was there were six boats and six boatmen and X number of passengers, which came to about three people per boat, plus a boatman. So we had a dinner. I recall I think it was in that big trailer there, and had hamburgers or whatever we ordered, and some beers. And then we first time met the people. So we talked to each other, and there were more women than men that came on the adventure, which was wonderful! So that evening, people came and decided, “This is my boat, this is my boat, this is my boat.” And all of us, the passengers, the boatmen, everybody. So I ended up with a boat—I don’t even know to

this day what it was, but it was a funky boat. And in the morning when I came to my boat, it was full of wine in plastic one-gallon jugs. The girls brought some wine and filled up the boat, and they put their name with a spray can. There was sign on my boat, “No virgins allowed.” (laughter) With a spray can paint, which never dried up, and would never be washed, because I recall every time somebody sat on it, they had an imprint on their butt—either on bathing suit or the lower part of the legs, which were exposed. That paint was some surplus paint that the girls got from somewhere, and they wrote on each boat, something. My boat had “No virgins allowed.” I ended up with three beautiful, statuesque, bikini-clad women the next morning. I was in seventh heaven. Full of wine and full of girls. What a journey—introduction to Grand Canyon!

So I remember floating down the river, and everything went fine. You know, we got wet, we bailed, we did everything we were told. And in fact, some of us were frightened because of some of the stories about waterfalls and this and that. But we were heroes because we were all young, we competed amongst each other, and we were experienced in different outdoors things, such as climbing, diving, swimming, etc. So anyhow, the journey was very successful. We were going down and going down. Prior to our departure, I met Martin Litton who was there with the Dories. And they departed before us. The campsite was set up, as I recall to this day, that Martin always camped, being the fact that he was

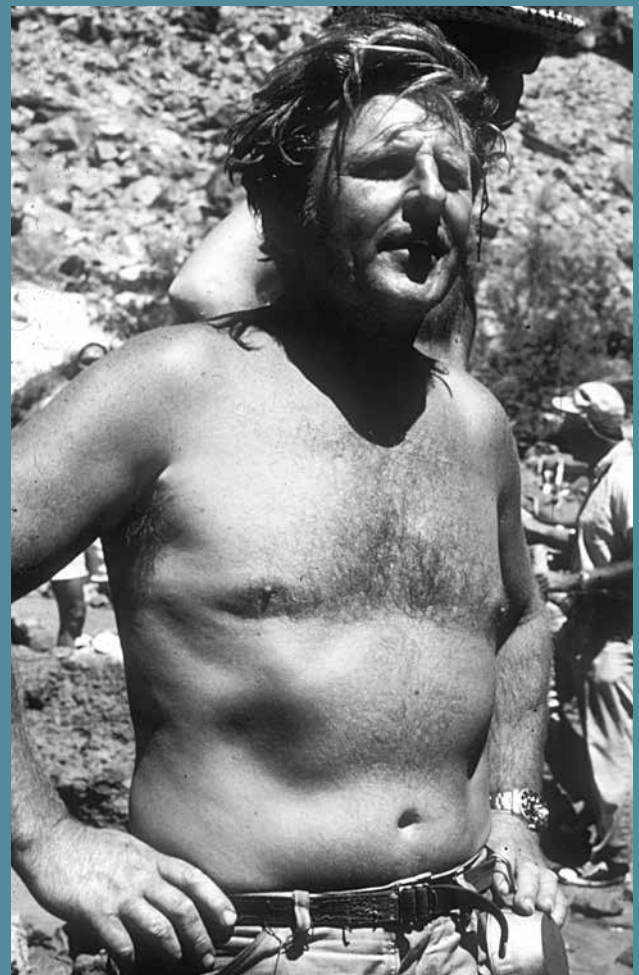
a day ahead of us, he was always one campsite ahead of us. But he had decided, and I recall he introduced me to a man in his boat who was one of the editors of the travel section in the *San Francisco Chronicle* newspaper. I can't recall his name. I will remember it after a while. Anyhow, so a day's journey ahead of us. But Martin decided, since we were going to camp at Redwall—at that time it was legal to camp [there]. He decided to wait for us with the photographer from the *San Francisco Chronicle*. And he hid his boat behind the rocks, right below Redwall, and they walked into Redwall Cavern and waited for us. They were hiding in the back, we didn't have any idea that somebody is there. We knew Martin was camping a few miles down. So anyhow, as we were approaching Redwall Cavern the third or fourth day of the journey, I can't remember, a passenger in my boat, named Carol Neblitt [phonetic] said, "Vladimir, is this the place we're going to camp?" Here is in front of us, about half a mile, this giant cave. I said, "I guess so, I don't know. We have to ask Frank Hoover." And so we waited, and Frank said, "Yes, this is the place." So Carol said, "Would you mind? I feel, can I sing?" I said, "You can do whatever you want. Why not?" So she stands in the boat, I put the oars in the boat, and we're just floating, sitting. She stands up and starts to sing an aria from an opera—"Aida" or something. And it was so overwhelming, her voice, her echo, that each boat just stopped, put the oars in, and it was silent. And she is singing...I didn't know then, but eventually... She was from the Metropolitan Opera, from New York. And here she is singing, just unbelievable operatic arias approaching Redwall Cavern. And so she sings, and she finished the aria, and suddenly a male answers from Redwall Cavern! There is a man singing! A man walks up to the beach, and we are all freaked out. Nobody had anticipated, nobody knew about it. In fact, the funny thing is, Martin didn't know when he came there, that we had an opera singer. But it so happened that the man who was a photographer, at one time he was a professional singer, or at least had belonged to some singing group, so he was a fair kind of singer. So Carol freaked out. She sits down and she says, "Vladimir, what is going on?! Have you known about this?!" I said, "Absolutely no." Nor did anybody else. In the meantime, the boats, we have merged together, and everybody's talking, "What is going on?!" And finally I see Martin Litton walking, joining the singer, and I said, "Oh, my God, Martin must be there hiding!" And sure enough, Martin is there, and he waves. So we land there, and we have a nice discussion. About an hour later Martin decides, "We have to go, and go to our campsite." So he and the gentleman, they sit in the boat, he brings the boat from behind the rocks, puts it in, they load it. And as they go down, the man—Carol Neblitt's on the beach in Redwall, and he, in the moving boat, start to sing to each

other, "Indian Love Call." The boat is departing and he is singing and she is singing from Redwall Cavern. It was one of the most unusual and unprepared concerts that you can imagine in Grand Canyon, having a professional singer and a semi-professional—maybe professional man—to this day, I don't know—singing. And eventually there was a beautiful article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* that came out...Martin has a slightly different version of that. You know how he likes to build up.

STEIGER: And that was on your very first trip.

