

boatman's quarterly review

Jeri
Ledbetter

Prez Blurb • Book Reviews • Fall Rendezvous • AAB
Granite Plants • Back of the Boat • The Begats • Wounded Warriors

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!
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Prez Blurb

HELLO TO ALL MY FELLOW RIVER RUNNERS! And happy off season. I would like to say how honored and excited I am to be taking the reigns as your president. It was so great to have had the opportunity to work with Latimer this past year, and to see his organizational and leadership skills shine. So I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to Lat for all his hard work and inspiration!

As a guide, I have always been very grateful of each person that has graced this position in our community. And I must admit that I didn't always look at the job as one I would like to fill. But the journey getting here has been full of so many learning and growing experiences. And I cannot deny my love affair with the Grand Canyon. Over the past eleven seasons that I have been running trips down in the Big Ditch, I have worked for/with five different entities, including the National Park Service, and had the privilege of boating in nine variations of watercraft.

I have learned so much—as each of us must—in order to do this job that we have chosen. We must always be striving to be greater than ourselves; to enrich and support others; to teach an endless myriad of skills; and to pass on tremendous amounts of information to a wide and varied audience. Somewhere in that whole lot—in working and living and playing in the beauty and hostility of the Grand Canyon—I realized how immensely fragile the place is. This old canyon—in the current way that we are experiencing it—is in grave danger of irreparable damage and change. Of course, that being said, I know that those walls will still be standing long after man has a use for them. And that the river has not always flowed to the sea. It seems that eventually nature will regain its equilibrium. But we have, and will continue, to leave our mark.

This season was a season of change. So much has and is happening concerning the Grand Canyon that it almost makes your head spin to try and grasp the enormity of it. It seems like a lot to ask just to be able to stay informed on all the issues, let alone to form cohesive thoughts and productive courses of action to try and help in some small way. This task is daunting, and seems overwhelming at times, as we each have our own lives to live (which can be challenging enough sometimes.) But I implore you, we need each and every one of our cumulative voices, opinions and ideas to make any change happen.

Winter time is a welcome break from the constant demands of our job on the river. It is a good time to take a breather, reflect, learn, travel or settle into life

away from the canyon for a bit. We all need that. I do understand. But, as you all shift gears, and redirect your focus, I would ask that you take a glance back at Grand Canyon every now and then. Read one of Lynn's emails, outlining some way we can help on some very important issue—issues that most likely will have a direct impact on us down there at some point in the future. For instance, the Escalade project at the confluence of the Little Colorado. When I first heard rumors of the resort, restaurant and tramway, I literally laughed, and thought it was just that, a silly rumor. I thought no freakin' way was anything like that a possibility, that the Grand Canyon was imperious to such outlandish development and (in my perspective) destruction of the intrinsic nature, and value of the place. No one would ever even consider it. Boy was I wrong.

There are so many battles being fought, by so many organizations and individuals. We had the great opportunity to hear about some of them at the GTS Fall Rendezvous, which was a great success. And we were all so grateful to Roger Clark, Kim Crumbo, Greg Woodall, and Jess Pope for all the information and time they put into the weekend. You guys rock! I was so glad to see how many people turned out to learn and participate. I also got to meet one of our new board members, Ben Reeder, who has done a fantastic write-up of the weekend. Thanks Ben and welcome to the team! I am also very excited to be working alongside of Kevin Greif, Evan Tea, Justin Salamon, Jalynda McKay, and our new vice president, Katie Proctor. I am so stoked that we have ended up with such a stellar, and diverse group of guides to help lead the charge and to unify the voices of the guiding community in positive and purposeful ways. Thank you all so much for your passion, talents and ideas.

Together we can help to protect the things we love and value about the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon for generations yet to come. All of us, even you reading this right now. If you forward a link on Facebook, sign a petition, or just contribute to a non-profit that is working on something you care about—any small bit, your individual voice, your time—it can, and does make all the difference.

This past season was pretty damn crazy, the monsoons seemed more intense than usual, it seemed hotter than it has for a few years, and some things changed around a bit. National Canyon blew-out twice. Late into the season, I was sitting on the beach one evening, at Bridge Canyon City, and got myself pretty worked up about some things I have been seeing more and more of in recent years. Human impact. A lot of human impact. From simple stone

structures left behind at camps, to mega driftwood statues proudly displayed on the beach. From many more names, and art (including a fair likeness of David Bowie from labyrinth) scratched into the rocks at camps and along hikes, to pee spots and toilet paper in the bushes, and piles of human waste at the trail up to Deer Creek narrows. And my personal favorite moment of summer, removing by hand some lovely human turds from the pool at the back of my most favorite sanctuary in Grand Canyon, Blacktail. The list goes on and on like that. What is going on?! What has changed in the way we are taking care of this place? Or is it a shift in the overall consciousness of humanity? Pot shards and points disappear, to be replaced by micro trash. I was feeling rather despondent about the whole issue. Then, as I looked around at the remains of this work camp for a dam that would have backed water up to around Kanab Creek, my mind was drawn to the fact that Marble Canyon dam site had just fallen under the protection of the National Historic Preservation Act. Now that sounds like a good thing right? But not for this particular site. It translates into restricted access, and possibly bars on the entrance. So if we don't do something about it, we may, as river runners, lose that unique interpretation point, and the opportunity it presents to really allow people to connect with the reality of what was almost lost in having that dam constructed. I personally feel that the ability to take groups up to the tailings pile and talk—really talk about the story represented there—and then to take them inside the dark cool depths of the Redwall Limestone, to allow the point to sink in that this was so close to becoming a reality, and all that they had experienced on the river thus far would be under water and destroyed. And I really, after all is said and done, believe that the Marble Canyon dam site “hike” showcases the importance and magnitude of each human voice, each letter written. That all you have to do is put up a fight. Because if you don't, someone else will win, and we may not like the results.

To wrap up, I would like offer a quote from a really great book I read, called *The Riverkeepers*, by John Cronin and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., “Don't try to solve all the problems of the planet, but rather, pick out a small piece of the world and defend it.”

I am grateful and honored to have this opportunity to represent our incredibly diverse and talented river community during yet another great chapter in Grand Canyon conservation history. Let's all stay involved!

Ariel Neill

Book Reviews!

The Colorado River in Grand Canyon: A River Runner's Map and Guide to its Natural and Human History, BY LARRY STEVENS, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, 2013, 144 PAGES, ISBN 9780615842806, \$26.95.

IN 1970, NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD LARRY STEVENS fell out of his kayak and into the Colorado River. He was eventually dragged to shore, sputtering and half-frozen. When the water cleared from his eyes, I believe he was a changed man, his dunking nothing short of a Grand Canyon baptism.

Ever since that frigid plunge in the Paria Riffle, Stevens has been a Canyon disciple and a man on a crusade. His mission? To learn everything humanly possible about Grand Canyon; to share this knowledge among brethren and unanointed alike; and, to do everything imaginable to honor, preserve and defend this cathedral—the Grand Canyon itself.

Now with the re-release of his beloved river guide, *The Colorado River in Grand Canyon*, Stevens has provided us with a testament to both the Canyon and his enduring love for this great gorge.

In a way, he began writing the guide before he was even dry that fateful day. Young and on fire, and freshly armed with an undergraduate biology degree from Prescott College, the 1970s saw Stevens working with both passion and purpose in the Canyon. Through scientific research and river guiding, he developed a unique and intimate understanding of the Canyon and used both venues to extol its virtues. This rewarding work ultimately was the genesis for the more ambitious goal: to create a book that would guide, educate, and inspire people for the physical and spiritual journey through Grand Canyon's hallowed ground, as Stevens saw it.

Thus began the laborious task to produce a river guide, *his* guide, a “good book” straight from a Canyon scholar and river preacher. While steeped in hard science, trustworthy interpretation, and reliable navigation, the guide that Stevens had in mind would also spread the gospel of wilderness ecology and conservation. In a leap of faith, yet praying he wouldn't lose

his shirt, he fronted the printing costs himself and established the fledgling Red Lake Books publishing company.

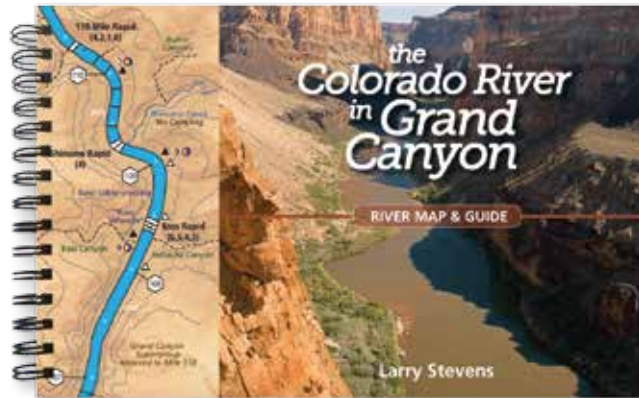
When *The Colorado River in Grand Canyon: A Guide* debuted in 1983, Stevens recouped his money within months. It was the wave of the future. Indeed for the next nineteen years the guide was among the must-have items for running the river, perhaps second only to a life jacket in importance and in attracting rogue waves. By the early 2000s, six revisions and a dozen printings later, it was still a consistent seller.

Meanwhile the 1980s and beyond saw Stevens, an academic ironman, somehow plow through M.S. and Ph.D. science degrees while juggling research, guiding, writing, family, friends, music, and charitable efforts given to worthwhile conservation and other projects along the way.

With dozens of scientific publications in his wake, he spring-boarded to the top of the heap as a Grand Canyon scientist, an heir apparent to the legendary Eddie McKee. He also developed into one of the world's top ecologists. With the rise in prominence came dramatically expanded and welcome consulting work, but the load soon began to tax even Stevens' seemingly limitless energy. Sadly, after nearly two decades he had to let the “Stevens Guide” disappear into the tail waves in 2002.

River runners sorely missed it. After several years Stevens was first gently then firmly nudged by a small legion of followers to resurrect his guide. The prodding became too much to resist. Grand Canyon Wildlands Council—a nonprofit dedicated to weaving science, passion and integrity to save and heal wild nature in the Grand Canyon region—offered to support and fund the project. A slew of other believers from the conservation and river communities, especially the generous folks at Arizona Raft Adventures, were able to rustle up financial backing as well as a flood of positive energy to see the project home.

Forty-plus years in the making and a fresh edit later, the born-again Stevens Guide was worth the wait. She's a beauty. Early in the project Stevens wisely recruited the innovative and artistic talents of Flagstaff graphic



designer and river guide, Mary Williams. The results of a total makeover are striking. There is a gorgeous redesigned cover and a new streamlined layout, loaded with wonderful color. Dazzling read-as-you-run maps are accessed easily with a spiral binding that allows the guide to lie flat for hands-free use. Downstream from the maps are the text sections, now oriented in traditional, left-to-right style, a tremendously useful improvement, and color-coded page edges assist the reader in quick referencing.

Several leading Canyon scholars and writers assisted Stevens in authoring updates on geography, geology, human history, biology and ecology, which make terrific and practical reading. River mileages were overhauled in accordance with current USGS benchmarks and spot-on, mid-stream markers dot every half-mile. Seasonal sun and shade indicators listed for popular camps have been added, as well as trail maps for South Rim routes and a listing of river runner resources. Wrapping it up is a fascinating and frank assessment of fifty years of forced wedlock between Glen Canyon Dam and the Colorado River, as well as their future together—for better and worse. Sealing the deal is a stirring plea for river stewardship.

In all, it's a brilliant guide and worth every penny. If that wasn't enough, Stevens will donate one hundred percent of proceeds to Canyon conservation work via Grand Canyon Wildlands Council. This alone makes it worth a hearty financial embrace by the river community and a welcome-home celebration reserved for the prodigal child.

While forever a man of science, Stevens is also a poet. His feelings for this revered landscape, where he has dedicated his life's work, are captured eloquently in his preface to the new guide. Stevens' timeless words will touch the soul of every hopeless Grand Canyon addict, proof that an icy baptism in the Colorado nearly half a century ago was one for the ages.

Grand Canyon is good enough, plain and simple. It is a miraculous, direct expression of the Earth's history, process, biota, a place where, with humility we can recover ourselves and re-enter a desert Eden. All ground is sacred and should be treated as such, and the Canyon is clearly a temple.

Amen, Larry. And thank you.

You can purchase the guide at local outdoor stores and through Grand Canyon Wildlands Council online at www.grandcanyonwildlands.org. Members of GCRG and/or GCWC receive a ten percent discount.

Tom Myers

The Grand: The Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, a Photo Journey and Visual Guide, BY STEVE MILLER, iBooks, 2013, 355 pages, iBook ID 672492447, \$5.99.

I MET STEVE MILLER ON A TRIP through the Grand Canyon in 2012. Our trips were leapfrogging each other, and we referred to his group as the “New Wavians” because “New Wave Rafting” was legibly stenciled on their boats, even though it was partially covered with duct tape as required by the park for non-commercial trips. I came to know that Steve co-owned New Wave Rafting Co. near Taos, NM, and he was a photographer working on a book about the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. As commonly happens between different rafting parties, Steve and I corresponded a bit after the trip and swapped a few photographs.

I was happy to learn in August that his book was available as an iBook for the iPad, so I purchased a copy for the modest price of \$5.99. My first reaction was “wow!” The iPad platform is ideally suited for displaying eye-popping photography, and Steve has many excellent photographs in this book (over 900 in



all), which is an update of an out-of-print dead-tree version of the book he published in 2005. The new book includes photographs from the first edition, which were all taken on film, and many new digital photographs.

The Grand: The Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, a Photo Journey and Visual Guide (second edition) is just what the title says, a pictorial tour of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Divided into thirteen chapters plus appendices, the book begins at Lees Ferry and proceeds downstream to South Cove on Lake Mead. Each chapter describes a reach of the river with one chapter devoted to Havasu Creek. The chapters begin with a bit of introductory text, and the photographs' captions complete the story. The book does a good job of providing an overview of the canyon's geology, natural environment, history, and issues of concern about wilderness, access, and Native American issues (specifically, tribal commercial development and the park's

closures of certain areas.) Steve clearly weighs in with his opinion on each of these subjects.

The book is a great reference for folks who have never been through the canyon. The photographs and text provide an excellent introduction to the river and its environs. Features are identified in the captions, and mileages are provided for reference. Mileages correspond to the new mileage established by the GCMRC as shown in our *RiverMaps* guidebook. While *The Grand* is not a guidebook, it covers all of the high points of a typical trip through the canyon, allowing readers to get an idea of what the canyon experience is about.

Lest you think the intended audience is just newbies, I found the book to be thoroughly engrossing. While there were a few minor factual errors that will likely be corrected before you purchase a copy (an advantage to an ebook), I enjoyed the photographs and accompanying text. As a guidebook author and sometimes photographer, what struck me was observing how another photographer/author approaches the same subject with a different eye or sense of aesthetics. Steve has a number of photographs that struck me with the thought, “Wow,

I never thought to look at it that way.” For example, I really like his photograph of Ten Mile Rock. The way he set the photo up is quite different than the way I’ve done it, and I like the results. (Hey, Steve, can we use this in the next edition of our guidebook?)

Steve took full advantage of the iBook format to showcase his work. The book opens with a short video of a Lava Falls run shot with a helmet-mounted camera by Britt Runyon. Every chapter has a number of subjects with galleries of photographs viewable in full-screen mode. For instance, a gallery of eight photographs shows scenes from House Rock Rapid in vivid detail. The iBook is easily navigated with an index, search function, and glossary of geographic features. The format also allows easy bookmarking and note taking (especially useful for preparing a review.) If you don’t have an iPad, a DVD version is also available, and the book will be viewable on a Mac when the new “Maverick” operating system is released. If you have never seen an iBook before, *The Grand* is a very good place to start.

Duwain Whitis

Fall Rendezvous 2013—Connecting Rim to River

IN THE MIDST OF THE RECENT Government shutdown, GCRG members met for the 2013 Fall Rendezvous on October 5TH and 6TH. Kicking off the weekend, participants met Kim Crumbo at the trailhead of upper North Canyon within the Saddle Mountain Wilderness Area to talk about his work with the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council. Looking down at the House Rock Valley with the shallow crevasses of North Canyon, South Canyon and Buck Farm Canyon running deeper into the crevasse that forms Marble Canyon, Crumbo talked about how the proposed National Monument would protect and connect the river below. In Marble Canyon, the National Park boundary begins just at the edge of the rim and Crumbo explained how the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument provides important wildlife corridors for threatened and endemic species between the North Kaibab Plateau and Grand Staircase Escalante. This migration pattern is especially important within the context of a changing climate and extended periods of drought. The designation would support biodiversity by protecting the last stand of old growth ponderosa pines left on the North Rim, which lies threatened by the logging industry. The Monument also provides an opportunity for voluntary retirement to grazing rights with the goal of restoring native grasslands on the plateau. As the group hiked

into this upper drainage with yellow aspen leaves falling down to the trickling creek bed and running into deeper drainages, we got a sense of how what happens above the rim effects what lies below.

That night we camped at the Marble View group campsite where former GCRG president, Latimer Smith, had set up camp, and our new president, Ariel Neill shared kitchen duties preparing dinner. With 25–30 participants representing a diversity of outfitters, many commented on how the turnout was better than in years past. The evening light faded as river runners, Park Service employees, guest speakers, friends and family swapped stories of the past river season. We shared empathy for those who weren’t able to launch on the river during the shutdown, and as we camped on the rim, private boaters camped in Marble Canyon awaiting the opportunity to launch on their lottery drawn permits. NPS Interpretive Ranger, Jessica Pope, —on furlough—told us about a group of kayakers she met from Austria who had planned and saved for fifteen years and were denied their launch. Pope lamented, “I just want to be able to go to work, and share this place I love and care about with the people who have come to visit.”

In the morning after breakfast, Roger Clark from the Grand Canyon Trust talked about the process and



Photos: Ben Reeder



Photo: Greg Woodall

impacts of mining uranium on the rim of the Canyon. He explained how the uranium ore lies within the Hermit Formation and the Supai Group, and sometimes when drilling through the Coconino Sandstone pockets of groundwater drain into the shaft. When the ore is exposed to air it can oxidize and become highly soluble in water, and, when the contaminated water is pumped into a lined pond, birds and mammals easily navigate around chain link barriers to get to the water. Clark then talked about signs on the Tonto

Trail warning backpackers not to drink the water from the Horn Creek drainage because of known contamination from the Orphan Mine. Even though the Orphan Mine closed over forty years ago, the health of the Grand Canyon depends on what has and is happening throughout the watershed. In January 2012, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar placed a twenty-year moratorium on uranium mining around Grand Canyon. Clark showed us a map littered with dots representing 3,000–4,000 potential mining claims and how National Monument status would protect against uranium contamination beyond the twenty year ban.

GCRG Board Member Greg Woodall talked about archeology work he conducted for the Forest Service in the House Rock Valley, and how the Marble Canyon system was connected to the river below. “The Native Americans did not stop at the Park boundary,” said Woodall. From South Canyon and Nankoweap Canyon, the Ancient People would travel between these corridors to access different climate zones. Woodall talked about some of the remnants they studied of plateau farmsteads. With agricultural check dams and spindle whorls used to weave textiles, Woodall quoted the Hopi people that say, “these are our footprints in the landscape.” Marble Canyon and House Rock Valley were also Paiute homelands. For the story of Kwagunt, a Paiute who was in the House Rock Valley and the Grand Canyon in the 1880s, see BQR Fall 1997 in the online archive at www.gcrg.org.

