

# boatman's quarterly review

## OTE DALE



Prez Blurb • Dear Eddy • Adaptive Management • Native American River Guides • GTS  
Belknap Guide • CRMP • Wood Oars • GCY • Back of the Boat • Tales From the Truck •  
Celestial Friends • GC Board Game • Getting Hitched • Tolio • Fall Rendezvous

## 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 CD or emailed to GCRG; 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: 10:30–5:00 Monday through Friday

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## Announcements

### LOST

Lost during Grand Canyon river trip, probably at Deer Creek or Matkat Hotel (mile 148.5 on left) October 16 2007: Two SmartMedia digital camera cards in 2x3 inch ziplock-type plastic sample bag marked "Furnace Flats Oct 2007." Personally valuable, please contact Don Keller, 302 W. Juniper Ave, Flagstaff AZ 86001, 928-773-0361, donaldr7@juno.com.

### BABIES, BABIES

TABITHA ANNE HANEL, was born March 24, 2007 in Salt Lake City. She weighed 7lbs 8oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Her parents are Tiffany George (Western River Adventures) and Benjamin Hanel.



EMMA WHARTON (Grand Canyon Youth Executive Director) and Dennis Smoldt (AzRA) welcomed their first child, Lodore Esther, who arrived on November 16, 2007, weighing 7 lbs 6 oz.

## Prez Blurb

**H**ELLO ALL. Another Grand Canyon season has come to a close. I hope you had a good one. Let me tell you, I'm very excited about being the GCRG president this year. There's a lot of great stuff going on. There's some interesting tricky business, too.

First, some good stuff.

The fall meeting, rapidly approaching as I write, is set to be one of the best ever. A very cool tour of Glen Canyon Dam done special for us, followed by a float down to camp. Food and a party will ensue. Lots of great people are coming—we're maxing out the number we can bring.

Right afterwards, before the effects even wear off, the board is meeting with Park Superintendent Steve Martin. He was once a guide and a river ranger himself and it's been great working with him.

And next year...ah, next year. 2008 is GCRG's twentieth anniversary, and the 25TH anniversary of the '83 flood. We'll be focusing on those things in the BQR and going big at the Spring GTS. It's a chance to swap stories and photos, to celebrate who we are, what we get to do, and remember how we got here. I hope you're planning to be there.

Now the tricky business.

This first thing is tricky only for me. I'm far from the canyon this winter—in Texas, of all places. Austin, which is a great city, but Texas is weird. So big, but with almost no public land. I'm learning a lot here and will share my experiences in future BQR columns.

This year, once again, the river saw enough sediment to call for a beach building flow. Once again, it did not happen. We're speaking out—Andre is leading the way with a minority report—but it's tough going.

People who don't understand the canyon the way we do don't value it the way we do. We've got to get to know these folks, understand where they're coming from, and help them see the place with new eyes. A lot like guiding, but without the canyon right there doing most of the work.

There's some talk of "progress" that worries me a little bit. Such a proposal for building a permanent shade structure at Lees Ferry—isn't time outside feeling the sun and the rain a big part of the point of traveling to the Grand Canyon?

And I've heard someone mention the words "assigned camps". I shudder. Surely courtesy, creativity, adaptation and flexibility are better tools than rules and regulations for getting us all happily down the river. Sense of humor rather than assignments.

I don't say this just because it's always worked the way it is. I say it because I think the best canyon trips happen when people step up to the experience. When they embrace the hard parts, feel that baking sun and blasting wind and have the best days of their lives anyway. When they help out the folks around them and work out a good give and take. When it's about being free human beings in a world of beauty, and treating that world and the other people in it with all due respect and appreciation.

It's the Grand Canyon.

So those are some highlights, good stuff and tricky stuff. It's like when Hermit is at the perfect, giant friendly level. It means Crystal will be—thought provoking.

*Sam Jansen*

## Dear Eddy

IN REFERENCE TO THE SUSAN BILLINGSLEY ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW IN BQR:20:3

**I**N THE FALL ISSUE of the BQR (VOL 20:3) I noticed that Marc Smith's and Bill Latimer's names were incorrectly spelled in the Susan Billingsley interview. Marc Smith was incorrectly spelled with a "k" instead of a "c" and Bill Latimer was incorrectly spelled with one too many Ts. You and the editors do a fantastic job with spelling as far as I'm concerned. No worries on the few incorrect spellings, I just felt it was important to let you know. Thank You.

*Latimer Smith*

IN REFERENCE TO "THE GRAND AGE OF ROCKS PART 3: GEOLOGIC DATING TECHNIQUES" BY ALLYSON MATHIS AND CARL BOWMAN IN BQR 19:4

**S**ORRY TO BE A YEAR BEHIND with this letter but I'm a slug and there is no other excuse. I think a disservice has been done to laymen geologists trying to understand geology from explanations given in the BQR. I would like to draw attention to the article *The Grand Age of Rocks Part 3: Geologic Dating Techniques* by Allyson Mathis and Carl Bowman in BQR 19:4, the winter 2006–2007 issue. The article is aimed at explaining geologic dating techniques. The authors do a fine job of making some very technical concepts

understandable to the average boatman and I applaud them. However I do take exception to the explanation of figure 1 which says in part “the fault formed as the weak Bright Angel Shale was squeezed out from under the overlying layers.” I think it would be a shame if boatmen latched on to the idea that the Bright Angel Shale can be squeezed out and erode away due to loading from the rock units above. This just doesn’t happen in Grand Canyon and there is no evidence to support such a claim.

Are the authors insinuating the cross section is of a slump or slide block? If so, it is poorly drawn since the detachment (fault) beneath a slump usually continues all the way under the block and intersects the surface (air) at the base of the slump. I agree the Bright Angel is weak and can be locally smeared under a slump or slide block but the cross section shown implies a large area (a square mile or more?) of Bright Angel Shale has been pushed out and eroded away due to pressure exerted by the rock layers above, hence gravitational force. This is a ridiculous assertion for a competent, dewatered shale section such as the Bright Angel.

There is no documented case of this presently occurring anywhere in the world that I know of in rocks as old as the Bright Angel exposed at the surface. The only rock type that could be expected to react this way is salt. I’ve inspected salt units that have deformed in this manner and they are extensively contorted and full of flow structure. There is little if any flow structure observed in the Bright Angel exposed in the Phantom Ranch area where the authors claim this cross section is drawn. For as much material to be squeezed out as the authors claim, the Bright Angel would exhibit little primary lamination; it would look like tooth paste. I suspect they observed an apparent thinning of the Bright Angel across a fault due to perspective. This often occurs when looking at rugged topography and part of a formation that is further away will appear thinner than exposures of the formation which are closer. I can’t say what the authors observed, I’m just guessing. I tried to ask Allyson Mathis about her observations in an e-mail but she never bothered to respond.

For the layman geologists, I would like to make one last comment. If you notice thinning of a rock unit on the down side of a fault, alarm bells should go off in your head. It is an unusual occurrence. The geologic process of sedimentation is dominated by gravity resulting in sediments concentrating in the lowest spot. Because of this, if a fault is active during deposition sediments will thicken on the down thrown side of a fault. This is a commonly observed phenomenon. In contrast if the faulting occurs long after deposition the units will exhibit the same thickness on either side of the fault. In the unusual case of a rock unit thinning on the down side of a fault, some type of structural inver-

sion must have occurred. This means faulting was active during deposition leaving a thicker section down thrown. Subsequently the sense of motion across the fault has been reversed. This occurs when an area that used to be under extension is placed under contraction; specifically enough contraction to cause faults to reverse their throw and make what used to be down now up. Cool stuff but this type of structural inversion hasn’t happened at Grand Canyon.

So next time you stop in the Bright Angel take a closer look and see if you can spot any flow structures or if it is just full of boring old laminations. My money is on the laminations.

*Tubby*

#### IN REFERENCE TO A LOST AND FOUND E-MAIL SENT FROM GCRG

**Y**OU HAVE SENT OUT a lot of these emails in the past, and I think that it is good. They have gotten me thinking about the things that I have found in the Canyon. I have found many, many things. A mostly sunken raft. (It was a sneak-on.) I lost a black wetbag on the lake one trip and found it barely floating, smelling like fish on my next trip. (What are the odds of that happening?) I have found several wedding rings—I am wearing one now. But the most important thing that I have found was my wife. She was a passenger on one of my trips.

Thanks for bringing back the good memories.

*Owen Baynham*

# What's Happening?— Adaptive Management of Glen Canyon Dam for the Downstream River Ecosystem

**L**AST YEAR, the Department of Interior and Bureau of Reclamation were called into federal court by the Center for Biological Diversity and Living Rivers for not achieving the goals of the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 (GCPA). The result was a settlement in which Interior agreed to use the best available scientific evidence to formulate a new Long Term Experimental Plan (LTEP) to rectify this problem. The goal is to develop an experimental plan that provides the most learning and has the best prognosis to restore the river ecosystem.

So, we are presently in the middle of a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on dam operations. It is a public process to formulate several experimental dam operation alternatives for the next decade. Some of us on the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) are genuinely concerned about the natural resources of the river in Grand Canyon, and are advocating for seasonally adjusted steady flows in combination with an annual Beach Habitat Building Flow (BHHF) to achieve our goals.

Other stakeholders seek a LTEP alternative that preserves opportunities to maximize electricity from the dam. We agree that electrical power generation is a value to the region. But, it is important to remember that the dam was built and paid for by the U.S. Treasury and thus provides benefits for the entire country. Hydropower generation is an ancillary benefit of the dam designed to pay for project costs, including environmental impacts.

Grand Canyon is an icon of the National Park system. We are required by law (and our conscience) to support the National Park Service to preserve and protect the natural, cultural and visitor use opportunities on the Colorado River below the dam. As part of this, we expect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service be true to their mandate to restore threatened and endangered species to this river ecosystem. Moreover, we expect that all available measures be taken to protect archaeological sites along the river, as these are a truly non-renewable resource that should be preserved for the benefit of future generations. It goes without saying that sand bars are also critical for the quality of the river recreation experience in Grand Canyon.

Fine sediment (sand, silt, clay, organic matter) is a central component of the river ecosystem below the dam. Ninety to 95 percent of fine sediment has been stopped behind Glen Canyon Dam and no longer moves through Grand Canyon. The characteristic large annual sediment-laden floods have been reduced to nearly constant daily fluctuation within a very narrow range of flows. Native species evolved in these sediment-rich conditions,

archaeological sites were preserved, and camping beaches accommodated visitors who became increasingly fascinated by the river ecosystem. All of these pre-dam conditions and valued resources are threatened by the loss of fine sediment from the river ecosystem. How?

Endangered fishes (e.g. Humpback chub) evolved through geologic time in a very muddy river that fluctuated enormously in flow and temperature throughout the year. It is reasonable that partial restoration of these conditions will aid native fishes and disadvantage non-native species...a major goal of the program. It is thought that the calm and warmer backwater habitat behind sand bars may be critical rearing grounds for the young chub in the main stem of the Colorado River. The interactions of fish with their environment are difficult to assess. It may be that we can only give them the best natural conditions possible in order to protect these threatened animals found only in the Colorado River.

Archaeological sites mostly located in the higher, pre-dam sand terraces are eroding at an increased pace in the past few decades. The absence of the deposition of large blankets of sand by annual floods has exposed these sites to the sporadic ravages of local storm runoff. In addition, the persistent cutting-away of sand bars by daily dam fluctuations has reduced the local base level that previously slowed the impacts of these local floods. It is thought that open expanses of sand redistributed by the incessant winds may be a way to encase and protect what remains of our cultural legacy in Grand Canyon. NPS policy in Grand Canyon is to protect and preserve archaeological sites in situ, and to excavate a site only if it is about to be lost.

Recreational river running and backpacking trips are increasingly using the river sand bars as these activities become ever more desired by the general public. But sand bars have been steadily and dramatically decreasing in size, number, and quality in the past twenty to thirty years. Increasing demand for public use has recently substantially increased the number of river runners in Grand Canyon. At stake is the reduced availability of quality camping areas and the resultant reduction in the quality of an outstanding recreational outdoor experience sought by tens of thousands of people each year.

What to do? The Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992, among other things, requires the Secretary of the Interior to operate Glen Canyon Dam to protect, mitigate adverse impacts to, and improve the values of Glen Canyon National Recreational Area and Grand Canyon National Park downstream of the dam. The resulting

Glen Canyon Dam Environmental Impact Statement (1995) stated that modified flows from the dam combined with periodic artificial floods would meet the requirements of the GCPA, including the sustained maintenance of sand bars over time. However, modified flows did not achieve this goal and the BHBF has only been tried twice in twelve years. So far, the goals of the Grand Canyon Protection Act have not been met. We maintain that the only realistic means to achieve sand bar restoration and ecosystem goals is to run BHBF flows as frequently as sediment conditions warrant and to reduce the magnitude of daily fluctuating flows.

Following is a letter Grand Canyon River Guides sent to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne on October 16, 2007 to express our views on the importance of running a Beach Habitat Building Flow early in 2008:

RE: MINORITY REPORT—Rationale for a wy 2008 experimental bbbf

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

As a recreational stakeholder of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (AMP), we are writing to recommend that you conduct a Beach-Habitat Building Flow (BHBF) in WY 2008. At this time, there is a large amount of sediment in the river throughout the Grand Canyon but it is below water level and of little value to the ecosystem. **We believe that a strategically-timed BHBF early in 2008 will rebuild sand bars and test critical hypotheses on how to best operate the dam for endangered species, eroded cultural sites, sandbar habitats, and increased recreational use.**

**Sediment conditions due to recent inflows from the Paria River and the Little Colorado River are nearly 2.5 times the amount previously deemed adequate to trigger an experimental beach habitat building test. In fact, the conditions are more enriched now than at any other time since at least 1998 (GCMRC memo, August 21, 2007).** Large storms in October 2006 and summer 2007 generated tributary floods, which delivered enormous volumes of fine sediment from the Paria and Little Colorado Rivers and numerous small tributaries. Subsequent dam releases have been modest enough to distribute this sediment load into hundreds of eddies throughout the length of Grand Canyon while minimizing sediment transport to Lake Mead. The river channel is perfectly primed to test a major unanswered question, ‘Can the dam be re-operated to restore essential natural, cultural, and scenic landscape features of the river ecosystem in Grand Canyon?’

Since the BHBF is a common element to all alternatives in the Long Term Experimental Plan (LTEP), it makes sense to scientifically refine and optimize our understanding of this tool. **A BHBF is the only feasible way to move the channel sand up into the riparian zone where it can**

**provide critical habitat for multiple resources.** The present BHBF design bypasses about 0.25 million acre feet (MAF) past the turbines, which is only 3% of an 8.23 MAF minimum release year. This seems to us a small expenditure for a potentially major benefit. **It is unlikely there will be a chance to run such a highly enriched test again for many years.** This is a critical opportunity to further hone the efficacy and design of these experimental flows to ensure a successful outcome of the LTEP.

We would also like to emphasize the simple monetary value of the sediment in place compared to the replacement costs from a sediment augmentation pipeline around the dam. **Using the best estimates for capital costs (amortized over a 40-year life) and annual operating costs, one million tons of sand might cost \$11 million to deliver to Lees Ferry. Thus, the current amount of sand has a replacement value of more than \$27 million.** We consider that the river ecosystem presently has “money in the bank” to leverage for the immeasurable values of the river ecosystem. The alternative is to slowly and progressively send it (“spend it”) downstream to Lake Mead where it can only decrease reservoir storage and inhibit navigation for the Hualapai Tribe and river-rafting industry. We think it wise to utilize tributary sediment before resorting to more severe and costly means to achieve program goals.

Sufficiently high sediment conditions existed in fall 2006 for the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) to recommend a BHBF in 2007. The TWG concurred at their November, 2006 meeting. At that time, the AMWG declined to adopt the TWG recommendation for a BHBF and instead asserted the need for an “off-the-shelf” science plan before any additional BHBF’s could go forward. The TWG has now approved GCMRC’s BHBF Science plan as technically sound, at the October 2–3, 2007 meeting.

In our 10 years serving in the AMP, we have seen many of the strengths and weaknesses of this approach to providing advice to the Secretary. Sometimes we stakeholders get stuck in “paralysis through analysis,” which inhibits forward momentum toward our program goals. This is where Interior needs to step in to provide leadership as directed by the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992.

Grand Canyon River Guides appreciates your commitment to focus on the most important short and long-term resource management issues facing the AMP, and commends your desire to continue the adaptive management approach to experimentation designed to benefit downstream resources. **We stand poised at a critical juncture, and we urge you to take immediate action in support of a Beach Habitat Building Flow in 2008. Time is of the essence to advance our scientific knowledge, refine the BHBF tool, and protect the natural, cultural and recreational values for which Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established.**

\* \* \*

We will certainly keep the river community informed of any developments on a Beach Habitat Building Flow for 2008. Right now, conference calls between the Department of Interior agencies are occurring in response to our minority report and three others. No decision has been made as of this writing. A sense of déjà vu pervades as we find ourselves once again fighting for a BHBF, as we did last year at this same time.