V. KOVALIK: Very first trip in the Grand Canyon—the very first trip.

It was a phenomenal conglomeration of people. What is so important is, the magic power that river has, that people have to recognize, that once you enter that canyon, there is no way out except one place in all of Grand Canyon. So once people recognize the camaraderie, no matter what part of the world you came from, no matter what background you had, there's something that immediately becomes a fantastic power: the communication, the



Vladimir, 1972.

relationship, the sharing things, the beauty. It is unbelievable. And this is where the first time in the United States I felt so close to really do something like this eventually in my lifetime: first being in Slovakia when two of my compatriots and I floated down Vah River, and the second time was being introduced to Grand Canyon. Grand Canyon had probably the greatest impact in my life. There is nothing that I have ever before or after, to this day, experienced, that had this great impact. And especially with Ronn Hayes' contribution when we walked around, and his wonderful delivery, as far as human/nature relations is concerned. It was a very powerful thing to me. I have compared it to one of the great major cathedrals that affects me the same way, which I visit around the world occasionally. It was a wonderful trip.

* * *

So immediately in my mind, I started to design a boat to myself. It was a fairy tale type of thing. I decided, wouldn't it be nice to have a boat that can carry four or five people, with a cargo enough for fourteen, eighteen, or 21 days—whatever it may be. And all the way through our journey down the Grand Canyon, I made notes. I was watching the behavior of different boats, and I made notes, both mental and written on a paper, as to what would be a perfect boat to take down the Colorado River, or for that matter, on any other river.

So we floated down, and as I said, I became very preoccupied with that. I don't know why, because I had never believed that this will be my future eventually. But so I did. So upon the completion of the journey, Ronn and I have discussed—we both fell in love with the Grand Canyon—and have discussed the possibility of maybe some day being able to run trips, commercial or private, on the Grand Canyon. So it was decided that we will go and visit National Park Services and apply for a permit in Grand Canyon. I didn't know if I ever would be able to do it, as I had a secure job and a family with three children. However, we did go to Grand Canyon and wrote a proposal, with Ronn Hayes and my wife, Nada, and presented it to the Grand Canyon National Park Services. Our emphasis was on oar-powered trips, where a lot of things can be shared, as far as ethnobotany, geology, history, and what have you, where we can float down and discuss things, and bring different people from different professions—professional people, such as geologists, such as environmentalists—and share the beauty of Grand Canyon with whoever we would take down the Colorado River.

I didn't believe we would get the permit, and shortly after my trip down the Colorado, I went to Vietnam to work as a scientist. I signed a contract for one year. I took my family. However, while in Vietnam, I couldn't get the boats and the Colorado River out of my mind.



Nada Kovilik, on the first music trip, 1976.

* * *

While working as a scientist for Stanford Research Institute analyzing and evaluating weapons systems for the U.S. government, Vladimir was offered a job by the State Department, which wanted an independent study done on statistics coming out of the Vietnam War. The question was, "If the numbers" [i.e. body counts] "are so good, why haven't we won this war already?" VK—having grown up in a wartime environment, and not wanting to separate from his growing family during the year required of him—accepted the job after getting Nada's okay. He traveled, unarmed, all over war torn Vietnam in an open Jeep, often accompanied only by one or both of his youngest children—Kyle and Karen, aged eleven and eight. Another book or two worth of amazing stuff happened to them all and, suffice to say, the Kovaliks came back to the U.S. with a different view of the American Dream than they'd had before.

* * *

Throughout my being in the Vietnam, both Nada and I frequently talked about if we get a permit, we'll have a new life, which we both wanted—especially being in Vietnam, experiencing the war, my experiencing war when I was a young man in the Second World War. We really felt it would be good to get away from all work related to war, and start something new that would make everybody more happy and satisfied. So we had thought about and planned theoretically about if it happens, what we would do. And so we were prepared that if we

get a permit, that we would dedicate our life to the river running and outdoor activities. And indeed, when we came back, the first effort was to contact Ronn and go visit the National Park Service. It just kept coming up and popping up, and sure enough, after my completion of the work in Vietnam, I had returned to the United States, and immediately contacted the Grand Canyon people. Ronn Hayes and I drove there, and they told us that they would give us a decision, as far as our permit is concerned, in a very short time. We were so convinced we would get the permit, because with our discussion in Park Services, they were asking questions, they were very intrigued with our proposal. So I decided to start working on a boat design. Immediately I started to write letters to Firestone Rubber Company, to Rubber Fabricators, and anything I could get ahold of, anybody who manufactured boats, both in the United States and foreign countries. I wrote letters about I would like to design a boat, if they would be willing to work. Naturally, everybody refused this. "Oh," they asked, "who do you represent? Are you talking hundreds of boats? Is it for defense, for the U.S. military, or whatever?" Of course I said "It is a private thing." I was rejected everywhere.

However, in South San Francisco, I had found out that there is a company that were manufacturing the life chutes for the commercial airlines, which were made out of neoprene rubber. And so I went to visit the company. And I had a discussion with the president of the company, and again, he was very receptive and listened to me. But when I told him this is for private use, they immediately refused to make a boat for private use in Grand Canyon or anywhere, for that matter.

While I was leaving, I was approached by a man who had been in the meeting when I was presenting my proposal on the private boat. His name was Gordon Holcomb, who was working for the company. However, he also had a company in Redwood City that made vinyl shelters for the navy submarine, overhauling engines. They would cover the submarine so nobody would see. And other shelters, for what, I have no idea. However, he approached me, and he said, "Vladimir, I am very interested in talking to you about the boats. I would love to see something like that, and I wanted to make a boat, but there was no interest at the time, until I heard you talking. And your enthusiasm really got me going. So would you please come to my office tomorrow, can we get a meeting? I would love to work with you on a boat."

* * *

Thus began an odyssey of boat design and building that would take VK all over the world and lead to many of the aforementioned advances in the technology we all know and love today. And thus also began the company itself.

* * *

Nada's typical attitude towards things is to really go deeply in something. Unlike I, who makes a decision within seconds, Nada is a thorough investigator. This is due to her journalistic background...What she did, she encompassed thinking of what the Hayes and Kovalik families could do. And she felt there is a great potential of adventure to diversify, to go to different things which would be a human relationship with things outdoors, etc. She felt "Wilderness World" would be the thing. Both Ronn and I felt just a simple thing, Adventure [something], probably one of the common names, Adventure whatever. We were more interested in running, to doing things, rather than doing the research. We were eager to get on the river, to discover new rivers, discover new things, rather than sitting down and thinking about a good name. Nada's dedication, and her thorough investigation has proved otherwise. In other words, she came up with a name that encompasses all the future development: Wilderness World. Why was it good? If you take a globe apart and open it up, you get a "W" which encompasses the world. This is exactly what she says, Wilderness World. And we felt there's a lot of open vistas, a lot of future to develop the company and grow. And indeed, we have done it. We have pursued it on a large scale.