Hiking to Saddle Mountain on Sunday morning, we could see Nankoweap Canyon extending down into the depths of the Canyon, Nankoweap Mesa between us and the river. On the other side we could see the drainage of the Little Colorado River and where the proposed Escalade tramway would run. With all of these issues and opportunities to protect the wildness of this place around us, a sense of obligation and urgency remain. If we as members of the Grand Canyon community aren’t willing to fight for this, then who will? Join us next fall, during the first weekend in October as we continue this conversation and work.

For more information go to:

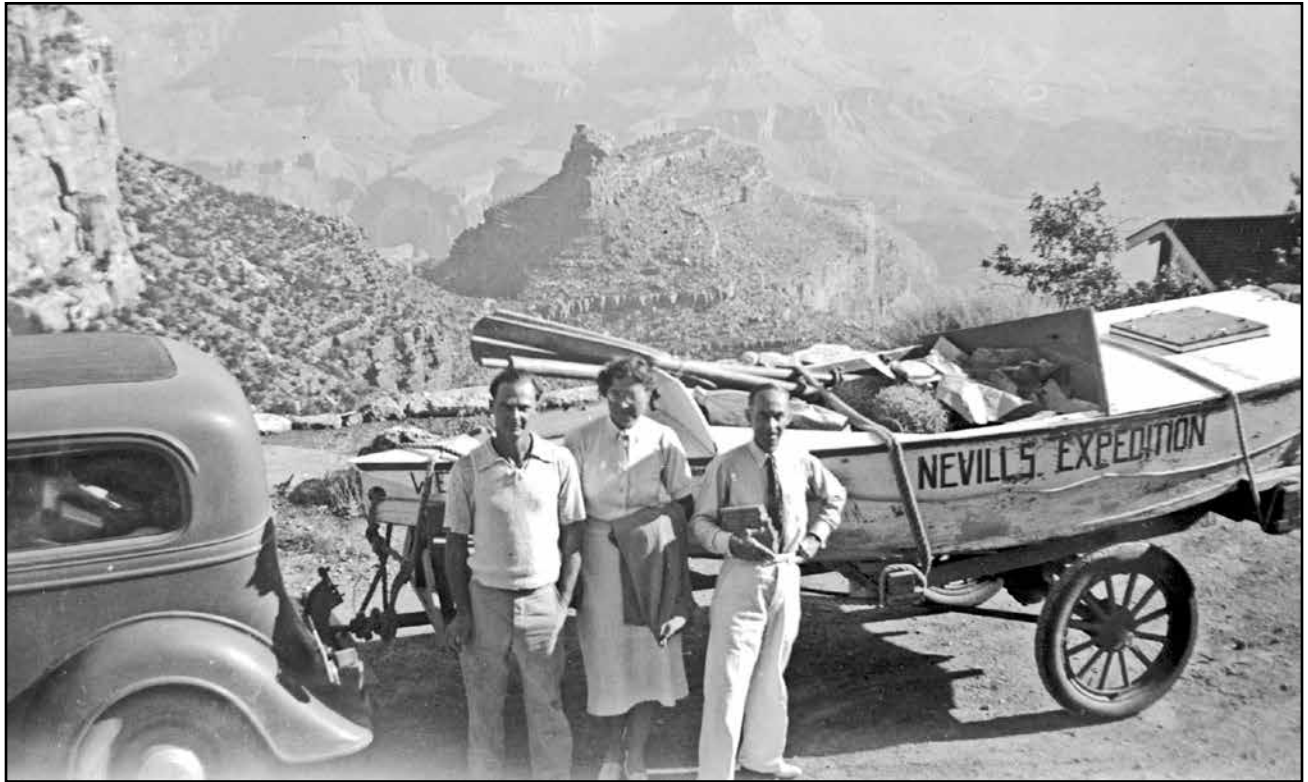
- www.grandcanyonwildlands.org
- www.grandcanyontrust.org
- Grand Archeology Along the Colorado River: www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLlz_tg_pA

Ben Reeder

The Begats: Grand Canyon River Outfitter Genealogy

OVER A DOZEN YEARS AGO AT A GTS, Dave Stratton of Tour West and I were doing quality control on the recently-tapped keg of beer

a talk on *The Begats*, a notion I borrowed from the *Bible*. Now I had to put some arm-waving words together, and fit it all into a twenty-minute talk, to which



1938, 1st commercial river trip outfitter, Norm Nevills (far left); NAU.PH.568.10799, NAU Kolb Collection

in the Hatch warehouse, swapping lies, and catching up. Somehow the conversation led me to asking Dave about Tour West origin and who the players were. This question morphed into one concerning Grand Canyon river outfitter genealogy, and that I often wondered about the interconnections and could never find all the details or pertinent information. As we poured another couple of beverages (for proper scientific quality control, the experiment must be repeatable), we started, and finished, with Tour West, since Dave knew the names involved. Somewhere amongst my files, I have the GTS equivalent of a bar cocktail napkin with the names and some guesses as to dates written on it.

Ten years and many GTS beers and conversations later, I had an assortment of bits, pieces, and scraps of paper with somewhat incomprehensible notes on about two handfuls of outfitters, nowhere close to anything comprehensive. For the 2011 GTS, I committed to Lynn Hamilton that, indeed, I would be presenting

I felt I had about 75 percent of the needed information. At the 2013 GTS, I presented the ensuing results as a poster display, with a guess as to having up to 95 percent, all this without knowing what one hundred percent would be. Due to many requests for the data, I think publication in the BQR is now the best way to disseminate the information. I have relied on input from many, many river folks, and I certainly appreciate all their assistance and cooperation, though I take responsibility for any errors.

Some explanation about criteria and caveats are in order: this is a work in progress, and subject to change; ovals represent basic Grand Canyon company data—date of first Grand Canyon trip, company name, owners' names, realizing that some companies originated with river trips outside the Grand Canyon, or did Grand Canyon trips prior to becoming a company; rectangles contain interesting and/or important information regarding origin of boaters who became



1934, 1st river trip by someone who became a commercial river trip outfitter, Bus Hatch (far right); NAU.PH.568.100, NAU Kolb Collection

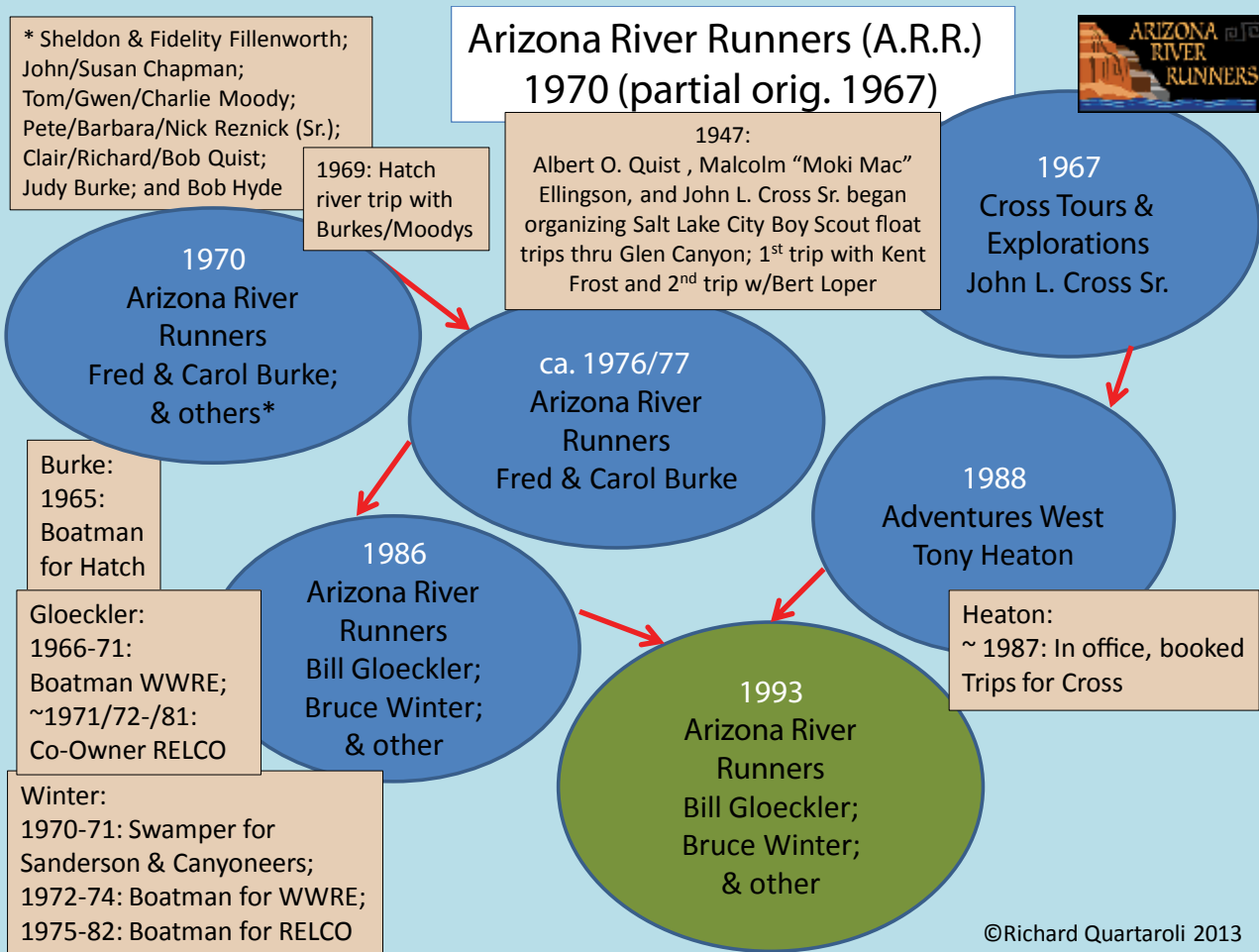
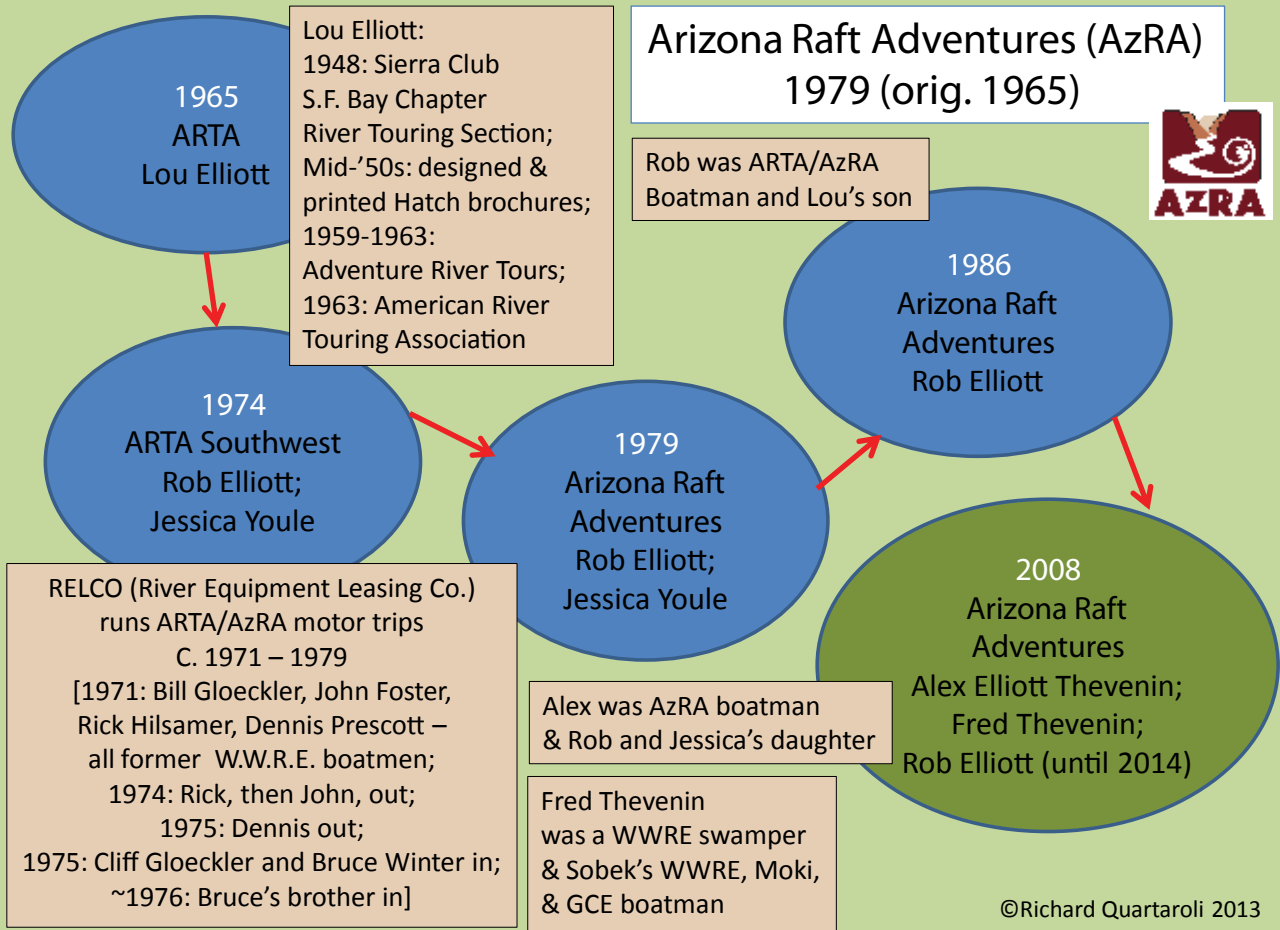
outfitters; dates in the first oval is the year of the first commercial Grand Canyon river trip under that name, used instead of the year of the company's non-Grand Canyon founding or the year of first non-commercial Grand Canyon trip; partners are the names of those directly river-related, while not naming those of financial backers or silent/minority partners whose names might not be readily recognizable (I have called those not named, "other/others" as a catchall, to avoid trying to determine whether they are partners, shareholders, stockholders, etc.; all companies are corporations, except one, Outdoors Unlimited, which is a sole proprietorship; there may be corporation partners/officers other than those listed); generally not naming spouses or ex-spouses, unless they are company partners or shareholders (in all I have read and heard about husband/wife running river companies, the men have adamantly stated that their wives were an integral part of the business and that they could not have done it without them); there are many details regarding contracts, COR's, sales, names and name changes, etc., that cannot be related and displayed within this format; and companies are listed in alphabetical order.

Many thanks to: Dave Stratton, who was there at the project start, though we didn't realize it at the time; and Gaylord Staveley, who knows so much about all this, has all the COR's, and created helpful spread-

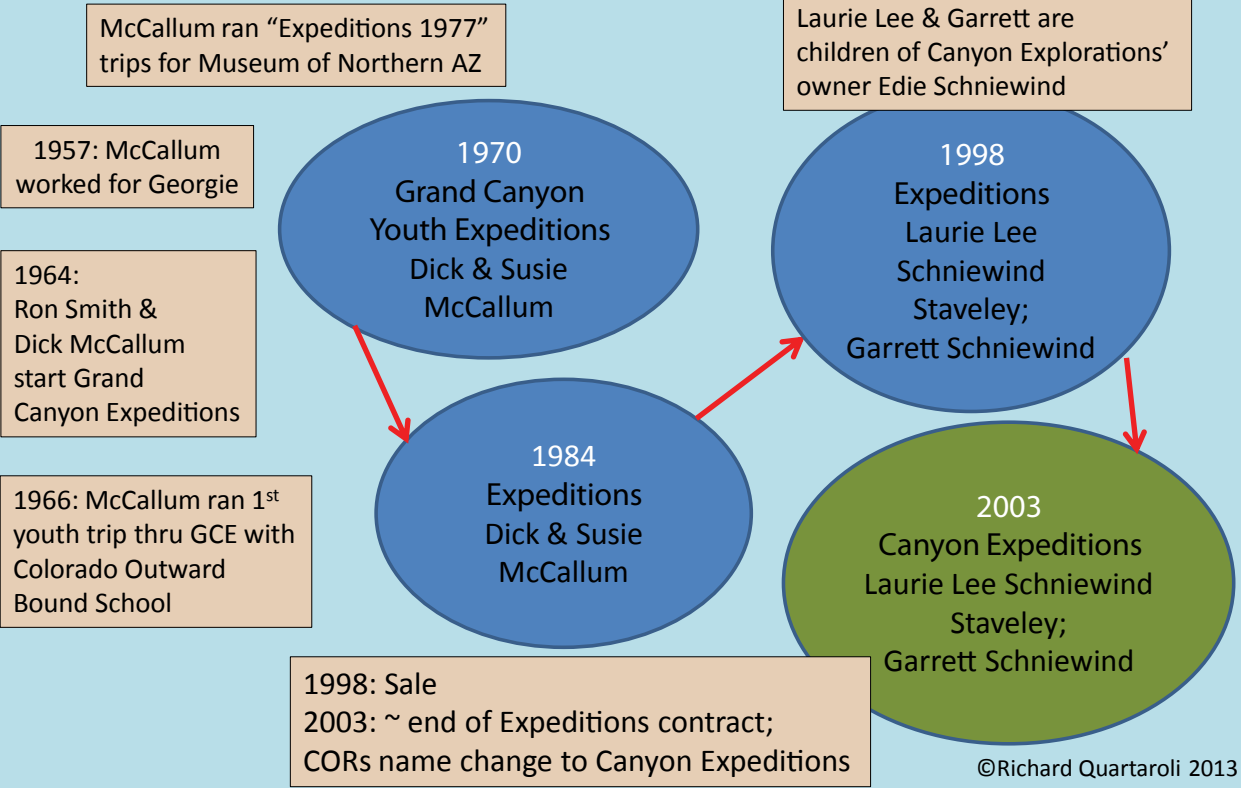
sheets; Bert Jones; Bill Gloeckler; Bob Rigg; Brad Dimock; Breck O'Neill; Brian Merrill; Bruce Winter; Dan Hall; Dave Mackay; Dick McCallum; Dock Marston; Dorine Currey Rivers; Garrett Schniewind; Joy Staveley; George Wendt; Greg Williams; Helen "Radar" Diamond Hibbert; Hoss & Jerry Sanderson; John Blaustein; John Vail; Jon Stoner; Latimer & Marc Smith; Laura Shearin; Laurie Lee & Cam Staveley; Lew Steiger & the GCRG Oral Histories; Loie Belknap Evans; Lynn Hamilton; Lynn Keller; Martha Ham; Marty Mathis; MaryLynn Quartaroli; Matt Herman; Michael Denoyer; Michael Harris; Nels Niemi; Pam Quist; Pam Whitney; Pat Diamond; Patrick Conley; Paul, Art, Fred, and Alex Thevenin; Renny Russell; Rob Elliott; Roy Webb; Sarah Hatch; and any others I've forgotten.