However, there are ways *you* can help. Through the Long Term Experimental Plan EIS, the river community will have an outstanding opportunity to wield our considerable power. A wealth of information on the LTEP can be found at: [www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/gcdltep/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/gcdltep/index.html).

The draft matrix of alternatives can also be accessed at the following website: [www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/gcdltep/related/AlternativesMatrix-9-7-07.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/gcdltep/related/AlternativesMatrix-9-7-07.pdf).

These alternatives may be refined before the Draft EIS is available for public comment, but the spreadsheet will give you an excellent idea of the range of alternatives that have been developed. A preferred alternative has not yet been identified.

The schedule for this EIS will be as follows:

- April 2008: Publish Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- October 2008: Publish Final Environmental Impact Statement
- December 2008: Issue Record of Decision
- 2009: Implementation

A 45-day public comment period will commence sometime after the first of the year. Once the alternatives have been finalized, GCRG will develop our official comments and will post them on our website, [www.gcr.org](http://www.gcr.org). We'll also be using our email lists as a tool for communication about this issue. If you'd like to be added to these lists, please email us at [gcr.org@infomagic.net](mailto:gcr.org@infomagic.net) and let us know. Instantaneous communication is critical for building public involvement in this process.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the river community played a pivotal role in getting the Glen Canyon Environmental Studies and EIS programs going at Glen Canyon Dam. The Long Term Experimental Plan is on par with the original Glen Canyon Dam EIS in its importance to the health of all downstream resources. Let's make sure our voices are heard loud and clear!

*Andre Potochnik*

## Shop at Bashas and Help GCRG!

GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES is participating in the *Bashas' Thanks a Million* program. If you shop at Bashas' stores anywhere in Arizona, it's as easy as asking the cashier to link your Bashas' Thank You Card to GCRG's five-digit group identification number. During September 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 a portion of every purchase made with that Thank You Card is set aside for GCRG (one percent of the total dollars linked to our organization during that time period, to be exact).

So link to GCRG's number, shop at Bashas, and help GCRG every time! What could be easier than that! If you have questions, you can check out [www.bashas.com/charity.php](http://www.bashas.com/charity.php).

Grand Canyon River Guides' number is 24776. Take that number with you and link it to your Bashas' card. Thanks for supporting GCRG! We sure appreciate it!

*Lynn Hamilton*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GCRG

## '83 Flood Submissions Needed for Next BQR

THE NEXT ISSUE of the BQR, (with a submission deadline of February, 1, 2008), will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1983 high-water in Grand Canyon. If you were there and have stories, recollections, photos—anything, really—we'd love to include them in the next issue.

So, dig through your archives, dust off your memories, and send us something.

*The Editors*

## Wanted: Native American River Guides

**I**N THE ORAL HISTORIES of the Hopi Tribe, there is a centuries-old story from the Snake Clan about the first river runner in the Southwest. This story depicts the adventures of a boy, Tiyo, who wonders “where does the river go?” Tiyo sets out with the prayers of his family, in a boat carved from a cottonwood tree, encountering new adventures and people along his river journey. He eventually discovers that the river joins up with the Pacific Ocean far from his homeland and becomes the first to raft what are now known as the San Juan and Colorado Rivers.

The San Juan River that Tiyo journeyed upon flows through the Four Corners states of Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah, where it slowly disappears into the huge man-made reservoir known as Lake Powell in Arizona. The San Juan borders the Navajo (Diné) Nation to the south where residents use the water for fishing, livestock and crop irrigation. To the north, with a few parcels of private lands, the shores of the river are largely controlled by the Bureau of Land Management and are in partnership with the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (from Honaker Trail and Slickhorn Canyon) on the lower end of the river.

Often overlooked, the San Juan is a place of beauty, serenity and history. Canada geese and great blue heron are seen nesting among the coyote willows along with the occasional beaver. Float down the river’s fast moving spring water, or slower late season flows, and see petroglyph panels, prehistoric cliff dwellings and other features left by the Ancestral Puebloan people over 800 years ago. The river has been both witness and partner of the progression from prehistoric to modern farmers and river runners from Tiyo to Norm Nevills and present day boaters.

Southwestern rivers are culturally significant to local Native American tribes, some of whose lands border these rivers. Seventeen of Arizona’s 21 Native American tribes have historical and cultural ties to the state’s rivers. They consider the earth’s natural resources and the thousands of cultural sites found along their shores to be sacred. In the Southwest, Native cultures such as the Hopi and Navajo (Diné) are an integral part of the interpretive stories that are told during river trips.

However, these stories are often told without benefit

from actual interaction with Native people, who historically have not been a large or vocal group on the river (as opposed to along the river). Although numerous Native tribes inhabit lands along and near the San Juan and Colorado Rivers, their presence in the boating field has been minimal. Currently less than three percent of the 300–400 river guides leading passengers through these revered waters are Native American. Yet their ancestral lands and homes are literally found throughout river country.

This past spring, the Native American River Guide and Cultural Interpretation Training Program began offering Native peoples the opportunity to learn skills towards

becoming licensed river guides on the San Juan and other rivers. This annual training program is sponsored by the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment (EMA) Program and Foundation (a 501c (3) non-profit organization) and NAU Outdoors at Northern Arizona University (NAU). The goal of the program is to provide employment opportunities to an under-served popula-

tion that is both rewarding and educational. The program encourages participants to continue their training and pursue future employment with commercial river outfitters, non-profit organizations, and land management agencies. In spring 2008, the program will be offered as an accredited course through NAU’s Parks and Recreation Management Department and the course, “Introduction to Multi-day River Expedition Leadership,” (PRM 432) will offer two sections. In the process of training and becoming licensed river guides, Native Americans enhance the river experience for commercial clients, fellow guides and outfitters by better educating them about Southwestern Native cultures.

The first annual Native guide training took place during the dates of May 21–29, 2007. The program included a seven-day San Juan River trip from Sand Island to Clay Hills (83 miles), as well as a one day classroom session at NAU that provided an introduction to river guiding including interpretation, camp-set up/breakdown, boat rigging, Leave No Trace ethics, and river safety. Participants and guides had the opportunity to meet with respected Diné elder, James Peshlakai, who led a discussion about traditional Diné perspectives of the earth and waters. Field trips to local river company warehouses





included time with folks at Grand Canyon Youth and AZRA/Discovery who gave a tour of their respective operations, and discussed how to pursue employment as river guides. Finally, a trip to the grocery store for food shopping and an efficient food pack. (Yes, really!) It was long but a successful day of learning.

The program participants included three Hopi and seven Diné, among them recent and current college students from NAU and Arizona State University, a South Rim tour guide, an ethnobotanist and archeologist. From the beginning, all were curious about what a river trip fully entailed. In fact, before this trip, some of the group participants had never been backcountry camping or on a river trip. "Traveling down the San Juan for the first time as a native plants instructor and participant, I was awed at the beauty of the San Juan and the surroundings. I had never been on a river trip before the training program. I grew up camping, hiking and swimming on the Hopi mesas and the Salt River Pima/Maricopa Reservation but never had a sense of what being on the river meant," says Jonah Hill (Hopi/Quechan).

The on-river training was led by six licensed guides and four instructors; Nikki Cooley (Diné guide and trip coordinator), Pamela Mathues (guide, artist and photographer), Brandon Thielke (guide and Leave No Trace instructor), Chad Stone (guide and swift water instructor), Alan Venesky (guide), Jonah Hill (ethnobotanist and participant), Dwight Witherspoon (activities facilitator), Janet Lynn (wildlife biologist and program coordinator), and Gilbert Naseyowma (Hopi elder and farmer). Each day the guides, instructors, and participants held discussions concerning subjects directly related to the river and each participant received substantial on-river rowing time including scouting and running rapids. On the last day of the program, participants returned to the classroom and were given information about WFR, First Aid, CPR, Food Handlers, and Utah and Arizona guide licenses, and certificates of training program completion. Throughout the program, there were no egos but rather a passion for learning, friendship, respect, laughter (lots of it, too), frybread, and being on the river.



Perhaps of all the contributions that Native river guides have brought and will bring to the river industry, it is their ability to provide a perspective of their own cultures that is not only accurate but up-to-date that has the most value. Too often in this modern era Native peoples are still viewed in historical terms, that is, as living relics of the past. The stereotype of Native peoples often portrayed in popular media does very little to educate the average person about the historical and current progressive state of Native cultures. While Native peoples are steadfast to their traditional teachings and values, qualities that are rooted in their past, they also continue to evolve and find new ways of maintaining and applying those qualities in the modern world.

Through careers as teachers, scientists, artists, musicians, entrepreneurs and now hopefully as river guides, Native peoples will continue to contribute to their respective communities, and also to the developing modern and technological society. What a guiding career provides is a new arena to apply those skills as well as a new means of interpreting their relationship with southwestern rivers and associated ecology. Program participant Katrina Claw (Diné) states, "...contact (with the natural environment) is an essential part of being Native American. Without it, people tend to treat the earth like something to be used and abused. But if anyone has ever camped on the banks of a river at night, it is anything but inanimate. The Guide Training Program instilled a new kind of respect for nature and I was taught to properly [heed] my own [actions] into it. I would recommend this experience for



everyone, but most especially my fellow Native Americans. The economics, accurate representation, and protection of [southwestern rivers] depend on us.”

Thus the stories and insight offered by Native guides provides perspectives not only on their long and complex prehistory, but also their outlook on modern issues concerning the ecological management of river systems and natural landscapes. In doing so, as countless river guides (Native or non-Native) before us, Native guides offer first-hand knowledge about their cultural heritage, while still proving that they are in fact, viable and continuing elements of the American Southwest. The EMA program and NAU Outdoors have set the foundation to encourage and recruit Native Americans into the river guiding industry. This groundwork has set the precedent and invitation for all interested persons and organizations for a partnership to continue and develop further opportunities for Native Americans and all who are enchanted by and care for our rivers. We would like to extend our appreciation to the supporters and donors that made this program possible.

The centuries old journey, first started by a young Hopi boy named Tiyo, continues on with Native guides finding their place within the modern world and now the boating industry.

Kwah-kway/Ahe’hee’ (Thank You!)

*Nikki Cooley and Lyle Balenquah*

NOTE: Nikki Cooley (Diné), an oar and motor guide for GCY, NAU Outdoors and AZRA, resides in Flagstaff and Diné Nation. Lyle Balenquah (Hopi) is an archaeologist and San Juan River guide residing in Flagstaff and Hopi Nation.

For more information about the Native American River Guide and Cultural Interpretation Training Program please contact Nikki Cooley with the Ecological Monitoring & Assessment Program & Foundation at (928) 523-0715, [Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu](mailto:Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu) or [www.emaprogram.com](http://www.emaprogram.com).

## Native American River Guide & Cultural Interpretation Training Program on the San Juan

**J**OIN US OR HELP US recruit for a multidisciplinary, ten-day river guide training and cultural education course June 10–19, 2008. Sponsored by NAU Outdoors and the Ecological Monitoring & Assessment & Foundation. Must be 17 years of age or older, and open to anyone interested in river guide training program. Also an accredited course (PRM 432-2)

through Parks and Recreation Management Department at NAU (optional). Space is limited! Scholarships and sponsors may be available. Cost: to be announced. Sign up today by contacting Nikki Cooley at the EMA Program, [Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu](mailto:Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu), Phone: 928-523-0715. For information visit: [www.emaprogram.com](http://www.emaprogram.com) or [www.nau.edu/outdoors](http://www.nau.edu/outdoors). See article above.

# Gearing up for the GTS

**O**F COURSE, the GTS land session is *the* event, and in 2008 that will be truer than ever as we congregate once again at Hatchland in Marble Canyon, AZ over the March 29–30 weekend. The stars will align at the 2008 GTS when the 25<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of the 1983 flood event and the 20<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of GCRG coincide. Stories, slides, films, and facts—we’ll be taking a look at 1983 from all angles.

From big water to no water, the 1983 high flood event will be an excellent segue to explore the very sobering scenario we face today, such as extreme drought, climatic changes, and what the future might hold for water in the West. We’ll also be making a last ditch effort to get the river community involved in the Long Term Experimental Plan so that our voices are heard loud and clear about dam management for better protection of all downstream resources.

Another big GTS focus will be on coordinating a multi-tribal panel discussion to explore cultural sensitivities as they relate to recreational river running needs. This will be a chance for you to hear directly from the tribes about what’s important to them and why. We’ll try to bring together a mix of tribal representatives, archaeologists, and Native American river guides to share their perspectives.

In order to inject some outstanding practical knowledge to counterbalance all of the cerebral calisthenics happening at the GTS, we’re planning an extensive “ropes skills clinic.” We’ll break up into small groups and do some real hands-on activities to get guides on the same page for Z-drags and the like... That ought to wake people up after a hearty lunch on Saturday!

And yet another practical segment of the 2008 GTS will address other issues that have been plaguing our river community. Towards that end, we’ll offer the most current data on *tolio* by some top Arizona epidemiologists in the Arizona state lab. We’ll also de-mystify staph infections like the dreaded “superbug” MRSA that has affected some river runners and scared the bejesus out of the rest of us.

And as you know, that won’t be all. We’ll have tons of other interesting topics/speakers, the Whale Foundation Health Fair, a fantastic raffle incorporating some 1983 memorabilia plus tons of other must-have items, a party to end all parties, and scrumptious food!

The GTS river trip will follow immediately after—April 1–7 (upper) and 7–15 (lower) with great speakers as part of the only completely cooperative training trip on the water. Whether you’re a newbie or an old hand at guiding, this is the trip for you. The GTS river trip is *always* the best, so start talking to your outfitters now and let them know you wanna go!

*Look for the GTS sign up postcard sometime around the*

*first of the year.* To sum up after all of our unabashed self-promotion, here is the quick and dirty:

## GTS LAND SESSION

**DATE/LOCATION:** March 29–30, 2008 at Hatchland in Marble Canyon, AZ

**COST:** \$35 or \$30 if you sign up before March 1, unless you’re sponsored by an outfitter.

**BRING EXTRA MONEY FOR:**

- GCRG 20<sup>TH</sup> anniversary beer mugs—you’ll need one if you want to “imbibe!” We won’t have any of the standard red beer cups, so if you want to partake, you gotta cough up a little bit of dough for a cool mug. Same is true for you “party only” types! We will be discounting the cost of the mugs for GCRG members.
- The GCRG raffle tickets
- Cool 2008 shirts and hats from GCRG as well as great stuff from other vendors.

**ALSO BRING:** a small camp chair, a mug, dress warmly and in layers, and plan on joining us for the weekend! We’ll have dinner available on Friday the 28<sup>TH</sup> for anyone who arrives early.

## GTS RIVER TRIP

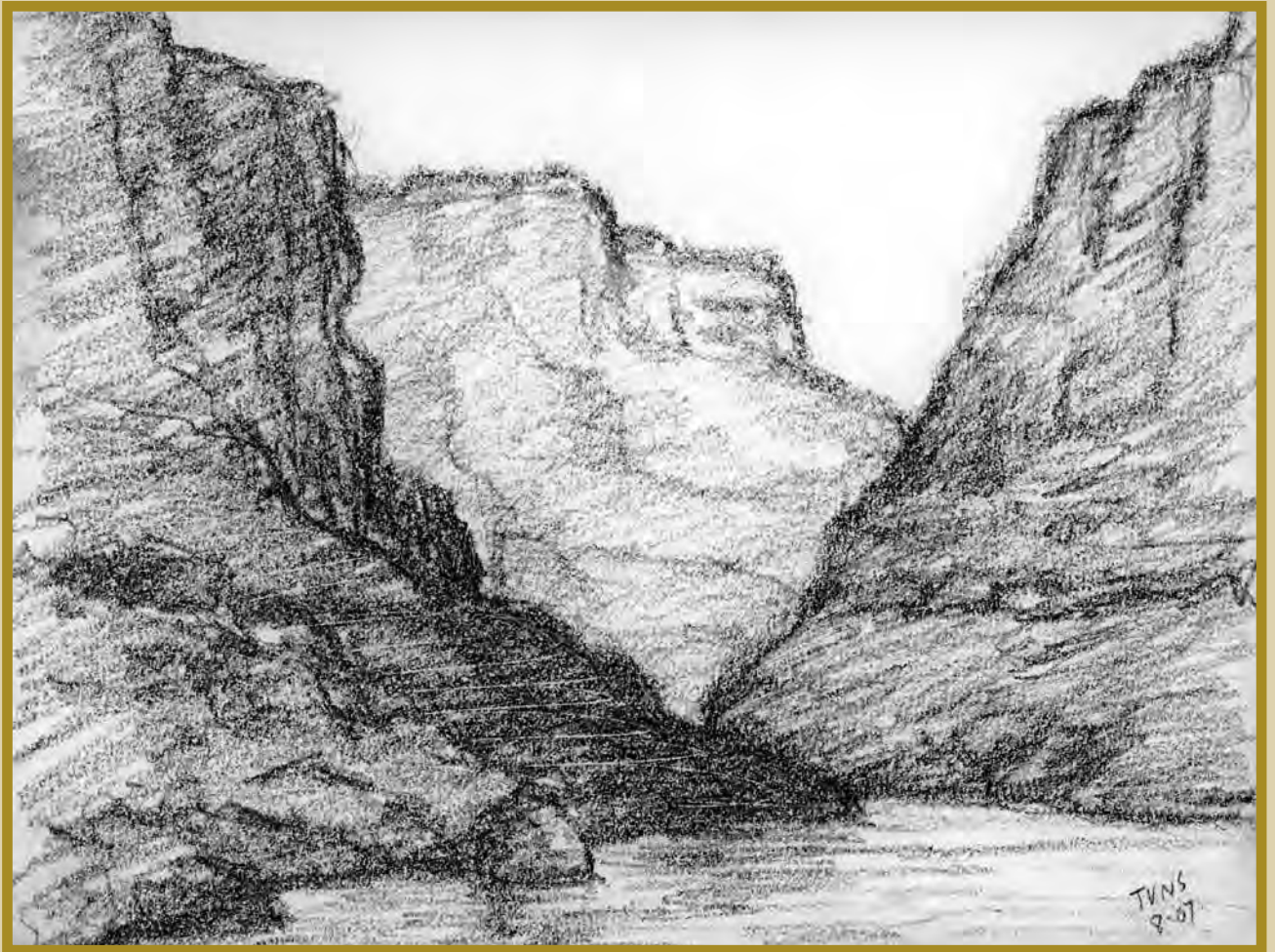
**DATE/LOCATION FOR UPPER PORTION:** April 1–7, 2008 (Lees to Phantom Ranch)

**DATE/LOCATION FOR LOWER PORTION:** April 7–15, 2008 (Phantom to Diamond Creek)

**COST:** \$175 for upper half, and \$195 for lower half, unless you’re sponsored.

**NEW REQUIREMENT:** *All GTS River Trip Participants must be current members of GCRG. No exceptions!* If you wanna go, you gotta support our organization so we can continue to bring events of this caliber to guides like you.