* * *

Indeed they did. In addition to Grand Canyon, Wilderness World sought and won permits in California, Idaho, and Oregon. Almost immediately they were running trips on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Middle Fork, Main Salmon, Rogue Rivers... (eventually they ran trips in Baha, California, on the Usumacinta River in Guatemala, sailing trips in Turkey...) overnight the entire family was swept into the business. Young Kyle and Karen were pressed into service painting rubber, fiberglassing oars, licking stamps, mailing envelopes. Nada was writing brochures, answering the phone, booking trips, buying food at the grocery store. VK bid a ridiculously low amount on a lot of surplus rubber and a couple of months later an Army truck showed up on their doorstep with tons of the stuff. They used some of the boats at first and then VK traded side tubes for Green Rivers; but soon the first Havasus showed up; and not long after that, the second generation (which was good, because those boats actually held air). The early crew in Grand Canyon was VK, Ronn Hayes, Henry and Bill Wenner, George Mancini. Pretty soon Tom Olsen was aboard, then a star-studded cast of characters streamed through, including Floyd Stevens, Gary Casey, Carl Ochsner, Larry Stevens, Johnny Walker, Mark Jensen, Bart Henderson, Whale, the Dierker boys, Sue Basset, Jim and Deb Hendrick, Thad Stewart, Mike Marstellar, Mark Arnegard, John Markey, Jim Irving,

Howie Usher, Tony and Ann Anderson, Brad Dimock, and many more... Through it all VK was constantly on the move—dreaming, scheming, wheeling and dealing...

* * *

One of the great things that evolved—and this is a story that should be written—Ronn, all his life, since I met him in 1951, he always wanted to visit my country. And of course it was impossible because it was a communist country. But eventually I got him to go to Europe. We came to Europe, he and two other friends, John Penquite and Les Kiska. We bought an old taxi car, and I asked them, “Okay, you guys...”

STEIGER: Now, what year would this have been?

V. KOVALIK: Oh, I can’t remember. I will tell you the years later on. But I asked him, “What would you like to see in Europe?” And Ronn said, “To see as much as we can”—in whatever short time we had—“I don’t know if I will be able to go to Europe again.” So I said, “Okay. Let’s buy an old car.” It is easy to buy in Europe an old taxi, because the taxi drivers change their car every three or four years. They want to have a new car, and they are diesel cars, which gives a lot of mileage, and they are large and comfortable, and you buy them for a very good price, because they have a lot of mileage. But on the other hand, they are maintained by the taxi drivers. So I bought a car for \$2,000—four of us each gave \$500. And we went on a journey, and we went all over.

I will never forget when we came to Greece. Ronn always was talking about theater: Greece, Delphi, that was something he wanted, as an actor, and as reading a lot of history. So we went to the Delphic Theater in

Greece. And it was very unusual, because we came in, in the evening, and the gates were closed. So we slept in the car, outside. And in the early morning, we got up, and we went to the gate, and there were some buses waiting to get in, to go see the Delphic amphitheater. We came into the gate, and the guard said, “Well, you can’t—it’s only nine o’clock when we open.” The guard was young, and I decided, “Hey, there’s a chance maybe they’ll let us go.” So I said, “Look, I have a friend here. He’s a very famous actor from Los Angeles, from Hollywood.” And he said, “What?!” I said, “Yes, his name is Ronn Hayes. He’s in the car right now. And he would like to come to see the stage.” He said, “Oh, no problem, but can I go too, and watch? Can I follow you?” I said, “Yes.” So he opened the gate and let us



L to R: Kyle Kovalik, Tom Olsen, Floyd Stevens, 1976.



Wilderness World crew, circa 1978-'79.
L to R: Bruce Moffat (Idaho crew), Alan Williams,
Tom Olsen, Gary Casey, Floyd Stevens (kneeling),
Johnny Walker, Susan "Sue B" Bassett.



Some of the 1983 WW crew. L to R: Debbie Hendrick
(Barringer), John Markey, Jimi Hendrick, Howie Usher,
Janice Cesario, Dan Dierker, Brian Rasmussen.



Wilderness World rigs, 1972.

go, with the car, in. He closed the gate, and here are the buses with tourists, they came early, two hours, so they can [unclear]. So sure enough, we come to the theater, and here is ancient Delphic amphitheater.

And so the three of us, including the gateman, sit in a theater, and Ronn gets on the stage. And I have never seen anything like that. He looks, and he completely transformed to a different person. He is walking on the



Vladimir, running a trip in 1972.

Kyle Kovalik

SPRING OF '77, THEY SHUT THE DAM OFF, and very few people ran trips. We ran every trip—we didn't miss a trip. So there were three trips before they turned the dam back on, and I remember we got to—I think it was Bledsoe, but I'm not sure. Mike Denoyer? It might have been Mike Denoyer. Somebody, one of those famous, really good—it was either Bledsoe or Denoyer—one of those superstar guys ran a motor rig down at that water level, and I think they ended up hikin' the people out, but they got the rig through, which I have no idea how they did it.

But anyway, it was one of those guys, and whoever it was, by God, my hat is off to you. But we rowed down the first trip in April, and it was my dad and I on the trip, and Floyd and Tom, and Gary, I think, and Larry. Anyway, I don't remember for sure.

STEIGER: And so the dam is shut down for “a power contract gone awry.”

K. KOVALIK: I don't remember why they shut it.

STEIGER: But there was just the water that was leakin'.

K. KOVALIK: Leakin' out. And if I recall, it was something like 800–900 cfs. And the Grand Canyon at that level is a completely different river. Three thousand is low, but 800–900 is really low. Of course there's side creeks comin' in—Vasey's Paradise. But that's not a lot of cfs. And the first day we got to Badger. Wilderness World used to typically camp either at Jackass or at Badger. We get to Badger, and we pull up, and I can remember this distinctly, because my dad and I, remember, spent a lot of time on small rivers. I'm not trying to brag here, that's not the point of the story. It's just the story of the mindset of the Grand Canyon...If you spent your life like some of these guys in Utah and the Grand Canyon, you were used to big water. So we get there, and we look at Badger, and about probably two-thirds of the crew just kind of shook their heads and gave up. I don't want to say it quite so harshly, but they were...“Its' unrunnable, we can't do it. We're going to have to portage the boats. Let's hike the people out at Badger Creek.” And my dad and I looked at each other and said, “Hell no! we can run this!” Again, it's just a matter of experience—it's not a matter of skill or whatever. We'd spent so much time in California at low water. You know, a September trip on the Stanislaus, you're runnin' 700 cfs in a Havasu. And we saw a route down the left shore, pretty much, which at that point was really the middle of the river, but it was the left side of whatever flow was there. And it was literally a route where you would go through a slot and there would be a big boulder in front of you, and you'd bounce off that boulder and just make sure you bounced the right way, so it sent you out into the next open slot. And we went through it, and that opened it up, and everyone went, “Oh, well, if those fools can do it, we can do it.”