This has been an entirely fun project, and so much more could be done—pictures of all the companies, past and present; logos, especially those old, cartoonish ones; and full company histories, among others. Please let me know if any of you outfitters are interested in pursuing these topics further, if you would like to purchase a poster, or about any errors or additions—I'm trying to make this as accurate and informative as possible. You may contact me through richard.quartaroli@nau.edu or 928-779-2687. Thank you.

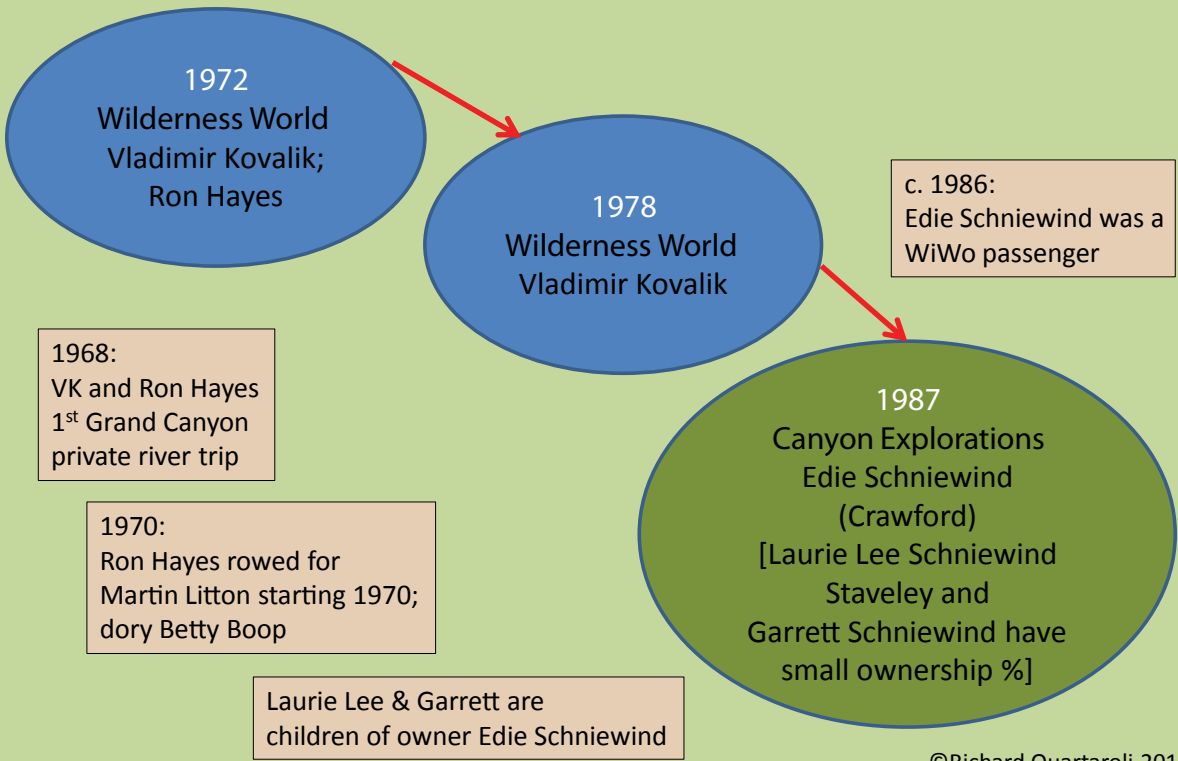
C. V. Abyssus



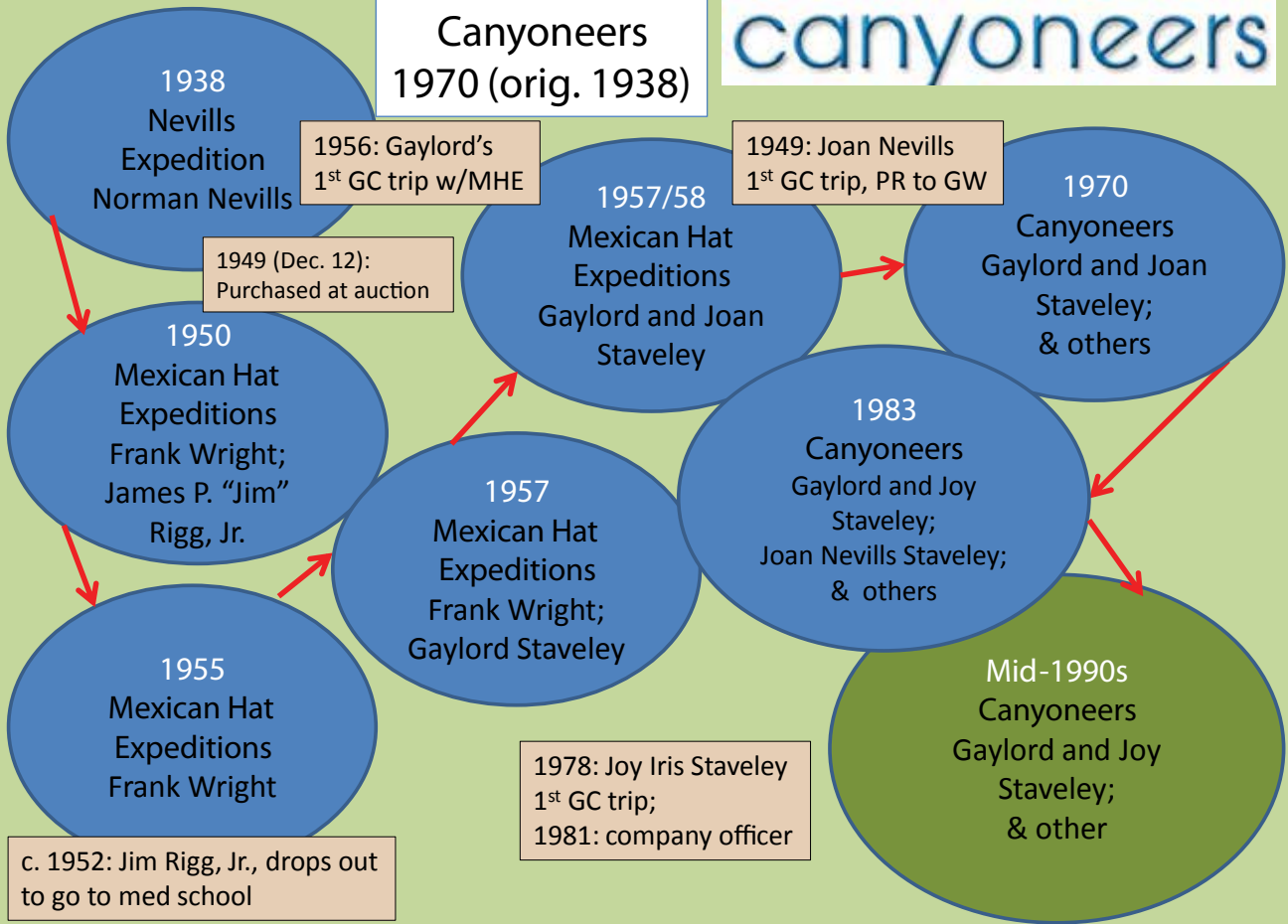
Canyon Expeditions (CanEx 2) 2003 (orig. 1970)



Canyon Explorations (CanEx 1) 1987 (orig. 1972)



Canyoneers
1970 (orig. 1938)



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Colorado River & Trail Expeditions (CRATE)
1971

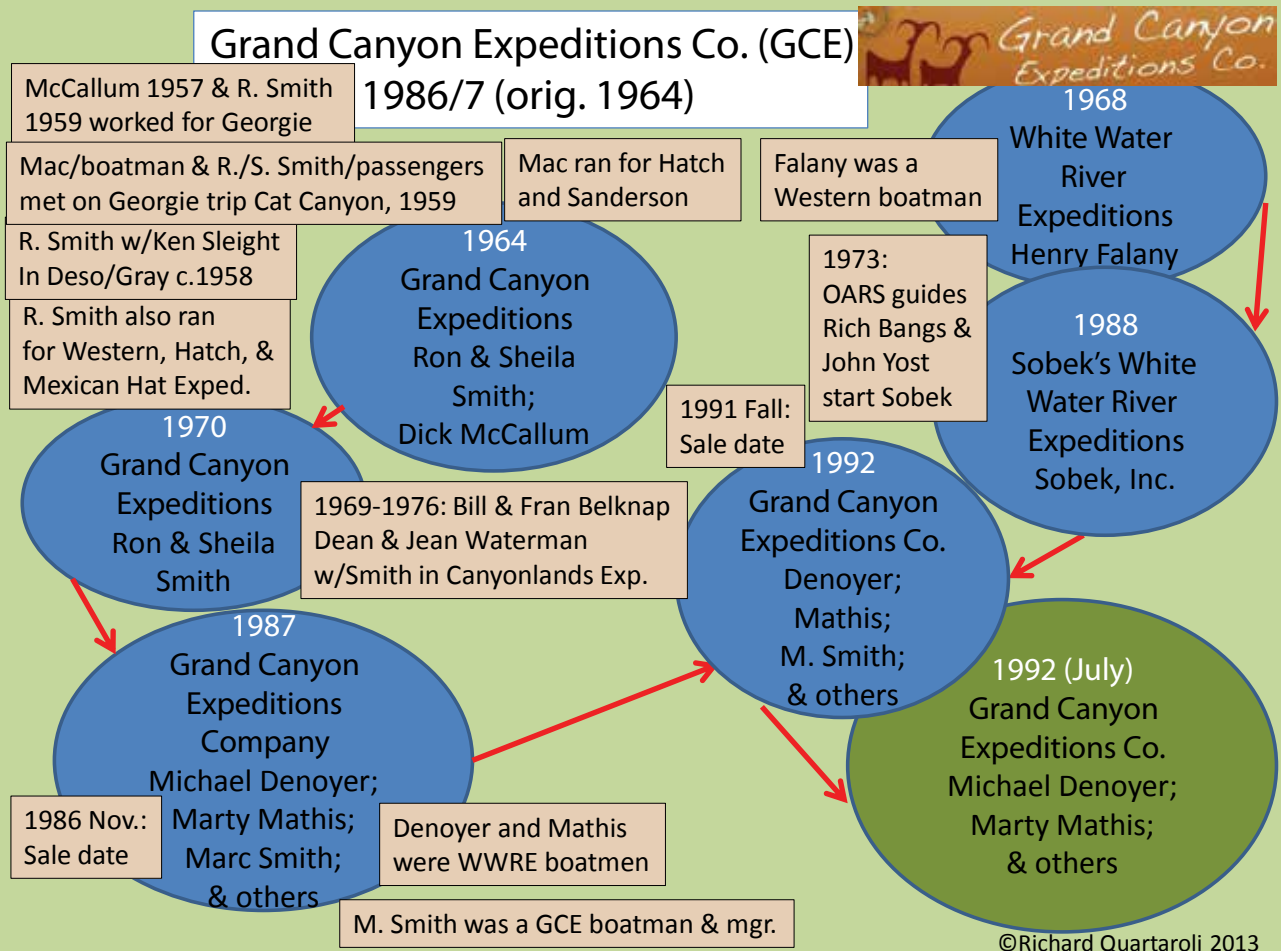
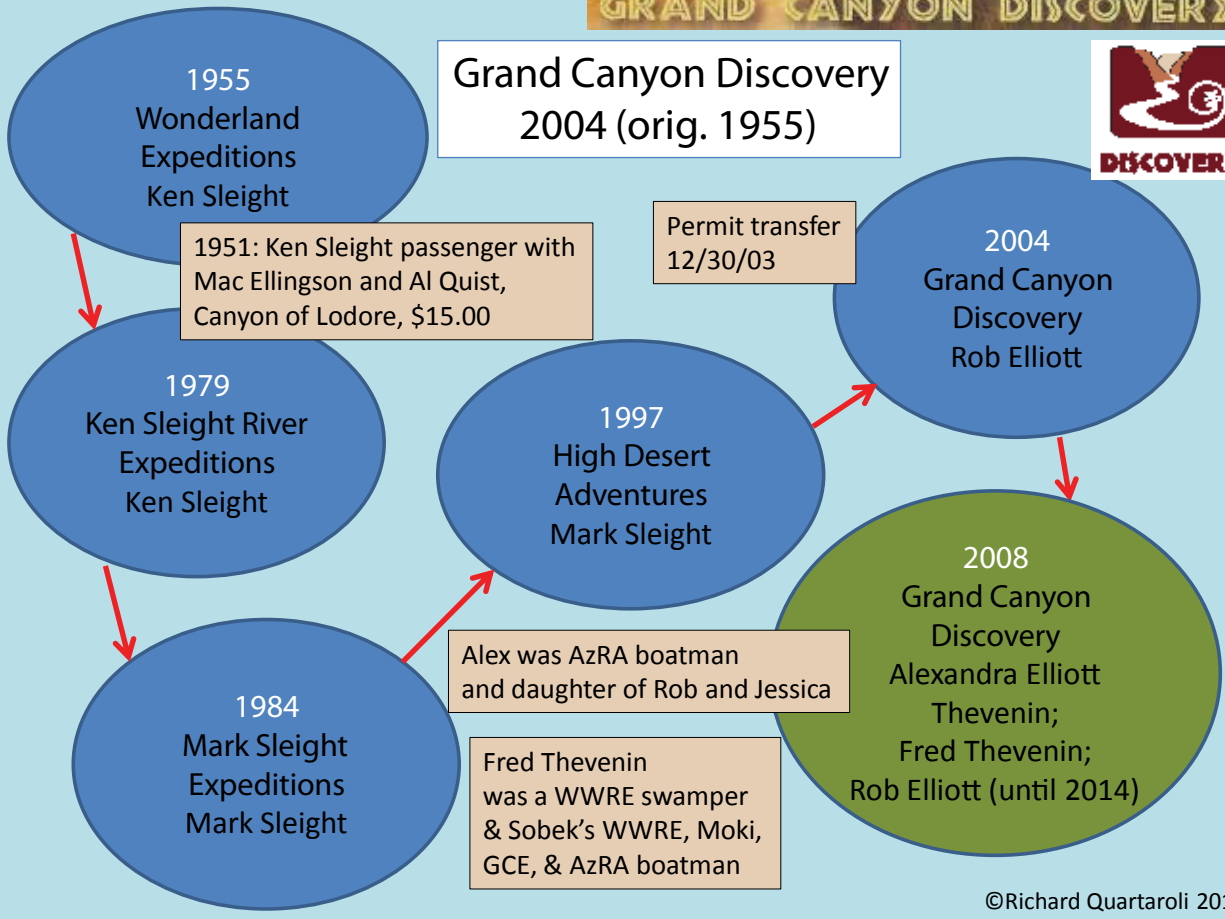


1965:
Dave Mackay was boatman for Jack Currey's Western River Expeditions

1968:
Dave and Vicki met on a GC river trip

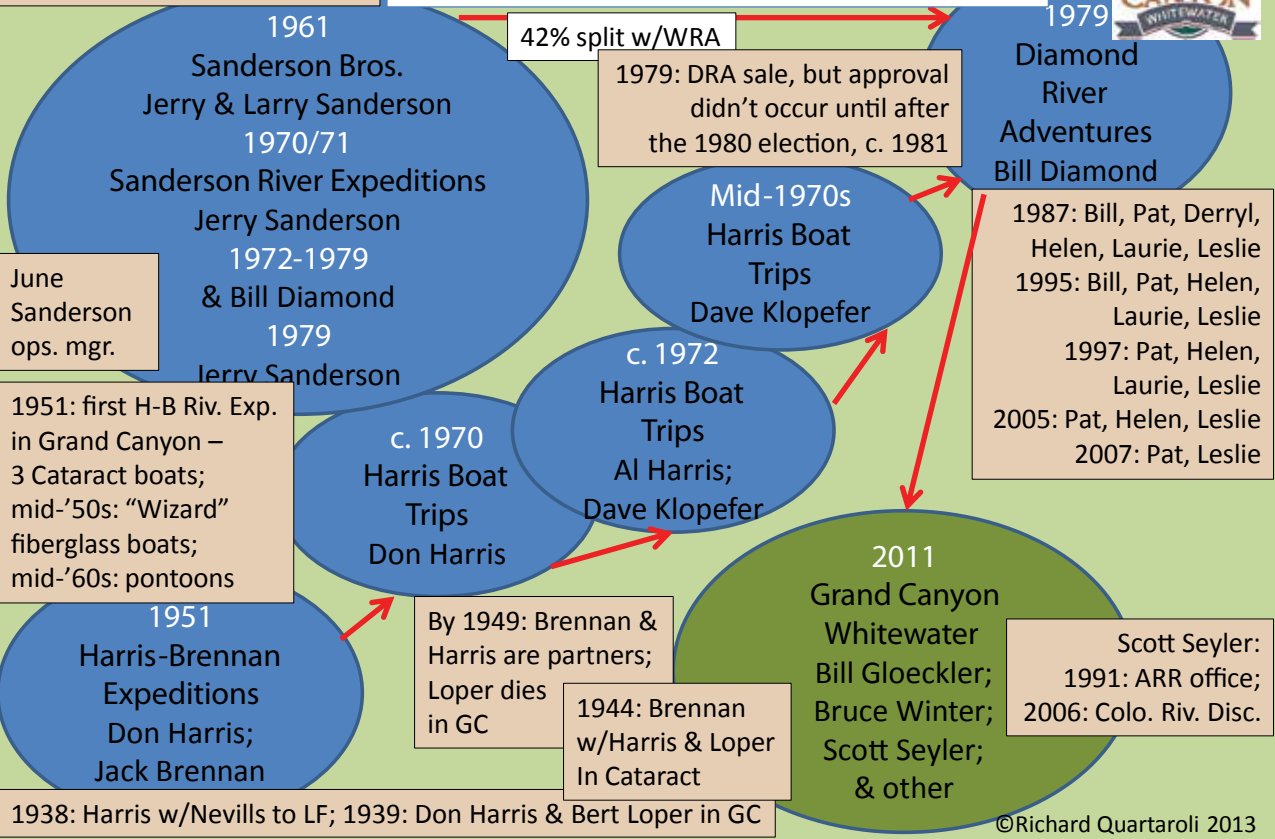
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GRAND CANYON DISCOVERY