**OTHER THINGS TO KNOW:** As always, first preference will be given to guides sponsored by their outfitter. If we have any room left over (and that’s a big “if”), then we may open the remaining spaces to freelance guides who have work on the river in 2008. Other freelance requirements are: 1) must have all your medical requirements and other guide certifications fulfilled as specified by Grand Canyon National Park, *or*, 2) you must be a licenced guide on another river, actively working towards becoming a guide in Grand Canyon. If you’re not sponsored, you would need to send us a letter with your background or resume, tell us who you are, how you meet these requirements, and why you should go. This will help us in our selection process. We will hold your check until we have made our decision. Not everyone who signs up gets to go.



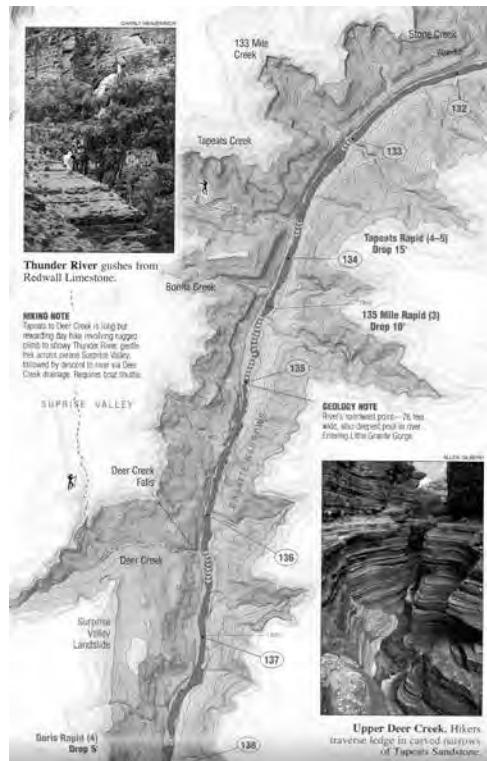
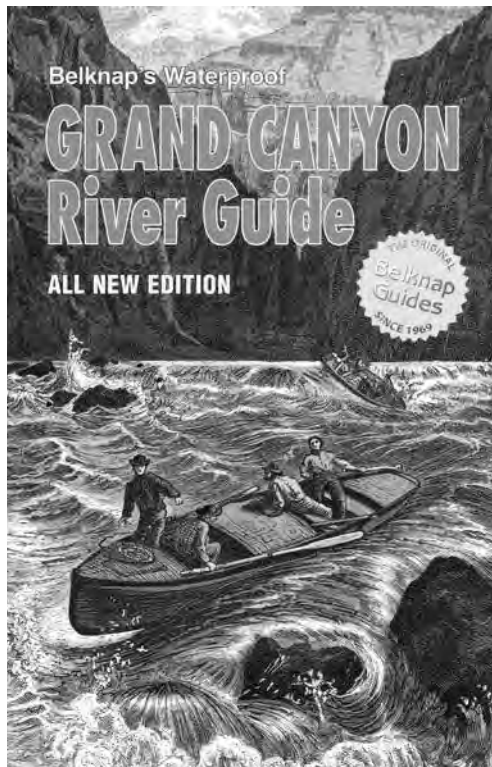
*Downstream from camp at Red Slide*

© Tryntje Seymour 2007

# All New Edition of a Classic Old Favorite— Belknap's Waterproof Grand Canyon River Guide

**C**HEF KOMINSKY, helped by Blake and Lint, adds gourmet touch to meals on 1923 U.S.. Geological Survey party. "Horse hangs after kicking out of Bass Cable cage, 1917." "Girls grill golden brown pork chops where Powell party stretched meager rations." "New Zealander Jon Hamilton drives jet boat up Lava Falls, 1960." Since 1969, Buzz Belknap and Westwater

*River Guide*, with an additional 16 pages. The latest edition features highly detailed, easy-to-read maps, plus outstanding illustrated sections on geology, natural history, and archaeology, written by experts in these fields. Trip enrichment sections include a photo workshop and a section on how rivers and rapids work. This dramatically illustrated guide covers 297 miles from the



Books, along with Belknap Photographic Services and Loie Belknap Evans, have been providing these and other memorable photo captions within their *Powell Centennial Grand Canyon River Guide*. The "Buzzmap," which had its waterproof field test in the back of a pickup truck during a rainstorm, has been continuously in print for almost forty years.



"Girls grill golden pork chops where Powell party stretched meager rations."

Updated in 1989 as "New Color Edition," Westwater Books has recently published an *All New Edition* of their waterproof *Grand Canyon*

put-in at Lees Ferry to the South Cove take-out on Lake Mead and is chocker block full of four-color diagrams and photographs. Guess it goes to show that you can always make a great thing even better!

Westwater Books also publishes waterproof map guides covering the entire Green and Colorado River systems. These include *Canyonlands*, *Dinosaur*, and *Desolation*. Now in color, these new editions have been fully updated with new information and photographs. Order online from [www.WestwaterBooks.com](http://www.WestwaterBooks.com); email to [orders@westwaterbooks.com](mailto:orders@westwaterbooks.com); or call toll free at 800-628-1326. They offer discounts to GCRG members, so order yours today. No ammo can or river history bookshelf should be without an informative "Buzzmap" guide, or more, for your river of choice (why not collect the set?!).

C.V. Agydus

# The First Year—CRMP Implementation: A View from Resource Management

**A**LTHOUGH THE PLANNING process was completed and the Record of Decision signed in 2006, the National Park Service remains busy with Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) related activities. The Park has now entered the implementation phase of the plan. Some of the implementation work has been completed, some has been initiated and is ongoing, and some projects are planned for the future. Information about this work has been and will continue to be provided to the public via the National Park Service website and email communications. There are and will continue to be many opportunities for the river community to be involved with the implementation and to provide feedback to the NPS.

The CRMP monitoring and mitigation program has been developed to determine and address effects of the 2006 CRMP recreational use limits and launch patterns on park resources and visitor experience. The program has four major components: a Visitor Experience Monitoring Plan (VEMP), an interdisciplinary resource monitoring program, a mitigation/site restoration program, and an education and outreach program.

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE MONITORING PLAN

The National Park Service (NPS) worked with Bo Shelby and Doug Whittaker, through a cooperative agreement with Oregon State University, to develop a plan to assess key indicators of visitor experience. In February, 2006 a public information meeting was held in Flagstaff to talk about the plan. The meeting was well attended and notes from the meeting are posted on the CRMP website, [www.nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/crmp07rmm.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/crmp07rmm.htm).

As a direct result of public feedback received in that meeting, the park began providing comprehensive monthly river calendar information, including a Lees Ferry launch calendar, a Phantom Ranch exchange calendar, a Whitmore exchange calendar and a Diamond Creek takeout calendar. The calendars include all trip information available at the time they are generated, including non-commercial, commercial, NPS, and research trips. Because trip plans inevitably change up to the actual launch, it is difficult to provide flawless trip information. The NPS will continue to work to improve the accuracy of the calendars. Calendars will be generated between the months of March and October 2008.

Several other projects were initiated this year to monitor the effects of the new plan on visitor experience. Attraction site monitoring was conducted for five to seven days in June and October 2007 from the corner overlook at Deer Creek. The two time periods were selected to provide data about the high use season and

the shoulder use season. An observer also collected Deer Creek data in June 2006. Recorded observations included when trips stopped, how much time trips spent at Deer Creek, how many boats were on the trip, how many people hiked, where people were hiking to, and camp occupancy. Comments from boaters regarding their trip were also recorded and are being used to shape the 2008 attraction site monitoring schedule.

As a result of data collected and comments received in June, a visit to Havasu was planned for late July. Because of monsoon storms the trip was shifted to Whitmore, where flight data, camp occupancy and river travel pattern information was collected. The pre-ten A.M. Whitmore exchange requirement may be influencing use patterns upstream at Havasu and Deer Creek. The Park will be working with guides and outfitters in 2008 to evaluate how the new requirement is impacting upstream visitation at attraction sites.

Additional site observations are planned for Nankoweap, the Little Colorado River, Deer Creek, Havasu, and Whitmore between March and October in 2008.

The data collected will provide the park with a better understanding of how the new use levels and patterns are affecting popular river stops. The National Park Service is grateful to the river community for their support and assistance at the observation sites, and in particular for their insights and comments. A report generated with data and early findings from the 2007 observations will be posted on the CRMP website in November 2007.

The NPS has also developed a trip log to record where trips are camping, hiking, having lunch etc. Trip logs were recorded on most NPS river trips in 2007. The helpful volunteers of Grand Canyon Youth also completed trip logs. This information will, over time, provide the park with another snap shot of river use patterns.

Additional components of the VEMP will be implemented in 2009. For more information about the VEMP, as well as updated results from early research, please visit the NPS CRMP website.

## INTEGRATED RESOURCE MONITORING PROGRAM

This annual monitoring program will provide the park with long-term data on how Grand Canyon resources are being affected by Colorado River use. An interdisciplinary group of park staff collects natural and cultural resource monitoring data at a rotating set of campsites in the Colorado River corridor. The campsites being monitored are a mix of high, moderate and low-use sites; some camps are monitored on a rotational basis

and some are visited every trip. The NPS team monitors between 40 and 50 sites each trip.

The study is designed to determine how changes in seasonal use, group size, and trip length are changing conditions at recreation sites in the Colorado River corridor. The first trip was conducted in April, at the end of the lower use season; the second in September, to coincide with the end of the high use season. It is expected to take a few years before the overall trends become apparent. The April/September trips will continue in 2008.

At each camp vegetation surveys record cover class and species information at one meter quadrants along a 50 meter transect in both new high-water and old high-water zones. Avifauna specialists conduct bird point counts in both campsite and control areas, and



*Hance Scott Trail work.*

also collect vegetation structure data. Archeologists conduct site monitoring for human and natural impacts at long-term monitored cultural sites, and also conduct inventories at common and emerging popular hike locations. Recreation specialists inventory indicators such as the number of social trails, tent pads in the old high water zone, evidences of human waste, urine/algae stains, pieces of “micro” and “macro” trash, camp furniture, and vegetation damage.

The NPS also plans to repeat the human impact study conducted by Mathieu Brown in 2009. Prior to the CRMP implementation he conducted a study that looked at overall campsite condition using a comprehensive set of recreation impact indicators at a sample of campsites.

The NPS is partnering with Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) to map the “campable” area in each camp on aerial photos. The mapping will be repeated over time in order to analyze change. The maps will also be used to determine camp size and the information made available to river users.

Grand Canyon Youth and GCMRC have been helping

the park with a campsite rephotography project. The original set of photos was taken in the 1970s. These photos and campsite maps will be included in the Campsite Atlas being developed in cooperation with the GCMRC.

#### MITIGATION/RESTORATION PROGRAM

Two trips are planned each year, in November and March, to do active “mitigation” at campsites or attraction sites where resources are threatened and impacted by recreation use. Examples of onsite management include social trail obliteration, restoration of sites in the old high-water zone, rerouting and maintaining trails to protect cultural resources.



*Hance Scott Trail work.*

To date two trips have been completed, in November 2006 and March 2007. Work has been conducted at Soap Canyon, South Canyon, Buck Farm, Saddle Canyon, Little Nankoweap, Nankoweap, the Little Colorado River, Lava Chuar, Tanner, Hance, Granite, Hermit, Crystal, Tapeats, Deer Creek, and Lava Falls. Additional work is being planned for March and November 2008. The NPS has also set up a program to actively monitor the effectiveness of the work at each site. Many of these sites have been worked on in the past, and some will always need maintenance. The park, however, wants to do a better job of recording the successes and failures at each site in order to apply the knowledge to future work and use our available resources more effectively. During the September and April resource monitoring trips, resource

specialists visit the worksites and evaluate the effectiveness of the management actions as well as specific site restoration techniques.

Grand Canyon River Guides and the greater river community can help the National Park Service with this work by continuing to encourage folks to use existing trails and to find campsites on hardened beach sites.

#### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The fourth piece of any successful monitoring and mitigation program is education and outreach. Education can be the most effective tool to minimize recreation impacts. Park staff will be using the findings of the monitoring work to design effective educational strategies and identify information that needs to reach the river community.

The guides' community is uniquely positioned to have a powerful influence on human behavior and resource impacts in the river corridor. Many of the positive changes in the river corridor were initiated by guides. River passengers marvel at the meticulous efforts in camp

to pick up micro trash and keep camps clean. Grand Canyon River Guides can continue to help with these efforts by sharing minimum impact information, such as Leave No Trace, with other guides, boaters and passengers. Continue the great communication with other trips and share the river courtesy brochure. If you have concerns about visitor experience or resource conditions in the river corridor, please share your concerns or suggestions with park staff. You can write or call Kirstin Heins (Kirstin\_Heins@nps.gov; 928-638-7659), or Linda Jalbert (Linda\_Jalbert@nps.gov; 928-638-7909).

The National Park Service will continue to provide information about the resource monitoring and mitigation program to the Grand Canyon River Guides and others through the BQR, on the CRMP website, at Lees Ferry, through the River Permits office, at guide's training events and through publications.

*Kirstin Heins*

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER, GCNP



## Wood Oars—Production and Characteristics of High-quality Wood Oars

**N**OTHING BEATS THE rhythmical sound of a wood oar slipping into a river's current and nothing compares with the balanced and springy-flex feel of a well-made wooden oar in a boatman's hand.

Wood oars are made from softwoods (pines, fir and spruces) and hardwoods (ash, oak and basswood). Generally softwoods are fast growing, and in comparison hardwoods like oak and ash grow very slowly. The softwoods and basswood are light but lack the strength and flexibility of ash. Fir and spruce tend to be brittle. Often the softwoods are laminated (glued and pressed) to increase their strength. Modern laminated woods are very strong, but the lamination process makes the oars very stiff. Oak is a very strong wood, but it lacks the flexibility of ash and is very heavy. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) is a tough, very flexible wood that is straight-grained. Given the same diameter inch for inch, ash is the strongest and most flexible source for river running oars.

Good wooden oars are symmetrical, solid pieces of wood, with no glue joints, no blemishes and straight grain. They are lathed into graceful taper, with thin throats and feminine-looking blades that will hold up to the same rigors as the thicker, fatter ones. The thinness

in the throat and blade creates balance and flex. The flexing of the oar in the water enhances the power of the oar-stroke.

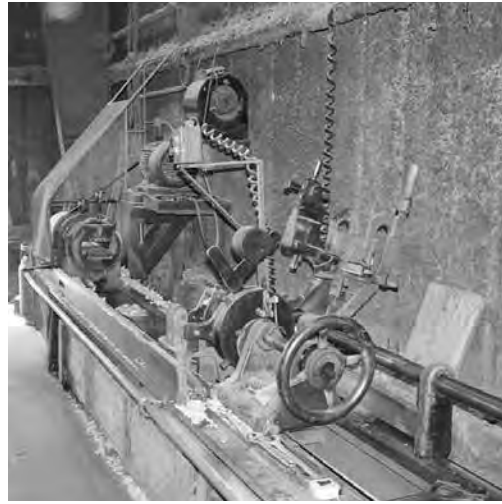
An oar consists of a loom (the handle and shaft), the throat (a transition to the blade) and the blade. The balance of an oar, of course depends on where a boatman places the stopper for the oarlock. Oars that are made by craftsmen have a natural balance. An oar made of hardwood usually has a thinner throat than those requiring thickness for strength. A thinner throat means that end of the oar is naturally lighter. Today many river runners like wide short blades—sometimes eight inches wide or more. The flat surface area of a blade, all factors considered, is most efficient on blades that are five to six inches wide. A blade that is wider than six inches does not slip into and out of the currents as efficiently, and is hard to release when caught in the swirls common to rivers like Westwater and Cataract Canyons. A five inch blade that is three feet long gives one the same surface area as a blade that is twenty inches by eight inches wide—the common Carlisle blade measurements.