STEIGER: I was exactly that same way. It wasn't until I went to the Bio-Bio, where you looked at a million rocks and you'd say, “Well, you can't go without hittin' that rock, and that one, this one...” Before that I never thought of hittin' rocks as bein' just part of the program.

K. KOVALIK: Well, that all goes back to my very early youth, runnin' Weight Watcher trips down the Stanislaus at 800 cfs in a Havasu, which is way too big a boat to be on that river anyway, and havin' to pinball my way down. I learned that skill by default. It was that, or stamp the boat. And so that was pretty neat. So we kinda got to go down there, and then everyone picked it up. And certainly those guys, as soon as they figured out that, “Oh, yeah, you can do that,” they were all over it, they were great. We went down, and we ran the river.

Hance was pretty amazing. You had to run out in the center. But you know how now there's a right run and there's a left run. This was at the top in the center, where that sort of big island of rocks is, and the right run is the big tongue on the right that very few people ever do. The left run is the typical run where you sneak around that big wall of rocks.

STEIGER: Well, now there's usually—even motor boats, you go in the middle now, there's a mini-tongue—the next one over from the right.

K. KOVALIK: Yeah, that makes sense. Yeah, I think we did that too, in the early eighties, runnin' that. But we had to run out in the center somewhere. There was a slot somewhere. Hance was pretty interesting. Horn Creek was the scariest rapid on the river, by far. Horn Creek was just this mess. We walked our passengers, and we literally ran down what was a wall on the right shore. There was a peninsula that stuck out, and you had to make sure you didn't stamp on that. But as you went around that peninsula, you had to sneak back behind it, because there was this just big table rock pour-over that was the hole of doom. You know that hole at the top right of Serpentine, that big ledge hole? There was a lot less water, a lot less volume, but it was one of those things where you look at it, and the river just makes a vertical plunge to the bottom, and the backwash is dead flat.

It was ugly, but we all made it. We didn't have any—that I recall—we didn't have any disasters or catastrophes. I

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First String Quartet trip, June 1976.

stage, and suddenly he starts to recite Shakespeare. I think it was "Henry the Fifth" or something. And he goes on and on. He stops, and this gateman looks at us, and then he looks at his watch, and he runs away. And Ronn looks, he doesn't know what is going on. The three of us are sitting, and watching Ronn, and let him be. And what happens while he is doing it, the gateman opened the gate, and the buses pulled in, and of course you don't hear it, they are way behind. And then people are listening. The first bus, they are English people, in the first two buses, the tourists. And so they're coming in, and they hear Shakespeare. And they tiptoed on the benches. And Ronn is not aware, because here is the theater, this is the stage, and these are the benches [motions with his hands to show the setting]. Okay? This concrete thing, just built the way it was built in ancient times. It's dilapidated somewhat, but it is original. And there is a stairway where you come to the upper...the British tiptoed right here, and they're sitting there. And Ronn is going on for another fifteen minutes. He goes about the stage and recites, and he's in seventh heaven. And we are so quiet you can hear the flies, and there's these people coming in, two busloads. Ronn finishes, and this big applause comes from the people. And he looks up, not aware of what is there. And there he is. He turns red as a rose! But the people just coming down to him and congratulating him. They said, "Was this prepared for us, or was it a coincidence?" And of course it's a coincidence. Ronn had no idea about the people. But this stayed with him forever.

As a result, if you recall—when we floated down the river, he would take me for a walk. Whenever he came, we went down, the two of us would be there on a commercial trip. He would take me for a walk. And Ronn is an enthusiastic hiker, climber—and likewise myself—and I would go with him. And then he said, "Vladi, remember Delphic Theater?" I said, "Of course." He said, "What does this remind you of?" I said, "My gosh! It looks like the Delphic Theater in Greece!" He said, "Sure. We have to do something." And then we would go down and walk different places, and he didn't tell me what, but he already had this in mind, so we would go down, and two, three trips, the same thing—we explored side canyons, everything. And then he says, "We are going to take Arriaga String Quartet. And instead of me performing Shakespeare—the Grand

Canyon is much too holy a place—we will have music." And sure enough, the next year we organized a trip, and the Arriaga String Quartet came. But at that time we had Michele Shikovsky [phonetic] from, I think, the Chicago Symphony, and a clarinetist—I can't remember his name—I have all the photographs and pictures, so I can find all the names.

So anyway, we go. The third or fourth concert in Grand Canyon is in the Delphic amphitheater. And it was so magnificent! The concert people loved it so much, on the first trip we paid them. Of course the tourists paid more money because of the six concerts I billed, which we had. But the musicians said, "We will come free of charge, but we would like to come." And for a number of years they've been coming and performing—not only on the Grand Canyon. They came on the Rogue River. We had a concert on the Rogue River. And the most wonderful things...I'm sorry, I keep deviating and going back and forth, but it is important, it's a part of the story...I was in China recently, when Ronn died. They wanted me to come to the funeral, so as soon as I came back from China, Kyle was arranging everything at Ronn's place. He was there with Ronn when Ronn died. You know how it all happened—Kyle will probably talk [about it]. Okay, he will tell you. This should be a part of it, because if anybody, I want Ronn Hayes to be [recognized as] the man who really made all these wonderful things possible. There's no greater encouragement for my designing boats, and his design, for our designing

Kyle Kovalik, continued

think Bedrock was a pain in the ass, too, if I recall...I think we went left, which was actually kind of a fun run even at higher water, once you figured it out—as long as you didn't slam into the back of the island, which happened more often than not.

But that was goin'...again—you know, we had conservative parts of our crew, and nonconservative parts of our crew. Again, that's not a criticism, that was a wonderful thing, because we had the guys that were...

STEIGER: That would be down there to pick up the pieces.

K. KOVALIK: Yeah, allowed the other guys that wanted to, to be free and go play. It was great. It was really fun for me. But anyway, I seem to remember Dubendorff was pretty much a pain in the ass. But the interesting one to me was Lava Falls, 'cause on that very first trip—this is April—there was no water. And Lava Falls, what makes the big ledge hole is actually two not-that-big rocks. It's two rocks—it's not one big ledge rock. Is that correct? Have you seen it at low enough water to see that?