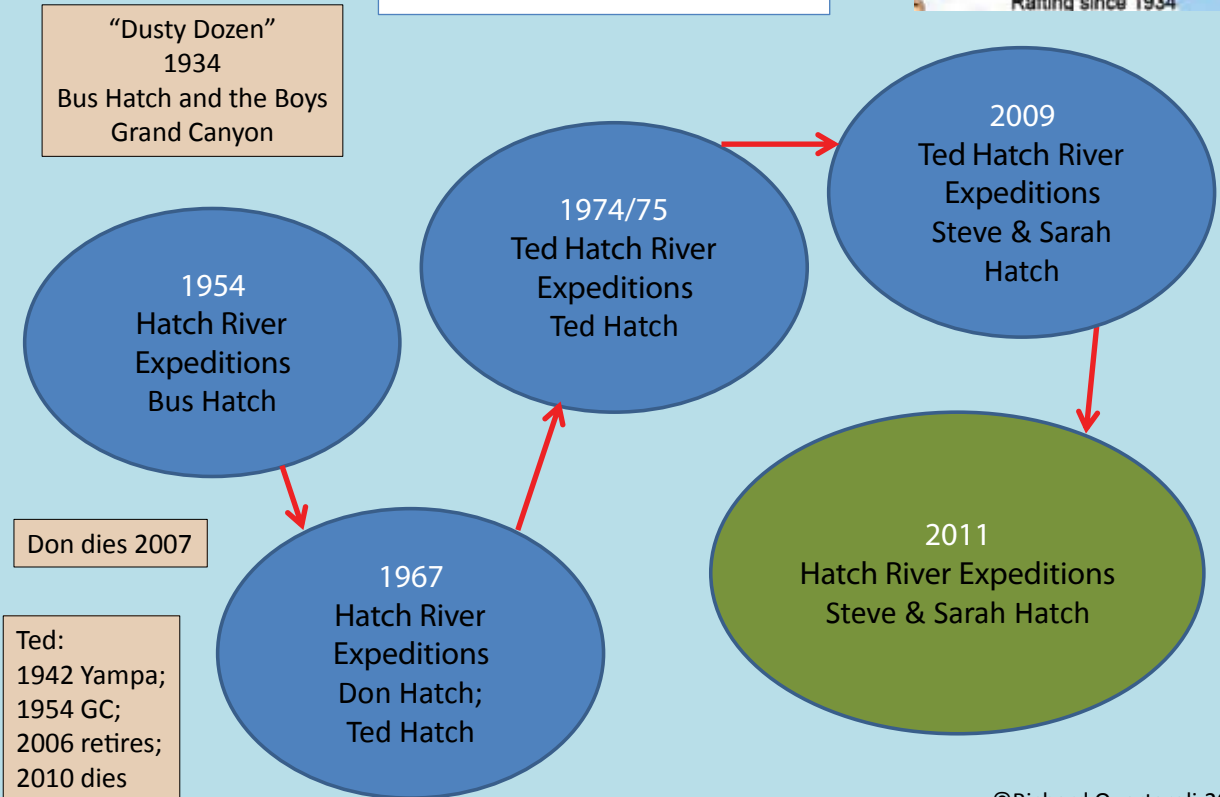


1950s: Rod Sanderson w/BOR;
1951: w/Dock Marston –
1st outboard motor trip

Grand Canyon Whitewater 2011 (orig. 1961)(partial orig. 1951)



Hatch River Expeditions 1954



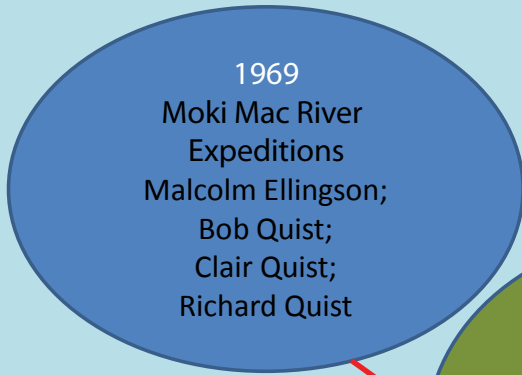
Moki Mac River Expeditions 1969



Al and Moki partnership

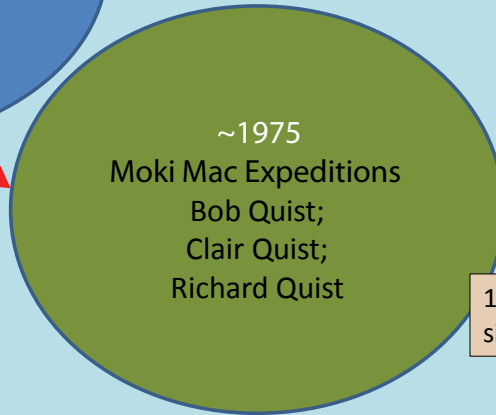
1st GC trip Al w/Scouts mid-'50s;
1st comml. w/33' 1954 or 1955;
1st used name Moki Mac late-'50s

Al Quist dies ~ '69/'70



Albert O. Quist, Malcolm "Moki Mac" Ellingson, and John L. Cross Sr. began organizing Salt Lake City Boy Scout float trips thru Glen Canyon in 1947;
1st trip with boatman Kent Frost;
2nd trip with boatman Bert Loper

1975:
Moki Mac Ellingson dies



Late '60s:
Quist brothers return from the military & get serious about Moki Mac company

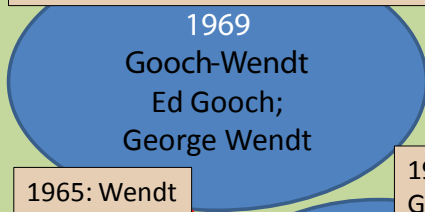
1973: Pam Quist meets Clair; sister Annie Quist in office

©Richard Quartaroli 2013

1957: Gooch was a Georgie boatman; Gooch left at Whitmore and Dick McCallum replaced him

O.A.R.S. Grand Canyon 1972 (orig. 1969)

Outdoor Adventure
River Specialists



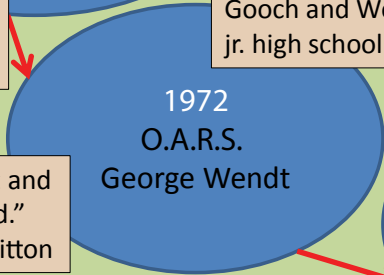
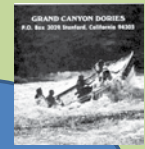
1967, 1968, 1969:
Gooch & Wendt
GC privates

100% of GCD
secondary user
days to OARS

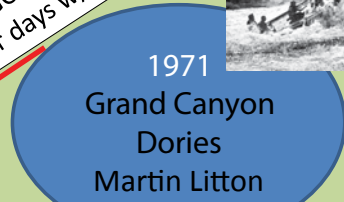
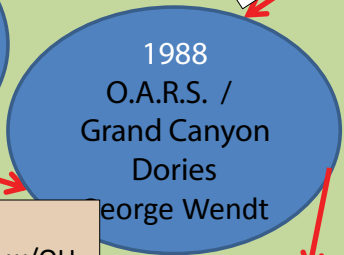
50% split of GCD
primary user days w/OU

1965: Wendt
passenger
w/Hatch

1966-74:
Gooch and Wendt taught
jr. high school together



"Gooch went and
Wendt stayed."
- Martin Litton

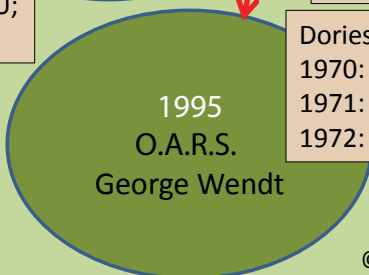


PT Reilly w/Nevills 1949 & MHE early 1950s;
Litton w/Reilly 1955, 1956, 1962, 1964 & then bought PT's dory & equipment

1995 Prospectus:
GC Dories – operating
division of OARS,
consolidated effective
November 1, 1994;
GC Dories use to OARS
is to be 99.7% dory trips
In primary season,
100% in secondary season

1995 CORs:
Division of user days w/OU;
No longer GC Dories

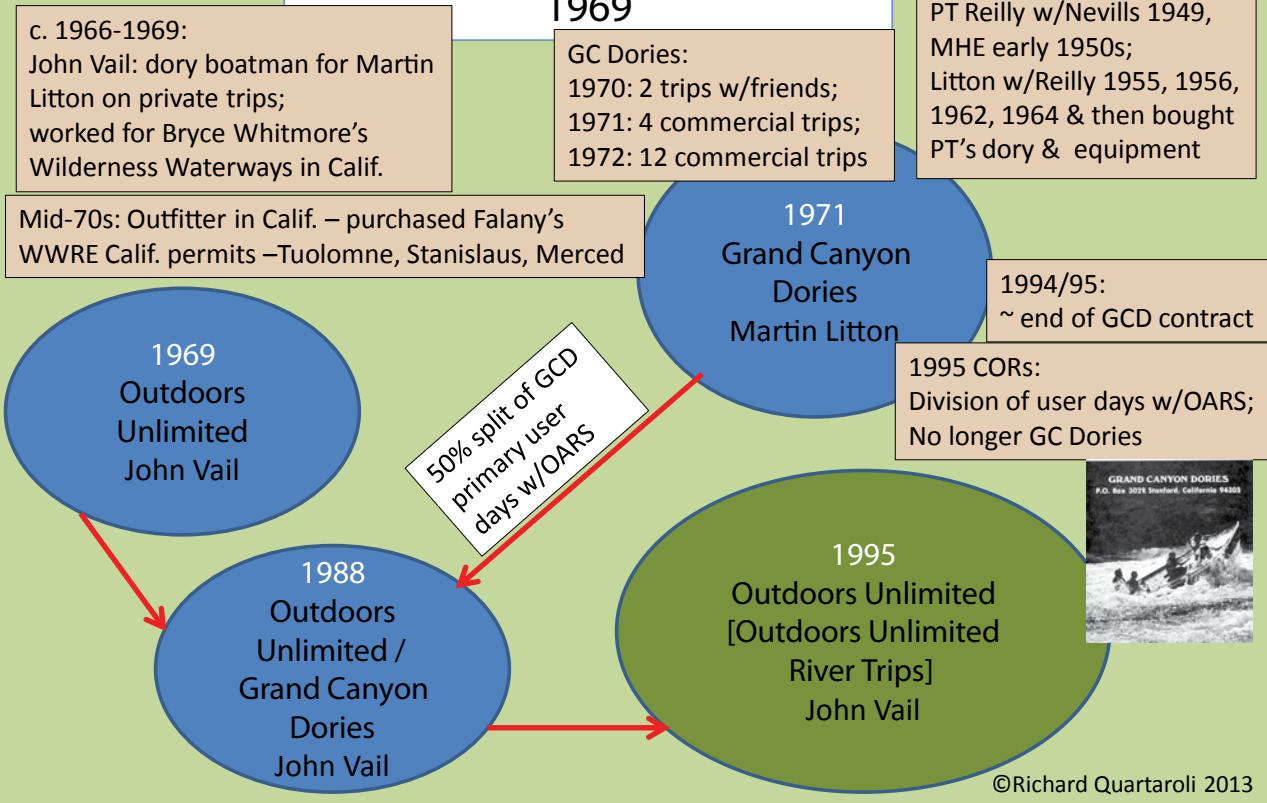
1994/95:
~ end of GCD contract



Dories:
1970: 2 trips w/friends;
1971: 4 commercial trips;
1972: 12 commercial trips

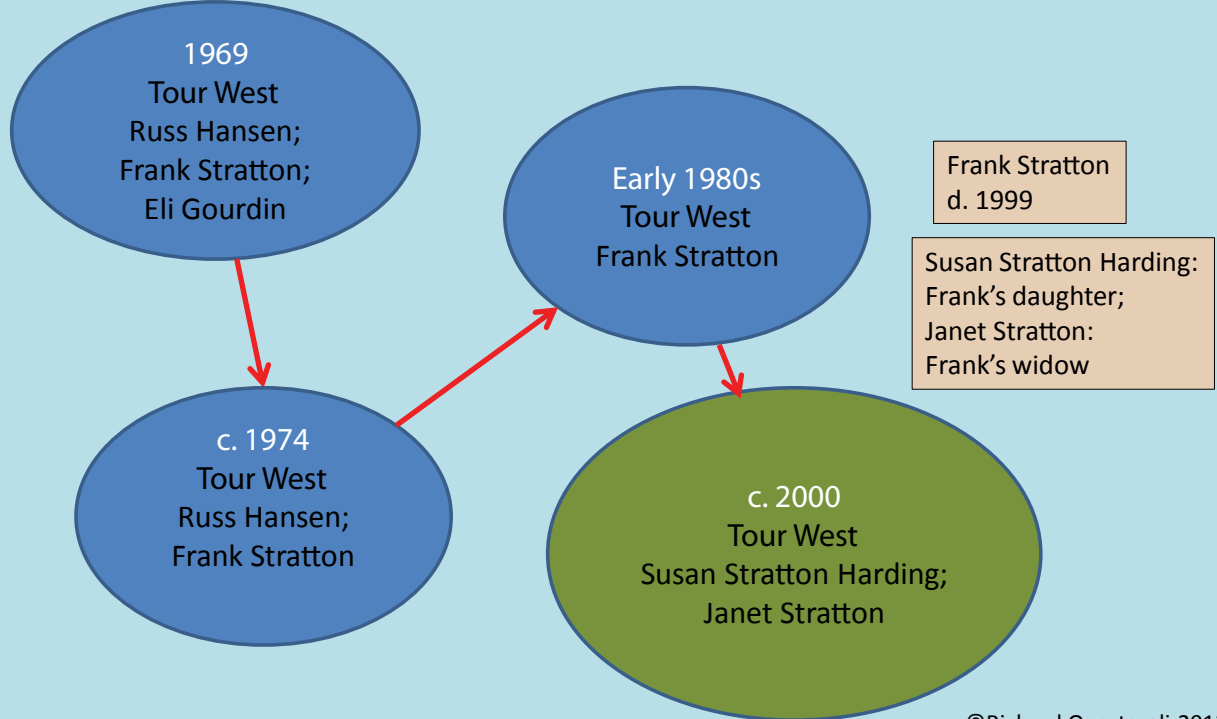
©Richard Quartaroli 2013

dba Outdoors Unlimited (O.U.)
[Outdoors Unlimited River Trips]

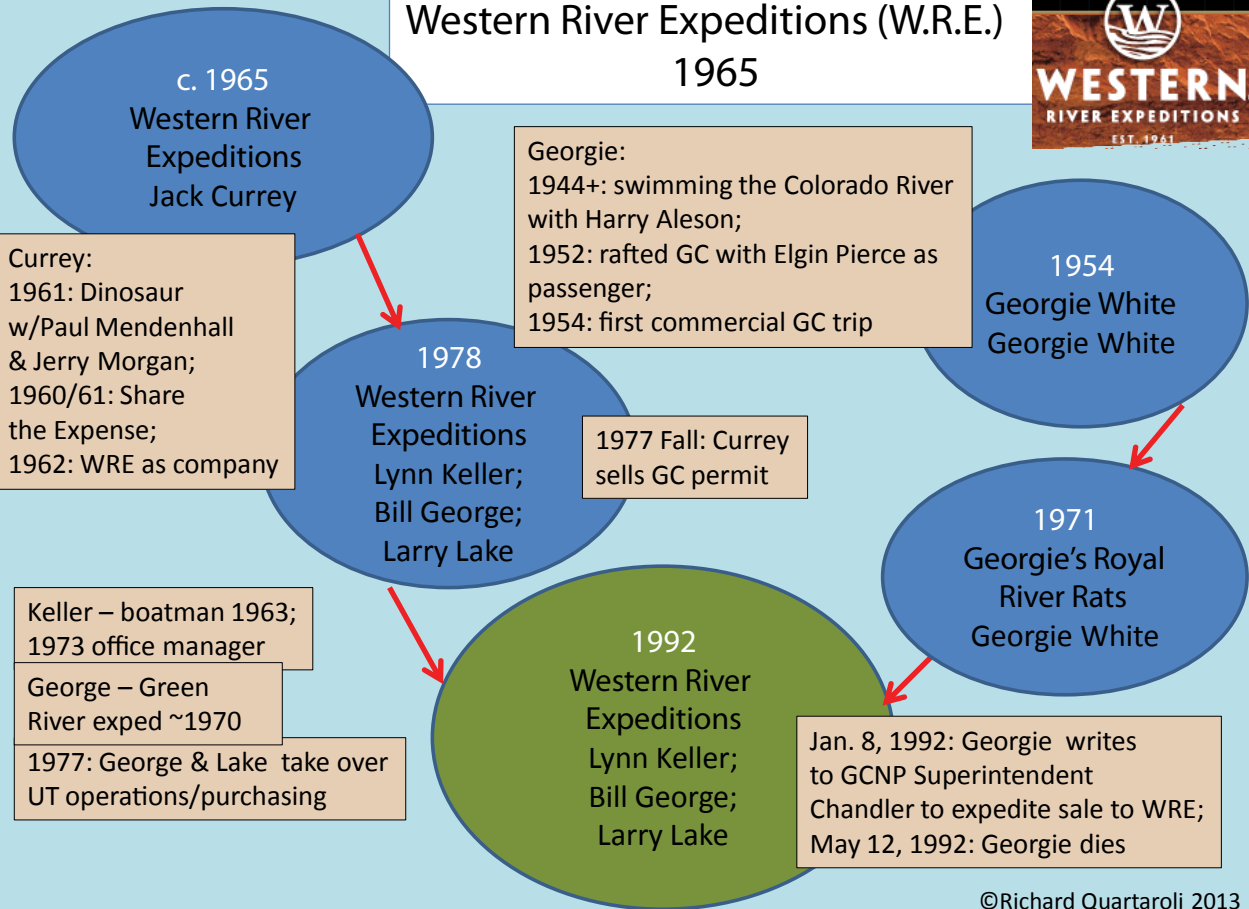


Russ Hansen (John L. Cross Sr. was friend in Orem) runs trip 1968 w/8 passengers, including Frank Stratton

Tour West 1969

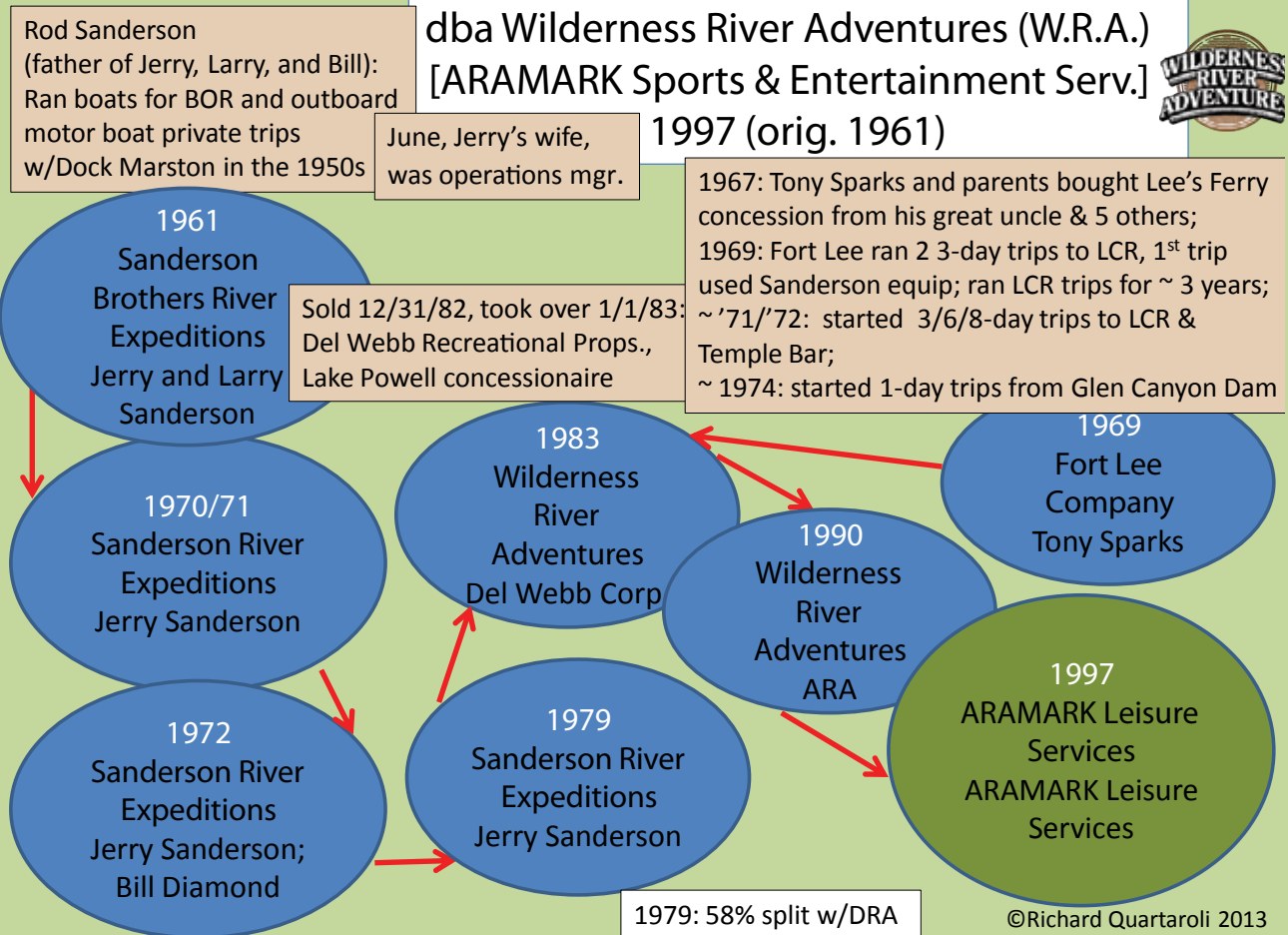


Western River Expeditions (W.R.E.) 1965



©Richard Quartaroli 2013

Wilderness River Adventures (W.R.A.) [ARAMARK Sports & Entertainment Serv.] 1997 (orig. 1961)



©Richard Quartaroli 2013

Second Grand Canyon “Zombie” Uranium Mine Faces Closure

FACING A LAGGING uranium market, Grand Canyon’s zombie mines may be falling back into their graves. But their pollution problems remain alive and well—along with agencies’ refusal to require updated reviews or reclamation.