In manufacturing a wooden oar the trees are selected, felled and skidded to trucks where they are hauled to a





*Blade jig profiling machine.*



*Lathe for turning oar shafts.*

lumber mill. At the mill the logs are cut into two to three inch thick rough lumber boards. The boards are then stacked for almost a year to air dry until their moisture content is around twelve percent.

Planks are selected and laid or banded out in a general shape. The rough shaped oar is then clamped into a lathe where the round part, called the loom or shaft, is turned. Next the blade end is clamped into a profiling machine where a steel pattern is cut with a chipping wheel. Finally the tip of the blade is equalized with a round dish like saw blade.

The lathes, profiling and other machines are specially made for making oars. Before their development oars were made by hand using saws, draw knives and planes.

Finished wooden oars should be sanded, dipped in sealer and coated with marine Spar varnish. On my oars I scribe a deep line, parallel to the blade, into the end of the handle, so that my thumb can feel when the angle of the blade is correct.

Cutting and shaping timber into a graceful oar is a costly process, and manufacturing high-quality wooden oars requires time, patience, and skills of a craftsman. But in the hands of a river runner it is the relationship of wood, water and mankind that transcends time to our earliest existence.

### *Herm Hoops*

#### REFERENCES:

North American Trees; Preston, Richard J.; Iowa State University Press; Ames, IA  
 Erie Daily Times; Eckhart, Pam; Erie, PA  
 Swanson Boat Oar Company Notes, Josephine & Eric Swanson



*Rough lumber boards waiting to become oars.*



*Finishing the oar.*

# Grand Canyon Youth Program Update

*“River trips make me feel more confident. I’m kind of shy sometimes and I honestly feel like these trips get rid of that. River trips are like getting a soul massage.”*

—EMILY, 2007 PARTICIPANT

**T**HE GROWTH OF Grand Canyon Youth over the past year has been phenomenal. As we continue to expand our reach and develop our programs further we are heartened by the support we have received from the community and the enthusiastic feedback we get from the young people who participate in our programs. Thank you to all of you who help make our organization a success year after year. From our small warehouse in Flagstaff we supported the majority of the equipment, transportation, food, guides and educational support for our programs. This season we feel that we have stayed true to our educational philosophy of instilling curiosity in young people about the natural world, themselves and their communities.

## OUR BIGGEST SEASON YET!

- Number of River Education Programs: 31 (23 in 2006)
- Number of Participants Served: 579 (a 54 percent increase from 2006)
- Number of Participant Days: 3,136
- Scholarships: 99 totaling more than \$23,000
- Hours of pre-trip community service completed: over 6,900
- Served students: age 11–19
- Served: 271 boys and 308 girls
- Programs: 21 returning, 10 new

## STRIVING FOR DIVERSITY

At Grand Canyon Youth we are dedicated to ensuring that our participants come from a variety of backgrounds whether it is cultural, socioeconomic, geographic or range of ability. We served students from across the United States including New York and Boston, from the Hopi and Diné Nations, as well as two exchange students from India and Denmark. One of our main focuses remains serving young people from Northern Arizona, who live in close proximity to the areas in which we have programs. In addition, we are proud of our partnership with the City of Phoenix with whom we serve young people with different needs and whose program we used

as a model for a Flagstaff special needs program.

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Being an active part in the community is one of the keystones of our program. This is evidenced by the incredible amount of community service accomplished by our participants prior to going on their river trip. It is also evidenced by the phenomenal partnerships we are proud to be a part of. In Grand Canyon, students worked alongside scientists on a wide variety of projects with the u.s. Geological Survey, the National Park Service and the Coconino County Health Department. Participants also assisted with-service projects on the San Juan River and trash clean up on the way to Diamond



Hooray for youth! Photo by Angela Keith

Creek.

## NEW IN 2007

- Inspired by the City of Phoenix’s River Rampage program, Grand Canyon Youth facilitated the first Flagstaff River Buddies Program for students with special needs and their peers.
- As a way to deepen the understanding of the Colorado River Watershed, Grand Canyon Youth had a 14-day pilot program for twelve GCY alumni. This trip included a six-day Gates of Lodore river trip in partnership with Dinosaur National Monument where students helped to eradicate invasive species. Stops at museums and spectacular hikes along the way helped to facilitate the learning!
- Facilitated a two-week middle school program with eight inner-city Boston youth and ten youth from Flagstaff. This was a community supported event with host families and a plethora of service projects.

## GET INVOLVED WITH GRAND CANYON YOUTH

2008 marks the tenth anniversary of Grand Canyon Youth! As the word spreads about the benefits of our program so does the demand. Here are several ways you can get involved with Grand Canyon Youth:

- Work as a guide! We are always looking to increase our guide pool. In 2007, 64 guides worked for our program! To sign-up for the guide list or to learn more please call or email Reed Allen, Assistant Director, 928-773-7921, reed@gcyouth.org.

- Donate! Grand Canyon Youth is always in need of financial support for our scholarship fund. But if you don't have extra cash and you have extra fleece, rain gear or day packs these are always needed and appreciated! In addition, any boating equipment (boats, oars, frames, etc) is a welcome gift.
- Spread the word! The best way to get the word out about our programs is for folks who understand the educational power of the river to share this knowledge with

teachers, participants, or donors who might be interested in getting involved in our program.

#### CONTACT US

Stop by and say hi if you're in the neighborhood and learn more about our programs and how you can help! 928-773-7921; info@gcyouth.org; www.gcyouth.org.

*Emma Wharton*

## Back of the Boat— The Whale Foundation News Bulletin

#### NEW 2008 WHALE FOUNDATION CALENDAR

**O**UR 2008 CALENDARS ARE currently available! Help support the Whale Foundation's outreach programs and order this great, new, fourteen-month calendar *now*. Designed by Mary Williams, this year's edition is filled with fabulous and funny images of old river equipment. The calendars make great gifts, will help you remain organized, and/or can take you down memory lane.

In Flagstaff you can purchase a calendar for \$10 if you stop by the office (515 W. Birch) or at Mountain Sports (24 N. San Francisco Street). Otherwise, download an order form from our website ([www.whalefoundation.org](http://www.whalefoundation.org)), include an additional \$3/ calendar for shipping/handling, and return the form with your check to PO Box 855, Flagstaff, AZ 86002. We will speed your order along. For foreign addresses, please add \$5 for mailing costs.

This is a great way to celebrate—and support—the guiding community at the same time.

#### WINGDING VI

Mark your Whale Foundation calendars now! The sixth annual WingDing will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2008 from 6–11 P.M. at the Coconino Center for the Arts, 2300 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff (behind Sechrist School and adjacent to the Art Barn.)

This Grand Canyon river family rendezvous and fundraiser is a great gathering and whale-sized undertaking for about 350 folks. We'll have dinner and music, a raffle and live and silent auctions with lots of beautiful art, books, services, and getaways donated by the river community. We are looking for volunteers to help with food, beverages, registration, auctions, set up and clean up. If you'd like to help with the planning and execution

of this fabulous celebration, we'd love your help. Just give us a call at 928-774-9440.

#### GTS HEALTH FAIR

We want to remind everyone of the Whale Foundation's upcoming Health Fair at the spring GTS on Saturday, March 29<sup>TH</sup>. Our healthcare professionals will provide free screenings including skin cancer, blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, plus oral examinations and more. We will also have informative pamphlets available. We encourage those uninsured—or under insured—members of the river community to take advantage of this *free* \$750 value.

#### WHALE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2007 the Whale Foundation welcomed new Board members: Dan Dierker, Sharon Hester, Lisa Lamberson and Alex Thevenin.

We thank these individuals, our other Board of Directors, our Health Services Committee, our WingDing Committee—as well as the many others—for donating their considerable time and talents in support of our river family. If you are interested in volunteering for the Board or in other capacities, please give us a call at 928-774-4288. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Whale Foundation  
PO Box 855  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002  
Toll Free Help Line 1-866-773-0773  
Business: 928-774-9440  
Web: [www.whalefoundation.org](http://www.whalefoundation.org)  
Email: [whale@whalefoundation.org](mailto:whale@whalefoundation.org)



## Tales From the Truck— Diamond Creek Chaos

**T**HE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2007 was dark and the rain had roused most of us from sleep at about 4:30 A.M.; some threw a tarp or fly over and tried to continue sleeping; others gave up, figuring it was the morning of the take-out and sleep could be caught up on in town, in a bed, in the near future. Billie and Tony were the cook crew for the morning and they had coffee and dishwater ready with breakfast not far behind when I woke up at 5:30 A.M. I had set up the tent the night before and my first glimpse downstream of Mile 217 that morning was of an inky blue sky. As breakfast progressed, we were treated to an amazing light display as the sun showed through the thick clouds intermittently, illuminating the walls with light; another display of beauty in Grand Canyon.

However, by the time we got on the water just after 8:00 A.M., we were being poured on and rowed through rain and upstream wind (is there any other kind?) until about Mile 223. The Diamond Creek beach was bathed in sunlight by the time we could see it, and my early thoughts on the road being closed started to wane. Just ahead of us was a fleet of CanX boats, nearly de-rigged, and their rig-truck. Where was our truck? Jed Koller and Laura Fallon from AZRA pulled in to Diamond Creek with a motor-rig at the same time we pulled in. Where was their truck?

We (OARS) tied up and talked to Joel, CanX's driver, who said he had come down with a Hualapai truck, but the road was now closed. Jed and our Trip Leader, Judd Ballard, got on the sat phones and reported that Seligman was being flooded by a storm like no one had ever seen, and our rig trucks had turned around. Hmm...interesting. We were all familiar with the story of the two fully loaded rig-trucks that had gone into the river at Diamond in July 1984 and none of us were looking for that kind of excitement that day. As with

every day on the river, we watched and waited for the situation to unfold so that we could react.

CanX's passengers were waiting up at the palapas with their Trip Leader, Swiss, and her crew had nearly loaded their rig truck. AZRA busted out some soup and PB&J's for both their clients and ours, and our crew ran a million different scenarios through our heads. The multitude of sat phone calls resulted in a decision that OARS would go downstream with the AZRA motor-rig, run the rapids, and then form a flotilla with all our boats and clients, and motor until a recently dispatched jet boat met us and took the clients out.

We had offloaded a few bags for our clients who

needed warm clothes after the deluge and we were re-rigging those bags when we heard a whistle blast. And then another. And another. It took a bit to realize where it was coming from until Swiss came running down Diamond Creek yelling that the water was coming down and we needed to get out now. Re-rigging CanX's entire fleet would have been a ton



*The Diamond Creek flash flood flotilla. Photo by Billie Prosser*

of work. Those of us on the OARS rafts were already re-rigging our bag piles, so we absorbed a few more bags and more people. Jed and Laura took the rest of their motor-rig (six people per raft and 29 on the motor-rig for a total of 59 people) and off we went.

Pulling out of the eddy at about 12:30 P.M. you could smell the earthy flood waters, but the creek wasn't that big...yet. The rapids went well and we were all having a ton of fun with our new situation. Our baggage raft was now not only loaded with full poop cans and about a ton of garbage, but now had Swiss, Kim, Greg, and Brian from CanX on it as well. The boat was living up to her name, *Marge the Barge*, and the crew on it took advantage of their mass to hit some big stuff. Woo-hoo! It was fun to watch.

We all tied up on the beach where the *Ginni Mac* was presently resting, and Jed motored our enormous flotilla of 59 people until sometime around 3:00 P.M., when we saw a jet boat. Off went all the clients and CanX guides and our beloved OARS crew member Billie Prosser (Billie was Trip Leading a trip that launched the following morning from the Ferry!) Those of us left aboard (Tony Wolkowinsky, Sarah and Matt Schrier, Judd Ballard, Jed Koller, Laura Fallon, and myself) waved as they left, then all looked at each other with the same, “What in the hell just happened?!” look. And then we collapsed in giggles. How lucky were we? We outran a flash flood, got to see all the Lower Granite Gorge, and with a nearly full moon coming on, we got to go out on the lake!

That evening we had some visitors in the form of Dave Spillman and Roger from Grand Canyon Expeditions who brought us a motor and gas that was meant for the CanX boats which were still at Diamond Creek—we hoped. They hung out for a bit and told us of intense flooding up on the rim and well-wishes from those in town who were worried about us. After Dave and Roger left, we floated a bit longer before tying up and collapsing in our beds to sleep like the dead. (Thanks Tony, for finding such a great rock to tie to!) By 5:00 A.M. we were motoring on only to break apart momentarily to run Pearce Rapid (for the record, Laura did not swim

the rapid—it was well below). Our fun little clique was broken apart at around 10:00 A.M. when we reached South Cove and our rig-trucks.

I do not consider myself a Grand Canyon boatman. I row boats in Idaho all summer and come down to Grand Canyon in the spring and fall to row a few trips. I do not know all that many people down here, but have been a boater for nearly ten years and am constantly amazed at how we all work together to help each other out. This trip was by far a highlight in that department. Grand Canyon boaters are wonderful people to work with, play with, and depend on.

The real world is full of mean, inconsiderate people and I am sure when I am up there I have been one of those people once or twice. On the river, people are helpful and kind, and it is so great to see. I told Judd, at the end of this trip, that it was my best trip in Grand Canyon and a big part of that was all the amazing examples of boatmen and women working together towards an end that was favorable for all involved. Thanks to all Grand Canyon Boaters! You guys rock!

*Sarah Kuhn*

## Announcing a New BQR Series— Tales From the Truck

THE ABOVE ARTICLE, *Tales From the Truck—Diamond Creek Chaos*, kicks off a new series in the BQR called *Tales From the Truck*. It is all those out-of-the norm, funny, or scary events that happen down in the big ditch. It’s the stories that boatmen talk about in the truck ride home or tell their fellow guide buddies about. It’s the flips, rips, wraps,

flash floods, rock falls, near misses, unusual happenings, etc. that create a great story when its all over. Really it can be anything you want it to be. It is up to you. But we thought it would be fun and entertaining to hear from you. Please tell us all your exciting tales down there...we know they happen.

# Your Celestial Friends

ON A CLEAR DESERT night, the celestial viewer is rewarded not only by the appearance of the stars, planets, and moon, but with a host of other heavenly bodies. Objects in our galaxy, the Milky Way, are the most obvious, but also visible are other, distant galaxies. We are often the lucky witnesses of a chance meteor streaking across the sky, or during a shower, several of them in impressive abundance. And as a rare gift, we are occasionally blessed by a comet's passage through our inner solar system. As casual observers, how well do we understand these phenomena and our relationship to them? Centuries of astronomical observations have provided us with answers, which today will be neatly abridged into a few short paragraphs.

The Milky Way is the galaxy we live in. Made up of billions of stars, it is the shape of a flat disc with spiraling arms and a central bulge, around which the entire galaxy rotates. We view our own galaxy from within, of course, and this edge-on view creates the nighttime spectacle of the Milky Way. Our solar system is positioned two-thirds from the galactic center, so that when looking toward the outer edge we see only one-sixth our galaxy's stars, and looking toward the center and beyond, the other five-sixths. This latter view of our galaxy aligns, by chance only, with the stars forming the constellation Sagittarius, and therefore the Milky Way appears brighter and denser in this area of the sky.

All the stars in the night sky are in our galaxy, though many are above and below the main band of the Milky Way. The stars closest to us appear the brightest and most distinct, rather than blurred together in a denser, more distant mass. But we also see objects outside our galaxy—they are entirely other galaxies. The most prominent of these in the northern hemisphere is in the constella-

tion Andromeda, at about 2.7 million light years away. Appearing merely as a faint blur, it is the most distant object visible without a telescope, though of course hundreds of millions of such galaxies exist in the universe.

Some celestial blurs are not distant galaxies, but relatively close nebulae or star clusters—or even, in a lucky lifetime, a comet. Nebulae are stationary clouds of coalesced dust and gas, while star clusters, such as the Pleiades, are large groups of individual stars, all related to each other by birth. But from whence the marvel of a comet? Comets are members of our solar system, though usually on highly elliptical and eccentric orbits

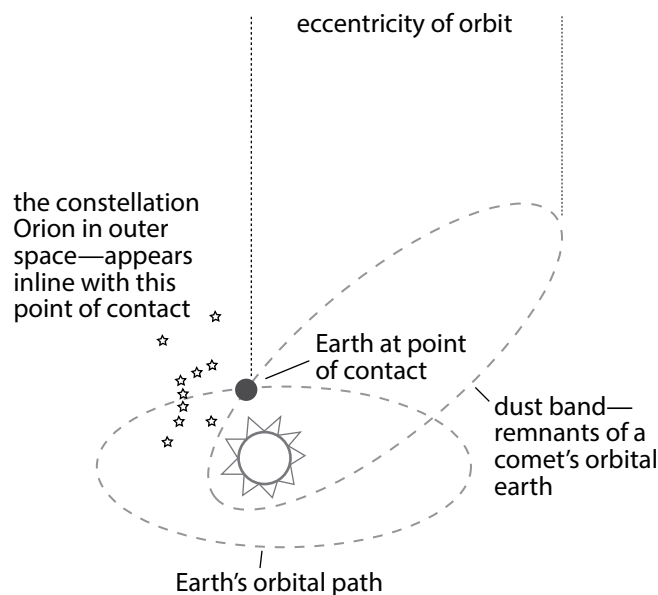
(see attached diagram).