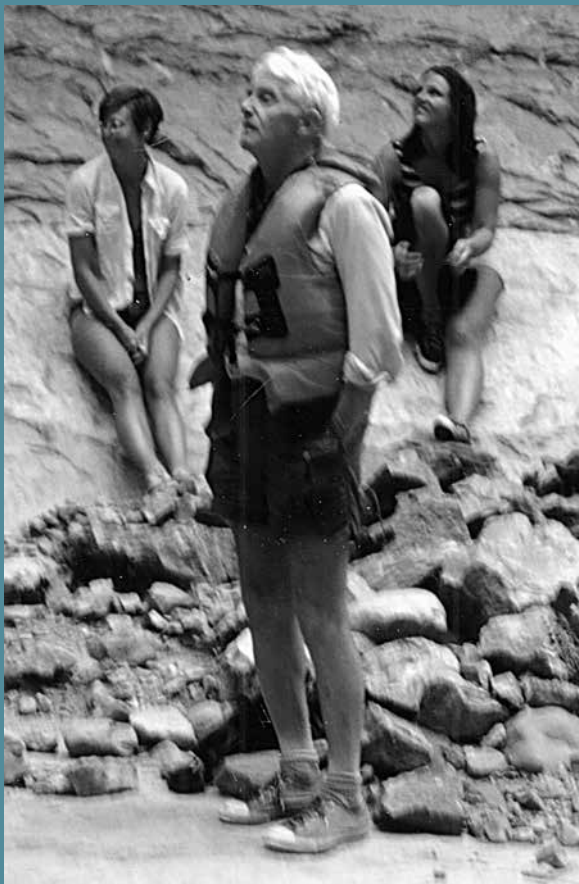
STEIGER: Yeah, I've seen pictures of the Kolb brothers'. There's two rocks, side by side.

K. KOVALIK: Side by side. And that's what creates the big ledge at the top of Lava. It's not a big giant flat rock, which is what I assumed all along, because it's such a nice uniform ledge. It's actually two rocks. And Lava Falls ended at the "V" waves. The "V" waves are created by a shelf. They're actually created by kind of a wide, flat shelf. And it was the only way to go—you had to go right. You went far right, instead of kind of starting center by the bubble line and surfing right. There was no surfing right, 'cause the whole center of the river was a big island of rocks and nasty little slots. You went down the right, and you went over the "V" waves, and it was just a big free-fall, it was probably six or eight feet. What they'd do in a kayak now, you'd boof it, for those of you that are kayakers out there. But you would just pound over this thing. It was pretty benign in the Havasu. And then you would float, you were done. The rapid ended at the "V" waves, and it was flat water. If I recall, my youth may have made it flatter than it really was, but it was basically flat water. I think I said, "Heck, you could take your lifejacket off and swim down to the black rock from here." There just was nothin' there. The rapid ended at the "V" waves. The big black rock was exposed, and you could see the big slot where people sometimes go through, that big scary slot that you hear about, where the black rock is against the shore—the big black rock at the bottom. And there's definitely a big hole in there, and there was water flushin' through into the eddy. It gave you a lot more respect for that place.

But it was an amazing thing. We did three trips there, and we did...When the water started comin' back, we did another very memorable trip that year, and that was the trip with David Brower and Mark DuBois. David Brower, of course, being one of the architects of saving the Grand Canyon, of changing the way environmental groups worked. I think he got fired from the Sierra Club for losing their tax status, but that's a whole other story. But David came down and was an amazing human being. I think we did a fourteen- or sixteen-day trip. And Mark DuBois—who was one of the founders of Friends of the River, and an exceptional human being, and someone from my past in California—came on that trip. We invited Mark to come. And Craig Reiser, another big Friends of the River guy, and a former Wilderness World river guide from California. Craig Reiser and Mark came. David gave lectures down the river, and I think that's what you were taping today, right?

VK got copies of that, which I'd love to hear. But the one I remember the most was we were at the dam site in Marble Canyon, on the beach, on river left. You know, right there, big beach on the left. We're at the dam site, and David starts talking, and he's talking about the battle to save the Grand Canyon. The whole...This is all well documented now, and very public about how most of those people signed off on Glen Canyon, and David was one of them. They said, "Okay, we won't fight you on Glen Canyon, but you can't dam the Grand Canyon. He was telling this story, and he's a very eloquent and...He's a very tall guy—or I remember him as being tall. Big guy, very sort of statuesque guy, very straight back. And here he is telling us the story, sitting on a rock, we're all gathered around. There were probably about twenty of us on that trip, 'cause we're filming and recording it and all that. And he's crying as he's telling us this story. The tears start streaming down his face, and his voice is choking. And all of us, I'm lookin' around—my dad, Ronn Hayes, Mark DuBois, my mom was on that trip—all these people had tears streaming down their face as he's telling about the loss of Glen Canyon. I'm about to cry right now, talking about it. It's one of the most powerful moments of my life, especially environmentally. Just an amazing, amazing man, with an amazing story to tell, and even our heroes have regrets in their lives—all of us do—even our heroes like David Brower. "If I woulda, if I coulda, I shoulda," you know? Oh my God, it's so humbling to watch a great man like that break down in tears. Shoot! I gotta stop, or I'll cry.

boats, and our involvement in nature, than Ronn. He became one of the most important parts of my life, in just about everything I have done: as well as later on, Jomo—Ken Ward—who is also a very dear friend, whose enthusiasm and charm and kindness and love also made involvement in design very much possible. These are the people—and all the other people...But the credit primarily [goes to] Ronn, Jomo, and George Mancini, and my wife, who sacrificed everything in her career to go to something that we didn't know we could survive on, but we did. Her phenomenal hours, her input, brochure writing, naming Wilderness World, designing things, and her enthusiasm and support—there is no money in the world that could compensate for. Her dedication and her love was phenomenal.



David Brower

But anyway, this is the music that Ronn started. And the thing that I want to say is that when I came back from China, immediately Kyle arranged for me to fly there for the funeral and give a eulogy. And many of the friends who came, including Rod Nash, who was a friend of Ronn and I, and the Arriaga String Quartet came and performed, played the music that Ronn

loved so much! I have no words to say, but that was so powerful.

Let's stop for a while.

We are mixing a lot of things, but you can improve and you can make it, because these are extremely important parts. You know, one thing guides you toward the other thing, and it has to be a support, because one person cannot do all the thing. There is nobody like that. It's always a great support. And the support is much more valuable than somebody who does it together and puts it together, because without that support, you couldn't derive to do something, unless you had the support, unless you had different inputs from different people who experienced different things, and can contribute a lot, too. So it's a mutual thing.