Citing market conditions, Energy Fuels Inc. on Friday announced plans to halt mining at a second Grand Canyon-area mine—the Pinenut Mine, located just north of Grand Canyon National Park. It is to be shuttered in August 2014.



Sump water catchment pond at Pinenut Mine. Photo: Taylor McKinnon

This news comes after the company shuttered the Canyon Mine earlier in November, pending

a federal district court ruling. It agreed to those terms with the Trust, the Havasupai Tribe and other plaintiffs who last year sued the Forest Service for allowing the mine to reopen absent Tribal consultations and additional environmental reviews.

On Friday the company also said that it plans to close the nation’s only conventional uranium mill.

The White Mesa Mill, which turns regionally mined ore and radioactive waste into yellow cake, will close in 2014 and then reopen in 2015. When it reopens it will process radioactive waste exclusively.



Canyon Mine. Photo: Roger Clark

Uranium mine closures like this aren’t new. In fact, they’re symptomatic of a broken policy framework that gives an economically marginal uranium industry too much free reign over public lands.

Four uranium mines near Grand Canyon were built and then closed in the early 1990s, owing to market conditions. Then, for two decades, they simply sat.



A migrating white-faced ibis using the uncovered sump pond at Pinenut Mine. Photo: Taylor McKinnon

Those intervening years allowed the mess to spread. At the Kanab North mine, soil sampled from as far away as 420 feet outside of the fence has an average uranium concentration that is more than ten times background concentration. At Pinenut, the shaft filled with nearly three million gallons of water.

Those years also saw scientists gain new understandings of the connection between mine-threatened aquifers and Grand Canyon’s springs. California condors were reintroduced to the area, new national monuments were designated and land use shifted toward recreation and tourism.

Then, as uranium market spiked in the mid-2000s, industry regained interest. One by one, agencies allowed the old mines to reopen—first the Arizona 1, then Canyon and Pinenut. (The fourth, Kanab North, was mostly mined out and not worth restarting.)

Now, one by one, they're starting to go on "stand-by," indefinitely—making a mockery of agency estimates that these mines are economically viable. Costs continue to take their toll on public lands, sacred sites, water, wildlife, and recreation values, while zombie mines lie in wait for another day that may never come.

A day must come when the current policy is changed—the irresponsible policy that allows polluting uranium mines to languish for decades without reclamation or renewed environmental review. As shown by Grand Canyon's situation, current policies are broken and need to be fixed.

Taylor McKinnon
GRAND CANYON TRUST

UPDATE 11/21/13:

In a related Associated Press story, an Energy Fuels spokesman Curtis Moore said that it is now cheaper to "get uranium through spot market purchases for the next couple of years without mining that product."

AP also quoted Nyal Niemutch, chief of the economic geology branch of the Arizona Geological Survey on the nationwide boom-and-bust trend in the commodities sector:

Markets aren't fully rational, and we're in a period right now, not just in uranium, we're seeing strong retreats of prices, we're seeing costs go up and a lot of companies and mines are having difficulties.

The Trust agrees that uranium mining in Grand Canyon watersheds is an economically marginal endeavor.

Decades-long mine closures in our region—and now these too—evidence that point. It also bears mentioning that no amount of money would enable clean up of mine-contaminated deep aquifers feeding Grand Canyon precious springs. That's a result that neither industry nor public agencies can ensure against; it's a risk that simply shouldn't be taken.

Votes Are In!

NEW FLASH! GCRG won second place in Mountain Sports' Voice Your Choice event. Yippee!! With just over 280 votes tallied, the line up looked like this:

1ST Place winner - Willow Bend Environmental Education Center (\$2500 grant)

2ND Place winner - Grand Canyon River Guides (\$1500 grant)

3RD Place winner - Grand Canyon Wildlands Council (\$1000 grant)

Everybody is a winner! Thanks Mountain Sports and 1\$ for the Planet—what a wonderful way to support the environment and your local organizations that do this important work. And thanks to everyone who voted for GCRG!



By Seasons

Thinning days overtook us unawares
distracted by slender dangling leaves,
the river curving among sun dappled trees
reflecting impressions in goldens and greens
as light is refracted when filtering streams.

A meager flow murmured quietly
where I recalled leaping torrents.
most yellowed foliage was down,
ice plastered to hard ground
or spinning upon reluctant currents

beneath an austere November sky
somber as cottonwoods standing by.
The view from water's edge extended
well beyond frost shucked lowlands
allowing an autumnal clarity.

Returning by seasons, I could see
youth cresting again on flood;
yet, while memory went bending,
our dwindling river's course revealed
where passion's wayward rush was tending.

Rick Petrillo ©2010

Granite Camp Native Plants Are Thriving



restoration project a success; it was not possible without *you!*

With the help of GTS participants and volunteers, we planted a total of 662 native plants in the camp this year (123 trees, 244 shrubs, and 295 grasses). There were some challenges—the fluctuating water levels washed away some of the grasses, sedges and coyote willow and

only half of the Goodding's willow and cottonwood pole plantings survived. But it is a pilot project, and we learned many lessons and had some great successes! We had very high survival for all of the other native plant species: the datura are poised to take over the site and the mesquite grew almost an inch a week during the summer. The Goodding's willow and cottonwoods that were planted near the river camp that did not survive the summer were replaced in November 2013 with the goal of continuing to create shade and habitat on the upper end of the camp.

We will be watering for one more summer to get the plants fully established, and we definitely need to track the number of times the site gets watered so we can use the data to develop plans for future restoration projects. This summer, we will leave an ammo can on site (next to the sign) and when you water, you can just write your name down in the notebook; no more trying to remember to send an email after a trip. This past summer it took about an hour for a full river trip to water the entire site and we anticipate about the same, maybe a little less, this coming year. It is a great way to engage and inspire your passengers and crew members! Look for an email in the next few months for your opportunity to sign up to water on a trip or two in the summer of 2014.

Thank you again to all who participated in the project this year and we look forward to working with even more guides in the future!

Melissa McMaster

WE IMPLEMENTED THE Granite Camp Pilot Stewardship Project during the summer of 2012 with uncertainty about the potential for success and how the greater river community would perceive and become involved in the project. During the first year, over fifty guides volunteered to remove tamarisk trees, plant native plants or spend over an hour on their trip watering the plants. Once again, the river community has demonstrated its incredible passion for the canyon. We *thank you* for your stewardship and for your contribution to making the Granite Camp

To Re-photograph or Not, That is the Question: The Adopt-A-Beach Program Marches On

I WAS SPEAKING TO A FRIEND recently, catching up after another long season and many days of travel. He asked if I was still involved with the Adopt-a-Beach (AAB) program. I said yes, and that the cameras and datasheets from the 2013 season were just beginning to come back to the GCRG office. “Well how much more data do you need anyway?” he wondered. “I mean, this has been going on for quite a while.”

The Adopt-a-Beach Repeat Photography program was established with the advent of the first Beach-Habitat Building Flow (BHBF) in 1996. The immediate question the program addressed was, of course, how did the beaches respond to the BHBF from a recreational perspective? And continuation of the program was subsequently driven by the desire to know what changes occurred to the beaches over the long term. If the camping and general recreational use of the beach was enhanced by the High Flow, as was often the case, how long would that condition actually last?

In his book *Repeat Photography: Methods and Applications in the Natural Sciences*, Robert Webb endorses “the wide application of repeat photography in the natural sciences, specifically landscapes, emphasizing that technology, in the form of satellite remote sensing and aerial photography has not—and will not—replace this technique.” Webb also states “As a scientific tool, repeat photography is unique in that it can be used to both generate and test hypotheses regarding ecological and landscape changes, sometimes with the same set of images. [Also] repeat photography complements other methods of change reconstruction for landscapes, and its best use is in concert with those techniques. [Re-photography] helps to provide an objective assessment of past landscape change as well as helping inform the potential for future change.”

In the recent interview with Drifter Smith published in the last BQR (volume 26:3), Drifter reminisced about his involvement with Webb and a Robert Brewster Stanton photo duplication trip. He comments that one “surprise” of the project was the realization he had of the apparent longevity of the vegetation through the years between photos. And by “looking at two photographs...you could suddenly see something that there was literally no other way to see.”

So, how much time, or, more accurately, how many photos does it take to discover the loss of nearly two vertical feet of sand through wind erosion? Or the appearance of a new plant species to the camp, the impact of a new beetle infestation on the tamarisks at

the rear of a camp, or the mysterious disappearance and subsequent reappearance of herbaceous vegetation at the edge of the sandbar? How about the human caused migration of sand through steady trail use? I could go on for pages. Some features on the landscape we observe we can deduct by thoughtful reasoning, but comparison of two or more photographs allows the documented observation of change through time. And, best of all, there is no scientific ‘statute of limitations’ on photographs and what they can teach us.

As the cameras and datasheets from our 2013 volunteers arrive, I want to offer my sincere thanks to all of you who spent time photographing the AAB beaches not only this year, but also in years past. And thank you also for your thoughtful and insightful comments contributed with the datasheets.

And now for the pitch: Why should you become a volunteer photographer next season? Well, you can add your name and beach images to a growing archive of what is arguably the largest collection of beach monitoring photo documentation in existence. Taking the opportunity to stop and photograph a beach is a surefire way to help get your guests to think about the riparian habitat they are traversing, and to help facilitate a discussion, pro and con, about the human induced nature of that environment. Taking a photograph helps to imprint the scene in your mind! You are making a contribution to the knowledge we have of the Grand Canyon. You can even improve your skills as a photographer!

And if that weren’t enough, all of the Adopt-a-Beach photographs are integrated into Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center’s GIS Campsite Atlas, an online clearinghouse for site photographs spanning decades for monitored campsites and sandbar study sites along the Colorado River. The Atlas provides researchers with an outstanding tool for studying beach change throughout the system over the long term. Your photographs add considerably to that ever growing body of knowledge.

But here’s the persuasion I find most appealing, and I think might also spark an interest in those who insist that the Canyon has been “over-studied.” I know that some days, it’s all you can do to take the time from your schedule to find the camera, match the photo locations, fire off a couple of pictures and scribble some notes on the datasheet, then head off downriver again. Thank you ahead of time for that effort. But if you take just a moment more and stop to look—I

ZOROASTER (RM 84.9 L)



August 1996



July 2000



July 2003



April 2006



April 2008



April 2012



December 2012



August 2013

Adopt-a-Beach—2013 Season		
CAMP NAME	RIVER MILE	ADOPTER
SOAP CREEK	11.3 R	Meredith Dahle
12.4 MILE	12.4 L	Celia Southwick
HOT NA NA	16.6 L	Orea Roussis/Carrie Albrecht
19.4 MILE	19.4 L	Kevin Johnson
UPPER NORTH CANYON	20.7 R	Greg Woodall
23 MILE CAMP	22.7 L	Larry Hopkins
SHINUMO WASH	29.4 L	Tess McEnroe
THE NAUTILOIDS	35.0 L	Paul Smolenyak
TATAHATSO	37.9 L	Mitch Sawicki/NPS/GCY
MARTHA'S	38.6 L	Mitch Sawicki
BUCK FARM	41.2 R	Laura Fallon
NEVILLS	76.1 L	Matt Herrman
HANCE	77.1 L	Zeke Lauck
GRAPEVINE	81.7 L	Paul McCloskey
CLEAR CREEK	84.5 R	Larry Hopkins
ZOROASTER	84.9 L	Corey Ryan
TRINITY CREEK	92.0 R	Orea Roussis/Carrie Albrecht
SCHIST	96.5 L	Tess McEnroe
BOUCHER	97.2 L	Orea Roussis/Carrie Albrecht
CRYSTAL	98.7 R	Alexis Kimball
LOWER TUNA	100.1 L	
ROSS WHEELER	108.3 L	Ariel Neill
BASS	109.0 R	John Toner
110 MILE	109.9 R	Mitch Sawicki/NPS/GCY
THE GARNETS	115.0 R	Jalynda McKay
BELOW BEDROCK	131.7 R	Kevin Johnson
STONE CREEK	132.4 R	Bob Dye
TALKING HEADS	133.6 L	Matt Herrman
RACETRACK	134.1 R	Larry Hopkins
LOWER TAPEATS	134.5 R	David Dill
OWL EYES	135.1 L	Charly Heavenrich
BACKEDDY	137.7 L	Katie Proctor
KANAB	144.0 R	Jay Healy
OLO	146.0 L	Paul Smolenyak
MATKAT HOTEL	148.9 L	Match Sawicki/NPS/GCY
UPSET HOTEL	150.7 L	Bob Dye
LAST CHANCE	156.2 R	Laura Chamberlin
TUCKUP	165.1 R	Chelsea DeWeese
UPPER NATIONAL	167.0 L	Marieke Taney
LOWER NATIONAL	167.1 L	Daniel Graber
TRAVERTINE FALLS	230.6 L	Chris Vail
GNEISS	236.0 R	Latimer Smith
250 MILE	250.0 R	Latimer Smith

Note: This list reflects all the “primary adopters,” although we realize that the AAB packets got passed around a bit. So thanks to the rest of you who helped out with our program!

To provide some context for the photo series of Zoroaster beach (River Mile 84.9 Left), High Flow Experimental Releases (HFE) from Glen Canyon Dam have occurred on the following dates:
 March 26 – April 2, 1996

 November 21 – 23, 2004
 March 5 – 7, 2008
 November 18 – 23, 2012
 November 11 – 16, 2013

mean really inventory the scene in front of you—you will start to see things you never noticed before. And your observations may make you want to know more about your particular adopted beach. Before you know it, you may even “both generate and test hypotheses” regarding your knowledge of the beach. You can even become the world expert on that particular beach!

Volunteering as a beach photographer can prove quite informative and invigorating. Steady the camera

lens, shoot, then contemplate. Like Drifter, you may just be surprised!

For more information, contact Lynn Hamilton at the GCRG office, see the Adopt-a-Beach page at the GCRG website, or check out your photos on the GIS Campsite Atlas website: www.gcmrc.gov/gis/silvermap1.aspx.

Zeke Lauck

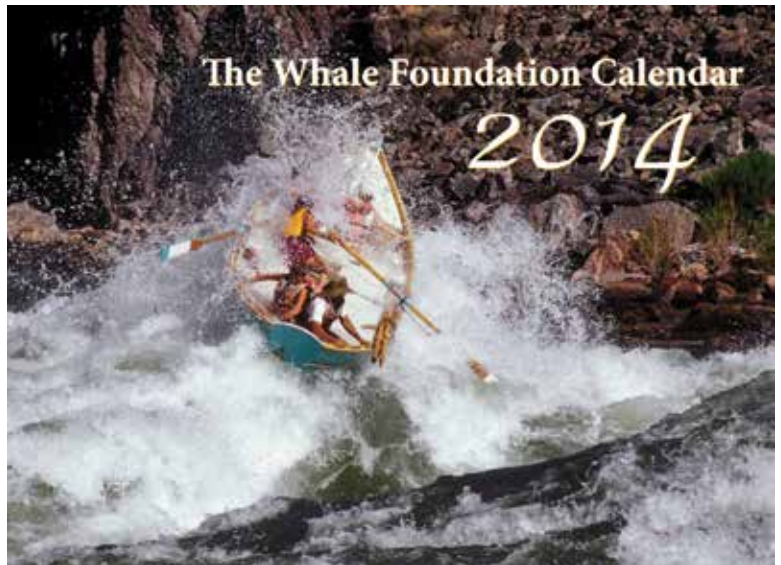
Back of the Boat— The Whale Foundation News Bulletin

12TH ANNUAL WING DING

WANT TO CATCH UP WITH OLD FRIENDS, have a great time, and support the Whale Foundation? We are proud to announce the Twelfth Annual Wing Ding is on Saturday, February 22ND, 2014 from 6–11 P.M. at the Coconino Center for the Arts (2300 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff). There will be dinner and music, a kid's corner, a huge silent auction with lots of beautiful art, books, services, and getaways donated by the entire community. This year Erica Fareio is our featured artist. Check out our Face Book page to see her incredible painting of the confluence which will be featured on our posters: www.facebook.com/WhaleFoundation

THE 2014 WHALE FOUNDATION CALENDAR

What could be better than a calendar filled with photos of Grand Canyon white water. Check out our Facebook page to see some more amazing images you will find inside the calendar: Calendars are \$12/each and \$3/each shipping. Order now by calling our business line at 928-774-9440. You can also just send us a check for \$15 to; P.O. Box 855 Flagstaff, AZ 86002 and we will send you one. There are a handful of retail stores in Flagstaff that carry it too, you can find a list of these stores on our Face Book page. If you order ten or more, the price drops down to \$10/each (no shipping costs).