These orbits occur at all inclinations to the plane of the ecliptic, and their outer boundaries trace an imaginary circle around our sun, called the "Oort cloud."

A comet is essentially a dirty snowball whose icy surface reflects the sun. We see a comet when it enters our inner solar system. Short period comets, whose orbits around the sun are less than 200 years, have spent lots of time near the sun and much of their ice has melted, resulting in less reflective and evaporative surfaces, and less brightness. Medium and long period comets are brighter but unpredictable, as their orbits can take millions of years. Most of a comet's luminosity is in its

tail, which appears in two parts: the ion tail, caused by evaporating gases, and the dust tail, made of dust freed by melting ice. Solar winds cause this tail to point away from the sun, regardless of the comet's direction of travel.

Long after it has passed, a comet's orbital path remains as a lingering band of dust. Usually, this band does not intersect with Earth's orbit, but sometimes it intersects at



The drawing above is not to scale by any means—Earth is shown entering a comet's remnant dust band, while moving in the direction of the constellation Orion. Orion is thus a backdrop for the resulting meteor shower. On a three dimensional scale, on different inclinations, these orbits need not intersect at all; in this diagram they are shown to intersect once. The comet's eccentricity, as shown above, is defined as its derivation from a true, circular orbit of the sun; its ellipse refers to the amount its circle is "flattened."

one or even two points. In the diagram, planet Earth is shown to be crossing one such band of dust, a band we would cross on the same day every year. As we move into this band, its dust is burned up by our atmosphere, which results in an annual meteor shower. During these events the meteors appear to radiate outward from a central point, which is established by Earth's direction of travel. Particles are deflected away from this point, to all sides, as Earth moves through them. The constellation aligned with this direction of travel gives the meteor shower its identity—in the case of our diagram, the Orionids.

When we have passed through this band of dust, the shower is over, its duration and quantity determined by the band's thickness. But we can see chance meteors any night of the year, as our planet encounters unsystematic bits of space dust. After midnight, when Earth is on the

front side of its rotation, we are likely to see many more of these meteors, as our spot on Earth is then moving toward them. Remarkable it is that a bright meteor is created by a particle only as big as a piece of sand, while large boulders appear as very bright fireballs streaming across the sky. We must consider ourselves fortunate to have the complement of meteor sightings on a clear, dark desert night spent beneath our stellar companions.

Our journey to know the heavens is a worthy one, indeed. In the next article we will seek to understand that most wondrous of nighttime spectacles—our moon.

*Teddy Anderson*

Teddy Anderson is a guide for AzRA/Discovery.

## The Race for Last Place



### REVIEW: GRAND CANYON ADVENTURE BOARD GAME

**G**RAND CANYON ASSOCIATION and Bronze Black, a local Flagstaff graphic artist and river guide, teamed up to put this awesome board game together. Thanks you guys!

Six of us got together for a dinner/game night and simply had a blast—imagine that! The object of the game is to start at one of the destination locations, rolling the dice and choosing to travel by trail or river, while trying

to stop at and collect cards from each one of the eight scenic destinations, all the while trying to be the first to make it back to your original point of origin. But there are hazards and obstacles to be negotiated, and bone-head moves to be made along the way, so it's not as easy as it sounds.

In picking your route you have many choices between river or trail routes and even a couple helicopter ride options (but they'll cost you)—which proved pivotal in our game. Along the way you pick

up gear and canyon cards which effect your direction, create consequences, and potentially get you out of trouble. We found that the more people playing the better. More action, scenarios, fun and competition. At the beginning you pick a character to play, such as a scorpion, big horn or snake. Our game's ultimate winner was the horny toad!

Toward the end of the journey it becomes pretty exciting. After the first and second place is determined you still want to continue, and complete your journey. So for us it became a "race for last place." Any game that has that going for it, you know is one not to miss.

Plan a couple hours to play by the rules...We have to admit, there were a few times when someone would yell, "Get Bronze on the phone" because either we didn't read all the directions or wanted to make up a few new rules of our own. But, with a bunch of river guides, that's to be expected. At any rate, it was a great excuse to get together with pals for some good food, drink and fun.

All of us gave this game a solid five stars and highly recommend it to you, your family, and friends. Christmas is just around the corner and it would make a great gift. Hey, we're not even getting any royalties!

Come on, turn off your tv this winter and experience an exciting adventure hiking, boating, and even flying in a helicopter through the Grand Canyon while in your own home.

*Scott Davis, Rachel Schmidt, Chris McIntosh (winner), Mary Williams (won race for last place), Sam and Tillie Walton*



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Suggested Retail Price: \$29.99  
GCA online special price: \$24.99  
[www.GrandCanyonGame.com](http://www.GrandCanyonGame.com)

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Pool at Havasu

© Tryntje Seymour 2007

## The Final One

Much like a tribe of semi-nomad people,  
Some band of mid-aged warriors in a common test,  
Each quick to lay a claim to windy campsite,  
Grouped as family for some days, at best.

The daybreak comes, with pump and conch and feasting,  
The blue tents fall—in an ecstasy of fumbling,  
The piles of poles and bags take shape against the sand,  
With weary warriors to the water stumbling.

Ten blue bags, and six of those, and heavy boxes now,  
More sacks, the food, the tables, and the stove,  
Haste—make haste!—to morning's destination rowing,  
Through the daybreak to some quiet saving cove.

The transformation thus complete—a final check,  
Our homes that ballast now for tiny ships,  
“Snap the carabiner here...not there!” and fasten down,  
For fear the oarsman in the torrent slips.

Prickly things and aches and minor cuts. The boatman  
Tries to act concerned, between his frequent sips,  
Then presses on with daily work, regaling us  
With tales of other long-forgotten river trips.

Near day's end, we gather close again as one,  
To talk and tell and drink and swear and lie,  
To speak of things we learned or should have learned,  
If time had just permitted, by and by.

Indeed, as life o'er takes us all, who would not pay  
A dearly sum...to pull up short and scout this journey's end?  
But river Life, alas,...it bears no sandy point  
For observation there—no saving bend.

No chance to see what lies beyond the rumble-roar,  
On faith alone we wander to the water's top,  
In hopes our entry, late, but well-positioned, will  
In some way unexplained protect us from a hellish drop.

One can only hope for time to read the currents,  
Scouting waters for each other when we can,  
And verve to face our fears with equal courage,  
As consequences so dire awaits aborted plan.

Vishnu, though, will little note not long remember,  
Whether we approach in darkness or in sun,  
Not how we strain to read the water's subtle eddies,  
As we're carried slowly forward to The Final Run.

The lizard with the reddish neck makes little note,  
Observing from his place upon the wall.  
The bighorn sheep cares even less, it seems...  
And Vishnu Schist...cares not at all.

*Charles Walker*

# Guides Getting Hitched!

**W**HO SAYS RIVER GUIDES CAN'T COMMIT? Fall 2007 was full of celebrations of love and marriage and every weekend river guides seemed to be getting married. Here are a few of the weddings we know about. Let us know if there were other ones we missed.

## MARIEKE TANNEY AND DAVID DILL

Marieke Taney and David Dill, both boatmen for Canyon Explorations and Canyon Expeditions, got married on Sunday, September 23RD in Water Holes Canyon, AZ. The reception was held at Marble Canyon, AZ.



## COURTNEY GIAQUE AND JOSH WINNICKI

Courtney Giaque (former usgs "fish girl") and Josh Winnicki (an Arizona River Runners boatman) got married on Saturday, October 6TH in Sedona AZ.



## KIRSTIN HEINS AND MATHIEU BROWN

Kirstin Heins and Mathieu Brown, both employees for Grand Canyon National Park, got married on Saturday, October 6TH on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.



## STEPH SMITH AND RICO ALDERETE

Steph Smith and Rico Alderete, a boatman for AZRA, got married on Sunday, September 2ND in Flagstaff, AZ.



## ANN-MARIE DALE AND ADAM BRINGHURST

Ann-Marie Dale and Adam Bringhurst, both boatmen for Grand Canyon Expeditions, got married on Saturday, October 13TH in Springdale, UT.



## JESSIE SWISSLER AND DUSTY FALLETINE

Jessie Swissler, a boatman for Canyon Explorations and Canyon Expeditions, and Dusty Fallantine, a boatman in Utah for Moki Mac, got married on Saturday, October 6TH in Steamboat Springs, CO.



## CARRIE COOPER AND KYLE GEORGE

Carrie Cooper and Kyle George, a boatman for Arizona River Runners, got married on November 11TH in Sedona, AZ.



# Tolio Update and MRSA Investigation

## WHAT'S UP WITH TOLIO?

**D**URING 1999 AND 2000, Dr. Walt Taylor, Dr. Tom Myers, and Family Nurse Practitioner Wyatt Woodard conducted a study on the unidentified skin disease called “Tolio” that affects both guides and passengers on river trips through the Grand Canyon. The following is what we learned from the 55 questionnaires that were submitted from trips during those years:

- 54% were men and 46% were women;
- The age range was 19 years to 65 years;
- The range for the onset day on trips was from day two to after the trip with a mode of day twelve marked on seven of the 55 questionnaires;
- The months that reported the highest incidence rates were July and August;
- 76% of the cases were on an oar trip and 24% were on a motorized trip;
- The most prevalent symptoms included redness, itching, pain and blisters; and
- One sample of “Tolio” was collected and cultured, which came up with nothing.

Our conclusion was that the skin eruptions are a reaction to cold and wetness, which may cause a skin condition known as chilblains. However, there are still many unanswered questions. We cannot definitely rule out an etiological agent without more samples, and a diagnosis is inconclusive, since only six out of the 55 saw a doctor. In addition to “Tolio” there is another more serious skin disease that has emerged in our community and may affect river trips called Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA).

## WHAT IS MRSA AND WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED?

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus is a type of bacterium that is resistant to many common antibiotics including penicillin, amoxicillin and oxacillin. The bacterium staph is commonly carried by 25 percent to 35 percent of the population; however, only one percent of those that carry staph carry MRSA. Staph infections, including MRSA, occur more frequently in hospitals and healthcare facilities, especially causing infections among those who are immunocompromised. However, in the past few years there has been a noted increase of MRSA infections in the community, several of which affected river guides.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, factors that are associated with the spread of MRSA include close skin-to-skin contact, openings in the skin such as cuts or abrasions, contaminated items and surfaces, crowded living conditions, and poor hygiene. Some of these conditions may be present on the river and

may increase the risk of contracting MRSA.

Therefore, during the 2008 investigation, we hope to collect as many samples as possible from skin eruptions to identify a causative agent, if a microbial agent in fact is present. The plan is that guides and/or passengers may visit one of the doctors from the investigation team—free of charge—to have their skin eruptions evaluated and sampled. The samples will be analyzed by Dr. Gerba’s Laboratory at the University of Arizona for bacterial and fungal agents.

## PROPOSED PLAN FOR 2008 INVESTIGATION

This investigation will be a collaboration including the University of Arizona, Coconino County Health, Dr. Walt Taylor, FNP Wyatt Woodard, Dr. Michael Flores, and Dr. Tom Myers. The plan is to pick up where the 1999 study left off and implement the following:

- Sample nasal passages of guides at the beginning of the season by one of the doctors from the investigation team;
- Have guides complete revised Confidential Report forms for all skin eruptions, swab eruption(s) and submit them to the Environmental Health Program at the County Health Department;
- Have guides make an appointment with one of the doctors from the investigation team immediately after a trip for a free evaluation of skin eruptions.

## PROPOSED OUTCOMES FOR 2008 INVESTIGATION

- Identify prevalence of Staphylococcus aureus of river operators;
- Identify prevalence of skin infections on river trips;
- Identify skin eruption (Tolio) etiological agent(s);
- Identify risk factors for Tolio and MRSA; and
- Identify proper treatment for Tolio as well as other skin abrasions on river trips.

By March 2008, we will have all details worked out for the investigation, and will share this information with the river community at the next Guides Training Seminar. To get a jump start on the investigation we invite anyone to share his/her “Tolio”, or other skin eruption experiences by contacting Marlene Gaither at [mgaither@coconino.az.gov](mailto:mgaither@coconino.az.gov).

We appreciate your help with this public health issue. Thank you.

*Dr. Walt Taylor*  
*Dr. Michael Flores*  
*Dr. Tom Myers*  
*FNP Wyatt Woodard*  
*Dr. Charles Gerba*  
*Marlene Gaither, EH PROGRAM MANAGER*

## Fall Rendezvous Success!

THE PLANETS MUST HAVE BEEN ALIGNED, and the moon was certainly full for the GCRG Fall Rendezvous. Approximately 50 (count 'em—50!) guides congregated for the tour of Glen Canyon Dam and the overnight on a Glen Canyon beach—certainly the largest Fall Rendezvous ever!

Over the past few years, GCRG has altered the primary focus of the fall meeting from a mini-GTs format to more of a community-building event with some learning thrown in for good measure. From the Lake Powell houseboat trip three years ago, to the South Rim experience last year, to this year's focus on Glen Canyon, we've brought together guides from different companies at the end of the season to decompress, share stories, learn new stuff, and of course, have a complete and utter blast.

We extend our apologies to those of you we turned away! In our wildest dreams we never thought the event would include more than thirty people but in short order we were on the phone scrambling to find out what the maximum

numbers might be for the tour and the float, and we did indeed max out. The dam tour was interesting even though it was strictly “party line” information. Nevertheless, it was fascinating to actually see all the things we've only heard about—the spillways, the giant generators buzzing with electrical energy, etc...

The Glen Canyon beach experience was awesome—warm, late afternoon sunlight, a huge beach which easily accommodated our mob, and wonder of wonders—a bathroom and fire grates. Such posh accommodations! What a major party on Friday night. All I can say is that those GCE boys really know how to boogie, and “Highway to Hell” seemed to be a theme song!

Amazingly enough, folks woke up sufficiently on Saturday morning to listen attentively and ask tons of questions of our top notch speakers: Andre Potochnik (dam issues), Ted Kennedy (aquatic food base), Andy Makinster (AZ Game & Fish monitoring), Paul Umhoefer (geology), Barb Ralston (terrestrial vegetation), and Kirstin Heins (CRMP). We extend our thanks to all of

these great speakers for sharing their knowledge of the resources upstream of Lees Ferry. It was positively sublime, for example, to learn why Navajo sandstone is red while lying on it, basking in the morning sun.

The event would not have been possible without the significant financial assistance from TEVA—we really appreciate their support! And of course, as with any event worth its salt, cooperation was the essential ingredient to pull it all together. Help in all shapes and forms was received from: GCRG board members, Grand Canyon Expeditions, Arizona Raft Adventures, Western River Expeditions, Colorado River Discovery, Glen Canyon Dam personnel, our speakers, Cork n' Bottle, and Toucanet Coffee. The event simply would not have been

possible without the considerable efforts of all of you!

As we slowly floated downriver to Lees Ferry, I noted that a comment from this year's ballots had indicated that GCRG should have a larger Fall Rendezvous. At the time I read it, I thought, “Well, we would if you would come!”

But come, you did. Kenton Grua realized early on that getting this river community together and minimizing divisiveness was imperative, and he knew it was often as simple as getting guides together for a really great party. He also felt that if you could achieve that cohesiveness, then you could do great things. That's why Grand

Canyon River Guides exists almost twenty years later as we continue to celebrate the unique spirit of our community through events like our Fall Rendezvous. Thanks to all of you for joining us and making it so very special. True success comes from the guides themselves.

Lynn Hamilton



## OTE DALE

**M**Y MOTHER'S NAME FOR ME IS SUE. I was born in Salt Lake City, in a hospital. I was raised in West Jordan, Utah. My father and mother were dirt farmers, meaning we grew crops. And that's probably where I got most of my energy that people accuse me of having, is from my father, getting up very early in the morning, and helping him change the water... [We grew] peas and corn and tomatoes and alfalfa—lots of alfalfa. Dry farming—wheat and rye. There were probably a few others.

My older brother is four years older—Dennis. He was the truck person at Kennicott Copper, ran all the trucks, made sure they didn't bump into each other. My sister, two years older, DeeAnn, she's a realtor in Salt Lake City—very wealthy. My younger brother, Kelly, was the farmer, ended up farming with my father, 'til my father died. Myself, I ended up in college for a couple of years before I ran the river... trying to figure out what to be, trying to work on my personal legend, which I couldn't find in college. So I started skiing and hiking, backpacking, ended up spending two summers in the Canadian Rockies, and then ended up on the river...do you know Pete Gibbs? Pete Gibbs was the guy that made the Gibbs Ascender and sold it to the government and made a kajillion dollars. He worked for Grand Canyon Expeditions as a guide. He asked me and Bego [George Gerhardt], who I was with at the time, to go on a river trip. I think the year was 1972. The reason I can date that is because I met Regan [Dale] that spring—March of 1972—at that little camp across from Deer Creek, and Regan said that was his second year, and he started in '71.