The other thing is, that you are aware of, or perhaps you may have been on a trip...Through Ronn, I have met the heroes in my life: David Brower and Martin Litton, who I have, ever since I have met them, been friends until Dave Brower died, and Martin Litton, to this day, who I speak—at least every few weeks we are in contact—and will remain dear friends forever. Ronn has introduced me to these people. What was also beautiful, when you go to history of Grand Canyon, of the wilderness, of redwoods, of anything, these are two people—Martin Litton and David R. Brower—who have contributed so much in preservation of Grand Canyon, who saved Grand Canyon, who saved redwoods, who saved wilderness, who saved many different things. And on Ronn's and my part, we wanted to bring these people together. We met Mark DuBois [who chained himself to a tree in a hidden location to stop the damming of the Stanislaus River in California], and Mark and David Brower had never met. So we have invited—Ronn and I—invited David Brower and Mark DuBois, to meet, since both of them, in a different direction, but worked towards the same principle, towards the same goal. We wanted to bring these people together, so we arranged for them to come to float, with Wilderness World, down.

STEIGER: Do you remember what year that was?

V. KOVALIK: No, but Kyle will know. So anyway, what was very beautiful, that David volunteered. Every day we had lectures. He spoke on different issues. We had dam building, redwoods, this and that. And all the lectures I have here, and I'm going to let you use—if you want to use them for anything.

STEIGER: Well, you know, we ought to copy 'em if we can.

V. KOVALIK: Yes, I'll copy it. I have a copy machine. But this is a very—the lectures are preserved that he did on Grand Canyon. Ronn and I gave copies to Mrs. Brower, after he died. And Sierra Club, I believe, has a copy. Because it is a memorable thing, of David talking about—you know, before he died. This is a history. This is a great, great thing. And these are the people

Karen Kovalik

WELL, NO, MORE LIKE ELEVEN OR TWELVE—I was answering the phone, “Wilderness World!” and perhaps scaring away many potential passengers. I know I landed a few. It was a real hindrance to my social life, because at that time we couldn’t afford a second phone, so our home phone was also our business phone, and we were constantly being yelled at, “Get off the phone! Somebody might be trying to call and make a reservation!” And in fact, that was true. There was no call waiting in those days, either. Technology just wasn’t there yet.

And then, as time progressed, my first trip on the Grand Canyon was the David Brower trip, and that was an unbelievable experience...I don’t think any person who went on that trip could have left without being extremely touched by his personal ethic and his sincerity, and his deep sorrow at the loss of Glen Canyon.

STEIGER: You know, while I’m thinkin’ of it, I don’t think we put anywhere on this tape...Your mom was talkin’ last night to Kyle, and she said that VK...you guys went and got the permit. Or VK and Nada started the company and applied for all these permits. And then Ronn Hayes came on board a little bit later, like another year after those guys had already jumped off the cliff and started the company. I just wanted to make a note of that.

KAREN: Well, that is true. Ronn was actually a fabulous idea man. He was the one who came up with the music trip, and he came up with the Dave Brower trip, although Nada and Vladimir were already involved in the environmental aspect. They really had a vision of people going down on a potentially life-changing journey—even if it was only a two-day trip on the Stanislaus. Many people had never experienced sleeping outdoors, seeing what nature has to offer. That was their real goal. Not only did they enjoy the fun and the thrills of the whitewater, their goal was, “Hey, this is something that we can actually actively engage people in, and change their lives, and show them what really might be important to them and to us as a species.” So when Ronn came on board, he was also available—not only as much-needed help, because we were so wide-spread at that time, having trips in California, Oregon, Idaho, the Baja Peninsula, and of course Arizona. He also was a great idea person, came up with some of our famous slogans. “Ride Nature’s Magic Carpet.”

I have wonderful memories mostly. I know this sounds silly, but I really did love having all the gear around—that was great fun. And we also bought a lot of food at that time, from our home in Pacific Grove. The food may have gone out to different states, but Nada and I would regularly hit up Safeway and have ten carts. And again, at that time, there was no Costco around, none of the big huge warehouse stores that exist today. There were, but they weren’t where we lived. It was really fun to go in and blow people away with all our food expeditions. So I remember that.

I worked in the office for years: I typed and managed the reservations and did some financial accounting and that kind of thing. We all did, we all pitched in on that.

STEIGER: So the David R. Brower trip was your first one?

KAREN: That was my first Grand Canyon trip...When the David Brower trip came, Nada was adamant about, “This is the one you have to go on.” She knew that this would be an opportunity. She’d been on the Canyon, she’d been on the music trips, so she knew that there was going to be special, beyond the canyon experience. So she made me go. I had to have special permission from all my instructors at the time. I wasn’t a bad student, so they were pretty open about letting me go.

STEIGER: And how was it? How was the trip itself, what do you remember about it?

KAREN: Oh! what I remember the most is, boy, I can see that we really are changing people’s lives, if they’re open to this experience—because it changed mine. I mean, everybody knows the effects of the Big Ditch.

STEIGER: How did it change yours?

KAREN: Well, I was already pretty much an environmental activist, but I think I was inspired even more. I ended up doing a thesis, for instance, in college, on the ecology of the Grand Canyon. It was just inherent, I think, in my life. I remember seeing, to be honest with you, how hard guides worked, that this was not an easy job. Sure, it was a special job in many ways, but you’re on duty 24 hours a day, and there were no breaks. I know there were people buggin’ me at two o’clock in the morning. It was intense, and I could see all that. They were really working hard, I think, because there were a lot of people on the trip that were there because of David Brower, who weren’t particularly physically fit. That happens with every commercial trip, but it was something to see that. I don’t think I need to go on to anybody here about how amazing a place it is...And also, when you asked me about my recollection of Wilderness World, I would say the Sierra Club was extremely tied-into Wilderness World, particularly even our local chapter. They frequently went on first runs with us. We’d say, “Hey, we’d like to go do the Owyhee in Oregon. It’s a spring run. Whaddaya think?” And they’d sign up and pay their money and go down on a trip where we had never

continued on page 43

who saved the Grand Canyon, for God's sake. So to this day, I remember the enthusiasm of David Brower meeting Mark and traveling with us. And the people we took on this trip, who were dedicated people. And when we finished the trip, here is—"Tarzan," I called him—Mark DuBois, 6-foot 8-inch muscle man, beautiful man, wonderful man, loving man. He's picking up everybody on the boat, before we landed, and throwing all of us in the river! The enthusiasm, to meet David Brower, to have these fantastic, unforgettable lectures, and questions asked, and participation. He didn't know how to reward, so he threw all of us boatmen in the river. And you couldn't fight, because we felt like midgets, when this giant—he picked me up and threw me six feet from the boat! And he did it to everybody! It was so memorable, and so beautiful.