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A heartfelt thank you goes to Pat Rose and Trevor Lugers for serving on the board. Pat steered us in the right direction countless number of times. Thankfully, she is going to stay on at the Tim Whitney Wellness Initiative Committee. Trevor helped guide the Behavioral Health Services Committee before moving to Bend, Oregon this summer. Our community owes them a great debt of gratitude. We are also excited to have two new board members taking their place. The board welcomes Gibney Siemion and Nicole Carson Degomez.



The Whale Foundation's Health Insurance Assistance Program Is Up And Running

IN 2012 THE WHALE FOUNDATION was given several substantial donations in memory of Tim Whitney with the intention to promote physical wellness in the boating community. An important part of the Whale Foundation's mission is to provide a network of support services designed to promote the well being of the Grand Canyon river guiding community. Therefore, we are introducing the Tim Whitney Wellness Initiative (TWWI) Health Insurance Assistance Program for 2014. The goal of the program is to encourage those without insurance to purchase a policy, and to help those with insurance afford it. It is intended for boatmen who pay for their own health insurance out of their own pocket.

Applicants will be eligible for up to \$400 to defray the cost of health insurance. Awards will depend on how many people apply. We have limited funds therefore the program will be competitive based upon financial need. Some of the awards may be less than \$400, some applications may be declined altogether. It is important to note that an applicant needs to have a current insurance policy to be eligible for this program although there is no guarantee of receiving an award. The committee plans to review the program and funding in the spring of 2014 to determine whether the program will continue.

Boatmen are encouraged to apply if they meet the following requirements:

- Employed as a guide on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon for at least one full season (approximately sixty on-river days). Applicants do not need to be currently working as a guide.
- Proof of current health insurance policy (photocopy of insurance card, bill, or receipt).
- Applicant does not participate in an employer provided comprehensive health care program that covers all of their insurance costs nor are they covered by Medicare/Medicaid (AHCCCS).
- Submitted an application by deadline, January 31, 2014.

The applicant's identity will be confidential and known only to members of the TWWI committee. The committee will rate all applications and determine all awards by March 15TH, 2014.

If you plan to purchase insurance through the on-line exchange market, please be advised that we highly recommend getting consultation through

an insurance broker. There are issues with Arizona statewide plans that might not be evident from the on-line exchange. For example, some of the lower cost plans may have very limited physician networks that would require a patient to see doctors located only in Phoenix. These plans may not stipulate that information on the exchange. Call Dan Hall for referrals to insurance brokers and ACA navigators. These specialists will provide important information at no cost to you, the consumer. Healthcare.gov has had a rocky rollout but we are on schedule to allow for applicants to purchase a policy and still apply to our program before the deadline at the end of January 2014. If there are any changes, we will have updated information at our website.

Visit the Whale Foundation website www.whale-foundation.org for more information and to download the application form. Please contact Dan Hall for further information at 928-774-9440.

Dan Hall

Local Reports

Words soar within me
like greenbacked swallows.
My words, spoken out loud,
lose their meaning
in this desert region
where swallows aloft
ride flawless paths
sweeping and banking
through bone dry air
on scythe edged wings,
quick flaring tails.

I attempt towering statements,
each one released into space
on an unrecorded course.
Words go flying; transient reports
echoing below a lidless sky.
It remains difficult out here
to consider ever again
telling small lies to people,
courting public approval for
my insular dispatches.

Rick Petrillo ©2010

Grand Canyon artist, Arline Tinus, passed away in October at the age of 76 from lymphoma. Her lovely artwork is featured in this issue. She was fond of saying that her initials are A.R.T and the Grand Canyon was her inspiration.



Arline Tinus

First Boat



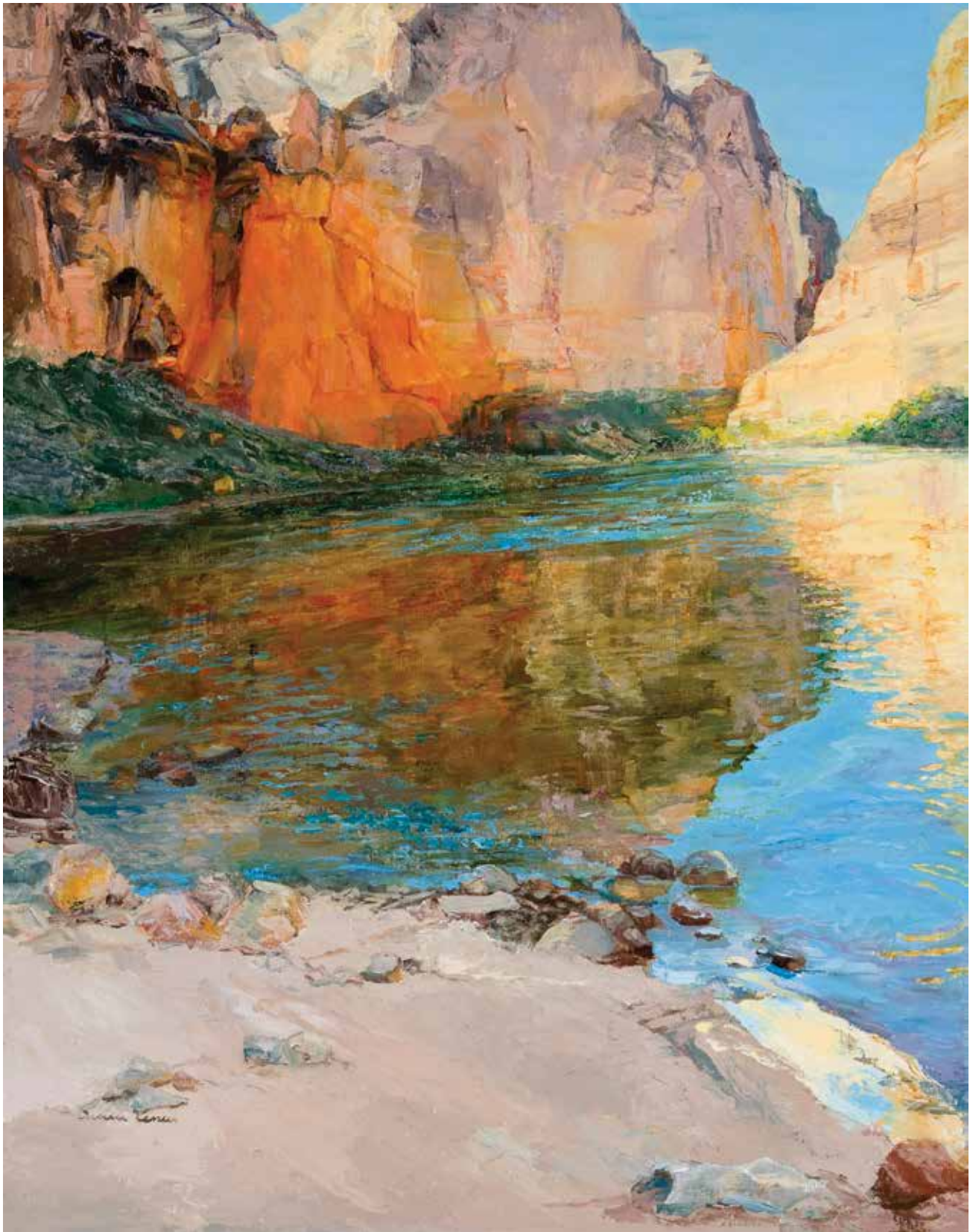
Arline Tinus



Orange Wall

Arline Tinus

Cliffs of Glory



Orange Wall

Arline Tinus

Pontificating Deep Space Frog

World inside a water drop
What gave you form?
When will you stop?
From here you look so very small
Your mountains, your rivers
I can't see them at all
But inside, you are whirling
So much to behold
The people, the cities
"Technology" I am told
"What will consume them?"
I hear the angels wonder aloud
Their anthems, their hubris
It all seems so proud
Aware of so much
Yet devoid of soul
They have lost connection
Suspended from whole
But from another angle
I see the purpose you serve
For a damsel fly has landed
On your liquidy curve
From the depths I swim
Then leap in the air
Your world, fat damsel
"A fine lunch!"
I declare

Ryan Howe

North Rim Camp

Blue shadows swell
within the canyon well
flow silently
over limestone walls,
tides returning once more
to shores reclaiming shoals
which were depths before.

Deep shadows swell,
overspill the brim
lapping inland
the length of rim.
One final beam upon standing bark,
the evening sky slips
then the dark.

Rick Petrillo ©1985

Tongues

Listen for a language of your own
echoing somewhere off steep walls;
embrace the lyrical impulse
sweeping by on gray beating wings.

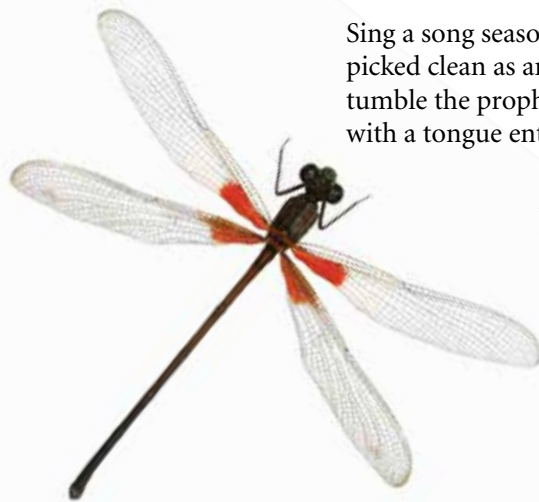
Weave a winding tendrill
into a blossoming web;
spin beyond night starlings
encountered on moonlit swings.

Seek out each crucial turning
approaching the arid remote;
regard what rocks will tell you
flawless as anything known.

Sing a song seasoned in sunlight,
picked clean as an antelope bone;
tumble the prophetic tangle
with a tongue entirely your own.

Rick Petrillo

©1972 Catching It Whole



Living Walls

Frigid earthen blood
Sculpt stone...and soul
Carving cathedrals of light

Wrapped and raptured
In grasping azure aura
These ancient walls shed their skin

As the Tanager sews
Tamarisk to willow
With threads of golden light

This Canyon Heart beats
Pulse quickened
With wind gasped breath

Then wren sigh...and die
On silent slumbering seed

Stuart Walthall

Grand Canyon Run

Life is full of flows and eddies
Some years sweet and filled with grace
They flow by like a summer breeze
It's so grand to find that place

Then at times the current fails you
And you're caught so hard you're stuck
As you circle round with nothing new
How might you find some luck

What you need is an adventure
That will lift you out of time
And show you something pure
To gain perspective on your line

A way to help you to think clear
A way to free your soul
There is nothing much to fear
Except never growing old

Just go raft the Colorado
Eighteen days should be enough
You need not hit the lotto
And you needn't take much stuff

Pick a crew of hearty oarsmen
Who know the journey well
Pick those you value as a friend
Don't make it a hard sell

Each river mile brings pleasure
And new values for to hold
The close calls all add treasures
In the stories that are told

You'll see the multi-layered narrows
Quite like none you've seen before
Watched by full curled, bighorn fellows
With their harems six or more

Swim through milky marine aqua
In grand bath tubs grown from stone
Then trust your life to Lava
That should chill you to the bone

Take a hike to Thunder River
Cut the Surprise Valley trail
Put an arrow in your quiver
For knowing not to fail

Eat more than you can stand to
Then poop it in the can
Be a Grover duty "can do"
And please, please wash your hands

And through it all you're learning
To find beauty in your friends
And to know the ferry angling
That brings your eddies to their end

In reflection you will glory
In the full moon and the stars
And what it is in your life's story
That makes you what you are

With riches worth far more than cash
You'll leave your dirty throng
It's all over in a canyon flash
Yet it lasts a lifetime long

Don Kemper 2012

Canyon Moon

It's a full moon in the canyon and the canyon walls are fun
Moon shadows follow every rock and rim
The stars just faint reminders of each far away hot sun
While the moon takes center stage to master them

It may pass in just an hour as the canyon walls are close
And the moon cannot linger off its pace
It's a chance for new perspectives with the contrast of the night
A time to see the world's pure moonlight face

Other full moons can surprise us in the canyons of our minds
Unexpectedly they help us see the con
Though they can light our walls of doubt, of fears and of what binds
Like canyon moons they're fleeting and they're gone

Don Kemper 2012

Jeri Ledbetter

I started coming to Grand Canyon as a kid. My parents brought me out here several times. We would go on these vacations—I was raised in Oklahoma—we'd get in the car and just start driving west and end up someplace like Grand Canyon or Canyonlands or the Rocky Mountains. But I didn't come to the river until 1987. My mother had always talked about doing a river trip. We were backpacking one time and she saw these little boats float by. She said, "Someday we're going to do that." But it would never occur to her to go without bringing my sister and me, and she couldn't really afford it until 1987. My grandmother died in 1986, and left a small amount of money. My mom said, "Okay, the whole family's going on the river." And we did. At the time I was leading a fairly different life from what I thought I would have. I was building mini-warehouses in Indianapolis (chuckles) and not really that fulfilled. And I came out onto the river and I just couldn't leave. It wasn't like I made a conscious decision—I had no choice, I had to stay. "If I don't come out here and spend more time on the river, I'll explode." Because what I was doing was not really working out for me as a human.

I thought if I were an EMT somebody'd be more likely to hire me, and so I got my EMT certification. Then I thought if I had medical experience, I'd be that much more marketable as a guide, because I didn't know how to row. So I worked all winter as an EMT for this ambulance service where I lifted—a lot of really obese people get sick—and I lifted a lot of them that winter, and I got a lot stronger, and then came out in the spring and said, "Okay, I want to be a boatman." It wasn't that easy. (laughs) They didn't exactly just snap me up. But I went on a trip as a passenger again in April of '88, and Doc Nicholson was rowing a dory on that trip—it was an OARS trip. George Wendt had just bought Grand Canyon Dorries and so they were taking these dories on this trip. Doc would let me row his boat a lot. He'd get up in the morning, he'd say, "Oh, man, Jeri, my shoulder's really sore today. Could you row my boat for me?" And I'd say, "Sure, Doc, no problem!" But he knew what I was up to, and he helped me out a lot, and he taught me sort of how to row in flat water and swirlies...

* * *

Jeri Ledbetter is a great mom (and grandma!), boatman, pilot, businesswoman, activist. She is a past president (past Secretary-Treasurer, past Membership Director, and past glue that once helped hold the whole damn thing together) of Grand Canyon River Guides. She has worked for Grand Canyon Dorries, Tour West, CanX, and swamped a trip for ARR. This interview began in 1997, just before she stepped down as president of GCRG, and was continued in 2008 under the Adopt-a-Boatman program.

* * *

STEIGER: What possessed you to get involved with GCRG?

LEDBETTER: The first season that I was rowing baggage boats, I did a lot of trips with Kenton [Grua], and I wouldn't have been able to do it if it hadn't been for him. He's the one that actually taught me how to survive in the bigger rapids. You know, Doc couldn't let me row his boat in big rapids, certainly. The first trip I did on my own, Kenton had to deal with me, and I didn't know how to row. I just flailed along, and he was so incredibly patient. And he was getting involved



Circa 2005.

Photo: Leon Werdinger

with Grand Canyon River Guides at the time, and I wanted to help. He had given me so much, and he'd helped me so much, I wanted to help him. That was part of it. Denise [Napolitano] was the first Secretary-Treasurer, and she was kind of computer-phobic at the time. She's since gotten a lot more proficient, but at the time she'd never really worked with databases before. So I started slowly moving into helping just with the record keeping, keeping track of addresses, and who's a member and who's not.

STEIGER: What was the lay of the land then in terms of...what was the membership and how much money was there?

LEDBETTER: Denise was Secretary-Treasurer for two years, and then when I first came in, sometimes you had to decide whether or not you could afford to buy another roll of stamps. The budget was very, very tight. There was one point when Kenton loaned the organization five hundred dollars just to keep it going. So the budgeting decisions were pretty dire at the time, and membership was not that...The number 89 stands out in my mind—I think we had 89 members at the time.

STEIGER: Why would Kenton take five hundred bucks of his own money and put it into this thing?

LEDBETTER: It seems like the main focus at the time was the Grand Canyon Protection Act, and dam operations in the EIS. The Grand Canyon Protection Act was really a huge success for all the environmental organizations that were involved. And Grand Canyon River Guides was a part of that. What we saw was a lot of management decisions about the river corridor being made by people who didn't have the knowledge—bureaucrats who knew little of the river. And it seemed that Grand Canyon boatmen should have input into the processes of making these policy decisions—not only with dam operations, but with park management policy—even requirements for guide certification. I think Kenton was very outspoken about that initially.

STEIGER: But you...how did you get sucked in so deep so fast? (laughs)

LEDBETTER: I don't know! Unfortunately, that's what I'm good at, is just mindless little details, and record keeping and accounting. I'm just neurotic enough to be willing to put the time into it that it required. (laughs) I guess I just looked at the organization and where it was headed, and looked at what it was that I felt like it needed—you know, what I could do to help. And that seemed to be the area where I could really help. I didn't have that much knowledge about issues, or even really the Canyon or the river or anything else. But I know how to do mindless bookkeeping (chuckles), so that's what I did.

For a while, I was doing a lot of the work from

Indiana, because I was still living in Indianapolis and commuting out to do the river trips.

STEIGER: Didn't you rebuild the whole membership database and all the books and everything, almost from square one?

LEDBETTER: Yeah, I completely reentered—redid the database and put it into a relational database that's a lot more powerful. And that put all of the bookkeeping and all of the records and all of the history of each guide easily accessible. It's not that hard a thing to do—it's just not something that anybody else knew how to do. Actually, I didn't know how to do it either, I just figured it out. But I'd worked a lot with computers and I liked 'em. It seemed fun at the time. (laughs)

STEIGER: You'd never done it before? You just sort of figured it out because it needed to be done?

LEDBETTER: Yeah.

STEIGER: Well, GCRG seems a lot more businesslike nowadays. Had you had business experience before? I mean, just in terms of accounting and stuff.

LEDBETTER: I had had a lot of business experience. I'd been an owner-operator of this property management company, and we developed mini storage warehouses, and I did all of the bookkeeping, all the accounting for that. I didn't go to school to do it, it was just something I figured out how to do. So I had some expertise and some...I don't think it's really anything you have an ability for, I think it's just something some people are more willing to do than others—counting the pennies.

STEIGER: Well, it's pretty comical. It seems like, "Okay, here, the thing went from, Kenton has to loan it five hundred dollars..." And I was looking at it recently, I couldn't believe it. I looked at the last annual report...

LEDBETTER: Yeah, that's right. Every year we bring in more than the year before, but we always seem to spend it quite readily.

I think the main reason that people join has been the newsletter, the BQR as it's called now. Certainly the bread and butter [of GCRG] is the 25 dollars a year annual membership, but people started sending us thousands. And that still blows me away.

STEIGER: Who started sending thousands?

LEDBETTER: Passengers we've taken down the river. Paul Newman, just out of the blue, sent some money last year. We're starting to get contributions from people we've never heard of.