Pete Gibbs asked Bego to climb the Grapevine Wall, and Bego asked if I could come along. Pete told me I could go if I cooked for 'em. That very first night, I was cookin' spaghetti down in the sand, stirrin', and the wind was blowin'. Every time I would open the lid, sand would go in. I served the spaghetti that night, and I was fired! I didn't have to cook the rest of the trip!

You run Grapevine Rapid, and right below is that big dike on the right—huge Zoroaster dike. I spent two nights, three days, in the rocks, watching those guys climb it. It was mostly a bolting thing. Did I want to do it? No. Looked horrendous. March, '72...it was just the four of us: myself, Pete Gibbs, Bego, and one other guy. Just so they could climb that wall. It was one little ten-man raft. Remember the ten-man rafts? I learned how to row on that trip.

**Steiger:** The whole trip was one little ten-man raft?

**Dale:** Yes.

**Steiger:** One-boat trip, ten-man raft?

**Dale:** Yes.

**Steiger:** In March of 1972.

**Dale:** Uh-huh.

**Steiger:** So how many other people did you see on that trip?

**Dale:** Well, we ran into that GCE trip down at Deer Creek...and I think that was the only trip we ran into. That was early—that was an early trip for a commercial trip.

**Steiger:** What was the water?

**Dale:** I don't know, I can't remember.

**Steiger:** It must have been low.

**Dale:** Let's see, seventies. What was the water runnin' in the seventies? Up and down, right? Big huge fluctuations. Yeah, that's what it was doin', big huge fluctuations.

**Steiger:** Thirty to three [30,000 CFS to 3,000 CFS]?

**Dale:** Yeah. Occasionally at Grapevine the boat would be floating, and then the boat would be up on the rocks.

**Steiger:** So there were four of you, a ten-man raft, and you did this river trip just so those guys could climb the Grapevine Wall?

**Dale:** And I got to see the Grand Canyon for the first time...I think we did twelve days, counting the three days that we were there. So it was (indicates swift rush) through the canyon. There was no hiking.

I never remember being scared at anything. I don't even remember getting wet. It was cold. We didn't have all that Patagonia gear yet. I remember being so blown away by the Grand Canyon, being so amazed that Pete Gibbs did it for a living, that he guided people through that canyon. And in my mind I said, "This is what I want to do," and I quit college.

**Steiger:** What had you been studying?

**Dale:** Philosophy, education, party—serious party.

**Steiger:** Oh, yeah! 1972.

**Dale:** I was the party queen! I remember putting a big Agnew face on the clock. We were demonstrating against Nixon and that whole thing, and the Vietnam War.

**Steiger:** But growing up on a farm, your folks must have been pretty conservative?

**Dale:** My folks were very conservative. I was raised a Mormon, and at sixteen I decided I wasn't going to be a Mormon, but I didn't tell my parents that. But I did know that I was not going to be that. They just didn't answer the geological questions. They didn't answer the dinosaurs. I was like, "Something's not right here." Went to college, took philosophy, read Bertrand Russell, Nietzsche, all those guys, and completely became—I think I was an atheist. Now I'm a pagan.

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*This interview was a rush job that took place in Ote's kitchen in the fall of 2004. She was driving a trip up to Lees Ferry that afternoon in the big company truck she'd wall-papered with black and white portraits she took of twenty or thirty people working for OARS and Dories those days. That truck's gone now and I don't remember ever hearing any conversation at all about the pictures in there, but it was quite a cast of characters looking down on you in that cab and I remember being immensely proud that my picture was in there too for awhile...no big deal, just one of Ote's little touches that made it feel like family while coming or going to the river. Definitely a girl thing to do...(you wouldn't have seen Jimbo, who drove that truck earlier, putting up pictures in there.)*

*Ote is a gal who came to the river, got sucked in like all of us, then gave it up for the sake of family. Miraculously, she got it back in the end. —Lew Steiger*

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**Steiger:** So you were studying geology in high school? That started you questioning your religion?

**Dale:** Somewhere I went to a museum and saw dinosaurs. I went, "Dinosaurs! Wow, they lived how many years ago, and what are they trying to tell me in this religion?" So it just didn't work for me. Plus, when I went to college, I was drinkin'. Now, you can't drink and be a Mormon.

**Steiger:** I guess not. I guess you're goin' to hell for sure if you do that.

**Dale:** Yeah. So my parents did not know—no. I tried to keep them in the dark about my wicked ways, but they finally figured it out. And they didn't pay for my college after they figured it out. So I had to figure out what I was going to do to support myself. College wasn't it.

I was with Bego at the time, so we moved to Moab, and we got a job with Grand Canyon Expeditions and Canyonlands—ran triple-rigs and sport-yak trips up on Desolation. We both wanted to be river runners. Bingo! Just like that. "This is what we're gonna do." And we did it. That summer we went to work for Ron Smith and Canyonlands... Well, Ron Smith didn't hire me—he never hired me. I worked for A.C. Ecker. I packed food and drove trucks and painted boats and swamped. Whenever I did a trip, it was swamping, except for in Desolation Canyon, where they hired me as a guide to take people through in those little sport-yaks. And that was probably the funnest year of guiding, because every single person has a boat, and you get to teach 'em how to row, how to right 'em, how to swim, all that. So much fun. I worked with a guy—what was his name?—Anderson! Naho Docketts, and Bego.

That's how we got our names, the three of us...Naho is O.C. Dale's sister, Debra Dale. N-A-H-O. We were on a trip together in Desolation Canyon with a bunch of people, and I read 'em the Navajo creation story, and in it there's Begochiti, Naho Docketts, and Coyote. At the end of the story, the people decided that I was Coyote, the trickster; Bego—George Gerhardt—was Bego—Begochiti; and Debra Dale was gonna be Naho Docketts. And by the end of the trip, they'd shortened our names to Ote, Bego, and Naho, and those names stuck. From then on, that's who we were. And that's who we are now. He's still Bego and she's still Naho and I'm still Ote.

I remember wanting to live in the Grand Canyon. That was all I wanted to do. And so that winter we did a trip with the Factor—Kenton Grua—and we had two boats this time, and there were four of us: myself and Bego, and Foxy—remember Foxy?—and Kenton. We went through the Grand Canyon at Christmastime, spent Christmas at Elves Chasm, and New Year's Eve at Lava Falls.

**Steiger:** That's the winter of '72-'73?

**Dale:** Yeah.

**Steiger:** And those guys were all workin' for GCE?

**Dale:** Uh-huh, that's how we knew each other. We'd met each other either in Canyonlands or in the Grand Canyon. That next summer, I swamped, I think it was eleven trips for Grand Canyon Expeditions, and learned how to run a motor-rig—wanted my own motor-rig... I liked it. But to tell you the truth, the day that I saw those little wooden boats, those dory boats—and this was probably in '74 that I saw Regan Dale on the river in a dory. He asked me if I wanted to hop on his boat and take it through, and I said, "You bet I do!" He let me run 60-Mile in a dory, and oh my God! I will never forget it. It was like this is what I have to do.

My first trip through the Grand Canyon, rowing my own boat—I have to put this down, because that was probably the turning point for me. We were working in Canyonlands and all the boatmen at Canyonlands decided to do a Grand trip that first fall that I'd worked in Green River. There were eight guys and myself. That shows you how lopsided it was. But I had my own boat, I rowed my own boat through the Grand Canyon... You know, I can't remember where I got the boat. That's the funny part. Had we already bought *McFec* [*Merry Christmas from Elves Chasm*], our little ten-man? We might have already bought it from Ron Smith. He was selling those old ten-mans. So anyway, I think that's what it was. Bego had his own boat, and I had my own boat, and the other guys were sharing boats—the other eight. So I ran the whole Grand Canyon by myself.

**Steiger:** So that must have been a discussion between you and Bego. Did you say, "Hey, I'm takin' my own boat"?

**Dale:** Oh, yeah! And Bego was all behind that anyway. He wasn't the kind of guy that was like, "No, you can't row," like a lot of guys back then. He would say, "Yeah! you can do this, Ote." He was always pushing me to hike, and lead trips hiking, and just do all that stuff. He liked that about me.

So anyway, the only place I had trouble was Lava Falls. I tipped over in Lava Falls...Uh-huh, went for the big swim. And I'm talkin' the Big Swim. That was the first time in my heart I felt the power of the river, because it takes you to the bottom.

**Steiger:** How'd that day go?

**Dale:** It was good, except for I really wanted somebody to hike up and run through with me, and they weren't into it—the guys weren't into it.

**Steiger:** So did you run in groups? Did you look at it? Did anybody know what to do?

**Dale:** We all looked at it, we all knew we had to run right. That was the run that everybody did. There was no slot run yet. The dories hadn't...It was probably high. But I just remember bein' at the bottom of the river, all the way through that rapid.

**Steiger:** So you rode through with somebody, and then had to hike back up and go alone?

**Dale:** Yeah.

**Steiger:** And what were those other guys doin'?

**Dale:** I don't know. I remember being kind of mad about that, that nobody would go through with me. That was the only time on that trip I remember thinkin', "Well, those...ding-dongs!" or whatever. Why didn't they want to ride with me?! And then I remember it being kind of a problem getting my boat back right side up... I think it went through Lower Lava. But that's the first time I was scared for my life.

**Steiger:** Where'd you flip at?

**Dale:** "V-Wave." As I remember, it seemed to me like it was end-for-end, like it just went "ka-poo!" backwards, because I was in the river a long time. It like sent me back, and I had to go through it again, kind of deal. Like it stopped, flipped, and then I was at the bottom.

**Steiger:** What kind of life jacket did you have?

**Dale:** Oh, those Mae Wests. They're good floaters.

**Steiger:** So...eight to one. Yeah, I don't remember very many women boatmen along about then. So that was '74?

**Dale:** I'd say it was '74 that I rowed the canyon... There were three of us in Canyonlands, though—three of us women—which was kind of unusual. There was myself, Naho, and a gal named Penny, who showed up.

**Steiger:** Did you guys have a hard time gettin' along with everybody, or how was that?

**Dale:** Well, for the most part— it was like A.C. Ecker would say, "Ah, women can't row the river." And Ron would say that women can't row the river. And

Art Gallenson, I remember him kinda sayin' women... It wasn't like they were really strong against it, it was just like, it was a man's world. And that's not what my daddy told me, 'cause I drove his tractors and did all the stuff that the boys did.

**Steiger:** From what age?

**Dale:** Oh, really young. I was drivin' tractors before you could drive a car, like eleven or twelve—little kid.

**Steiger:** "Sue, get on there! Get goin', we need to plow this field!"

**Dale:** I remember drivin' his hay truck, barely bein' able to reach the clutch and see over the steering wheel at the same time. Oh! that's great! My dad? I loved my dad. I remember getting up to change water with him, or to ride on the school bus—he was the school bus driver in the winter. I remember sitting out waiting for him. He would tell me, "You can come with me if you're up." And I would get up just so I could ride the whole way.

**Steiger:** I guess there was only one school, though, huh?

**Dale:** Yeah, the elementary and a junior high were all together, until I was in the sixth grade, and then they built a junior high. I went to Bingham High School. Bingham was up by the copper mine—the Bingham High School Miners.

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That hundred-day trip [in winter 1975] was probably—it was like the icing on the cake for me. I got to live in the Grand Canyon. It wasn't about a relationship, it wasn't about anything except hiking in the Grand Canyon. And my friend, Roberta Dale, her and I, we had so much fun together. We hiked everywhere. We were really good friends. It was O.C. and Nels [Niemi], and his girlfriend for a short period of time, Sharon. Oh, nope, not Roberta Dale—erase that. It's Roberta Motter [now], and her name was Peeden at the time.

Well, Bego and I decided to do it, and Nels decided he wanted to come, and O.C. decided he wanted to come. Nels brought this gal, Sharon, who could only be on the trip for a short period of time, and she hiked out. Roberta had been on the river with us that summer as a passenger, and she had really hooked up with O.C., and so he invited her. And she was just a city gal. And I hiked her everywhere. We hiked together. She was just learnin' how to do all that stuff. You should talk to her about that. It was so much fun. That's funny, too, because I look back on it, and I might have hiked with Bego a couple of times, maybe, or all of us a couple of times, but for the most part, we were all on our own little trip. Like Nels was the baker and the camp maker. He set up our camps and made bread. Oh! it was so good! Bego was the librarian. He had the library and he



was the reader, and he would go off hiking pretty much by himself a lot. And Roberta and I would go hiking. I don't remember, what did O.C. do? He probably sat in camp and read, too.

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I have to give credit to somebody here. I have to give credit to Claire Quist, because Claire Quist was the first man to give me a job, a real job—paying—in the Grand Canyon. To this day, he and I always talk about that fact, that I was the first woman to work for him, and that he gave me my first job.

**Steiger:** How'd that transpire?

**Dale:** I was at Lees Ferry—that's where I was living—and I was lookin' for work. I didn't care if it was paid or nonpaid. And Moki [Mac]—Claire—needed a boatman, 'cause one of his boatmen didn't show up, and they were launching that day. I kept sayin', "I'll do it, I'll row for you!" "(mutter) I don't think a girl can [unclear]." And it was the other guys that talked him into it.

**Steiger:** Who were the other guys?

**Dale:** Oh! I've got to remember this. This is bad. Mark and... Turn it off for a second.

**Steiger:** Ah, we'll just let it run—tape's cheap.

**Dale:** C'mon, help me with this. Beth—what's her husband's name?

**Steiger:** Oh, yeah. Beth—she kinda had red hair, kind of short?

**Dale:** Yeah. It's been so long since I've seen these guys. It's not fair for me not to remember their names, 'cause they were so good to me.

**Steiger:** Okay, well, we'll just put it in later.

**Dale:** And there was Moldy. Remember Moldy?

**Steiger:** Dave Moulten.

**Dale:** Oh! he was my good buddy.

**Steiger:** He was one of the boatmen on that trip?

**Dale:** He was the mechanic. He wasn't a boatman... No, he wasn't on that trip. But Mark and... Oh, gosh, if I could just remember. And Claire... Let's see, I want to say '75. But oh, that trip was so much fun. We got to Hance Rapids, and the water was low, because they were runnin' left, and I was goin', "I'm not goin' over there! It's bony!" I remember Claire being really kinda mad at me that day.

**Steiger:** 'Cause you went right to left?

**Dale:** I did. I went over and did the run that I knew to do in that water level.

**Steiger:** That's just from motorin'?

**Dale:** Uh-huh. And a couple of the guys went with me and did it, too, and Claire did his usual down the shoreline on the left side. I remember him being kind of mad at me that day. He was kinda mad at me for the rest of the trip, until I had a terrible run in Lava Falls.

We ran left in Lava, and I went right over that steep...

**Steiger:** The domer?

**Dale:** Yeah, and just—oh, it was horrible. Oars popped out and stuff. And I don't remember the oars there, either. Were they live oars, or were they pinned still?

**Steiger:** I don't know. Was it ten-mans back then? That must have been what they had, huh?

**Dale:** Yeah. I think they still had the rubber bumpers. Oh, they were so funky! Sorry, Claire. (laughs) ... So, that was that. I did three trips for Claire.

**Steiger:** Oh, yeah? He hired you again right after that, so he must have liked you a little?

**Dale:** Yeah. It was good. And then I went to work for the Dories.

**Steiger:** Well, just rememberin' workin' for Claire, what sticks out as being the best part of all that—aside from gettin' the job to begin with?

**Dale:** It was camaraderie, and the guys accepting me as a competent boatman, and even asking me about runs. Because I think at that time I'd probably done as many row trips privately, as any of those guys had done commercially.

**Steiger:** So you were goin'... after the first trip in '72, so you were doing one or two training trips a year, no matter what?

**Dale:** Oh, yeah.

**Steiger:** And you were always rowin' your own boat?

**Dale:** Always rowin'.

**Steiger:** So on the hundred-day trip, you rowed a boat?

**Dale:** Oh, yes, I had my own boat. (laughs)

**Steiger:** Probably better for the relationship and everything, huh?

**Dale:** Well the best trip that I ever did was with Regan Dale. We did a forty-day trip, him and I, in two Selways—those little, tiny, bitty-bitty boats. That was the best trip, by far. We had to test each other out. We had to make sure we could live with each other.

**Steiger:** How'd that transpire? You were workin' for the Dories, but then you and Bego split up soon after that?

**Dale:** We split up... it just didn't work. We split up, anyway. It was about six months after that, that Regan and I got together. So that would have been in '77.