And so now, you see my enthusiasm jumping from one thing... This is all interwoven, this is all interdependency, one to another. You know, one thing created this, this, and this. And so we zigzag back and

forth. But this is the story of our lives. This is the way it is, the way things evolve.

And so I want to share so much, in a short time, and every time I say something, it reminds me of another thing.

STEIGER: Well, that's an oral history, that's what happens.

* * *

Another microscopic slice of a very large story... excerpted from an extensive interview conducted in January of 2005, as part of a grant from the Grand Canyon National Park Foundation, pertaining to the Historic Boat Project. This oral history presentation has also been made possible by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council. The results of this project do not necessarily represent the view of the Arizona Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Kyle, Vladimir, and Karen Kovalik on a private trip in Grand Canyon, 1995.

Karen Kovalik, continued

been ourselves.

And it's an interesting relationship because on the one hand we kind of snickered about some of the guests behind their backs, because they were sort of high need. But on the other hand, they were so game, and they did some really hard trips: the Baja trips were nothing to scoff at. And for instance the Owyhee that I mentioned was nothing to scoff at. It was cold, and these were in the days when people were wearing down vests and Levis. So it'd be snowing and raining on you, and you'd be soaking wet. And we were all in our down sleeping bags, and flimsy tents, freezing. They really supported us. I think that was a big connection for Wilderness World that never ended.

* * *

I think that the bottom line is, when people got off those trips, and they had had such a wonderful experience—and even if they didn't have a wonderful experience—they learned something, for sure...and although we were not God, we were not creating that experience for them, we were certainly...facilitating it. And that was really special. I think that was really special, and I think any guide feels that...There's a sense of pride. It was tough. And I think it was such a big, huge part of all our lives, that it was hard, and every one of us was involved on many different levels at one point or another. Our oldest sister, Kim, was involved in Idaho. She worked there for a couple of seasons where she was doing all the shuttles and buying all the food. Essentially managing the company in Idaho. And talk about some intense shuttles! There's a twelve-hour shuttle for one of those trips. Over some really bad roads.

KYLE: Yeah, we lost a few vehicles then.

KAREN: It was a huge connection between us, too. I think the relationship between parent and child was also facilitated in that we had a lot to do together, and we had to learn how to run a company together.

KYLE: Which led to a lot of love and a lot of heartache. (laughs)

STEIGER: Yeah. Well, I gotta say, I think about you guys—so basically it was you and Nada, at home, doing all the bookings, all of the things for all the rivers, for all the trips...without e-mail, without fax, without any of that, just telephones and U.S. mail.

KAREN: There was a lot of note taking and bookkeeping. And we did hire people now and then to help us. In fact, one of our dearest family friends, Lucy, we met her because of Wilderness World. She was great. She was in her sixties when we hired her, and she had an incredibly sexy voice, and she'd answer our phones, (low and sultry) "Wilderness World," and people were constantly trying to meet her! Then they'd finally meet her, and she was a gray-haired grandma! (laughter) Yeah. We needed help, because basically it was a seven-day-a-week enterprise.

STEIGER: So Karen, lookin' back on it all, if you were gonna save a memory for your progeny, what's been the best of it for you?.

KAREN: Oh, I think it was an incredible gift. I think it was such a gift to be in some of the most...I think any of us who love the Grand Canyon would probably say "the most phenomenal place in the world," but that's not really fair, 'cause there's a lot of great places in the world. But there was something about the times, and the fact that the outfitters were really involved in the process of the Park Service, and changing the way things were happening there—and in the downright preservation of the Grand Canyon. So it's a big huge picture, beyond just running a company. I think it was just a gift to be meeting all those people that went on our trips; and a gift to be a part of all our crews' lives. It was almost a manic experience, in terms of the highs were really high, and the lows were so humiliating, and really the biggest lows. But I had an opportunity to work with my entire family...I mean, there's family businesses, I'm sure, but this was an intense relationship and experience.

KYLE: All five of us.

KAREN: All five of us...And I think I'm eternally grateful to my parents because I think that they were visionaries, and they made it work, and they couldn't have done it without each other. I admire them for continuing it, even after their relationship ended.

As time goes by, the memories certainly are dimming, and the experience dims, but I think what speaks for itself is if I could go back and do it again, I would do it in a moment—in a moment.



Image from "The Grand: The Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, a Photo Journey"
photo by Steve Miller

Wilderness First Aid Courses 2006

Sponsored by Grand Canyon River Guides

Desert Medicine Institute (Dr. Tom Myers & Dr. Michelle Grua)

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER—March 27–April 3, 2006 (eight-day course)

PREREQUISITE: None
LOCATION: Flagstaff, AZ (exact location to be determined)
LODGING & MEALS: On your own
CERTIFICATION: 3-year WFR certification and 2-year CPR certification
COST: \$435

WILDERNESS REVIEW (RECERT) COURSE—March 3–5, 2006 (two and a half days)

PREREQUISITE: DMI will accept anyone who has had and kept current a WFR certification (80-hour course) through Wilderness Medical Associates, WMI, SOLO, NOLS, DMM and other Wilderness medicine providers.
LOCATION: Flagstaff, AZ (exact location to be determined)
LODGING & MEALS: On your own
CERTIFICATION: Renews your certification for three years plus 2-year CPR cert.
COST: \$180

Class size is strictly limited for the GCRG/DMI Review & WFR classes. Send your \$50 non-refundable deposit with the application below to us at PO Box 1934, Flagstaff, AZ 86002 to hold a space. Checks can be made payable to GCRG. If you work for an outfitter who pays a hundred percent of course costs, just send in the registration form by itself and we'll take care of the rest. The courses are already filling, so act now! GCRG reserves the right to cancel any classes due to insufficient enrollment. Call the GCRG office at (928) 773-1075 with any questions.

FIRST AID COURSE REGISTRATION

Circle one: Review Course Wilderness First Responder

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (important!) _____ Email _____

Outfitter _____

Type of current 1st aid _____

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Thanks to the businesses that like to show their support for GCRG by offering varying discounts to members.