* * *

LEDBETTER: When people ask me how I came to be in Grand Canyon—which they do, almost every trip—I

always mention Kenton, and I credit him for the fact that I didn't just get sent on my way early on, because he kept asking for me, he kept up the faith, he got me trips when I couldn't get them on my own. I realized at a point, that's what I was telling other people, but I'd never actually told Kenton. We make that mistake a lot in our lives. So one year I cornered Kenton in the parking lot at a GTS, and he never heard compliments well. Appreciation was a little bit hard for him to accept. So he's lookin' down and he's kickin' in the dirt, and he said, "Aw, you'd have done it without me." But I just told him how much I appreciated his help, and how much I owed him, and he said, "Naw, you don't owe me anything." And he died that year. I was so glad I'd had that conversation I did with him. That's a really important thing to remember, the lesson that sometimes we learn too late.

STEIGER: Often. I could probably say that same thing myself. I mean, I probably got a lot of the trips I did just on account of him. I was the only one that was slower than him! (laughter) He liked that part. I made him look pretty good.

LEDBETTER: That's great. Remember the trip with the guy that as it turned out, couldn't row? You and I were on it. Dory trip, mid-nineties.

STEIGER: Yeah! I do remember that.

LEDBETTER: His name was Mike. He showed up, and we'd heard that he rowed on the Arkansas. But it turned out he rowed in the state of Arkansas, like flatwater. He was a lawyer from Arkansas. Holy cow! I remember you and I were at Lees Ferry and we were rigging his boat for this guy, we're tying everything down like three ways. I think you looked at me and said, "Are we being overly anal?" And we both looked at him then looked at each other, "Nah! Let's keep doin' what we're doin'." Then he pinballed down the left wall at Paria, and we pulled in at lunch above Badger, and drew him pictures. We had him go right in between a couple boats. I think he was right behind me, and he made it through the rapid!

STEIGER: Greased it?

LEDBETTER: Well, no, he lost both oars, and he was sideways a lot, but he made it through. So we thought, "Okay." But we had all kind of circled the wagons down below, waiting for him. So then we pulled out, we're goin', "Okay, we're gonna be fine. We worried for nothing." And Brad [Dimock], in his boat, was explaining to the people about safety and how important it is to watch the other boats, and he said, "That's why we waited down below. It's important to keep your eye on the other boats. Don't assume we see if something goes wrong. Let us know." And Neal, this guy in the back of the boat, didn't want to interrupt this very

important safety talk, but finally he did interrupt. He said, "Well, what about those chaps?" and he pointed at this baggage boat that was just postage-stamped on a rock upstream. Nine Mile! The river's pretty wide there, and there's really nothing there except for a couple of rocks over on the far right shore, and he wrapped on one of those. It took two hours, I think, to get the boat off of there, and then it flipped when we pulled it off, so we righted it. It was kind of embarrassing, because a private trip passed, and here's this commercial trip with a postage stamp wrap in a weird place. And they pulled in to help us, and helped us set up a "Z" drag, because how often do you have to use a "Z" drag in Grand Canyon?!

STEIGER: Yeah, you swam out to that boat, didn't you? You and Moki went out there and attached the lines and all that.

LEDBETTER: Yeah. We had to de-rig some things and let air out. Luckily, it was rigged really well. But I guess the point was, everybody was still really kind to this guy. But somebody actually told me later that he surpassed even me as the most clueless baggage boatman they'd ever done a trip with. And I didn't realize I'd held that distinction.

STEIGER: I never heard that.

LEDBETTER: Well, you didn't do the early trips with me. And maybe I was just lucky that I didn't wrap at Nine Mile.

STEIGER: The part I remember—I couldn't have even told you this guy's name—but I remember there was just something about the way he was dealing with his own equipment, where even at the boathouse we thought, "We better keep an eye on this guy, because he doesn't seem to be very dialed-in at all." I remember me and you tying his boat down. But what was funny—he got a lot of the people's bags. Now here's these people who were just starting down the Grand Canyon, and that riffle was the next little thing right below Badger, the very first rapid. It was just like you said, we were worried about him, and then I remember Brad really coached him about Badger when we had lunch at Six Mile. And I was down in front, in front of Brad too, and I remember we waited below Badger. I didn't see Mike drop his oars. All I saw from wherever I was—he was in the right spot, just perfect. So I pushed downstream, and didn't even look back. Got below the next little thing and I looked back...

LEDBETTER: "Somethin' doesn't look right."

STEIGER: He's like way over on the right. I'm like, "What's he doin' over there? Why is he over there?! There's rocks in there!" And I saw him actually wrap.

I remember what was really funny was we pulled ashore, and we all go hikin' up there, and the guys that



Jeri working her way out to the stamped raft.

were in my boat came along, and were right there with me looking at this boat. I can't remember, did Mike and his passenger stay with the wrapped boat, or did they swim off of there?

LEDBETTER: They both swam. The assistant cook—I think her name was Shawna—swam.

STEIGER: It's incredible that you can remember their names.

LEDBETTER: I remember a lot about that trip, because that was a trip that had such amazing personalities.

STEIGER: Well, what I thought was so funny was—these guys I had with me were all walkin' up there, and I'm just trying to put up a good front, but this boat is like, so screwed, there's just one little patch of tube stickin' up above the water.

LEDBETTER: It was bad.

STEIGER: And these people that are with me are goin', "Now, isn't that the very same boat that we just put our bags on?" (laughter)

LEDBETTER: I had this guy, Jack with me that day, and the only thing I could think to say was, "This hardly ever happens." We pulled in and dealt with it, and ended up camping just below there on the left, on this little postage stamp of a camp. We got in at dusk. It was kind of a rough way to begin a river trip. And then Mike didn't get any better. Moki was leading that trip, and we talked a lot, but the cooks didn't want to ride with him, nobody wanted to ride with him. So he had to bail his own boat, and there was a lot of bailing he needed to do, because he took on a lot of water. And then he was nervous, so he's rowing up the eddies a lot, so we were having to wait for him, trying

to shepherd him downriver. We couldn't do any hiking, because we're trying to get this guy downstream. At 24-Mile, he was headed straight for that rock at the bottom on the right, dead sideways, and it looked like he was gonna do it again. Moki was downstream, and he stood up and yelled in a big Moki yell at the top of his lungs, "Noooooooooooo!" And it worked! Somehow Mike surged around that rock. So I learned something from that. I've actually used that technique a couple of times, screaming "No!" when you see something going wrong.

STEIGER: Bronco tried that with me any number of times. Bronco would yell all kinds of stuff at me, but it never did help. I always crashed anyway. Mike, I remember he made it down to Eminence Break, and we stole that gal Megan from Lars [Niemi]. Megan was cooking on a science trip, and Mike had hurt his shoulder by then. He'd blown out a tendon or a ligament or something. So we actually got a replacement for him on the fly, farmed him out, and then things got a lot better.

LEDBETTER: Oh, Megan was great. That changed everything.

STEIGER: Lars, we owe you, buddy.

LEDBETTER: Yeah!

STEIGER: Lars really didn't want to see Megan go.

LEDBETTER: No, he didn't.

STEIGER: We were all working for the same company, so Lars had to kind of "take one for the team."

LEDBETTER: That was great. And the trip just changed dramatically after that, because we could all relax.

* * *

STEIGER: How many trips did you get to do with your mom?

LEDBETTER: Just the one.

STEIGER: That was it? How was that for you and her on that trip?

LEDBETTER: Oh, it was great. She loved it. She actually did a bunch of research, and she decided to go with OARS. She looked at Grand Canyon Dories, but she went to a talk that Martin [Litton] gave in Colorado Springs. Martin would travel around the country, partly trying to talk up his river trips. But he'd show these films of boats just flipping, one after another.

STEIGER: Yeah, set to classical music.

LEDBETTER: Yeah! (laughter) She saw that and her impression was that dories just always flip, and that didn't look fun to her, she didn't want to end up in the water. She was convinced that if she ended up in the water, she would just stop breathing, and that would be it. She wasn't there for the rapids, by any means, but she and Dad were hikers, and they'd hiked a bunch of Grand Canyon, and there were places that she couldn't get to, except in a boat. So that's why we did that river trip.

But it was great, and she encouraged me to... You know, some parents are kind of horrified when their kids start becoming boatmen, but she was pretty excited about it. In 1990 I rowed a baggage boat, and I got to bring my dad along as a bailer. That was a great trip. And she died a couple weeks after that trip, in a fall.

STEIGER: Yeah, right out of the blue. I remember that.

LEDBETTER: Yeah.

STEIGER: It's easy to see why you did become successful, and a boatman: both your parents are such go-getters. So how was it for you, was it memorable when you made the leap from rowin' a baggage boat to rowin' people?

LEDBETTER: I rowed a bunch of baggage boat trips before I was even remotely capable of rowing people. Some people can just do their six trips and be fine, but I wasn't fine yet—it took a while. Then when I did get a handle on it, I wasn't just snatched up. Tour West gave me some trips early on, and I started rowing people. But at first, I just thought, "I don't even care if I never row people. I just want to be down here, I want to be on the crew. I'd like to get all the way through Grand Canyon without falling out of my boat—that'd be great." But I could never think about rowing people, and no way I could ever row a dory. And then after, I think it was thirteen baggage boat trips, I thought, "Yeah, okay, I can row people—but only rafts. I could

never row a dory." After a good number of those, I thought, "You know, maybe I could row a dory. Maybe an aluminum boat. I could never row a wooden boat." (laughs) "But maybe I could row an aluminum boat—that'd be cool." So it was very gradual. I've always been pretty, let's see, uncertain, I guess. Confidence was hard for me to build. Every time I started to think that maybe I was figuring it out, I'd just get slapped. That still happens.

But, rowing dories is really sweet. I still love rowing rafts. I love any kind of boat. I've taken a bunch of different kinds of boats through Grand Canyon—some that nobody should take through Grand Canyon. I mean, as silly as dories can be, they sure beat a sweep scow.

STEIGER: Yeah, how about that?! What about that Hyde trip?

LEDBETTER: The demon rum was involved.

STEIGER: Tell me everything.

LEDBETTER: I had a private trip coming up. I'd been on the list for a while, and had a private trip, and we talked about options. My kids were unable to go at the time, at their age. Which I've got to say, one of the



The early years.



Having fun in Lava.

things that working in Grand Canyon did, it allowed me to bring my kids down there. It's hugely expensive to take your kids on a commercial trip. That was the only way to do it, was I got to take 'em on commercial trips, and it was wonderful. Those are times that they remember above all others—some of the times we had on various rivers in the desert Southwest. And I took 'em to Alaska. I think rivers are great things for kids.

Anyway, my kids couldn't go on this trip for some reason. We were trying to decide what to do with this private trip, and we were drinking rum on a dory trip at Grapevine. It was kind of late, and we got to talking about Glen and Bessie Hyde and the boat. So much of what we'd heard about that trip, people blamed the boat for the disaster, for Glen and Bessie not making it—assuming that they didn't make it. But that boat was run in Idaho successfully. They still run sweep boats in Idaho, so why blame the boat? Maybe that was actually the best boat for Grand Canyon, and maybe that's what John Wesley Powell should have brought. If

he'd done his research, that's probably what he would have ended up with actually, because they were already running these boats on rivers with rapids.

STEIGER: Oh really, in the late 1800s?

LEDBETTER: Yeah. And so we got on this conversation about why blame the boat, and I said, "I've got an idea, let's build a sweep scow and take it on a private trip in the Grand Canyon, just the two of us. It'll be romantic."

STEIGER: The "two of you" is...

LEDBETTER: Brad and me. Brad Dimock. And Brad said, "Okay." And then we started talking about it, and how we would do it, and when we would do it. And we're having more rum, and I woke up the next morning thinking, "Oh my God!" because I know Brad well enough to know that he would do it, that he was...

STEIGER: When he said, "we'll do it!"

LEDBETTER: Yeah, he was already figuring out the design of the boat, already figuring out all sorts of things, because he's Brad. I thought, "Oh my God." I



A calm moment on the sweep scow.

started immediately worrying about places like Crystal, Bedrock, House Rock, Hance, any place you'd have to make a cut.

Brad was worried about places like Granite, Horn Creek, Hermit, where the waves were just huge. Turns out we were both right! You have to worry about all that—and more. But we were committed by that time.

STEIGER: Because somebody else had heard you, or just because?

LEDBETTER: No, because we are who we are. And so we started making plans. I was still going, “But what about Bedrock?” He’s going, “Yeah, what about Granite?” But we were committed, so we had the sweep scow construction party. We’d been talking about it for some time, and planning it, and I checked with the Park and made sure that they would let us take this boat, and they said, “All we care about is the minimum equipment that’s required.”

STEIGER: Oh great.

LEDBETTER: So that denies us that out. The time approached, we built the boat, and we took it on a test run down Diamond Creek—from Diamond Creek down to the reservoir, with some friends. My son [Colby] was on that trip. And we just got slammed—espe-

cially at 232, we were completely out of control, dead sideways, right over the fangs. If the water had been lower and the fangs had been out, we’d have crashed in a huge way. The boat sank twice. We were...

STEIGER: It literally sank?!

LEDBETTER: It blub-blubbed. Water just started pouring in. We had this idea of a little trap door where we could let water out, but water came in instead, because as soon as it was heavy enough for that to be underwater...

STEIGER: Self-bailer kind of thing?

LEDBETTER: Yeah, the self-bailer thing didn’t work, because the boat was just so heavy. And then when it got waterlogged, it just went deeper and deeper, and water poured in through cracks. The wood hadn’t swelled enough. So I asked my son who was on that trip if I could borrow his helmet when we took the boat through Grand Canyon, and he said, “Ye-ah!” Brad was already getting a little gray. He was preoccupied. We put the boat up on our trailer and went to Meadview to gas up. We had the truck and trailer parked in front of the gas tanks, and everybody was in the store buying ice cream or something, and a guy came in and asked us to move the vehicle because it



Down the middle in Hermit. Find the red helmet.

was in the way of him to get gas. And Brad said, “Yeah, I’ll get it.” Brad ran out and he went up to the Land Cruiser, opened the door, jumped in, closed the door, and then realized he was in the back seat—maybe a little preoccupied. So Brad had to get out, move to the front seat. He just got more and more gray over the next few days. And if he was worried, I was worried, because he has way more...

STEIGER: (laughs) You don’t typically see Brad Dimock worried about river running.

LEDBETTER: Yeah. And then Brian [Dierker] came by...Brad was telling him how terrified he was, and Brian said, “Well, why don’t I come along and run safety for you?” Then Brian couldn’t back out, because Brad was begging and pleading. So Brian came along, and Cooper Carothers rode with him to help do whatever needed to be done. And they rescued us full-on three times. Once was, oddly enough, Tiger Wash. Brad went out of the boat. The boat just rocketed downstream. The sweep scow would move so fast sometimes, if Brian hadn’t been there, it would have been pretty ugly. Brad had an ugly swim at Tiger Wash. After that, he wore two life jackets.

The other place he rescued us was Horn Creek. Bri-

an would, in his little sport boat, hover at the top of a rapid until we were set. We’d line up, figure out where we wanted to be, and it was the “between the horns” run. There really wasn’t anywhere else to go. The waves were huge, and that boat, when it started hitting the big waves, it was so violent, the sweep oars would just fly around, and we would dive onto the floor and hide.

STEIGER: Did you try to control the sweeps?

LEDBETTER: We would try to control them, and at that point, when we couldn’t control ’em anymore, we would just dive for cover.

Anyway, so we’re at the top of Horn Creek. We would kind of look at each other—Brad called it the “conference of eyeballs”—because we couldn’t always talk. So we nodded at each other, and Brian went in. He would go through the rapid and get to the place where...the worst possible place we could end up, and he’d wait for us there. And sometimes that’s where we would go. Sure enough, Brian went into the left corner pocket at the bottom of Horn Creek, and that’s where we went. As we’re coming into that eddy, we could see this expression that Brian thought maybe he could stop us—he was going to try to stop us from... But we weighed a bazillion tons, and he’s in this little

inflatable sport boat. He'd just get squashed like a bug in there. I think Brad yelled, "Innnccccooooomm-mmung!"

STEIGER: I can just see everybody doing the math.

LEDBETTER: Yeah, we did the math. Brian got out of the way. And we went eerrrk! and did an eddy turn on the left side of Horn Creek. We would still be there today if Brian hadn't come back and rescued us. People would for years throw us sandwiches as they passed by. "Yeah, there they are still." Because I don't know how we would have gotten out of an eddy like that, without Brian. He came back in then and pushed us out... Yeah, we had two methods. We had a "T" and an "I." The "T," he would just push us sideways without tying or anything. But the "I," he would come in underneath the rear sweep, and we'd tie a really tight line. So we ended up being this very big, unwieldy, underpowered boat, and he pushed us out with the "I" method on that particular rapid. But it was one of the more ridiculous ideas.

STEIGER: That's the first time... I never did get the details from Brad. I didn't know it was your idea. (chuckles) It's always women that get you in trouble. (laughter)

LEDBETTER: Well, so I've heard. But you know, sometimes you come up with an idea when you're drinking rum, and you wake up the next morning, you go, "That was ridiculous, let's not do that." But the personalities involved, we are such that we had to do it. Again, I get bizarre ideas sometimes, and that was one of the most... We were lucky to come out of that without being hurt a lot more. We survived that trip and went back to Flagstaff and slept for a while—days.

Then I had a CanX trip where I was running a little fourteen-foot paddleboat. And I'd been kind of worried about running a fourteen-foot paddleboat until that point, and I thought, "Pffft! This is great! This is a boat that's not going to try to kill me!" But we got ready to push off on this CanX trip, and I was wearing shorts and a tee shirt, I think, and it exposed these huge bruises that were just healing. My legs were just covered with bruises. My arms were covered with bruises, they'd started to yellow. It looked like I'd been beaten. I had! The clients asked, "What happened to you?" I said, "Oh, it was last trip." (laughter)

STEIGER: Very reassuring.

LEDBETTER: Yeah. It was actually a great thing to do, and I'm so glad I did it. I'm just really glad I don't have to do it again, because we took a beating. It was scary. Lava Falls? (laughs) Again, it looked for all the world like we were gonna drop the ledge. We missed it, but not by much. It was just so amazing. We did the left run, but it was still so violent.

STEIGER: Boy. So you didn't handle the sweeps together, it was one person drivin' all the time?

LEDBETTER: We did sometimes, but it never worked out that well. One thing is, Brad was so much bigger than I was, and the oars were too close together, and we'd just end up bumping into each other. In a collision, I would always lose out. So it seemed to work better for one person to run it, and I didn't run anything big. That boat is not designed for somebody my size and my build. So Brad pretty much ended up running everything.

STEIGER: Too bad for you. It's much harder to ride than it is to...

LEDBETTER: Oh! Well, there were times when—like on entry to Lava, where he lost focus for just long enough, and didn't notice we were getting swept to the middle, because he's watching Brian. I'm watching where we are. Brian was just all pigtails and elbows. He swamped his motor. That's still a fairly small boat—those sport boats look really fun and they're pretty maneuverable, but in a rapid like that, it's big juice, you know, and Brian got thumped. So Brad's focus was...

STEIGER: "There goes our rescue boat. Oh shit!"