**Steiger:** So right away you guys got together and then did that trip?

**Dale:** Yeah, it was that spring.

**Steiger:** Were you workin' for the Dories?

**Dale:** I was cooking. I cooked for them that summer.

**Steiger:** Rowin' the raft?

**Dale:** Rowin' the raft—as often as they'd let me, not always. Sometimes I just cooked. I think I must have done three or four trips that first year with the Dories, as a cook. I changed that, too—I changed that system—



Alissa Dale



Ote's boat, "Dark Canyon"



Deer Creek



Running Kwagunt, 1984



Alissa and Duffy Dale



In the redwall



Exploring a secret, undisclosed location

'cause they were having all those canned foods, those beef cubes and raviolis. It was Donna Catotti and I that kind of figured out a better way to feed people on the river, instead of the canned food. I would make bread sticks. It was fun.

**Steiger:** That was pretty unique, too. I mean, I wonder what we should say about just bein' a dory cook in the glory days.

**Dale:** Oh, it was a great thing! You know, that's why I think some people are kinda mad because we don't have cooks anymore. But back when those ladies were cookin', they were cookin'. They were cookin' good food, and they were figuring good meals out, and they loved to cook.

**Steiger:** So cookin' back then meant makin' stuff from scratch?

**Dale:** Uh-huh.

**Steiger:** In the early days, there were no coolers, right?

**Dale:** No!

**Steiger:** How did that work?

**Dale:** Well, the first three meals of the Dories were fresh meat. And after that, any meat product was in a can or dried.

**Steiger:** Comin' from the bottom of the dories.

**Dale:** Uh-huh. And we had cheese, we had eggs, which of course now go in our coolers. But back then, it was a rocket box of cheese, and powdered eggs or eggs.

**Steiger:** And you just kept 'em...

**Dale:** Down in the dories. All the produce was down in the dories.

**Steiger:** What was on the raft? I mean, for a while there wasn't even a raft...

**Dale:** No. And we had that huge firebox. Do you remember that? That huge firebox.

**Steiger:** Well, I don't remember the dory one, but I remember when we all had to have fire pans. So the cook was cookin' on wood?

**Dale:** Oh, yeah. My first few trips, I cooked on the fire pan.

**Steiger:** And that went in the dory too?

**Dale:** I think that firebox actually went on the raft. That was a nasty thing.

**Steiger:** So that was about the time you got the raft, was when you had to have the fire pan and carry the human waste out?

**Dale:** Yeah.

**Steiger:** So that was went on the raft.

**Dale:** Yeah. My first few trips, though, we were still diggin' holes. With Grand Canyon Expeditions, we were still diggin' holes.

**Steiger:** "Here's a shovel, here's a roll of toilet paper. There you go."

**Dale:** Yeah. And the Dories, I remember having to abandon a camp, the upper one at Nankoweap, at

the Little Nankoweap. We had to abandon that camp because of a toilet paper fire. Somebody had gone off and burned their toilet paper and set the mesquite on fire—the grass.

**Steiger:** That could have been a pretty good fire!

**Dale:** Uh-huh. Gosh, when was it?

**Steiger:** Abandon camp? You mean, you were able to pack all the stuff up and run?

**Dale:** Yeah. Well, we didn't have a lot then. We didn't have tables.

**Steiger:** No tables?

**Dale:** We didn't have tables.

**Steiger:** How are you gonna put it in a dory? Not even a roll-up?

**Dale:** No. In fact, Wally Rist, I remember him, when we got the first roll-up table, he was so bummed.

**Steiger:** Beginning of the end.

**Dale:** Yeah. I remember that. "We're gonna take a table?!" And now we have chairs.

**Steiger:** Which aren't so bad!

**Dale:** No. It's funny, the evolution of that whole river-running thing is fine with me. I know there are people who are very upset about it, but it's fine with me.

**Steiger:** Well, I think it's a function of age...our age.

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**Steiger:** We ought to just do a little capsule of your career. Let's just run through...You started the first trip in '72?

**Dale:** Yeah, March.

**Steiger:** Climbed the wall at Grapevine, but you didn't climb it. The next year you worked for GCE.

**Dale:** Uh-huh, Canyonlands. I was living in Moab, Utah.

**Steiger:** What was the pay, do you even remember?

**Dale:** If I were paid, if they were paying me?

**Steiger:** Yeah.

**Dale:** Because I didn't always get paid...I don't know. I remember getting paid \$250 to cook.

**Steiger:** For a dory trip?

**Dale:** Yeah, I remember that pay, 250 bucks.

**Steiger:** For an eighteen-day trip?

**Dale:** Uh-huh.

**Steiger:** But it went a lot further then.

**Dale:** What was the boatman's pay back then? Forty bucks a day? Thirty-five? If even that.

**Steiger:** Yeah, probably. Seems like that was about rowin' pay. I remember swampin' for Fred [Burke—founder of Arizona River Runners], I got ten bucks a day to be a swamper. Then the next year, I did pretty good, so they raised it to twenty.

**Dale:** I think that the dory boatmen were gettin' like \$450.

**Steiger:** Per trip.

**Dale:** I think that's what it was, because I was thinkin' that the cooks were paid pretty good. It didn't matter. Don't you remember those guys, they would come into that warehouse in Hurricane and spend a week dialin' their boat in for nothin', and never complain...Okay, so we'd better go on here. We're gonna go around the thing again.

**Steiger:** '72, '73, you're workin' for GCE.

**Dale:** Yeah. It was that October that I rowed my first boat through the Grand Canyon.

**Steiger:** '74, same story, and that winter you did the hundred-day trip.

**Dale:** Uh-huh.

**Steiger:** And then Bego got fired, and what happened? You guys both started workin' for Dories the next year?

**Dale:** Nope, we went to Lees Ferry and worked for Fort Lee. That's the year I worked for Moki, and I restored those buildings down there with Tom Workman, with those Navajo guys that called me Swoozie...It was so much fun. And we built the ramp. That was the year they redid the ramp, made it bigger.

**Steiger:** Okay, '76, Dories?

**Dale:** Dories. It was that spring that Regan and I did that forty-day trip. That was the best trip.

**Steiger:** Spring, two people, two Selways.

**Dale:** It rained on that forty day trip, twenty days. That was February, March... We hiked out at Lava Falls, went to a meeting on the South Rim, came back in, brought Regan's three brothers: Tim, Roger, and Peter. I loved those boys. They were fourteen, sixteen, and seventeen.

**Steiger:** Oh, my God.

**Dale:** The Dales. That was their first experience. Might have been Roger's second. Anyway, so then, let's see '76 and '77 and '78, I worked for the Dories, begging to row them.

**Steiger:** Rowing a raft every now and again. Or no, maybe they didn't even have a raft yet—or did they?

**Dale:** No, they did, I rowed a raft. They had a raft by then.

**Steiger:** So then, somewhere around in there, you got pregnant.

**Dale:** Yes, I did, and that was kind of a miracle. You know what? I talk about working on personal legends—mine is pretty complete. When that happened to me—and it did happen to me—I wasn't sure that that's what I wanted. But I'll tell you what, I am so glad that happened to me, because now I have two best friends—my two kids. But Duffy was a miracle. I wasn't supposed to get pregnant—I shouldn't have, because I'd had a really serious infection. Then when I did get pregnant, and I went and told Regan, he was so cute that day. I walked into *Gertie*, that red truck of his, I told

him, "Regan, I have some news. I don't know if you'll like it. I'm pregnant." He goes, "Well, we'll get married in October, and we'll name the baby Duffy."

**Steiger:** Did you know that was gonna be his reaction?

**Dale:** No! And he knew how bad I wanted to row a dory—he knew. But that was that. And really and truly, Lew, there is no way I could have had an abortion. I just don't believe in 'em myself, personally. And that was a miracle that happened to me. It changed my life, it made me into a better person.

**Steiger:** So you had been hell bent on becoming a dory boatman. Did you ever get to row one before?

**Dale:** I rowed 'em as often as they'd let me.

**Steiger:** But you didn't get your own?

**Dale:** Uh-uh.

**Steiger:** So once you had Duffy, you were raising him, and then Alissa. And that kind of put the damper on the river career?

**Dale:** I tried to go downriver after that, and it did not work. I missed them. I just was miserable. That wasn't right. So I just put that on hold. (ffft!) In fact, I gave it up. I actually gave it up. It's just like often happens to people when you give something up, you finally go, "Ah, I'm not gonna get this." And then lo and behold, you get it. And I did. It was in '85, '86—when did the company sell?

**Steiger:** '87.

**Dale:** In 1988, Mike Walker, the manager of OARS and Grand Canyon Dories at the time, asked me if I'd rowed a dory. I went, "No." He goes, "Well, do you want to?" I went, "Huh?!" It was like, "Oh, my God!"... He was a good guy. He believed in women. And look who was rowing then... Oh, I should say this about Ellen [Tibbetts]. That year that I was pregnant with Duffy, that summer that I birthed him, March, she rowed her first dory.

**Steiger:** And she was the first woman that rowed a dory for the company?

**Dale:** Yes, she was.

**Steiger:** There really was kind of a barrier there, wasn't there?

**Dale:** There were a bunch of women by then in the canyon.

**Steiger:** Who kind of broke out by the early eighties...

**Dale:** Yeah, the AZRA gals.

**Steiger:** But those late seventies...

**Dale:** That was when it was happening.

**Steiger:** We didn't want our cover blown yet. (laughter) Don't you think? I mean, that's kind of the way it seems like to me, 'cause I remember watchin' that same thing happen with Connie Tibbetts. She was out there fixin' motors and doin' all this shit, flyin' her plane.



1975

2007



Ote and Regan's wedding  
at Toroweap, 1978



Duffy and Ote



Ote and Regan at Duffy and Kirsten's wedding at Toroweap, 2006



Dories crew, 2007—  
Kirsten, Duffy, Ote and, Alissa Dale

**Dale:** Flying airplanes, jumping off cliffs.

**Steiger:** Yeah, but it was like, “We’re not gonna let her run down the river.” But she was just hell bent, and so finally Fred had to give in. I guess that was kind of the way it was at the Dories, too. So Mike Walker gave you a dory?

**Dale:** Yeah.

**Steiger:** How’d that feel?

**Dale:** Oh, it was so good. It was so good.

**Steiger:** Did you get to go with Regan?

**Dale:** Nope, Moqui [Mark Johnson]. “King of the World”...Oh, that was a good trip. I had a golden trip. Beginner’s luck.

**Steiger:** So in the interim, you’d had Duffy and Alissa, and I guess by then Duffy was about...they must have been just old enough to where you could go?

**Dale:** Well, the thing was, then when I did start going, Regan stayed home.

**Steiger:** So there was always somebody home.

**Dale:** He would stay with the kids. He and I did one trip in 1984, in the high water, ’cause he let me row his boat. That was really the first year I rowed the canyon in a dory. I was cooking, but he let me row. We had a spot. He let me row his boat the whole time.

**Steiger:** Through Crystal?

**Dale:** Uh-huh. I rowed the canyon. And it was high water, it was 40,000 [CFS]. And that was fun, it was good, I had good runs, except I hit the wall in...I hit Spectre, the rock above Spectre, and I hit the wall in the Narrows.

**Steiger:** What was Crystal like at 40,000?

**Dale:** We just ran it way right—as far right as we could, empty, with guides.

**Steiger:** So you could get there.

**Dale:** Yeah. I was a lot more afraid by this time, of the river, because I was a mother.

**Steiger:** That makes you a little more conservative?

**Dale:** Yeah.

**Steiger:** Got responsibilities.

**Dale:** Yeah. It wasn’t until I started rowing after Regan became the manager, that I got my—what do I want to say?—my confidence back, to where I felt good again—good to go. I remember that first trip with Moqui, I was so nervous. I didn’t show it, but I was nervous. I’m not as nervous as I used to be—neither are you!

**Steiger:** Yeah, but let’s don’t get into that. (laughter)

**Dale:** I’ll tell you what’s the best for me now, is I go boating with my family now. I mean, I sacrificed all those years to have those two children, but now I go boating with ’em, and it is the coolest, to have my son rowing and watching after me; to have my daughter rowing and watching after me. It’s unbelievable.

**Steiger:** Yeah, and they kinda do, too, don’t they?

**Dale:** They totally do. You know, I thought it would

be the other way around. And it was, when they were in their teens, but not anymore. They are so competent.

**Steiger:** They kinda watch after everybody really, not just you.

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**Steiger:** Okay, so you punched back in there about the time those guys got old enough to be more self sufficient, and you’ve been runnin’ more or less close to full seasons for the last, what, three or four years?

**Dale:** Let’s see, when was the science—’94?

**Steiger:** Somethin’ like that, yeah.

**Dale:** When the science ended [OARS contract for logistics], I started doin’ four to five to six trips, so it was ’95.

**Steiger:** So basically nine or ten years you’ve been doin’ it steady. And how old are you now?

**Dale:** I’m 56. I still see people on the river, though, and they still say to me, “Oh, Ote, it’s so good to see you in the canyon.” And I like go, “Hm.”

**Steiger:** “I’ve been here all along!”

**Dale:** I’ve been here all along!

**Steiger:** When you think of the guiding thing, I mean, the young guys can’t wait for us to wear out. But here you are, you’ve been doin’ it steady from 46 years old to 56?

**Dale:** Yeah.

**Steiger:** That’s pretty good.

**Dale:** I like to say I started my Grand Canyon career when I turned forty.

\*\*\*

**Steiger:** We’d better have a good river story, here.

**Dale:** Regan’s and my flip in Hermit is one of my favorites.

**Steiger:** Okay. So tell me a little bit more about that. This is your forty day trip, it’s the middle of March, it’s been raining like hell...

**Dale:** It was midday, probably around noon, and we had run Granite. We’d looked at it, and then we’d run it, and it was just trashy. You know how Granite is, anyway.

**Steiger:** This is teens water?

**Dale:** Yeah. It just trashed us in our little teeny Selways. And Regan and I got to the bottom, we made it...

**Steiger:** Could you sneak it in those little boats?

**Dale:** No! We had to go right there. And I remember we were rowin’ down to Hermit, Regan goes, “Do you want to look at Hermit?” I go, “No way!” So we went out there, and I watched him...I watched him go in, and I watched his boat go end for end. I remember standing up in my Selway—standing, ’cause I used to



do this a lot—and just throwin’ my oars forward as I went into the fifth wave. I remember just coming right back over (laughs) upside down. So there we were, both of us, upside down, and I was laughing. I remember laughing, it was so funny. We had wetsuits, both of us, ’cause it was March. So I wasn’t cold, and I was just laughing. And the river was muddy, muddy, ’cause it had been raining and raining and raining, that whole trip. It was beautiful. No footsteps anywhere—not even at Phantom. I remember getting my oar and paddling down to him, I was still laughing.

**Steiger:** So you got up on the bottom of your boat. This is like a twelve-foot boat?

**Dale:** Yeah. Little teeny things. They had the inserts, so they were kinda like rubber dories...It’s a really cool boat, got little hatches and everything. So anyway, I remember paddling down to him and gettin’ down there and getting on his boat and throwin’ a line and rightin’ it, and then swimmin’ over to my boat and gettin’ on it and rightin’ it.

**Steiger:** Was he laughing too?

**Dale:** Yeah. Oh! it was hilarious! We were so in love, oh my gosh. Not that we aren’t still in love, but oh, it was really exciting. We had this tent we called the Pleasure Dome. And it was raining. The whole time it was raining.

**Steiger:** That’s a pretty good test, if you can go through forty days, just the two of you, and you still called it the Pleasure Dome, instead of the Dome from Hell. (laughs)

**Dale:** You know, it was back when he was like so—he was into his Top Con camera and photography. I remember at President Harding we were camped up on a sand dune, I remember him getting up in the morning and sticking his head out and looking at the light. And I remember him jumping up, grabbing his camera, butt ass naked, haulin’ around the tent, runnin’ down the beach to take this picture. We still have this picture, and it is—in fact, I’ve painted this picture as a watercolor, and it’s a beautiful painting. But butt ass naked, to take this picture. Remember when those big sand dunes used to come out? I don’t think they’re even there anymore, but...downstream, with the light. Oh! But anyway, the Hermit thing, that was a good one, that was a good rescue for him and I...That was the only situation we had, though, on that whole forty-day trip, the two of us. We had good runs in Lava. Yup, that was a good one. But I have other river stories. I’ll have to think of ’em.

*This program was made possible in part by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council. HC has designated the Grand Canyon River Runners Oral History Project as a “We the People” initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Arizona Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.*



## Ballot Comments 2007

### GOOD THINGS GCRG IS DOING

Boatman’s Quarterly rocks!

GTS! BQR!

No problems.

Protecting, loving, thriving.

GTS. Supports the NPS.

Email updates are great!

BQR.

Trying to reverse the misguided decision to close Upper Elves Chasm.

Women on the cover of the BQR. The GTS. Staying in tune with all the happenings!

Oral history project.

Many, including supporting the Whale Foundation.

Excellent diverse topics in the BQR. Make back issues available online.

BQR, GTS, guide profiles in BQR.

BQR.

Guide profiles, new fundraising with Circle of Friends. The BQR. Keeping those of us who don’t live in Flag informed.

All you do! And BQR!!

GTS!

The usual suspects: BQR, GTS. Keeping Lynn happily employed doing all the great work she does.

A lot of cool stuff! GTS, Adopt-a-Boatman, oral history, NPS & Native American & Private communications.

Whale Foundation, “new” boatman profiles. Poetry, art, and geo sections of the BQR! Courtesy Flyer.