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The Summit—Boating equipment 928/774-0724
Chums—Chums 800/323-3707
Mountain Sports 928/779-5156
Aspen Sports—Outdoor gear 928/779-1935
Teva 928/779-5938
Chaco Sandals—Pro deals 970/527-4990
Sunrise Leather—Birkenstock sandals 800/999-2575
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New Faces at GCRG

YOU'LL NOTICE NEW NAMES on the masthead—new officers and board members for Grand Canyon River Guides! Joe Pollock (ARR) has stepped up as President and Marieke Taney (Can-Ex) has stepped up to Vice President. GCRG also welcomes our new board members: Sam Jansen (Can-Ex), Jon Olivera (Hatch), Mark Piller (ARR) and Kate Thompson (science and freelance). As of September 1st, this fresh board configuration represents five different outfitters with a mix of both motor and oar experience. They also reach beyond a Flagstaff contingent to include guides residing in both Colorado and Utah (who participate by speaker phone and share vicariously in our beer and pizza). This is truly

an energetic, talented and diverse group dedicated to furthering Grand Canyon River Guides' mission and goals. In fact, you'll see from the various issues and projects presented in this newsletter that the board has positively raced out of the starting gate. If you want to contact any of our officers or board members directly, their email addresses are listed on our website, www.gcr.org. This great group of folks represents *you*, so please pass along your thoughts, ideas or concerns. Your feedback really helps build more effective representation for this guiding community. We look forward to hearing from you!

Announcements

LOST: digital camera (a Sony Cybershot 3.0 digital in a black hard case that is zippered) at Havasu, about 1/2 mile up from the river. It was lost the last week of June. If anyone finds it they can call Tiffany George at 801-947-7581.

LOST: On a GCE Dory trip at National Canyon beside a boulder, one plastic bag with a journal, pen, two purple flowers, fuji flash camera and a riverguide. Contact: Rinah Carson rinahshehinah@aol.com 973-538-7336, cell 617-388-4281.

LOST: at Little Colorado, week of July 24TH—Timex watch, grey, waterproof, ironman. Contact Rinah Carson, rinahshehinah@aol.com 973-538-7336.

LOST: Sept 12TH Tent poles at Doris camp. If Anyone finds them it would be great to get them back. Contact is Denis, heffner@la-tierra.com or phone 505-753-4992 in New Mexico.

FOUND: a Kayak paddle, River left at President Harding, perhaps in August. Contact Travis and Melissa Pearce at 801-580-6602.

FOUND: Dental plate, 9mm Beach below Deer Creek, River left. Contact GCRG at 928-773-1075.

Care To Join Us?

If you're not a member yet and would like to be, or if your membership has lapsed, get with the program! Your membership dues help fund many of the worthwhile projects we are pursuing. And you get this fine journal to boot. Do it today. **We are a 501(c)(3) tax deductible non-profit organization, so send lots of money!**

General Member

Must love the Grand Canyon

Been on a trip? _____

With whom? _____

Guide Member

Must have worked in the River Industry

Company? _____

Year Began? _____

Number of trips? _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

\$30 1-year membership

\$125 5-year membership

\$277 Life membership (A buck a mile)

\$500 Benefactor*

\$1000 Patron (A grand, get it?)*

*benefactors and patrons get a life membership, a silver split twig figurine pendant, and our undying gratitude.

\$100 Adopt your very own Beach: _____

\$ _____ donation, for all the stuff you do.

\$24 Henley long sleeved shirt Size ____ Color ____

\$16 Short sleeved T-shirt Size ____ Color ____

\$18 Long sleeved T-shirt Size ____ Color ____

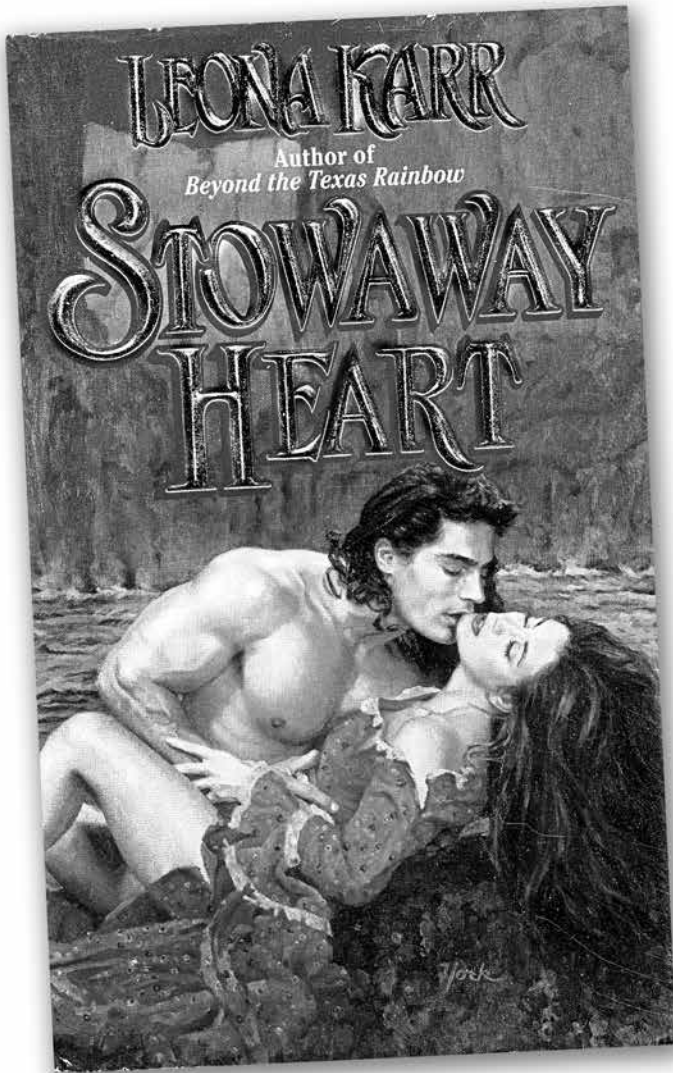
\$12 Baseball Cap

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Total enclosed _____



The Boatman's Life

DANGER SWEPT HER INTO TURBULENT WATERS...

From the banks of the mighty Colorado, Trish Winters watched the boats struggling against the rapids that had taken many strong men down. A frontierswoman of rare courage and an exquisite beauty hidden beneath her ragged calico dress, Trish vowed that one day she'd ride the raging river to find the father who'd left her behind. But her dreams turned to dust the night an act of shattering violence branded her a murderess...

AND INTO A STORMTIDE OF TEMPESTUOUS LOVE

A fugitive, her only hope for survival was to stow away inside a stranger's boat. Yet when Trish gazed into Morgan Wallace's eyes, she saw pain and a passion that both challenged and aroused her. Now, with the past closing in behind, and uncharted waters and renegade Indians just ahead, Trish and Morgan had to fight the roaring rapids that could claim their lives...or change them forever as, together, they plunged into the fathomless depths of a wild, sensuous love.

Thanks to all you poets, photographers, writers, artists, and to all of you who send us stuff. Don't ever stop. Special thanks to the Walton Family Foundation, Arizona Humanities Council, "Circle of Friends" contributors, Flagstaff Cultural Partners and innumerable GCRG members for their generous and much appreciated support of this publication.

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boatman's quarterly review

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