LEDBETTER: Partly that. Brad turned around and he said, "Did you see what happened to Brian?" I said, "Do you see what's happening to us?!" We're floating in and he starts trying to move left, but that boat doesn't work the way—if you try to row it like a rowboat, it doesn't work, the boat just goes, "ee-ee, ee-ee." You know, it's got a hard edge to it, and you just can't go sideways. So we're drifting toward the ledge, and there was just all this mist coming up, and he's doing everything he can, but it's not really working very well. He said, "We're goin' over the ledge, Jeri!" And I said, "No we're not! We are not goin' over the ledge!"

STEIGER: "Nooooooo!!!"

LEDBETTER: Yeah! (laughter) "No, we're are *not* goin' over the ledge! Don't you give up! You get to the left!" I'm just screaming at him. He's going, "Whaaaat?!" And he just kept trying. And we actually did squeak by, just barely. I mean, as we dropped in, the right side of the boat was just over the maw of it. So it was a really big ride—it was bigger than we anticipated, bigger than we'd hoped. Brian had gotten annihilated, we got annihilated, but it all worked out. And that was the last big scary place. Everything else was manageable below there, because we were taking out at Diamond Creek. We were pretty happy.

STEIGER: You guys figured that since you'd already done that lower end, no need to do that again?

LEDBETTER: No need to do that again! Thank you very much! Let's just take out at Diamond, and we've done it.

STEIGER: And you can just park that boat for good and that'll be fine.

LEDBETTER: Well, there was another time—I can't remember how or when it came up—but there was the old-timers' trip, where they had a bunch of the guys that had run pre-dam. Lois Jotter was on the trip, and Martin Litton. You were on it. I couldn't do the trip because I had a dory trip, and at the time I was just taking any trips I could that would pay. I also wasn't invited, I guess. But I got this idea to hike in the Toroweap Trail, so that I could ride fish-eye on the Cataract boat [which Brad was rowing] down the right at Lava. We planned this in advance, and I went way out of my way to set up all the logistics, and flew over there I guess, and hiked in with Tom and Stephanie Moody and Charlie on their backs. It wasn't until we were actually floating into Lava Falls, and I'm lying on the front of this Cataract boat—it wasn't until that moment that I thought, "Maybe this is not a good idea."

STEIGER: "What was I thinking?!"

LEDBETTER: "What was I thinking?! I went way out of my way to do this! Because I had to hike out the next day. Why?" But of course by then it's too late. And the other thing is, historically, those guys never (pffft!) ran it down the right at Lava Falls, they were portaging—and certainly nobody was riding fish-eye! That was another kind of silly idea.

STEIGER: That worked out well, though. You guys had a pretty good run, as I recall.

LEDBETTER: Yeah. It was exciting.

* * *

STEIGER: You gave me that book of David Brower's... was it in there that he said, "Any organization ought to check itself every ten years or so, and disband." Was that in that book?

LEDBETTER: Yeah, it was. That no organization can truly continue to be effective after about ten years—or very rarely. That's because they tend to become so focused on their image they lose sight of their mission. There have been little signs of it here and there, I think, within the [GCRG] organization, that we're so caught up in what people think and how people perceive the organization that we're willing to, in some cases, compromise what we believe in. It hasn't taken over by any means, but it's just little signs here and there from what some people are saying. There are sometimes really difficult issues that you just have to take a stand on, that truly risk the organization. David Brower was always willing to take that risk, and that's why he got offed from the Sierra Club, among other

things, was that he felt some issues were worth risking the entire organization over...

I'm really curious to see where GCRG goes from here. I would hope that it continues to be a voice of the river community—not for the river community. I think that there has always been a lot of misunderstanding or confusion about what the organization was established for, and who am I even to say? But I have always seen this organization as providing a voice for river guides in the protection of Grand Canyon and of the experience. There are a lot of people who feel that the organization should represent the interests of boatmen. Maybe not a lot of people, but there are some who wanted to see it become more of a union or more of a protecting the interests, protecting jobs, protecting the security of boatmen. I think that's something we can be involved with and we can do, but it can't be our primary mission, and it can't be our primary goal.

STEIGER: Yeah. I see us looking after our people, our passengers. I mean, just as far as me personally and what GCRG's all about. And obviously, to do that, number one is the Canyon. You gotta take care of that. And then part of that is all these one-timers. (laughs) All these private guys too. We've got to do our part so they're not getting screwed, or so they're getting the best they can too, without hurting the place.

LEDBETTER: Yeah, and that's the experience. I've also questioned—is it... "Whose experience is it we're trying to protect?" I think it's of anyone who's down there—be it a commercial passenger, or a private boater, or even a hiker that comes down to the river. I think that whoever visits the river corridor should have the best experience possible, because it's such an amazing place. And I've always seen that as our role. I continually come across people who see it very, very differently. But that's why I've been so involved, that's why I've been so committed to the organization... Now, there are huge political issues that are very troubling for the community, that I think to an extent the organization has skirted away from, for better or worse. It's easy to say that protecting Grand Canyon is first and foremost our goal. But it's a hard thing to do, when the questions get harder, like when we're talking about wilderness. And I don't think we've really addressed that question. I think we want all the wiggle room that we can because it's such a tough issue for this community. I'm not saying that's wrong, I'm just saying it's worth looking at. To not acknowledge that we've backed away from that issue is inaccurate.

STEIGER: It's an age-old battle. You know, it's funny, this last trip I did, we launched on September 15, the last day you could have motors, and there I was, goin' on my motor-supported GCE dory trip. But Mike

Denoyer couldn't go, because he and a bunch of these other outfitters were gathering at Hatchland to talk to all these university students, trying to get them to figure out a design for an electric boat, electric motors. Now, if you have an electric motor, which is kind of a good idea and everything, would that be thrown out under the wilderness laws too?

LEDBETTER: Oh yeah! I mean, bicycles are, right?

STEIGER: You can't have a bike in the wilderness?

LEDBETTER: Yeah, but then people say, "Well, then how can you have an oar lock?" Where do you draw the line? And actually that's even a big question with the wilderness issue. I've run the main Salmon, which is a wilderness, and had jet boats pass me, going upstream. So those who say we can't have the precedent of allowing continued motor use with wilderness designation, there's already a precedent. I never quite understood that. So the answer to the question is not that clear, like so many questions. It's interesting, people have a perception, they're so ready to look for something that they think is there, that even if it's not, they'll see it there. We would get angry letters from people if the "W" word was printed in the newsletter

more than three or four times. They would count the number of times the "W" word appeared in the BQR.

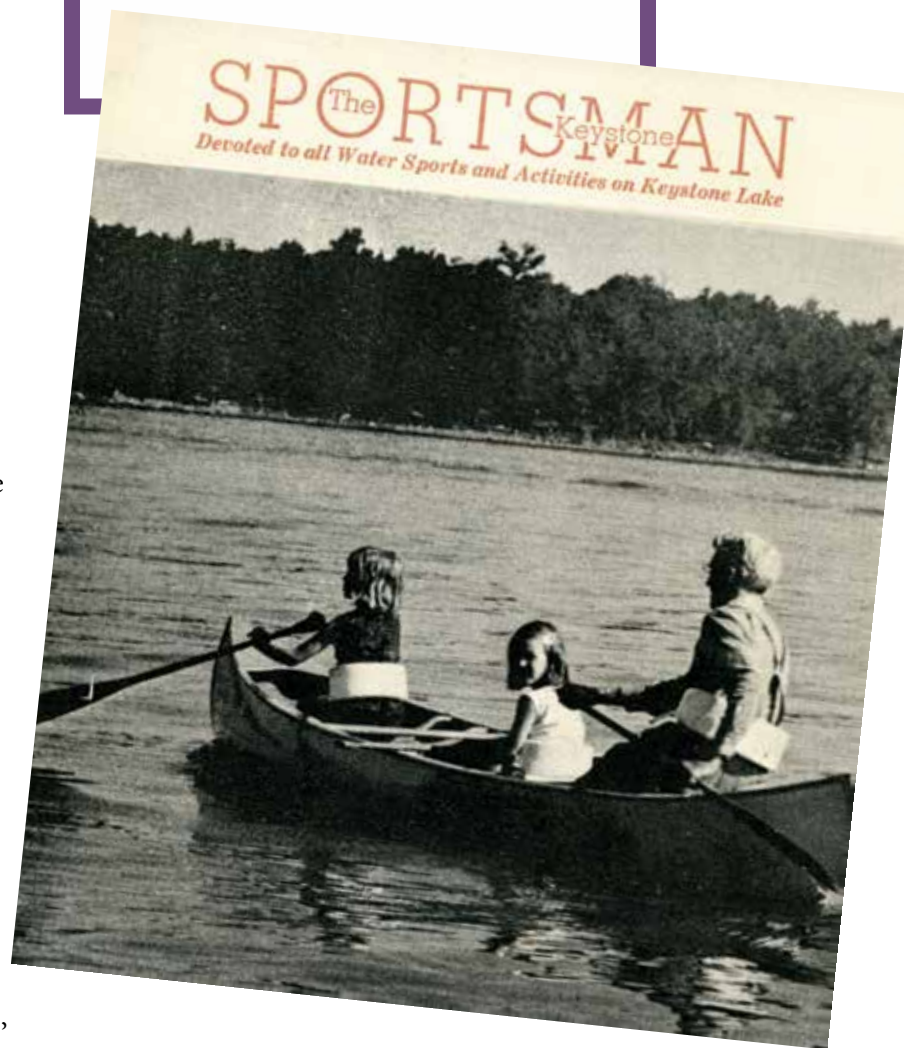
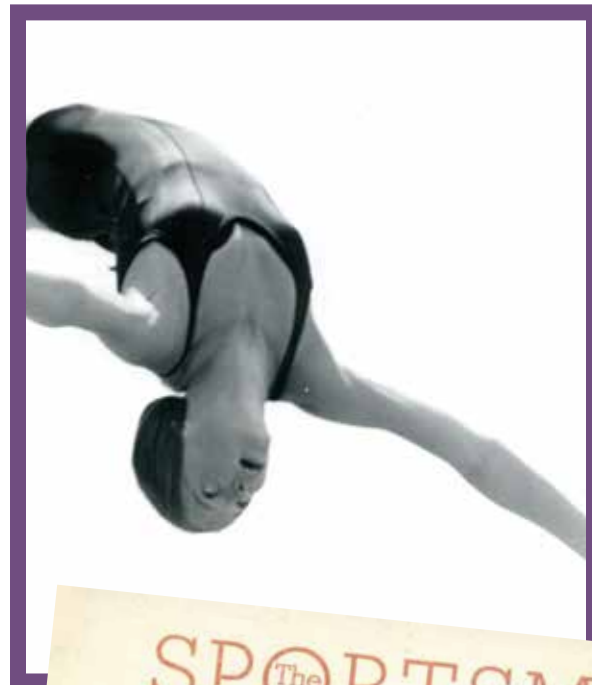
* * *

LEDBETTER: I've had the privilege of working with some of the coolest people on the planet, as far as I'm concerned. I worked for a bunch of different companies too, and that was good. I worked for Dories, but I also did an ARR trip, and I worked for Tour West, and for CanX for a couple of seasons. Worked for Moki Mac in Utah, and Wild Rivers, and did some Sobek trips. I think that I really benefited from that kind of interaction. There's not just one way to do it.

So many people have helped me along the way. I rowed trips with Dugald [Bremner]. He just had a way of making me laugh about everything. There was one day we launched on a trip, and I'm rowing along the first few miles, and my chest hurt, my ribs hurt. I'm thinking, "God, what did I do?! I'm really sore, it hurts to row." I'm kinda tryin' to stretch out, and then I realized it was from laughing so hard the night before. We were up laughing at Dugald. "The Dugald Bremner



If you've run trips with Jeri this might look familiar.



Show.” He just had us rolling and holding our sides, and I was sore for two days after that.

Same thing with... There are a couple of folks like that... Rondo [Buechler]. If I saw him on the schedule with me, I'd just know, I'd just start smilin', 'cause I knew it was gonna be big fun.

I learned a lot about water from the sweep scow trip, and learned a lot about getting beaten. I learned how much ibuprofen you can take without doing any long-term damage, hopefully.

One thing I noticed—I was talking to a woman on a research trip a couple of years ago, about when you get to camp I want a beer. Part of it is, I hurt a lot, and I'm anesthetizing myself, and there really are healthier ways of doing that, and maybe I should... it was a pattern I really started looking at, was: “I am drinking more because I hurt.” And I need to look pretty carefully at that, maybe think about half the beers and a little more yoga or something. Getting better exercise in between trips, and stayin' in shape over the winter better, so that I don't hurt so much in April... I'm not as skilled as I was ten years ago. I did two trips last season, and two trips isn't that much.

I was on a trip with you once—I had my daughter

Jeri's early years as a diver, and her first paddling job as a model, with her sister and grandfather behind.



Jeri and Larry Stevens at the world headquarters of the Springs Steward Institute at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

[Darah] on the trip, she was sixteen. It was a birthday present. I thought she needed a river trip. And I was right, it was really good for her. But I actually shelled out the money to take her on a trip. I just forgot how to row! Do you remember that? I was an idiot!

STEIGER: I don't remember that at all. I do remember goin' with Darah. I remember vividly the part where she sang like an angel. You guys sang together.

LEDBETTER: Uh-huh. Kenton was on that trip. And Darah just thought Kenton was hot. She just was so amazed by Kenton. They stayed in touch after that. They were buddies. Anyway, I wrecked at Unkar, wrecked at Crystal. I was overcompensating. I don't know, it was just retarded. Then we ran Bedrock. It's just the level that is kind of hard and pushy, especially down at the bottom. I'm headin' into the wall at a hundred miles an hour, I'm pullin' as hard as I can, but I am gonna wreck again. Down below, against the

right wall, there's a rock sticking out, and it's looking ugly, and I'm gonna wreck big this time. And I yelled, "Noooooooooo!" I'm still rowing, and I'm screaming, "Noooooooooo!" And I missed the wall by at least an inch. After that, I remembered how to row. I did okay. But I remember you havin' a couple of talks with me about... Actually, I was a little annoyed at you, because you said, "You know, Ellen Tibbetts used to do a lot of pushups." (laughter) I thought, "Oh, shut up, Lew!" (laughter) Thanks for the little...input.

But Ellen, I was so lucky to get to run with Ellen Tibbetts, because she was so good, but very humble, just an elegant boatman, but with very little... It wasn't that she wasn't confident, she just didn't puff herself up about it. She was very humble.

STEIGER: She is humble, but strong.

LEDBETTER: She was so good. My sister and I were watching her one day, and she picked up two water

buckets full of water, and just straight-armed, at the same time, put them on the table. And I have to lift one at a time. We're both going, "Whoa! she's really strong!" I learned so much by watching her. At the time, that was when I really couldn't row. And she was incredibly kind to me. When I had another failure and another embarrassment, she would go out of her way to talk to me and say, "You know, don't give up, you're doin' fine, don't worry about it. Here's what happened to me..." And she'd tell me about her wrecks and her disasters. She just did it in a very kind way. Then one day I was trying to get trips with Dories, and I wasn't having a whole lot of luck, and she called me and said, "You know, I'm gonna go in and tell Regan [Dale] I can't do the trip next month. Why don't you come in like thirty seconds behind me and ask for a trip, and I bet you'll get it." And I did. We got to the warehouse at the same time, she went in, and as she came out, I walked into the office and said (innocently), "So, do you have any openings?" (laughter) It was great! Just very thoughtful.

STEIGER: Ellie, I remember we'd all be sittin' there scouting and stuff, and everybody would be giving this or that opinion. She would never talk about it. She would listen, but she would always—she was always just plotting her own course. Boy, she was so good at seein' the water move too. She really knew.

LEDBETTER: Well, she didn't go out of her way to offer an opinion, but if I asked her, she'd tell me. And I could get a lot more from that than I could from one of those big strong guys with arms the size of my thighs. I'd watch them do the runs, and they're out there, some of them, muscling their way through, and I'd go (laughs, talking to her arms) "You see that little fellahs?"

STEIGER: Well, there really are very few places where all that much strength is required.

LEDBETTER: Unless you blow it. If you mess up, if you've got the wrong angle, if you're in the wrong place, then it would be nice to have the strength to...

STEIGER: Fix things.

LEDBETTER: You know? "Take me away!"

STEIGER: I'm gonna try that "Nooooo" trick.

LEDBETTER: Yeah! Absolutely! It's worked for me a few times.

STEIGER: Next time for sure.

LEDBETTER: "Nooooo!"



During the sloth years. Making movies about these critters in Central America.

During the early 2000s, Jeri pursued her Communications degree from Prescott College and throughout that period became entranced with sloths. For her senior project she produced a documentary film "The Sloth: Hardly a Deadly Sin," which won several notable awards, including finalist in the Newcomer Category at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival in 2005. You can see many of her short clips and learn a ton about sloths at her website www.perezosoproductions.com.

Since that last interview Jeri has continued to evolve in her own, uniquely Jeri-like way. She became interested in maps and now holds a Masters Degree in Geographic Information Systems from The Pennsylvania State University. She uses her many years of information management experience (and her degree) to create databases for non-profits and the federal government. In 2011 she married Larry Stevens; together they created an organization called the Springs Stewardship Institute at the Museum of Northern Arizona, to improve understanding and protection of springs throughout the world. They travel a lot. She still does occasional river trips, and remains committed to the goals of GCRG.

Wounded Warriors Grand Canyon Rafting Trip 2015

GRAND CANYON River Runners Association (GCRRA) is sponsoring a Wounded Warriors Grand Canyon rafting trip for 2015 and are already getting enthusiastic responses from donors. We will be fully funding a group of “wounded warriors” on a 10-day motor trip and are seeking donations to make this happen.

The United States marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment provides and enables assistance to wounded, ill or injured Marines, sailors attached to or in support of Marine units, and their family members in order to assist them as they return to duty or transition to civilian life.

We are thrilled to be able to offer this special opportunity to a most deserving group of veterans who have sacrificed so much in their service to our country. It will be the experience of a lifetime for people who never dreamed they would have the opportunity.

Our Wounded Warriors Trip, which includes pre-trip and post-trip meals, lodging and transportation, will be a 10-day river adventure—two motor rigs, a paddle raft, and the specialized equipment required to support passengers with disabilities.

Because river trips have to be planned well in advance, we have booked a charter for the summer of 2015. Initial deposits are due soon, so we are seeking donations now!

If you would like to support this trip, and these most deserving veterans, tax-deductible contributions can be made online at www.gcriverrunners.org. Click on the Wounded Warriors Trip button.

Or mail a check to: GCRRA Wounded Warriors Trip, PO Box 20013, Sedona, AZ 96341-20013.

If your organization would like to assist with our fundraising efforts, you can sponsor a veteran for \$3500. Please direct inquiries to: Hank Detering, HankD461@aol.com, 610-869-3631.

Thank you!

Jan Taylor
GCRRA



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From the American History Museum



Life preserver worn by Major John Wesley Powell during exploration of the Green and Colorado Rivers, 1869

The donation of this life preserver in 1908 came about when Powell's friends sought to settle a debate over whether the valiant major had actually worn one on the expedition. By way of an answer, William R. Hawkins, one of the last surviving members of the exploring party, presented this life preserver to the Smithsonian. The inscription reads: "I can't talk or I would tell you some queer things. I have been under the water many times and saved one Brave Man's life more times than one."