Continuing to inform, educate, and represent the GCRG boating community. Trying to spur more involvement from that community. Yea GCRG!

BQR, GTS.

You guys are going great. Many thanks for your efforts.

Keep up the good work!

Keeping us informed. Thank you for the email efforts.

Thank you for not spending money on mass mailings.  
 Training sessions and parties are vital to the community.  
 Attempting to mimic the natural flowing river—but to no avail.  
 Thanks for getting rid of the ammo boxes!  
 A bunch—Whale Foundation, GTS, etc...  
 BQR—outstanding publication with wonderful interviews and excellent topical information. Thank you!  
 Oral histories are great!  
 Love it all. C'mon unionize.  
 Newsletter, shirts, hats, posters.  
 BQR.  
 Courtesy Brochure, BQR remains excellent, keep up the great work!  
 BQR, still. Oral history sponsorships. Retaining Lynn Hamilton—thanks for all you do, Lynn!  
 Updates by email is great! Launch calendar info great to know.  
 BQR, GTS, WFR.  
 BQR, GTS, GTS river trip, GCY, Whale Foundation, BQR, Book Reviews, Adopt-a-Beach, holding onto Lynn Hamilton; don't piss her off!  
 Compatibility strategies for getting along/helping private trips.

#### MISGUIDED THINGS GCRG IS DOING

Can't think of anything.  
 No!?? Who says so?  
 Compromising (commerce & NPS)—hard not to these days.  
 Need better guidelines for board member selection.  
 Managers and owners are not appropriate. Nor are Park Service employees. GCRG is the voice of guides, not management and the NPS. *(Note: Very occasionally we have had a manager or an NPS employee on the board of directors. They have always brought a great breadth of perspective to GCRG and will continue to do so. Our votes are always based on a quorum of a majority of directors/officers. Additionally, we have conflict of interest policies in place. GCRG is a diverse organization and we believe in the free exchange of ideas.)*  
 Can't think of any.  
 As much as I understand the importance of the oral history program, it seems like it's become the focus of the BQR. How about some diversity of content? *(Note: Our Colorado River Runners Oral History Project is ongoing and one of the most extensive collections of its kind. GCRG feels a deep responsibility to capture and record these memories for posterity. With a few exceptions, the oral history segment will remain the centerpiece of each issue. But hey, you can always submit an article for publication. Send us an article you think is interesting and we'll try to get it printed. The BQR is always packed with something to pique anyone's interest.)*

It's not necessarily a bad thing to have non-guides running for the board, but it should be limited to one (two?) of the positions.

I've heard "hearsay/rumors" in chatting with boatmen of the "old guard" that GCRG now has an aura of being too "dowdy feeling". I disagree, however. GCRG remains strong! *(Note: If protecting Grand Canyon and the river experience is seen as dowdy, then that would be a sorry state of affairs! It takes all of us to preserve what's so special, and GCRG will continue to lead that charge. However, being mindful of staying youthful and energized, we have many young board members, and we're trying to inject new features like guide profiles and more guide submissions into the BQR. We need to stay as relevant as possible, so please encourage your fellow guides to get on the boat and join GCRG!)*

None

Are you paying Lynn enough?

Not getting behind the push to decommission the dam. It's the river and canyon's only salvation.

Can't think of any.

#### THINGS GCRG SHOULD BE DOING

Advocate for regular flooding experiments *(Note: ¼CRG has always voted in support of Beach Habitat Building Flows and in fact did just that at the recent Technical Work Group Meeting. Unfortunately, the motion failed—voted down by a strong block of water and power interests—so GCRG is at this very moment crafting a Minority Report for the Secretary of the Interior. You can help by advocating for regular flood experiments when the Long Term Experimental Plan opens for public comment in early 2008.)*  
 Fighting to reduce river use. The resource is at capacity. *(Note: Our CRMP comments agreed with you—we took a "no more feet" stance because we knew that the resource was already experiencing problems at the pre-CRMP levels.*  
 Active CRMP monitoring. Better incident reporting. Push the park to release the data. *(Note: We have tried to get better and more complete incident reporting, but to no avail because of privacy restrictions.)*  
 Continue "off site" fall rendezvous style meetings.  
 Off season employment listings? Maybe with ski areas, zoos, museums. Expand our philosophies to other media outlets.  
 Getting the oral histories available on audio. *(Note: Some of them can be found through NAU Cline Library's website, [www.nau.edu/library/speccoll/](http://www.nau.edu/library/speccoll/). Check it out—it's a great resource.)*  
 Do we need to offer a "guide's test" for freelance guides?  
 Have NPS deal with increased abuse from increased winter trips/private #'s/allocations. Beaches and vegetation are getting hammered—better orientation and enforcement are needed!  
 Column in the Daily Sun? "River Happenings".  
 Keep addressing outfitter/guide benefits (perhaps by

advertising those companies who do provide tangible benefits...). *(Note: We plan to revisit this issue every five years or so to see how things have changed and hopefully improved.)*

Guide 401K, guide benefits, guide insurance—help the guides to make a living wage.

I hate the “should” word. If I knew, I guess I’d have to run for office. Since I don’t, just keep looking around to see what best suits the odd group of people and the magnificent canyon/river. Listen to the group, the individuals, the feds. Watch the resources. If necessary, forget what’s good for us and pay more attention to the health of the river.

GCRG should be backing the effort to decommission Glen Canyon Dam. Everything that is going on now, spike flows, trout elimination, etc...are really not doing anything to save the Grand Canyon. It’s just part of the slow death to the Canyon. The only thing and the only alternative is to decommission the dam, *now!*

Advocate and plan for decommissioning Glen Canyon Dam.

Would like to see another breakdown company by company on wages, benefits, insurance, profit sharing, etc...

Outreach to Glen Canyon, Cat, Deso’ guides...affiliations? One big whacky family.

Keeping open dialogue with all users of the corridor. How about the warm H<sub>2</sub>O intake—what happened with that? *(Note: the Temperature Control Device, or Selective Withdrawal Structure as it is now called, will be a component of the Long Term Experiment Plan EIS that will come up for public comment after the first of the year.)*

Larger fall meeting. *(Note: It sure was this year!)*

More communication with other river guide associations. More communication with the private boating group(s). *(Note: We’ve been in close contact with GCPBA, for example, and are trying to find more ways to work together.)*

Paying more attention to the water quality in Grand Canyon and Lake Powell. What is affecting the water in negative ways?

More practical knowledge in the quarterly and less personalities. *(Note: Write and submit an article. We are always accepting submissions.)*

Destructive releases from the dam and invasive species, including river runners, are destroying the Grand Canyon. The Guides and the outfitters need to stand up and make a statement to the politicians in DC and WAPA. How about suspending operations for a season and let guests and the media and the world know just how important this is? Give the place a break.

#### WAYS TO KEEP GCRG RELEVANT

Stay young at heart and mind, progressive in thought.

Get out of Flagstaff once in a while, so you can see which

page everyone else is reading from. *(Note: We do try!)*

Invite NPS people, like Superintendent Steve Martin, to write articles of perspectives about management and protection of the park as it relates to the river and those who only view the river from the rim.

Have an annual membership meeting at different times each year.

Update the website! Look at the difference between GCRG’s website and the Whale Foundation, Grand Canyon Association, Grand Canyon Trust, etc... *(Note: We couldn’t agree more and we have already submitted a grant proposal to cover those expenses. One way or the other, we hope to move forward with a complete revision of our website at the earliest opportunity.)*

Keep reviewing the mission statement as you’ve been doing. Protect the Canyon first. *(Note: That’s at the top of the list!)*

Do we need a new line of stickers to go with the old ones? Triple the user days and have all the guides harp on GCRG.

No...probably a bad idea.

Publications. Forum sponsorship. Lectures.

Always remain “hooked on the code” of the mission statement and ride the ebb and flow of membership and relevant (or not) hot issues that surface. Stay in the current!

GTS—25 years after the flood (a major topic for the next GTS) is great. Round table on when the H<sub>2</sub>O runs out.

Adopt-a-Beach (Quick! They’re going fast!), GTS, outreach to passengers.

You always seem to anticipate, participate, initiate, in ways I can appreciate. Nice going!

Don’t get goofy (i.e. decommission GCD, etc.)

Use e-mail to inform our members of anything that impacts, or could impact, the canyon and/or the GCRGA.

Keep up the good work! *(Note: We’ll certainly try our best!)*

*Thanks to all of our members for their continued support. We can’t be all things to all people, but we’ll always do our best to remain true to GCRG’s mission and goals. However, success requires effort from each of us—1/4CRG can’t do it alone. There are a number of ways you can be involved and help GCRG thrive:*

- *Keep your dues current.*
- *Join the Circle of Friends and support the BQR.*
- *Attend a board meeting (call the GCRG office for dates).*
- *Run for the board—we need great guides to keep us on the right track!*
- *Give us your input by email, phone, or by writing a Dear Eddy.*
- *Submit an article, opinion piece, art, poetry, or photography, to the BQR.*
- *Participate in our programs (GTS, Fall Rendezvous, or Adopt-a-Beach, for example).*
- *Promote GCRG to your passengers and to your fellow guides. Just have a BQR in your hand and it will practically do the talking for you!*



View from Redwall Cavern

© Tryntje Seymour 2007

# Wilderness First Aid Courses 2008

## Sponsored by Grand Canyon River Guides

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

### WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER—JANUARY 5–11, 2008

Prerequisite: None  
Location: Arizona Raft Adventures, Flagstaff, AZ  
Time: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
Certification: 3-year WFR certification and 2-year CPR certification  
Cost: \$435

### WILDERNESS REVIEW (RECERT) COURSE—JANUARY 25–27, 2007 [NOTE: THIS COURSE IS FULL AT THIS TIME]\*

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: Arizona Raft Adventures, Flagstaff, AZ  
Time: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
Certification: Renews your certification for three years plus 2-year CPR cert.  
Cost: \$180

\*We will start a waiting list, but you better have a backup plan! Contact the GCRG office for more class options.

Lodging and meals for both classes are on your own. Our DMI courses provide a 3-year WFR certification and a two-year CPR certification. Class size is strictly limited to 22 participants. Send your \$50 non-refundable deposit 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 100% of the course costs, just contact us at [gcr@infomagic.net](mailto:gcr@infomagic.net) or at (928) 773-1075 to sign up. ¼CRG reserves the right to cancel any classes due to insufficient enrollment. Call the GCRG office with any questions. .

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## FIRST AID COURSE REGISTRATION

Wilderness First Responder

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (important!) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Outfitter \_\_\_\_\_

Type of current 1st aid \_\_\_\_\_

## Businesses Offering Support

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

- Asolo Productions**—Film and Video Productions 801/705-7033  
**Aspen Sports**—Outdoor gear 928/779-1935  
**Boulder Mountain Lodge**—800/556-3446  
**Canyon Arts**—Canyon art by David Haskell 928/567-9873  
**Canyon Books**—Canyon and River books 928/779-0105  
**Canyon R.E.O.**—River equipment rental 928/774-3377  
**Capitol Hill Neighborhood Acupuncture**—206/323-3277  
**CC Lockwood**—Photography books 225/769-4766  
**Ceiba Adventures**—Equipment and boat rentals 928/527-0171  
**Chaco Sandals**—Pro deals 970/527-4990  
**Cliff Dwellers Lodge, AZ**—928/355-2228  
**Design and Sales Publishing Company**—520/774-2147  
**Entrance Mountain Natural Health**—Dr. Mische 360/376-5454  
**EPF Classic & European Motorcycles**—928/778-7910  
**Five Quail Books**—Canyon and River books 928/776-9955  
**Flagstaff Native Plant & Seed**—928/773-9406  
**Fran Sarena, NCMT**—Body work 928/773-1072  
**Fretwater Press**—Holmstrom and Hyde books 928/774-8853  
**Funhog Press**—AZ Hiking Guides 928/779-9788  
**Hell's Backbone Grill**—Restaurant & catering 435/335-7464  
**High Desert Boatworks**—Dories & Repairs 970/882-3448  
**Humphreys Summit**—boating & skiing supplies 928/779-1308  
**Inner Gorge Trail Guides**—Backpacking 877/787-4453  
**Jack's Plastic Welding**—drybags & paco pads 800/742-1904  
**Dr. Jim Marzolf, DDS**—Dentist 928/779-2393  
**KC Publications**—Books on National Parks 800/626-9673  
**The Kirk House B&B**—Friday Harbor, WA 800/639-2762  
**Kristen Tinning, NCMT**—Roling & massage 928/525-3958  
**Laughing Bird Adventures**—Sea kayak tours 503/621-1167  
**Man of Rubber, Inc.**—800/437-9224  
**Marble Canyon Lodge**—928/355-2225  
**Marble Canyon Metal Works**—928/355-2253  
**Dr. Mark Falcon**—Chiropractor 928/779-2742  
**Mountain Angels Trading Co.**—River jewelry 800/808-9787  
**Mountain Sports**—928/779-5156  
**Patrick Conley**—Realtor 928/779-4596  
**Plateau Restoration/Conservation Adventures**—435/259-7733  
**Professional River Outfitters**—Equip. rentals 928/779-1512  
**Randy Rohrig**—Rocky Point Casitas rentals 928/522-9064  
**River Art & Mud Gallery**—River folk art 435/648-2688  
**River Gardens Rare Books**—First editions 435/648-2688  
**River Rat Raft and Bike**—Bikes and boats 916/966-6777  
**Rescue Specialists**—Rescue & 1st Aid 509/548-7875  
**Roberta Motter, CPA**—928/774-8078  
**Rubicon Adventures**—Mobile CPR & 1st Aid 707/887-2452  
**Sam Walton**—Rare Earth Images, screen savers 928/214-0687  
**Sanderson Carpet Cleaning**—Page, AZ 928/645-3239  
**Sunrise Leather**—Birkenstock sandals 800/999-2575  
**The Summit**—Boating equipment 928/774-0724  
**Tele Choice**—Phone rates 877/548-3413  
**Terri Merz, MFT**—Counselling 702/892-0511  
**Teva**—928/779-5938  
**Vertical Relief Climbing Center**—928/556-9909  
**Westwater Books**—Waterproof river guides 800/628-1326  
**Wilderness Medical Associates**—888/945-3633  
**Willow Creek Books**—Coffee & Outdoor gear 435/644-8884  
**Winter Sun**—Indian art & herbal medicine 928/774-2884

## Adopt-a-Boatman Marches On

**O**UR PUBLIC FUNDING mechanism for the Colorado River Runners Oral History project is progressing amazingly well! Here's the quick lowdown:

**FULL ADOPTIONS:** Tim Whitney, Howie Usher, Lew Steiger, Allen Wilson, George Billingsley, John Blaustein, Jeri Ledbetter, John and Ruthie Stoner, Don Poulson, and Tony and Ann Anderson, and Pete Gross.

**PARTIAL ADOPTIONS:** Dick McCallum (\$400 needed), Richard Quartaroli (\$400 needed).

As you can see, the full adoptions grew by a few more names! We'd love to get the partial adoptions fully

funded before we move on. So help with those if you can! You don't pony up the entire amount, as adoptions can have multiple sponsors. A full adoption is \$750 which covers all the associated expenses for recording, transcription, travel, equipment, etc...

Lew Steiger has been dashing around like crazy interviewing Tim Whitney, Howie Usher and John Blaustein to date. By the time you read this he will have met up with George Billingsley and he will have traveled to a tiny town on the Oregon coast to interview Allen Wilson. So memories have been prodded and great stories have been spun! Some of the transcriptions have been completed and others are scheduled. Tape recordings will be archived at Northern Arizona University Cline Library.

Please remember to check the current spreadsheet on the GCRG website. Not only does it show the sponsors for these adoptions (thanks to all of you!), but it is also continually updated with the most recent information. So if you want to find out more about how this program works, or if you're wondering about adding to an adoption, or starting a new one, check out the Adopt-a-Boatman portion of our website for the most current information. Find it online at: [www.gcr.org/adoptaboatman/](http://www.gcr.org/adoptaboatman/) and you can access the spreadsheet from there.

This issue will mark the last in a series of four newsletters with oral histories dedicated exclusively to female river runners, supported by the Arizona Humanities Council (AHC). Thanks AHC! Look for a wrap-up article and questionnaire in the next issue.

So very soon we will have greater latitude to feature some of these "adoptions" and share their memories with all of you. It's a joy to continue our oral history project and we are humbled to have received such overwhelmingly enthusiastic support for this program. We heartily thank all of the supporters of our Oral History Project and the Adopt-a-Boatman Program, funders and individuals alike, who have made it possible for us to capture these wonderful memories for posterity. Thank you for helping us record history. What a treasure.

*Lynn Hamilton*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GCRG

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$16 Short sleeved T-shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_  
\$18 Long sleeved T-shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_  
\$12 Baseball Cap  
\$10 Kent Frost Poster (Dugald Bremner photo)

**Total enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_



From the depths of our submission file. We don't have any information on the artist or when it was submitted—but thanks! You rock.

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, the Arizona Humanities Council, "Circle of Friends" contributors, and innumerable GCRG members for their generous and much appreciated support of this publication.

Box 1934  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

boatman's quarterly review

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